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16 May 2006 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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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. Border Mission Not New, Say Officials (UPI, 16 May 2006)

WASHINGTON - Top Pentagon and Bush administration officials Tuesday portrayed the use of the National Guard at the Mexican border as simply an expansion of a mission U.S. troops have already been carrying out for two decades. "The National Guard missions will be substantially similar to the annual training missions executed as part of our counter-drug program along the southwest border during the past two decades. The difference is that the size of the force and the commitment of resources will be far greater than anything we have done in the past," said Paul McHale, assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense, at a White House press conference. The military will deploy some 6,000 troops over the next year, starting in June, and no more than 3,000 in 2007, according to McHale. There are now 400 assigned to the counter-drug support mission.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.postchronicle.com/news/security/article_21218936.shtml

2. Study: Without More Military Aid, U.S. Unequipped For Disaster (Fox News, 15 May 2006)

WASHINGTON - The government won't be ready for another major disaster such as Hurricane Katrina unless the Pentagon takes a more aggressive role in the federal response, congressional investigators said Monday. Poor planning and confusion about the military's role contributed to problems after the storm struck on Aug. 29, 2005, and without immediate attention improvement is unlikely, the Government Accountability Office said. It urged the Defense Department to establish procedures to speed aircraft, troops and reconnaissance gear to hurricane-stricken areas when local and state officials are overwhelmed as well as beef up communications support to Homeland Security officials, who have the lead role in a disaster.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,195578,00.html>

3. Senate debates contentious immigration issues (Chicago Tribune, 16 May 2006)

WASHINGTON - Battling with conservative Republican lawmakers who refused to budge on immigration policy, President Bush on Tuesday confronted the political reality of how much more difficult it will be to sell his plans on Capitol Hill than it was to explain them on national television this week. House conservatives opposed to a guest-worker plan that could lead to citizenship for most of the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants already in the United States showed few signs of backing down, continuing to denounce the guest-worker concept as an amnesty that would reward those who broke the law. In the Senate, however, the guest-worker idea survived efforts by Republicans and some Democrats to kill it outright or prevent it from being implemented until the U.S. borders were certifiably secured.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/news/politics/14594951.htm>

4. Bush May Widen National Guard Patrols at Border (Washington Post, 13 May 2006)

President Bush will push next week for a broad overhaul of the nation's immigration laws and plans to tighten security on the borders, possibly with a wider deployment of the National Guard, White House officials said yesterday. The officials said Bush will use a prime-time television address Monday to outline his plans and then visit the U.S.-Mexico border on Thursday to highlight the problem of illegal immigration. Officials say he is considering substantially increasing the presence of National Guard troops, some of whom are already deployed under state of emergency declarations in New Mexico and Arizona. Administration officials are exploring ways to allow governors to deploy troops across state lines to help seal the porous border with Mexico.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W28F12B1D>

5. Senate rejects bill to look at border security first (KRISTV, 16 May 2006)

WASHINGTON - Buoyed by President Bush, supporters of immigration legislation established command in the Senate on Tuesday, brushing aside potentially crippling challenges to a bill that blends tougher border enforcement with a path to citizenship for millions in the United States illegally. "It was a good way to start," said Sen. Ken Salazar, D-Colo. as a shifting bipartisan coalition held firm against attacks from the left and the

right. On a vote of 55-40 that crossed party lines, the Senate rejected an appeal from Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., to require the border be secured before other immigration law changes could take place.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kristv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4913924&nav=Bsmh>

6. Mexicans pour into town devoted to getting them into U.S. (Knight Ridder Newspapers, 16 May 2006)

ALTAR, Mexico - Some towns thrive on manufacturing. Others are known for their fertile soil or tourist attractions. In Altar there is only one industry of any visibility and consequence: immigrant smuggling. A 60-mile drive along the back roads to the United States, this dusty town is the last stop on the line, a place to buy water, food and the accoutrement of choice for illegal desert crossers - a backpack. "Altar is just like a big Wal-Mart for smugglers," said Sean King, spokesman for the Tucson, Ariz., sector of the U.S. Border Patrol, which apprehends many of those who head north from Altar.

"They've got booths set up for backpacks that are pre-packed with toilet paper ... shoes that are better to walk in than some of the huaraches they might be wearing - everything you need to come across the border."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/world/14590495.htm>

7. House Votes to Allow Military to Assist in Border Security (American Forces Press Services, 12 May 2006)

WASHINGTON – The U.S. House of Representatives voted yesterday to allow military forces to be used in border-security operations under certain circumstances. In a 252-171 vote, House members agreed on an amendment to the Sonny Montgomery National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007. Representatives also voted yesterday to name the bill after Montgomery, a retired congressman and tireless veterans advocate. Montgomery died today at age 85. The act gives authority to the Defense Department to assign military members to assist Homeland Security organizations in preventing the entry of terrorists, drug traffickers and illegal aliens into the United States and in inspecting cargo, vehicles and aircraft entering the United States to prevent weapons of mass destruction or other terrorist or drug trafficking items from entering the country.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.emilitary.org/article.php?aid=6446>

8. TSA plan to charge port workers for ID cards draws fire (GovExec.com, 15 May 2006)

A Transportation Security Administration proposal to charge port employees for required Transportation Worker Identity Cards is likely to be challenged during a 45-day comment period. As many as 850,000 port workers would have to pay between \$105 and \$139 for the identity cards aimed at better security at ports under the rule, TSA announced late last week. That move was greeted with vehement opposition from union officials. While the cards were not expected to be supplied for free, one source familiar with the development of the program said the price tag may have caught some off guard.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34081&dcn=todaysnews

9. TSA does about-face on TWIC (GCN, 12 May 2006)

In a reversal, the Transportation Security Administration has announced it will conduct a “full and open competition” for all aspects of the Transportation Worker Identity Card project, including enrollment and data management services. This is a change of direction for the program. On April 26, a TSA spokesman said the agency was considering awarding a contract for TWIC data management services to a unit of the American Association of Airport Executives trade group. A sole-source contract with the airport executives group appeared to be required under a provision in the fiscal 2006 departmental appropriations, according to industry sources. Yesterday TSA said it was seeking a single systems integrator for TWIC and would issue a new solicitation within days for enrollment, operation of the data management system and system maintenance. CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/40727-1.html

