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***CABLE Gram***  
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Publisher, Zhi Hamby-Nye

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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 30

18 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](mailto:zhi@cablegram.org) – please type CABLE Gram in the subject line.

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## **FEDERAL**

### **1. House subcommittee adds \$1.8 billion for homeland security (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 16 May 2006)**

The House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee on Thursday approved an fiscal 2007 spending bill for the Homeland Security Department that is \$1.8 billion higher than current spending but withholds funds for several major department priorities and rejects for a second year in a row a proposed increase in airline passenger fees. The bill sets discretionary spending at \$32 billion, compared to the \$31 billion requested by the Bush administration. Officials wanted to generate \$1.3 billion by increasing a fee charged to airline passengers, but Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Harold Rogers, R-Ky., said he wanted "to send a message to the administration that this fee is dead on arrival." He added that his panel is not hesitating to give the department "spankings and punishment." Indeed, the spending bill withholds \$1.3 billion in funding until the department gives Congress strategic plans and financial information for several programs and operations. For example, the bill withholds almost \$500 million from the Science and Technology Directorate until the department "provides an expenditure plan to back up its poor budget justification and improve its financial management systems."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=34067&dcn=e\\_hsw](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34067&dcn=e_hsw)

### **2. House Funders Reduce Support for U.S. CW Disposal (Global Security Newswire, 18 May 2006)**

Funding in fiscal 2007 for building U.S. chemical weapons disposal sites in Colorado and Kentucky could be cut by \$40 million, the Chemical Weapons Working Group reported yesterday (see [GSN](#), April 18). The House Appropriations Committee last week cut the Bush administration request construction funding request from \$131 million to \$91 million. The panel's report states that "there are currently sufficient funds to continue planning activities and begin construction in fiscal year 2007," according to the organization. The last two disposal facilities planned in the United States are at Blue Grass, Ky., and Pueblo, Colo. Preparations for construction are under way at both sites, with major work scheduled to begin later this year.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.nti.org/d\\_newswire/issues/2006\\_5\\_18.html#AFEA472C](http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2006_5_18.html#AFEA472C)

### **3. Rumsfeld calls border duty Guard test (Washington Times, 18 May 2006)**

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told the Senate yesterday that dispatching 6,000 troops to support security efforts on the U.S.-Mexico border will be a test of a recently

upgraded National Guard, but will not impede other missions. Mr. Rumsfeld said the troops are a small part of the 445,000-member National Guard force and that the assignment will "provide useful, real-life training." "We will see their flexibility with the president's proposal to temporarily increase the supporting role the Guard is already playing to secure our nation's borders," Mr. Rumsfeld told the Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on the Pentagon's 2007 budget request of \$423.2 billion for Iraq.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:  
<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20060517-113854-4229r.htm>

#### **4. State control of troops essential, state Guard leaders say (By Megan Scully, CongressDaily, 17 May 2006)**

State National Guard leaders are poised to carry out the Bush administration's border-security plan to deploy thousands of troops to patrol the Mexican border, but they likely will fight any attempts to place the state-run units under the president's control. Maintaining state control over Guard units allows governors to manage the strain on the force and determine which troops and equipment to send -- and for how long, Maj. Gen. Roger Lempke, president of the Adjutant Generals Association of the United States, said in an interview Monday. "It gives us more flexibility in how we rotate them . . . the length of time, the training," said Lempke, who also serves as Nebraska's Guard chief. "We can tailor packages, if you will, to better meet the needs of the states where they'll be."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:  
[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=34089&dcn=e\\_ndw](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34089&dcn=e_ndw)

#### **5. Guard deployment at border still means more work for DHS (GovExec.com, 16 May 2006)**

President Bush's call Monday night for beefed-up border security put the National Guard in the spotlight, but Homeland Security Department officials said their workload will be boosted as well. Various elements of DHS will work with the Defense Department to maintain the U.S.-Mexico divide, officials said Tuesday, as details about the president's border control initiative emerged. DHS will be charged with expanding U.S.-run centers for detaining illegal immigrants to fill 4,000 more beds by the end of fiscal 2006, said Julie Myers, assistant secretary of the department's Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau. She added that officials might have to "use them more creatively" to handle the influx of detainees.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:  
[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=34093&dcn=e\\_hsw](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34093&dcn=e_hsw)

#### **6. Report says Border Patrol demoralized by lack of smuggling prosecutions (AP, 18 May 2006)**

SAN DIEGO - The vast majority of people caught smuggling immigrants across the border near San Diego are never prosecuted for the offense, demoralizing the Border Patrol agents making the arrests, according to an internal document obtained by The Associated Press. "It is very difficult to keep agents' morale up when the laws they were told to uphold are being watered-down or not prosecuted," the report says. The report offers a stark assessment of the situation at a Border Patrol station responsible for

guarding 13 miles of mountainous border east of the city. Federal officials say it reflects a reality along the entire 2,000-mile border: Judges and federal attorneys are so swamped that only the most egregious smuggling cases are prosecuted.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?D27D5112D>

