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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 39

6 July 2006 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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We search the topics and Websites that you request, so it is important for you to provide feedback. We are in our infancy and the CABLE Gram will be as useful as you help

make it. Please let us know the topics and keywords that will assist you in your professional endeavors. Send all comments and suggestions to zhi@cablegram.org – please type CABLE Gram in the subject line.

FEDERAL

1. US interceptors were ready for NKorean missile (Reuters, 5 Jul 2006)

WASHINGTON - The United States placed its interceptor missiles in Alaska and California on alert for the long-range North Korean missile that failed less than a minute after being launched, U.S. officials said on Wednesday. The launch of Pyongyang's intercontinental Taepodong 2 missile, and at least five shorter-range missiles, marked the first time the fledgling U.S. anti-missile shield has been officially reported to have been primed in response to a specific event. The U.S. Northern Command, which operates the interceptors in Alaska and California as part of its homeland defense mission, said it was "able to determine quickly the missiles posed no threat to (the) United States or its territories."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?O27C56E5D>

2. Guam reacts to missile launches (Pacific Daily News, 6 Jul 2006)

Local officials yesterday assured residents that missiles launched by North Korea do not pose any imminent danger for Guam. According to Associated Press reports, seven missiles from North Korea were fired yesterday, including a long-range missile capable of reaching U.S. soil, but it failed after being airborne for 35 seconds. The short-range missiles fell into the Sea of Japan. The Bush administration has said that North Korea's firing of missiles was a provocation, but it did not pose an immediate threat to the U.S., AP reports state. The administration has since launched a diplomatic counter offensive to the missile launches but made it clear that its response would not involve military action. Guam Homeland Security Adviser Frank Blas Jr. said his agency has been in communication with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security after the test-firing of the missiles was confirmed.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G68C16E5D>

3. Russian Nuclear Security Lags, Raising U.S. Terrorism Concerns (Bloomberg, 5 Jul 2006)

U.S. efforts to secure the former Soviet Union's nuclear stockpile are flagging as the Iraq war and Iran's atomic ambitions push it lower on the international agenda and an oil-rich Russia resists pressure for tougher action. Almost 15 years after the U.S. launched its program to help strengthen controls on the world's largest nuclear stockpile, Russian guards are still patrolling storage sites with unloaded guns, propping open doors that should be locked and turning off intrusion detectors to avoid false alarms, according to a 2005 report by Harvard University's Project on Managing the Atom. The report found that security systems in 46 percent of the Russian buildings that contain nuclear material have yet to be fully upgraded. President George W. Bush has said the most serious U.S.

security threat is a terrorist detonating a nuclear device in a large city -- and experts say the likeliest source of material for such a device is Russia.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=ayzhuvUoWdzo&refer>

4. CIA reportedly shuts down anti-bin Laden unit (AP, 4 Jul 2006)

NEW YORK - A CIA unit that had hunted for Osama bin Laden and his top deputies for a decade has been disbanded, according to a published report. Citing unnamed intelligence officials, The New York Times reported Tuesday that the unit, known as "Alec Station," was shut down late last year. The decision to close the unit, which was created before the September 11, 2001, attacks, was first reported Monday by National Public Radio. The officials told the Times that the change reflects a view that al Qaeda's hierarchy has changed, and terrorist attacks inspired by the group are now being carried out independently of bin Laden and his second-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/07/04/cia.binladen.ap/index.html>

5. Bid to keep FEMA within DHS gains momentum (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 5 Jul 2006)

Two key senators have reached an agreement to keep the Federal Emergency Management Agency within the Homeland Security Department, a development that at least one senior House Republican hopes will reverse the direction being pursued by House leaders. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Rules Chairman Trent Lott, R-Miss., announced an agreement Thursday to keep FEMA within Homeland Security but give it enhanced powers and protected status. Under the agreement, FEMA would be transformed into the U.S. Emergency Management Authority.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34458&dcn=e_hsw

6. FEMA bulks up on supplies, systems for tracking them (By Paul Singer, National Journal, 5 Jul 2006)

Nobody knows whether FEMA's response to the next catastrophe will be better than its much-maligned reaction to Hurricane Katrina, but this much is certain: FEMA will bring more stuff to the event. In their efforts to repair the most-pressing shortcomings exposed by the 2005 hurricane season, officials at the Federal Emergency Management Agency have invested millions of dollars in equipment and supply upgrades to try to ensure a smoother flow of supplies to, and communications at, the site of the next disaster. State emergency-response officials applaud these investments but warn that the upgrades may have done little to repair underlying flaws in FEMA's operations -- a loss of experienced staff and a strategy that emphasizes federal decision-making in disasters that are primarily local events.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34419&dcn=e_hsw

7. Hazardous-materials trucks: terror threat? Technology could reduce the risk by a third, but at a cost of \$1.1 billion to the industry (Christian Science Monitor, 7 Jul 2006)

