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18 May 2007 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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

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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. Deal May Legalize Millions of Immigrants (AP, 17 May 2007)

WASHINGTON - In a striking reach across party lines, the White House and key lawmakers agreed Thursday to reshape the nation's immigration laws and give millions of illegal immigrants legal status. At the same time, borders would be tightened. The compromise brought liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans together with top members of President Bush's team on an issue that carries heavy potential risks and rewards for all involved. The Senate will wade into an emotional and wide-ranging debate on the issue next week that promises to test the unlikely coalition that produced the deal. Almost instantly, the plan brought vehement criticism from both sides of the immigration issue, including liberals who called it unfair and unworkable and conservatives who branded it an overly permissive "amnesty."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20070517/D8P6D6GG1.html>

2. Bush orders agencies to develop emergency operations plans (GovExec.com, 15 May 2007)

President Bush signed a directive last Wednesday outlining a strategy for preparing the federal government to continue running during a national emergency such as a terrorist attack or a natural disaster. In the order - called National Security Presidential Directive 51 and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 20 - Bush designated the assistant to the president for homeland security and counterterrorism as the national continuity

coordinator. Frances Townsend currently holds that position. Bush also ordered the development of a national continuity plan within 90 days. The order revokes the October 1998 Presidential Decision Directive 67 "Enduring Constitutional Government and Continuity of Government Operations," signed by President Clinton.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36884&dcn=e_hsw

3. U.S. wants arsonists sentenced as terrorists (AP, 15 May 2007)

EUGENE, Oregon - The issue of guilt or innocence has already been decided for six men and four women who admitted to involvement in arson fires around the West that did \$40 million in damage. Now the question is: Are they terrorists? Judge Ann Aiken was to hear arguments Tuesday in Eugene on a motion by the government to add a so-called terrorism enhancement to sentencing guidelines. Prosecutors want a federal judge to declare the group terrorists - something defense attorneys argue has never happened in 1,200 arsons nationwide claimed by Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front. Defense attorneys say branding their clients terrorists is more about politics than sentencing. A ruling they are terrorists is not likely to boost the time they spend behind bars, but it could result in their being sent to tougher prisons.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/LAW/05/15/arson.pleas.ap/index.html>

4. DHS Employees Sue TSA over Lost Hard Drive (eWeek, 14 May 2007)

The American Federation of Government Employees is suing the Transportation Security Administration after the TSA lost a hard drive containing employment records for some 100,000 individuals. The union represents employees throughout the Department of Homeland Security, including the TSA. Its class action lawsuit, filed within a day of the TSA announcing the missing hard drive, calls the loss of data a breach of the Privacy Act. The hard drive, which the agency announced was missing on May 7, contains names, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, and payroll and bank account information.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2129790,00.asp>

5. DHS unit fails to fully disclose use of personal information (GovExec.com, 17 May 2007)

The Customs and Border Protection agency has failed to inform the public how personal information collected from international travelers is being used, as required by law, according to a new study. To comply with legal requirements, CBP, a unit of the Homeland Security Department, must complete a series of reports that fully describe the use and protection of personal data collected while prescreening passengers for international flights, the Government Accountability Office reported (GAO-07-346). The current process allows passenger information to be used in multiple prescreening procedures and to be transferred among various CBP systems in ways that are not fully explained in the agency's privacy disclosures, the report said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36944&dcn=e_gvet

6. Union negotiates foreign language pay for customs, border officers (GovExec.com, 17 May 2007)

Customs and Border Protection officers who use their foreign language skills on the job have the opportunity to earn monetary awards equaling up to 5 percent of their base pay, under an agreement reached with a labor union last week. The American Federation of Government Employees' CBP Council 117 reached the agreement with the CBP Office of Field Operations to grant officers the additional pay under the agency's Foreign Language Award Program. CBP also will pay for an officer's exam to test foreign language skills once per year - and for two additional exams per year for languages of special interest. CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36948&dcn=e_gvet

7. TSA Continues to Revise Airline Passenger Screening (by Jim Kouri CPP, 14 May 2007)

The Transportation Security Administration's most visible layer of commercial aviation security is the screening of airline passengers at airport checkpoints, where travelers and their carry-on items are screened for explosives and other dangerous items by transportation security officers. Between April 2005 and December 2005, proposed modifications to passenger checkpoint screening standard operating procedures (SOP) were made for a variety of reasons, and while a majority of the proposed modifications - 48 of 92 - were ultimately implemented at airports, TSA's methods for evaluating and documenting them could be improved. SOP modifications were proposed based on the professional judgment of TSA senior-level officials and program-level staff. TSA considered the daily experiences of airport staff, complaints and concerns raised by the traveling public, and analysis of risks to the aviation system when proposing SOP modifications. TSA also made efforts to balance the impact on security, efficiency, and customer service when deciding which proposed modifications to implement, as in the case of the SOP changes made in response to the alleged August 2006 liquid explosives terrorist plot. In some cases, TSA tested proposed modifications at selected airports to help determine whether the changes would achieve their intended purpose. However, TSA's data collection and analyses could be improved to help TSA determine whether proposed procedures that are operationally tested would achieve their intended purpose. CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.americandaily.com/article/18794>

8. U.S. Air Marshals Flooding German, British Flights (ABC News, 14 May 2007)

As many as five or six U.S. air marshals are now assigned to each U.S.-bound flight from airports in Frankfurt, London and Manchester, England, because of fears terrorists might attempt a coordinated series of mid-air explosions, law enforcement officials tell the Blotter on ABCNews.com. "We're afraid someone in the back is going to mix something or light something up, so air marshals are being placed strategically through the plane," said one senior law enforcement official with direct knowledge of the stepped-up security. The stepped-up security on flights out of Britain's Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester airports began about two weeks ago, based on intelligence reports that another al Qaeda hijacking plot was in the making, the officials said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://blogs.abcnews.com/theblotter/2007/05/us_air_marshals.html

9. Watchdog Eyes Security Clearance Delays (AP, 17 May 2007)

A congressional watchdog agency Thursday reported "quite disturbing" delays in granting top-secret clearance to workers on sensitive jobs undertaken for the government by private industry. A review of more than 2,000 cases in January and February 2006 showed it took an average of 446 days, or about 15 months, for first-time clearances, Derek B. Stewart, a senior official at the Government Accountability Office told a Senate homeland security subcommittee. Under a 2004 law, Stewart said in testifying and in an interview, the clearances should be completed within 120 days.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=116&sid=1143525>