**7. Tipsters can help ICE find illegals (Bridgeton News, 17 May 2006)**

WASHINGTON - The federal agency responsible for deporting illegal aliens and investigating immigrant smuggling rings wants to hear from you. Anyone with information for the U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Service can call a toll-free hotline, 1-866-347-2423, to report suspected criminal activity, including the employment of illegal immigrants, document fraud and alien smuggling.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V26D1512D>

**8. US pushes ahead with port security proposal (Reuters, 16 May 2006)**

NEW YORK - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has published a detailed proposal of new rules aimed at preventing terrorist attacks on domestic ports, a DHS spokesman said on Tuesday. In late April, DHS implemented the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program, which included name-based background checks on nearly 400,000 port workers in the United States. The initial checks were followed by a 275-page proposal detailing the program designed to deter people who pose a security threat from entering U.S. ports. "We submitted the rulemaking proposal to the Federal Register for publication last week," said Jarrod Agen, a DHS spokesman.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P21B3212D>

**9. TSA plan to charge port workers for ID cards draws fire (GovExec.com, 16 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. "We have serious concerns about the cost of the TWIC program and the impact it will have on port drivers who are already living at poverty levels," said Leigh Strope, a spokeswoman for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

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[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=34081&dcn=e\\_hsw](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34081&dcn=e_hsw)

**10. TSA has new way to 'SPOT' potential terrorists, report says (TampaBays10.com, 17 May 2006)**

Airport screeners may soon spend less time worrying about finding scissors in your bags and instead focus on the way you behave at the airport. Citing government sources, [Time](#) magazine writes that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will “will announce in the next few weeks” plans for “a race-neutral profiling program at the country's busiest airports” that will include New York JFK, Los Angeles and Chicago O'Hare. The program will be called “Screening Passengers by Observation Techniques,” though its acronym of SPOT seems more likely to stick. Time says the SPOT program has already been tested at Boston's Logan International Airport and a few other Northeastern airports. Instead of relying on the watch lists and computer databases that have created headaches for the TSA in the past, SPOT instead monitors passenger behavior. But it won't replace the traditional screening techniques like sending fliers through metal detectors.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.tampabays10.com/news/national/article.aspx?storyid=31469>

### **11. Anti-terror measures set for air cargo (AP, 16 May 2006)**

WASHINGTON - The government Wednesday announced new security requirements for air cargo that include criminal background checks for more than 100,000 airline and freight workers and screeners to check packages delivered to airport ticket counters. The Transportation Security Administration said it will also use more bomb-sniffing dogs to screen freight that's shipped by plane and that it will soon finish hiring 300 new air cargo inspectors, which Congress included in the agency's budget this year. "It's a lot about background checks and security plans," said TSA chief Kip Hawley. Hawley said he delayed issuing the rule, which was due in August 2005, shortly after he was sworn in. The original proposal excluded from the background check requirement some people who handle freight, he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/1152AP\\_Air\\_Cargo\\_Security.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/1152AP_Air_Cargo_Security.html)

### **12. DHS fails to submit strategic border security plan (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 16 May 2006)**

The Homeland Security Department has not yet submitted a strategic plan to Congress on how it intends to improve border security and immigration enforcement, prompting House appropriators to cut funding in the department's fiscal 2007 budget. Although President Bush called on Congress Monday night to provide necessary funding for border security, lawmakers say the administration has not said how the money will be spent or how results will be measured. "For years we have thrown huge sums of money at border security but the problem has gotten progressively worse," House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Harold Rogers, R-Ky., said in a statement Monday. "What we need is a sound, comprehensive strategy that allows us to measure progress. Without a strategic border security plan we are simply planning to fail."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=34088&dcn=e\\_hsw](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34088&dcn=e_hsw)

**STATE AND LOCAL NEWS**

**13. CA: Trains Hauling Dangerous Materials Have Little Oversight (KRA, 17 May 2006)**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - Freight trains haul explosives, flammable liquids and poisons. And every day, they pass through Sacramento County and neighborhoods around the country. Loaded with hazardous materials such as chlorine gas, they snake their way through downtown Sacramento, under the freeway, across the river and right behind the federal courthouse. Tim Smith, an engineer for more than 30 years, said it would be easy for anyone to put a bomb on such a train. Area government studies suggest that if a 90-ton tanker of chlorine exploded in a heavily populated area, as many as 100,000 people would die in less than 30 minutes.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kcra.com/money/9234544/detail.html>

**14. CA: County Set to Receive Bioterror Preparedness Funds (Global Security Newswire, 17 May 2006)**

A federal grant of \$1.1 million is expected to fund bioterrorism preparedness efforts in Riverside County, Calif., the City News Service reported yesterday (see [GSN](#), March 17). County supervisors were expected yesterday to vote on an agreement to split with money with the California Health Services Department. The state would use \$510,000 to buy protective equipment for the county. Riverside County would use the remaining money to develop a preparedness and response plan for acts of bioterrorism and natural outbreaks, City News Service reported.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.nti.org/d\\_newswire/issues/2006\\_5\\_17.html#43619120](http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2006_5_17.html#43619120)