10. HHS Statement concerning the rPA Anthrax Vaccine Contract Modification (Washington Post, 11 May 2006)

Marc Wolfson, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, issued this statement to The Post Wednesday night in relation to the VaxGen dispute, asking that it be attributed to Noreen Hynes, director of research and development coordination in the HHS office responsible for biodefense. The requirements established in the November 2004 contract with VaxGen for rPA anthrax vaccine remain unchanged. CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X20F63E1D>

11. High court won't review plague case (AP, 15 May 2006)

LUBBOCK - The U.S. Supreme Court Monday declined to review the case of a former Texas Tech researcher whose report of missing vials of plague bacteria in 2003 caused a bioterrorism scare. Dr. Thomas C. Butler, who voluntarily gave up his medical license to the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners in 2004 after being convicted of 47 charges, including fraud, completed serving his two-year sentence in late November. In October, a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Butler's convictions, and a petition for the whole appellate court to review the case was denied in January.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/3865575.html>

12. Canada, U.S. Stage Terrorism Drill (Global Security Newswire, 16 May 2006)

U.S. and Canadian defense agencies last week began a drill involving a blitz of attacks by terrorists using unconventional weapons, *USA Today* reported (see [GSN](#), May 1). “Ardent Sentry” began May 8 and is expected to be completed on Thursday. More than 5,000 U.S. and Canadian military and civilian personnel are involved in the exercise, which is designed to test the response capabilities of the U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command. Scenarios include the detonation of a radiological “dirty bomb” that kills more than 5,000 people in Windsor, Ontario; the explosion of train cars carrying chlorine and phosgene gas in nearby Detroit; and the

release of plague bacteria in Mexico City, resulting in a flood of refugees into the United States, according to *USA Today*. Threat details arrive by e-mail, telephone and other communications. The messages are designated "EXERCISE" so as not to be mistaken for a real threat.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2006_5_16.html#71D0BBB0

13. Pacific states hold tsunami test (BBC, 17 May 2006)

More than 30 countries around the Pacific Ocean have tested a system to warn them of approaching tsunamis. The exercise began with a mock alert at the Tsunami Warning Centre in Hawaii. An earthquake with a magnitude 9.2 was imagined to have struck near the coast of Chile, sending a tsunami racing across the eastern Pacific. A second mock earthquake alert, north of the Philippines, will provide a further test on Wednesday. Governments will report back on how efficiently they received the tsunami warnings, relayed through various circuits including weather services, emails and faxes. The drill, co-ordinated by the Hawaii warning centre, will also measure how well the message is relayed through local emergency systems.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/4988492.stm>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

14. AZ: Arizona County Uses New Law to Look for Illegal Immigrants (New York Times, 10 May 2006)

PHOENIX, May 9 - To people who say round up more illegal immigrants, Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County here has an answer: send out the posse. On Wednesday, the posse, a civilian force of 300 volunteers, many of them retired deputies, are to fan out over desert backcountry, watching for smugglers and the people they guide into these parts. Already, a small team of deputies roams the human-trafficking routes to enforce a nine-month-old state law that makes smuggling people a felony and effectively authorizes local police forces to enforce [immigration](#) law.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W2A41261D>

15. CA: Immigrant rights groups protest across California (San Francisco Chronicle, 16 May 2006)

SAN FRANCISCO - Grassroots immigrant rights activists in San Francisco and several other California cities staged a series of press conferences today to slam President Bush's call for National Guard troops to patrol the border. They also denounced both the immigration bill now under consideration in the U.S. Senate and another the House passed in December as punitive, and they called for legal permanent residency for all the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants now in the United States. Activists in San Francisco - who represented community networks of primarily Mexican immigrants from San Jose, Salinas, Sacramento, Stockton and other cities - rallied outside the Financial District office of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat, with signs and banners that read "Do Not Militarize the Border" and "No Human Being Is Illegal."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/05/16/MNGR0ISP6813.DTL>

16. CA: Bioterrorism Prevention Program Gets Mixed Reviews (CBS, 16 May 2006)

LOS ANGELES Los Angeles County's bioterrorism preparedness program has made progress since 2001, but bureaucratic and political obstacles and wasteful spending are still problematic, according to a national panel of experts. According to a recent audit, of more than \$100 million in bioterrorism grants since 2002, more than \$200,000 was spent on promotional flashlights, magnets and notepads, as well as for hiring 800 extras from a casting agency to conduct a smallpox exercise, the panel said in a report quoted Tuesday by the Daily News. Auditors also questioned why the county purchased 70 chairs costing \$600 each and 800 computers for 171 bioterrorism employees, the newspaper reported.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://cbs2.com/topstories/local_story_136110903.html

17. DC: Full-Scale Bio-Exercise at the Pentagon (DoD, 16 May 2006)

The Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA) will conduct a full-scale bio-exercise on the Pentagon Reservation on Wednesday, May 17th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. EDT. The exercise, called "Gallant Fox 06," is open for media coverage. The purpose of this event is to enable PFPA and its federal, state, and local response partners to exercise an integrated public health and public information response to a bio-attack at the Pentagon. As part of this exercise, a triage/decontamination site will be set up in the Pentagon North Parking Area with first responders and equipment from local fire, police, and rescue units. In addition to decontamination equipment, the site will include a triage/treatment area, a rehabilitation area, a HAZMAT team area, and a media vehicle staging area.

18. IN: TL, county prepare for pandemic (The Herald Journal, 10 May 2006)

If you watched last night's ABC rendition of what could happen if and when an influenza pandemic strikes, chances are you're wondering what's in place to handle the possibility at home. Part of that plan was firmed up Tuesday night at the Twin Lakes School Board meeting when the board voted to enter into an agreement between the school corporation and the White County Health Department. The agreement, known as a Memorandum of Understanding, permits any and all Twin Lakes School Corporation buildings to be utilized in the event of an emergency such as a pandemic influenza, described White County Public Health Coordinate Ed Gutwein. Gutwein explained the process of drawing up an emergency response plan for the county as evolving, noting that just a few years ago the focus for counties and regions was to create bioterrorism action plans.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X23F64E1D>

19. MA: Mass. rep demands FCC action in NSA phone-spy case (Boston Herland, 16 May 2006)

US Rep Edward Markey yesterday demanded the Federal Communications Commission either launch an investigation into telecommunications companies that provided millions of customers' phone records to the National Security Agency or explain how the program is lawful. In a letter sent to FCC Chairman Kevin Martin, Markey (D-Malden) said major

telecommunication companies - including AT&T, Verizon and BellSouth - might have broken customer privacy laws by supplying phone records to the NSA's massive spy program. "I would like to know what the Commission intends to do with respect to probing these apparent breaches" of customer privacy laws, Markey said in the letter.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://business.bostonherald.com/businessNews/view.bg?articleid=139424>