10. Schools fall short in preparing for emergencies (AP, 17 May 2007)

WASHINGTON - When it comes to preparing for emergencies, the nation's schools could be getting better grades. While most school districts have plans for dealing with emergencies such as terrorist attacks, hurricanes or flu pandemics, those plans often fall short of what is needed, according to an analysis by the congressional Government Accountability Office.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/EDUCATION/05/17/school.safety.ap/index.html>

11. Mexican official calls on U.S. to control cross-border arms smuggling (AP, 16 May 2007)

MEXICO CITY - A top Mexican anti-drug official said the United States must do more to stop weapons from being smuggled into the hands of drug traffickers who are using them to kill Mexican soldiers and police. Mexican authorities are facing gunfire from increasingly well-armed traffickers and officials say the vast majority of the weapons are smuggled from the United States. Assistant Secretary of Public Safety Patricio Patino made a fresh appeal Tuesday for U.S. authorities to cut off the supply.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/world/4808393.html>

12. Canada: Cameras to counter potential terrorism on West Coast Express (Victoria Times Colonist, 15 May 2007)

TransLink is to install closed circuit television cameras in stations to counter the threat of a terrorist attack on the West Coast Express. "Recent terrorist attacks on the London and Madrid transit systems highlight the need for enhanced security of TransLink's commuter rail transportation systems," TransLink said. "The significant role of CCTV in investigating the London terrorist attacks has highlighted the potential for CCTV to augment counter-terrorism strategies." TransLink plans to install CCTV cameras to protect West Coast Express passengers. TransLink is looking for a consultant to estimate the cost of the security upgrade at the eight West Coast Express stations, but Ottawa security expert Scott Newark said cameras alone might not be enough to reduce the risk. "There have been many more attacks on mass transit than there have been on air flights,"

said Newark, director of operations for the National Security Group and former policy adviser to the minister of public safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yo764z>

13. South Korea: Industrial espionage causes 95.9 trillion won in damages (Yonhap, 17 May 2007)

SEOUL - There were 92 cases of corporate espionage in the 2003-06 period, causing 95.9 trillion won in financial damages to South Korea, a lawmaker claimed Thursday. Citing a compilation of data from the National Intelligence Service, Rep. Chung Doo-un of the Grand National Party said the damages were almost four times larger than the 26 trillion won in losses stemming from industrial technology leaks in the 1998-2003 period.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2r59zv>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

14. AZ: Potentially Dangerous Loot Stolen From UA (KOLD News, 15 May 2007)

The University Of Arizona Police Department is investigating a burglary at the U of A Materials Laboratory, located at 4717 East Fort Lowell. A one pound can of lithium rods was discovered missing along with other items from the office complex area. The lithium rods were stored in a room where unknown persons gained access. Lithium is a highly reactive metal used in chemical research. The lithium is packaged in a sealed metal container surrounded by argon, an inert gas. The container is silver and marked "Lithium Metal" UN 1415. There is a sticker on the container with other information. There are no other markings.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=6519663>

15. CA: Smuggling tunnels get plugged with concrete (El Universal, 17 May 2007)

SAN DIEGO - Workers poured concrete into the largest tunnel under the U.S.-Mexico border Tuesday as U.S. authorities began an effort to fill subterranean passages that were created to funnel drugs into the United States. Five California tunnels and two tunnels in Arizona will be filled in over the next two months in an attempt to permanently close off pipelines that smugglers had managed to reuse after border authorities discovered them. The tunnel-filling project comes three months after the Los Angeles Times reported that the tunnels had not been filled in, largely because of jurisdictional issues and a lack of funding. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security provided US\$2.7 million after U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (Dem.-California) demanded the tunnels be closed, calling them a national security risk.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/miami/24636.html>

16. CA: Airport Security's Secret Weapon - Explosive Detection Systems (KABC-TV, 16 May 2007)

BURBANK - Airports are known for loud planes, heavy luggage and eternally long lines. "You have to be positive," said one passenger. Positive that all those lines seem to cause the most anxiety. And the ever-increasing queues of travelers have been running out of room thanks to arrival of the EDS machines - Explosive Detection Systems. But it's getting harder these days to find the baggage-scanning equipment at Burbank's Bob Hope Airport. For most of the airlines there, it's old school. No schlepping your bags down to the scanner; they just get tossed onto the belt behind the ticket counter. Those conveyor belts lead deep into the bowels of the Burbank Airport, underneath the terminal. That is where you're going to find the EDS machine. There are four of them. They're about the size of a mini-van, and they cost about a million dollars apiece.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=local&id=5312558>

17. FL: Testimony Begins in US Terrorism Trial (Voice of America, 15 May 2007)

Prosecutors opened their case against Jose Padilla in a federal court house in Miami this week, five years after the alleged al-Qaida recruit was first detained by U.S. authorities. They say one key piece of evidence is a form signed by Padilla to join a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan. They called their first witnesses early Tuesday, an FBI agent and a CIA official who helped obtain the document from a source in Afghanistan. Padilla is standing trial with two other men who are accused of operating a terrorist cell in south Florida which recruited people to fight alongside Islamic extremists in other countries. Defense attorneys say the men had no link to al-Qaida and only sought to aid Muslims who were being attacked in places like Chechnya and Kosovo in the 1990s.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2007-05-15-voa66.cfm>

18. IL: Reporter Exposes Realities Of Airport Security (CBS, 16 May 2007)

CHICAGO Just how good is security at U.S. airports, and are overworked screeners failing at their jobs? Author Barbara Peterson decided to find out. She went undercover as a screener-in-training at an East Coast airport and spent two months as a Transportation Security Administration employee.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://cbs2chicago.com/specialreports/local_story_136215320.html

19. IL: IPLAN officially approved by state (Review Atlas, 16 May 2007)

MONMOUTH - The Warren County Health Department received the official letter from the State of Illinois that the IPLAN has been approved. Administrator Jenna Link shared this milestone of information to the health board Tuesday evening at the regular board meeting. The next step for the health department is to become certified and that will take place in June with the state conducting the certification process.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.reviewatlas.com/articles/2007/05/16/news/news1.txt>

