
CABLE Gram
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Good Morning All,

Heads-up if your organization is looking for a sales and business development leader with 25 years' experience in selling and delivering hi-tech products and service in the US and abroad. Joseph Klement is an expert in market intelligence and problem solving as they pertain to defining, collecting, analyzing and disseminating timely intelligence to key decision makers. He may be contacted via email to klement@primus.ca. Please qualify your inquiry by letting him know you are a CABLE Gram subscriber.

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

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The CABLE Gram is a weekly publication, distributed in PDF format and is currently included as a benefit of membership in the OPSEC Professionals Society and the National Military Intelligence Association.

Issues covered in the CABLE Gram include: Homeland Defense, Homeland Security, Terrorism, Federal Law Enforcement, First Responders, Money Laundering, Identity Theft, NBC Weapons, Cybercrimes, Smuggling, Narco Trafficking, Hazardous Materials and other related topics.

We search the topics and Websites that you request, so it is important for you to provide feedback. We are in our infancy and the CABLE Gram will be as useful as you help make it. Please let us know the topics and keywords that will assist you in your professional endeavors. Send all comments and suggestions to zhi@cablegram.org – please type CABLE Gram in the subject line.

FEDERAL

1. Senators add \$2 billion to spending bill for security programs (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 23 Mar 2007)

The \$121.6 billion emergency supplemental spending bill approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee Thursday includes more than \$2 billion for domestic homeland security programs. Funding allocations differ in several ways, however, from

companion legislation in the House, setting up issues that will need to be resolved in conference. Both bills would boost funding for border and port security, rail and mass transit grants and for purchasing explosives detection equipment at the nation's airports. But the Senate bill would provide \$625 million for rail and mass transit security grants, compared to \$225 million provided by the House bill.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36439&dcn=todaysnews

2. Terror Database Has Quadrupled In Four Years (Washington Post, 25 Mar 2007)

Each day, thousands of pieces of intelligence information from around the world -- field reports, captured documents, news from foreign allies and sometimes idle gossip -- arrive in a computer-filled office in McLean, where analysts feed them into the nation's central list of terrorists and terrorism suspects. Called TIDE, for Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment, the list is a storehouse for data about individuals that the intelligence community believes might harm the United States. It is the wellspring for watch lists distributed to airlines, law enforcement, border posts and U.S. consulates, created to close one of the key intelligence gaps revealed after Sept. 11, 2001: the failure of federal agencies to share what they knew about al-Qaeda operatives.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2m6qft>

3. Study Details Catastrophic Impact Of Nuclear Attack On US Cities (SPX, 23 Mar 2007)

Athens GA - A new study by researchers at the Center for Mass Destruction Defense (CMADD) at the University of Georgia details the catastrophic impact a nuclear attack would have on American cities. The study, which the authors said was the most advanced and detailed simulation published in open scientific literature, highlights the inability of the nation's current medical system to handle casualties from a nuclear attack. It also suggests what the authors said are much needed yet relatively simple interventions that could save tens of thousands of lives. "The likelihood of a nuclear weapon attack in an American city is steadily increasing, and the consequences will be overwhelming" said Cham Dallas, CMADD director and professor in the UGA College of Pharmacy. "So we need to substantially increase our preparation."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yqv4hl>

4. Iraq chlorine bombs raise worries of U.S. attack (Reuters, 22 Mar 2007)

Chlorine bombs in Iraq have raised concern that lax security at U.S. chemical plants could make the country, and particularly New York City, vulnerable to similar attacks. Policymakers and law enforcement officials said poor security at the plants could lead to the theft of ingredients needed to build a bomb like the ones detonated in Iraq. "It is perplexing that a nation that has expended so much blood and treasure searching for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, would allow what could become their equivalent to sit largely overlooked on U.S. soil," Stephen Flynn, former U.S. Coast Guard officer and now analyst at the Council on Foreign Relations, told Congress this week.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN2221865520070322>

5. Lawmakers warn FBI over spy power abuse - 'From the attorney general on down, you should be ashamed of yourself' (MSNBC, 21 Mar 2007)

WASHINGTON - Republicans and Democrats alike sternly warned the FBI on Tuesday that it risks losing its broad power to collect telephone, e-mail and financial records to hunt terrorists because of rampant abuses of the authority. The threats were the latest blow to the embattled Justice Department and Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, who is already on the defensive and fighting to keep his job over the firings of federal prosecutors. The warnings came as the department's chief watchdog, Inspector General Glenn A. Fine, told the House Judiciary Committee that the FBI engaged in widespread and serious misuse of its authority to issue national security letters, which resulted in illegally collecting data from Americans and foreigners.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17718569/>

6. DHS still faces hurdles tracking visitor exits by land (GovExec.com, 21 Mar 2007)

The Homeland Security Department faces major challenges tracking whether foreign visitors leave the United States, witnesses told members of the House Homeland Security Committee at a hearing Tuesday. The difficulties are particularly acute for visitors departing through land exits, said Richard Stana, director of homeland security issues at the Government Accountability Office. "Interstate highways may have to be rerouted" to verify land exits, he said. The effort is part of the US VISIT program to track entrances and exits to the United States -- the latter of which have proved more difficult. At land exits, the process of verifying biometric data has the potential to create major traffic backups.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36407&dcn=e_gvet

7. TSA seeks more airport security duties - Shift could upgrade antiterror efforts, agency official says (Boston Globe, 23 Mar 2007)

Transportation Security Administration officials hope the first uniform you see when approaching an airport checkpoint will soon be a TSA uniform. Depending on whether Congress will fund the change, TSA officials want to have their uniformed officers take over from private security companies the job of administering the first ticket and personal identification check, before travelers proceed to TSA security checkpoints. George N. Naccara, the agency's head of operations at Logan International Airport and the northeastern United States, is set to outline the plan in remarks opening today's Boston Globe Travel Show at the World Trade Center. In an interview, Naccara said the change is one of many efforts to improve procedures to deter would-be terrorists and hijackers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/32m6x3>

8. Canadian Panel Raps Airport Security (AP, 21 Mar 2007)

A Canadian Senate panel said Wednesday that improvements in lax security at the country's airports have been "few and far between" since the Sept. 11 terror attacks and

called for the agency in charge to be replaced. The all-party security and defense committee said airport security should be shifted from Transport Canada to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It said the national police force would need to hire 600 to 800 more officers to take on the job. "We think the RCMP should handle the security because Transport Canada clearly is not," said Colin Kenny, chairman of the committee. He called the department "incompetent."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=380&sid=1094565&sidelines=1>

9. Workers in TWIC Security Card Program (Congressional Quarterly, 23 Mar 2007)

The Transportation Security Administration will not begin enrolling port workers in a security program at Delaware's Port of Wilmington on Monday as planned, according to an official familiar with the program. Delaware was supposed to be the first port to begin enrollment, with others to follow. "Technical difficulties" have been cited as the reason for the enrollment delay, said Lisa B. Himber, vice president of the Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay. Himber said she did not know the specific difficulties but that the delay is cause for concern. "It's certainly not an auspicious beginning," Himber said. In January, TSA said it would begin enrollment of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential program at select ports on March 26. On March 23, TSA spokesman Darrin Kayser said the TWIC rule becomes effective on Monday but that enrollments are expected later this spring.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://public.cq.com/docs/hs/hsnews110-000002477297.html>

10. Homeland Security chief challenges logic of screening all cargo (By Chris Strohm, National Journal's Technology Daily, 21 Mar 2007)