**15. CA: Oroville Hospital hosts decontamination exercise (Mercury Register, 17 May 2006)**

Oroville Hospital RN Gail DeLong assists fellow RN Debbie Cox with a chemical suit as part of a hazardous materials decontamination training at the local hospital, Tuesday. It was reminiscent of a scene from a Hollywood disaster film, with hospital employees in hazardous materials suits and a decontamination tent set up in the parking lot of Oroville Hospital Tuesday morning. What it was, however, was a two-day training exercise on how to deal with exposure to toxic substances resulting from a hazardous materials spill or terrorist attack. Hospital employees, including maintenance/engineers, emergency room nurses, housekeeping staff, and security personnel participated in the exercise, which included "donning and doffing" (putting on and taking off) personal protective gear and equipment.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://orovillemr.com/news/ci\\_3830436](http://orovillemr.com/news/ci_3830436)

**16. DE: Teen charged with smuggling glitter-painted gun into club - The gun was coated in glittery paint to look like a toy (The News Journal, 17 May 2006)**

A 17-year-old Bear boy was arrested Monday after he allegedly brought a gun -- coated in glitter paint to look like a toy -- into the Newark Boys and Girls Club. A staff member at the center in the first block of Positive Place confiscated the sparkling handgun after being alerted by another teen. When an officer arrived to investigate, he determined the

gun was real and not a painted toy as first suspected, county police spokesman Cpl. Trinidad Navarro said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060517/NEWS/60517019>

**17. ID: Spokane Valley Police Bust Big Identity Theft Ring (AP, 17 May 2006)**

SPOKANE VALLEY, Wash. - Eastern Washington police say they have busted a big identity theft ring that may have extended into northern Idaho. One man has been arrested, a woman is being sought and a third person also is under investigation. Spokane Valley police Sergeant Dave Martin says the number of I-D theft victims is at least 750 and probably is closer to a thousand. He says the suspicions of a Wal-Mart clerk led to the arrest on Friday of 25-year-old Lakotah Rangel. However, Martin says investigators believe the ringleader is 44-year-old Vicki Nance, who remains at large. She is wanted on nine counts of forgery, theft and identity theft.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kpvi.com/index.cfm?page=nbheadlines.cfm&ID=33484>

**18. IL: 20 Undocumented Workers Found In Smuggling Bust (CBS, 16 May 2006)**

CHICAGO Almost two dozen undocumented immigrants are in detention suburban Broadview after a smuggling bust near O'Hare International Airport. CBS 2's Derrick Blakley reports the state police made the smuggling bust after officers stopped an overloaded pick-up truck. At the I-294 O'Hare Oasis, immigration agents made a startling discovery. Twenty people were jammed into the back of a Ford pickup, including at least one mother and a two-year-old child. When agents questioned the driver, he admitted he and his passengers were all illegal immigrants.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://cbs2chicago.com/local/local\\_story\\_136221138.html](http://cbs2chicago.com/local/local_story_136221138.html)

**19. MD: Energy auctions save county \$25M (FCW, 17 May 2006)**

Montgomery County, Md., has saved about \$25 million in energy costs through a recent series of online auctions that pooled the buying power of 18 of the county's agencies and other organizations. The auction was conducted through the World Energy Exchange, a business-to-business entity that matches buyers and suppliers and automates the often-complex steps required to buy energy on the open market. The Montgomery County Aggregation Group received 292 bids through 68 auctions, resulting in energy supply contracts totaling 611 million kilowatt hours per year valued at \$125 million. The electricity will power about 616 buildings and facilities, and streetlights and traffic signals.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article94542-05-17-06-Web>

**20. NY: Legislature approves two bills combatting identity theft (AP, 17 May 2006)**

ALBANY, N.Y. - The state Senate on Wednesday gave final legislative approval to three bills designed to combat identity theft. One bill would allow private companies, nonprofit groups and the state attorney general to bring civil actions against "phishing" scam artists. The legislation is being supported by Microsoft Corp., AARP and the New York State

Telecommunications Association, among others. Phishing refers to e-mails that appear to come from banks or other trusted businesses and are used to induce recipients to verify their accounts by typing personal details, such as credit card or bank account information, into a Web site disguised to appear legitimate.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?B49E5212D>

**21. NY: Rockland woman charged with identity theft (Mid Hudson News, 17 May 2006)**

A Nanuet woman has been indicted by a Manhattan grand jury and charged with identity theft and using that identity to scam over \$24,000 from five health centers in Orange, Rockland, and Westchester counties, and Manhattan, by posing as a licensed physical therapist. It is alleged that Caryn Dinetz logged onto the New York State Education Department office of Professions web site and located the license for Karen Levine, a Manhattan physical therapist. She printed the page which states Karen Levin is a licensed physical therapist and includes her address, profession, license number and date of licensure.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/Dinetz\\_MGJ-17May06.htm](http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/Dinetz_MGJ-17May06.htm)