20. MD: Street Lockdowns Proposed for Baltimore (AP, 17 May 2007)

A city council leader, alarmed by Baltimore's rising homicide rate, wants to give the mayor the power to put troubled neighborhoods under virtual lockdown. "Desperate

measures are needed when we're in desperate situations," City Council Vice President Robert W. Curran told The (Baltimore) Sun. He said he would introduce the legislation next week. Under Curran's plan, the mayor could declare "public safety act zones," which would allow police to close liquor stores and bars, limit the number of people on city sidewalks, and halt traffic during two-week intervals. Police would be encouraged to aggressively stop and frisk individuals in those zones to search for weapons and drugs. Baltimore has tallied 108 homicides already this year, compared to 98 over the same period last year. Police and prosecutors also say they are facing a "stop snitching" culture that discourages victims and witnesses from cooperating with investigators trying to get criminals off the streets.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=1143164>

21. MI: Faster luggage scans in Detroit (Star Tribune, 16 May 2007)

ROMULUS, MICH. - Detroit Metropolitan Airport and Northwest Airlines are spending nearly \$30 million on a new system that will whisk luggage through high-speed explosive-detection devices.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.startribune.com/535/story/1188491.html>

22. NJ: Calls to counterterrorism line increase after Fort Dix plot is foiled (AP, 16 May 2007)

TRENTON, New Jersey: Calls to New Jersey's counterterrorism tip line more than doubled in the week after authorities said they stopped a plot to kill soldiers at Fort Dix. A tip from vigilant store clerks led to the arrests of six men authorities said were conspiring to kill military personnel. The FBI said it learned of the young Muslims after workers from a Circuit City store became alarmed at the content of a video one man brought in for duplication in January 2006. The tip line received 65 calls from May 8-14, the week beginning the day after authorities arrested the men. The line got just 30 calls from May 1-7. The government says the men, all foreign-born but longtime U.S. residents, had weapons training in the area and were trying to buy arms to carry out the attack. Five of the six could face life in prison; the other man faces up to 10 years. All six are being held without bail. Lawyers for the men say they will plead innocent.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/283sul>

23. NC: Tight Security at State Port (WECT, 15 May 2007)

WILMINGTON - Security is tighter than normal this week around the State Port in Wilmington. It's part of a training exercise. Throughout the day, members of the National Guard have been arriving at the port where they will camp out this week. The group will train for potential security threats at the port. Employees will be involved to help make the scenario as real as possible. Officials say the training is a group effort.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wect.com/Global/story.asp?S=6513067&nav=2gQc>

24. NC: Governor says Guard ill-prepared for crises at home (Megan Scully, CongressDaily, 15 May 2007)

Faced with a worsening readiness crisis, the National Guard is ill-prepared to handle "no-notice" disasters, such as the tornado that struck Greensburg, Kan., just over a week ago, North Carolina Democratic Gov. Mike Easley said Monday. During a conference call with reporters, Easley also said many state Guard units would have difficulty responding to hurricanes larger than a Category 3 storm without the immediate assistance of nearby states. The North Carolina National Guard, for instance, has roughly 55 percent of its equipment on hand - up about 30 percent since February, said Easley, the National Governors Association's co-leader for National Guard issues. But many other state Guard units, including the Maryland National Guard, have reported missing far more than half of their equipment.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36909&dcn=e_hsw

25. OH: National Guard training mission (13abc.com, 17 May 2007)

Members of the National Guard are finishing the final scenarios in the largest training mission in U.S. history. About 600 Ohio National Guardsmen were part of 3,000 troops at the mission. With so many military resources fighting overseas, this was a chance to see how prepared we are for an attack at home. The Army Chinook helicopter flies over Iraq, but on a day of training, Ohio responders and some of Toledo's best-trained soldiers are preparing for the toughest tests they have ever faced. Captain Thomas Smith says, "This is about homeland security and homeland defense." Their mission: respond to a simulated nuclear attack in Indianapolis, from discovering where the bomb exploded, to saving hundreds of thousands of victims. 13abc saw it all happen at Camp Muscatatuck. The army spent a year and a half preparing this training base to simulate the Indianapolis skyline.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abclocal.go.com/wtv/story?section=local&id=5312619>

26. OH: Anyone in airport subject to security (The Columbus Dispatch, 16 May 2007)

John Malabad swiped his card and punched in a few numbers yesterday to unlock a door that lets airport employees into a secure area of Port Columbus. Once through the door, he was confronted by two Transportation Security Administration officers who checked his identification to make sure he was authorized to be inside Concourse B. "You really can't get in or out of this terminal without an eyeball watching you," said Malabad, who works for the Columbus Regional Airport Authority's airline services. Most of the attention given to airport security involves passengers on their way to board planes. But airport employees, vendors and contractors who work there also are subject to scrutiny by security officers. In March, two airline baggage handlers at Orlando International Airport were arrested after allegedly using their airport identification cards to enter restricted areas, bypass screeners and carry a bag containing guns and drugs onto a commercial flight.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2myah8>

27. TX: Hundreds of Illegals Have Registered to Vote in Bexar County (WOAI, 16 May 2007)

Hundreds of illegal immigrants have registered to vote in Bexar County in recent years and dozens of them have actually cast ballots, canceling out the votes of U.S. citizens, 1200 WOAI news will report Thursday morning. Figures obtained by 1200 WOAI news shows 303 illegals successfully registered to vote, and at least 41 cast ballots in various elections. Bexar County Elections Administrator Jackie Callanan confirmed the figures, but she says a new form of voter registration card, which requires people to swear they are citizens when they register, should help cut the problem, because people who vote illegally can be charged with perjury.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

28. TX: Groups fight Texas town immigration rule (Business Week, 17 May 2007)

Opponents of a voter-approved ordinance banning landlords from renting apartments to most illegal immigrants asked a court Wednesday to halt its enforcement, alleging the law is unconstitutional. The federal filing was the third injunction request seeking to stop enforcement of the law voters approved Saturday in the Dallas suburb of Farmers Branch. The latest filing alleges the regulation is too vague and denies apartment owners and managers due process.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D8P64FPG0.htm>

