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

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CABLE Gram Volume 4 Issue 19

22 May 2007 CABLE Gram™

Good Morning All,

In the Current Update:

**FEDERAL**

1. Criticism Slows Work on Immigration Deal (AP, 21 May 2007)
2. Immigration Deal Survives Early Test (AP, 22 May 2007)
3. House bill sets higher bar for DHS - Legislation would require department's contractors to disclose foreign ownership (FCW, 21 May 2007)
4. House Committee Approves Increases for Port Security (Port Security News, 21 May 2007)
5. DHS unveils specialized infrastructure protection plans (National Journal's Technology Daily, 22 May 2007)
6. House bill would boost emergency preparedness funding - DHS spending bill further trims Deepwater funds (Washington Technology, 22 May 2007)
7. Security workers scanning bottled carry-on liquids (AP, 22 May 2007)
8. TSA Favors Human Element in Explosive Detection (By Matthew M. Johnson, CQ Staff, 21 May 2007)
9. Radiation Detection Test Center Established For U.S. Rail System (SOPNewswire, 21 May 2007)
10. The Global Trafficking Trade in the U.S. (ABC, 22 May 2007)
11. Top secret, in plain view (San Francisco Chronicle, 18 May 2007)
12. Accused Nuke Engineer: I Was Showing Off (AP, 18 May 2007)
13. Cayman Islands: New Laws To Govern Transport Of Money (Cayman Net News, 18 May 2007)
14. FBI team in Pakistan to probe money laundering scam (The News, 22 May 2007)

## STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

15. AL: Weapons of Mass Destruction Training (WTVY-TV, 22 May 2007)
16. AZ: Migrants weak link in facing bioterror - County seeks ways to reach out to them (The Arizona Republic, 19 May 2007)
17. CA: Federal security grant for Long Beach (Cargonews Asia, 22 May 2007)
18. CO: Major ID Theft Ring Busted In Colorado (AP, 22 May 2007)
19. FL: Security heads inside the fences - The TSA now randomly screens airport workers as an added layer of security (The Times-Union, 17 May 2007)
20. FL: Man Accused Of Impersonating Military Officer At OIA (WFTV, 22 May 2007)
21. MD: Tom Ridge Discusses Port Security In Baltimore (AP, 22 May 2007)
22. NY: WMD first-response team established in NYC (AP, 21 May 2007)
23. NY: Bank of NY slammed with \$22.5bn money laundering suit (Financial News Online US, 21 May 2007)
24. ND: Joint Thunder To Take Place In June (Kelo Land Television, 21 May 2007)
25. OH: What Monea knew is trial key - Witnesses testify that defendant aware cash was from 'drug broker' (Beacon Journal staff writer, 19 May 2007)
26. OR: Prosecutors say woman laundered \$4 million with untaxed cigarettes (The Oregonian, 20 May 2007)
27. PA: Pennsylvania Governor Rendell Confirms Plans for Military, Governmental Use of Willow Grove (PRNewswire, 19 May 2007)
28. PA: TSA Announces Transit Security Grant Program Award (PRNewswire, 21 May 2007)
29. RI: Man faces charges in terrorism scheme (Providence Journal, 19 May 2007)
30. TX: Environmental groups present united front against border fence (The Monitor, 17 May 2007)
31. VA: TSA Screenings Increased at Richmond's Airport (Richmond Times-Dispatch, 17 May 2007)
32. WI: Town opposes possible bio-defense lab (AP, 21 May 2007)

## KEY PEOPLE

33. TSA Announces New General Manager of Field Operations (PRNewswire, 21 May 2007)

## GANG ACTIVITY

34. CA: California's Cuts List of Most Wanted Gang Members in Half in 3 Months - In Los Angeles, there are approximately over 400 gangs with around 39,000 gang members (Associated Content, 22 May 2007)
35. CA: Street crime tied to L.A. terror threats (Los Angeles Times, 21 May 2007)
36. CA: Inland auto-theft case prompts stronger law (The Press-Enterprise, 19 May 2007)
37. GA: Gang signs put police on notice (The Brunswick News, 21 May 2007)
38. GA: Gang investigation to net 27, chief says (Savannah Now, 22 May 2007)
39. WA: Police warn that gang crimes becoming more common (Herald Net, 19 May 2007)
40. The World's Top Five Criminal Organizations (Dong-A Ilbo, 22 May 2007)

## NARCO TRAFFICKING

41. AL: Springville PD seizes 500 pounds of meth, cocaine (The Birmingham News, 22 May 2007)
42. IL: Seven arrested on cocaine-related charges (Pantagraph.com, 21 May 2007)
43. TX: Border Patrol seizes more than half a million dollars in cocaine (KGBT4, 22 May 2007)
44. WA/Canada: 'Huge' ecstasy bust at border tied to Asian organized crime - Seizure 'indicative of growing problem,' says customs official (The Province, 22 May 2007)
45. Escalating drug war grips Mexico (Christian Science Monitor, 23 May 2007)
46. Colombia: Cocaine Wars Make Port Colombia's Deadliest City (New York Times, 22 May 2007)
47. UK: British crime agency seizes 73 tonnes of cocaine (FOCUS News Agency, 18 May 2007)
48. UN says N104bn cocaine trafficked to Europe from West Africa monthly (Business Day Online, 21 May 2007)
49. Australia: Sydney men charged over \$3m cocaine import (ABCNews.au, 22 May 2007)

## CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

50. 'Prepare for cyber terrorism' (SA, 18 May 2007)
51. Web Sites Listing Informants Concern Justice Dept. (New York Times, 22 May 2007)
52. NJ: Columbia Bank hacked, notifies users of ID theft (The Record, 22 May 2007)

## TECHNOLOGY

53. Livermore Lab to expand biodefense (Alameda Times-Star, 21 May 2007)
54. States move warily on Real ID - Officials still crave funding and firm guidance on nationwide standards for driver's licenses (FCW, 21 May 2007)
54. British police test airborne 'spy drone' (AP, 21 May 2007)

## RESOURCES

56. Dartmouth develops program for terrorism response training - Virtual Terrorism Response Academy rewrites video game to prepare first responders (17 May 2007)
57. UCCS program leading way in homeland security - Ph.D. offering first of its kind in the United States (The Colorado Springs Business Journal, 19 May 2007)

## OPPORTUNITIES

58. DHS seeks research on nine cybersecurity areas (FCW, 21 May 2007)

## FULL REPORTS

59. Competitive Intelligence vs. Espionage (By Fred White, ThomasNet, 22 May 2007)
60. Proposed Immigration Reform Would Change U.S. Visa System - Only those who entered before January 1, 2007 would be eligible for Z visa (By Jeffrey Thomas, USINFO Staff Writer, 18 May 2007)

Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor  
Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor  
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The CABLE Gram is a weekly publication, distributed in PDF format and is currently included as a benefit of membership in the OPSEC Professionals Society and the National Military Intelligence Association.

