
CABLE Gram
Collecting and Broadcasting for Law Enforcement
Subscription information available at www.cablegram.org
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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 44

24 July 2006 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

Electronic Distribution provided by Richard Forno and Bill Feinbloom of G2-Forward

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

Issues covered in the CABLE Gram include: Homeland Defense, Homeland Security, Terrorism, Federal Law Enforcement, First Responders, Money Laundering, Identity

Theft, NBC Weapons, Cybercrimes, Smuggling, Narco Trafficking, Hazardous Materials and other related topics.

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

FEDERAL

1. FBI adds division aimed at WMDs (UPI, 27 July 2006)

The FBI is creating an investigative division in Washington specifically aimed at preventing terrorist attacks with weapons of mass destruction. Chosen to head up the new directorate is a former manager and scientist from the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Vahid Majidi, The Washington Post reports. In announcing the new division, FBI Director Robert Mueller said intelligence agencies need to pay special attention to the dangers of weapons of mass destruction and the chances that the devices will be obtained by terror groups.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/upi/20060727-090019-3805r.htm>

2. US Officials Outline Plan to Fight Nuclear Weapon Smuggling (Mens News Daily, 26 Jul 2006)

Bush administration officials appeared before a Senate panel Thursday to outline efforts to prevent terrorists from smuggling nuclear weapons or material for such devices into the United States. At a Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing, Senator Jon Kyl, an Arizona Republican, quoted statistics from the International Atomic Energy Agency saying that 662 confirmed cases of smuggled nuclear and radiological materials were reported between 1993 and 2004. Of those, 21 cases involved material that could be used in a nuclear weapon and 400 involved material that could be used in a radiological device, known as a dirty bomb. He expressed concern about the potential for a terrorist to smuggle nuclear weapons or weapons-grade material into this country. “If certain terrorist groups were able to get their hands on a device which they could detonate, that they would try to find a way to do it. If we all agree to that, then it would be unthinkable for us not to do everything we could within reason to obviate that threat,” he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?N2A262A7D>

3. Officials say new border procedures will reduce watch list errors (UPI, 25 Jul 2006)

WASHINGTON - U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials say they have introduced a new procedure for travelers who have the same name as a suspected terrorist, to help ensure they are not stopped and questioned every time they enter the country. The move is a response to criticisms of the agency's procedures, which the Department of

Homeland Security's inspector general said resulted in repeated questioning of individuals who were not on the U.S. government's watch list of known or suspected terrorists, but had the same or similar name as someone who was. "It's enlightened self interest," U.S. Customs and Border Protection Senior Spokesman Bill Anthony told United Press International. "It is obviously better for (the individuals concerned), but it is also in our interest."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/upi/20060725-071220-5543r.htm>

4. DHS expands its biometric database (FCW, 27 Jul 2006)

The Homeland Security Department is expanding its Automated Biometric Identification System (Ident) to include biometric and limited personal information collected for immigration, intelligence, law enforcement and national security programs. DHS uses that system and the Enforcement Operational Immigration Records (Enforce) to store biometric and case management information gathered from the Bureau of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement. Originally, the two systems were one under the name Enforce/Ident. Under the revised regulation, the systems will operate independently.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article95440-07-27-06-Web>

5. Green Cards Would Mean Fingerprinting at Airports (New York Times, 27 July 2006)

The nation's estimated 12 million legal permanent residents would be subject to fingerprinting every time they re-entered the United States, under a plan the [Homeland Security Department](#) intends to announce Thursday. The new security checks would be used at all international airports, seaports and land borders. Even before the proposal was officially announced, it drew strong opposition from some immigrant advocates who said it would send the wrong signal to people who were legally trying to become citizens.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/07/27/washington/27security.html?ref=us>

