
CABLE Gram
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Publisher, Zhi Hamby-Nye

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CABLE Gram Volume 4 Issue 17

24 April 2007 CABLE Gram™

Good Morning All,

Starting next week, Rick Forno will be guest editing the CABLE Gram for several weeks. I will not be responding to email during that time. Thanks for your patience.

Just a quick note to stress the importance of checking your credit card invoices before you pay them. While this story will be lacking in specifics (due to the ongoing legal case) – it certainly speaks well for the Maryland Transportation Authority Police at Baltimore Washington International Airport, as well as several other responsible employees.

I flew out of BWI on the 9th of March using my credit card for the airline baggage charge. Upon receiving my credit card bill last Thursday, I noticed two charges for pizza ordered in Maryland on the 10th of April (when I was out of the country). I called the credit card company and instituted a dispute, but wasn't content to leave it at that.

Next, I called the pizza company and spoke with the manager, a congenial young man incensed that someone used his company in that way. He offered to search the receipts from that day and get back to me if he found anything. Good to his word, he called back later that afternoon and told me "I" had placed two orders (5 minutes apart) and had them delivered to the ticket counter of an airline located next to the airline I flew that day. He also (tongue in cheek) thanked me for generously tipping each driver \$10.00.

The next morning I called the airline I had flown and told my story to the young lady who answered the phone. She was courteous, tried to be helpful, but upon not readily finding a department to handle this, took my information and assured me she would follow-up. She too was good to her word.

By early that afternoon (i.e. within 24 hours of initiating the inquiry) I received a call from a detective with the Maryland Transportation Authority Police at Baltimore Washington International Airport. He asked a few questions and then told me – “We know who did it!” Needless to say, there is a bit of follow-up work to be done, but basically one of the airline employees used my credit card.

It wasn't the money - it was the act that really irritated me. She figured I'd never notice, or it wouldn't be worth my time to do more that let either the credit card company or the pizza company sustain her damage.

So, don't think people always get away with identity theft/credit card fraud. I know one woman who is going to go through a whole lot of grief and certainly lose her job over a few pizzas. Hmmmm, do you think she would have stopped there?

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate 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. House panel probes latest DHS personnel overhaul (GovExec.com, 23 Apr 2007)

Members of a House subcommittee on Thursday questioned why the Homeland Security Department has continued to move forward with its controversial personnel system in the face of charges that it has caused employee morale to plummet. At a hearing of the House Homeland Security subcommittee on management, lawmakers sought to discover whether DHS' shift from developing a controversial system known as MaxHR to a new approach called the Human Capital Operational Plan was more than simply a name change. Marta Perez, the DHS chief human capital officer, assured lawmakers that the new plan will implement many important initiatives that MaxHR did not address, including hiring, retention, training and vocational efforts. "What we have done in the operational plan is define new priorities to make sure we have the right talent in place," she said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36682&dcn=e_gvet

2. TSA screeners to evaluate facial expressions - Officers to look for signs of stress or deception (KWGN, 24 Apr 2007)

DENVER - Are you aware of your facial expressions when flying? There are some people who'll be watching. TSA screeners trained to detect suspicious behavior are scheduled to become part of the nation's high-risk airports later this year. "It's good for everybody, it's good for the country. I mean, you can catch everyone before they board the flight," said traveler Reddy Sarsam, who approves of any measure of security to be safe in the air. The program is called S.P.O.T.--Screening Passenger By Observation Technique. Specially-trained screeners will look for facial expressions and body language that exhibit unethical behavior.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

3. Airport security plans include more training, technology use (Orlando Sentinel, 18 Apr 2007)

WASHINGTON - A six-point plan to tighten the screening of airport employees and prevent security risks like the gun-smuggling incident at Orlando International Airport was announced in Washington today. TSA Administrator Kip Hawley said the new strategy was intended to be "nimble, flexible, mobile, and above all dynamic" and

provide better overall security. Over the next 90 days the Transportation Security Administration, the American Association of Airport Executive, Airports Council International of North America and the National Air Transportation Association will develop the plan to be introduced in a phased rollout at the 452 commercial U.S. airports.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/364aps>

4. TSA Promotes Public-Private Airport Employee Screening (Port Security News, 23 Apr 2007)

At a hearing last week (April 19) before the Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee of the House Homeland Security Committee, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Administrator Kip Hawley reiterated TSA's position that screening of airport employees be done through a public-private partnership. Hawley said that 100 percent worker screening would tie up a disproportionate amount of resources. He said, however, that TSA's new six-point public private security effort is part of a layered approach to securing airports and could work in concert with 100 percent screening requirements if they are enacted.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://portsecuritynews.com/news/templates/registered.asp?articleid=1502&zoneid=1>

5. Spotlight increases on port security - Shipments from Mexico draw special U.S. scrutiny (Union-Tribune, 23 Apr 2007)

When Mexican President Felipe Calderón launched his sweeping campaign against narco-trafficking late last year, he sent navy ships and thousands of troops to the port of Lázaro Cárdenas to clamp down on the reputed hub for smuggling drugs to the United States. Drugs aren't the only contraband that is troublesome at foreign ports such as Lázaro Cárdenas. The ports – growing transit points for boxcar-sized containers bound for the American heartland – are crucial in keeping the United States free from terrorist attack. With nearly the equivalent of 17.3 million cargo containers arriving by ship at U.S. seaports each year, concerns are heightening that maritime cargo might be used to deliver nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or to carry bands of terrorists into the United States.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/mexico/20070423-9999-1n23port.html>

6. Op/Ed: America's rail danger (Baltimore Sun, By Charles H. White Jr., 19 Apr 2007)

Congress has at last recognized and moved to fix a gaping breach in America's homeland security: railroad and transit system security. Unfortunately, the Senate and House bills come with veto provocations. The Senate bill enacting much of the 9/11 commission's recommendations has a provision authorizing collective bargaining by aviation security workers. The House bill embraces whistleblower protections for employees involved in security projects. Both bills apparently are nonstarters in the White House's view. But while these tangential matters raise political issues, al-Qaida is increasing its use of improvised chlorine bombs (chlorine and other hazardous materials move over the U.S. rail system daily in great volumes), and terrorists for some time now have turned to the

world's vulnerable rail and transit systems to wreak their havoc. This is simply not the time for a political standoff on nonessential side issues.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2l5l9z>