20. MS: TSA Awards Tupelo Regional Airport Private Screening Contract (PRNewswire, 12 May 2006)

WASHINGTON, May 11 - The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) today announced the selection of Trinity Technology Group, Inc. of Fairfax, Va. as the private screening contractor for Tupelo Regional Airport (Miss.) under the Screening Partnership Program (SPP). Trinity has selected Covenant Aviation Security LLC as a strategic subcontractor.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.securityinfowatch.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=385&id=8233>

21. MO: ASA commends USDA for initial soybean rust assessment (Agri News, 13 May 2006)

ST. LOUIS - The American Soybean Association expressed cautious optimism about U.S. preparedness for defense against Asian soybean rust as outlined in a Government Accountability Office report released by U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, ranking Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee. Overall, the GAO report found that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has done a solid job of monitoring cases of soybean rust in the United States and taking steps to help U.S. farmers prepare to combat the disease. At the same time, the report warns that soybean rust still poses a large threat to U.S. farmers and highlights shortfalls and needed improvements. "We appreciate Senator Harkin initiating this top to bottom GAO review of USDA's defenses against soybean rust in the United States," said ASA President Bob Metz, a soybean grower from South Dakota. "We applaud USDA's efforts to combat the disease in 2005 and look forward to continued progress in 2006 and beyond. Pooling our collective resources, strengthening coordination and communication between federal and state governments and the soybean industry, and providing adequate federal funding will help ensure the best defense against ASR."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?F52022F1D>

22. NM: At border, plan draws concern (Denver Post, 16 May 2006)

Animas, N.M. - Delivering mail to ranchers in his gray truck, Garland Johnson reckoned rattlesnakes soon may be the least of his worries here amid mesquite and cactus-covered mountains on the U.S.-Mexico border - a remote stretch where illegal immigrants including drug smugglers cross at will. President Bush's decision to deploy National Guard soldiers to support Border Patrol agents, Johnson feared, will bring increased violence and suffering. While he and others who live along the border are fed up with illegal immigration, many questioned the effectiveness of military methods for a problem they see as rooted in Mexican poverty.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.denverpost.com/nationworld/ci_3830026

23. NC: Officials ready for flu, just in case (News-Argus, 12 May 2006)

A local group formed to prepare for the possibility of a pandemic flu situation is determined to educate the public and to create a readiness response plan. A pandemic is a disease outbreak that spreads quickly around the world. In recent months, there has been growing concern over the possibility of widespread influenza, commonly referred to as the avian or "bird" flu virus, officials said at a meeting this week. The bird flu virus has caused destruction of 100 million chickens and killed 115 humans worldwide since late 2003, with some predicting that it is just a few genetic steps away from becoming one of the deadliest human epidemics in nearly a century. To date, the virus, called H5N1, has not been passed from human to human. But experts say if or when it does, it will produce a highly infectious virus that could spread rapidly around the world within weeks.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X14F21E1D>

KEY PEOPLE

24. Immigration office names CIO (FCW, 16 May 2006)

Jeff Conklin has been named the new chief information officer at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) branch of the Homeland Security Department, department officials announced today. Conklin replaces Tarrazzia Martin, who left May 1 to work for Dale Meyerrose, associate director of national intelligence and CIO at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Before joining USCIS, Conklin served for six years as chief executive officer of the Washington School Information Processing Cooperative, which provides technology services to 280 of Washington state's 296 school districts, according to a USCIS statement.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article94549-05-16-06-Web>

25. Finch Named Ad Of Cyber Division (FBI, 10 May 2006)

The FBI has a new assistant director of the Cyber Division. FBI Director Robert S. Mueller announced earlier this week that James E. Finch has been appointed assistant director of the Bureau's Cyber Division. Finch previously served as special agent in charge of the FBI's Milwaukee Field Office. Finch's responsibilities in his new role include overseeing the Bureau's cyber investigations and initiatives, including those pertaining to counterterrorism and counterintelligence investigations. Finch began working for the Bureau in 1976 as a support employee. He was an active member of the Nebraska Army National Guard and was later commissioned as an officer in the Army. He did a two-year stint in the private sector for IBM before returning to the FBI as a special agent. Finch's time with the Bureau includes serving the Indianapolis, Cleveland, Houston and Knoxville, Tenn., Divisions and two tours at FBI Headquarters.

26. Steven M. Martinez Named Special Agent In Charge Of The FBI's Las Vegas Field Office (FBI, 10 May 2006)

Washington, D.C. – Steven M. Martinez, a 19-year veteran of the FBI, was recently named Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the FBI's Las Vegas Field Office, FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III announced. Mr. Martinez has been serving in the Cyber Division at FBI Headquarters since 2003 - most recently as the Division's Acting Assistant Director. He replaces Ellen Knowlton who has retired from FBI service. Director Mueller said, "Throughout his career, Mr. Martinez has served in many key positions and assignments. His diverse range of experience uniquely qualifies him to lead the FBI's Las Vegas office through complex challenges in confronting today's criminal and terrorist threats." Prior to his assignment with the FBI's Cyber Division, Mr. Martinez served as the FBI's first On-scene Commander at Central Command (CENTCOM), Doha, Qatar, and in Baghdad during the staging and commencement of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In this role, he was in charge of all deployed FBI personnel and managed the FBI's Counterterrorism and Counterintelligence efforts spanning the initial combat phase of the war.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel06/smartinez051006.htm>

27. John E. Lewis Named Special Agent In Charge Of The Phoenix, Arizona Field Office (FBI, 10 May 2006)

Washington, D.C. – John E. Lewis was recently named Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the FBI's Phoenix Field Office by FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III. Mr. Lewis, who has contributed nearly 30 years of dedicated service to the FBI, replaces Jana Monroe who recently retired from the FBI. He leaves FBI Headquarters where, since April 2004, he has served as the Inspector/Deputy Assistant Director, Counterterrorism Division. As SAC of the Phoenix Field Office, Mr. Lewis will oversee all FBI operations in the state of Arizona including Resident Agencies in Flagstaff, Gallup, Lake Havasu, Lakeside, Sierra Vista, Tucson, and Yuma. Director Mueller said, "John takes with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in the FBI's most critical program – Counterterrorism. He has already successfully led a Field Office in an earlier assignment as SAC in Oklahoma City. I look forward to working with him in his new role as SAC in Phoenix."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel06/jlewis051006.htm>

28. Airport security chief hits turbulence (NorthJersey.com, 12 May 2006)

For 25 years, Mark Hatfield Jr. forged a successful career in public relations and political event planning that included White House jobs in two administrations. Recently, he took on a new profession: anti-terrorism. Today, Hatfield is the acting federal security chief at Newark Liberty International Airport, where five years ago hijackers boarded United Flight 93. Now his credentials for this sensitive Transportation Security Administration post are being questioned by aviation and security experts who say he's unqualified.