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

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

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## **FEDERAL**

### **1. Criticism Slows Work on Immigration Deal (AP, 21 May 2007)**

WASHINGTON - Key senators and the White House are eager to push their bipartisan immigration deal through the Senate by Memorial Day, but as the Senate opened debate on the issue Monday, hope for that deadline was slipping. Critics of the measure denounced its key elements, including its quick grant of legal status to millions of unlawful immigrants, and said they would seek to revise it. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said it was "unthinkable" that the Senate would complete the measure this week, issuing a thinly veiled filibuster threat should proponents try to speed it through.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20070521/D8P90L306.html>

### **2. Immigration Deal Survives Early Test (AP, 22 May 2007)**

WASHINGTON - The Senate turned back an early attack on the broad immigration overhaul Tuesday, defeating an effort by farm-state Democrats and keeping alive a temporary worker provision that could bring in as many as 600,000 foreign workers each year. Senators voted 64-31 to reject a proposal by Sen. Byron Dorgan, D- N.D., to delete the program, that is one of the measure's key elements. The vote was the first big test for the improbable coalition that wrote the measure and is struggling to keep the fragile deal from unraveling under pressure from across the political spectrum. The bill still faces myriad assaults, including further Democratic attempts to limit or alter the temporary worker program, which would bring in foreign employees on two-year visas.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8P9MMUG2&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8P9MMUG2&show_article=1)

### **3. House bill sets higher bar for DHS - Legislation would require department's contractors to disclose foreign ownership (FCW, 21 May 2007)**

The House passed a Homeland Security Department authorization bill May 9 that contains several procurement and technology mandates. The \$39.9 billion bill also authorizes a funding increase for DHS that is \$2 billion more than the amount President Bush requested in his 2008 budget proposal. House lawmakers want DHS to implement a stricter procurement regime, expand its training of acquisition professionals, make greater progress on cybersecurity and develop a clear strategic vision. The president has threatened to veto the bill because it contains a provision that overrides DHS' ability to waive employees' collective bargaining rights. The Bush administration said DHS needs the flexibility to waive bargaining rights as necessary to protect national security.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article102749-05-21-07-Print>

### **4. House Committee Approves Increases for Port Security (Port Security News, 21 May 2007)**

The House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee last Friday (May 18) became the first subcommittee to act on its appropriations bill for fiscal year 2008. It approved the \$36.3 billion funding measure for the Department of Homeland Security by voice vote. The bill provides 6 percent, or \$2.1 billion, more than the President requested for discretionary spending for the Department. The Subcommittee approved \$400 million for port security grants, almost double the \$210 million appropriated for the current fiscal year and included in the President's budget for F.Y. 2008. Jay Grant, Director of the Port Security Council, commended the Subcommittee for its recognition of the many security needs that remain to be filled at our nation's ports. He said: "Terrorism continues to be a threat to ports in the United States, and the more we are able to improve port security, the more secure will be the billions of dollars of goods and services flowing through the ports. More and more, Congress is understanding the situation, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Members in both the House and Senate on the funding needs for our ports. Last year, Congress voted overwhelmingly to approve the SAFE Port Act which contains the authorization of \$400 million for port security grants. We are pleased to see this was not a hollow gesture and that Congress is moving forward to protect the critical infrastructure, the passengers, and the economic commerce at our nation's ports."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://portsecuritynews.com/news/templates/registered.asp?articleid=1583&zoneid=1>

### **5. DHS unveils specialized infrastructure protection plans (National Journal's Technology Daily, 22 May 2007)**

The Homeland Security Department on Monday announced the completion of 17-sector specific plans to support a national infrastructure protection plan. Most of the nation's critical infrastructure is controlled by the private sector, and for years the department has been after utilities and businesses in areas like telecommunications, information technology, water and energy to devise comprehensive risk-management plans. The years of development included lots of meetings with industry so it could take the lead rather than the government announcing a plan. Upon announcing completion of the plans,

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said the consequences of an attack on critical infrastructure could be deadly but added, "At the same time, we must avoid imposing onerous security measures that would damage or make economically impractical the very systems that we're trying to protect."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=36984&dcn=e\\_gvet](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36984&dcn=e_gvet)

**6. House bill would boost emergency preparedness funding - DHS spending bill further trims Deepwater funds (Washington Technology, 22 May 2007)**

A House subcommittee has approved a \$36.3 billion spending bill for the Homeland Security Department for fiscal 2008 that reduces Deepwater funding and adds substantially more money for equipment, training and planning grants to state and local agencies, ports and rail systems. The House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee on May 18 approved by voice vote the discretionary spending bill for DHS providing \$2.1 million, or 5 percent, more than what was requested by the White House. It is the first spending bill for fiscal 2008 to be marked up by a House Appropriations subcommittee. A full committee vote is expected when Congress returns from recess.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1\\_1/30705-1.html](http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1_1/30705-1.html)

**7. Security workers scanning bottled carry-on liquids (AP, 22 May 2007)**

LOS ANGELES, California - Federal security workers have started using hand-held scanners to inspect bottled carry-on liquids for explosives at some of the nation's busiest airports, the government said. The Transportation Security Administration has finished testing the device at Miami International Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport. Testing is ongoing in Los Angeles, Detroit and Las Vegas, agency spokesman Nico Melendez said Tuesday. Testing was to begin in Boston on Wednesday. TSA expects to deploy about 200 of the devices at a number of airports around the country by October, Melendez said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/TRAVEL/05/22/airport.security.liquids.ap/index.html>

**8. TSA Favors Human Element in Explosive Detection (By Matthew M. Johnson, CQ Staff, 21 May 2007)**

The Transportation Security Administration's strategy for detecting explosives at airport security checkpoints continues to focus on human capabilities, despite a recent Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General recommendation to use more technology. TSA concurred with an OIG recommendation to deploy available explosive detection technology to randomly screen passengers but will not change its central strategy for screening for bombs, according to an unclassified OIG report. In response to the OIG draft report, TSA stressed its efforts to improve the explosive detection capabilities of transportation security officers (TSOs) and said its checkpoint strategy is to continue to rely on their abilities. The agency prefers to rely on trained and equipped TSOs in a system where their judgment, discretion and experience can be

trusted, TSA said. A rote or scripted security system is what the agency would like to avoid.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://public.cq.com/docs/hs/hsnews110-000002516504.html>

### **9. Radiation Detection Test Center Established For U.S. Rail System (SOPNewswire, 21 May 2007)**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will soon begin conducting multiple projects in the Port of Tacoma, Wash., to evaluate technology and concepts of operations for radiation detection that will scan cargo at various points in transfer from ship to rail. By establishing a Rail Test Center (RTC) at the port, DHS will identify and evaluate radiological and nuclear detection solutions for intermodal rail port facilities that can be used across the country. "The deployment of radiation portal monitors can be much more challenging at seaports where cargo containers depart the port by rail," said Vayl Oxford, director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO). "DNDO is particularly interested in testing the operational needs as well as evaluating innovative technical solutions to fit the unique radiological and nuclear detection requirements of intermodal terminals. Advances in this area will provide greater capabilities to our partners such as the Customs and Border Protection, the United States Coast Guard and the Transportation Security Administration."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thesop.org/index.php?id=5783>