6. Police blotter: Laptop border searches OK'd (c|net, 26 Jul 2006)

What: A business traveler protests the warrantless search and seizure of his laptop by Homeland Security at the U.S.-Canada border. **When:** 9th Circuit Court of Appeals rules on July 24. **Outcome:** Three-judge panel unanimously says that border police may conduct random searches of laptops without search warrants or probable cause. These searches can include seizing the laptop and subjecting it to extensive forensic analysis.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W57024A7D>

7. Canadian drivers can now use FAST card for hazmat clearance: TSA (Truck News, 26 Jul 2006)

WASHINGTON - The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has announced that beginning Aug. 10 drivers licensed in Canada or Mexico to commercially transport hazardous materials will be required to undergo a background check via the FAST program before transporting in the US. The requirement is restricted to quantities

requiring a hazardous materials placard, and includes explosives. "TSA has been working with CBP and our partners in the Canadian and Mexican governments to find a solution that both enhances security and promotes commerce across our borders," said Stephen Sadler, TSA's director of maritime and surface credentialing. "Use of the FAST card for drivers registered in Mexico or Canada brings consistency to the current rules so that the required background checks are conducted on all individuals who transport hazardous materials in the United States."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.trucknews.com/issues/ISArticle.asp?id=58578&issue=07262006>

8. National Guard Set to Meet Goal of 6,000 Troops on Border (American Forces Press Service, 25 Jul 2006)

WASHINGTON - The National Guard will meet its goal of having up to 6,000 soldiers -- based on the requirements of U.S. Customs and Border Protection -- along the Southwest border by Aug. 1 to assist the U.S. Border Patrol in stemming the flow of illegal immigrants, the head of the National Guard Bureau told reporters here today. "They will be in the border states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas come the first of August," Army Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum said. "We will meet the president's commitment to do that." In May, President Bush requested the Guard be used to help strengthen the border. The following month Operation Jump Start was launched. The operation is expected to last two years while the Border Patrol beefs up its ranks.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jul2006/20060725_5750.html

9. West Nile virus an ongoing threat (The Daily Review, 24 Jul 2006)

In the 1980s scientists were sounding the alarm on the imminent arrival of "killer" African bees that already had conquered South America and were heading straight for the U.S. border. The threat never fully materialized, but doctors say that is no reason to discount the potentially deadly impact of another small insect already living within our midst. Unlike like those famed killer bees, West Nile virus has become a permanent reality for Valley residents, county health officials say. Like dealing with the sun, worrying about being bitten by mosquitoes should become part of residents' day-to-day living, said San Joaquin Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Furst. In other words, "West Nile virus is here to stay, and that takes a while for people to truly understand," Furst said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/dailyreview/localnews/ci_4088063

10. First vaccine for deadly ricin toxin moves closer (in-Pharma technologist.com, 24 Jul 2006)

Dor BioPharma has reached the first stage in manufacturing what could be the world's first vaccine for the deadly ricin toxin. The urgency for protective countermeasures against ricin has been heightened by its recent and continued use as a biological weapon in both the United States and Europe. Ricin, which is extracted from castor beans, has a highly lethal toxicity in small doses, causing fever, nausea abdominal pain or lung damage, followed by death within a few days of exposure. Because castor beans are

readily available, ricin is easily manufactured and it is also easily aerosolised – making it all the more dangerous – however currently there is no prevention or cure for the deadly substance.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?U26024A7D>

11. Threats up against federal judges (USA Today, 26 Jul 2006)

Threats against federal judges and other court employees have reached record numbers, the U.S. Marshals Service says. The number of threats in fiscal year 2005 increased 63% from 2003. Marshals investigated 953 threats and inappropriate communications in 2005. Threats this fiscal year, which began Oct. 1, are outpacing last year: Marshals have investigated 822 incidents.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-07-26-judges-cover_x.htm