7. After Virginia tragedy, threats keep U.S. schools on edge (Reuters, 18 Apr 2007)

WASHINGTON - A series of bomb threats and other security alerts rattled U.S. schools and universities Wednesday as nerves remained frayed from the massacre of 32 people by a disturbed, brooding student at Virginia Tech. Students have been the main victims in several recent U.S. shootings, most infamously the 1999 Columbine High School massacre in Colorado in which two student gunmen killed 12 other students and a teacher before killing themselves. In central San Francisco, the University of California Hastings College of the Law evacuated 300 to 400 students midway through classes Wednesday afternoon after someone noticed a posting on an Internet site referring to the school and Virginia Tech, Dean Nell Jessup Newton said. "Somebody who read that bulletin board called us. You could read it as sort of a sick joke or you could read it as something that was serious," she told Reuters. "We called the police and the FBI, and they are investigating, but in light of the Virginia Tech situation, we decided in a kind of excess of caution to close down the school for the rest of the day." At the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, eight buildings were evacuated Wednesday after a bomb threat, the school said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/04/18/shooting.jitters.reut/index.html>

8. Experts ponder patterns in school shootings (By Greg Toppo, USA TODAY, 18 Apr 2007)

To most of us, tomorrow is just another Friday. But to educators, it's one of the bigger nail-biters on the calendar. April 20 is the eighth anniversary of the 1999 shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. This year, a week that began with the worst mass murder in U.S. history could end with what, for some, has become an annual rite: "Remember Columbine" bomb scares and violent threats invoking the Colorado attacks, which have become a sort of cultural touchstone among certain disaffected youths. "April 20 is in the back of most every school administrator's mind," says Ken Trump, an Ohio school safety consultant. "I've had conversations this week and more than one person has said to me, 'You *know* what Friday is.' It's there in the minds of many school administrators, and the Virginia Tech incident only heightens the awareness of it." Dewey Cornell, a University of Virginia clinical psychologist and education professor who directs the Virginia Youth Violence Project, says April 20 "is a day of concern - there is a certain group of kids who idolize the Columbine kids and might be tempted to do something or make a threat along those lines." So what do we know about school shooters?

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2007-04-18-school-shooters_N.htm

9. A murky science: Predicting a killer (The Kansas City Star, 19 Apr 2007)

Today - three days after 32 people were gunned down at Virginia Polytechnic Institute - collected signs imply that their killer, Cho Seung-Hui, had all the attributes of a mass murderer. Somewhere, somehow, someone should have known. Each day a deepening profile emerges of a bitter, angry and possibly suicidal loner. He was a 23-year-old English major who stalked women, unsettled his wary teachers and barely spoke while filling sheaves of paper with sexually violent ranting. He photographed himself, a petulant scowl, arms extended, pistols brandished. "There were red flags all along the way, not flags that said he would definitely go and do this, but flags that said he was troubled," said Paramjit Joshi, chairwoman of psychiatry at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Identifying killers after the fact is always easy, said psychologists and experts on school shootings, but predicting which students might one day fly into a murderous rampage remains a devilishly difficult business.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kansascity.com/136/story/75973.html>

10. Company Developing Dirty Bomb Antidote Said to Be Held in Limbo by Government (Congressional Quarterly, 18 Apr 2007)

A company that lost a chance for a multimillion dollar contract to provide drugs alleviating symptoms from a dirty bomb said Wednesday it has been held in limbo by the federal government for more than two years. At a hearing to determine why Project Bioshield has not taken significant steps forward, the Department of Health and Human Services announced the implementation plan for procuring vaccines and countermeasures, and a contract for more than 10 million additional doses of an existing anthrax vaccine. But the focus of the House Homeland Security Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology Subcommittee was clearly on why more progress has not been made thus far. Hollis-Eden Pharmaceuticals CEO Richard Hollis said his company was held to a higher standard by HHS than what was required under Project Bioshield (PL 108-276), which provides \$5.6 billion for the government to procure drugs for the nation's stockpile.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://public.cq.com/docs/hs/hsnews110-000002492645.html>

11. Justice Dept. Given 2 Weeks to Weigh Use of Classified Data in Espionage Case (Washington Post, 20 Apr 2007)

The Justice Department yesterday was given until May 2 to determine how it wants to proceed in the controversial prosecution of two former pro-Israel lobbyists charged with violating the 1917 Espionage Act after the federal judge in the case turned down prosecutors' attempt to close from public scrutiny a substantial portion of the trial in order to protect classified information. Faced with the decision made Monday by U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III and delivered in written form yesterday, the prosecutors want time to determine whether they will appeal, suggest another way to handle classified material or drop the case altogether.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/27mxgt>

12. A Breach in Nuclear Security (Time Magazine, 19 Apr 2007)

New Mexico police got more than they bargained for last fall when they responded to a call about a domestic dispute in a trailer park near Los Alamos National Laboratory. Not only had they stumbled on paraphernalia for making the drug crystal meth; they also found thousands of pages of highly classified documents detailing the designs of U.S. nuclear weapons. "We're taking it (the security breach) very seriously," said a spokesman for the Energy Department, which controls the lab, soon after the incident was made public. He added that Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman "was personally disturbed" by the matter. As well he ought to have been: New details obtained by TIME offer an even more disturbing picture of security at the nation's nuclear inner sanctum than the one outlined last year in a no-nonsense investigation by the Department's Inspector General. In fact, according to government documents, the woman who made off with the weapons designs was herself engaged in chronic illegal drug use and other serious security breaches that have never been made public. Documents also show that the DOE is investigating separate drug use by at least 35 other lab workers who received security clearances around the same time.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1612912,00.html>

13. Russian University: Hitler's birthday prompts lockdown (AP, 20 Apr 2007)

A leading Moscow university ordered its foreign students yesterday to remain in their dormitories for the next three days because of fears of ethnic violence before Adolf Hitler's birthday today students said. Hundreds of students at the prestigious Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy were told to stock up on food and warned they would not be let out of the dormitories through tomorrow in an attempt to protect them from a marked rise in hate crimes. Ethnically motivated violence tends to increase in the days leading up to and after Hitler's birthday, when some members of ultranationalist organizations shout slogans and stage attacks on dark-skinned foreign and other non-Slavic-looking people.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20070419-103310-1669r.htm>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