"How do you put the security of a major New York airport in the hands of someone who has absolutely no security training?" said Michael Boyd, an aviation industry consultant.

"This guy has no security background at all - none. He has no business being in that job. He should be removed immediately."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?I55F32E1D>

29. Environmental Technology Instructor Named 'Agroterrorism' Trainer (PC Today, 16 May 2006)

A prime contractor for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has asked a Pennsylvania College of Technology faculty member to help American Indian tribes nationwide fight agroterrorism, the intentional attempt to compromise the country's food supply. Steven R. Parker, an instructor of environmental technology in Penn College's School of Natural Resources Management, is one of 100 people initially schooled through the AgTerror Preparedness Center at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Designated a "master trainer" during the three-day course, Parker will conduct his first assignment next week at a community college in Crown Point, N.M., just off the Navajo Reservation.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.pct.edu/pctoday/article_4072.shtml

GANG ACTIVITY

30. AR: Anti-Gang Committee Looking For Help (The Morning News, 14 May 2006)

ROGERS - The Northwest Arkansas Anti-Gang Committee is ready to re-emerge. The group was formed last summer following a public meeting on gang activity that drew more than 50 people and was organized by Cesar Aguilar, executive director of the Rogers Community Support Center. Citizen-led anti-gang committees are popular in many cities, notably in California. Los Angeles found separating gang-fighting efforts from law enforcement agencies created more trust from at-risk youth. Rey Hernandez, who has joined the committee's board as co-chairman, said he lived in gang-plagued areas like California, El Paso, Texas, and Washington, D.C.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nwaonline.net/articles/2006/05/14/news/02rzgangside.txt>

31. FL: Gang activity linked to rise in shootings (Herald Today, 13 May 2006)

MANATEE - An increase in local shootings is directly related to an increase in local gang activity, Sheriff Charlie Wells told area leaders Friday. Wells made his comments at a meeting of the Manatee CEO Roundtable, a collaboration of local education, government, law enforcement, health and judicial leaders who meet on a quarterly basis. "Four to five months ago we started paying close attention to an increase in shootings," Wells said. "We had 160 shootings last year in this county. That's an awful lot of shootings and it's incredibly disturbing." In addition to the number of shootings, it was the types of shootings that led Wells and the sheriff's Violent Crimes Task Force Unit to conclude gangs were responsible.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/14569205.htm>

32. LA: New Iberia raids catch 23 gang suspects (The Advocate, 13 May 2006)

NEW IBERIA - Iberia Parish Sheriff Sid Hebert and his deputies went to work in the early morning hours Friday, rousting suspected members of two street gangs in New Iberia's west end. Hebert said that, following the operation, most of the primary and

ancillary members of the largest and best-organized group - the "1100 Boys" - have been caught or have active warrants. "The 1100 group is 90 percent either in jail or on the run from arrest," he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/2796846.html>

33. MA: Reputed Springfield mob figure admits to loansharking (Boston.com, 12 May 2006)

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. - A reputed mob figure who witnessed the assassination of Mafia kingpin Adolfo "Big Al" Bruno pleaded guilty in a high-profile federal loansharking case, admitting he helped shake down a pizza shop owner. The plea deal for former city employee and restaurant owner Frank Depergola, 48, was finalized Thursday in U.S. District Court in Springfield, averting a trial. Prosecutors said Depergola pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and one count of extortionate debt collecting.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?F2B042F1D>

34. NJ: Mob rat on stand at trial of Jersey City 'soldier' (NJ.com, 16 May 2006)

Caporino testified for the prosecution against reputed Genovese crime family soldier Michael Crincoli, 46, of Jersey City, who allegedly ran a loansharking and extortion business out of his deli at 944 West Side Ave. Caporino ran a bookmaking operation, also protected by the Genovese family, out of the Character Club in Hoboken. Caporino said he'd already been working as an informant for the FBI for 15 years when he was busted by the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office on gambling charges in February 2003. At that point, he said, he decided he would go from confidential informant to cooperating witness. "Cooperating witness meant I would wear a wire and testify," he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/index.ssf?/base/news-0/114777073267560.xml&coll=3>

35. NY: Gang problems spreading to state drug-treatment facilities, officials say (Press Connects, 13 May 2006)

ALBANY - With gangs moving into the drug trade and then needing treatment for their own addictions, gang members are causing problems at some state-financed drug-treatment facilities, the state agency that oversees the facilities confirmed Friday. "Gang membership has become an issue because of fights, robberies and intimidation of other patients and staff," said Jennifer Farrell, a spokeswoman for the state Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. "They are also known to be recruiting members from among the patients." Farrell said the office became aware of the problem last year and visited six drug-treatment sites, including two in Ulster County, where the problems were confirmed. Three others were in New York City and one in Albany.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Q37022F1D>

36. TX: Modified law aimed at tighter gang control (Star Telegram, 13 May 2006)

The Legislature hopes a law it recently modified will help police and citizens better control gang activity. House Bill 68 — which became part of the Texas Practice and

Remedies Code on Sept. 1, 2005 — allows officials and residents to ask a judge to intervene if they can show that gangs have disturbed the peace five times at a particular place during a 12-month period. The law previously required five instances in six months. If the judge issues an injunction and the gangs violate it, a judge can assess a Class A misdemeanor or hold the offenders in contempt of court for up to 30 days. "The gang injunction says they cannot associate with each other," said Cliff Herberg, first assistant district attorney for Bexar County, which uses the law. "The strength of this street tool is that it allows police officers to break up criminal activity before it occurs."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/news/local/14573955.htm>

37. Brazil: Brazil's Congress to Speed Crime Bill After Sao Paulo Violence (Bloomberg, 16 May 2006)

Brazil's lower house of congress will speed up a bill to crack down on prisoners privileges after jailed gang leaders allegedly coordinated attacks on police and civilians that killed 115 people. "We hope to get this bill passed by the end of June," Jose Militao, president of lower house committee on public security and organized crime, said in a telephone interview from Brasilia. Militao said is urging the chamber's President Aldo Rebelo to strike an agreement with the senate to speed up passage of the bill, which includes longer terms for those who convicted of "heinous crimes" and to add a blackout on cell phone communications from prisons.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Q21063F1D>