When he crisscrossed the East Coast in his big rig, New Jersey truck driver Bob Grant hauled everything from baby powder to rocket fuel. His specialty was hazardous materials, or hazmats, such as gasoline, butane, and diesel fuel. Then came 9/11. Worried that terrorists would hijack his tanker truck and use it as a weapon, Mr. Grant switched to dump trucks and retired a few years later. His jitters reflect a growing concern about terrorist truck bombs. In Tunisia in 2002, a suicide terrorist linked to Al Qaeda detonated a propane tanker beside a synagogue, killing 21 people. A 2004 visit to Iraq by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was punctuated by a fuel-truck attack that burned a section of Baghdad. These and scores of other truck attacks worldwide have fueled a growing debate over whether the United States is vulnerable to a similar strike. Last August, the FBI warned of a possible fuel-truck attack in a major US city. The federal government's post-9/11 programs are enough to protect hazmat trucking, say federal officials and trucking organizations. Some security experts say more needs to be done. At issue: Should the government force the industry to spend \$1.1 billion - about \$5,500 per truck - on new technologies that could reduce the truck-bomb threat by a third?

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.christiansciencemonitor.com/2006/0707/p02s01-usgn.html>

8. Hazmat rail ban could have ripple effect (DC Velocity, July 2006)

IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE A PURELY LOCAL DISPUTE, BUT THE legal battle raging between a railroad and the Washington, D.C., city council could have broad implications for hazmat shippers nationwide. Rail carrier CSX has taken the District of Columbia to court over the city council's attempts to ban hazardous materials shipments through the city. Although the matter remains in litigation, other cities—Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland and Las Vegas, to name a few—are said to be considering similar measures. The contretemps began in February of last year when the Washington, D.C., city council adopted a measure temporarily prohibiting shipments of certain hazardous materials from coming within a 2.2-mile radius of the Capitol. Citing the dangers of, say, a railcar loaded with chlorine if it were targeted by terrorists, city council members barred carriers from bringing large shipments of explosives and flammable and poisonous gases into the city without a special permit. Though the measure does not specifically target railroads, it effectively bans rail shipments of hazardous materials through the city, forcing carriers like CSX to divert freight to less-populated areas.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dcvelocity.com/articles/20060701/news.cfm>

9. Kansas State University Experts Discuss Agroterrorism and Its Financial Implications (U.S. Newswire, 5 Jul 2006)

MANHATTAN, Kan. - For terrorists looking to strike at the nerve center of the nation's financial and military power, New York and Washington, D.C., were obvious targets. Were a terrorist attack to occur on the heartland, such an attack need not be against humans, but where it could inflict the most harm -- against its agricultural-based economy. Such a strike could be devastating, crippling the agricultural economy of the

region and creating a potential economic disaster. Four of K-State's leading experts on the topic talk about what agroterrorism is, whether it is a real or perceived threat and its possible financial implications. Experts include Sean Fox, a professor of agricultural economics; Jerry Jaax, associate vice provost for research compliance and the university veterinarian; Curtis Kastner, professor of animal sciences and industry and director of the Food Science Institute; and Jackie McClaskey, assistant dean, academic programs, in the College of Agriculture.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=68792>

10. Border intelligence plan still in 'early stages,' official says (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 5 Jul 2006)

The Homeland Security Department's chief intelligence officer acknowledged last week that the department is still in the "early stages" of developing a strategic plan for capturing and disseminating intelligence along the nation's borders, an admission that drew immediate criticism from Democrats who said such a plan should have been done years ago. "I think we are in the early stages of developing an overall strategic picture and landscape," Charles Allen told the House Homeland Security Intelligence Subcommittee during a hearing. "I agree with you that we should have done this earlier." Allen said one of his top priorities since joining the department last fall has been developing "an intelligence campaign plan" for the borders that includes surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. "We have a good deal to do but I have some good ideas about how to get this done," he said. Allen was not asked about and did not offer a timeline for when the plan would be completed.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34441&dcn=e_hsw

11. Program to verify workers' immigration status shows promise (GovExec.com, by Jonathan Marino, 5 Jul 2006)

Immigration officials last month said a program that uses no biometric identifiers is potentially the solution for conducting background checks on workers' immigration status. The Citizenship and Immigration Services unit within the Homeland Security Department is conducting a test run of the program, in which 10,000 employers have volunteered to participate, an agency official told members of the House Small Business Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment and Government Programs last week. The project, called the Basic Employment Verification pilot, has been largely successful, said Robert Divine, CIS' acting deputy director. The test is a run-up to a nationwide system where a short list of employees' identifying information, such as immigration control numbers and dates of birth, will be checked against a national database to yield an approval or denial for work. Divine told lawmakers that the identification program will serve as the beginning of the fix some are saying is needed for enforcement of immigration laws at worksites.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34439&dcn=e_hsw

12. US managers accused of industrial espionage (Reuters, 6 Jul 2006)

Three former US car industry executives have been accused of selling trade secrets to the Chinese. Reflecting the acute sensitivity felt in the US to the rise of Chinese industry and the methods the Chinese may be prepared to use, the three executives face 64 counts of fraud, theft of trade secrets and conspiracy. The three worked for Metaldyne and GKN, both major component suppliers to the car manufacturers.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?F5233506D>