**22. OR: Fire Reported Again at Umatilla CW Disposal Site (Global Security Newswire, 16 May 2006)**

Flames again ignited Friday during disposal of a M55 rocket at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Oregon, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency reported (see [GSN](#), May 5). The fire occurred at about 9:30 a.m. in Explosive Containment Room A as the rocket was undergoing the fifth of seven cuts by a shear machine. Previous fires have occurred at that same point during destruction of rockets that had been drained of sarin nerve agent. A previous investigation indicated that the fires occur when the cutting blade hits particles of rocket fuel. No chemical agent escaped the room, and there were no injuries, according to a CMA press release.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.nti.org/d\\_newswire/issues/2006\\_5\\_16.html#EFEDC243](http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2006_5_16.html#EFEDC243)

**23. WA: Valley police searching for identity theft ringleader (KXLY, 16 May 2006)**

SPOKANE VALLEY - Spokane Valley Police are looking for the ringleader of what they call the largest identity theft ring in recent memory. Authorities are looking for 44-year-old Vicki Nance who is being sought for multiple counts of forgery, theft and identity theft for leading an identity theft ring which may have as many as 1,000 victims. According to authorities Nance's theft ring would steal bank and credit card statements from mailboxes, take old job applications from businesses and then print new checks with the stolen information.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.kxly.com/news/index.php?sect\\_rank=2&section\\_id=560&story\\_id=2399](http://www.kxly.com/news/index.php?sect_rank=2&section_id=560&story_id=2399)

**GANG ACTIVITY**

**24. AL: Powder cocaine and Ecstasy pills with a total estimated street value of \$10,600 seized (Press Register, 18 May 2006)**

Two juveniles were taken into custody at 4 p.m. Tuesday, one charged with drug trafficking, after a search of an Alabama Village residence revealed cocaine, Ecstasy and guns, law enforcement officials said at a news conference Wednesday. Marquis Rayshawn Files, 16, was arrested as an adult and taken to the Mobile County Metro Jail, and one unnamed 15-year-old was taken to the Strickland Youth Center, interim Sheriff David A. Evans Sr. said. Deputies from the narcotics and tactical units of the Mobile County Sheriff's Office descended upon the 1100 block of Conecuh Street in Prichard after an ongoing investigation, according to Narcotics Commander Frank Cassidy.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Q21E2312D>

**25. CA: Gang hotline up and running (The Porterville Recorder, 16 May 2006)**

A new, confidential hotline to report gang activity in Tulare County is up and running as incidents of gang violence continue to mount. Anyone with information on gang-related activity can now call 1-888-END-GANG. Sheriff Bill Wittman issued a press release Friday announcing the new gang hotline. "This hotline gives the public an easy, anonymous and free way to communicate with law enforcement," Wittman said. "To be successful in reducing gang activity, it is imperative we keep the community involved." The hotline will grant residents one more way to get involved and provide information that will assist patrol deputies and gang detectives in identifying gang activity.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.portervillerecorder.com/articles/2006/05/16/news/local\\_state/news06.txt](http://www.portervillerecorder.com/articles/2006/05/16/news/local_state/news06.txt)

**26. NC: Last suspect caught in gang slaying case (Rocky Mount Telegram, 17 May 2006)**

Detectives tracked down on Tuesday the final suspect in the May 3 gang-related death of a Rocky Mount man. Travis T. Freeman, 20, of Arlington Street was captured at a residence on Arlington Circle after detectives received a tip from a source in the community, authorities said. Freeman was jailed without bond after his arrest. Freeman and four other suspects have been jailed in the murder of 23-year-old Solomon Gerald Cannon of Rosewood Avenue. Cannon was shot to death two weeks ago outside a residence on Aqua Court.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.rockymounttelegram.com/news/content/news/stories/2006/05/17/suspect.html>

**27. PA: 16 indicted in upstate crack cocaine ring (The Patriot-News, 18 May 2006)**

WILLIAMSPORT - Anyone who believes street gangs have not invaded rural central Pennsylvania needs a reality check, U.S. Attorney Thomas A. Marino says. Marino yesterday announced the indictment of 16 people, all but two of whom live in New York City, on charges of distributing more than 50 grams of crack cocaine in Northumberland, Snyder and Union counties since early 2004. The only non-New Yorkers indicted were identified by authorities as Sunbury-area residents Jodi and Brittany Graybill.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?E22E1112D>

**28. PA: Drug Bust Nets Gang Members (WNEP, 17 May 2006)**

Police are still searching for more suspects involved in a drug ring. Authorities say they rounded up 38 of 42 suspected drug dealers in the bust that started Tuesday, including some believed to be gang members from New York City. Local, state and federal authorities teamed up to make the arrests in Northumberland, Snyder and Union counties. The results of the bust, called Operation Stop the Bleeding, were announced Wednesday morning in Williamsport. U.S. Attorney Tom Marino said another 11 people, believed to be gang members with the United Blood Nation, are also behind bars. Investigators say the gang members from New York City were running a cocaine distribution ring in central Pennsylvania.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wnep.com/Global/story.asp?S=4917898&nav=5ka4>