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff on Tuesday attempted to refute arguments that the U.S. government should ensure that every cargo container entering the country is physically inspected or scanned at a foreign port for radioactive materials. Speaking to the American Association of Port Authorities, Chertoff emphasized the need for a balanced, layered security regime that can identify high-risk cargo containers. He noted the call for screening all cargo. "How many here want us to do that?" he asked an audience of port employees, federal officials and contractors. Nobody replied, save for some who laughed.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36413&dcn=e_gvet

11. CBP prepares to expand expedited import tracking (GovExec.com, 26 Mar 2007)

The Customs and Border Protection agency is pushing forward with a program aimed at expediting the flow of imports into the United States from trusted nations and corporate entities overseas. CBP on Friday published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* that would make permanent the Remote Location Filing system, which has been in development for more than a decade. The project aims to replace a long-used paper system for processing commercial imports with electronic processing. The new system is

expected to enhance foreign officials' ability to process documents and allow for quicker verification of imports.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36443&dcn=e_gvet

12. Wal-Mart, unions face off on port security (The Examiner, 23 Mar 2007)

BALTIMORE - The United Food & Commercial Workers International Union wants nothing less than 100 percent. Working through one of its national campaigns, WakeUpWalMart.com, the group wants to hold Wal-Mart accountable for its business actions. At the Inner Harbor on Thursday the local 27 chapter of the UFCW, along with WakeUpWalMart.com, took Wal-Mart to task for the mega-retailers stance on a piece of port security legislation in Congress. The groups, joined by the Maryland chapter of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, voiced displeasure with Wal-Mart's opposition to a bill that would require security to check 100 percent of the containers that come through the port.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/326mfk>

13. Canada: Senate report slams marine port security (CanWest News Service, 22 Mar 2007)

OTTAWA - A day after criticizing the slack security at Canada's airports, a Senate committee issued a similar warning Thursday about Canada's marine ports. According to the Senate committee on national security and defence, Canada's ports are vulnerable to organized crime and terrorism and little has been done to fill the security gaps highlighted by the committee four years ago.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2fsba2>

14. Philippines: Canada donates sets of equipment against chemical attacks (Balita, 21 Mar 2007)

The Philippine government's fight against terrorism got a boost from the Canadian government which donated on Wednesday a number of equipment needed in responding to chemical attacks. Defense Secretary and National Disaster Coordinating chairman Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. received the donation after he signed a memorandum of understanding with Canadian ambassador to the Philippines Peter Sutherland. The agreement calls for the transfer to the Philippine government of US\$ 247,638 worth of Chemical/Biological/ Radiological/Nuclear Response Equipment, which would later be distributed to NDCC-attached agencies. Among the agencies who would be receiving the equipment are the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Department of Health, Philippine Coast Guard and Bureau of Fire Protection, among others.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.balita.ph/html/article.php/20070321122742019>

15. New Zealand to beef up fight against nuclear smuggling (People's Daily Online, 22 Mar 2007)

New Zealand will work with the United States to combat nuclear smuggling as part of an international project against weapons of mass destruction, Prime Minister Helen Clark announced Thursday. "New Zealand's funding of more than 680,000 NZ dollars (490,000 U.S. dollars) will be helping the U.S. Department of Energy to train officials and provide better detection equipment on the Ukrainian border with Russia. This assistance will help the Ukraine battle those who might be trying to smuggle nuclear and radioactive material," said Clark, who is in the U.S. for an official visit. The project in the Ukraine has already attracted support from Canada, and will receive technical support from the International Atomic Energy Agency.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://english.people.com.cn/200703/22/eng20070322_360097.html

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

16. AZ: Targeting child smuggling at entry ports may backfire - Kids face greater danger, critics warn (Daniel González, The Arizona Republic, 26 Mar 2007)

A church acquaintance approached Brenda Aguirre with a proposition early last year. Would Aguirre, a U.S. citizen, be willing to bring two Mexican children into the United States illegally? All she had to do was pick them up in Agua Prieta, Sonora, pretend they were her children and drive them back across the border and up to Phoenix. For her trouble, Aguirre, 25, would receive \$500, plus the satisfaction of knowing the children would be reunited with their undocumented parents without a potentially deadly trek through the desert. But things didn't go as planned. An entry port official in Douglas became suspicious when Aguirre presented Arizona birth certificates for her own kids, not the two Mexican children. Now, Aguirre is going to prison for 15 months. The children were sent back to Mexico. The case shows the extremes to which parents living illegally in the U.S. will go to bring their children into the country, often putting their kids into the hands of strangers. It also shows the severe consequences for people lured into smuggling children. The heavy punishments are part of a new zero-tolerance government policy to combat a rise in child smuggling along the Arizona border.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3aqm34>

17. DC: Study says Washington Area Not Ready for Nuclear Explosion (WTOP, 25 Mar 2007)

WASHINGTON - A new study from the University of Georgia finds the region is not prepared for a nuclear attack. A nuclear attack is the worst possible scenario -- and even though there are plans for disasters, the study suggests the aftermath would be devastating to relief efforts. Even if the nuclear device was relatively small, hospitals from Baltimore to Fredericksburg would be non-functional. The study finds that with the local hospital infrastructure wiped out, there would be millions dead, and thousands wounded.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1097444&sidelines=1>

18. FL: Miami's Vice: Thousands of pounds of alcohol destroyed monthly at airport (ABC News, Local, 21 Mar 2007)

Liquor is causing a peculiar brand of trouble at Miami International Airport, and it's not drunken behavior. Since the Transport Security Administration's 3-1-1 campaign began, liquid items have been restricted in carry-on luggage to 3-ounce containers in one quart-size, clear, plastic, zip-top bag per passenger. In Miami, many travelers have not received the message that this policy applies to bottles of alcohol they may be carrying home from a sunny vacation in the Caribbean. Travelers from Europe are adding to the load too.

"They are allowed to buy duty-free items and have them onboard in a sealed bag, but they need to realize that they must pack this bag into their checked luggage before connecting to their domestic flight where they'll have to pass through a security check," says Sari Koshetz, a TSA spokesperson.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=nation_world&id=5135686

19. FL: Orlando airport implements \$7 million employee screening plan (AP, 21 Mar 2007)

ORLANDO, Fla. - Orlando International Airport officials unanimously approved \$7 million in security plans Wednesday that will be used to screen all employees with access to secure areas. The changes come after two baggage handlers were accused of smuggling guns onto a commercial flight earlier this month. "This plan makes Orlando International Airport only the second airport in the United States to make this level of investment and commitment for employee screening," said Chris Schmidt, deputy executive director of airport operations.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.jacksonville.com/apnews/stories/032107/D800QIU00.shtml>

20. LA: Authorities hope to crack down on organized retail theft (Shreveport Times, 22 Mar 2007)

State Rep. Mike Powell joined area law enforcement this morning to announce their support of his proposed bill that would give officials more authority to fight retail theft. House Bill 113, which creates the crime of organized retail theft, makes it a felony to steal property with the intent to resell it, regardless of the value, Powell said. It also targets the middlemen who buy stolen property to resell. "Retail theft costs businesses \$50 billion a year," he said at a news conference with Caddo District Attorney Paul Carmouche, Caddo Sheriff Steve Prator and Shreveport interim Police Chief Mike VanSant. "This area is becoming an area for organized crime, and the bill enables law enforcement and the district attorneys to aggressively go after the criminals."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ywmulq>

21. ME: Legislative Committee Wants To Correct Immigration Raid Problems (WCSH, 20 Mar 2007)

State lawmakers say they will draw up guidelines for federal immigration authorities in an effort to prevent future raids like the one in New Bedford earlier this month. The roundup of more than 360 illegal aliens left officials scrambling to care for dozens of

children and relatives of the arrested immigrants. State Senator Karen Spilka acknowledges Massachusetts can't force the feds to accept their recommendations, but says the state can't ignore the problems. Public Safety Secretary Kevin Burke says he was astounded to learn that federal agents didn't have detailed written policies to deal with the children left behind.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wcsh6.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=55541>