GANG ACTIVITY

29. AZ: Human Smuggling Ring Leader Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison (by Jim Kouri, 16 May 2007)

The developer and leader of one of the largest and most lucrative human smuggling organizations on the Southern border was sentenced to 10 years in prison. U.S. District Court Judge Solomon Oliver sentenced Manuel Valdez-Gomez, 54, to 120 months in prison. Part of Valdez-Gomez' sentence includes forfeiting properties located in the Phoenix, Ariz. area, proceeds from un-cashed money orders, a hotel and restaurant located in Nogales, Mexico, and a number of firearms and ammunition. The value of the forfeited cash and properties totals about \$3 million. ICE agents revealed that Valdez-Gomez operated an alien smuggling organization, initially assisted by relatives. Later he expanded the operation to include non-relatives who assisted him with fee arrangements to smuggle aliens into the United States. The co-conspirators used safe houses under their control and operated by Jesus Sosa-Ortiz, Jaime Hernandez-Ornelas, J. Santana Hernandez-Gomez and others, to temporarily situate aliens who had been escorted across the border from Mexico to Nogales, Arizona.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.theconservativevoice.com/article/25156.html>

30. CA: Welfare-to-work program was target of fraud (LA Daily News, 13 May 2007)

Lana Michael and her husband collected welfare benefits in 2003, claiming they earned less than \$24,000. But authorities say Michael, the former office manager of a job-training center for immigrant welfare recipients, also owned a liquor store and recycling business. And, authorities say, she drove a \$76,000 luxury car, shopped at Neiman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue and had \$147,980 stashed in her bedroom dresser. "She was living a very lavish lifestyle," Deputy District Attorney Juliet Schmidt said. "She went on trips to Europe. She was driving a brand-new BMW 740 IL." Lana Michael, 34, also known as Svetlana Djangarian, is scheduled to be sentenced June 8 in what authorities say was a \$1 million fraud targeting welfare-to-work programs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_5889806

31. CA: City coping with surge of gang violence (sgvtribune.com, 16 May 2007)

PASADENA - Police announced late Monday the arrests of "several" men for a shooting last week at a liquor store on East Orange Grove Boulevard, but declined to release the names of those arrested. As concern over growing gang violence in the city continues, community members and officials kept a watch on neighborhood safety following a spate of shootings and stabbings that left two dead and three wounded last week. The arrests were made in connection with a shooting May 7 at about 11:30 p.m. at the Super Liquor and Mart in the 100 block of East Orange Grove Boulevard. Community members and officials continued seeking answers for the recent violence over the weekend. "We have to recognize this problem and see it for what it is," said Davilena O'Connor, a longtime resident who said she planned to air her concerns before Monday evening's City Council meeting.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.sgvtribune.com/ci_5896216?source=most_emailed

32. FL: Sixth robbery linked to BIB gang (Sun-Herald, 17 May 2007)

A home invasion robbery in which the robbers posed as Jehovah's Witnesses is the sixth incident to be linked to the BIB - or "Back in Business" - gang, according to the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. Three of the gang's seven alleged members - Robert Anthony Ortiz, 27, and Steven Michael Wong, 25, both of Port Charlotte, and Michael Ryan Moroney, 26, of Sarasota - received one new count of home invasion robbery for allegedly participating in a robbery on Belinda Avenue on Nov. 13, 2006. According to a CCSO report, the three went to a house wearing black and carrying Bibles. When the resident asked what they were doing, the report said, the alleged robbers told him they were Jehovah's Witnesses. The resident asked them to go away.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/322wd8>

33. GA: Perry police in beginning phase of targeting gang activity (macon.com, 17 May 2007)

PERRY - The Perry Department of Public Safety has plotted a proactive approach to gang activity. Three months ago, the police agency created the position of gang investigator and filled it with Sgt. Brian Emmons. Emmons made a presentation on the growth of gang activity in Perry to the City Council at its work session Tuesday. "We are

seeing gang signs in the third grade at Tucker Elementary in school pictures," the officer said. George Potter, director of public safety, said part of the problem is that parents are unaware of what their children are doing.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.macon.com/197/story/43520.html>

34. MA: 37 Gang Members Charged in Boston (The Conservative Voice, 17 May 2007)

State and federal law enforcement authorities today unsealed narcotics charges against 37 members and associates of the New Bedford Chapter of the Almighty Latin King/Queen Nation Street Gang ("Latin Kings"), including many in leadership positions.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.theconservativevoice.com/article/25168.html>

35. NJ: GANG ECONOMICS: Arson-murder trial offers look inside Trenton gang finances (Trentonian, 16 May 2007)

TRENTON - The topic of gang economics was brought up yesterday during the testimony of the Bounty Hunter Bloods second in command who said he passed on orders from "big homie" Dewan "Gully Boy" Dennis to have firebombs tossed into Rasheen Glover's house in 2005.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3y8kn5>

36. NY: Two members of Syracuse gang sentenced to life without parole (Newsday.com, 16 May 2007)

SYRACUSE, N.Y. - Two members of a Syracuse street gang that dealt crack cocaine and had a deadly turf rivalry with another city gang have been sentenced in federal court to life in prison without parole. Three other members of the Elk Block Gang convicted on racketeering charges in December face sentencing over the next several days, federal prosecutors said. Eleven others had pleaded guilty to racketeering counts involving drug trafficking, witness tampering, murder and attempted murder in Syracuse from 1995 through 2005. On Tuesday, William Robinson, 25, was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. Prosecutors said Robinson murdered Delmar Everson in 2003, shooting him four times in the ongoing feud with the Boot Camp Gang.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2ugkf9>

37. NC: Officers learn new techniques to fight gang (WCNC, 15 May 2007)

Law enforcement officials are working to learn new techniques to battle a growing gang threat in North Carolina. Law officers from across the country attended a conference in El Salvador three weeks ago so they could learn more about the MS-13 gang. Officers and agents from New York, Los Angeles and Chicago attended the conference along with those from North Carolina. North Carolina had the largest contingent of officers with representatives from Charlotte-Mecklenburg police, the FBI, ICE agent and deputies and other officers from rural parts of North Carolina.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/38kkmj>