14. CA: U.S. cops grab 9 illegal workers at military base (Reuters, 19 Apr 2007)

U.S. police arrested nine illegal immigrants working for a contractor at a California military base on Thursday, in an operation underscoring a threat to national security from fake identity documents, authorities said. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in San Diego said the employees worked for a contractor at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station, and had used fake permanent residency cards obtained on a thriving black market in the city to gain work. The operation was the latest in an ongoing sweep by ICE that has discovered more than 850 undocumented workers using fake identity cards to work at sensitive military bases and airports in San Diego County.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN1945660620070420>

15. FL: TSA seeks reinstatement of 'pat-downs' at NFL games (AP, 17 Apr 2007)

MIAMI - If someone doesn't like pat-down searches by security guards, then they may not be able to see any the Tampa Bay Buccaneers home football games next season. The Tampa Sports Authority urged a federal appeals court today to reinstate pat-down searches at the games. At least two of the three judges on the Eleventh US Circuit Court of Appeals panel appeared sympathetic to the searches. Senior Circuit Judge Peter T. Fay asked during oral arguments if a terrorist attack had to occur first before such steps are taken. The panel is considering an appeal by the sports authority, a governmental board that owns and operates Raymond James Stadium where the Buccaneers play.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.tampabay.com/sports/article.aspx?storyid=53003>

16. FL: JIA tees up new baggage screening machine - That's good news for golfers, whose clubs typically must be checked manually. (The Times-Union, 24 Apr 2007)

Golf club bags checked in at Jacksonville International Airport might be screened by machine rather than checked by hand if a pilot program at the airport is successful. In conjunction with the terminal expansion project now under way, the Transportation Security Administration is testing a machine it hopes will be able to see through a mass of metal clubs. The scanning machines now used in Jacksonville and other airports to examine checked bags are triggered by the clubs, which create a "shielding" hazard.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/042407/bus_9417189.shtml

17. LA: Officials pack FBI seminar on school violence, threats (2theadvocate.com, 24 Apr 2007)

Every school shooter is unique, but many share personality traits, a behavioral science expert told Louisiana educators and law enforcement professionals Monday during a seminar on school violence and threat assessment. Those responsible for school shootings across the United States are usually easily frustrated and have low self-esteem and an exaggerated sense of entitlement, FBI Special Agent Terri Royster said. They also lack empathy. "There's a beginning and a middle to school shootings but there is never an end," she said. "They rarely think about the consequences of their actions."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/7162046.html>

18. MI: Two men accused of spying for Iraq (AP, 19 Apr 2007)

Two Michigan men have been indicted for spying for the Iraqi government before the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of the country, according to federal authorities. A grand jury accused Najib Shemami, 58, of Sterling Heights, of four espionage-related charges between March 2002 and early 2003, according to the U.S. attorney's office and FBI. A criminal complaint claims Ghazi Al-Awadi, 78, of Dearborn told Iraqi intelligence officials in 1997 that he killed his son-in-law because the man belonged to an anti-Saddam Hussein political party. Shemami and Al-Awadi, both U.S. citizens, were arrested Tuesday and charged with conspiring to act as agents of a foreign government based on Iraqi documents captured by U.S. forces in Iraq and authenticated by former members of the Iraqi Intelligence Service, the Detroit Free Press said on its Web site.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

19. MI: Students to respond to mock bioterror attack (The Flint Journal, 18 Apr 2007)

MUNDY TWP. - GASC Technology Center students will get a look at how to respond to a disaster during an emergency preparedness/mock bioterrorism drill at the school at 11:50 a.m. Friday. Participants are from the school's emergency medical care, forensic science II and public safety and homeland security classes. Students will set up command, decontamination and treatment centers; act as EMTs, fire and hazardous materials officers, police officers, SWAT teams and mock terrorists and victims; and practice rescue strategies, evidence collecting and treatment.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/29dpp2>

20. MS: Student apprehended for threats (Student Printz, 19 Apr 2007)

The University Police Department and the Lamar County Police Department apprehended a Southern Miss student Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. for posting threats to the Internet. "His MySpace [page] played an integral part," said Chief Bob Hopkins of the University Police Department. The suspect is described as a 25-year-old white male. His classification is unknown, but according to Hopkins, "he's been enrolled for several years." "We were able to resolve this without their being any immediate on campus threat," said Dr. Joe Paul, vice president of student affairs. The police are currently not releasing any specific information regarding the nature of the threats, but the suspect is in custody for questioning. However, the police did state the Internet posts were made before the tragic incident that occurred at Virginia Tech.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

21. NY: 13 People Indicted for Roles in New York City Restaurant Credit Card Fraud Totaling \$3 Million (AP, 21 Apr 2007)

The diners didn't know it, but their credit cards were going to pay for more than their meals, prosecutors said. Waiters in about 40 restaurants, in New York and elsewhere, quietly recorded customers' credit card information and passed it on to people who used the information to make more than \$3 million worth of worth of illegal purchases, according to prosecutors. Thirteen people were indicted Friday on charges stemming from their roles in the credit card fraud, prosecutors said. The credit card account information was stolen from customers who visited restaurants in Manhattan's Chinatown and other parts of the New York metropolitan area, as well eateries in Florida, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Connecticut.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=3063469>

22. TX: Texas is amassing an unprecedented amount of information on its citizens (Texas Observer, 20 Apr 2007)

Piece by piece, Gov. Rick Perry's homeland security office is gathering massive amounts of information about Texas residents and merging it to create the most exhaustive

centralized database in state history. Warehoused far from Texas on servers housed at a private company in Louisville, Kentucky, the Texas Data Exchange-TDEx to those in the loop-is designed to be an all-encompassing intelligence database. It is supposed to help catch criminals, ferret out terrorist cells, and allow disparate law enforcement agencies to share information. More than \$3.6 million has been spent on the project so far, and it already has tens of millions of records. At least 7,000 users are presently allowed access to this information, and tens of thousands more are anticipated.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://new.texasobserver.org/article.php?aid=2472>

