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***CABLE Gram***  
Collecting and Broadcasting for Law Enforcement  
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Publisher, Zhi Hamby-Nye

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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 42

18 July 2006 CABLE Gram™

Good Morning All,

Well, we have some major thunderstorms coming through the area and our power has gone off once already. In light of that, I'm going to send this issue without the "Gang" section and any updates on Identity Theft. The next issue will include a full updates on those areas. Sorry for any inconvenience, but Mother Nature has her way today.

Not to start on a grim note – but hey, this is the CABLE Gram. This is for any of you who work in narcotics prevention. You might want to check out <http://www.thesun.co.uk/article/0,,2-2006320106,00.html> - a story in the UK Online Sun. The article is titled "Eaten Alive by Heroin" and if the photos that accompany it don't turn potential users off, then I fear nothing will. Might make for a good series of school posters.

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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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. Defense official: Plans for federal crisis response still needed (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 16 Jul 2006)**

A senior Defense Department official said Friday that the Homeland Security Department should lead a massive effort to ensure that federal departments have plans for responding to catastrophes and that all the plans are integrated. Paul McHale, assistant Defense secretary for homeland defense, said the Homeland Security Department should ensure there is a coordinated federal response for each of 15 all-hazards crisis scenarios developed by the White House Homeland Security Council in 2004. The scenarios outline major disasters or attacks that the United States may face, especially with regard to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incidents. "We have got to come together in our interagency planning," McHale said during a speech at the Heritage Foundation.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=34561&dcn=e\\_gvet](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34561&dcn=e_gvet)

### **2. U.S. Struggles to Rank Potential Terror Targets (Washington Post, 17 Jul 2006)**

The U.S. government has made limited headway in identifying and securing the domestic targets whose destruction would pose the greatest threat to American lives and national

defense, experts and former government officials said. The Department of Homeland Security's inspector general reported last week that a department target list has grown exponentially -- from 160 in 2003 to 28,000 in 2004 to 77,069 today -- but it is filled with bean festivals, car dealerships, small-town parades and check-cashing stores.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M27B53D6D>

### **3. Guard on border armed for self-defense (UPI, 14 July 2006)**

About 40 percent of the 6,000 National Guardsmen assigned to border duty will be armed for self-protection, an Army general said Friday. "We will arm those that are in mission profiles that put soldiers in harm's way. They will carry side arms. They will carry ammunition, and they do have the right to self-protect. And there are other rules that are in there that keep them from abusing any authority over use of lethal force," said Lt .Gen. Steven Blum, the commander of the National Guard. "We are not defending our border and we're not invading Mexico. So all we're doing is protecting our soldiers, so we'll arm them for that particular purpose." More than a third of the 6,000 troops - about 2,500 -- will be conducting reconnaissance at the border as "Entry Identification Team" members.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20060714-034916-2660r>

### **4. Canada: No borders in terror fight, conference told (Canadian Press, 17 Jul 2006)**

Terrorists and drug smugglers know no borders and so neither should North American law enforcement agencies, Attorney General Vic Toews told a conference of 2,000 law enforcement delegates gathered in Toronto on Monday. Delegates from nine countries are attending the annual training conference held by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's national academy -- the first time the event has been held outside the United States. Toews told delegates Canada and the United States are "shining examples" of co-operation but all countries need to work together to fight international crime. "More and more, we realize there are crimes and illicit activities that do not respect borders such as terrorism and the movement of illegal drugs and guns," he said. "We need to work together. Canada, the United States and other nations must combine their efforts. In a world where crimes and jurisdictions overlap, it is important to develop a comprehensive approach to public safety."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?R2A825D6D>

### **5. States stepping up to tackle immigration laws (Washington Times, 18 Jul 2006) - Many States Are Considering Cutting Services For Illegals**

State lawmakers are offering more than 500 bills this year targeting state-mandated services, illegal aliens and the employers who hire them, responding to a growing chorus of public opinion nationwide calling for stricter enforcement of immigration laws. Led by Georgia, where benefits for illegal aliens were cut and stiff sanctions placed on employers who hire illegals, and by Colorado, which banned nonemergency services to those in the country illegally, at least 39 states have either proposed or passed similar legislation. Lawmakers have focused on constituency concerns regarding an estimated 10

million to 12 million illegal aliens now in the country, resulting in rising costs for education and medical care, higher crime rates and exploitation by employers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20060717-114643-5345r.htm>

**6. Technology cited as key to detection of immigration fraud (By Neil Munro, National Journal, 17 Jul 2006)**

U.S. citizenship is such a valuable prize that over the decades and generations, many people have broken laws to gain U.S. residency for themselves or others. Indeed, some degree of fraud is probably inevitable in any immigration system. But critics say the complex immigration bill passed by the Senate has so many citizenship options, categories, and exceptions that it is an open invitation to cheating. Fraud "is a clear and present danger," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, "and threatens to undermine all the good work we've been trying to accomplish." If the bill were to become law, illegal immigrants would, for example, be able to file for a work permit simply by presenting two notarized statements saying they have been working in the country for at least two years.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=34556&dcn=e\\_gvet](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34556&dcn=e_gvet)

**7. Bribery At Border Worries Officials - Mexican Smugglers Intensify Efforts to Entice U.S. Agents (Washington Post, 16 Jul 2006)**