22. MD: Senate votes to back felon voting rights (Capital Notebook, 24 Mar 2007)

The Maryland Senate voted 28-19 yesterday to approve legislation that would restore the right to vote to those convicted of two or more felonies once they've completed their sentences, including parole or probation. Under current law, people convicted of two or more felonies must wait three years after their sentences are completed before they can vote. Those convicted of two violent felonies are not eligible to vote. Opponents said convicted felons should not be rewarded with a voter registration card, but Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller said the bill puts Maryland in line with 37 other states.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3bf4kf>

23. NV: Nevada lawmakers review high-tech entry port plan (AP, 22 Mar 2007)

CARSON CITY, Nev. - A state Assembly panel was urged Thursday to approve a plan for four entry ports on main Nevada highways, where high-tech equipment could scan up to 20,000 trucks a day to see if they're being used to smuggle drugs, people or explosives that could be used by terrorists. Assemblyman John Ocegüera said his AB374 would provide for four ports of entry on Interstate 15 in southern Nevada and Interstate 80 in northern Nevada, on the state's eastern and western borders. "We need to reduce Nevada's vulnerability," Ocegüera told the Assembly Transportation Committee, adding, "It's imperative to know what these trucks are bringing in."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/nevada/2007/mar/22/032210123.html>

24. NY: City Police Spied Broadly Before G.O.P. Convention (New York Times, 25 Mar 2007)

For at least a year before the 2004 Republican National Convention, teams of undercover New York City police officers traveled to cities across the country, Canada and Europe to conduct covert observations of people who planned to protest at the convention, according to police records and interviews. From Albuquerque to Montreal, San Francisco to Miami, undercover New York police officers attended meetings of political groups, posing as sympathizers or fellow activists, the records show. They made friends, shared meals, swapped e-mail messages and then filed daily reports with the department's Intelligence Division. Other investigators mined Internet sites and chat rooms.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/25/nyregion/25infiltrate.html?th&emc=th>

25. NY: TSA, New York state police join commuter rail security effort (AP, 21 Mar 2007)

NEW YORK - The agency best known for enforcing security at the nation's airports will soon be sending its marshals onto New York's commuter railroads. The Transportation Security Administration is among several policing agencies that will boost the law enforcement presence on the Metro-North Railroad, the Long Island Rail Road and the Staten Island Railway, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced Wednesday. "This combined deployment of MTA police and officers from a variety of federal and regional sources will give our commuter railroads the kind of police presence our customers deserve and the post-9/11 environment requires," said Elliot G. Sander, the MTA's executive director. Citing security concerns, officials would not say how many new officers would be patrolling the trains and platforms, but MTA spokesman Jeremy Soffin said the number would be "dramatically higher."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bostonherald.com/national/northeast/view.bg?articleid=189974>

26. OH: CVG to host security test (The Enquirer, 26 Mar 2007)

The federal Department of Homeland Security will test air cargo screening technologies this spring at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, as part of a \$30 million pilot program. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the arm of the homeland security department that handles passenger screening at airports, announced today that the test program would be coming to the Hebron airport. About a quarter of the air cargo hauled by U.S. carriers goes onto passenger planes. But less than 20 percent of that cargo is screened, raising concerns among some experts who call it a major gap in security. The TSA has been criticized for its slow response to tightening up cargo security by a couple of reports from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the independent investigative arm of Congress.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ywkoad>

27. Oregon Civil Air Patrol Prepares for Terrorist Response Training (Salem-News.com, 24 Mar 2007)

PORTLAND, Ore. - The Oregon Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, in coordination with the United States Air Force and the Department of Homeland Security, will be participating in a week long six state simulated terrorist training and evaluation exercise starting next weekend. The exercise, based on a simulated terrorist attack somewhere in the western United States, will utilize multiple bases of operations throughout the state where 6 Oregon CAP aircraft are assigned. The exercise will utilize a state headquarters Incident Command Post located at the Aurora State Airport.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.salem-news.com/articles/march242007/cap_terrorism_32407.php

28. OR: Portland International Airport Ready for Record Spring Break Travel (Salem-News.com , 22 Mar 2007)

PORTLAND - Spring break for regional schools means the pace picks up at Portland International Airport. More than 800,000 travelers are expected to use the airport during the spring break travel period spanning Thursday through April 10th. During the busiest spring break periods, PDX will serve approximately 43,000 daily travelers, up from an

average of 38,000 regular daily travelers this time of year. Overall travel is expected to grow about 2 to 3 percent over last year, which could make this the busiest spring break ever.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.salem-news.com/articles/march222007/springbreaktravel_032207.php

29. PA: Counterterrorism training a lesson in execution - About 300 emergency personnel participate in event at Mack Southside training center (The Express-Times, 25 Mar 2007)

ALLENTOWN - Sirens blared while rescue squads raced to free burn victims trapped under scraps of mangled metal and charred tanker trucks. Luckily for everyone involved, it was all just a test. Lehigh and Northampton counties held the second round of its first-ever joint counterterrorism training exercises Saturday at the Mack Southside Fire Training Center. Close to 300 paid and volunteer firefighters, emergency medical personnel and rescue squad members from across the Lehigh Valley participated in the two-day event. Officials said the exercises were designed to train both response time and execution.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2asyk7>

30. TX: Agent busted in smuggling try at border (Express-News Border Bureau , 21 Mar 2007)

LAREDO — Investigators with the Homeland Security Department's Office of the Inspector General have arrested a Customs and Border Protection agent on charges of aiding a smuggler who allegedly was sneaking undocumented immigrants across the Bridge of the Americas here. Jose Ramiro Arredondo, 33, is accused of helping Enrique Aguilar Rios bypass the pedestrian inspection booths at the bridge at least three times. Arredondo was arrested Tuesday afternoon.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yq8p35>

31. VT: Two to serve time for smuggling illegals (AP, 22 Mar 2007)

RUTLAND, Vt. - Two New York City men nabbed while smuggling 21 illegal aliens into Vermont from Canada last summer are facing time behind bars. Robert Clark, 56, and Wilfred Nieves, 44, pleaded guilty to charges stemming from their arrests by Border Patrol agents in Derby Line, just south of the Canadian border. The men were driving two vans, Clarks loaded with 11 illegal aliens and Nieves' with 10, authorities said. They said the passengers, from Afghanistan, Guyana, India, Mexico and Pakistan, lacked the documents they needed to be in the country.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2bbhwr>

32. VA: Cost of security: \$137 a person (Daily Press, 21 Mar 2007)

The Department of Homeland Security sets a fee for its new port security identification card. Who will pay the fees is still up in the air. The Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday set the standard fee for a forthcoming maritime security identification card at

\$137.25 per applicant. But who will actually pay the cost - workers or their employers - will likely become an issue as time goes on. The new ID card will be required for more than 20,000 people in Hampton Roads - truckers, railroad workers, port terminal operators and others - as early as July. The system mandates workers to submit fingerprints and undergo a federal background check, with certain past convictions forcing workers off the docks and out of their jobs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2xtduq>

33. WA: Bomb threat evacuates city hall (North Kitsap Herald, 24 Mar 2007)

POULSBO — A bomb threat closed city hall for nearly three hours Thursday morning, sending 30 employees into local coffee shops and disrupting morning business. The threat was made by an anonymous caller at about 7:10 a.m., who said there was a bomb in the Jensen Way building and then hung up, said Poulsbo Police Detective Grant Romaine. Employees were allowed to return to work at around 9:55 a.m.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2xbelk>