### **10. The Global Trafficking Trade in the U.S. (ABC, 22 May 2007)**

In an effort to crack down on smugglers, the Justice Department has set up 42 task forces nationwide to work with state and local officials. From 2001 to 2006 the department prosecuted 360 people for human trafficking and modern day slavery - a 300 percent increase over the previous six years. To date the government has helped more than 1,000 victims from 72 countries escape the multibillion dollar smuggling industry that fuels modern day slavery. The numbers are staggering. Government estimates say 800,000 people are bought, sold and smuggled worldwide annually. As many as 18,000 of them make their way to the United States from all corners of the world from at least 72 countries, including Cameroon, Egypt, Indonesia and Korea.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abcnews.go.com/WN/story?id=3199772&page=1>

### **11. Top secret, in plain view (San Fransisco Chronicle, 18 May 2007)**

Aerial images of a nuclear power plant in Perry, Ohio, are considered so sensitive that they are blurred on Google's popular satellite mapping service, Google Earth. But on Microsoft's online maps, users get a crystal-clear bird's-eye view of the facility, including the cooling towers, storage tanks and a parking lot filled with cars. Government efforts to thwart terrorists by asking - or in some cases requiring - that companies censor aerial images of potential targets have failed to keep them off the Internet. Scores of federal buildings, military installations and corporate headquarters are clearly visible on some Web sites, even though the facilities are deemed vulnerable enough to censor on others.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

**12. Accused Nuke Engineer: I Was Showing Off (AP, 18 May 2007)**

A former nuclear engineer accused of taking software back to his native Iran told authorities he was only trying to show off for family and friends. Mohammad Alavi, 49, also told FBI agents that he left his job at the nation's largest nuclear power plant and moved to Iran to be closer to relatives, according to records obtained by The Arizona Republic. Alavi, who lived in the U.S. as a naturalized citizen for 30 years, is charged with violating a trade embargo with Iran, which carries a maximum penalty of 21 months in prison. Trial is set for July 3. Alavi worked at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station west of Phoenix for 16 years, until he resigned in August and moved to Tehran.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=1121620>

**13. Cayman Islands: New Laws To Govern Transport Of Money (Cayman Net News, 18 May 2007)**

A bill has been passed in the Legislative Assembly that will enable regulations to be issued governing the transportation of money to and from the Cayman Islands. These new regulations are aimed at tackling the threat of international money laundering and the financing of terrorist activities. It could mean that CI\$15,000 or more being transported into Cayman would have to be declared on a Customs declaration form. Similar disclosures would also be requested by Customs officials from outbound passengers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.caymannelnews.com/cgi-script/csArticles/articles/000147/014706.htm>

**14. FBI team in Pakistan to probe money laundering scam (The News, 22 May 2007)**

LONDON: An FBI team is in Pakistan to investigate an international scam involving some Pakistani cabinet ministers, their relatives, top bankers and the mighty stock brokers of Karachi, who have allegedly made millions of dollars overnight from the recent inside trading scheme of the US. Top sources have disclosed to 'The News' that the FBI team was now busy investigating charges of money laundering for al-Qaeda against some top bankers with links with Pakistan's top government officials, included close advisers to government authorities both in Islamabad and Lahore.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=7964](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=7964)

**STATE AND LOCAL NEWS**

**15. AL: Weapons of Mass Destruction Training (WTVY-TV, 22 May 2007)**

Local emergency officials are gathering at the Houston County Farm Center this week for a Weapons of Mass Destruction drill. When the March first tornado hit Enterprise, agencies around the southeast responded to ground zero. Minutes after the storm, emergency workers had to identify threats, needs and respond quickly. This week Wiregrass officials are practicing how to identify threats. WMD Instructor Monroe Manley said, "We can only protect our homeland if our hometowns are secure and that's what we're doing making sure we can identify threats, needs and our ability to respond."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtvynews4.com/news/headlines/7635281.html>

**16. AZ: Migrants weak link in facing bioterror - County seeks ways to reach out to them (The Arizona Republic, 19 May 2007)**

Maricopa County health officials are devising a strategy to gain the trust of illegal immigrants in the event of a bioterrorism attack, putting them at odds with other county agencies trying to crack down on immigration violations. A year after the county received a poor grade for its bioterrorism-preparedness plan, it is at the forefront of the issue nationwide as communities scramble to meet federal mandates. To contain a bioterrorism attack, county health officials would have just 48 hours to get lifesaving medicine to every man, woman and child - more than 4 million people in all - or risk massive death. But health officials worry that stepped-up immigration enforcement could make many illegal immigrants reluctant to go to government-sponsored distribution centers to receive the drugs. Without treatment, the immigrants risk illness or death, and they could spread certain diseases to others.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0519bioterrorism0519.html>

**17. CA: Federal security grant for Long Beach (Cargonews Asia, 22 May 2007)**

The Port of Long Beach received a US\$4.6 million federal security grant this week for two major projects to improve undersea surveillance and integrate security systems at the port complex. "We're very excited," said port security director Cosmo Perrone. "There is much more we want to do, but every step is important in improving Port security." Perrone added that the funds will allow the Port to complete needed monitoring systems and to enhance integration and coordination among the Port, its tenants and law enforcement agencies. The Long Beach grant is part of \$15 million awarded to agencies and businesses for security in the Long Beach-Los Angeles port complex and comes from \$202 million handed out by the Department of Homeland Security.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cargonewsasia.com/secured/article.aspx?id=3&article=13010>

**18. CO: Major ID Theft Ring Busted In Colorado (AP, 22 May 2007)**

*DENVER* Six people are under arrest in connection with an identity theft ring that authorities said has led to tens of thousands of dollars in losses. A statewide grand jury handed up an indictment accusing the six of running an ID theft ring across the Denver area for a nearly 8 month period last year. The indictment said the 52 victims include 35 businesses and 17 individuals. Possible prison terms for the six defendants range from 43 years to 165 years if convicted. The charges include violation of the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act, identity theft, possession of ID theft tools and criminal impersonation. Colorado Attorney General John Suthers said Boulder County's district attorney and sheriff's office assisted in the investigation.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://cbs4denver.com/crime/local\\_story\\_142151407.html](http://cbs4denver.com/crime/local_story_142151407.html)

**19. FL: Security heads inside the fences - The TSA now randomly screens airport workers as an added layer of security (The Times-Union, 17 May 2007)**

Mark Forsyth's afternoon at work usually doesn't include a pat-down of his body and a search of his truck, like Thursday afternoon did. At least, a few weeks ago, it wouldn't have. Now, though, Forsyth and the hundreds of other people working behind the scenes at Jacksonville International Airport face the possibility of being subjected to random searches every time they enter a secured area at the airport. The new program, called the Aviation Direct Access Screening Program, expands the Transportation Security Administration's focus from screening passengers to also randomly searching workers and contractors at the airport.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/051807/bus\\_170666720.shtml](http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/051807/bus_170666720.shtml)