12. Keeping tabs on research labs (The Plain Dealer, 27 Jul 2006)

U.S. investment in bioterrorism research has exploded in the wake of 9/11 and the anthrax scare that shortly followed the attacks. But a new federal report shows that these efforts to make Americans safer could backfire because of lapses in lab security. Independent analyses have found that funding for civilian research on biodefense has increased by more than \$14 billion since 2001 - growth that has led dozens of scientists to enter the field. The expansion has strained the oversight capacity of many universities, as evidenced in a recent compliance review. The inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services found problems at 11 of 15 universities that use "select agents" - biological agents or toxins that pose a serious health risk. Eight institutions demonstrated poor inventory or access tracking; six had problems controlling access to the dangerous materials. The findings - collected from November 2003 to November 2004 - echo some of the results of an earlier analysis released two years ago.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G45013A7D>

13. Report Says Homeland Security Dept. Mishandled Contracts (Los Angeles Times, 27 Jul 2006)

WASHINGTON - Contract spending by the Department of Homeland Security has surged by billions of dollars since the agency's creation in 2003, but contracts have been plagued by large-scale waste, abuse and mismanagement, according to a bipartisan congressional report. The agency has repeatedly planned contract projects improperly, has increasingly awarded them without adequate competition, and has not had enough staff to monitor contracts after they have been signed, the report said. Moreover, costs have frequently spiraled beyond initial estimates, which department personnel sometimes set misleadingly low, the report said. The report, prepared by staff of the House Committee on Government Reform, pointed to a case in which the Border Patrol paid \$20 million for camera systems and related gear that malfunctioned or were never installed.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?U14022A7D>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

14. AZ: 7 indicted in smuggling of 100+ migrants (Arizona Daily Star, 27 Jul 2006)

Tucson, AZ - Authorities indicted seven men Wednesday in connection with smuggling more than 100 illegal immigrants across the Mexican border in May. The indictment stems from the discovery in May of 118 migrants at a house in Rio Rico. Agents said at the time that it was one of the largest drop-house discoveries in Southern Arizona in recent years.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/139617>

15. CA: Center to Track Terror Activity in Calif. (AP, 27 July 2006)

Hoping to better secure Southern California against attacks, federal and local law enforcement agencies have banded together to create a first-of-its-kind command center to improve intelligence sharing on terrorist threats. The Joint Regional Intelligence Center will track terrorist activity with help from officials who specialize in fields such as epidemiology and chemical attacks, while analyzing real-time threat information. Its opening was expected to be announced Thursday. The goal, authorities said, is to reduce the time it takes agents from various agencies to share leads.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=862244>

16. GA: College Student Denies Aiding Terrorists (AP, 27 July 2006)

A college student accused of discussing terror targets with Islamic extremists and training for "violent jihad" pleaded not guilty Thursday in a case his lawyer said amounts to nothing more than "imprudent talk." Syed Ahmed, a 21-year-old Georgia Tech student, and Ehsanul Islam Sadequee, 19, were charged with providing material support to terrorists. Among other things, they were accused of undergoing training to carry out a "violent jihad" against civilian and government targets, including an air base in suburban Atlanta. While the July 19 indictment discusses meetings, conversations and training exercises, nowhere does it say the two men obtained or tried to obtain weapons to commit terrorism.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=764219>

17. IN: Fort Wayne residents not aware contents of trains (AP, 27 Jul 2006)

FORT WAYNE, Ind. - Thousands of train cars roll through well-populated areas of the city each year, drawing concern from some officials that it's nearly impossible for residents to know if they contain hazardous materials. About one in 20 of the cars carries hazardous materials, The Journal Gazette reported Sunday, citing federal statistics. The trains each year haul millions of tons of poisonous gas, corrosive acids and explosives past homes, businesses, schools and child-care centers. Nearly 36,000 people live within a few blocks of the railroad lines that cross the city. An additional 10,000 live close enough to the busy tracks in New Haven, just east of the city, to be in danger. Local

officials say they get general information about the types of materials that move through the city but not specific information on how much or when.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/news/local/15106458.htm>