23. TX: Texas Senate OKs bill expanding wiretapping powers (AP, 18 Apr 2007)

AUSTIN - The Texas Senate approved a broad homeland security bill today that expands wiretapping authorities to include cellular telephones and investigations involving kidnapping, human trafficking and money laundering. The bill also limits the sale of prepaid cell phones and says the companies that provide the phone service must store customers' names and other identifying information. Additionally, the legislation allows police to use photos and videos taken by cameras at toll booths to prosecute any crime. Sen. John Carona said his proposal will modernize the methods police can use to fight terrorism and organized crime in Texas. But a civil liberties group says parts of the bill go too far and could result in an invasion of Texans' privacy.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/4728507.html>

24. TX: Border Patrol has seen a significant decrease in overall apprehensions (KGBT, 22 Apr 2007)

The work is ongoing at the Falfurrias immigration and security checkpoint. Passenger vehicles and tractor-trailers are inspected by Border Patrol agents, looking for human smuggling or illegal drugs. Oscar Saldana, spokesperson for Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley Sector tells Action 4 News it's not only work at the checkpoint by the agents. "They are also performing rescues and apprehensions of undocumented immigrants out in the ranch land." Within an hour from arrival, Action 4 News cameras captured border patrol units, one after another, bringing in a group of 35 undocumented immigrants who tried to walk around the checkpoint. They were abandoned by the smuggler and were lost for days in the Brooks County ranches.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.team4news.com/Global/story.asp?S=6410055&nav=0w0v>

KEY PEOPLE

25. National Security Division Names New Chief of Counterterrorism Section (PRNewswire, 17 Apr 2007)

WASHINGTON - Kenneth L. Wainstein, Assistant Attorney General for National Security, announced today that Michael Mullaney, a 25-year veteran of law enforcement, has been appointed Chief of the Counterterrorism Section in the Justice Department's National Security Division. For the past three years, Mullaney has held the position of Principal Deputy Chief and Acting Chief of the Counterterrorism Section. During these

assignments, he has developed strong partnerships between the Department and other federal agencies involved in counterterrorism. He has also contributed significantly to the formulation and execution of Departmental counterterrorism policies.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2lsz9u>

GANG ACTIVITY

26. NJ: Two alleged mobsters banned from casinos (Press of Atlantic City, 19 Apr 2007)

ATLANTIC CITY - Two reputed organized-crime figures in New York were placed on a casino blacklist Wednesday by New Jersey gaming regulators. The vote by the state Casino Control Commission bars John Campanella Jr. and Paul Spina from setting foot in Atlantic City's 11 casino hotels. Campanella, of the Bronx, N.Y., has been identified by law enforcement agencies as a member or associate of the Genovese organized-crime family. In 2006, he pleaded guilty to a charge of mail fraud in connection with a federal indictment targeting the Genovese syndicate, court papers show. Spina, of New Hyde Park, N.Y., was named in court papers in 1998 as an associate of the Bonanno organized-crime family. The same year, he pleaded guilty to federal extortion and conspiracy charges, according to documents released Wednesday by the Casino Control Commission.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/story/7414038p-7309266c.html>

27. NY: Acting Boss Of The Genovese Organized Crime Family Sentenced To 18 Months In Prison For Racketeering And Obstruction Of Justice Offenses (Media Newswire, 19 Apr 2007)

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that Genovese Organized Crime Family Acting Boss and Capo MATTHEW IANNIELLO, a/k/a Matty the Horse, was sentenced yesterday in Manhattan federal court to 18 months in prison for using his status in the Genovese Organized Crime Family of La Cosa Nostra (LCN) to collect unlawful labor payments from union officials of Local 1181 of the Amalgamated Transit Union ("Local 1181") and to obstruct a grand jury investigation into the illicit relationship between Local 1181 and the Genovese Organized Crime Family.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://media-newswire.com/release_1048055.html

28. WI: Man, 18, charged with attempted murder (The Capital Times, 24 Apr 2007)

A street gang member was charged Monday with first-degree attempted intentional homicide, accused of repeatedly running over a rival with a Jeep Cherokee last month. Jeffrey A. Nering, 18, was charged with four counts in the March 26 incident, in which he allegedly drove his Jeep into a Ford Probe driven by Sergio Alcantara, with the two vehicles continually bashing each other as they drove up East Washington Avenue. Those in the Ford Probe would later tell police that the two occupants of the Jeep were flashing gang signs at them when they were not crashing into them.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.madison.com/tct/news/index.php?ntid=130832&ntpid=0>

29. Countries ignorant about threats posed by transnational crime – UN agency chief (UN News Centre, 23 Apr 2007)

Law enforcement authorities around the world “operate in an information fog” about transnational organized crime, ignorant of the scope of the threats faced and unable to gauge global trends, the head of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) warned today, calling on UN Member States to develop a coherent blueprint to deal with the problem. Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa told the opening of the annual session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, meeting in Vienna, that globalization meant activities ranging from money laundering and corruption to cyber-crime, identity theft and deliberate environmental destruction are “not threats that any State can fight alone.” Mr. Costa urged Member States to track organized crime more effectively and provide more detailed information so that policy-makers have the necessary data to develop the most comprehensive response possible.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=22312&Cr=UNODC&Cr1>

30. Canada: Justice system gets \$30M (Sun Media, 22 Apr 2007)

The battle against organized crime could soon be getting reinforcements with the announcement of \$30 million to bolster Alberta's corps of Crown prosecutors. Justice Minister Ron Stevens made the announcement yesterday at the annual Law Day festivities at Calgary Court of Queen's Bench, part of a move to increase public access to the courts. "We're investing in front-line resources so we can better manage the pressures on the justice system," said Stevens.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://calsun.canoe.ca/News/Alberta/2007/04/22/4102267-sun.html>

31. Mexican President Felipe Calderon has re-initialized a plan for regional integration in an attempt to make the dreams of his predecessor a reality (Commentary by Sam Logan for ISN Security Watch, 20 Apr 2007)