**20. FL: Man Accused Of Impersonating Military Officer At OIA (WFTV, 22 May 2007)**

OCALA, Fla. - An Ocala man is facing charges for impersonating a military officer. Fernando Montas, 37, was arrested May 10 at Orlando International Airport. Montas was spotted by a special TSA employee trained to look for anything suspicious. TSA workers asked if he was in the military and he first said, 'Yes,' but when asked for military ID, he admitted he was lying. "Anytime someone tries to get on a plane with a military uniform, you may be thinking, you know, the worst," said Sgt. Russ Waters, Orlando Police Department.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wftv.com/news/13368793/detail.html>

**21. MD: Tom Ridge Discusses Port Security In Baltimore (AP, 22 May 2007)**

*BALTIMORE* Former Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said Tuesday that policy makers must find the right balance between homeland security concerns and the needs of commerce. Ridge spoke at a conference on homeland security that was hosted by the U.S. Naval Institute. The conference included panel discussions about container screening, attack response and liquefied natural gas terminals. "If we're just security focused, we can do grave harm -- grave harm -- to our economy, if that's the only prism through which we take a look at whatever security procedures we think are relevant," Ridge said. Ridge used a proposed liquefied natural gas terminal near Baltimore as an example of where security concerns and economics intersect. The proposed terminal has sparked opposition from Maryland Sens. Barbara Mikulski, Benjamin Cardin and Gov. Martin O'Malley.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://wjz.com/local/local\\_story\\_142133934.html](http://wjz.com/local/local_story_142133934.html)

**22. NY: WMD first-response team established in NYC (AP, 21 May 2007)**

NEW YORK - Shortchanged in federal homeland security funding despite general consensus that it is the nation's No. 1 target for terrorists, New York City may soon be able to add a team of experts on weapons of mass destruction to its lineup of emergency first responders, lawmakers said Monday. Known as a Civil Support Team and made up of 22 members of the Army and Air Force National Guard, the "elite terror response

team" would be on call for any crisis involving chemical, biological or radiological agents that could inflict mass casualties.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/28pvq6>

**23. NY: Bank of NY slammed with \$22.5bn money laundering suit (Financial News Online US, 21 May 2007)**

The Bank of New York was hit with a lawsuit from Russia demanding more than two thirds of the bank's market capitalization in damages over an alleged money-laundering scheme. Russia's Federal Customs Service, the country's currency control agent, filed a suit in Moscow's Arbitration Court for \$22.5bn (€16.7bn), according to Reuters. At the close of last year, Bank of New York and Mellon Financial merged to become the world's biggest bank with \$43bn in assets. The bank reported \$3.011m in profits last year, and according to Yahoo Finance it has a market cap of \$30.9bn. The Russian claims stem from a \$7bn money laundering scheme conducted by Lucy Edwards, a former Bank of New York vice president, and her husband, from 1996 to 1999. The husband-and-wife team pleaded guilty and served six months of house arrest.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.financialnews-us.com/?page=ushome&contentid=2447847505>

**24. ND: Joint Thunder To Take Place In June (Kelo Land Television, 21 May 2007)**

More than 4,000 service men and women from around the world will travel to the Black Hills this June. They will be taking part in an international training exercise in support of the Global war on terrorism and Homeland Defense. "This might be the last time the unit is able to train on the critical war-fighting skills they need before they find themselves in Afghanistan or Iraq or some other place in the world," says Major Orson Ward of the South Dakota National Guard. "The training that we do is realistic training and being that it's a service support type exercise it tests the soldiers and gives them the tools they need to support their mission as well as the publics," adds Lieutenant Colonel David Oerlline. The National Guard is doing something extra for the public this year. Along with transporting lumber and completing projects for the forest service, it will be helping out the local school district.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.keloland.com/News/NewsDetail6371.cfm?Id=0,57246>

**25. OH: What Monea knew is trial key - Witnesses testify that defendant aware cash was from 'drug broker' (Beacon Journal staff writer, 19 May 2007)**

When Paul Monea got out of federal prison on tax convictions several years ago, the one-time multimillionaire and infomercial legend was broke. A series of poor investments and outright theft had robbed him of the wealth that had allowed him to hobnob with celebrities and politicians, and buy boxer Mike Tyson's 62-acre estate in Trumbull County and cars once owned by Hugh Hefner and Shaquille O'Neal. So Monea turned to Mickey Miller for help. This scenario is part of the picture painted this week by the lawyers and witnesses in Monea's federal money-laundering trial in Akron. Miller, a successful car dealer in Stark and Medina counties, had met Monea years earlier, and the two struck up a friendship over a mutual love of cars.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ohio.com/mld/beaconjournal/business/17250659.htm>

**26. OR: Prosecutors say woman laundered \$4 million with untaxed cigarettes (The Oregonian, 20 May 2007)**

SPOKANE - Federal prosecutors want to seize nearly \$4 million from a Washington woman indicted on cigarette trafficking and money laundering charges. A U.S. District Court grand jury in Yakima handed up a 62-count indictment last week accusing Joann Cook, 60, of laundering nearly \$4 million from sales of untaxed cigarettes through her J&J's Smokeshop in Okanogan from 1999 to 2006. James A. McDevitt, U.S. attorney for Eastern Washington, has estimated that Washington state lost about \$56 million in tax revenue in schemes to bring untaxed cigarettes from Indian reservations in Idaho.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/22fcnc>

**27. PA: Pennsylvania Governor Rendell Confirms Plans for Military, Governmental Use of Willow Grove (PRNewswire, 19 May 2007)**

HARRISBURG, Pa. - Governor Edward G. Rendell today announced he will continue working to maintain Willow Grove as a critical base for military and government flying operations. The Governor re-confirmed his commitment during a meeting between Pennsylvania Adjutant General Major General Jessica L. Wright, senior members of Governor Rendell's staff and the members and staff of the Horsham Local Redevelopment Authority and Horsham Township. "Unfortunately, people have misunderstood our plans to save the base. We are not supporting a civilian or commercial airport," Governor Rendell said. "We envision Willow Grove as a critical component of our overall homeland security plans. We have the opportunity to make Willow Grove a model for the future of Homeland Security."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/36oeb8>

**28. PA: TSA Announces Transit Security Grant Program Award (PRNewswire, 21 May 2007)**

PITTSBURGH - The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) today presented a \$928,250 grant to the Port Authority of Allegheny County to improve busway and bus garage security and to continue conducting employee training and emergency drills. Since 2003, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has provided approximately \$4.3 million to Allegheny County through grants under the Infrastructure Protection Program (IPP), now administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Capabilities Division. "This award will help the Port Authority of Allegheny County upgrade key security features in its transportation infrastructure, a prime goal of these grants," said TSA Federal Security Director Joe Terrell. "DHS's two-tiered approach ensures that communities such as Pittsburgh and Allegheny County have the opportunity to compete for grants that will make a significant difference in protecting transit passengers."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/news\\_press\\_release.109222.shtml](http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/news_press_release.109222.shtml)