13. Exhibit honors 9/11 maritime rescuers - More than 300,000 people were evacuated by boats (AP, 5 Jul 2006)

NEW YORK - On that September day, there was chaos, fire, confusion and fear. Through it all, the boats kept coming. Hundreds of them, from tugs to ferries, gathered along Manhattan's West Side to help evacuate those trying to get away from the burning World Trade Center. An exhibit uses the voices of those who were there -- tug captains, police officers, maritime workers, financial experts, students, teachers, stock brokers and other citizens -- to tell the sometimes overlooked story of how thousands of people escaped lower Manhattan on September 11, 2001, by boat.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/07/05/911.boats.ap/index.html>

14. Mexico deaths spark security training - Bodyguards study 'high-risk' protection after slaying of Canadians near Cancun (Ontario Globe and Mail, 4 Jul 2006)

The high-profile slaying of an Ontario couple holidaying near Cancun was a significant factor when an international bodyguard group decided to hold its latest high-risk training course in Mexico. The World Federation of Bodyguards will run a "high-risk close protection course" this month to teach security workers lessons in ransom theory, surveillance and other techniques to prevent the killing and kidnapping of business executives and tourists. Organizers said interest in security for trips to Mexico has risen since Domenico and Nancy Ianiero were brutally killed in their luxury hotel room in February.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?A19C22E5D>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

15. AZ: Migrants, smugglers increasingly turn violent as U.S. clamps down (The Salt Lake Tribune, 4 Jul 2006)

YUMA, Ariz. - The U.S. Border Patrol here has a statistic it uses to gauge its effectiveness: assaults against its agents. And those assaults have doubled in the past year. The Border Patrol believes the attacks indicate how increased security has raised the level of frustration felt by the immigrants and smugglers of humans and illegal drugs. "When business is good, no one wants to rock the boat," said Richard Hays, a spokesman for the Border Patrol in Yuma. "But when business is not good, when those loads are not getting through, when those shipments of marijuana are getting caught, they take it out on those responsible, and those are our agents." Some question the Border Patrol's interpretation of the data, but the numbers suggest the U.S.-Mexican border is becoming

a more dangerous place. As the United States increases the number of eyes watching its southern border, the pressure put on immigrants and smugglers could give them more incentive to commit violence or take deadly risks.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.sltrib.com/utah/ci_4010166

16. CO: Up to 200 Colorado Guard troops could be on border within weeks (KVOA, 4 Jul 2006)

DENVER - Up to 200 Colorado National Guard troops could be sent to Southwestern states to help with security on the Mexican border under an authorization signed by Gov. Bill Owens on Monday, his spokesman said. No Colorado troops will be sent until they are formally requested, which could be within a month, spokesman Dan Hopkins said. Hopkins said if Colorado troops do go, they would stay "weeks, rather than months." Colorado has agreed to supply troops on a rotating basis for at least two years, he said. Owens said the troops would come from the Army and Air National Guard and would help with logistics, command and control, security and engineering. He said they would not be directly involved in law enforcement.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=5111144&nav=HMO6HMaY>

17. CO: Governor calls news conference on identity theft (AP, 5 Jul 2006)

DENVER - Governor Bill Owens plans to release the results of an investigation by Colorado labor officials into identity theft, at a news conference planned for this afternoon in Denver. Owens also plans to discuss the misuse of Social Security numbers, after a study showing that thieves are targeting such information, and that employers often fail to verify information on potential employees. Owens signed a bill into law two months ago that makes identity theft a felony offense, punishable by up to six years in prison.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?C1C34206D>

18. CT: State sends decontamination trailer to Milford Fire Dept. (Connecticut Post, 6 Jul 2006)

MILFORD - The city's Fire Department is getting a mass-casualty decontamination trailer that can also provide vital communications with state and regional authorities during an emergency, officials said Wednesday. Fire Chief Louis LaVecchia said the department will receive the trailer in the next month from the state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. It is one of 34 trailers purchased with federal funding that are being distributed to communities throughout the state.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.connpost.com/news/ci_4017992

19. GA: Federal probe nabs trio in case of pop espionage (AP, 6 Jul 2006)

ATLANTA - Three people were charged by U.S. prosecutors yesterday with stealing confidential information, including a sample of a new drink, from the Coca-Cola Co. and trying to sell it to rival PepsiCo Inc. The suspects include a Coke executive's

administrative assistant, Joya Williams, who is accused of rifling through corporate files and stuffing documents and a new Coca-Cola product into a personal bag.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://lfpres.ca/newsstand/Business/2006/07/06/1670297-sun.html>

20. IL: Blagojevich signs bill to help combat identity theft (WQAD.com, 5 Jul 2006)

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. Governor Rod Blagojevich (bluh-GOY'-uh-vitch) signed a bill today aimed at making it tougher in Illinois for identity thieves to gather cell phone records and other personal information. The bill outlaws the practice known as "pretexting," in which identity thieves impersonate customers to trick companies into revealing cell phone records and other personal information. Under the bill, it's illegal for people to portray themselves as someone else without permission, with the intent of gaining personal identification information or documents of that person.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wqad.com/Global/story.asp?S=5116408&nav=1sW7>