38. UK: 60 years for drugs gang who used a garage workshop as a front (icwales.co.uk, 12 May 2006)

Photos have been released of the criminals who ran a drugs network extending to Spain, Amsterdam and the Caribbean from a garage workshop in South Wales. The 14-strong gang was sentenced to a total of more than 60 years' prison yesterday for running the international syndicate from Barry. They supplied Ecstasy tablets imported in lemonade bottles from Spain and, the court heard, possessed a ready supply of guns and ammunition, handling thousands of pounds worth of counterfeit cash. They were exposed when undercover police on Operation Panama Canal set up a marine services business next door to the garage and befriended the gang.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?S10052F1D>

39. Russia: Prosecutor Warns Of Mafia Threat (RFE/RL, 15 May 2006)

Prosecutor-General Ustinov said on May 15 that organized-crime groups formed in the 1990s have become increasingly sophisticated and powerful and now form a serious threat to Russia, Interfax reported. "We have to admit today that the magnitude and scope of organized crime is assuming the character of a national threat," he said. Organized crime rings, Ustinov said, have become highly organized and hierarchical organizations with links throughout Russia and abroad. Such groups, he said, have "left [their] mark on all major cities and localities."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

Back issues of "RFE/RL" are online at: <http://search.rferl.org>

40. Interpol opens Manila meeting on crime (Pravda, 15 May 2006)

Police and security officers from 18 Asia-Pacific countries on Monday opened a three-day Interpol meeting on ways to combat organized crime in the region. "This will enhance international police cooperation on transnational crimes, including terrorism, in this part of the world," Philippine National Police chief Arturo Lomibao said. Police officials from the Philippines, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Japan, Fiji, India and South Korea are among those attending, Lomibao said. The meeting will also cover smuggling of drugs and weapons, human trafficking, money laundering, cyber crimes and credit card fraud, he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://english.pravda.ru/news/world/15-05-2006/80291-Interpole-0>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

41. AZ: Illegal stop means 56 pounds of cocaine can't be used as evidence (KVOA, 16 May 2006)

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. A northern Arizona traffic stop that led to the discovery of 56 pounds of cocaine in a car occupied by two California women was illegal.

That was the ruling made by a Coconino County Superior Court judge who says the evidence gathered in the stop now can't be used against the women.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=4914466&nav=HMO6>

42. DE: Ala. fugitive with 17 aliases arrested in Delaware (AP, 15 May 2006)

LEWES, Del. - One of Alabama's most-wanted fugitives is in custody in Delaware. Susan Jones, who police say has 17 aliases, was nabbed Sunday on drug charges. Jones is wanted in Alabama for her alleged role in a methamphetamine operation. She was arrested in 1998 but fled before she was due to appear in court, and has been on the run ever since. State police got a tip that Jones was hiding out in a home near Lewes, Delaware. Troopers set up surveillance and took her into custody yesterday afternoon. In searches of her home and car, police found powder cocaine, crack cocaine, drug paraphernalia and several drivers' licenses and I-Ds belonging to other people.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/mld/ledgerenquirer/news/local/14583347.htm>

43. IL: 3 arrested in drug case (Chicago Tribune, 12 May 2006)

Authorities have broken up a large-scale drug ring in the western suburbs, netting a Naperville man whose operation sold huge amounts of crack and powder cocaine to a wide range of customers, including suburban housewives, a correctional officer and a grocery manager, authorities say. Thomas M. Sirtoff was the leader of a ring selling cocaine, crack, and guns in at least two counties--DuPage and Kankakee--and Wisconsin, according to an affidavit filed by a federal agent in U.S. District Court in Chicago on Tuesday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G18023F1D>

44. IL: One Dead, 21 Others Sickened In Rash Of Overdoses - Heroin May Have Been Cut Deadly Synthetic Drug (CBS, 13 May 2006)

CHICAGO A man died and 21 other people fell ill in the Humboldt Park neighborhood Saturday after taking an extremely potent heroin mixture. As CBS 2's Rafael Romo reports, it was about 10 a.m. when Chicago Police noticed a pattern of victims spreading across the neighborhood, and it was suspected that the heroin might have been cut with a potentially deadly prescription pain killer commonly used by cancer patients. That drug, fentanyl, has been detected in heroin that has been distributed across the city recently.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://cbs2chicago.com/seenon/local_story_133114908.html

45. IN: Feds hold four accused in cocaine heist plot (The Journal Gazette, 13 May 2006)

A federal judge decided Friday there was probable cause to hold four men accused of coming to Fort Wayne this month to hijack a shipment of drugs. Two other men accused in the plot have hearings next week. The four men – Marlyn Barnes, 23, of Gary; Michael Alexander, 29, of Fort Wayne; Theodis Armstead, 19 of Gary; and Melvin Taylor, 25, of Gary – were arrested on charges of conspiracy to deal more than 5 kilograms of cocaine and possession of a firearm in the commission of a drug trafficking crime.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/fortwayne/news/local/14569687.htm>

46. NY: \$2M Queens Cocaine Bust (New York Post, 14 May 2006)

A Queens man was arrested after the feds say they found more than 200 pounds of cocaine - worth about \$2 million - in his bedroom closet. Juan Carlos Patino-Gutierrez, of East Elmhurst, was arraigned yesterday and held on charges of possessing and conspiring to distribute 95 plastic bags of cocaine, each containing one kilogram and packed into four cardboard banana boxes. When NYPD and DEA agents rang his second-floor bell Friday, Patino-Gutierrez bolted barefoot out a rear door. Cops took off after him, yelling "Stop!" while the fugitive hopped four fences and sped through neighbors' yards.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nypost.com/news/regionalnews/66004.htm>

47. NC: Cocaine Seized In Drug Smuggling Case (WSOCTV.com, 15 May 2006)

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - A task force said Monday that it seized about 30 pounds of cocaine and arrested three men over the weekend in Charlotte. Detectives were investigating a drug ring smuggling cocaine from Mexico through Atlanta to Charlotte. Agents said they arranged a meeting with the suspects in a parking lot beside J.W. Clay Boulevard in northeast Charlotte. Officers arrested the men in the parking lot and confiscated about six pounds of cocaine. Detectives then found about 24 more pounds of cocaine inside a house on Chestnut Ridge Drive.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wsocvtv.com/news/9219552/detail.html>