**29. RI: Man faces charges in terrorism scheme (Providence Journal, 19 May 2007)**

PROVIDENCE - A Warwick man has been arrested on charges of impersonating a Homeland Security official and trying to turn the threat of international terrorism into a profitable financial scam. The authorities arrested George Tabora, 44, of 1579 Centerville Rd., this week on charges that he threatened to link the operator of a Warwick gas station to the al-Qaida terrorist organization and harm his family unless he gave Tabora \$25,000 in cash. The gas station owner, who was not identified, is of Middle Eastern descent, but has no links to any terrorist group, authorities said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2hx64v>

**30. TX: Environmental groups present united front against border fence (The Monitor, 17 May 2007)**

Texas and Rio Grande Valley environmental groups have banded together to oppose the proposed fence along the U.S. border with Mexico. Several nonprofit organizations and advocacy groups issued a statement this week calling for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to "slow down" plans to construct 70 miles of fencing at points between Roma and Brownsville, and to consider the environmental consequences. "They're rushing ahead and steamrolling a 30-year effort to protect habitat and the most biologically diverse area in North America," said Jim Chapman, president of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Group of the Sierra Club's Texas chapter. "They need to seriously slow down."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/36gozp>

**31. VA: TSA Screenings Increased at Richmond's Airport (Richmond Times-Dispatch, 17 May 2007)**

Carol Campbell didn't mind getting stopped on her way into work yesterday at Richmond International Airport. "I think it's great," said Campbell, a customer service agent for Continental Airlines. "Any inconvenience you put us through is necessary for security." She was one of the first group of airline and airport employees who faced extra scrutiny as part of a new push by the Transportation Security Administration. Surprise searches, which were started last fall at larger airports, are now being conducted at most of the nation's 450 commercial facilities, the TSA said. In Richmond, they are expected to be expanded soon to include aircraft, service vehicles, construction workers and anyone authorized to walk or drive in secure areas, said Thomas Davis, the agency's local director. About 2,200 workers have badges that allow them to open specially locked doors around the facility.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/332k6x>

**32. WI: Town opposes possible bio-defense lab (AP, 21 May 2007)**

TOWN OF DUNN, Wis. - A new high-security bio-defense lab is only a possibility for the Dane County Town of Dunn. But, residents are already expressing their opposition to the 520,000-square-foot lab. The site is 1 of 17 being considered by the US Department

of Homeland Security, which will run the \$450 million lab. Federal officials hope to name three to five finalists by the end of June. The National Bio- and Agro-Defense Lab will study bird flu and other deadly animal diseases and employ at least 300 people.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wbay.com/Global/story.asp?S=6543741>

## **KEY PEOPLE**

### **33. TSA Announces New General Manager of Field Operations (PRNewswire, 21 May 2007)**

WASHINGTON - The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) today named Mel Carraway general manager for field operations, Office of Security Operations. In his new position he oversees more than 43,000 employees nationwide in approximately 450 airports. He previously served as federal security director of Albuquerque International Sunport in New Mexico and as acting general manager of field operations since January 2007. Under his leadership Albuquerque was named TSA's Airport of the Year for 2006.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/news\\_press\\_release.109055.shtml](http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/news_press_release.109055.shtml)

## **GANG ACTIVITY**

### **34. CA: California's Cuts List of Most Wanted Gang Members in Half in 3 Months - In Los Angeles, there are approximately over 400 gangs with around 39,000 gang members (Associated Content, 22 May 2007)**

In only 3 months, the Los Angeles Police Department has cut their most wanted gang list in half since February 2007, when they announced plans to list Los Angeles' most serious gang members, as reported by America News. The mayor and the Los Angeles Police Chief then identified 11 of the most violent groups, with a promise to confront them more with the law, according to The Associated Press.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/25d743>

### **35. CA: Street crime tied to L.A. terror threats (Los Angeles Times, 21 May 2007)**

The United States is just as vulnerable to attack as it was on Sept. 11, 2001, with gangs funding terrorist groups and draining resources from law-enforcement agencies, a panel of terrorism experts said Monday. Speaking at a forum at UCLA, officials said the war on terrorism has been replaced by the war on gangs - a huge concern in Los Angeles, which has an estimated 40,000 gang members and is an attractive target for terrorists. "We are not safe and we will not be safe for many years," Los Angeles Police Department Deputy Chief Mark Leap said at the forum sponsored by the university's School of Public Affairs. "There are many, many more people who consider themselves jihadists now. And criminal enterprises are being used to support terrorist activities."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.dailybulletin.com/news/ci\\_5953083](http://www.dailybulletin.com/news/ci_5953083)

**36. CA: Inland auto-theft case prompts stronger law (The Press-Enterprise, 19 May 2007)**

A San Bernardino County auto-theft case is at the forefront of a statewide effort targeting a sophisticated smuggling and reselling operation run by "Mexican organized crime," according to court officials and records. The San Bernardino County case involves 17 high-end, late-model cars stolen in Southern California, refitted with forged documents and fake identification in Mexico, then resold to unknowing Southern California buyers. "It's one of many," Deputy District Attorney Margaret Bevan said last week. "But it's the biggest." Statewide, at least 700 stolen cars have been linked to schemes similar to the one in San Bernardino County, California Highway Patrol investigator David Yokley said last week.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2pgrp3>

**37. GA: Gang signs put police on notice (The Brunswick News, 21 May 2007)**

Across the boarded windows of a condemned house on Gordon Street, the painted scribbles might look like meaningless graffiti. But the symbols take on a violent and ominous meaning for Officer Anthony Maldonado, a gang investigator with the Brunswick Police Department. He points to a drawing of a closed fist with the thumb and ring finger folded inside. "That's what the Dixville gang does with their hand when they're 'representing'," said Maldonado, imitating the gesture with his own fist. "That's how they recognize each other on the streets." Maldonado said the vandalism on the house is one method gang members choose to "mark their territory."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.thebrunswicknews.com/open\\_access/news/309862171957679.php](http://www.thebrunswicknews.com/open_access/news/309862171957679.php)

**38. GA: Gang investigation to net 27, chief says (Savannah Now, 22 May 2007)**

Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police will announce today the arrest of 27 suspected gang members tied to a string of violent crime and drug activity. The arrests are the result of a four-month investigation into gun and drug activity in Savannah, Chief Michael Berkow said. SCMPD investigators solicited help from state and federal law enforcement in January after noticing a spike in shootings and drug activity connected to a small group of individuals. The majority of the violence is linked to three gangs, police said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.savannahnow.com/node/289824>

**39. WA: Police warn that gang crimes becoming more common (Herald Net, 19 May 2007)**

MUKILTEO - A fight may not just be a fight anymore, police say. Gang assaults are happening in all parts of Snohomish County, and police and the community need to pay attention, according to Snohomish County sheriff's detective Steve Haley. A beating Tuesday across from Kamiak High School that left a 15-year-old from Mukilteo with broken bones and black eyes shouldn't just be dismissed as boys being boys, Haley said. "Having two 15-year-old boys come to a disagreement and fight it out, on a grand scale, may not be a big deal," he said. But if one or both of the combatants are involved in a gang, the fight can quickly escalate to involve a dozen or more people, and the possibility

of guns or knives being used, Haley said. Haley has been tracking gangs in Snohomish County for about a year. He has documented a rise in gang-related crimes and in every part of the county has identified people who claim membership in, or affiliation with, criminal gangs. His list now includes hundreds of names.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/07/05/18/100loc\\_algangs001.cfm](http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/07/05/18/100loc_algangs001.cfm)