**29. TX: California gang member gets 70 years for killing Beaumont man (The Enterprise, 18 May 2006)**

Mitchell Clark, Jr., 29, a California native, was sentenced today to 70 years in prison for the 2002 shooting death of Vincent Earl Lockett of Beaumont, according to Jefferson County court officials. Lockett was a bouncer at the Club Signature in Beaumont's south end when Clark shot him, court officials said. Witnesses testified that Lockett had told them he had "some trouble with some guys from California" earlier at the club. Witnesses saw Clark shoot the victim several times in the back in the club parking lot early Dec. 15, 2002. He then fled the scene in a car with California plates. The car later found abandoned in a north end Beaumont apartment complex. DNA and hair evidence taken from the car pointed to Clark as a suspect, court officials said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V23E1312D>

**30. TX: Two MS13 members among 84 illegal immigrants found in bust (The Monitor, 17 May 2006)**

MISSION — Hidalgo County Sheriff's investigators discovered two tattooed Mara Salvatrucha gang members and 82 other illegal immigrants staying in an apartment complex Tuesday morning while searching for leads in a burglary. The investigators came across the undocumented group as they were conducting a follow-up investigation on the burglary of a man's house on 2 ¼ Mile N. Trosper Road, said Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Treviño.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X54E2312D>

**31. VA: Galax residents concerned about graffiti (WDBJ, 17 May 2006)**

Galax residents are afraid graffiti popping up around the region may be gang-related. When residents began discovering the spray-painted slogans, they were disgusted. As some researched the markings, they became worried. M-S 13 is known to be one of the world's most dangerous street gangs. It's markings are just some of the gang symbols that can be found on walls and buildings in Galax. Police Chief Rick Clark says his department started getting reports of graffiti about nine months ago when it appeared on

public housing. But Clark says his officers have been going through a lot of training lately. They are trying to interpret what the writings mean.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wdbj7.com/Global/story.asp?S=4919045&nav=S6aK>

### **32. Toronto police arrest scores in gang raids (Reuters, 18 May 2006)**

More than 600 Toronto police officers swooped down in coordinated pre-dawn raids across the city on Thursday, arresting more than 78 people and seizing guns, drugs and large amounts of cash. Police Chief William Blair said the raids, which included local and provincial police forces, targeted alleged gang members and were linked to gun smuggling and drug activity in Toronto and its suburbs. "Today's project is the largest of its kind ever undertaken by the Toronto Police Service," Blair told a news conference. "Literally hundreds of charges are being laid as we speak. "The people that have been apprehended today represent a very real and contemporary threat to the safety of our city." The raids targeted a gang known as the Jamestown Crew and 21 people identified as gang leaders were arrested, along with 45 other associates. Police had charged 78 people by early afternoon and said that number would climb to over 100.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W4EA1212D>

### **33. 5 Days of Violence by Gangs in São Paulo Leaves 115 Dead Before Subsiding (New York Times, 17 May 2006)**

Widespread violence eased Tuesday after five days of attacks on police headquarters, buses and public buildings that paralyzed this city, South America's largest, and left 115 people dead. The news media here said the violence ceased after the overwhelmed police authorities met Sunday with the leader of the powerful organized crime group that orchestrated the onslaught, who was reported to have ordered a truce by cellphone from his prison cell. But both sides later denied striking any deal. "The government did not submit to any demands or requests," Marco Antônio Desgualdo, director general of the state's civil police force, said in an interview on Tuesday. "The police did not negotiate."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/17/world/americas/17brazil.html?th&emc=th>

## **NARCO TRAFFICKING**

### **34. FL: Investigators Seize 52 Tons of Cocaine in Colombian-Based Drug Cartel Bust (Fox News, 18 May 2006)**

MIAMI - One of the world's most hunted drug traffickers was among the 100 people arrested after a three-year investigation targeting an international Colombia-based drug cartel, the [Drug Enforcement Administration](#) announced Wednesday. About 52 tons of cocaine, 22 pounds of heroin, 770 pounds of marijuana and nearly \$70 million in assets also were seized during simultaneous raids in the United States and Latin America. Officials in nine countries — Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Mexico and the United States — were involved in the operation. Investigators also uncovered and dismantled the wholesale drug distributors throughout local communities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,195870,00.html>

**35. NJ: 5 arrested and cocaine seized in Passaic raids (Star-Ledger Staff, 17 May 2006)**

A Passaic County narcotics task force, federal agents and police swept through several rental homes early yesterday, seizing 80 kilograms of cocaine and arresting five members of a flourishing drug distribution ring, authorities said. The narcotics, valued up to \$3.5 million, constitute one of the largest drug seizures in Passaic County history, officials said. In addition, agents seized \$20,000 in cash, several luxury vehicles and a .44-caliber revolver during predawn raids in West Paterson, Paterson, Clifton and North Bergen.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?T2DA3112D>

**36. NJ: Crack-Cocaine Ring Gets Busted Up (AP, 17 May 2006)**

*CAMDEN* Federal prosecutors this afternoon will announce that they've busted a major crack cocaine distribution ring known as the "M-O-B Boys" in Camden. More than 200 law enforcement officers fanned out to make arrests this morning. The criminal complaints charge members of the organization, one of the organization's wholesale suppliers and four of the organization's bulk cocaine customers. Federal prosecutors say the group used violence, including the murder of Anthony "Skip" Brown in March, to protect operations. The crackdown comes a day after state troopers arrested 102 people during an undercover drug sting in North Camden.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://wcbstv.com/topstories/local\\_story\\_137120640.html](http://wcbstv.com/topstories/local_story_137120640.html)