38. TX: 20 People Indicted Following Illegal Gambling Raid (NewsChannel 11, 16 May 2007)

Twenty people were indicted Tuesday after a string of 8 liner raids in Lubbock back in March. The charges stem from an investigation of illegal gambling in some game rooms. A NewsChannel 11 undercover investigation back in 2003 found that some 8-liners operations were giving out cash prizes. The machines are legal, as long as patrons are not given cash or prizes worth more than five dollars. In this case, 20 suspects ranging in age from 19 to 62 were arrested.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kcbd.com/Global/story.asp?S=6527232>

39. WA: Yakima County town considers new anti-gang tack: Make them illegal (Yakima Herald-Republic, 16 May 2007)

SUNNYSIDE, Yakima County - With the city attorney declaring "a state of crisis," the city is poised to become the first place in Washington where it is illegal to be in a gang. The City Council on Monday voiced support for an ordinance that would make gang membership or participation in any "gang-related activity" a gross misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail. The council may take a vote next Monday. Modeled on a statewide California law that makes gang membership a crime, the ordinance defines a "criminal street gang" as a group of three or more people that has identifiable leadership or an identifiable name, sign or symbol and continually "conspires or acts in concert mainly for criminal purposes."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2003708751_sunmyside16m.html

40. Canada: Gang violence under fire at RCMP centre (The Progress, 15 May 2007)

The RCMP training centre in Chilliwack is helping keep gang violence and other kinds of international crime at bay far from Canada's shores. While 25 prosecutors from Central America and Mexico learned RCMP crime-fighting techniques during an intensive five-week course at the centre, they also passed along invaluable information to B.C.'s task force on gangs. And the training program is just the start of similar partnerships aimed at stemming the tide of international crime. "Don't wait for (the gangs) to come here before you start to fight them," Alvaro Matus, Guatemala's chief prosecutor, warned Friday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

41. 5 Mexican Police, 15 Gang Members Killed in Northern Mexico (Voice of America, 17 May 2007)

Mexican officials say police have killed 15 gang members in a shootout after gunmen kidnapped and killed four police officers. Officials say Wednesday's violence began when 40 armed men drove into the town of Cananea in the northwestern state of Sonora and seized four policemen. The gang members later shot the officers and dumped their bodies by the side of a road. Authorities say Mexican police chased the gunmen to a

mountainous area and killed 15 of them in a gun battle. A fifth policeman was killed in the fighting. Police freed four other people held captive by the armed group.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2007-05-17-voa12.cfm>

42. Bulgaria: Heroin for 5 Million EUR Caught in Lesovo Check-Point (news.bg, 17 May 2007)

Customs inspectors in Lesovo border check (Southern-Eastern Bulgaria) seized in a joint operation with Combating Organized Crime Directorate, 127 packs of heroin on the total amount of 10 million BGN (5 million EUR). The heroin was found in the spare tyres of a motor vehicle with Bulgarian registration coming from Turkey. The check up was conducted with a custom dog that reacted positive to the tyres. In the cabin also was found Bulgarian citizen who illegally was crossing the border. After the check up in the man were found 6,200 EUR cash.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://international.ibox.bg/news/id_1531616827

43. Korea: Organized Crime Mushrooms (Chosun, 17 May 2007)

The number of organized gangs has grown 18 percent from five years ago, according to data obtained by a lawmaker Wednesday. There are now 222 criminal gangs with 5,269 members. Korea's biggest crime syndicate is the Gyeonggi-based Cheongha Wiseang-pa with 76 members. According to police data submitted to Grand National Party lawmaker Kim Gi-hyun, 23 criminal organizations with 500 members in Seoul and 24 gang organizations with 349 members in the southern port city of Busan are on the police supervision list. But Gyeonggi Province is home to the most criminal rings with no fewer than 29 gangs with 910 mobsters, including the nation's three biggest. The famous Sobang-pa syndicate, whose boss Kim Tae-chon recently made headlines over accusations that he tried to force the actor Kwon Sang-woo to meet with Japanese fans, has only 12 members on the list.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://english.chosun.com/w21data/html/news/200705/200705170022.html>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

44. AL: Birmingham Police seize 7 kilos of cocaine in traffic stop (Everything Alabama, 16 May 2007)

Birmingham Police this morning announced the seizure of 7 kilos of cocaine and the arrest of two men from a Tuesday morning traffic stop on Interstate 20/59. Captain Michael Fisher, head of the department's vice and narcotics division, said the cocaine has a street value of \$175,000. The men whose identities were not released, have been arrested, but not charged. They are being held in the Birmingham City Jail, Fisher said. The drugs were discovered in hidden compartments during a traffic stop after the men were pulled over for speeding in a 1995 Buick Park Avenue. They were near the 1st Avenue North exit on I-20/59 and said they were en route to Atlanta from Dallas.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2007/05/birmingham_police_seize_7_kilo.html

45. AZ: \$1 million in cocaine seized (Yuma Sun, 16 May 2007)

Roughly \$1 million in cocaine was seized at the San Luis port of entry Monday morning, and a 39-year-old man was arrested in connection with the failed smuggling attempt. At around 5:15 a.m., U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers were screening vehicles and drivers entering the U.S. at the port of entry. They further examined a 1997 Dodge Stratus and the driver, a 39-year-old man from San Luis Rio Colorado, Son., after discrepancies were discovered in the vehicle during the initial inspection. During the second inspection, officers discovered a compartment built into the trunk with packages of cocaine hidden inside. The officers removed 20 packages, weighing 54 pounds, from the compartment. The narcotics and vehicle were seized for evidence and the driver, a Mexican citizen, was arrested and turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agents. Estimate street value of the cocaine is around \$1 million.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.yumasun.com/news/cocaine_34068_article.html/million_officers.html

46. CA: Million\$ In Cocaine, Pot, Seized At Border (NBC San Diego, 15 May 2007)

SAN DIEGO - Customs and Border Protection Officers announced three significant drug busts at the border in recent days, resulting in the seizure of almost \$34 million in narcotics. On Sunday, officers at the San Ysidro crossing said they discovered 203 packages of marijuana in the floor compartment of a commercial bus. The driver, a 47-year-old man from Mexico City, Mexico, was arrested and is awaiting federal drug smuggling charges, according to customs officials. The pot is valued at about \$3.6 million. In the second bust, officers at the Calexico East border station said a narcotics dog led them to discover 216 pounds of cocaine hidden in a car.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/13326910/detail.html>