When former Mexican president Vicente Fox announced Plan Puebla-Panama (PPP) in 2001, many believed his vision of integration between Mexico and Central America could improve trade, transportation, energy supplies and security. It was billed as a massive infrastructure project at a cost of US\$50 billion. Such an ambitious package saw little more than US\$4.5 billion spent mostly on customs posts between Mexico and Guatemala and an upgraded power grid between the two countries until current Mexican President Felipe Calderon decided to revive the plan on 9 April with a one-day conference in Campeche, Mexico. In attendance were the presidents of all Central American countries, apart from Belize and Nicaragua, who sent their prime minister and vice president, respectively.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.isn.ethz.ch/news/sw/details.cfm?ID=17515>

32. Brazil: Brazilian police seeks Interpol's help to battle gambling mafia (People's Daily Online, 23 Apr 2007)

[Brazil](#)'s Federal Police said on Sunday that it will rely on the Interpol's assistance to track treasurers for the gambling lords who bribed court judges. The treasurers Marcelo Khalil, Joao Oliveira and Nagib Sauid have escaped from the South American country with 15 million U.S. dollars, the police said. They worked for gambling lords Antonio Petrus Khalil, Anisio Abrahao Davis and Ailton Guimares respectively. The three lords were arrested on April 13 in Operation Hurricane, which was aimed to fight illegal gambling, peddling and the purchase of court decisions. The mafia had connections with judges, attorneys and policemen, who were also arrested in the operation.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://english.people.com.cn/200704/23/eng20070423_368897.html

33. Crime cartels make S. Africa wary of Chinese (Washington Times, 21 Apr 2007)

JOHANNESBURG - The rise in organized crime with links to larger crime syndicates in Hong Kong and Shanghai has led the South African government to increase surveillance of Chinese nationals. In the past year, raids on Chinese-owned shops by special police units, often accompanied by tax inspectors, have netted millions of dollars in counterfeit clothing, unlicensed weapons, drugs and imports on which duty and sales taxes had not been paid. In a single haul last August, at the Dragon City complex in Johannesburg -- a center dominated by Chinese merchants -- police took away goods, drugs and undeclared foreign currency worth \$35 million. According to Peter Gastrow, a researcher at the Institute for Security Studies in Pretoria, who has written widely on organized crime, four triads or gangs dominate the Asian underworld in South Africa and are known as the Wo Shing Wo group, San Yee On, 14K Hau and 14K-Ngai.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://washingtontimes.com/world/20070420-101516-9957r.htm>

34. North Korea's burden of crime and terror (Asia Times Online, 20 Apr 2007)

BANGKOK - North Korea may in the end get its US\$25 million, which has been frozen in a Macau bank since September 2005. But the United States and North Korea still have a long way to go before relations between the two countries can be normalized. On Washington's part, there are two issues standing in the way of diplomatic relations: Pyongyang's alleged involvement in criminal activities, of which the blacklisting of Macau's Banco Delta Asia as an entity of "primary money laundering concern" is only a part, and the fact that North Korea is still on the US list of terrorism-supporting countries. As recently as February 16, while the United States was trying to improve relations with North Korea, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) - which provides background briefing papers for members of the US Congress - published a 14-page report on "North Korean Crime-for-Profit Activities".

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Korea/ID20Dg02.html>

35. Japan: Mayor's Death Forces Japan's Crime Rings Into the Light (New York Times, 21 Apr 2007)

NAGASAKI, [Japan](#), April 20 - The shooting death this week of this city's popular mayor has left people puzzling over the shooter's motive and has set off a national outcry about a less savory aspect of Japanese society: its teeming criminal underworld. On Friday, passers-by left flowers on the sidewalk where Mayor Kazunaga Ito, who went by the name Itcho Ito in public life, was killed Tuesday evening by a member of an organized crime group. Citizens also lined up to write their condolences at Nagasaki's City Hall, where employees were wearing black dresses and neckties. The brazenness of the slaying, in front of crowds of commuters at the city's main train station, shocked this nation, which takes pride in its normally safe streets. It has brought growing calls in national newspapers and among ordinary citizens for Japan's central government to take tougher steps to crack down on criminal groups. "We can no longer let organized crime run rampant in Japan," said Toru Shioyama, 36, who visited the site of Mr. Ito's killing during his lunch break. "I'm outraged."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/21/world/asia/21japan.html?ref=world>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

36. FL: Feds Charge 29, Including 12 Cargo Workers, With Smuggling Drugs Through Miami Airport (AP, 19 Apr 2007)

A drug ring based at Miami International Airport used cargo workers to smuggle cocaine and heroin for the past five years, authorities said Thursday in announcing charges against 29 people. The 12 cargo workers named in the indictment worked for airlines that operate internationally and were not employees of the airport itself. "You clearly had conspirators on the inside to help that take place," U.S. Attorney R. Alexander Acosta said of the drug operation. "That raises alarms about what may or may not be smuggled through these channels."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=3058648>

37. FL: Alarm signals cocaine bonanza (Palm Beach Post, 24 Apr 2007)

PORT ST. LUCIE - Police checking on a burglar alarm at 2174 S.E. Midtown Road found the door ajar. But instead of finding a thief, they found about \$40,000 in powder cocaine and homemade crack cocaine scattered around the home Friday. Capt. Scott Bartal said the drugs seized include "what we think to be the largest amount of crack cocaine located in Port St. Lucie in its history." The two officers and the detective who first went into the house found crack rocks on the floor near the refrigerator, according to Sgt. Derek Brieske. While special-investigations detectives drew up a search warrant, other members of the unit watched the house.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yw9c7f>

38. FL: Kid brings 89 grams of crack to elementary school (Tampa Bays 10, 18 Apr 2007)

Tampa, Florida - Tampa Police are investigating drugs found at Forrest Hills Elementary School. Yesterday officials from the school contacted Tampa Police about a 7-year-old

who brought the drugs to school. When the first grader found the drugs, he notified his teacher. Narcotics detectives determined it was 89 grams of crack/cocaine, which the child discovered in his jacket pocket.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=53040>

39. MD: \$3 million worth of cocaine seized at port - Drugs were discovered Monday hidden in cargo ship from Ecuador (Baltimore Sun, 19 Apr 2007)