**37. PA: Cocaine ring busted - It had links to Bloods street gang (The Daily Item, 17 May 2006)**

*SUNBURY* - Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies broke up a drug ring Tuesday morning that was allegedly fed from New York City by members of the Bloods street gang. More than 20 arrests were expected Tuesday, including several federal indictments. In conjunction with the drug investigation, Kane's Tavern, 301 Arch St., was shut down Tuesday morning. Police believe the establishment was the hub of this particular drug ring.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?B3FA6212D>

**38. WV: Officers confiscate cocaine shipment (The Herald-Dispatch, 17 May 2006)**

*HUNTINGTON* - A Huntington man was arrested after officers with the Ohio State Highway Patrol found more than 1,000 grams of cocaine in his vehicle this weekend, according to a press release issued by the Portsmouth Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Edward L. McClure, 32, of Huntington was arraigned and taken to the Scioto County Jail where he was being held pending the posting of a \$20,000 bond, according to the release. The large-scale drug bust occurred Friday as state troopers were conducting increased traffic enforcement along U.S. 23 in Scioto County, Ohio.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?S15E2112D>

**39. Canada: More alleged Hells Angels arrested in drug trafficking ring (Montreal Gazette, 17 May 2006)**

MONTREAL - They keep coming back. In announcing the dismantling of a major drug trafficking network, police confirmed Tuesday the Hells Angels lost little ground after a similar yet more significant roundup five years ago. "We keep arresting people and they keep coming back," said Cmdr. Didier Deramond, head of Montreal's regional integrated squad, a joint police unit that targets outlaw motorcycle gangs. On Tuesday, police arrested 38 people, including a member of the Hells Angels and six members of their underling gang the Syndicate. They're expected to be charged today on several counts including drug trafficking and gangsterism.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?J46E2512D>

**40. Colombia, Turkey discuss terrorism, drug smuggling and organized crime (Pravda, 17 May 2006)**

Barco and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul discussed cooperation on issues including the fight against terrorism, drug smuggling and organized crime, Barco said in a short news conference after the meeting. The two ministers also signed agreements on establishing a political consultation mechanism between [Turkey](#) and [Colombia](#), waivers of visa requirements and commercial cooperation, the Anatolia news agency said, the AP reports.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://english.pravda.ru/news/world/17-05-2006/80481-Ankara-0>

**41. Major Drug Trafficker Is Arrested in Brazil (Reuters, 18 May 2006)**

Colombian and [United States](#) authorities said Wednesday that they had caught a major drug smuggler and 31 associates wanted for extradition for shipping 70 metric tons of cocaine to the United States over the past decade. A three-year investigation led to the capture of the ringleader, Pedro Pablo Rayo Montaña, in Brazil and the seizure of \$70 million in assets, including three islands off Panama, yachts, art galleries and fishing trawlers, the officials said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/18/world/americas/18colombia.html>

**42. 100 kg of heroin smuggled out of Bangladesh in two years (newKerala.com, 17 May 2006)**

Dhaka: Bangladesh is cracking down on drug smuggling after recent arrests revealed that over 100 kg of heroin estimated at one billion taka (\$14.7 million) had been smuggled out of the country in the last two years. Bangladesh Observer quoted a top official of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) as saying that the agro-export firm BD Foods Ltd and its others sister concerns were involved in smuggling heroin to Britain. The CID will request Interpol for help to nab two Bangladesh-born British nationals who are suspected to be part of an international drug syndicate.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.newkerala.com/news2.php?action=fullnews&id=60226>

**43. Australia: US sailors jailed for drug smuggling (ABCNews.au, 18 May 2006)**

Two US sailors and a Canadian man have been sentenced to a total of 32 years in jail for smuggling drugs into Australia on board a US Navy ship. The court heard the drugs were hidden in the radar compartment of the USS *Boxer* before sailor Andrew Labanon brought them to Chief Petty Officer Daniel Maio at a Townsville motel. After disguising the drugs as a child's birthday present, Maio and another man Medhi Mohamadi set off for the Gold Coast. They were arrested by Australian Federal Police agents a short time later.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200605/s1641871.htm>

## **CYBERTHREAT & THEFT**

**44. Gossip lands Education hacker in jail (FCW, 17 May 2006)**

An Education Department auditor who hacked his boss' computer and told his co-workers about it will spend five months in jail, Justice Department officials said. Kenneth Kwak, formerly an information technology systems auditor at Education's Office of the Inspector General, pleaded guilty in March to one count of intentionally gaining unauthorized access to a government computer and extracting information from it, Justice spokesman Drew Wade said. Kwak admitted he installed software on his supervisor's computer that gave him access to his boss' e-mail messages and Internet activity, Wade said. Kwak then shared the information with his co-workers. He was prosecuted under the U.S. Attorney's Office's new zero-tolerance policy for breaking into federal computer systems, Justice officials said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article94547-05-17-06-Web>