21. IN: New law protects Hoosiers from identity theft (The Tribune-Star, 3 Jul 2006)

Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter visited Terre Haute on Monday, spreading the word about a new security breach disclosure law. The law, which took effect Saturday, requires companies to notify Indiana customers if there is a breach in their security system that compromises their personal identification information. It doesn't matter where the company is based, if the information at risk belongs to an Indiana citizen, they must be notified. If the company fails to do so, it could face fines up to \$150,000.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.tribstar.com/news/local_story_184225945.html

22. NY: Subway Rider Sliced in Power Saw Attack (AP, 6 Jul 2006)

A man grabbed two cordless power saws off a subway station workbench and went on a rampage Thursday, swinging the saws at riders and slicing open a man's chest before running away, police said. The 64-year-old victim, whose name was not released, was hospitalized in critical but stable condition. Police were searching for the suspect, described by witnesses as a thin man in his 30s, who had earrings in both ears and was possibly carrying a teddy bear. The attack occurred before dawn at a subway station a few blocks south of Columbia University. Wielding a saw in each hand, the man took a swipe at one rider on a platform and missed, police said. Moments later, he cut into the man's chest at a turnstile before bolting out of the station, still carrying the power tools, which were later found in a trash can.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.breitbart.com/news/2006/07/06/D8IMK8H00.html>

23. PA: Eight cars jump tracks in Hershey (Lebanon Daily News, 6 Jul 2006)

HERSHEY - A portion of a westbound Norfolk Southern freight train with 76 cars derailed in Derry Township yesterday afternoon, forcing the evacuation of 14 residents. The derailment happened about 5:30 p.m. behind the American Legion post at the East Derry Road crossing, near Mansion Road, blocking both tracks of a major double-track rail corridor between New Jersey and the Midwest. About 10 homes within a block of the

accident, between Mansion Road and Trinidad Avenue, were evacuated. Residents were put up in area hotels, said William Smith, Derry police chief. No one was hurt, and Hersheypark, which is nearby, did not have to be closed. "It was a low-speed impact, and that was in our favor," he said. Eight of the cars, some with hazardous chemicals, jumped the tracks, Smith said. However, none of the cars leaked any chemicals.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.ldnews.com/news/ci_4019746

24. UT: Utah State University to Receive Free TekVet System for Use in Research Studies Involving Beef and Dairy Cattle (PRNewswire, 6 Jul 2006)

LOGAN and NORTH SALT LAKE, Utah - Utah State University's (USU) College of Agriculture announced today it has entered into an agreement with TekVet(TM), LLC, a Utah-based developer of agricultural technologies, to use its wireless TekVet System(TM) in some of its ongoing research efforts with beef and dairy cattle. Officials from both USU and TekVet will join together later this afternoon to showcase the TekVet System for Utah Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. at TekVet's facility (685 North Main St) in North Salt Lake. TekVet will also install its TekSensors in live animals while also demonstrating the TekVet System's ability to provide vital real-time health data via the Internet.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?I1C22406D>

25. UT: Hazardous Materials Found At Hill Air Force Base (KUTV, 4 Jul 2006)

HILL AIR FORCE BASE The South Gate into Hill Air Force Base was closed for about two hours after a vehicle was discovered carrying hazardous materials. Officials said after inspecting a private vehicle at the gate around 7:45 p.m. Monday evening, security personnel discovered the materials in the trunk. Four military personnel assigned to the base were detained. The South Gate was closed for two hours while military security and local law enforcement officers completed an investigation of the materials.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://kutv.com/topstories/local_story_185030232.html

26. VA: Combating terrorism Va. police on ADL trip to Israel learn every citizen has a role (Jewish Week, 5 Jul 2006)

Why is Israel so successful at combating terrorism? Two top Northern Virginia police officials just back from the Jewish state say having the right attitude makes a big difference. Israelis simply believe that they are "going to succeed in their fight against terrorism and maintain a normal life," said Fairfax County Police Chief David Rohrer. "The Israelis' mindset [is] ... they take it very seriously [and] that's part of their success," said Earl Cook, deputy chief of police at the Alexandria Police Department. The two men were part of a group of 11 law enforcement personnel < including FBI and ATF agents and leaders of police departments from across the country < who participated in the Anti-Defamation League's weeklong Counterterrorism Training Seminar in Israel last month.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?I2335106D>

KEY PEOPLE

27. DHS names new operations director (FCW, 6 Jul 2006)

The Homeland Security Department has chosen a retired U.S. Coast Guard vice admiral as its new operations chief, DHS officials announced today. Vice Adm. Roger Rufe Jr. started today as director of DHS' Operations Directorate, the department's secretary, Michael Chertoff, said in a statement. Rufe brings extensive experience in joint operations and incident management, Chertoff said. As operations chief, he will integrate department operations and improve intragovernmental coordination, Chertoff said. Rufe will oversee the National Operations Center, the successor to the Homeland Security Operations Center, Chertoff said. Rufe will also be in charge of the Incident Advisory Council, which will replace the Interagency Incident Management Group, Chertoff said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article95167-07-06-06-Web>