**40. The World's Top Five Criminal Organizations (Dong-A Ilbo, 22 May 2007)**

Crime syndicates such the Mafia and Yakuza are not confined to the underground. They collude with politicians and acquire legal business entities as well. Foreign Policy described the world's top five criminal organizations on its website on May 22.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://english.donga.com/srv/service.php3?bicode=060000&biid=2007052371648>

## **NARCO TRAFFICKING**

**41. AL: Springville PD seizes 500 pounds of meth, cocaine (The Birmingham News, 22 May 2007)**

The Springville Police Department announced Tuesday morning the seizure of more than 500 pounds of methamphetamines and cocaine recovered during a Sunday traffic stop. Chief Ronald Black said a patrol officer pulled over a tractor-trailer for a traffic violation early Sunday morning and discovered during a search of the truck a hidden compartment that had 116 bundles containing methamphetamines and cocaine.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2007/05/springville\\_pd\\_seizes\\_500\\_poun.html](http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2007/05/springville_pd_seizes_500_poun.html)

**42. IL: Seven arrested on cocaine-related charges (Pantagraph.com, 21 May 2007)**

BLOOMINGTON - Seven people were arrested and an eighth faces new charges in a sweep that police say disrupted a crack cocaine sales network that stretched through McLean, DeWitt, Ford, Champaign and Vermilion counties. All eight are accused of trafficking and drug sales in connection with a 37-year-old man arrested April 12 on federal drug and gun charges.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2y8ekl>

**43. TX: Border Patrol seizes more than half a million dollars in cocaine (KGBT4, 22 May 2007)**

SARITA, Texas - U.S. Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol agents seized more than half a million dollars in cocaine at the Sarita Border Patrol checkpoint last Friday. The seizure occurred on May 18, when Border Patrol agents assigned to the Sarita Border Patrol checkpoint on Highway 77 south of Kingsville, Texas, questioned the driver and two passengers of a Honda Accord as to their citizenship. While determining their citizenship, a CBP Border Patrol canine alerted positively to the presence of concealed humans or drugs within the vehicle while performing a free air sniff of the exterior. The driver was directed to the secondary inspection area where a search of the vehicle led to the discovery of eight bundles of a white powdery substance, which later tested positive

for cocaine, hidden in a non-factory compartment under the back seat area. The total weight of the cocaine was 20.4 pounds with an estimated value of \$652,800. The driver, a thirty-three year old U.S. citizen from Florida was arrested along with the other occupants.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.team4news.com/Global/story.asp?S=6553192&nav=0w0v>

**44. WA/Canada: 'Huge' ecstasy bust at border tied to Asian organized crime - Seizure 'indicative of growing problem,' says customs official (The Province, 22 May 2007)**

A "huge" load of ecstasy pills seized at the Canada-U.S. border highlights the growing role of B.C. organized crime in the drug's production, say officials in both countries. "It's huge," U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman Mike Milne said yesterday. "It's one of the larger ones we've had. "It's indicative of the growing problem we've had [with ecstasy smuggling from B.C.] over the past two or three years. It's becoming a very prevalent problem." U.S. Customs officials X-rayed a truck trailer on Friday at Oroville, Wash., and found 82.5 kilograms of ecstasy in the form of 262,000 pills hidden in packages stuffed into the walls of the trailer's doors. The trailer was loaded with wood from a B.C. mill to make wooden pallets and was bound for a company in California.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

**45. Escalating drug war grips Mexico (Christian Science Monitor, 23 May 2007)**

Faced with assassinations of top police officials, death tolls at historic highs, and beheadings in the most innocuous public spaces, Mexico's President Felipe Calderón sent an unprecedented 30,000 troops and police across the country to tackle drug-related violence after taking office in December. But nearly six months later the terror has only gotten worse, as drug cartels battle for smuggling routes into the US. Officials are now even comparing the violence to the drug wars that plagued Colombia for more than a decade. More than 1,000 people have been killed this year alone in drug-related violence, according to the Mexican newspaper El Universal. Reporters have "disappeared," innocent bystanders have died, the US has issued travel warnings, and locals whisper about the worst violence they've ever seen.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0523/p01s01-woam.html>

**46. Colombia: Cocaine Wars Make Port Colombia's Deadliest City (New York Times, 22 May 2007)**

Visitors to this city can be forgiven for thinking no place is safe here. As larger cities have calmed, Buenaventura has emerged as the deadliest urban center in Colombia's long internal war. Although Bogotá, the capital, and other cities have become secure and prosperous enough that it is possible there to forget about this country's four-decade-old civil conflict for a while, Buenaventura is a different story. Killings in this city of about 300,000 climbed 30 percent last year, to 408, giving Buenaventura the nation's highest homicide rate at 144 per 100,000, more than seven times the rate in Bogotá and four times that of Medellín. And this year, the police say, 222 people have been killed here. A

vast majority of the killings are the product of a narrow territorial conflict over control of the edge of the city's slums, acres of wooden shacks built on stilts over the sea. From these makeshift wharves, police and naval officials say, fast boats depart with cocaine for points north. Buenaventura's geography, crucial in connecting Colombia to the global flow of trade, also holds strategic cachet for drug traffickers. Despite receiving more than \$5 billion in antinarcotics and counterinsurgency aid from the United States this decade, making the country the largest recipient of American aid in the hemisphere, Colombia remains the world's largest cocaine producer and the supplier of 90 percent of the cocaine consumed in the United States.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yta2bd>

**47. UK: British crime agency seizes 73 tonnes of cocaine (FOCUS News Agency, 18 May 2007)**

*London.* Britain's Serious Organized Crime Agency (Soca) seized 73 tonnes of cocaine, equivalent to a fifth of Europe's annual supply, during its first year of operation, official figures showed Friday cited by AFP. The three billion pound (4.4 billion euro, 5.9 billion dollar) haul, intercepted mostly at sea, came as the agency also announced it had confiscated 1.5 tonnes of heroin and 4.4 million ecstasy tablets. "In its first year, Soca has made a real impact by seizing large quantities of Class A drugs, making well over a thousand arrests...these are all fantastic achievements," Home Office minister Vernon Coaker said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n112656>

**48. UN says N104bn cocaine trafficked to Europe from West Africa monthly (Business Day Online, 21 May 2007)**

Not less than \$800m (N104 billion) worth of cocaine are trafficked to Europe every month enroute West Africa by agents of South American drug barons making the sub-region the new hub for cocaine traffickers into Europe, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) has said in a recent report.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.businessdayonline.com/?c=44&a=13401>