SAN DIEGO - Federal law enforcement officials are investigating a series of bribery and smuggling cases in what they fear is a sign of increased corruption among officers who patrol the Mexican border. Two brothers who worked for the U.S. Border Patrol disappeared in June while under investigation for smuggling drugs and immigrants, and are believed to have fled to Mexico. In the past month, two agents from Customs and Border Protection, which guards border checkpoints, were indicted for taking bribes to allow illegal immigrants to enter the United States. And earlier this month, two Border Patrol supervisory agents pleaded guilty to accepting nearly \$200,000 in payoffs to release smugglers and illegal immigrants who had been detained.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V26B52D6D>

**8. Immigration - Cubans using Honduras as exit route (Miami Herald, 17 Jul 2006)**

Honduran authorities are devising a plan to halt what they say is an organized smuggling operation, fearing an "avalanche" of illegal landings by Cuban migrants who are using Honduras as a gateway to the United States. "What we are witnessing is the trafficking of human beings," Germán Espinal, Honduran director general of international migration, told The Miami Herald. "We need to find a mechanism that will distance us from being accomplices to human trafficking."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/15054582.htm>

**9. TSA goes sole-source for Registered Traveler (FCW, 18 Jul 2006)**

The Homeland Security Department's Transportation Security Administration will award a sole-source contract for enrolling travelers in its voluntary Registered Traveler program rather than compete the contract. TSA announced today it would award the contract to the American Association of Airport Executives, an organization with a history of providing similar services to TSA for other security programs. Section 528 of the 2006 DHS appropriations bill requires the agency to use the association's Transportation Security Clearinghouse for managing the information technology infrastructure, fee collection and interoperability requirements of Registered Traveler, the airline passenger screening program.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article95310-07-18-06-Web>

#### **10. Transportation industry ID system to create national database (Memphis Business Journal, 17 Jul 2006)**

A new identification card for the nation's transportation workers could enhance security at U.S. ports and create a countrywide database of authorized truck drivers. The Transportation Security Administration's proposed Transportation Worker Identification Credential program is designed to better protect rail facilities, airports and seaports by granting access to secure areas to truck drivers, dock and warehouse workers who have been cleared by Homeland Security. The TWIC program will initially affect about 850,000 port workers nationwide as the ID program rolls out at the maritime level later this year, according to the TSA. When implementation starts in other industries, such as the trucking industry, millions will be affected.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?S14B25D6D>

#### **11. Washington Post Examines HHS Response to Public Emergencies Following Sept. 11 Attacks (Kaiser Network, 17 Jul 2006)**

The [Washington Post](#) on Sunday examined how [HHS](#) responded to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks by putting greater emphasis on preparations for "urgent threats to homeland security and the need for rapid response." According to former HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson, the terrorist attacks made it clear that the U.S. was unprepared to respond to major emergencies. Thompson said, "For the first time, state and federal governments began looking at how we might rebuild public health facilities" that had been underfunded for years, adding, "[W]e realized how disjointed we were and how the various divisions were completely independent." HHS in the wake of the attacks created a centralized authority called the "war room" to "coordinate information from all the divisions and issue orders to all hands," the Post reports.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily\\_reports/rep\\_index.cfm?DR\\_ID=38516](http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=38516)

#### **12. Florida State University study draws attention to public health spending, (The Destin Log Online, 18 Jul 2006)**

TALLAHASSEE - Public health systems in the United States are understaffed and insufficiently funded to meet threats from bioterrorism, pandemic disease and natural

disasters, according to a current study conducted by researchers at the Florida State University College of Medicine.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www1.destin.com/articles/article.showarticle.db.php?a=186>

**13. Peak months still ahead for West Nile virus (Texarkana Gazette, 18 Jul 2006)**

It's been a quiet year for West Nile virus. So far. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports only 10 human cases of WNV across the United States. As of Monday, there were no instances of humans infected with WNV in Arkansas and only two confirmed cases of human infection in Texas, but Bowie and Miller counties are still testing dead birds so they can alert the public when the disease moves into the area. Dead birds are one method health officials can use to monitor the level of WNV activity in an area.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.texarkanagazette.com/articles/2006/07/18/local\\_news/news/news05.txt](http://www.texarkanagazette.com/articles/2006/07/18/local_news/news/news05.txt)

**14. Phase 2 Clinical Trial For Plague Vaccine Candidate RF1V (Medical News Today, 15 July 2006)**

DynPort Vaccine Company LLC has entered into a phase 2 clinical trial for its recombinant plague vaccine candidate, rF1V. The phase 2 trial will test different vaccine dosages and schedules in 400 healthy volunteers between the ages of 18 and 55. The clinical trial is underway and will continue into 2007 at eight locations across the United States. "An effective, licensed plague vaccine is a crucial component of U.S. biodefense initiatives," said Dr. Robert V. House, president and chief scientific officer of DVC. "Plague has been identified as a Category A bioterrorism agent by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The candidate's entry into a phase 2 trial is a significant step toward DVC's goal of a licensed plague vaccine."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=47112>

**15. Report faults Weather Service training efforts (GovExec.com, 18 Jul 2006)**

Employee training is high on the National Weather Service's list of ways to improve its forecasts but course selection suffers from insufficient oversight, congressional auditors have found. A new report from the Government Accountability Office also criticized a budding plan to restructure forecast operations nationwide, saying it lacks metrics for evaluating demonstrations planned in 2007 and 2008. NWS plans to improve forecasting services with \$315 million worth of upgrades to its information systems and technologies in the next five years and by developing training to enhance the performance of its meteorologists.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=34567&dcn=e\\_gvet](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34567&dcn=e_gvet)