28. DHS lags in appointing cybersecurity czar (By Heather Greenfield, National Journal's Technology Daily, 6 Jul 2006)

As the nation celebrated its birthday on Tuesday, those awaiting the appointment of a Cabinet-level cyber security czar are drawing attention to another July anniversary. It has been nearly a year since Homeland Security Department Secretary Michael Chertoff announced the creation of a position for an assistant cyber security czar. Chertoff made the announcement as part of a six-point agenda July 13, 2005, which identified elevating the position to an assistant Cabinet-level post as part of an overall strategy to "ensure that the department's policies, operations, and structures are aligned in the best way to address the potential threats -- both present and future."

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34471&dcn=e_gvet

29. TSA names Kair head of security at Orlando International (Orlando Business Journal, 3 Jul 2006)

The [Transportation Security Administration](#) has named Lee R. Kair as federal security director for [Orlando International Airport](#). Kair, who will assume the position in early August, will replace Art Meinke, who is transferring to George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston. Kair currently serves as the executive director of TSA's office of interagency operations in Washington, D.C., where he oversees several initiatives of strategic importance to the organization. Before joining the TSA, Kair was the director of strategic sourcing and acquisition systems at the Department of Homeland Security.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://orlando.bizjournals.com/orlando/stories/2006/07/03/daily11.html?jst=b_in_hl

30. TSA Names New Federal Security Director for El Paso International Airport (Comtex Community Via Thomson Dialog NewsEdge, 6 Jul 2006)

El PASO, Texas - The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced today that F. Mark Momsen, a long-time resident of El Paso, has been named Federal Security Director (FSD) at El Paso International Airport (ELP). In that role, Momsen will oversee all TSA security operations at the airport.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Y1B22206D>

GANG ACTIVITY

31. Gangs show colors on the Web (AP, 4 Jul 2006)

LOS ANGELES - Some of the country's most notorious street gangs have gotten Web-savvy, showcasing illegal exploits, making threats, and honoring killed and jailed members on digital turf. Crips, Bloods, MS-13, 18th Street and others have staked claims on various corners of cyberspace. "Web bangers" are posting potentially incriminating photos of members holding guns, messages taunting other gangs and boasts of illegal exploits on personal Web sites and social networking sites. "I'm just being real and I ain't got nothing to hide," said Kristopher "Kasper" Flowers, 30, a professed member of the 18th Street gang with facial tattoos of "18" and "666." The main 18th Street gang Web site has a link to "Kaspers World." Gangs once only roamed the streets of big cities but now can be found in 2,500 U.S. communities, according to the FBI. Police departments suddenly faced with the unwelcome arrivals are looking for help anywhere they can get it, including the gangs' own easy-to-find Web sites.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/breaking_news/14965205.htm

32. CA: Gang Accused of Conspiring to Kill Blacks (Los Angeles Times, 4 Jul 2006)

Jose Cruz is a walking testament to what happens when a member turns against the Avenues street gang. He has 30 scars from the stab wounds he suffered in one attempt on his life — on his arms, torso and legs. In another attack, he was beaten so severely that he has a visible dent in his skull, according to court papers, "the size and shape of a pistol butt." His street gang goes back five generations in Highland Park, which for Cruz is five miles and several lifetimes from the downtown courtroom where he is scheduled to testify as the star witness for the prosecution in the trial of a group of childhood friends.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G60026F5D>

33. FL: 2 county men among mafia suspects (Palm Beach Post, 4 Jul 2006)

In the hunt to take down the legendary Genovese organized crime family, investigators nabbed two associates in Palm Beach County. They found Renaldi "Ray" Ruggiero, a 72-year-old living in a modest suburban home in Palm Beach Gardens. He is described as the "capo" in charge of the family's South Florida operations. They also found his alleged associate, Mitchell Weissman, 54, in Boca Raton. He is not a made man, but helped the mafia carry out its traditional work of extortion, robbery, money laundering, loan sharking, possession of stolen property and bank fraud, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?T5FF53E5D>

34. MD: 7 Killed During Weekend In Prince George's (WRC-TV, 3 Jul 2006)

ADELPHI, Md. - Seven people were murdered in five different incidents over the weekend, according to Prince George's County police. The violence began Friday when three people were shot and killed on Erie Street in Hyattsville. A fourth man also was hit but survived. Witnesses in the Adelphi neighborhood said they heard the gunmen shout out "Mara Salvatrucha." That's the formal name of the Salvadoran gang MS 13. But police said they do not think the shooting was gang-related. Police identified the victims as 29-year-old Juan Freddy Rosales-Mendes, of Chantilly, Va., 19-year-old Ruben Dominguez, of Silver Spring, Md., and 20-year-old Jesse Salvador, of Hyattsville, Md. Police said they are still looking for five or six attackers.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13691994/>