KEY PEOPLE

34. New U.S. intel czar overhauls his office (UPI, 23 Mar 2007)

U.S. Director of National Intelligence Michael McConnell is overhauling his office, which has been criticized as over-staffed. "We are moving forward on the next stage of intelligence reform," said McConnell in a statement Friday, "going beyond the initial progress made to better clarify responsibilities and authorities, create a true community of professionals, radically transform tradecraft, accelerate information sharing and modernize how we do business." McConnell recently replaced John Negroponte as DNI, a new post set up by Congress in 2004.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20070323-034932-9476r>

GANG ACTIVITY

35. MI: Organized crime ring cracked in Detroit (Detroit Free Press, 26 Mar 2007)

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox announced today that 10 people have been charged in an auto insurance fraud ring that he likened to organized crime that generated millions of dollars. Cox spoke to the news media at Somerset Auto Center on John R, near 8 Mile in Detroit, which he called the ring's epicenter. As many as 12 auto shops in Detroit were used in the enterprise that generated millions of dollars, Cox said. Cox said the suspects enhanced collision damage, sometimes with willing participants, to defraud various auto companies. Sometimes the suspects damaged cars or stole and later replaced airbags to report claims without awareness of car owners, he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2p7lev>

36. NY: Queens stolen car ring busted (Newsday.com, 22 Mar 2007)

Authorities have busted a highly organized ring responsible for the theft in Queens of more than 60 high-end vehicles, such as Hummer H2s and Cadillac Escalades, and sold to buyers in other states as well as Mexico. Following a 14-month undercover operation dubbed "Operation Key Code" by the New York City Police Department's Auto Crime Division and the Queens District Attorney's Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau, nine people from Brooklyn and Queens were arrested and charged in the 58-count indictment announced Thursday by Queens District Attorney Richard Brown and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly. Brown said the automobiles were valued at more than \$2 million and were stolen using key codes "surreptitiously obtained from auto manufacturers" and sold after being affixed with newly stamped vehicle identification numbers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ywyygh>

37. PA: Expert testifies about gangs (Times Leader, 21 Mar 2007)

SCRANTON – A nationally-recognized gang expert testified this morning that MS-13 – a gang Hazleton police say has a presence in the city is one of the most dangerous gangs in the world. The defense called Jared Lewis, director of Know Gangs – an organization he founded to teach law enforcement how to identify and deal with gang problems – as an expert witness in the Illegal Immigration Relief Act trial. Mayor Lou Barletta and Police Chief Robert Ferdinand testified previously that many illegal immigrants arrested in the city have gang association. Det. Cpl. Jason Zola, who heads the Hazleton Police Department's Narcotics Unit, testified earlier today that five of 15 arrests of people with gang affiliations he made since May 2006 were illegal aliens.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.timesleader.com/mld/timesleader/16947382.htm>

38. WA: Gangs seeking younger recruits - Lawmakers hear testimony of rise in local violence (The Olympian, 23 Mar 2007)

A shooting near a South Sound middle school involved young members of the gang the Bloods, legislators were told Thursday. "They're recruiting not just high school. They're recruiting junior high. Lacey PD just had a shooting two weeks ago with a Blood gang member 14 years old, and there's 15 members in that junior high school in that gang," Lacey Police Department detective Daniel Miller said. Legislators were taking testimony on a bill that would create a task force to examine state laws and programs aimed at dismantling gangs. Miller told members of the House public-safety committee that the incident near Chinook Middle School, in which no one was hurt but four boys were arrested, is part of a gang resurgence.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.theolympian.com/101/story/71957.html>

39. Police deaths in Mexico jump 50% (BBC, 21 Mar 2007)

The number of police deaths in Mexico in incidents involving organised crime has jumped 50% this year, according to official statistics. At least 61 police officers have been killed in Mexico since the year began. The increase in police deaths follows a crackdown on drug-related violence by the Mexican government. One of the most violent

areas, according to government reports, was the northern Nuevo Leon state, which registered a quarter of the deaths. Only last Sunday in Monterrey, the main city in the state, three police officers were shot dead after stopping a car for a routine check.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6476041.stm>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

40. AZ: 10 years for 82-year-old cocaine smuggler (Arizona Daily Star, 20 Mar 2007)

Tucson, Arizona - An 82-year-old Nogales man was sentenced Monday to 10 years in federal prison for carrying 174 pounds of cocaine in the car he was driving into the United States from Mexico. Oseas Mendoza-Cecena pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute cocaine on Jan. 4, according to a U.S. Attorney's Office news release. Mendoza-Cecena was entering the United States through the Grand Avenue Port of Entry in Nogales when U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents found the cocaine in the 2006 Chevrolet Impala he was driving.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azstarnet.com/sn/hourlyupdate/174533.php>

41. TX: Teen Arrested for Allegedly Smuggling Drugs (KDBC, 25 Mar 2007)

Almost 500 pounds of pot were found in the truck in a car Thursday night. Police say a 17-year-old El Paso girl was the driver of the car. Thursday evening, a 1998 Chevy Malibu was at a checkpoint at the Bridge of the Americas. That's when U.S. Customs and Border Protection says a drug-sniffing dog picked up on something. In the trunk of the car, 478 pounds of pot were found. The drugs have an estimated street value of \$478,000.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kdbc.com/news/local/6676682.html>

42. Mexican drug violence claims nearly 500 lives (Los Angeles Times, 24 Mar 2007)

MEXICO CITY - Nearly 500 people have been killed in Mexico's drug wars this year, according to media reports here, despite a crackdown on the illicit trade by President Felipe Calderon. The dead include dozens of police officers, the daughter of a retired army general, and a suspected cartel hit man in the northern city of Monterrey left with a knife sticking out of his chest and a message to local officials affixed to his body.

"Attorney General: Don't be a fool," the note said. It accused local officials of protecting Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman, leader of the Sinaloa cartel, the bitter rival of the Gulf cartel, which is based in the border state of Tamaulipas. "This is just the beginning."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/39kvmf>

43. Mexican drug cartel controls most Costa Rica maritime smuggling (People's Daily Online, 26 Mar 2007)

The Sinaloa Cartel, one of Mexico's most powerful drug trafficking organizations, was behind the rampant cocaine trafficking activities among fishermen in Costa Rica, senior security officials said Sunday. Gerardo Lascarez, Costa Rica's deputy minister of public

security, said the cartel recruited traffickers in Costa Rica and invested large sums of money in the country to make its operations successful. The cartel's part in the Pacific cocaine trade was discovered on March 8, when an arrested Costa Rican drug trafficker confessed that he led a local group allied to the Mexican drug cartel.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://english.people.com.cn/200703/26/eng20070326_361017.html

44. Dominican Republic: Dominican Government asks the UN's, OAS's help against terror, drugs (Dominican Today, 22 Mar 2007)

SANTO DOMINGO.- Interior and Police minister Franklin Almeyda called on the Organization of American States and the United Nations to collaborate with the member countries to create an updated legal framework with which to attack terrorism and international drug trafficking. Speaking in the Ministerial Conference against Terrorism and Organized Crime, Almeyda said that if in order to attack terrorism, it must be related to organized crime. He said that for a future, the country is willing to host talks on all aspects leading to the creation of mechanisms to fight drug trafficking and terrorism. "This conference tries, mainly, to hasten the efforts by each one of us for the ratification of these international instruments and the implementation of local laws to those objectives," he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dominicantoday.com/app/article.aspx?id=23219>