18. NJ: Bird flu threat steps up county planning efforts (Hunterdon Review, 26 Jul 2006)

Preparedness is the watchword for the county health department as it plans ahead against the possibility that a pandemic influenza, specifically the H5N1 bird flu, could one day strike the region. "We've got to take preparedness seriously. We can't ignore this," said John Beckley, director of the Hunterdon County Health Department. No one knows when the next pandemic, or worldwide, influenza will hit the region but the risk is "inevitable and possibly imminent," said Beckley. And the bird flu is a strong candidate to be the next pandemic influenza.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P53012A7D>

19. NY: New York Cops: Still the Finest (City Journal, Heather MacDonald, 23 Jul 2006)

New York City has shattered criminology's central myth, but criminologists remain in denial. Policing, they still insist, can do little to lower crime. Economic inequality, demographic trends, changing drug-use patterns—these determine crime levels, they say, not police tactics. Nevertheless, since 1994, New York City has enjoyed a crime drop unmatched in the rest of the country—indeed, unparalleled in history—and only Gotham's revolutionary style of policing can explain it. Yet rather than flooding the city to study this paradigm-breaking phenomenon, most criminologists are busy looking the other way.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.city-journal.org/html/16_3_ny_cops.html

20. NY: Police Seize 100 Firearms From N.Y. Homes (AP, 27 July 2006)

Investigators seized 100 firearms including assault rifles, machine guns and a grenade launcher from homes of two men with previous weapons convictions, authorities said Thursday. It was unclear how the pair had acquired the weapons, Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said, calling the collection of firepower "a police officer's worst nightmare." John Acompora, 46, and Gregory Brozski, 57, were charged with criminal weapon possession and pleaded not guilty. Investigators said they were acting on a tip from an informant when they went to Acompora's home in the Long Island town of West Islip on Sunday and found about 50 weapons spread among his van, basement and an unlocked shed. Among the firearms were six AK-47s, shotguns and two .44 Magnum pistols with the serial numbers defaced.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=862728>

KEY PEOPLE

21. ND: New Ward County Homeland Security Planner keeping busy (The Minot Daily News, 27 Jul 2006)

Melanie Moen was hired recently as the Ward County Homeland Security Planner. She works for Ward County Emergency Manager Alan Reynolds in the emergency management department at the Ward County Courthouse. The position Moen applied for described planning for mass casualty, terror-type incidents in case such catastrophic events should occur in Ward County. But as she has already discovered, perception and reality often differ. "As of what I actually do, I will do all that," she said, "but I look at my position as kind of an assistant emergency manager. Al (Reynolds) is so crazy busy, he doesn't have time to sit down and write all these big-binder required plans. They were fortunate enough to secure some funds to create a position. So I kind of take care of all the big, white binders ... all the required plans and things like that you have to have."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.minotdailynews.com/news/articles.asp?articleID=4307>

GANG ACTIVITY

22. FL: Men convicted in multiple murders, arsons linked to organized crime (AP, 26 Jul 2006)

MIAMI - Three men who were part of a large organized crime ring were convicted of racketeering, multiple murders and arson, the U.S. Attorney's Office said Wednesday. Manuel Marquez, Jose Miguel Battle, Jr., and Julio Acuna, all accused members of the organized crime ring known as "The Corporation," spent 40 years in various organized crime conspiracies, the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a statement. The men were convicted in Miami federal court Friday of seven arson attacks and eight murders, including the killings of a 3-year-old killed in a fire and the death of the group's former hit man who was gunned down in the 1970's after he turned against them. They were also convicted of murdering a rival of the group, who was killed in a hospital by a gunman disguised as a nurse.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/news/local/15129954.htm>

23. MD: Gangs recruiting earlier, growing stronger - Officials push prevention programs as violent crimes flare up in Prince George's (Gazette, 27 Jul 2006)

The number of gang members in the Washington-area suburbs is uncertain, but officials are positive it is growing – with recruitment beginning as early as elementary school. A triple homicide June 30 in Adelphi – in which witnesses heard gunmen yell "Mara Salvatrucha," which means Salvadoran gang – served as a reminder that the gang presence in the region remains strong.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.gazette.net/stories/072706/princou184344_31946.shtml