35. TN: Survey Shows Gang Violence Increasing In The South (AP, 3 Jul 2006)

Chattanooga - A national survey shows gang activity is increasing in the south and Tennessee law enforcement officials as well as their colleagues in other states are taking steps to curtail it. The 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment by the National Alliance Of Gang Investigators' Associations reported that 50 percent of southern agencies responding to the survey reported an increase in the presence of gangs over the past five years. Within the past six months, more than 45 percent reported at least a slight increase in the presence of gangs, according to the recent survey published by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.volunteertv.com/Global/story.asp?S=5108167>

36. Mexico's parallel power - As Mexican organized crime increases its strength and regional influence, analysts wonder if security is a priority for the country's politicians (Commentary by Sam Logan for ISN Security Watch, 4 Jul 2006)

The power of Mexican organized crime has dramatically increased this year, spreading its influence well beyond Mexico's borders. Now, elements from Central America's criminal underground have made de facto connections with at least two of Mexico's most notorious drug trafficking organizations, the Sinaloa Cartel and the Gulf Cartel. These connections indicate a new injection of strength and ruthlessness into Mexican organized crime. And even as organized criminal networks grew stronger this year, Mexico's presidential candidates avoided talking about it during their campaigns, which has led many analysts to wonder if security is a priority for Mexican politicians.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.isn.ethz.ch/news/sw/details.cfm?id=16334>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

37. Smuggling, drug-running, violence defines Mexican border: testimony (Daily Bulletin, 6 Jul 2006)

SAN DIEGO - Narcotics syndicates operating along the southern border are a threat to the security of the United States, and not enough is being done to close the nation's borders to would-be terrorists, government witnesses told U.S. congressional leaders Wednesday. The House Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Non-proliferation

held the first of several field hearings on border security and terrorism at the Imperial Beach Border Patrol Station in San Diego. During testimony, law enforcement agents, researchers and federal officials said they lack the funding, manpower and technology to fully secure the nation's northern and southern borders. "Drug cartels, smuggling rings and gangs operating on both the Mexico and U.S. sides are increasingly well-equipped and more brazen than ever before in attacking federal, state and local law enforcement officials," said subcommittee Chairman Rep. Ed Royce, R-Fullerton, at the opening of the hearing. "Border Patrol agents are being assaulted in increasing numbers. Some border areas can be accurately described as war zones." Outside the station, more than 100 people from both sides of the immigration debate stood on the street in protest. Immigrant-rights activists placed 4,000 crosses in a field alongside the road leading to the Border Patrol station, while border enforcement activists waved American flags and held signs asking asked congressional leaders to tighten the borders.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.dailybulletin.com/news/ci_4016983

38. IA: IOWA DOT seizes \$2.5 million in cocaine during inspection (WHOTV.com, 5 Jul 2006)

AMES, Iowa Chalk up a big drug bust for the Iowa Department of Transportation. Officials say an inspection of a truck on Sunday on Interstate 80 at an enforcement scale site in Dallas County netted two and a-half (m) million dollars in cocaine. The Iowa D-O-T says the drugs were found in a vehicle registered to a Canadian company, Equator Logistics of Brampton, Ontario. Two people from Ontario were arrested on two drugs charges -- possession of a controlled substance and failure to have a drug stamp.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.whotv.com/Global/story.asp?S=5115120&nav=2HAB>

39. NH: Police seize more than a pound of crack-cocaine in N.H. (Boston Globe, 4 Jul 2006)

MANCHESTER, N.H. - More than a pound of crack-cocaine was seized by state and local authorities in what is believed to be one of the largest crack busts in New Hampshire. Police arrested two men on Monday after a delivery that netted 14 1/2 ounces of crack, said Lt. Jim Stankiewicz. Later, another five ounces were seized in a search at their home. "The nearly 20 ounces of crack represents one of the largest seizures in the state of New Hampshire," Stankiewicz said.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?R2DF12E5D>

40. NM: Portales Police making more cocaine arrests (Freedom Newspapers, 6 Jul 2006)

PORTALES - The number of cocaine-related arrests is on the rise, according to Portales Police officials. Portales Police Department Chief Jeff Gill said 129 individuals have been arrested on drug-related charges since May 2005, and the more prevalent drug in those arrests is cocaine. Berry said police officers have seen this trend more in the last couple of months, although the arrests weren't broken down for each narcotic category. "There is a growing trend of cocaine arrests we are finding now because

methamphetamine arrests are going through a downward trend because of Meth Watch and other programs," Gill said. The Meth Watch Program was passed through a county ordinance in September and went into effect shortly thereafter. The ordinance restricts sale of decongestants containing pseudoephedrine, which can be used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://cnjonline.com/engine.pl?station=clovis&template=storyfull.html&id=21321>