47. FL: Coast Guard cocaine find breaks record (Earthtimes.org, 15 May 2007)

TAMPA, Fla., May 15 The U.S. Coast Guard seized a record-breaking 3,800 gallons of liquid cocaine from a fishing boat in the Eastern Pacific, a prosecutor in Florida said. The cocaine was aboard an Ecuadorian fishing vessel, the Emperador, with a crew of 16 Ecuadorians and one Colombian, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph K. Ruddy, who oversees the Tampa, Fla.-based "Operation Panama Express" international investigation of Colombian drug trafficking, The Tampa Tribune reported. The Colombian, Javier Perdomo-Reyes, will be tried in Tampa, while Ecuador will prosecute the other crewmembers, Ruddy said. After finding the liquid cocaine on April 25, the Coast Guard took the ship and its suspicious load to Ecuador for testing, Ruddy said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/63009.html>

48. MD: Howard High School counselor charged with cocaine possession (Baltimore Sun, 17 May 2007)

A 62-year-old guidance counselor at Howard High School in Ellicott City was arrested yesterday and charged with having crack cocaine in his vehicle in the school parking lot, according to Howard County police. Police received a tip on a drug hot line alleging that

Alan Silberman, a 35-year veteran of Howard County schools from Owings Mills, was a drug user, said Sherry Llewellyn, a spokeswoman for police. Detectives took a dog to the parking lot to check Silberman's vehicle about 1:30 p.m., and the dog alerted police, Llewellyn said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/364q3z>

49. TX: Agent seize cocaine at customs checkpoint (Caller-Times, 16 May 2007)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents seized about \$435,200 worth of cocaine on Friday at the Sarita checkpoint after authorities found 13.6 pounds of the drug in the dashboard of a sedan. A dog alerted authorities to inspect the sedan, a Border Protection news release said. Agents found five bundles of a white, powdery substance that later tested positive for cocaine, the release said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.caller.com/news/2007/may/16/no-headline---areascoop/>

50. Mexico border drug battle kills 22 (Reuters, 17 May 2007)

The bloodiest gunfight in Mexico's 5-month-old offensive against drug gangs killed 22 people, including five policemen, officials said on Thursday. Shooting broke out Wednesday in Sonora state, just south of Arizona, when state police backed by helicopters and soldiers swooped on a ranch where up to 50 heavily armed drug hitmen were holding abducted police officers and civilians, the state government said in a statement. The police and army killed said they killed 15 members of the drug gang in the five-hour clash. The rest fled into the wilderness surrounding the huge Cananea copper mine, where they were being hunted by hundreds of police.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSN1734222920070517>

51. Guyana: \$100M cocaine found in fish -four men held (Stabroek Newws, 17 May 2007)

The Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU) yesterday made its largest cocaine bust in recent times at a house at Enterprise, East Coast Demerara where it unearthed 106.5 kilogrammes of cocaine, said to be worth \$100 million stashed in dried fish. Four men - a businessman, two fishermen, and a trader - who were at the house during the raid were arrested. They are likely to be charged shortly. A CANU official said that when the team swooped on the house at 185 Charlotte Street, Enterprise around 11.30 am, the men were sitting around having lunch. The cocaine, which was already neatly compressed in plastic and wrapped in what is called "fish glue" was drying in the sun.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article_general_news?id=56520407

52. Cannabis cash 'funds Islamist terrorism' (The Observer, 13 May 2007)

Cannabis smokers are unwittingly funding Islamist extremists linked to terror attacks in Spain, Morocco and Algeria, according to a joint investigation by the Spanish and French secret services. The finding will be seized on both by campaigners for a harsher clampdown on cannabis and by those who argue that legalisation is the only way to end a

petty dealing trend that is dragging growing numbers of teenagers into crime. The investigation by the Centro Nacional de Inteligencia and the Renseignements Generaux was launched after Spanish police found that the Islamists behind the March 2004 bombings in Madrid bought their explosives from former miners in return for blocks of hashish. The bombings claimed 191 lives.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/world/story/0,,2078419,00.html>

53. Saudi Arabia beheads two Pakistanis convicted of drug smuggling (AP, 17 May 2007)

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia: Saudi authorities on Thursday beheaded two Pakistani men convicted of drug smuggling, the Interior Ministry said in two separate statements carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. The first statement said Ghani Kol Hadrat was arrested while picking up a large quantity of hashish that had been smuggled in a shipment of wood into the kingdom. The second statement said Liaqet Ali Alf Kol was found guilty of bringing heroin into the kingdom. Both men were executed in Riyadh's Wadi al-Dawasser area.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/05/17/africa/ME-GEN-Saudi-Beheadings.php>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

54. TSA breach prompts call for new data protection measure (GovExec.com, 15 May 2007)

The head of the House panel that oversees the Transportation Security Administration - the most recent agency to experience a significant data breach - said Friday that legislation is needed to protect personal information held by the government. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, chairwoman of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection, said the legislation would focus on procedures for protecting sensitive data and penalties for those who do not follow them. "We want our enemies to know, because there has been a lot of discussion about breaches of security, that we are vigilant and diligent and that this is not an issue that will be covered up," Jackson Lee said. "This will be an issue that is thoroughly investigated and this is not an indication that we are vulnerable to our enemies."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36896&dcn=e_hsw

55. Online Gang War Rages At The Expense Of Computer Users Worldwide (All Headline News, 17 May 2007)

Moscow, Russia - Anti-virus firm Kaspersky has identified online gangs that are waging war against each other at the expense of computer users worldwide. Kaspersky, in a security bulletin, said its engineers have identified online gangs that are competing against each other to see who could launch the biggest Internet attack. The firm said the groups engaged in this online gang war produce the Warezov and Zhelatin viruses.