**16. Midatlantic & Midwestern State: High heat but no record power demand: PJM (Reuters, 18 Jul 2006)**

LOS ANGELES - A punishing heat wave across much of the United States prompted the largest U.S. interconnected power grid operator on Tuesday to call for energy-saving

measures, but it stopped short of projecting a new record for power demand. PJM Interconnection, which serves a wide area of the Mid-Atlantic and Midwestern states, has asked consumers in parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and Washington, D.C., to mind their power use on Tuesday. Dozens of areas in the West and Midwest on Monday reported temperatures above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and the Northeast has also been gripped by intense, sticky heat.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060718/ts\\_nm/utilities\\_pjm\\_demand\\_dc\\_2](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060718/ts_nm/utilities_pjm_demand_dc_2)

**17. NY: Power outages hit New York subway, LaGuardia (Reuters, 18 Jul 2006)**

NEW YORK - Searing summer heat wreaked havoc on travel plans for New Yorkers on Tuesday as power outages shut parts of LaGuardia International Airport and the city's subway system during the morning rush hour. Terminals of American Airlines, Delta Airlines and the Marine Terminal were without full power, said a spokesman for Consolidated Edison, which delivers power to LaGuardia, the closest major airport to Manhattan. Con Ed had not determined when the power would be back at LaGuardia.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W33B22D6D>

**18. Witness Protection a World of Secrets (AP, 18 Jul 2006)**

WASHINGTON - An old mobster once gave Joseph Paonessa some advice that, if a bit chilling, has served him well during his many years working in the federal witness protection program. "He said, 'Kid, three people can keep a secret when two of them are dead,'" said Paonessa, a senior official in the U.S. Marshals Service. When managing a program that has relocated and provided new identities to 18,000 people, keeping a tight lid on information is more than a fond wish. So it was all the more surprising when the Marshals Service invited a few reporters to its suburban Virginia headquarters Monday for the start of an international conference on witness protection programs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/?nid=78&sid=852807>

**STATE AND LOCAL NEWS**

**19. CA: Officials Issue Plague Warning In Rural Areas (CBS, 17 Jul 2006)**

LOS ANGELES Those visiting rural areas this summer should take precautions to avoid contracting bubonic plague, the state Department of Health warned Monday. A Los Angeles woman was hospitalized in April after becoming infected with the potentially fatal bacterial disease. It was the first reported case in Los Angeles County since 1984. Bubonic plague is spread by squirrels, chipmunks and other wild rodents and their fleas, according to Dr. Mark Horton, a state public health officer. When an infected rodent becomes sick and dies, its fleas carry the infection to other warm-blooded animals, including humans.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://cbs2.com/local/local\\_story\\_198195236.html](http://cbs2.com/local/local_story_198195236.html)

**20. CA: 8 Ecuadorean Stowaways Caught in Calif. (AP, 18 Jul 2006)**

PORT HUENEME, Calif. - Eight stowaways from Ecuador hid among bananas in a ship's cargo hold for as long as 10 days before they were discovered at the end of a voyage from South America, authorities said. Three men were treated for dehydration and three others for frostbite after they were apprehended Monday, said Mike Fleming, a spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The men carried no documents. They were expected to be detained and then returned to Ecuador, Fleming said. The eight apparently hid aboard the Malaga Carrier when it left Ecuador, officials said. It made stops in Colombia and Guatemala before arriving at Port Hueneme, northwest of Los Angeles.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.breitbart.com/news/2006/07/18/D8IUJH9O1.html>

**21. HI: 53 Maui dams require fixes (Star Bulletin, 15 Jul 2006)**

WAILUKU - A state assessment calls for corrective action on 53 dams and reservoirs on Maui but shows that none of them poses an immediate threat to life and property.

"Overall ... Maui reservoirs are in good shape," said state Department of Defense Maj. Gen. Robert Lee, noting the call for corrective actions was to make sure that there are no serious problems months or years from now. The state found most of the owners of the dams and reservoirs did not have an emergency action plan to notify the public in case of a serious problem, Lee said, noting that the owners must create such plans in addition to corrective action.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://starbulletin.com/2006/07/15/news/story04.html>

**22. MD: Hospitals face intrusion of violent world into facilities (Baltimore Sun, 17 Jul 2006)**

Howard County General Hospital is a typical suburban facility, its administrators proud to be known for the cozy maternity suites, the cancer support programs and sophisticated technology. But they're not so happy about the kind of publicity the hospital has faced in recent weeks: a midnight brawl in the emergency room that ended in three arrests and three injuries; a suspect awaiting drug charges who slipped out and remains at large.

While rare, such incidents have unnerved patients and staff and highlighted the fact that once-sleepy suburban hospitals - like neighboring shopping malls and schools - now have to cope with complex crime and security issues. "Today, every hospital is at the same risk of exposure to drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and psychiatric patients," said Roger Sheets, president of the Maryland chapter of the International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety. "All of it shows up in your emergency room, and your security officer at the front door has to have a better level of training than being told to say, 'Good morning. How are you?'"

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G19824D6D>

**23. MN: Hugoson keeping watch over Minnesota's fields (Pioneer Press, 17 Jul 2006)**

ST. PAUL - The business of farming has changed significantly since Gene Hugoson first was appointed Minnesota's agriculture commissioner by Gov. Arne Carlson in 1995.