41. RI: Baby formula used to dilute cocaine (ZWire, 4 Jul 2006)

NORTH SMITHFIELD - A suspected shoplifter shot and killed by a North Smithfield police officer at the Park Square Stop & Shop Sunday had reportedly stolen baby formula, an expensive item that is frequently shoplifted from retail store shelves. Local police say they see baby formula-related thefts all the time. "We see this at least a few times a month," said Cumberland Capt. Ralph Liguori, adding that baby formula is shoplifted primarily because it is used either to cut drugs or resell on the black market. According to Liguori, powdered baby formula such as the popular brand Enfamil is often used to cut cocaine because the baby formula's consistency is similar to that of the drug's. Dealers often cut or dilute cocaine to make it less strong. Cornstarch, powdered vitamin substances, sugar and flour are often mixed with cocaine, but baby formula is at the top of the list.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?K3EF25E5D>

42. Barbados: More marijuana and cocaine but fewer party drugs (cbc.bb, 4 Jul 2006)

Marijuana and cocaine seizures have increased, but law enforcement officials have not seen any signs of party drugs like ecstasy recently. That's according to Inspector Elliott Bovell of the southern division. He made the disclosure at the Grantley Adams Airport during an operation to destroy a large quantity of marijuana and other contraband by incineration. Drug enforcement officials in Barbados say they have not had any recent discoveries of party drugs like ecstasy.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cbc.bb/content/view/6249/10/>

43. Trinidad & Tobago: \$14.8m cocaine bust (Trinidad Express, 4 Jul 2006)

A Courier employed with DHL international was granted \$450,000 bail yesterday, after he re-appeared in court for allegedly packing 18.6 kilogrammes of pure cocaine, worth \$14.8 million, for shipment abroad. Joseph McDonald, 27, of the Eastern Main Road in Tunapuna, stood before Senior Magistrate Lianne Lee Kim at the Port of Spain Fourth (A) Magistrates' Court for the second time yesterday. It is alleged that on June 26 at San Juan, McDonald knowingly enclosed in packets of a dangerous drug, namely cocaine, to be sent by courier, contrary to Section 17 of the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1991. The packets were allegedly destined to the United Kingdom.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.trinidadexpress.com/index.pl/article_news?id=160977805

44. Colombia - Drug mafia's infiltration of military grows clearer (Miami Herald, 5 Jul 2006)

BOGOTA - It was a set of killings like few others in Colombia's long and violent history. Many of the 11 dead were members of an elite police unit raiding a drug lord's lair. The shooters were army soldiers allegedly on the payroll of the accused trafficker, Diego Montoya, who is next to Osama Bin Laden on the FBI's most wanted list. The military called it a "friendly fire" incident. But the attorney general said it was a "massacre," and when a military tribunal tried to handle the case, his office took over the case in a rare show of legal muscle.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/14967057.htm>

45. UK: Smuggler jailed for 20 years after cocaine haul found in cans of tuna (24dash, 4 Jul 2006)

A 43-year-old London man has been jailed for 20 years after being convicted of attempting to smuggle 85 kgs of cocaine into the UK concealed in cans of tuna fish. Roy Brooks was arrested in October 2005 following a joint investigation by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and the National Crime Squad. Passing sentence at Chelmsford Crown Court, HH Judge Hayward Smith said: "You were not the centre of this web but played a big part, the misery that this drug would have caused is incalculable. Despite the fact that you have a cocaine habit which has affected your life you were still prepared to take part in this importation."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.24dash.com/content/news/viewNews.php?navID=7&newsID=7698>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

46. Editorial: Risky business - Group shows how to steal an election (Daytona Beach News-Journalonline.com, 4 Jul 2006)

Voting is the foundation of democracy. Without vote security, that foundation becomes unstable. Earlier this year in Pennasota, an election came tumbling down. "Pennasota" was the name given by the Brennan Center for Justice's Task Force on Elections Security to a mythical 51st state (created with a composite of voting laws from 10 states including Florida) that was about to have its gubernatorial election stolen. The state might have been imaginary, but the results, using voting technology currently in use in almost every polling place in the nation, were real -- and frightening. In the nation's first "methodical threat assessment" of an electronic voting system, the task force analyzed several different styles of electronic vote-counting equipment. Elections-security and computer experts were able to demonstrate that hackers could batter almost every door down. Most attacks took only one person, and would have been virtually undetectable under security measures in place across the nation.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Y2AC14E5D>

TECHNOLOGY

47. Sanders: On-board computers give firefighters upper hand (Union-Tribune Breaking News Team, 6 Jul 2006)

SAN DIEGO – City firefighters say they are now better prepared with mobile computers installed in each of their engines. The computers, and “smart phones” recently handed out to certain San Diego police officers, were displayed at a news conference Thursday in Normal Heights – the site of a fire that destroyed 76 homes and damaged 57 others in 1985. Mayor Jerry Sanders said the computers give firefighters information on terrain, vegetation, the types of businesses and homes in the area, hazardous materials, water supply and roads that lead in and out of the area. There are at least 23 zones in the city that are potential wildfire sites. Some of the communities in those zones are Tierrasanta, Scripps Ranch, Los Peñasquitos Canyon, Sorrento Valley, Otay Mesa and Mission Valley, Sanders said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20060706-1411-bn06sanders.html>