48. OH: 3 Lima men arrested in undercover drug sting (Toledo Blade, 14 May 2006)

LIMA, Ohio - Three Lima men were arrested Friday during an undercover operation by Lima police department's Proactive Crime Enforcement unit to find street-level drug dealers. Robert Tobias, 40, and Eugene Cole, 66, were arrested and charged with trafficking in crack cocaine. Mr. Tobias was arrested near Baxter and West Elm Street; Mr. Cole was arrested in the Catalpa Avenue and St. Johns Avenue area. Also arrested near Catalpa and St. Johns during the sting was Mark Spaulding, 34, who had two active child-support warrants through the Allen County Sheriff's Office. The men were being held in the Allen County jail pending arraignment tomorrow in Lima Municipal Court. On Thursday, three adults and a 16-year-old were arrested and charged with trafficking in crack cocaine in a similar undercover operation by the PACE unit.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?B59015F1D>

49. TX: CBP Border Patrol Agents Intercept 287 Pounds of Cocaine (DHS, 12 May 2006)

Weslaco, Texas - U.S. Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol agents working near Pharr, Texas, seized 287 pounds of cocaine that was concealed in a Ford Expedition. The contraband has an estimated value of \$9,196,800. Yesterday at 3:30 p.m., agents assigned to the Weslaco Border Patrol Station observed three male subjects loading something into a sports utility vehicle that was parked close to the Rio Grande River. As agents approached the SUV the three men jump into the river and swam back to Mexico. The agents searched the abandoned SUV and discovered 287 pounds of cocaine. The contraband and the vehicle were turned over to the DEA for further investigation.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://communitydispatch.com/artman/publish/printer_4911.shtml

50. Americans nabbed in Barbados in big cocaine haul (Caribbean Net News, 15 May 2006)

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados: Police in Barbados have nabbed two Americans in connection with the discovery of \$1.8 million worth of pure cocaine on a yacht anchored on the West Coast of the island. Police Public Relations Officer, Inspector Barry Hunte, says 33-three year old Terry Wayne Moore and 26-year-old Joshua Brooks Walker, both from Florida, will appear in court on Monday morning, charged with possession, possession with intent to supply, trafficking and importation of 61 kilos of cocaine. They are also accused of having a Glock pistol, a .357 Magnum, 110 .40 calibre bullets and 25 rounds of ammunition for the Magnum.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/cgi-script/csArticles/articles/000015/001594.htm>

51. Dominican Republic: Spanish man arrested with 3 kilos of cocaine (Dominican Today, 13 May 2006)

SANTO DOMINGO. – Ten packages containing cocaine were seized in the International Luperon Airport yesterday, informed the National Drug Control Direction (DNCD). Jose Manuel Herce's arrest, a Spanish national, took place as he boarded LTU airline flight 841 to Berlin. The drug, totaling 3 kilos, was found hidden inside a Herce's suitcase.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dominicantoday.com/app/article.aspx?id=13407>

52. Canada: Cops crack drug pipeline (Ottawa Sun, 15 May 2006)

OTTAWA drug investigators are tracing a trail back to the source of a \$234,000 cross-country scheme that used courier services to deliver the dope. Detectives have narrowed the origin to B.C.'s Lower Mainland, the starting point of a mail-based drug distribution channel that was cut last week by Ottawa cops. Two Ottawa men face drug charges. Drug unit Staff Sgt. Marc Pinault said yesterday the drug conduit seemed to be operating for a "fairly long time." He wouldn't say which courier companies were delivering the packages, although at least one major service was used for the shipments. The company helped police in the probe.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://ottsun.canoe.ca/News/OttawaAndRegion/2006/05/15/1580280-sun.html>

53. UK: Five questioned over £5m cocaine haul (The Guardian, 15 May 2006)

Five people were being questioned over the seizure of what is believed to be more than £5m worth of cocaine, police said yesterday. Dyfed-Powys police co-ordinated a multi-agency operation which resulted in arrests on and around the Pembrokeshire coast. The suspects have been transferred to police stations in the northwest of England for questioning over drug trafficking and importation offences. Two are from the Manchester and Lancashire areas and three are understood to be Portuguese. A police spokesman said: "The investigation is still ongoing and at an early stage."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/drugs/Story/0,,1774762,00.html>

54. UK: Cocaine seizures double in a year (Times Online, 14 May 2006)

THE cocaine market in Ireland is worth an estimated €210m and has increased almost 10-fold in just four years. Provisional figures to be sent to Michael McDowell, the justice minister, will show that 300kg of the drug were seized last year by customs officers and members of the National Drug Unit. The haul was worth €21m, or €70,000 per kilogram, and is estimated to be just one-tenth of the amount coming in to the country. This indicates a vast increase on preceding years. In 2004, a total of 160kg was seized, up from 117kg in 2003, and only 32kg in 2002. By comparison, less than one-tenth of a kilo (a mere 82g) of the class A drug was lifted by gardai in 1981.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2091-2179639,00.html>

55. Tajik President Says Afghan Drug Production Has 'Tripled.' (RFE/RL, 16 May 2006)

Imomali Rakhmonov said on May 15 that drug production in Afghanistan has "tripled" since September 2001, Reuters reported. Rakhmonov commented, "Various donors write reports about Afghanistan saying the crop is lower but the yield is higher. Who needs all these reports? A billion in aid won't solve the problem, you need to create jobs in Afghanistan." Rakhmonov stressed that Tajikistan is doing its part to guard its 1,344-kilometer border with Afghanistan, jailing some 800 officials in the last five years for

their involvement in the drug trade, Khovar reported. He also said that Tajikistan has seized and destroyed more than 60 tons of narcotics - half of it heroin - over the last 10 years, Avesta reported.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL: Back issues of "RFE/RL" are online at:

<http://search.rferl.org>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

56. Helping Law Enforcement Fight Cyber-Crime (PC Magazine, 15 May 2006)

BOSTON - His title may be the first assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, but Craig Morford's work fighting cyber-crime touches nearly every corner of the globe. Morford's responsibilities include the prosecution of federal terrorism, organized crime, public corruption and corporate fraud, and one of the issues he spends much of his effort on today is battling the growing use of computing networks to help carry out those felonies. At a security conference organized by imaging giants Xerox here on May 12, Morford blew away attendees with some of the anecdotes and examples of the types of struggles the government and private industry have encountered in trying to stop the flow of proprietary information into the hands of criminals.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,1962177,00.asp>