45. Panama: Alameda cutter aids record cocaine bust (Inside Bay Area, 21 Mar 2007)

An Alameda-based U.S. Coast Guard cutter has helped make the biggest maritime cocaine seizure on record: almost 43,000 pounds, worth an estimated \$300 million, federal officials said today. The cutter Sherman, along with the San Diego-based cutter Hamilton, stopped the Panamanian-flagged ship Gatun on Sunday off the coast of Panama, the Department of Homeland Security reported. A Coast Guard boarding team found 42,845 pounds of cocaine in two containers; the Gatun's 14 Panamanian and Mexican crew members were arrested and are being transferred to the United States and Panama for prosecution. "This record-breaking seizure was the result of good actionable intelligence and the closest collaboration amongst our interagency partners through Operation Panama Express," Coast Guard commandant Admiral Thad Allen said in a news release.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://origin.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_5488128

46. Cocaine: Caracas connection grows - More Colombian drugs move through, U.S. sources say (Los Angeles Times, 21 Mar 2007)

CARACAS, Venezuela – The airliner leaving Caracas for Mexico City carried a seemingly conspicuous cargo: one ton of Colombian cocaine stuffed into 25 bulky, almost identical suitcases. But the smugglers' baggage went untouched by the Venezuelan National Guard and airport police that day in early February. And it may not have been an oversight. Drug traffickers routinely pay a "tax" of \$3,000 a kilo to security forces to move cocaine through the terminals at the busy Maiquetia airport and on to

global markets, foreign and Venezuelan investigators and experts say. "Maiquetia is to narcos what Memphis is for Federal Express: the hub," one foreign counter-narcotics official said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2wek7p>

47. Colombian Navy captures six tonnes of cocaine (Reuters, 21 Mar 2007)

BOGOTA - Colombia's Navy captured six tonnes of cocaine while on patrol in the Pacific ocean in the Andean country's largest illegal drug haul so far this year, authorities said on Wednesday. Colombia remains the world's top producer of cocaine despite receiving billions of dollars in U.S. military and counter-narcotics aid to fight left-wing rebels and the illegal drug trade. "A little more than six tonnes of cocaine was captured, with a price of around \$150 million," said Adm. Orlando Malaver, commander of the naval forces on the Pacific coast. He gave no further details. Colombia produces more than 600 tonnes of cocaine each year with most of it shipped through Mexico and Central America to the United States and also to European markets.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N21321726.htm>

48. UK: Nine arrests after £750k cocaine haul (South Wales Echo, 21 Mar 2007)

Nine people have been arrested in dawn raids carried out in connection with the discovery of cocaine worth £750,000. The class A haul, netted in January in the car park of B&Q in Bridgend, weighed in at seven kilograms, just over one stone, and is the largest cocaine seizure in the South Wales force area. Following the raids, which all took place in the Maesteg area and during which officers also seized £17,000 cash, three people have been charged. Matthew Roberts and Diane Lee, who face charges of conspiracy to supply class A drugs and money laundering, have been remanded in custody.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3dtg9u>

49. Ghana's coke boom alerts US (Joy Online, 21 Mar 2007)

The US has cited Ghana as a major transshipment point for illegal drugs particularly cocaine from South America, as well as heroin from Southeast and Southwest Asia. The US again says South American cocaine barons have increased their foothold in the country, establishing well-developed distribution networks run by Nigerian and Ghanaian criminals. It said the Kotoka International Airport is increasingly becoming a focus for traffickers with the Tema, Sekondi and Takoradi ports also becoming notorious for significant drug trafficking activities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.myjoyonline.com/archives/news/200703/2702.asp>

50. Australia reports big rise in heroin smuggling (ABCNews.au, 24 Mar 2007)

Australia's Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty has revealed there's been a big rise in the number of people who've ingested heroin in order to smuggle the drug into Australia. Commissioner Keelty says there was almost a 200-percent increase in cases in

the last six months of 2006 - mainly coming out of Vietnam and Cambodia. He made the comments during a speech about the role of the A-F-P in international policing - particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/news/stories/s1880427.htm>

51. Australian Federal Police assists overseas to tackle rise in heroin smuggling (ABCNews.au, 24 Mar 2007)

A big rise in heroin smuggling cases has led to Australian customs and police officers being sent overseas to teach local authorities how to identify drug couriers. Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty says that earlier this year his agency analysed cases that involved internal couriers - people who ingest heroin in condoms in order to smuggle the drug into Australia. During an address about the role of the Australian Federal Police in policing in the Asia Pacific region, Commissioner Keelty said that one courier had died in Brisbane in January this year. He says Australian officers are now working to educate police in Vietnam and Cambodia. "We had a nearly a 200 per cent increase in the last six months of last year of people coming out of Cambodia and Vietnam ingesting heroin," he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200703/s1880438.htm>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

52. The cold war isn't over, it's online (Backbone, 22 Mar 2007)

New research from McAfee concludes organized crime is creating a new generation of cybercriminals who use "tactics reminiscent of those employed by the KGB during the Cold War." The study, which used input from European high-tech crime units and the FBI, found gangs target students from leading academic institutions and train them to commit hightech crime on a mass scale. Teens as young as 14 are being attracted to cybercrime by the celebrity status of high-tech criminals and the promise of monetary gain.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.backbonemag.com/News/Items/news_03220701.asp

53. For Hackers, Brackets Present a Challenge of a Different Kind (New York Times, 22 Mar 2007)

The N.C.A.A. men's basketball tournament has evolved into a popular online experience in the United States, a ritual of 63 games played over two and a half weeks with millions of fans logging on to their computers — often at work — to check scores and the status of their brackets and to watch streaming video of the games. Because the tournament and other major sporting events draw so many people to the Web, they have become targets for computer hackers seeking high-profile hit.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ywnm3j>

54. Canada: Alberta man pleads guilty to blog threat against prime minister (Canadian Press, 22 Mar 2007)

CALGARY - An Alberta man has admitted to using his blog to threaten Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Patrick David Fenton, 25, was in court in Canmore, Alta., on Wednesday where he pleaded guilty to a single charge of uttering threats to cause death. He was arrested in December after he posted statements on his website. Fenton's lawyer, Tyson Dahlem, says his client meant no harm and the threats were of a purely "satirical nature." He hopes his client, who he says is embarrassed by all of the attention, will receive no more than a fine and probation when he is sentenced May 30.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2h9jba>

TECHNOLOGY

55. U.S. Casts Wide Net for Terror Watch Lists (Washington Post, 25 Mar 2007)

WASHINGTON — Each day, thousands of pieces of intelligence information from around the world — field reports, captured documents, news from foreign allies and sometimes idle gossip — arrive in a computer-filled suburban office where analysts feed them into the nation's central list of terrorists and terrorism suspects. Called TIDE, for Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment, the list is a storehouse for data about individuals whom the intelligence community believes might harm the United States. It is the wellspring for watch lists distributed to airlines, law enforcement, border posts and U.S. consulates, created to close a key intelligence gap revealed after Sept. 11, 2001: the failure of federal agencies to share what they knew about al-Qaida operatives. But in addressing one problem, TIDE has spawned others. Ballooning from fewer than 100,000 files in 2003 to about 435,000 today, the growing database threatens to overwhelm the people who manage it. "The single biggest worry that I have is long-term quality control," said Russ Travers, in charge of TIDE at the National Counterterrorism Center in McLean, Va. "Where am I going to be, where is my successor going to be, five years down the road?"