Federal customs agents have seized \$3 million worth of cocaine hidden in a cargo ship from Ecuador and docked at Baltimore's main port, officials announced today. Agents discovered the cocaine during a search Monday of the containerized cargo on the vessel *Alianca Shanghai* at The Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore. Officials did not say whether they were tipped to the presence of the drug shipment. "This cocaine seizure reflects the effectiveness of our officers to detect narcotics in the containerized cargo environment," Michael Hrinyak, the port's director, said in a statement released today. "We are determined to catch smugglers and the narcotics they attempt to ship hidden in legitimate merchandise." A contraband enforcement team with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Anti-Terrorism found 310 pounds of cocaine on the ship after a drug-sniffing dog alerted authorities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/339h93>

40. MO: Deputy stops illegal alien, finds 12 bricks of cocaine (The Rolla Daily News, 17 Apr 2007)

A Phelps County Sheriff's Department deputy stopped a man for speeding on Interstate 44 on Monday, and later discovered the car had more than 16 pounds of cocaine. The man, Jose Romero Reyes-Ugarte, 25, who said he was from Waukesha, Wis., was eastbound at about the 185 mile-marker when stopped. According to Sheriff's Department Detective and Information Officer Andy Davis, something about Reyes-Ugarte led the officer to become suspicious. The deputy's intuition was correct, as a subsequent search of the vehicle revealed a \$1 bill and a powdery substance in a pouch stuffed above the sun visor.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.therolladailynews.com/articles/2007/04/18/news/news05.txt>

41. NY: Cocaine Cowboys-Rounded Up At Last (DEA, 18 Apr 2007)

ALBANY, NY - John P. Gilbride, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in New York and US Attorney for the Northern District of New York Glenn T. Suddaby announced the indictments of twenty-two individuals with conspiracy to distribute cocaine and cocaine base (crack) in the Northern District of New York and elsewhere between May 2006 and January 2007. DEA Special Agent in Charge John Gilbride stated, "The cocaine and crack distribution group called themselves the Cocaine Cowboys, but to law enforcement they were outlaws responsible for distributing crack and powder cocaine throughout the Capital Region. Members of this distribution group were arrested this past January. DEA and our law enforcement partners rounded up

their re-distributors of crack and powder cocaine this morning and they face the consequences of their actions.”

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/newsrel/nyc041807.html>

42. NC: Columbus deputies find fugitive, cocaine (The Fayetteville Observer, 19 Apr 2007)

CHADBOURN - Columbus County sheriff's detectives were chasing a fugitive from South Carolina when they found cash and \$50,000 worth of cocaine. Detectives from the Columbus County Sheriff's Office and Horry County, S.C., officers with the U.S. Marshals Service were looking for Reggie Allen Pinkney when they came across the drugs Monday. Lawmen found Pinkney, 26, hiding in a bathroom closet at a home on Holland Street in Chadbourn, said Columbus County Detective Kevin Norris. A woman at the home, Lakeisha Margaret Graham, told lawmen Pinkney was not there. Norris said he found the drugs and money under a bed. He found four bags of cocaine with an estimated value of \$50,000 and cash that would total more than \$29,000.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fayobserver.com/article?id=260178>

43. PA: Former Police Chief, Son Accused of Spreading Word of Planned Drug Raid in Pennsylvania (AP, 19 Apr 2007)

A former police chief and his teenage son were charged Thursday with leaking word of a drug raid last year. A state grand jury found that then-Chief Rolf Garcia learned of the planned state raid from a trooper who made a courtesy call. Garcia then phoned his 17-year-old son to alert him on Feb. 3, 2006, state Attorney General Tom Corbett said. The teen called four other people to tell them about the plans, according to the grand jury notice.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=3057891>

44. 40,000 Pounds of Cocaine Seized at Sea (AP, 24 Apr 2007)

The Coast Guard began unloading more than 40,000 pounds of cocaine seized from three ships off the Central American coast, much of it from a single bust considered the largest in U.S. maritime history. Coast Guard officers had boarded a 330-foot ship heading north off the Pacific coast of Panama last month and discovered about 38,000 pounds of cocaine in two shipping containers, officials said. It was the largest single sea-based seizure of cocaine by a U.S. agency, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Brian Leshak. Crews unloaded the cocaine Monday at a port in California, along with cocaine from two other busts. In one, also last month off Panama, a Coast Guard cutter chased down a speedboat carrying about 2,000 pounds of cocaine, officials said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=1123635>

45. Jamaica: Cops seize ganga, cocaine valued at almost \$6 million (Jamaica Observer, 17 Apr 2007)

NEGRIL, Westmoreland - Cocaine and ganja valued at nearly \$6 million was yesterday seized from a 30-foot fishing boat, just off the Little Bay coast in the parish. Police said about 1:00 am members of its Marine Division observed a 30-foot fishing boat alongside a larger vessel at sea, and on closer inspection spotted men loading items from the fishing boat onto the larger vessel. Officers said on the approach of the police both vessels sped off - the 30-foot vessel which was powered by a 60-horsepower engine headed for shore, while the larger vessel set off in the opposite direction. The fishing boat, the police said, was later found docked in Little Bay among rocks and bushes. During a search of the boat, the police said they discovered: two containers of unprocessed cocaine weighing about 14 pounds, with an estimated value of \$4 million; nine large kegs loaded with ganja weighing 108 pounds, valued at about \$1.7 million.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2ergd4>

46. UK: Cocaine use triples as Ecstasy loses its appeal (The Independent, 19 Apr 2007)

More than 750,000 people take cocaine at least once a year as its price falls and ecstasy loses its popularity among clubbers, according to a wide-ranging study of drug abuse in Britain. Official attempts to stem the use of illegal substances have failed, with cocaine soaring in popularity and addiction to heroin remaining stubbornly high. The report delivers the bleak warning that Britain has the worst levels of drug abuse in Europe and the second highest rate of drug-related deaths.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/this_britain/article2461462.ece

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

47. U.S. Database Exposed Social Security Numbers (New York Times, 21 Apr 2007)

The Agriculture Department for years publicly listed Social Security numbers of tens of thousands of people who received financial aid from two of its agencies, raising concerns about identity theft and other privacy violations. Officials at the department and at the Census Bureau, which maintains the database where the personal information was listed, were evidently unaware that it contained Social Security numbers. The problem was reported to the government last week by a farmer in Illinois who stumbled across the data on the Internet.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/26zwg2>