57. FBI Says It Tracks Government Worker Calls (AP, 15 May 2006)

WASHINGTON - The FBI acknowledged Monday that it checks records of telephone calls made by government employees as part of criminal investigations of leaks of classified information, but the bureau denied that it routinely tracks calls made to and by reporters. The bureau typically opens a leak investigation after receiving a referral from the Justice Department, spokesman Bill Carter said. "The FBI will take logical investigative steps to determine if a criminal act was committed by a government employee by the unauthorized release of classified information," Carter said. "In such cases, investigators may examine the telephone records of government agencies."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?B2A013F1D>

58. Verizon statement on data collection (FinancialTimes.com, 16 May 2006)

There has been much speculation about the role that [AT&T](#), [Verizon](#) and [BellSouth](#) may have played in efforts by the National Security Agency to collect customer phone records as part of a secret Bush administration surveillance programme. On Tuesday Verizon issued a statement denying it gave the NSA phone records. "As the president has made clear, the NSA programme he acknowledged authorising against al-Qaeda is highly-classified. Verizon cannot and will not comment on the programme. Verizon cannot and will not confirm or deny whether it has any relationship to it. That said, media reports made claims about Verizon that are simply false.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.ft.com/cms/s/d70c2ce2-e519-11da-80de-0000779e2340.html>

TECHNOLOGY

59. DHS to develop biosurveillance system for pandemic (GCN, 12 May 2006)

The Homeland Security Department expects to award a contract in mid-summer to develop the National Biosurveillance Integration System, a critical piece of the administration's strategy to handle a pandemic, such as avian flu. DHS plans for an initial version of the biosurveillance information management system six months after the award, said Kimothy Smith, DHS chief veterinarian, chief scientist and acting deputy chief medical officer. The biosurveillance system will aggregate and integrate information from food, agricultural, public health and environmental monitoring and the intelligence community from federal and state agencies and private sources to provide an early warning system for an outbreak or possible bioterrorism attack.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/40725-1.html

60. Inter-Agency Collaboration and Consequence Management: An All-Hazard Approach to Emergency Incident Response (Homeland Response, 15 May 2006)

Natural disasters and terrorism do not respect geographic boundaries. While we may not be able to prevent these incidents, we can minimize the effects of these emergencies with the adoption of technologies that provide consequence management solutions and focus on inter-agency collaboration.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.homelandresponse.org/500/Issue/Article/False/17938/Issue>

61. Spot a Bug, Go to Jail (WIRED, 10 May 2006) – A Different Kind of Cyber Threat!

A new federal prosecution again raises the issue of whether computer security experts must fear prison time for investigating and reporting vulnerabilities. On April 28, 2006, Eric McCarty was arraigned in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. McCarty is a professional computer security consultant who noticed that there was a problem with the way the University of Southern California had constructed its web page for online applications. A database programming error allowed outsiders to obtain applicants' personal information, including Social Security numbers. For proof, the man copied seven applicants' personal records and anonymously sent them to a reporter for SecurityFocus. The journalist notified the school, the school fixed the problem, and the reporter wrote an article about it. The incident might have ended there, but didn't. The school went through its server logs and easily traced the activity back to McCarty, who had made no attempt to hide his tracks. The FBI interviewed McCarty, who explained everything to the agents. Then the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles charged the security expert with violating 18 U.S.C. 1030, the federal computer crime law.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wired.com/news/columns/circuitcourt/1.70857-0.html>

RESOURCES

62. "U.S. and International Responses to the Global Spread of Avian Flu: Issues for Congress," Congressional Research Service Report updated May 1, 2006
(Contributed by Steven Aftergood, Federation of American Scientists, www.fas.org)

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33219.pdf>

OPPORTUNITIES

63. Feds, states seek credentialing strategy (Government Health IT, 16 May 2006)

Protecting the public health, particularly in emergencies, requires sophisticated information systems that can quickly and accurately assess the qualifications of doctors and nurses in multiple jurisdictions, said panelists at a recent meeting of health care information technology specialists in Washington, D.C. "Credentials of the future will have to look very different from what they look like today," said Dale Austin, senior vice president and chief operating officer of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and one of several experts who made presentations at the briefing "Medical Credentialing: Are We Ready?" To get ready, public and private organizations at the national, state and local levels are developing independent IT solutions for verifying health care professionals' identities, credentials, expertise and competence, panelists said. A primary objective of enhanced verification is to thwart the "fakers, con artists and artful dodgers" who would subvert the system for confirming medical professionals' qualifications.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://govhealthit.com/article94540-05-16-06-Web>

FULL REPORTS

64. U.S. Border Security Will Not Be Militarized, Security Advisor Says (Peggy B. Hu, Washington File Staff Writer, 14 May 2006)

Washington - If President Bush decides to use the National Guard for border security duties, its role would be limited to supporting civilian border patrol personnel, National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley said in an interview on *CNN's Late Edition* May 14.

"It's not about militarization of the border. It's about assisting the civilian border patrol in doing their job, providing intelligence, providing support, logistics support and training and these sorts of things," he said.

Bush is scheduled to discuss immigration policy proposals in a nationally televised address May 15.

Hadley termed border security an important element of immigration reform. The national security advisor said Bush believes "the proper approach to immigration reform" involves securing borders, increasing internal enforcement and establishing a temporary-worker program "so that willing employers in the United States can have access to willing workers, particularly from Mexico, and to do it in a way that is lawful." (See related [fact sheet](#).)

These steps "will take some of the pressure off on the border and will allow the border patrol to focus on the things we're really worried about, which is crime and narcotics and the like," he said.

Hadley said that a temporary-worker program is not the same thing as amnesty for those who have entered the United States illegally.

"[O]ne of the things the president has said is that anybody who's part of one of these temporary-worker programs, if they look at the issue of citizenship, there are things they will need to do, requirements that they will have to meet," he said. He added that those who have entered the United States illegally "will have to go to the back of the line" to be fair to "those who have proceeded in the lawful way."

For more information on U.S. policies, see [The U.S. and Mexico: Border/Migration Issues](#) and [Visas, Passports and Immigration](#).

65. OAS Urges Stronger Effort To Fight Illicit Drugs in the Americas - Drug evaluation report presented at meeting in Washington (By Eric Green, Washington File Staff Writer, 12 May 2006)

Washington - A strengthened commitment from the governments of the Western Hemisphere is needed to fight illicit drugs and crime in the region, the Organization of American States (OAS) has reiterated.