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cantonrep.com/index.php?ID=344292&Category=23>

56. Tracking terrorists with click of a mouse (Baltimore Sun, 25 Mar 2007)

WASHINGTON - Tucked away in a squat, 1980s-era office park halfway between Washington and Baltimore, 200 digital detectives are scouring the hard drives, MP3 players and compact discs seized from terrorist hide-outs in search of links and clues to their next plans of attack. If there is a real-life version of the kind of technical wizardry that appears in popular TV shows like CSI and 24, the Defense Department's Cyber Crime Center in Linthicum might come closest to it -- though these cyber-sleuths are quick to say it's not nearly as easy as Hollywood makes it look to piece together files on a bomb-blasted hard drive. The craft of unearthing data hidden deep inside computer equipment has become known as "digital forensics." And the center's executive director, Steven D. Shirley, predicts it will revolutionize investigations much as DNA did. Like DNA, digital forensic analysis can place a person at a particular location. It can establish relationships. And it can also provide evidence of activities, plans and intentions, Shirley

said. "Digital forensics is probably accelerating at twice the rate that the impact of DNA did," he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2dep2c>

57. AXCESS Awarded \$2 Million Contract for Integrated RFID and Sensor Port Security Solution in Barbados (PRNewswire, 22 Mar 2007)

DALLAS - AXCESS International Inc., a leading provider of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), solutions today announced that the Port of Bridgetown in Barbados, one of the leading ports in the Caribbean, awarded the Company a \$2 million contract for an integrated RFID and sensor system that will be deployed to enhance security measures in preparation of the Cricket World Cup 2007. The system includes AXCESS' unique ActiveTag(TM) technology and infrastructure; wireless sensors; and underwater cameras that work in concert to detect and manage security threats.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/25hald>

58. IBM and Cisco partnership provides new crisis response solutions (Continuity Central, 25 Mar 2007)

IBM and Cisco have teamed up to launch a variety of new offerings to help businesses and government manage crises. Packaged together as 'Crisis Management Services for Crisis Response' the solutions offer open, modular, wireless and standards-based commercial platforms that address key aspects of a catastrophic or disruptive event, while preserving the integrity and security of infrastructure. Key components of the service are multiple, automated, intelligent-response management platforms that are enabled by a service oriented architecture (SOA). All can be rapidly deployed to help restore operations in the event of a crisis.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://continuitycentral.com/news03138.htm>

RESOURCES

59. Coast Guard Publishes Port-Related Notice in Register (Port Security News, 26 Mar 2007)

The U.S. Coast Guard last week (March 19) published a notice in the Federal Register setting forth the process to be followed by new hires working at port facilities and on maritime vessels in submitting personal information to get expedited temporary clearance. Information such as names and social security numbers will be entered into the Coast Guard's Homeport Web site and sent to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to be cross-referenced with information on terrorist watch lists. Following that step, the Coast Guard can go back to the owners and operators and let them know if their new hires cleared the threat assessment or if more information is needed. If the threat assessments come back clean, a 30-day clearance is granted to the new employees for unescorted access to the facilities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://portsecuritynews.com/news/templates/registered.asp?articleid=1463&zoneid=1>

OPPORTUNITIES

60. DHS privacy czar seeks additional investigators (GovExec.com, 23 Mar 2007)

The Homeland Security Department's Privacy Office needs to hire additional investigators to conduct assessments of government information networks, its chief told lawmakers Wednesday. Hugo Teufel told members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security that a budget increase is necessary to add employees, but he did not specify the number of workers needed. In addition to the investigators, the office needs more people to handle Freedom of Information Act requests, he said. The privacy office received about \$4.4 million for this fiscal year; Teufel is seeking \$5.1 million for fiscal 2008 -- an increase of 16 percent.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36423&dcn=e_gvet

61. Colleges leap into new field: Homeland security - Hundreds of schools using grants to concoct better ways to foil terrorists (NJ Star-Ledger Staff, 21 Mar 2007)

Christina Schroepfer dreams of becoming a professor but never thought that, along the way, she'd find herself in the trenches of the war on terror. As part of a research project, the Rutgers University graduate student from Piscataway toured the Port of Philadelphia with the Coast Guard and scrutinized the inspection of ship containers at Port Elizabeth with U.S. Customs agents. "Port security is a hot topic right now," said Schroepfer, a 25-year-old industrial engineering student, who worked on a math model to help container inspectors search for everything from dirty bombs to drugs more efficiently. "There's lots of interest in this, and lots of money for research," she added. "And I feel like I'm supporting people who have an important job to do." Homeland security has become big business in the aftermath of 9/11, and colleges across the country are cashing in, using federal research dollars to study a range of related needs, from catching cyber-spies to detecting infectious diseases.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-11/117445482284980.xml&coll=1>

EVENTS

62. InfraGard annual member's conference cancelled (By Shaun Waterman, UPI Homeland and National Security Editor, 19 Mar 2007)

WASHINGTON - The annual members' conference of InfraGard, the decade-old alliance between the FBI and the private sector to protect the nation's critical infrastructure, has been canceled.

Organizers say the event was too financially risky and administratively burdensome. Some observers say that the cancellation will hurt InfraGard's profile at a time when critical decisions are being made about how the private sector will be represented in the federal government's new Information Sharing Environment.

"When you put on an event like that, it is very expensive," Robert Schmidt, president of the InfraGard National Members Alliance told United Press International. "People will advance you a great deal of credit, and if it doesn't go well, you can end up putting the organization in considerable debt."

The alliance, a privately held LLC that has organized the annual conferences in Washington since they began in 2005, broke even or made a small profit on the two they did organize, but had taken "a cold-eyed look at the risk-reward ratio," said Schmidt.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/inc/view.php?StoryID=20070318-104354-9220r>

FULL REPORTS

63. Asian nations test readiness to fight bird flu (By Shaun Waterman, 19 Mar 2007)

Senior officials from six Southeast Asian nations practiced their handling of a bird flu pandemic in a tabletop exercise last week prepared by a group of specialists from U.S. think tanks -- the region's first multinational flu response simulation.

The exercise was the latest effort to promote regional cooperation in planning responses to a pandemic and raise the ability of governments around the world to mitigate and deal with the huge population displacements and economic chaos that might ensue.

The high mortality rate of people who catch avian flu makes the prospect of a pandemic alarming. If an outbreak is not contained, it could quickly overwhelm the limited capabilities of health care facilities by flooding hospitals with dying patients and disabling infected health care workers.

Experience with the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) has shown the danger for the afflicted as well as a region's economy.

Cambodia, China, Vietnam, Laos, Burma and Thailand sent health ministry officials "at the undersecretary or [agency] director level," to participate in the two-day exercise, said Terrence Taylor, director of biological programs at the Washington-based Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and one of the organizers of the exercise.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/world/20070318-103743-6848r.htm>

64. United States Has Global Approach to Aiding Trafficking Victims - Immigration and Customs Enforcement probes human trafficking, protects victims (By Michelle Austein, USINFO Staff Writer, 21 Mar 2007)

Washington – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) recognizes that trafficking victims have rights and require services and temporary immigration relief, Gabriel Garcia, chief of ICE's human smuggling and trafficking unit, said March 20.

ICE, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security, "has the unique organizational ability to investigate trafficking in persons with a global reach and provide

short-term immigration relief to trafficking victims,” Garcia said in testimony before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorism.

Of the approximately 600,000 to 800,000 people coerced or forced into crossing international borders each year, about 14,500 to 17,500 end up in the United States, according to U.S. government estimates.

ICE is one of several U.S. agencies working to stop trafficking through training to help better identify victims, improving services provided to victims and by public awareness campaigns.

Trafficking victims rescued in the United States are granted “continued presence,” which is a short-term immigration protection that allows certified victims of trafficking to remain in the United States for up to one year to enable them to apply for a “T visa.” Those who receive T visas are able to stay in the United States and bring their families over as well. They have access to federal benefits and services and can accept employment in the United States for up to three years and then apply for lawful permanent residence, Garcia said.