24. MD: Workshop to focus on gang trends in Frederick County (Gazette, 27 Jul 2006)

As a way to give educators and the public the latest information on gangs in the region, Frederick County Public Schools is offering a workshop on Aug. 9. The workshop is part

of the annual "Summer Institute" for school staff, but is also open to the public. It will be held from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at Mount St. Mary's University. Marita Loose, spokeswoman for county schools, said a number of steps have been taken to increase gang awareness among school administrators, especially at county high schools.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.gazette.net/stories/072706/frednew193052_31946.shtml

25. MI: Police still looking for top gang members (WJRT, 26 Jul 2006)

SAGINAW - Police have formally charged six people after Wednesday's gang sweep in Saginaw. Lt. Mel Matthews, with the Bay Area Narcotics Enforcement Team, says his agents searched 12 Saginaw Homes and two in Saginaw Township. During the raids, several firearms were found, along with more than \$10,000 in powder and crack cocaine and a variety of gang-related items. Authorities call the Sunny Side Gang a violent drug organization. "They are suspected in doing a lot of the drive-by shootings, some of the shootings, some of the homicides. They are really violent gang," said Lt. Matthews.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abclocal.go.com/wjrt/story?section=local&id=4403213>

26. MS: Laurel, Jones officials tackle gang problem (Hattiesburg American, 26 Jul 2006)

LAUREL – A new initiative to gather information on the numbers of gangs that may be operating in Laurel, Jones County and surrounding towns kicked off today. Laurel Police Chief Walter "Bear" Martin invited law enforcement, judges and prosecutors to a meeting at the city's Law Enforcement Complex for an initial meeting. Laurel Police Sgt. Shannon Caraway heads up the task force and will collect information from law enforcement and other sources and serve as a clearinghouse for sharing the information.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?K12032A7D>

27. NJ: Officials want another 32 arrested on gang ties (AP, 27 Jul 2006)

TRENTON - With 64 members of a violent street gang rounded up during raids in several New Jersey cities Tuesday, authorities are looking to execute 32 more arrests in an attempt to cripple the gang long-term. State Police Superintendent Col. Rick Fuentes said Wednesday that arrests of other Nine Trey Gangsters would occur "over coming days and weeks" and that the exact number of warrants issued would depend on information generated by the continuing investigation. Of the 32 people not yet in custody for whom warrants were already issued, Fuentes said, "If we don't catch those people, we'll get the whole country looking for them." Tuesday's raids happened concurrently in cities throughout New Jersey, including Paterson, Jersey City, Newark, Trenton, Asbury Park, Keansburg, Atlantic City and Vineland. The 64 people arrested, all suspected members of the Nine Trey, or 9-3, faction of the Bloods, were being held in Mercer County Jail.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060727/NEWS03/607270386/1007>

28. TN: Sheriff, KPD, Feds Round Up Suspected Gang Members (Volunteer TV, 26 Jul 2006)

Many of East Tennessee's streets and neighborhoods may be measurably safer after a massive gang round-up by police. Volunteer TV's Gary Loe reports nearly two dozen alleged gang members and their associates are behind bars. A U.S. Attorney's task force identified 60 of whom they call the most dangerous gang members in our area. Law enforcement officers then went to work today arresting them on outstanding warrants. The streets of Lonsdale are now without at least one suspected gang member accused of breaking the law. The Knox County Sheriff's office along with KPD, the FBI, the DEA, and the US Marshall's Service conducted a massive round up of suspected gang members and their associates. During the round up, 60 individuals were identified, 16 were arrested, and five others were already in jail or prison.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.volunteertv.com/Global/story.asp?S=5202539>