48. Hackers Used Mysterious E-Mail to Break Into State Department Computers (AP, 18 Apr 2007)

WASHINGTON - A break-in targeting State Department computers worldwide last summer occurred after a department employee in Asia opened a mysterious e-mail that quietly allowed hackers inside the U.S. government's network. In the first public account revealing details about the intrusion and the government's hurried behind-the-scenes response, a senior State Department official described an elaborate ploy by sophisticated international hackers. They used a secret break-in technique that exploited a design flaw

in Microsoft software. Consumers using the same software remained vulnerable until months afterward. Donald R. Reid, the senior security coordinator for the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, also confirmed that a limited amount of U.S. government data was stolen by the hackers until tripwires severed all the State Department's Internet connections throughout eastern Asia. The shut-off left U.S. government offices without Internet access in the tense weeks preceding missile tests by North Korea.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070418/hackers_state_department.html?.v=5

49. Agency officials say info security law falls short (GovExec.com, 23 Apr 2007)

The federal law governing agency information security practices took a beating Thursday in congressional testimony from government cybersecurity officials. Donald Reid, senior coordinator for security infrastructure at the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, told a congressional subcommittee that the 2002 Federal Information Security Management Act does not "tell the whole story" when it comes to agencies' information security practices. Earlier this month, State received a failing grade on the fiscal 2006 cybersecurity report card for the third time in the four years the grades have been handed out. But Reid said that even if the department had received an A+ on the report card, it would not have been able to prevent a June 2006 cyber attack on the department's networks.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36681&dcn=e_gvet

TECHNOLOGY

50. Justice taps contractor for troubled wireless project (GovExec.com, 18 Apr 2007)

The Justice Department announced Tuesday that it has selected General Dynamics C4 Systems to implement a portion of an imperiled wireless communications project for police and first responders. The Scottsdale, Ariz.-based communications company will serve as Justice's integrator for the Integrated Wireless Network program, a shared effort by the Justice, Homeland Security and Treasury departments to build a nationwide wireless communications network. A recent audit found that the relationship among the agencies had fallen apart and the project is imperiled. The report from the Justice Department inspector general's office stated that despite more than six years of development and \$195 million in funding, the Integrated Wireless Network project "does not appear to be on the path to providing the seamless interoperable communications system that was envisioned."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36652&dcn=e_gvet

51. Government to test Internet routing in space (By Winter Casey, National Journal's Technology Daily, 23 Apr 2007)

The U.S. government is moving forward with a project to test Internet routing in space. Companies will work on a Defense Department plan to determine the feasibility of conducting military communications through an Internet router located there. Last week,

Intelsat General, a subsidiary of the commercial satellite company Intelsat, announced that it will manage the project, known as IRIS, which was funded and announced in fiscal 2007 as a joint capability technology demonstration by the Defense Department. Other companies set to work on the endeavor include Cisco Systems, Concerto Advisors, SEAKR Engineering and Space Systems/Loral. "IRIS extends the Internet into space, integrating satellite systems and the ground infrastructure for war-fighters, first responders and others who need seamless and instant communications," Intelsat General CEO Bill Shernit said in a statement. "IRIS will enable U.S. and allied military forces with diverse satellite equipment to seamlessly communicate over the Internet from the most remote regions of the world."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36689&dcn=e_gvet

RESOURCES

52. "Bioterrorism and Biocrimes: The Illicit Use of Biological Agents Since 1900" by W. Seth Carus, August 1998 (rev. February 2001)

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/irp/threat/cbw/carus.pdf>

53. User-generated epidemiology map – Interesting Idea

The CDC (Center for Disease Control) provides flu data but only to the State level and only on a time scale of 1 week. For example, they will report that in the state of California, last week, there were 539 cases of the flu reported. While this information may be useful for some health practitioners or academics, for the average individual, this does not come in handy when they are trying to figure out what kinds of sicknesses are going around their area. It is not local enough, timely enough, or broad enough because they don't cover different types of sicknesses. In contrast, whoissick provides local (down to the zip code level), timely (within a day), and broad (many different symptoms, not just the flu) sickness information.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://whoissick.org/sickness/>

54. "Vulnerability of Concentrated Critical Infrastructure: Background and Policy Options," Congressional Research Service Report updated January 26, 2007

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RL33206.pdf>

OPPORTUNITIES

55. Wal-Mart recruits intelligence officers (AP, 24 Apr 2007)

BENTONVILLE, Ark. - Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has been recruiting former military and government intelligence officers for a branch of its global security office aimed at identifying threats to the world's largest retailer, including from 'suspect individuals and groups'. Wal-Mart's interest in intelligence operatives comes at a time when the retailer is defending itself against allegations by a fired security employee that it ran surveillance

operations against targets including critics, dissident shareholders, employees and suppliers. Wal-Mart has denied any wrongdoing. Wal-Mart posted ads in March on its own web site and sites for security professionals, including the bulletin of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, for 'global threat analysts' with a background in government or military intelligence work. The jobs were listed with the Analytical Research Center, part of Wal-Mart's Global Security division, which is headed by former senior CIA and FBI senior officer Kenneth Senser. The analytical unit was created over the past year and half, according to published comments by its head, Army Special Operations veteran David Harrison. The job description includes collecting information from 'professional contacts' and public data to anticipate and assess threats stemming from 'world events, regional/national security climates, and suspect individuals and groups.' Familiarity with a broad spectrum of information resources and data-mining techniques' is listed among the skills sought, along with a foreign language, preferably Chinese or Spanish.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.hemscott.com/news/latest-news/item.do?newsId=42228118585929>

FULL REPORTS

56. HHS Releases Plan for Development and Purchase of Medical Countermeasures (PRNewswire, 18 Apr 2007)

WASHINGTON - HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt today released for display in the Federal Register the Department's new roadmap for developing and purchasing medical countermeasures against a host of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats.

The "Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise (PHEMCE) Implementation Plan for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Threats" lays out the future course for prioritizing HHS' acquisition of vaccines, drugs and medical diagnostic tests, including purchases made under Project BioShield. The plan will be published in the Federal Register Friday, April 20 and be posted online at <http://www.hhs.gov/aspr/ophemc>.

"Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, our mission has been to protect Americans by securing medical countermeasures for a range of threats. We have made significant progress to increase our preparedness in this area, but there is much more we must do," Secretary Leavitt said. "This plan lays out our path forward in the coming years and will take advantage of our new authorities under the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act to move forward with Project BioShield."

The PHEMCE plan assesses the current state of medical countermeasure preparedness, and identifies the highest priority research, development and acquisition programs to increase public health emergency preparedness. The plan further identifies the proposed acquisitions HHS plans to make under Project BioShield during the remaining five years of the program as well as priority medical countermeasure programs that will be pursued up through Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

In addition, the plan emphasizes the importance of using the new authorities provided for Project BioShield under the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act to support the research, development, acquisition, and availability of safe and effective medical countermeasures to protect the United States from CBRN threats. Appropriate advanced development funding will also be critical to the future success of these activities.

Funding support by the National Institutes of Health for basic research, product development, and clinical research of CBRN medical countermeasures has grown over thirty-fold from FY 2001 to FY 2006. Funding for the Strategic National Stockpile has increased over ten-fold in that same period. This dramatic growth in funding has led to the acquisition and stockpiling of medical countermeasures and supplies to protect the American public when public health emergency needs exceed or are otherwise unavailable through local supplies.

The public will be able to submit comments on the PHEMCE Implementation Plan through the Federal Register. Furthermore, HHS will hold a Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise/BioShield Stakeholders Workshop on July 31-August 2, 2007 in Washington, D.C., to provide an opportunity for feedback and discussion of the plan. The workshop is an open meeting that will bring together representatives of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, professional societies, state and local public health organizations, the academic research and development community, public interest groups, stakeholder federal agencies and Congress.

Additional information on the PHEMCE Strategy and Implementation Plan, Stakeholders Workshop and Project BioShield is available online at <http://www.hhs.gov/aspr/ophemc>.

57. U.S. Seeks To Intensify Global Fight Against Child Exploitation (By Jane Morse, USINFO Staff Writer, 23 Apr 2007)

Vienna, Austria – The United States is urging U.N. member states to criminalize all aspects of child sexual exploitation -- sexually explicit images of children, child-sex tourism and the victimization of children through prostitution -- so that perpetrators of these crimes are held accountable for their actions.

“While there are various existing international instruments that address these issues in one form or another, numerous countries have not fully enacted legislation to address the criminal offenses as set out in existing instruments,” Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Elizabeth Verville told *USINFO*. Verville, who is leading the U.S. delegation to the 16th session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, being held in Vienna, Austria, April 23 – 27, is the State Department’s expert on international crime for its Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

The U.S.-drafted resolution “urges member states to consider implementing the existing international legal instruments by criminalizing all aspects of child sexual exploitation,”

Verville said, adding that “the United States will work with other countries to help to maintain the UNODC’s [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime] focus on its core mandates starting with promoting the U.N. organized crime and corruption conventions as well providing anti-crime technical assistance.”

Verville said that international cooperation is critical to preventing and effectively prosecuting serious crimes with a transnational dimension.

“As criminal networks diversify their methods and the scope of their illicit activities, countries must be more vigilant in working together to hinder criminals’ advantages in crossing borders,” Verville said.

MORE SPECIFIC ACTION NECESSARY TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In his remarks for the April 23 opening session for the crime commission, Antonio Maria Costa, executive director for UNODC, called for more action and less talk in fighting human trafficking.

“It is now time to move from statements of intent and legislative mandates into realizations of goals and delivery of results,” he said.

“Despite the emotions this issue [human trafficking] stirs up, and despite the good crop of protocol ratifications [111],” Costa said, “this horrible business is spreading, facilitated by ever-growing demand, opening of markets and easiness of communications.”

At a press conference the same day, Costa said the benefits of globalization unfortunately have been exploited by criminal elements. Multilateral actions by all governments, nongovernmental organizations and civil societies must be called into the fight against transnational crime, he said.

“The preconditions for multilateral actions are there,” he told journalists. “Now the challenge for us all -- and, of course, for governments to begin with -- is to turn these instruments into reality, implementing them in a way which would make a difference, especially for those who are hurting -- they are usually the poorest and weakest in our society.”

MORE KNOWLEDGE NEEDED TO FIGHT TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

In his formal remarks, Costa emphasized that “despite the fact that transnational crime is one of the greatest threats to security, we operate in an information fog.

“We do not know the scope of the threats we face, and we cannot gauge global crime trends. At times, we cannot even define the enemy we face or assess its strength,” he said.

“Anecdotal evidence is abundant – yet confusing – about human trafficking rings broken up, traffickers prosecuted, victims rescued, corrupt public and private officials indicted,

boat-loads of smuggled migrants intercepted, and shipments of illicit firearms seized. All this needs to be systematized and rendered coherent,” Costa said.

“Multilateral crime control is at its infancy, but maturing,” Costa said.

GLOBAL INITIATIVE SEEKS TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In March, UNODC launched the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT). The United Arab Emirates contributed \$15 million to the initiative.

Costa called UN.GIFT “a far-reaching effort to develop, upon the foundation provided by international legal instruments, an unprecedented operational effort to fight human trafficking – enhancing awareness, mobilizing political will, canvassing resources to assist member states and to help those most vulnerable to, and affected by, this crime.”

The United States estimates that between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. The United Nations and others estimate the total market value of human trafficking at \$32 billion annually.

In fiscal year 2006, the U.S. government obligated approximately \$74 million to 154 international anti-trafficking in persons (TIP) projects in 70 countries and \$28.5 million to 70 domestic anti-TIP projects. These projects are working to ensure human trafficking is prevented, the survivors are protected and the traffickers are put in prison. They are funded through the coordinated efforts and program funds of the departments of State, Justice, Labor, Health and Human Services, and USAID.

Each year the Department of State publishes a comprehensive [report](#) on trafficking in countries around the world."

A [fact sheet](#) on U.S. anti-trafficking funding for fiscal 2006 is available on the State Department Web site.

The [full text](#) of the U.N. Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and related documents on trafficking in persons are available on a U.N. Web site.

The [full text](#) of Costa’s formal remarks is available on the UNODC Web site.

For more information on U.S. policies, see [Human Smuggling and Trafficking](#).

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