ICE officials conduct their work worldwide. Fifty-six ICE attaché offices help foster strong international relationships, Garcia said. The attaches work with local law enforcement for better coordination of investigations. ICE officials target recruiters, brokers, document providers, travel agencies, corrupt officials, smugglers and businesses engaged in criminal activities at both source and transit countries. ICE also cooperates with foreign law enforcement authorities to target bank accounts, wire transfers and other funding mechanisms that fuel trafficking enterprises, Garcia said.

These partnerships with foreign law enforcement have led to the rescue of many victims. In one case, an attaché in Moscow was told by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yekaterinburg, Russia, that a mother was concerned about her daughter being held in a home in Florida. ICE agents located the girl, who had been held against her will, beaten and forced into prostitution. The ICE attaché in Moscow asked a Russian anti-trafficking nongovernmental organization to contact and counsel the victim. The trafficker was arrested and pled guilty.

ICE officials “are engaged in an aggressive outreach” campaign to educate local, state and federal law enforcement and nongovernmental organizations on how to identify human trafficking and what services are available to trafficking victims, Garcia said. DVDs and brochures about trafficking are given to law enforcement officers. ICE trains its own staff regularly as well, by requiring agents to complete a Web-based human trafficking course.

Garcia said ICE has hosted and participated in training sessions overseas as well, and has developed training programs that are used in Thailand, Hungary and El Salvador. “We

will continue to expand our outreach and training efforts to share our expertise in employing the victim-centered approach as we continue to build coalitions.”

In fiscal years 2005 and 2006, ICE initiated 647 investigations into human trafficking organizations that resulted in 370 arrests and 193 criminal convictions, according to a February ICE fact sheet.

The [full texts](#) of prepared testimony presented at the hearing are available on the Web site of the Committee on Homeland Security.

For more information, see [Human Smuggling and Trafficking](#).

(USINFO is produced by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

65. Combating Terrorist Financing in Europe: Gradual Progress (The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, by Michael Jacobson, 25 Mar 2007)

In the wake of the July 2005 terrorist subway and bus attacks in London and the disrupted terrorist plot to blow up U.S.-bound planes flying from Heathrow airport in August 2006, the British government recently launched a new strategy to combat terrorism financing. Ed Balls, Britain's economic secretary to Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT), said the strategy was designed to address "an enduring and continually changing terrorist menace to the [United Kingdom]." In Balls's view, financing is the "lifeblood" supporting the growing terrorist threat. Britain's ambitious and timely initiative is an important step forward. But broader European efforts to tackle terrorist financing -- particularly the efforts of the European Union (EU) -- still lack consistency and effect. Bureaucratic obstacles limit European efforts to designate terrorist entities and freeze their assets.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateC05.php?CID=2583>

66. Remarks by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff to the American Association of Port Authorities (20 Mar 2007)

Secretary Chertoff: That was a great introduction, because it properly acknowledged what, in fact, my greatest accomplishment is: marrying up. I want to acknowledge Warren McCrimmon, the Chairman of the U.S. delegation, Allen Domaas, and also Kurt Nagle, who welcomed me here.

As I was listening to the invocation, I was desperately trying to figure how I was going to top the raising of the thing there. I tried to see if I could make the chandeliers shake or something. That is a very tough act to follow, Father, very tough.

I appreciate the opportunity to be here with members of the American Association of Port Authorities, including those of you representing U.S. ports, and those of you from South and Central America, the Caribbean, and Canada.

We at the Department of Homeland Security appreciate your partnership, although we do have considerable authority when it comes to securing our ports, using our authorities in the Customs sphere and in the Coast Guard sphere. We don't actually own the ports, I'm sure you'll be pleased to hear, and we don't manage them. And that's good.

So it does have to be a partnership, when we talk about securing the ports. And, I want to thank you first for the tremendous cooperation that you have shown our department and our member agencies. I've had an opportunity to visit a number of the ports, and I'm always impressed by the close working relationship between our agencies and the people who have the responsibility for running the ports day to day.

Because of our collaboration, we've made significant advances since September 11th protecting our ports, and the billions of dollars of commerce that enter our country every year through the maritime domain. We've done this through new international maritime standards and security regulations, new technology and infrastructure improvements, and through new grant funding.

Of course, the port authorities, the terminal operators, and the port stakeholders have also made substantial investment, which reflects the fact that investments in security ultimately make good business sense.

Today, I would like to talk about three areas of port security that are critical areas for our department: first, keeping dangerous cargo out of the country and from entering our ports; second, strengthening the security of the infrastructure of our ports through the use of grant funding, as well as the work of the Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection; and third, our plans for the Transportation Worker Identification Credential, which is designed to secure us against the possibility of infiltration from within.

Let me begin by discussing some key principles that apply to port security and, in fact, to all homeland security. First, we do not believe in security at any cost. We believe in risk management, which means looking at threats, vulnerabilities and consequences, weighing what are the risks we should be most concerned about, considering the measures we are looking to undertake, in terms of whether they are cost beneficial, and then weighing that in terms of making up a strategic plan.

We also believe in layered security. That's recognition of the fact that there's no magic bullet for security, whether it be our ports or elsewhere. Any single approach can fail. Therefore, the right answer is to build layers of security that build rings of protection. What that does is it counts on redundancy and on randomness as allies in building a total security network.

And this approach recognizes, of course, that ports themselves are part of a large network, a network that extends across the globe and requires us to measure security at every point from the element of manufacture, where you first take that which is going to be shipped and assemble it, all the way through to the ultimate delivery at the destination of the person who is receiving the consignment.

A third element of our strategy is to recognize that every port is different. A cookie-cutter approach to security will not work, and we don't want our security measures to do more harm than good. One of my favorite proposals is that which says we are derelict because we don't physically inspect every single container that comes into the country. How many here want us to do that? I guess I have my answer. We know that to do that would be to destroy the ports. We have to, in fact, use a risk-managed approach and a layered approach and a cost-beneficial approach to triage and select those elements of the container supply chain that we should take a close look at while letting the vast majority of flow go unimpeded.

Another area where we want to use common sense, for example, is the suggestion about doing all of our scanning for radiation overseas. That, again, is a very interesting proposal; it's one that in many places is a very good idea and we are working, as I'll explain shortly, to do that. But again, a cookie-cutter that says we must do it everywhere would fail to take account of our need to accommodate the requirements, legal and regulatory, of our foreign partners, as well as the fact that the footprint and architecture of ports are not identical. Ports with a lot of transshipment are much harder to do scanning in than ports with a large physical footprint where everything comes in through a central portal.

So, using all of these concepts, we have to apply a strategy to the objectives I've outlined to come up with a common-sense way to maximize port security, but always making sure that we are not damaging the system of maritime trade that we're trying to protect.

So, let me turn to the first of these elements of strategy: keeping dangerous cargo from entering the ports from the maritime side. How do we keep dangerous cargo from entering the ports? Well, first we have to extend our reach, and that's consistent with this approach of layered security. Our Container Security Initiative is now active in more than 50 overseas ports, accounting for 85 percent of container traffic bound for the United States. This includes nine CSI ports in the Western Hemisphere – ports in Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and the Bahamas; and four more CSI ports will come online later this year in Colombia and Panama. This begins the process of inspection, in many cases, overseas before containers are loaded on a ship.

Our Secure Freight program is increasing the data we collect on containers that are going to transit the international supply chain. What that does is give us better information in order to select what containers we have to look at. And we are now testing the feasibility of overseas scanning for radiation to prevent the entry of WMD into our maritime domain. And again, that's the approach of trying as much as possible to move the scanning, where practicable, overseas at the earliest point at which containers enter the international freight domain.

As part of this effort to continue to extend our reach, we're working with six foreign ports, including Puerto Cortez in Honduras, to install radiation detection equipment to

scan cargo for radiological and nuclear emissions. Construction began in Port Cortez in November, and operational testing will begin next month.