Hugoson's resume also includes five terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives, a college degree in social science education, a military tour of duty in Vietnam and a family farm operation in Martin County, in the south-central part of the state. In a one-on-one interview in his office at the state Capitol complex, Hugoson talks about the state of agriculture in Minnesota today.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/news/state/minnesota/15054554.htm>

**24. MS: Donation equips patrol boat for river duty (The Mississippi Press, 14 Jul 2006)**

ESCATAWPA - A \$750 donation from Heritage Funeral Home in Escatawpa will be used to equip the Jackson County Sheriff's Department new 21-foot patrol boat with blue emergency lights. The boat, a 2005 Triumph, was purchased through a Homeland Security grant, said Sheriff Mike Byrd. "We're donating the items to finish the boat off for the sheriff's department," said Cindy Frederic, co-owner of the funeral home. "We stay pretty active with community service projects. Our sheriff's department does so much to help us with funeral services with our families and escorts. They are just always there for us. So, when they need something, we try to help them," she said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M22B13D6D>

**25. NV: Sheriff's Department steps up enforcement of sex offender laws (Nevada Appeal, 14 Jul 2006)**

Carson City Sheriff's investigators are increasing their contact with sex offenders by conducting weekly visits to their homes. "If you are a sex offender in Carson City and your address is not current, you need to come in and register, or we'll find you and arrest you for a felony," said Lt. Bob White. Sheriff's department records indicate there are 270 sex offenders who are registered in Carson City. According to the Nevada Sex Offender Registry Web site, at least eight of those Carson City registrants are not in compliance with the law because they have not returned a yearly postcard to the state Criminal History Repository.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20060714/NEWS/107140103>

**26. NJ: 2 counties get most risk-based terror aid (The Star-Ledger, 18 Jul 2006)**

Essex and Hudson will get nearly one-third of \$12 million in federal homeland security grants earmarked for New Jersey counties under a new funding formula that takes into account the likelihood of a terrorist attack, officials announced yesterday. The grants show that the Newark-Jersey City region -- which includes a major airport, chemical plants, a seaport and transit links -- is the most likely target in the state for terrorists.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?A11B23D6D>

**27. NJ: Protecting rail lines to be a main focus of anti-terror money (AP, 14 Jul 2006)**

SOUTH AMBOY, N.J. - As she sat on a bench waiting for her train, Dolores Abney reflected on how vulnerable the rails are to terrorist attacks. Vehicles were parked less than 10 feet from the train tracks, impeded by nothing more than a 5-inch-high curb \_ hardly a deterrent to a car or truck bomber looking to wreak havoc. "You can roll right up on it and not even have to get out of the vehicle," the Sayreville woman said. "I feel nervous every day I take the train. I think they (terrorists) are going to target the trains because they want to disrupt us, and they know how many people commute by train."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?H3FA42D6D>

**28. NY: Hospitals may be more ready for a pandemic now than a year ago, but experts say some preparations are just lip service (modernhealthcare.com, 17 Jul 2006)**

In the event of a major influenza pandemic, New York City doesn't want to be caught off-guard. Aware of its own vulnerabilities as a potential hub for pandemics and bioterrorism, the city has started its own internal response plan to cover critical areas such as disease monitoring, lab capacity, vaccine and medicine delivery, and hospital preparedness. "As the nation's most densely populated city and as a major port of entry, New York City may encounter emerging public health threats before any other city," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said in a statement. The city launched its plan as public officials and disease experts around the country were assessing the nation's capacity to deal with an infectious-disease disaster.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/storyPreview.cms?articleId=40657&archive=N>

**29. NY: New York State Makes Strides In Animal Identification (Empire Information Services, 18 Jul 2006)**

ALBANY, NY- New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick H. Brennan today announced the State's progress in establishing the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), an animal identification and tracking system that is currently voluntary for producers and will operate under national protocol. The Department is ahead of schedule in relation to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) benchmarks and has submitted approximately 33% of premises to USDA for registration with the NAIS. "Concerns about animal health, food safety, and bioterrorism continue to affirm the importance of a National Animal Identification System in protecting our producers and consumers in New York State," the Commissioner said. "New York State is ahead of schedule in submitting livestock premises to the USDA. I am pleased that we have been able to move forward with this important program to ensure a secure future for agriculture in New York State."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.eisinc.com/release/storiesh/NYSDAM.188.html>

**30. NC: 58 People Detained At Fort Bragg (WRAL.com, 18 Jul 2006)**

FORT BRAGG, N.C. - A joint effort of Fort Bragg officials, the FBI, U.S. Marshals and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents has led to the detention of 58 civilian workers with suspected false or fraudulently obtained identification. The sweep was

conducted between 6 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. when most of the thousand soldiers and civilian workers who live off the post enter the gates. Officials said the vast majority of the detainees were construction workers. "Today's operation was part of our ongoing force protection measures," said Tom McCollum with Fort Bragg's Public Affairs Office. "The operation went very smoothly. There were no incidents or accidents."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wral.com/news/9533922/detail.html>

**31. NC: Issues of health care are Burr's bailiwick - Summit exemplifies how senator has made himself a specialist (The Charlotte Observer, 17 Jul 2006)**

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., will hold a health care summit in Charlotte on July 24, complete with a keynote address by U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine Chao. The goal, Burr told the Observer, is to get all parts of the state's health care delivery system under one roof to trade notes about what's working and how those successes can be replicated elsewhere. Among the invitees: officials from hospitals, community health centers and rural clinics. The plan is to get the panels talking about the facilities' work-force needs and the state of their information technology.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.charlotte.com/mld/observer/news/local/15054878.htm>

**32. TX: Incident at Hobby Airport led feds and HPD to point fingers and made the accused lose job, wind up on terror list (Houston Chronicle, 15 Jul 2006)**