**49. Australia: Sydney men charged over \$3m cocaine import (ABCNews.au, 22 May 2007)**

Two Sydney men have faced court charged with importing \$3 million worth of cocaine inside a brake drum of a truck. After a tip off by New South Wales police, Customs officers allegedly found up to 10 kilograms of cocaine in a brake drum being imported as air cargo into Australia. Federal Police monitored its delivery to a business in Artarmon in Sydney's north and arrested two men. Forty-five-year-old Vahe Geokjian from Turramurra and 31-year-old Nerses Navasardian from West Ryde have appeared briefly in Central Local Court.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200705/s1930284.htm>

## **CYBERTHREAT & THEFT**

### **50. 'Prepare for cyber terrorism' (SA, 18 May 2007)**

London - US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte said in an interview published on Friday that cyber attacks, such as the one unleashed on Estonia this week, will "become more of an issue" in the future. Estonia had urged its allies in the European Union and Nato to take firm action against the cyber attacks that have hit the Baltic state amid a bitter row with Russia over a Soviet war memorial. "We need to prepare ourselves because this is likely only to become more of an issue in the future," Negroponte told the Financial Times and other European newspapers from Brussels. Cyber terrorism was becoming a bigger issue "as familiarity with these technologies grows and more and more actors get involved in information technology".

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/22a392>

### **51. Web Sites Listing Informants Concern Justice Dept. (New York Times, 22 May 2007)**

There are three "rats of the week" on the home page of whosarat.com, a Web site devoted to exposing the identities of witnesses cooperating with the government. The site posts their names and mug shots, along with court documents detailing what they have agreed to do in exchange for lenient sentences. Last week, for instance, the site featured a Florida man who agreed in September to plead guilty to cocaine possession but not gun charges in exchange for his commitment to work "in an undercover role to contact and negotiate with sources of controlled substances." The site says it has identified 4,300 informers and 400 undercover agents, many of them from documents obtained from court files available on the Internet.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/22/washington/22plea.html?ref=us>

### **52. NJ: Columbia Bank hacked, notifies users of ID theft (The Record, 22 May 2007)**

The Columbia Bank building on Plaza Road, Fair Lawn. The bank has had a security breach involving names and Social Security numbers. Columbia Bank, the top bank in Fair Lawn by deposit market share, has notified its online customers of a data-security breach that could make them vulnerable to identity theft. A hacker or hackers outside the bank gained access to customers' names and Social Security numbers, and "the intrusion affected all of our customers who have online banking," Chief Executive Officer Raymond Hallock said Monday in a phone interview. Account numbers, passwords and financial information were not accessed, Hallock said. "The intrusion just hit the name and Social Security number of the customers," he said. "We don't have to reissue [debit] cards or close accounts." Hallock declined to say how many names and Social Security numbers may have been accessed and offered few other details, citing concerns about compromising investigations under way by the FBI and New Jersey State Police.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

## TECHNOLOGY

### **53. Livermore Lab to expand biodefense (Alameda Times-Star, 21 May 2007)**

COME THIS SUMMER, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientists plan to start using a new biological research laboratory for biodefense and public health that will help better protect the United States. Called a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory, the facility will allow Livermore scientists to conduct more detailed experiments on a wider range of microorganisms than can currently be handled at LLNL. This research will assist in the development of faster and more efficient detection technologies to protect against bioterrorism. It also will help in discovering new ways to fight emerging diseases, such as Avian influenza. For years, long before 9/11, Livermore scientists have worked on - and been among the nation's leaders in developing - biological monitors and detection tests to help defend against the malicious release of harmful biological agents. One detection system developed by Livermore and Los Alamos scientists today provides the core technology for the nation's BioWatch system, which is deployed in more than 30 American cities, providing warnings to local public health officials and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials if there has been a bioterrorist attack. Faster detection permits earlier medical treatment and saves lives.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/timesstar/ci\\_5947515](http://www.insidebayarea.com/timesstar/ci_5947515)

### **54. States move warily on Real ID - Officials still crave funding and firm guidance on nationwide standards for driver's licenses (FCW, 21 May 2007)**

Having aired their concerns about cost and policy implications, many state officials now seem resigned to the Real ID Act, which requires states to issue driver's licenses that conform to new federal standards. Many states are preparing for the new requirements and hiring systems integrators rather than waiting for the Homeland Security Department to release final technical standards.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article102725-05-21-07-Print>

### **54. British police test airborne 'spy drone' (AP, 21 May 2007)**

LONDON: Police in northwest England on Monday tested a tiny airborne drone fitted with a closed-circuit television camera that will be used to spy on criminals. The battery-operated drone, which resembles a miniature helicopter, will be operated by officers using a remote control. Made by German company Microdrones, the drone is a meter wide and weighs less than a kilogram (2 1/2 pounds). "It is a cost-effective way to deal with situations where you have to deploy a lot of officers," said Louise Burton, spokeswoman for Merseyside Police Force. Able to record images from a height of 500 meters, the drone's design was based in part on pilotless military aircraft used for reconnaissance. It provides instant high-quality images that can be transmitted to a support vehicle or to a control room.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/05/21/europe/EU-GEN-Britain-Drone.php>

## RESOURCES

### **56. Dartmouth develops program for terrorism response training - Virtual Terrorism Response Academy rewrites video game to prepare first responders (17 May 2007)**

Dartmouth's Interactive Media Laboratory (IML) has launched a new, video game-based training program for first responders featuring simulated terrorist attacks using weapons of mass destruction. The program, called "Ops-Plus for WMD Hazmat," is the first course for IML's Virtual Terrorism Response Academy (VTRA). The course provides more than 16 hours of training to handle CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive) emergencies. Dozens of local, state, and federal responders helped develop and test "Ops-Plus."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~news/releases/2007/05/17c.html>

### **57. UCCS program leading way in homeland security - Ph.D. offering first of its kind in the United States (The Colorado Springs Business Journal, 19 May 2007)**

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, national security has become a focus of both business and government, but only one university in the United States has a homeland security doctoral program - The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. The Center of Homeland Security, one of four that are part of the National Institute of Science, Space and Security Centers, developed the program in partnership with U.S. Northern Command and the Naval Postgraduate School. "It's the only federally funded Ph.D. program in the nation," said Dr. Steve Recca, director of the center. "It's combined with our newest effort - helping Iraq war veterans find jobs in the homeland security fields when they return from their deployment."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thepbj.com/story.cfm?id=10617>

## OPPORTUNITIES

### **58. DHS seeks research on nine cybersecurity areas (FCW, 21 May 2007)**

The Homeland Security Department is initiating an ambitious Cyber Security Research Development Center program that entails soliciting input from industry, government labs and academia on how to protect data against the latest threats and intrusions. The Science and Technology Directorate published a 43-page agency announcement seeking white papers on topics such as botnet and malware protection, composable and scaleable systems, cybermetrics, data visualization, routing security, process control security, real-time assessment, data anonymization, and insider threat detection and management. White papers on technologies to address the threats and strengthen protections are due June 27. Final proposals will be due Sept. 17. The directorate will award up to \$4.5 million for research related to technologies proposing solutions in nine topic areas.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article102766-05-21-07-Web>

## FULL REPORTS

### **59. Competitive Intelligence vs. Espionage (By Fred White, ThomasNet, 22 May 2007)**

Business intelligence, corporate intelligence, manufacturing intelligence, industrial intelligence - whatever you call it, we do it openly but prefer the target company be unaware. How do we pursue aggressive but legitimate competitive intelligence-collection activities without being liable for espionage?