This program of overseas scanning has already exceeded the requirement of the Safe Ports Act to conduct 100 percent scanning of cargo in at least three foreign ports. And what it will do is test the viability of integrating this suite of scanning in some of the world's largest and most complicated port environments. What we learn during this first rollout is going to help inform everything we do as part of this general enlargement of our security envelope through the Secure Freight program.

Secure Freight is also, by the way, a great example of international cooperation, which is indispensable in securing the supply chain, because it can't work without the cooperation of multiple international actors.

We need to continue to work together to educate members of our own Congress on the nature and interdependence of the global supply chain, and to make sure that mandates that sound good as sound bites don't get imposed in a way that actually cripples the maritime trade, which is an engine of our very successful economy.

I also should point out though, that as part of our layered approach, we have built and enhanced our capabilities of scanning at our U.S. domestic ports, as well. In our own U.S. ports, which are ports that you all own and manage, we are now scanning more than 90 percent of the cargo for radiation, and we're going to reach 98 percent at our major seaports by the end of this year, and almost 100 percent for all ports of entry, sea and land, by the end of 2008. This is from the year 2000, where we scanned exactly zero percent. So that is a huge, huge revolution in our capability to protect this country from people smuggling in nuclear or radiological materials.

What about the port itself? Well, our principal vehicle for dealing with the ports is, of course, grants, which enable you to strengthen port infrastructure, and our expenditures in terms of the Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection, and that equipment which we actually deploy at the ports. And I want to look at this holistically, because a lot of times I see stories in the paper that say, well, we spend billions of dollars on aviation, but we only spend millions on the ports.

That number undercounts the fact that our port security, while certainly grants are important to it, is not entirely dependent upon grants. A big amount of what we do to invest in port security is in-kind investment in the form of the Coast Guard –represented here by Admiral Allen, the Commandant – and Customs and Border Protection. If you were to take all of what we invest in port security over the last few years, you would see we've spent over \$10 billion on port security.

The President's budget for fiscal year 2008 continues this very robust support for port security, including port security grants. We're requesting that Congress give us \$210 million for port security, building upon more than \$800 million in port security grants that has been distributed since 9/11, a total of over \$1 billion. These grant funds are being

used to build capabilities in and around port areas, covering the full spectrum of prevention, protection, response and recovery.

Let me give you some examples. We awarded the Port of New York over \$77 million to secure facilities within its area, including \$18 million to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to enhance surveillance capabilities and harden facilities against attack. We awarded the Port of Los Angeles in Long Beach, the largest container port in the U.S., over \$91 million for similar work, including \$8 million to build a new command and control center that will support federal, state and local security personnel with 24/7 surveillance capability.

And we've provided Washington State Ferries and the Staten Island Ferries \$18 million, and \$16 million, respectively, to fund physical enhancements to vessels and terminals, and increase monitoring capabilities.

This fiscal year, in which we're in the middle of distributing grants, we've released our grant guidance several months ahead of last year, and the majority of the grant funds we've already identified, \$120 million, will be available to the eight, tier-one ports or port areas that we consider to be at the highest risk. This is consistent with our risk-based approach which looks at putting the most resources against those areas where threat, vulnerability and consequence give us the greatest risk.

As part of this, we've continually worked with stakeholders, including you, to refine and strengthen our risk analysis. We've placed greater emphasis on geographic risk, focusing on a regional approach so that we can cluster individual ports and analyze them as part of a single area, to reflect geographic proximity and the interdependency of assets, shared risk and shared waterway. That's an approach we've used, for example, up in northern California, and it's an approach we've used in Virginia in the Hampton Roads region. That's why 102 ports we identified as critical this year were clustered into 72 areas that align with our area maritime security strategies and our Coast Guard security operations.

And we continue to work with grant applicants to ask them to focus on key priorities and capabilities in the requests they make for money. We want to fund projects that increase awareness in and around port areas; address the significant threat posed by improvised explosive devices through USS Cole style attacks; expand training and exercises; implement the TWIC credential and access control process; and support our overall national preparedness priorities.

This year, more than ever, it's a collaborative process, and we want to continue to work with you to give the American taxpayer the most value for the taxpayer dollar. So I've talked about keeping dangerous cargo out of the maritime domain, and protecting and strengthening the infrastructure. How do we prevent people coming within and posing a threat by masquerading as legitimate employees or service personnel? Well, we're doing that by developing the Transportation Worker Identification Credential, to make sure those who come into our ports are not a security risk, that they are authorized to do the work there, and that they are not using fraudulent or stolen credentials. TWIC

will be a tamper-resistant, biometric credential for our nation's transportation workers, including port workers.

We estimate about three-quarters of a million port workers will be issued TWIC cards and that they will be required for all individuals who expect unescorted access to secure areas of MTSA-regulated facilities and vessels. TSA is responsible for conducting the security threat assessment on TWIC applicants, which includes a check against terrorist watch lists, an immigration status check, and an FBI fingerprint-based criminal history records check.

We issued the first set of regulations for TWIC in January, and the rule becomes effective in a matter of days, after which we expect to begin enrolling port workers. TWIC is going to have an immediate security benefit in terms of having a standard secure credential. In successive months we'll be working on the more complicated issue of access control and use of TWIC readers. Many of you helped in developing the reader standard and will be involved in upcoming pilot tests. We will take what we learn from those tests and incorporate them into a second set of rule makings on access control requirements.

We recognize it's a complicated undertaking- it takes place in a demanding operational environment. But by taking this in stages: background checks first, credentials next, and then access readers third, we've been able to rapidly move forward while ensuring that we are carefully evaluating technology and operational impact at every step of the process.

Let me conclude by talking about an issue that perhaps stands outside of all of these, and that is the question of resiliency. As important as it is to protect ports, it is equally important to be resilient so we can resume operations if, in fact, an attack is successfully carried out. When we look at the experience of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we saw tremendous damage to the port structures, as well as all the pain and suffering and loss of human life. Among other things, 1,800 aids to navigation were destroyed by the hurricanes, and the storm caused significant silting of the navigable waterways, and led to the sinking of 2,900 vessels in the region.

In order to make that recovery, one lesson out of Katrina is that planning is critical. In order to recover ports from the kind of damage we've seen in Katrina and Rita – and this is one of the lessons learned from those hurricanes – we have to plan ahead of time about how to resume operations. And that has to be a joint effort, one undertaken not only with the federal government, but with you who own the assets and employ the people who work in the ports.

Admiral Allen, who is here today, has made maritime disaster recovery one of his top priorities as Commandant of the Coast Guard. And, in August of last year, the Coast Guard held a national maritime recovery symposium to begin addressing resiliency issues with the industry on a large scale. This event was an important step for developing a national approach to recovery planning. We need to identify issues and develop alternative solutions for recovery of the marine transportation system after an incident, whether it be manmade or natural.

The Coast Guard and CBP are working on national protocols for the resumption of trade, as we speak. This process includes the input from multiple agencies, including the Department of Transportation, TSA, and the Department of Defense. The private sector also has a major role in this process, and will be included through the Maritime Sector Coordinating Council and other outreach efforts, through out National Response Plan, the National Infrastructure Protection Plan, and the Maritime Infrastructure Recovery Plan. This will be an important focus for all of us in the months ahead.

We have done a lot in partnership with you to protect our ports without sacrificing the mobility of goods and the people that make our ports work in the first place. But we have more to do. I appreciate all you've done both in the U.S. and across the Western Hemisphere to balance trade and security, protect our ports and maritime cargo, but doing so while ensuring continued prosperity. We will remain your steadfast partners in this balanced effort to increase security and enhance prosperity. And we look forward to working with you in the time to come.

Thank you very much.

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