OPPORTUNITIES

48. MD: Baltimore Department Finds Need For Bilingual Officers (The Baltimore Sun, 5 Jul 2006)

Brandishing guns and yelling in Spanish, the men barged into La Bahia restaurant on South Newkirk Street and ordered the owner, Maria Mendoza, and others to get on the floor. Her husband, Jose, an immigrant from Honduras, fought back against a man holding a shotgun, grabbing him in a bear hug. Another man put a gun to Jose Mendoza's head and pulled the trigger. The half-dozen or so robbers disappeared into the night, leaving the man's crumpled body bleeding on the restaurant floor and in the arms of his wife of 13 years. The killing exemplified a growing problem as Baltimore's Latino community swells, with an increasing number of perpetrators, victims and witnesses to crimes who speak Spanish and little else. And the city's criminal justice system has been struggling to cope.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.officer.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=31390>

FULL REPORTS

49. U.S. Commerce Secretary Urges Adoption of Immigration Reforms - Gutierrez says U.S. can secure borders and also welcome newcomers (Dept. of State, 6 Jul 2006)

The following op-ed column by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez was published in the July 6 edition of *The Philadelphia Enquirer*. There are no republication restrictions.

(begin byliner)

Immigration Reform: Forums for Deciding How Best to Proceed

By Carlos M. Gutierrez

Senate hearings chaired by Arlen Specter [Republican of Pennsylvania] begin today in Philadelphia, along with House hearings in San Diego, on what many consider the social issue of our time: immigration.

I believe members of Congress will hear what I heard in 31 stops recently throughout New Mexico and Texas: the status quo is unacceptable, and comprehensive immigration reform is the best way to secure our border and our future. President Bush has offered a bold and comprehensive plan that provides real security, real enforcement and real fairness.

Like many Americans, my roots lie elsewhere. When I was 6 years old, Cuba's Communist regime stole my parents' land and virtually all our belongings. We fled to America, and I was grateful to be pushed to learn English from an elderly bellhop in a Miami hotel. In the midst of much uncertainty and anxiety, I felt welcomed by everyone I met. This trait is uniquely American: welcoming those who share our values and want to contribute to society. On January 4, 1966, I became a U.S. citizen. To this day, my U.S. passport is my most valued possession. I am proud and grateful to be an American.

It's a false choice to think the immigration debate is a battle between America being a welcoming society and being a nation of laws. We can do both.

Of course, the highest priority must be securing our borders and strengthening enforcement inside our country. Immigration reform must begin with strengthening and integrating personnel, technology, and infrastructure to prevent people from crossing the border illegally. The president's objective is to keep the border open to trade and tourism, and closed to criminals, drug dealers and terrorists.

President Bush wants to add 9,107 more border agents in the next two years, construct high-tech fences and monitoring devices, wider border patrols, and expand our detention facilities.

However, to truly secure the border, we must have a temporary-worker program that recognizes we have jobs that will not get filled without foreign workers. The president's proposal provides a sensible, legal way to match willing foreign workers with willing employers to fill the jobs that Americans aren't available to do.

A temporary-worker program is essential to meet workforce needs that are the result of our growing economy and the impending retirement of 77 million baby-boomers. Recently, more than 500 of our nation's top economists, including five Nobel laureates, signed a joint letter stating unequivocally that immigration has been a net gain for American citizens.

Finally, strengthening enforcement of immigration laws at work sites should be a key component of a reform bill. We can improve work-site enforcement by using

tamperproof identification cards that allow businesses to verify an employee's legal status.

We cannot tolerate businesses that knowingly violate our laws and the public's trust, and the president is committed to holding these employers accountable. He has already increased enforcement funding by 42 percent since taking office, and more arrests of employers have been made this year than the total number made in the five years before he took office.

The promise of America that once attracted the Irish, or the Italians or the Germans, or the Jews, or the Scandinavians, or the Chinese, today prompts Mexicans, Guatemalans, Hondurans and others to risk their lives to live the American dream.

They yearn for freedom and to work, to realize their dreams, to pursue opportunity, and to build better lives for their families. They are driven by the same strong work ethic that has made this the greatest country on Earth. It is just not practical or wise to deport these individuals.

Nor is it compassionate, because it would require ripping apart parents from their American-born children.

Under the president's plan, these individuals could earn legal status by paying a fine and taxes, passing a criminal background check, and learning English. Importantly, they will have to take their place in line behind those who have applied legally. This is not automatic citizenship. This is not unconditional amnesty.

As this debate unfolds, try for just a moment to imagine this country without immigration. Imagine a New York with no vibrant Little Italy or Chinatown, a Midwest without the fun of Oktoberfest, or a Southwest without a pulsing Cinco de Mayo. Now imagine yourself as a citizen of Russia, India, China or, in my case, Cuba. Without immigration, that's where each of us would be. Somewhere else.

Americans deserve a reasoned, thoughtful debate. I am hopeful the House and Senate field hearings will deliver.

(end byliner)

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