A decision by airport screeners to defer to police after discovering suspected bomb parts on a passenger has thrown the Houston airport security system — and the passenger's life — into turmoil. By calling on a Houston police officer instead of the FBI to investigate whether the man might have been trying to test Hobby Airport's security, screeners raised a question that now can never be answered, a security analyst says. And as a result of the June 26 incident, Jordanian immigrant Mohamed Ahwar Bataineh has lost his job and says he has been connected to terrorism unfairly.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/4048502.html>

**33. TX: New system at D/FW swiftly deploys screeners (Star-Telegram, 16 Jul 2006)**

D/FW AIRPORT - Sometimes it's because flights to Mexico and Japan are leaving at the same time. Or Mary Kay conventioners are in town. Or thunderstorms in Chicago are causing cancellations and folks are trying to switch flights. Or nothing in particular is going on. There are times when one security checkpoint at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport may become choked with passengers even as checkpoints a short walk away stand completely empty. If one terminal is going like gangbusters, another might be as snoozy as a hibernating bear. That's the reality of a large, fragmented airport like D/FW, which often behaves more like five little airports.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/15053663.htm>

**34. TX: U.S. lawmen outgunned along Mexican border - Bad guys have superior firepower, can eavesdrop on communications of American law enforcement (WorldNetDaily.com, 17 Jul 2006)**

Hundreds of rounds of automatic-weapons fire rained down on South Texas sheriff's deputies and Border Patrol agents from the Mexican side of the border as they investigated a horror story told by two American brothers who fled across the Rio Grande fearing for their lives. Several Hidalgo County deputies and at least four Border patrol agents were met with a sustained hail of gunfire alternating from the south to the east and lasting nearly 10 minutes, the officers said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE\\_ID=51080](http://worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=51080)

**35. TX: Two women accused of child smuggling (AP, 18 Jul 2006)**

PHARR - Two Texas women have been arrested on charges of child smuggling after presenting false documents for Mexican children, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said today. Celia Villarreal, 33, of Edinburg, crossed the border in a taxi at about 1 a.m. Sunday along with her 34-year-old sister and two children she identified as nieces. She presented Louisiana birth certificates, but CBP officers determined the girls were born in the Mexican state of San Luis Potosi.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/4054765.html>

**36. VA: A Novel-Like Tale Of Cloak, Dagger Unfolds in Court (New York Sun, 14 Jul 2006)**

The narrative about a veteran State Department official smitten with a younger Taiwanese intelligence officer reads like a John le Carré novel. However, the story — replete with romantic encounters and cloak-and-dagger tradecraft — is laid out not in a book, but a little-noticed 43-page court filing submitted last week by federal prosecutors in Virginia. The unusually-detailed account is part of the government's effort to withdraw from a plea agreement it reached last year with one of the State Department's highest ranking Asia experts, Donald Keyser. Keyser pleaded guilty in December to charges that he lied about his relationship with the Taiwanese agent, Isabelle Cheng, and concealed a visit he made to Taiwan in 2003. The American diplomat also admitted to keeping thousands of classified documents at his Fairfax Station, Va., home.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nysun.com/article/36073>

**KEY PEOPLE**

**37. The veterinarian becomes a CIO - Gregory Parham combines his career interests in epidemiology and information technology (FCW, 17 Jul 2006)**

Gregory Parham, who has spent much of his career at the Agriculture Department, likes to talk about his youth in Reynoldsburg, a small town in central Ohio that professes to be the birthplace of the commercial tomato. By sharing that historical detail, Parham reveals that his agricultural roots run deep. Besides coming from a town that is proud of its tomatoes, Parham has other agricultural ties. His father was a veterinarian who worked at

the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Parham, who is also a veterinarian, became APHIS' chief information officer in March. In his new role, Parham said he will focus on maximizing the agency's information technology resources. Since taking the position, Parham said, he has tried to learn all he can about the agency and has spent much of his time learning about APHIS' mission.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article95228-07-17-06-Print>

## **NARCO TRAFFICKING**

### **38. AL: British man accused in import of 11,700 pounds of marijuana through Baldwin (Press-Register, 13 Jul 2006)**

A British man wanted for more than a decade on allegations that he helped smuggle more than 5 tons of marijuana into the United States through Baldwin County was en route to Mobile on Wednesday to face federal charges. Giles Carlyle Clarke, 48, recently lost an eight-year extradition fight and turned himself over to U.S. marshals at London's Heathrow Airport on Wednesday, authorities said. Law enforcement officials said he was expected to land in Mobile late Wednesday or today.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?I25C14D6D>

### **39. IL: Three Decatur residents arrested in cocaine trafficking case (Herald & Review, 14 Jul 2006)**

DECATUR - An investigation into cocaine trafficking between Chicago and Decatur resulted in three Decatur residents being arrested July 7 and the seizure of 323 grams of cocaine, \$12,000, two handguns and a vehicle. Fredaryl Davis, 30, Carl J. Dickerson, 25, and Sparkle S. Jarrett, 17, were charged Wednesday in Macon County Circuit Court with unlawful criminal drug conspiracy for possession with intent to deliver more than 900 grams of cocaine, unlawful criminal drug conspiracy for possession with intent to deliver between 100 and 400 grams of cocaine and two counts of unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. The first drug conspiracy charge carries a prison term of 15 to 60 years if convicted and the other three charges carry prison terms of nine to 40 years, all enhanced Class X penalties adopted by the state legislature its continuing efforts to crack down on illegal drug sales.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.herald-review.com/articles/2006/07/14/news/local\\_news/1016401.txt](http://www.herald-review.com/articles/2006/07/14/news/local_news/1016401.txt)