**45. Some Web Job Applications Are Identity Theft Risk (KUTV, 16 May 2006)**

Many companies are going online when shopping for employees. Bill Gephardt explains why it could make job candidates at risk for identity theft. I got an e-mail Tuesday from Kathy. She said she found a job she wanted to apply for but they only accepted applications online on an unsecured site. This is a bad idea. Don't fill out the application, Kathy. There are two ways that you can tell if a website is secure or unsecured.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://kutv.com/consumer/local\\_story\\_136191051.html](http://kutv.com/consumer/local_story_136191051.html)

## **TECHNOLOGY**

**46. U.S., Australia Agree to Increase Counterterrorism Cooperation (By Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service, 17 May 2006)**

WASHINGTON – A new agreement between the United States and Australia opens the door to more information sharing and cooperation in research and development related to combating terrorism. Thomas O'Connell, assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low-intensity conflict, and Peter Shergold, Australia's secretary for the

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, today at the Pentagon signed a memorandum of understanding that promotes closer counterterrorism collaboration between the two countries. The MOU provides cost sharing over the next 10 years for combined research and development across technology areas and activities. These will focus on identifying and detecting terrorists and terrorist groups, foiling their efforts, neutralizing their weapons, and reducing the probability of terrorist incidents.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.defenselink.mil/news/May2006/20060517\\_5150.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/May2006/20060517_5150.html)

## RESOURCES

### **47. CRS Views Government Access To Phone Records (Contributed by Steven Aftergood, Federation of American Scientists, [www.fas.org](http://www.fas.org))**

The government's acquisition of telephone records of tens of millions of Americans, as reported last week in USA Today, raises a host of thorny legal issues. In a new report, the Congressional Research Service performed a preliminary assessment of those issues.

"The factual information available in the public domain with respect to any such alleged program is limited and in some instances inconsistent," the CRS authors caution, "and the application, if at all, of any possibly relevant statutory provisions to any such program is likely to be a very fact specific inquiry."

Having said that, the CRS explains that there are several statutes that may be pertinent and that could conceivably entail civil or criminal penalties for telephone companies that provide information to the government without statutory authorization.

"This [CRS] report ...summarize[s] statutory authorities regarding access by the Government, for either foreign intelligence or law enforcement purposes, to information related to telephone calling patterns or practices. Where pertinent, we will also discuss statutory prohibitions against accessing or disclosing such information, along with relevant exceptions to those prohibitions."

The Congressional Research Service does not make its products directly available to the public. But a copy of the latest report was obtained by Secrecy News.

See "Government Access to Phone Calling Activity and Related Records: Legal Authorities," May 17, 2006:

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/intel/RL33424.pdf>

## EVENTS

### **48. Getting a Grasp On Gang Issues – June 1 'Summit' Will Look at Threat, Culture (Washington Post, 18 May 2006)**

Gangs are a growing problem in Maryland, from international networks such as Mara Salvatrucha to loosely affiliated groups selling drugs on street corners, said Maryland

U.S. Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein. His office, along with the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and the Maryland Crime Prevention Association, will sponsor the state's first gang summit next month to bring together law enforcement officials, juvenile justice agents, corrections workers, educators and others to address the issue. The summit will be June 1 in Columbia. At the conference, experts will provide an analysis of gangs in Maryland, and participants will discuss local gang problems and possible solutions. One of the main areas of focus will be public perception.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?A27E4112D>

**49. National Geographic Channel's 'Explorer: Outsmarting Terror' Highlights the Crucial New High-Tech Tactics Intended to Protect Us (PRNewswire, 17 May 2006)**

WASHINGTON - They are an enemy that is elusive and deadly, resilient and implacable. Today's terrorists have incited fear in millions of people by striking where we live, shop, commute, study or work. But can ingenuity and science protect us from an enemy capable of deploying an extreme range of weapons, from low-tech explosives to guided missiles? Will a new generation of defensive technologies be able to outmaneuver terrorists who strive to strike without warning? National Geographic Channel's "Explorer" examines these questions as it investigates the increasingly sophisticated responses to countering terror. Premiering Wednesday, May 31, at 9 p.m. ET/PT, "Explorer: Outsmarting Terror" shows viewers the scientific technologies being developed to combat terror head-on. From jetliners that repel heat-seeking missiles, to devices that rescue survivors from atop skyscrapers, to robots that detect nuclear weapons, counterterrorism experts are fastidiously creating smart new technological approaches to stay one step ahead of the enemy. "Explorer" reports on the advanced technology at the heart of the strategy to successfully track, combat and defeat terrorists - or protect us even after they strike.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060517/dcw042.html?.v=50>

**FULL REPORTS**

**50. United States, Mexico Cooperating To Combat Methamphetamines - Methamphetamine enforcement teams established by both nations (Dept. of State, 18 May 2006)**

Washington - Because Mexican producers of methamphetamines account for much of the product purchased in the United States, U.S. and Mexican authorities will work together to combat this shared problem, says U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.