In April, two former Ferrari engineers accused of stealing trade secrets were convicted of industrial espionage. And earlier this month, five Kia workers were indicted for selling car manufacturing technologies to China. Since last November, the five Kia workers allegedly delivered 57 corporate secrets, including the technology to assemble a certain sport utility vehicle and plans for new models, to a local consulting firm established by some of Kia's former workers.

The National Intelligence Service said among the leaked Kia corporate secrets, files on welding, assembly and quality control were handed over to a Chinese automaker.

It's pretty clear, thanks to the increasingly rapid occurrences of technological disruptions, that support and focus on innovation and invention play a huge role on profitability. Yet given a morass of uncertainty about how much to invest in R&D to generate new products, technologies and services, what do top managers do? They hire someone or outsource someone or some group to gather competitive intelligence (CI) - not corporate or industrial espionage.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

### **60. Proposed Immigration Reform Would Change U.S. Visa System - Only those who entered before January 1, 2007 would be eligible for Z visa (By Jeffrey Thomas, USINFO Staff Writer, 18 May 2007)**

Mexicans line up outside of the U.S. Consulate in Monterrey, Mexico, as they wait for a working visa interview on May 17. Key senators and the White House announced an agreement Thursday on an immigration overhaul that would grant quick legal status to millions of illegal immigrants already in the U.S. and fortify the border. (© AP Images) Mexicans line up outside of the U.S. Consulate in Monterrey, Mexico, as they wait for a working visa interview on May 17. (© AP Images)

Washington – If enacted, a proposed plan for immigration reform would create a new merit-based immigration system and provide a path to citizenship for those who have entered the United States illegally.

President Bush and top administration officials provided an overview of the complex proposal after the May 17 announcement of an agreement reached between the administration and a bipartisan group of U.S. senators. (See [related article](#).)

Certain familiar features of the U.S. immigration system would vanish under the proposal, including the Diversity Lottery Program and U.S. permanent resident cards for siblings and adult children of U.S. citizens and holders of what is known as a “green card.” New features would include a parents’ visitor visa enabling parents to visit children in the United States regularly and for extended periods; a Z visa or four-year, renewable work visa for those present within the United States illegally before January 1, 2007; and a temporary worker program.

## A NEW MERIT-BASED IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

Under the current U.S. immigration system, two-thirds of all green cards are granted to relatives of U.S. citizens. The proposed new system, according to Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, calls for most green cards to be based on a merit system that counts heavily education, employment skills and experience in the United States. “Family [ties] will come in as a tie-breaker,” Chertoff said in a White House briefing May 17.

Those who applied for green cards on the basis of family ties as of March 2005, however, would be processed within eight years under the old rules. “If you waited [in] line, we’re not going to change the rules of the game on you; we’re going to let you get in under the rules of the game as they then existed,” said Chertoff, adding that dealing with the so-called family backlog was a matter of “basic fairness.”

## PROVISIONS FOR THOSE WHO ENTERED UNITED STATES ILLEGALLY

Chertoff explained how the plan would work for those undocumented workers who have not committed crimes.

Those who entered illegally would be able to get a probationary visa to continue to work while a background check is completed. Once certain border-security requirements are met, a Z visa would be issued for four years allowing the holder to work in the United States and to make visits to his or her home country. Those applying for a Z visa would pay a \$1,000 fine, pass a background check, remain employed, maintain a clean criminal record and receive a counterfeit-proof biometric identification card.

U.S. Ambassador to India, David C. Mulford (left) interviews an Indian woman seeking a visa at the consular section of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India. Key senators and the White House announced an agreement Thursday on an immigration overhaul that would grant quick legal status to millions of illegal immigrants already in the U.S. and fortify the border. (© AP Images)

An Indian woman seeking a visa is interviewed at the consular section of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India. (© AP Images)

If the holder of the Z visa met all its conditions, which include paying taxes, the visa could be renewed for another four years. After the second renewal – that is, after eight years – Chertoff said the U.S. government would ensure that there would be enough

green cards available “so that anybody who has paid the fines that are required, satisfactorily completed two terms as a Z visa worker, gone back home and filed an application - we'll be able to accommodate those people who qualify, getting green cards within the following five years.” A Z visa holder applying for a green card would be required to pay an additional \$4,000 fine, to complete certain English language requirements, to return to his or her home country to await processing while the current backlog clears and to demonstrate merit under the merit-based system, according to a White House fact sheet on the proposal. (See [fact sheet](#).)

There would be a cutoff date for Z visas for people who are undocumented. “The only people who will be eligible to get a Z visa as a person who is here illegally is someone who arrived in this country prior to January 1 of 2007,” Chertoff said, adding that applicants would have to prove they were present in the United States prior to the cutoff date.

The proposal would create a temporary worker program to fill jobs Americans are not taking, setting a cap initially at 400,000. Workers in the program would be limited to three two-year terms, with at least a year spent outside the United States between each term. Temporary workers would be allowed to bring immediate family members only if they have the financial ability to support them and only if they are covered by health insurance, according to the White House fact sheet.

## NEXT STEPS

The bipartisan agreement has not yet been introduced in Congress as proposed legislation. Once it is, details could change as the bill works its way through House and Senate committees or when it is brought to the floor of the House and Senate for debate. If the House and the Senate pass different versions of the bill, the two would have to be reconciled and passed again by both chambers before the final version is sent to the president for his signature.

If the legislation that becomes law retains the provisions of the current proposal, then certain parts will be contingent on other parts. The proposal contains border-security enforcement triggers: that is, 595 kilometers of fence would have to be completed on the U.S. border with Mexico, 18,000 more border patrol agents would have to be recruited and trained, an electronic verification system would have to be operational so that employers more easily could verify who is a U.S. citizen – all these and other conditions would have to be met before certain other aspects of the plan could be implemented.

Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez, who briefed reporters with Chertoff, also issued a statement indicating that the proposal might change as it makes its way through the legislative process.

“The consensus, the center of this debate, is where the solutions will be found. We must compromise to get a final product that everyone can support. But, the point is that this is an historic bipartisan compromise agreement upon which further progress will be made.”

For additional details, see a [transcript](#) of remarks by Chertoff, Gutierrez and White House official Joel Kaplan.

The president's most recent statements on the subject, including the [full text](#) of the president's statement on the Senate agreement, are available in [Comprehensive Immigration Reform](#) on the White House Web site.

The [full text](#) of a statement by Gutierrez is available on the Commerce Department Web site.

For more information on U.S. policies, see [Visas and Immigration](#).

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