### **40. ME: Police arrest 3 for distribution (Blethen Maine Newspapers, 14 Jul 2006)**

Two Portland men and a woman from Florida are scheduled to appear in court today, charged with being part of a cocaine distribution network that funneled large amounts of the drug into Maine. The Maine Drug Enforcement Agency arrested the three in a rental car early Thursday after the two men had met the woman at the Concord Trailways bus station at about midnight. Police found more than six pounds of powder cocaine, worth more than \$300,000, which they believe was destined to be converted into crack cocaine.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://morningsentinel.mainetoday.com/news/local/2929116.shtml>

**41. MS: Over 600 grams of cocaine seized (The Natchez Democrat, 15 Jul 2006)**

NATCHEZ - Friday afternoon the Adams County Sheriff's Office raided a house where drugs were sold and manufactured, seizing what may be the largest amount of cocaine in recent history. They found 692.8 grams of powder cocaine, 32.8 grams of crack cocaine and \$2,962 in cash at 36 Bishop St., they said. The estimated street value of the drugs was \$145,120. If the cocaine had been converted to crack, the value could double, Frank Smith at the sheriff's office said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.natchezdemocrat.com/articles/2006/07/15/news/news349.txt>

**42. NY: Rapper's CD outlined drug gang (Washington Times, 17 Jul 2006)**

New York detectives say a drug dealer and aspiring rap singer outlined his entire criminal enterprise in the liner notes of his CD. Terrence Jones, nicknamed Big Chef, called himself "the 500-gram cooker" and the "bag twister" in his lyrics, and listed members of his drug-dealing network in the notes, the New York Daily News reported. "It's like the confessions of a rap star/drug dealer," said Inspector Steven Powers of the Brooklyn North narcotics unit. "We looked at it and said, 'Wow, he's giving a lot of details about his life.'" Jones and 20 others were arrested after a 16-month investigation at the Bushwick Houses, a housing project in Brooklyn. During what was known as Operation Bushwhack, undercover officers made drug buys in the project, which was allegedly infested with five gangs of dealers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/upi/20060716-014359-6850r.htm>

**43. OH: Police Continue Ohio Cocaine Investigation (WTOV, 14 Jul 2006)**

Police continue their investigation into a drug bust in Belmont County which yielded a "substantial" amount of cocaine. Only one of the three people taken into custody was arrested and actually charged. Travis Johnson Bell is charged with possession of cocaine. Police said they are still investigating the other two persons' possible involvement. Authorities raided a Barnesville home Thursday and found a large amount of cocaine; so much that police believe there was intent to traffic the drugs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtov9.com/news/9520808/detail.html>

**44. Cocaine seizures up at border: 67 kg found last month (Peace Arch News, 14 Jul 2006)**

Cocaine seizures at Pacific Highway District borders, including Douglas, are piling up. In the past year, border officers at the five ports – Douglas, Pacific Highway, Huntington, Aldergrove and Boundary – seized more of the illicit drug than was confiscated across B.C. and the Yukon in all of 2005. Since last July, more than 400 kilograms of cocaine has been seized at the five ports, compared to 184 kg across the region in 2005.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P48832D6D>

**45. Cocaine from Venezuela seized in Mexico (eluniversal.com, 14 Jul 2006)**

Federal agents seized at the international airport 220 kilograms of cocaine from Venezuela, the Mexican Solicitor General Office reported Friday. The drug arrived from Caracas in a commercial flight and was located in 220 packages inside four suitcases, the agency said in a press release, as quoted by AP. No detention was made. Over the last weeks, heroine from Venezuela has being intercepted also.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://english.eluniversal.com/2006/07/14/en\\_pol\\_art\\_14A745237.shtml](http://english.eluniversal.com/2006/07/14/en_pol_art_14A745237.shtml)

**46. UK: £1m cocaine seized at airport (EDP24, 14 Jul 2006)**

Customs officers have arrested two people after seizing large quantities of cocaine - with an estimated street value of almost £1m - at Norwich International airport. Details of the find emerged yesterday as Griet Onsea, 33, from Belgium, and Harry Lum, 63, from America, appeared at Norwich magistrates court where they were remanded in custody for 28 days. An officer in charge of the operation said the find would play a key role in disrupting the supply of Class A drugs to streets in East Anglia. Detection teams working for HM Revenue and Customs found the drugs early this week after searching the pair's luggage after their arrival on a flight from mainland Europe.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Y27812D6D>

**47. Australia: Canadian in Aussie drug ring bust (AP, 14 Jul 2006)**

CANBERRA, Australia - Canadian police have arrested a man outside Toronto for allegedly masterminding the smuggling of 350 kilograms of the drug Ecstasy from Canada to Australia, police said Friday. The Canadian citizen, whose name has not been released, was arrested by Canadian authorities at 3 p.m. Thursday pending extradition to Australia, said a statement from the Australian Federal Police.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2006/07/14/1684245-ap.html>

**CYBERTHREAT & THEFT**

**48. USDA Laptop With Personal Data Compromised (AP, 18 Jul 2006)**

WASHINGTON - A laptop computer bag was stolen from an Agriculture Department worker's car in Kansas, and the names, addresses and Social Security numbers of about 350 employees may have been accessed, the department said. The case, containing a computer and a printout of the data, has since been returned to a meat plant, department spokesman Ed Loyd said Tuesday. But it was obvious someone had rummaged through the case, Loyd said. The theft may have affected about 350 full-time and part-time employees and state contractors involved in federal Agricultural Marketing Service meat grading programs in 30 states and the District of Columbia, the department said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/?nid=78&sid=829569>