Speaking May 18 at the National Methamphetamine and Chemicals Initiative Strategy Conference in Dallas, Gonzales outlined the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) recent successes in combating methamphetamine production domestically. He said that even though the U.S. officials can take pride in their success, Mexican labs have replaced the shuttered domestic labs and currently supply approximately 80 percent of the methamphetamines purchased in the United States.

To combat this problem, U.S. and Mexican officials have been working together to craft a strategy, and Gonzales was joined by Mexican Attorney General Daniel Cabeza de Vaca at the conference to announce a number of new initiatives.

These efforts, Gonzales explained, will include the creation of specialized methamphetamine enforcement teams on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. As DEA enforcement teams in the United States will focus on meth traffickers and distributors, their Mexican counterparts will target organizations that manufacture and distribute meth, and will investigate the trafficking of meth precursor chemicals.

Six DEA trucks used in clandestine-lab enforcement operations in the United States have been refurbished and donated for use by the specialized Mexican enforcement team, Gonzales said.

He added that a binational law-enforcement working group also will be created to focus on methamphetamine production and trafficking from both an enforcement and intelligence perspective.

"If we work together, sharing resources and intelligence, the law enforcement agencies of our two countries can better attack the problem at every stage in the production and distribution chain," Gonzales said. "We will work with our Mexican counterparts to trace precursor chemicals destined for our region of the world, uncover and dismantle lab sites fueled by these chemicals, and track the meth distribution trail into our country, from seller to buyer."

As part of an effort to share best practices and implement joint strategies, the DEA's Office of Diversion Control and Mexico's chemical regulatory agency have agreed to exchange personnel, with chemical regulatory experts to be embedded in their counterparts' agency for a specific period of time.

The DEA also will provide training for approximately 1,000 police officers on methodology related to methamphetamine trafficking.

Gonzales applauded U.S. progress in combating meth production domestically, and also praised Mexico's recent progress in combating the importation of meth precursor chemicals. He expressed optimism that the United States and Mexico, working together, will be able to build on their successes.

"We will attack these criminals in their labs, on their trafficking routes, and in their markets," Gonzales said. "These initiatives represent a policy of true mutual cooperation that will put meth use and all its horrors firmly on the road to extinction."

The [full text](#) of Gonzales' remarks, as prepared for delivery, is available on the Justice Department Web site.

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

**51. Indonesia Reports Largest Cluster of Human Bird Flu Cases - Authorities investigate if virus has become contagious among humans (Dept. of State, 18 May 2006)**

Washington - Five members of an extended family in a Sumatran village in Indonesia are dead, victims of the H5N1 strain of avian influenza, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

A sixth family member is ailing with the same condition, and health authorities are calling it the largest cluster of human cases reported to date.

Details of the disease in these family members who lived in neighboring houses have been emerging for days, but WHO issued a statement May 18 confirming the situation and its implications.

The source of exposure to the H5N1 virus, which has killed 122 people worldwide since 2003, is still under investigation in the Sumatran case.

This situation raises the possibility that the virus was passed through contact among the family members, a rare occurrence in the more than two years over which health officials have been tracking the disease. Most human cases have been linked to close contact with sick birds.

H5N1 is considered a dangerous threat to global public health because it could mutate and become contagious among humans, possibly creating a global influenza pandemic.

Health officials have been on the lookout for the emergence of a group of related cases that might mark this mutation in the virus.

The WHO statement does not indicate that the family in Sumatra marks the turning point in which the animal disease epidemic could become a major threat to human health. "Investigators at the outbreak site have found no evidence that infection has spread beyond members of this single extended family," the WHO statement said, noting that other close contacts have not shown signs of illness in the more than two weeks since the first cases appeared in the village family.

"If human-to-human transmission has occurred, it has not been either efficient or sustained," the statement said.

Indonesia has detected 40 human cases of H5N1, 23 of those since January. Thirty-one of the cases have been fatal in Indonesia, which is second only to Vietnam in total human occurrences of this disease.

A specialist from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a member of the team in Kubu Sembelang village attempting to identify precisely the source of infection for this family, according to a spokesman at CDC's Atlanta headquarters.

## BIRD FLU IN NEAR EAST

Egyptian health authorities are reporting another human case of H5N1, its 14th, confirmed by WHO May 18. A 75-year-old woman died from the disease after a weeklong illness. She was exposed to the virus through contact with infected birds. Egypt has detected 14 cases with six fatalities this year, all attributed to direct contact with infected poultry.

Turkey posted a report with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) May 18, indicating that it has been able to contain and end the outbreaks that began among domestic poultry in October 2005. (See [related article](#).)

Through the course of its efforts to contain the animal outbreaks, the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture reported that it had culled 2.5 million birds from December 2005 to April 2006. In human infections, Turkey confirmed 12 human cases with a total of four deaths in January. No additional human cases have been reported.

The [full text](#) of the WHO report on the situation in Indonesia is available on the organization's Web site.

For more information, see [Bird Flu \(Avian Influenza\)](#).

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