In a May 11 statement, OAS Secretary-General José Miguel Insulza emphasized that cooperation among all nations in the region is vital to confront the dangers of illegal drugs in the hemisphere.

Insulza said the illegal drug trade is a "regional and global enterprise supported by multiple sources, and it is imperative to join resources and tackle it with a multifaceted, regional strategy."

The official spoke at OAS headquarters during a meeting of that organization's Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, known by its Spanish acronym CICAD. During the meeting, the countries of the hemisphere approved national and hemispheric reports on what is called the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).

The MEM uses a number of indicators to evaluate the progress made by each country in the fight against illegal drugs. The MEM was created by the region's 34 heads of state participating in the 1998 Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile. (See [related article](#).)

Insulza said the success of the MEM depends on broad political support from all countries in the hemisphere.

A report comparing drug use among adolescents who attend school in some South American countries was also presented during the meeting. Insulza said the report

"provides us with an updated, valid and reliable diagnosis on the use of drugs and the associated risk factors and protections."

The reports approved during the CICAD meeting will be presented at the OAS General Assembly, being held June 4-6 in the Dominican Republic's capital of Santo Domingo. (See [related article](#).)

U.S. State Department official Anne Patterson said March 30 that U.S. partnerships with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean - as well as the growing trend of regional alliances among many of those countries - have resulted in "significant progress" in fighting the illicit drug trade.

Patterson, assistant secretary of state for international narcotics and law enforcement affairs, said the Western Hemisphere's improved counternarcotics performance of recent years has been achieved "not just by individual countries, but by countries working together."

The State Department's 23rd annual *International Narcotics Control Strategy Report*, released March 1, "provides evidence of maturing policies, modernizing institutions, and stronger cross-border, subregional, and international cooperation," Patterson said in testimony before the House International Relations Committee's Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere. (See [related article](#).)

The [South America](#) segment of the 2006 report and the full text of the two-volume [2006 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report](#) are available on the State Department Web site.

For more information, see [Summit of the Americas](#).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

66. Official Highlights Trends in Terrorism (Dept. of State, 12 May 2006)

Washington - The State Department's annual report on terrorism identifies four dominant trends in terrorist activities: smaller groupings; growing sophistication; increasingly criminal activities; and a focus on Iraq.

That is the assessment of Ambassador Henry Crumpton, the State Department coordinator for counterterrorism. Crumpton's prepared testimony, submitted for the record May 11 to the House International Relations' Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation, discusses both positive and negative aspects of these trends.

For example, the smaller size of terrorist cells means they are more difficult to detect and engage, Crumpton said. They are less capable, he said, but also less predictable and possibly more dangerous. (See [related article](#)).

“We may face a larger number of smaller attacks, less meticulously planned, and local rather than transnational in scope,” Crumpton said.

Terrorists’ growing sophistication is exemplified in their use of the Internet. Their increasing criminal activity is reflected their use of the same networks as transnational criminal groups. The terrorists’ focus on Iraq, Crumpton said, is being aided by networks uncovered in several regions that supply a flow of foreign terrorists there. (See [related article](#).)

“We must, therefore, help Iraqis secure their country and help other countries shut down these networks,” he said.

In addition to these trends, Crumpton discussed key additions to the latest report, along with single-country and multilateral efforts, and current counterterrorism initiatives.

KEY ADDITIONS TO THE 2005 REPORT

Some new chapters were added to the 2005 edition: one on strategic assessment and another on terrorist safe havens. Also, a previous chapter discussing building international will and capacity was expanded.

The strategic assessment was included this year, Crumpton said, because both President Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice “believe we should tackle the question directly and provide the best assessment possible.” This is important, he added, because the war against terrorism is unconventional and thus does not lend itself to normal methods of analysis.

SINGLE-COUNTRY ASSESSMENTS

Crumpton cited several countries for positive counterterrorism effort, including Afghanistan, Algeria, Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Iraq, Pakistan, the Philippines and Saudi Arabia. Afghanistan and Iraq, he said, embraced democracy while simultaneously fighting insurgents. Colombia’s central government extended its police presence to all of that nation’s nearly 1,100 municipalities, while demobilizing more than 10,000 paramilitary forces and keeping the main narco-terror group on the defensive. And Saudi Arabia, he said, killed or captured the top 26 senior al-Qaida members in that country by the end of 2005.

Furthermore, Crumpton said, Libya and Sudan, though still included as state sponsors of terrorism, “took positive steps in the fight against terrorism.” Libya continued its counterterror cooperation with the United States in Africa and the Middle East. And Sudan continued to cooperate against international terrorist elements believed to be operating inside its borders. (See [related article](#).)

“However, despite these positive steps,” Crumpton said, “we are deeply concerned about the Sudanese government’s role in Darfur” [and] “must continue to work with the Sudanese government and others to resolve this issue before we can move further.”

MULTILATERAL EFFORTS

According to Crumpton, the U.N. Security Council, the U.N. General Assembly, and the Group of Eight (G8) all took significant actions against terrorism. The Security Council, he said, passed Resolution 1617 (which strengthened existing sanctions against the Taliban and al-Qaida) and Resolution 1624 (dealing with incitement to terrorism and matters related to it). The General Assembly meanwhile, in its high-level plenary in September 2005, clearly and unequivocally condemned terrorism.

The G8, he said, agreed to strengthen international standards for issuing passports; developed new measures to counter shoulder-fired, ground-to-air missiles; established a contact network for aviation threat emergencies; and expanded transportation security training and assistance to non-G8 countries. (See [related article](#).)

CURRENT INITIATIVES

Crumpton noted two specific regional initiatives. One was the Trans-Sahara Counter Terrorism Initiative, an ongoing effort to strengthen the region’s counterterrorism capabilities, enhance and make permanent security force cooperation, promote democratic governance, discredit terrorist ideology and reinforce bilateral military ties with the United States. (See [related article](#).)

The other program is the Regional Strategic Initiative, which is an effort to develop flexible regional networks of interconnected U.S. Embassy and consulate country teams. Spearheaded by the counterterrorism coordinator’s office, the program works with U.S. ambassadors and other U.S. agency representatives in key terrorist areas to conduct threat assessment and develop strategies, actionable initiatives and policy recommendations, he said. (See [related article](#).)

The [text](#) of Crumpton’s remarks as prepared for delivery will be made available on the State Department Web site.

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