**49. To Agency Insiders, Cyber Thefts And Slow Response Are No Surprise (Washington Post, 18 Jul 2006)**

Every day, an electronic wall guarding the Agriculture Department's servers is probed for holes 2,000 times by potential hackers and data thieves. The probes usually can't get through that wall. But on the first weekend in June, a hacker made it deep into one server, prompting an announcement late last month that personal information on 26,000 Washington area employees, contractors and retirees may have been compromised. To government officials responsible for information security and to outside experts, the intrusion -- and several recent security incidents at other agencies -- was no surprise. For the past five years, the department had received failing grades on a congressional report card for its information-security practices. The overall grade for federal agencies in 2005 was D-plus.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P2AA62D6D>

### **50. House drafts bill to improve VA's data security (FCW, 18 Jul 2006)**

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has drafted the Veterans Identity and Credit Protection Act of 2006 in response to the May 3 theft of a laptop computer and hard drive containing personal information on more than 26 million service personnel. The committee heard comments on the proposed legislation today and plans to mark up the bill July 20. Lawmakers hope to get the bill to the floor next week. The act calls for the creation of a new undersecretary for information services at the VA, who would also serve as its chief information officer. The Office of the Undersecretary for Information Services would include three deputy undersecretaries: one for security, who would also serve as the department's senior information security officer; one for operations and management; and one for policy and planning, according to the draft bill summary.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article95308-07-18-06-Web>

### **51. System vulnerabilities being sold in on-line auctions (ITWorld Canada, 13 Jul 2006)**

On-line scammers turned entrepreneurs have found a new commodity to auction off: system and software vulnerabilities. Here's how it works: Tech savvy cyber crooks identify bugs or vulnerabilities in software applications. Then — instead sharing these findings with the vendor so a patch can be developed — they auction it off on-line to buyers, many of whom are willing to pay top dollar for this information. "The name of the game is money," says a study on malware distribution evolution released recently by Finjan Inc., a Web security product development firm based in San Jose, Calif. The study was conducted by a Finjan facility called the Malicious Code Research Centre (MCRC).

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?J16851D6D>

### **52. CEO of Online Gambling Site Arrested (AP, 18 Jul 2006)**

FORT WORTH, Texas - Federal officials have charged 11 people, including the CEO of a big gambling Web site, alleging they committed conspiracy, racketeering and fraud in taking sports bets from U.S. residents. The Justice Department said Monday it is seeking the forfeiture of \$4.5 billion, cars and computers from the defendants, including BetOnSports PLC and three other companies.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?C4BA21D6D>

**53. Hacker sentenced - Former Springfield man to be confined to home for breaking into FBI computers (The State Journal-register, 14 Jul 2006)**

A former Springfield man accused of hacking into computers at the local FBI field office was sentenced in federal court in Washington Thursday to six months of home detention and ordered to pay \$20,000 in restitution to the agency. Joseph T. Colon, 28, a computer consultant who did some work in the Springfield field office in 2004, was accused of using software he downloaded from the Internet to access the FBI's classified secret database. The database contains, among other things, information about the witness protection program and counterintelligence activities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.sj-r.com/sections/news/stories/90808.asp>

**54. Credit Card Security Revamp in Works (Tech News World, 14 Jul 2006)**

A revamping of security standards is being prepared by the major payment card issuers and is expected to be announced within the next 60 days. "[MasterCard, along] with other payment brands including [American Express](#) (NYSE: AXP) , Discover, JCB and Visa, are currently considering potential recommended updates to the PCI Data Security Standard based on feedback provided by industry stakeholders," MasterCard Global Technology Communications Vice President Christina Rae told the E-Commerce Times. The PCI (Payment Card Industry) standard was adopted by the card issuers about a year ago to set guidelines for the secure handling of credit card information by merchants and service providers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.technewsworld.com/story/51756.html>

## **TECHNOLOGY**

**55. US government told to take its hands off internet (The Register, 15 Jul 2006)**

The United States government has been told to end its oversight role of the internet during its own consultation exercise over the future of net governance. In a stark result, over 87 percent of those that commented on the US's continued control of the internet's hierarchy said that it was time for it to transition toward a new, more international model. The company that the consultation was designed to review - not-for-profit overseeing organisation ICANN - fared little better, with nearly two-thirds of comments coming down against it. The results will be a wake-up call to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) - the arm of the US government that carried out the consultation prior to the ending of its contract with ICANN on 30 September. The NTIA had quietly announced a notice of inquiry

([http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/frnotices/2006/NOI\\_DNS\\_Transition\\_0506.htm](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/frnotices/2006/NOI_DNS_Transition_0506.htm)) at the end of May in which it asked the public to respond to a number of questions it had over the future of ICANN's role as technical overseeing body for the internet.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/07/15/ntia\\_inquiry\\_results/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/07/15/ntia_inquiry_results/)

**56. Microfluidics for Biodetection ([www.BioX.cm](http://www.BioX.cm), 16 Jul 2006)**

Microfluid systems have found many uses in science and technology, especially where miniaturization provides significant advantages. They have been developed for applications ranging from combustion, micromechanical systems, and microelectronics, to drug delivery, chemical analysis, and biodetection technologies. Sandia has an extensive research and development program focusing on the application of microfluidics and separations to the detection and analysis of chemical and biological warfare agents. As part of this effort, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has funded work at Sandia aimed at achieving an understanding of the effect of uncertainty in material properties and reaction rates on microfluidics biodetection device operation. This collaborative project with Johns Hopkins University (JHU) involved the detailed modeling of the transport and labeling of protein samples in electroosmotically driven microchannel analytical devices. It focused on understanding the effect of uncertainties in material properties and reaction rates on device operation, particularly with respect to dispersion of protein samples and peak signal reduction.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.biox.cn/content/20060716/49220.htm>