"Taking into account the size of the botnets used by both groups, and their clear aim to

conduct a large number of attacks, this (gang war) is threatening to become one of the most serious problems on the Internet in recent years," bulletin said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7007370861>

TECHNOLOGY

56. Homeland Security data-sharing systems criticized (Winter Casey, National Journal's Technology Daily, 15 May 2007)

The U.S. homeland security information-sharing structure was criticized Thursday by witnesses at a House subcommittee hearing - with the failure to integrate existing communications systems being singled out as a major culprit. Testimony before the Homeland Security Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk Assessment Subcommittee primarily focused on the Regional Information Sharing Systems, known as RISS, and the Homeland Security Information Network, or HSIN. The latter is a computer-based counter-terrorism system designed to connect all 50 states. "I think we'd be living in a dream world if we believed that the HSIN is anywhere near where it needs to be," declared full committee Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36888&dcn=e_hsw

57. Devices to detect radiation in cargo face scrutiny (Chris Strohm, National Journal's Technology Daily, 15 May 2007)

A bipartisan group of lawmakers wants the Government Accountability Office to audit the Homeland Security Department's plan to spend more than \$1 billion on new radiation-detection technology for scanning cargo and containers entering the United States. The lawmakers behind the appeal include: Connecticut independent Joseph Lieberman, chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss.; panel ranking Republican Peter King of New York; and House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Henry Waxman, D-Calif. On Monday, they asked GAO to review the department's program for testing and buying advanced spectroscopic portal radiation monitors. The department announced last summer that contracts totaling about \$1.15 billion over five years were awarded to Canberra Industries, Raytheon and the Thermo Electron Company to develop and deploy the new ASP monitors. Raytheon and Thermo Electron are headquartered in Waltham, Mass. Canberra Industries is based in Meriden, Conn.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36933&dcn=e_hsw

58. Federal ID card standards draw harsh criticism (GovExec.com, 15 May 2007)

Standards proposed by the Homeland Security Department for secure drivers licenses and identification cards issued by all 50 states are drawing fire from state officials. The regulations, mandated by the 2005 Real ID Act, could end up posing a threat to personal and national security, said the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators and the California Department of Motor Vehicles in comments on the proposed rules.

They said that under the new system, counterfeiters would only need to concentrate on one license standard, rather than 50. The Real ID Act also requires that states provide other states with access to their databases, which the California DMV said could result in an interconnected virtual database of the 242 million driver's licenses in the country that would be a prime target for hackers and criminals.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36863&dcn=e_hsw

RESOURCES

59. CA: Agroterrorism Training Program Awarded Federal Certification (UC Davis, 16 May 2007)

An agroterrorism training program, developed and pilot-tested by UC Davis' Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, has been certified for use throughout the nation by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The program is designed to introduce the concepts of agroterrorism to both agricultural industry leaders and workers who are on the frontline of food production and processing. These are the employees who work directly with animals, equipment, processing systems and food products in positions throughout the food continuum, from farms to grocery stores and restaurants.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=8166

OPPORTUNITIES

60. DoD Announces Pilot Language Corps (DoD, 8 May 2007)

The Department of Defense announces the implementation of a pilot "The Language Corps" over the next three years. The pilot Corps will include no fewer than 1,000 members drawn from all sectors of the U.S. population. Members will have the opportunity to join a dedicated pool or a national pool of linguists.

The Language Corps, formerly the Civilian Linguist Reserve Corps, represents a vital new approach to address the nation's needs for professionals with language skills. This is an integral component of the Defense Department's comprehensive language roadmap and the President's National Security Language Initiative.

"The department is confident that a successful Language Corps will not only address gaps in federal preparedness, but also serve to reinforce the importance of language skills in the American population and the U.S. education system," said Gail McGinn, deputy under secretary of defense for plans.

The corps will be an entirely civilian organization managed by the DoD for the federal sector composed of members who will voluntarily join and renew their membership.

The national pool will consist of a larger national data base of volunteer members with certified language skills who may be available for activation for federal service during times of war, national emergency or other national needs.

The dedicated pool will be comprised of a smaller number of members who will have contractual arrangements with dedicated federal sponsors and who agree to perform specific responsibilities and duties and serve a specific number of days per year. Selected members of the pools will be involved in activation exercises during the second and third years of the pilot effort. These activation exercises will involve DoD, the intelligence community, and other federal organizations.

FULL REPORTS

61. Answers to the Frequently Asked Questions regarding the TSA Employee Data Security Incident (TSA)

The Transportation Security Administration discovered May 3 that an external hard drive is missing from a secured area, thus possibly compromising sensitive identity, financial, and personal information for some 100,000 TSA employees, including federal air marshals. This report offers a comprehensive review of the incident and what to do.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.tsa.gov/datasecurity/faqs.shtm#2>

62. Cybereye | Another week, another leak (Opinion by William Jackson, Government Computer News, 14 May 2007)

This time it is the Transportation Security Administration, which earlier this month noticed that an external hard drive containing the personnel records of 100,000 current and former employees from 2002 to 2005 had gone missing. As of this writing, nobody knows what happened to it and the disappearance is being treated as a criminal investigation.

One of the first things that struck me about this story was that the TSA, which has about 50,000 employees, had managed to accumulate personnel records on at least 100,000 people. That indicates a 100 percent turnover in its workforce in a little more than three years. Apparently, the agency is not likely to end up on anyone's list of best places to work any time soon. Or maybe they offer a really great early severance package.

But more to the point, the incident reinforces the need for agencies to protect IT systems and the data they contain. It has been said before, but apparently it needs saying again. Since the beginning of this year, agencies have reported 11 incidents (including the most recent loss) of the theft, loss or exposure of personal data for at least 660,000 people, according to a chronology maintained by the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. The data was kept on tapes, hard drives and up to 100 missing laptops; posted on Web sites and printed on envelopes.

We know of these incidents because it has become standard practice for agencies to alert the persons who might be affected by such losses, resulting in effect in public disclosure. As far as this goes, it is a good thing.

“You don’t want to punish them for the disclosure,” said Pam Johnston, a former federal prosecutor who managed prosecution of computer intrusion cases as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. She now is in private practice with Foley and Lardner LLP in Los Angeles. “What concerns me more is that data was being kept on an external drive.”