**RESOURCES**

**57. Urban Hospitals and Disaster: Lessons From Hurricane Katrina (AScribe Newswire, 14 Jul 2006)**

WASHINGTON - New Orleans' hospitals cared for many of the city's most vulnerable people before Hurricane Katrina struck, but they also faced some of the most difficult challenges once flooding made evacuation necessary. "Shortcomings in planning can be laid at the feet of almost all of the hospitals, but these pale in comparison to the failures of public authorities to understand what flooding would do to hospitals and to respond quickly and effectively to the conditions at hand," the authors of a new Urban Institute study conclude. "Hospitals in Hurricane Katrina: Challenges Facing Custodial Institutions in a Disaster" explores what happened in the area's hospitals, especially the 11 flood-bound institutions in the most desperate circumstances, and why they had varied experiences. The authors also present lessons resulting from the events surrounding Katrina. The study, by Urban Institute health policy researcher Bradford Gray and Louisiana cardiologist Kathy Hebert, is based largely on interviews with a dozen hospital executives, public officials, trade association leaders, and others with firsthand experience of the flooding.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Y54822D6D>

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**58. TSA Expands Career Opportunities for Transportation Security Officers (U.S. Newswire, 18 Jul 2006)**

WASHINGTON - The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) today introduced a Career Progression Program for its frontline workforce of 43,000 Transportation Security

Officers (TSOs). Included are merit-based promotions for experienced TSOs and specialized technical career tracks, which include functions such as Behavior Detection Officers and Bomb Appraisal Officers.

"Since its inception, TSA has recognized that our most valuable asset is our people, and to stay ahead of emerging threats, we must cultivate ways to strengthen our skilled, knowledgeable, ready and willing workforce," said TSA Assistant Secretary Kip Hawley. "Offering our high-performing TSOs a better career path will not only improve employee retention but enhance security for the traveling public."

Currently, the TSO career path progresses on a management track to Lead TSO and Supervisory TSO, which jumps from the starting D Band to the F and G Bands. Under the new Career Progression Program, TSOs with two years' experience and favorable performance reviews are eligible for a higher pay grade, the newly established full performance E Band. The E Band also will recognize the new, specialized position of TSO Equipment Technician, which rewards the skills of employees responsible for the maintenance of security equipment. Internal studies conducted over the past three years have concluded that TSO performance improves with experience, underlining the need to retain employees for security reasons.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=69314>

## **FULL REPORTS**

### **59. Military Origins of a Modern Fear (USNews & World Report, 16 Jul 2006)**

Everyone knows John Hancock had quite a signature. He is less famous, however, for being the first recipient of a full-blown bioterrorism warning. It's not exactly "Bin Laden Determined to Strike," but a longhand letter from Gen. **George Washington**, written to Hancock in the winter of 1775 from the Continental Army's base in Cambridge, Mass., comes close. Washington had spent the previous decade and a half tending his crops and slaves at Mount Vernon. But when the Second Continental Congress called a meeting in Philadelphia, he left Virginia and traveled north. Soon he was even farther away from home, in Cambridge, relaying bad news. The Revolutionary troops, Washington informed Hancock, then president of the Continental Congress, might be at risk of becoming victims of smallpox spread by British troops. A series of similar letters in the same month from Washington to Congress continued to mention the threat.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.usnews.com/usnews/news/articles/060716/16gw\\_eye.htm](http://www.usnews.com/usnews/news/articles/060716/16gw_eye.htm)

### **60. Unprepared for the Attacks; Preparing for Flu Pandemic (Washington Post, 16 Jul 2006)**

Whatever it meant for politics, for many government agencies and those who ran them, Sept. 11, 2001, was a life-changing experience. Tommy G. Thompson, then the secretary of health and human services, had called a meeting that morning with a group of scientists to discuss the threat of pandemic flu.

The meeting was canceled as Thompson struggled to organize a delivery of emergency medical supplies to New York City. But in the aftermath of 9/11 and that fall's anthrax scare, it became clear to him that the United States was seriously unprepared for major emergencies.

"For the first time," Thompson said in a recent interview, "state and federal governments began looking at how we might rebuild public health facilities" that had suffered from years of budgetary neglect. Inside the Department of Health and Human Services, he said, "we realized how disjointed we were and how the various divisions were completely independent."

In response, an organization that had been preoccupied with the bureaucratic demands of Medicare, Medicaid and welfare began to refocus on urgent threats to homeland security and the need for rapid response. The changes included a centralization of authority symbolized by the creation of a "war room" crammed with the latest communications equipment on the same floor as the secretary's office, to coordinate information from all the divisions and issue orders to all hands.

As the threat has grown in scale, the budget of HHS has grown apace. Official figures show the department's bioterrorism and emergency preparedness budget went from \$237 million in fiscal 2000 to \$9.7 billion in fiscal 2006.

Now, said Mike Leavitt, Thompson's successor as HHS secretary, the department is focused on what could be an even bigger challenge: the threat of pandemic flu, the very subject that Thompson was planning to discuss on the morning of Sept. 11.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?D45814D6D>

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