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/44273-1.html

63. U.S. Treasury Hails Toppling of Colombian Drug Empires - Department reports drug traffickers being brought to justice in Colombia (By Eric Green, USINFO Staff Writer, 16 May 2007)

Washington – A new U.S. Treasury Department report credits American-Colombian cooperation with destroying drug-trafficking cartels in Colombia.

The report says the United States is using economic sanctions against major Colombian drug-trafficking organizations to disrupt and dismantle the groups’ “business empires.” The report blames these illicit groups for much of the crime, violence and corruption that threaten the country’s stability, and describes the U.S. government’s targeting of leaders of Colombia’s Cali, North Valle, and North Coast drug cartels.

Molly Millerwise, the Treasury Department’s public affairs director, told *USINFO* May 15 that her agency’s Office of Foreign Assets Control, in partnership with the U.S. departments of State, Justice and Homeland Security, is denying drug lords and their businesses access to the U.S. financial sector. The disruption of the Colombian drug cartels, she said, is part of overall U.S. success in toppling the financial empires of drug cartels worldwide.

The United States, said Millerwise, “is committed to dismantling the operations of drug cartels by exposing, isolating, and incapacitating their agents and sham companies.”

In releasing the report May 4, Treasury said its Specially Designated Narcotics Traffickers program has been extremely successful in disrupting the financial operations of Colombian drug lords and stripping the cartels of their enormous “ill-gotten” profits from drug trafficking.

The report congratulates the Colombian government for following up with its own law enforcement actions against drug organizations that are targeted for economic sanctions by the United States.

The Bush administration announced April 10 that it was releasing about \$55.2 million in American aid to combat illegal armed groups, narco-traffickers and criminal organizations operating in Colombia. (See [related article](#).)

WHITE HOUSE CITES SUCCESS OF SANCTIONS

The White House Office of National Drug Control (ONDCP) said in a May 7 statement that Treasury’s report details how the proceeds made by Colombian drug traffickers

funded “corporate empires” that both disguised the vast profits of the drug lords and provided extensive networks that “facilitated international drug operations.”

But ONDCP said the U.S. sanctions program begun in 1995 is contributing dramatically to the crumbling of the drug organizations. Since the program’s inception, sanctions have blocked, seized or caused to be forfeited more than \$1 billion worth of Colombian drug-trafficker assets, said ONDCP.

With their loss of wealth, said ONDCP, these “international criminals also lost much of their ability to corrupt and intimidate. Now within reach of justice, over the last six years more than 350 major Colombian traffickers have been extradited to the United States to face trial.”

John Walters, ONDCP’s director, said the U.S. sanctions program has “played a major role in supporting the government of Colombia's efforts to bring drug traffickers to justice and replace crime and violence” with the rule of law in the Andean country.

Walters added that Treasury’s report could prove valuable to other governments and law enforcement agencies worldwide that face their own powerful and violent international drug traffickers.

The [full text](#) of the report is available on the U.S. Treasury Department’s Web site.

For more information about U.S. counterdrug efforts in Colombia, see the [full text](#) of the *International Narcotics Control Strategy Report* on the State Department’s Web site.

For more on U.S. policy in the region, see [Andean Region](#).

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

64. U.S. Draft Law Would Toughen Penalties Against Counterfeit Goods (Dept. of State, 14 May 2007)

Washington - Violations of intellectual property rights not only deprive legitimate businesses of millions of dollars and undercut innovation but often pose serious threat to human safety and health, says U.S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales.

In response to this problem, the U.S. Justice Department on May 14 sent to Congress the Intellectual Property Protection Act of 2007. The draft legislation calls for stronger penalties for repeat offenders and would increase the maximum penalty for counterfeiting offenses if the defendant “knowingly and recklessly causes serious bodily injury or death,” Gonzales said.

To be considered by Congress, a draft bill sent by the administration must be sponsored by one or more members of Congress. To become a law, identical versions of a bill must be passed by both chambers of Congress and signed by the president.

The administration also announced plans to expand its efforts to improve intellectual property enforcement in key countries. Many counterfeit goods, particularly pharmaceuticals, are imported from overseas markets.

According to the draft bill, serious body injury could carry a penalty of 10 years to 20 years in prison, and up to life imprisonment if counterfeiting results in death, a senior Justice Department official told journalists May 14.

Although some may think violations of intellectual property rights have purely economic effects on “faceless corporations,” the reality is much different, especially when medical and pharmaceutical products are concerned, the attorney general said May 14 at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

“Imagine a heart patient undergoing emergency surgery at a hospital that unknowingly purchased substandard counterfeit surgical equipment or medication,” he said.

Gonzales added that the new bill would “hit the criminals in their wallet” and make sure they lose all illicit profits and any property used to commit the crime.

This summer, the Justice Department will establish a second IP law enforcement coordinator in Sofia, Bulgaria, to improve the department’s international cooperation and outreach. The first Justice Department IP coordinator was installed in 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand. (See [related article](#).)

Gonzales said he recently traveled to Brazil to discuss joint operations to combat intellectual property crime. The issue of intellectual property violations also will be a subject of his discussions at the G8 justice and interior ministers meeting in Munich, Germany, May 23-25.

As criminal organizations benefiting from intellectual property theft are becoming more sophisticated and better organized, the Justice Department is dedicating more resources and increasing the number of investigations and prosecutions to protect intellectual property rights, the attorney general said.

For example, in 2006 federal investigations resulted in 57 percent more convictions for copyright and trademark offenses than in 2005 and the number of defendants receiving prison terms of more than two years has grown by 130 percent, he said.

Modern technology has given inventors and creators unprecedented opportunities to share the fruits of their hard work with audiences and communities throughout the world, Gonzales said. But the same technology also has made it easy to copy and trade pirated and counterfeit goods across national borders, he said.

Those who seek to undermine the cornerstone of U.S. economic competitiveness and recklessly put human well-being at risk believe they are beyond the reach of the law, the

U.S. attorney general said. "It is our responsibility and commitment to show them that they are wrong."

The [full text](#) of prepared remarks by Gonzales is available on the Justice Department Web site.

See also "[Public Safety Jeopardized by Chinese Counterfeiters, Experts Say.](#)"

For more information, see [Protecting Intellectual Property Rights](#).

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