29. TX: At least 9 shot in gang fight (Star-telegram, 24 Jul 2006)

FORT WORTH - A confrontation at a party resulted in a melee that left at least nine people with gunshot wounds at a south Fort Worth residence early Sunday, police said. None of the wounds were life-threatening, police said. Victims were ages 14-25 and included at least three women, said Fort Worth gang unit Detective S. Conn. The altercation began at a north Fort Worth nightclub Saturday evening, Conn said. There, one gang member slapped a rival gang member, Conn said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/news/15109474.htm>

30. TX: Mexican gangs, drugs are growing worries (San Angelo Standard Times, 27 Jul 2006)

As debate heats up about illegal immigrants crossing the Rio Grande, I suspect our perspectives are influenced by one's history and by one's proximity to the Mexican border. Since boyhood, I admired the industrious, thrifty, honest Mexicans who overcame great hardship to trek north and work our fields and ranches. Generations of Hispanics - often illiterate - mustered up extraordinary courage to serve as productive neighbors. Many still do. My sentiments come from someone who lives only 150 miles from Mexico. Lately, I've been reading daily reports compiled by the Governor's Division of Emergency Management. They help law enforcement officers coordinate efforts to improve border security.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?N39225A7D>

31. VA: Crime Generates Shock, Alarm and Resignation - Sterling Park Residents React to Shootings (The Connection, 26 Jul 2006)

Drive-by shootings targeting seven homes and critically wounding one man followed by a stabbing two nights later has resonated expressions of alarm, shock and in some cases, resignation, among Sterling Park residents. Authorities have characterized the shootings that began about 1 a.m., Wednesday, July 19, as possibly gang related. They have not

identified the motive or which gangs were possibly involved. Teenagers lived in all five of the targeted homes. Stray bullets hit two other homes.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=69118&paper=67&cat=104>

32. VA: Prosecution strike force will target gang members (Times-Dispatch, 27 Jul 2006)

The Richmond commonwealth's attorney's office is forming a three-prosecutor Gang Prosecution Strike Force to turn up the heat on organized street crime in the city. Commonwealth's Attorney Michael N. Herring, Virginia Attorney General Bob McDonnell and Richmond Police Chief Rodney Monroe announced the strike force yesterday as the latest phase of GRIP, the Gang Reduction and Intervention Program. McDonnell's office administers GRIP, a \$2.5 million federal grant program that started in 2004 and runs through 2007. Local, state and federal agencies have been working together on programs aimed at intervention between children and gangs and providing healthy alternatives to gang involvement.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?B28014A7D>

33. Canada: Police to launch unified attack on gangs, guns (The Ottawa Citizen, 27 Jul 2006)

Ottawa police are promising a renewed crackdown on street gangs and illegal firearms with the formation of a "guns and gangs" unit that will begin patrolling city streets in September. The 11-member unit, which is being described as a "harmonization" of the existing gang unit and firearms task force, is expected to be launched sometime between Sept. 15 and 18. "The mandate will be investigating and enforcing the Criminal Code as far as weapons and offences involving criminal activity, with a concentration of looking at gang-related activities in Ottawa," said unit commander Staff Sgt. Mike Callaghan yesterday.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?A19023A7D>

34. UK: Underworld gun gang found guilty (BBC, 27 Jul 2006)

Three men have been convicted for their part in London's largest gun conversion operation, which supplied hundreds of weapons to the underworld. Andrew Meekey, 30, of Leytonstone, east London, and Guner Salih, 58, of Barkingside, Essex, were found guilty of supplying and possessing weapons. Meekey's father, Paul, aged 60, of Leytonstone, was also found guilty of possessing a weapon and ammunition. All three were remanded to be sentenced at the Old Bailey on Friday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/5221414.stm>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

35. AR: Senators sponsor bill to change cocaine sentencing (KRISTV, 26 Jul 2006)

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. - Arkansas Sen. Mark Pryor is one of four lawmakers _ all former attorneys general _ sponsoring a bill that would reduce mandatory prison sentences for crack cocaine and increase the mandatory prison terms for powder cocaine convictions. "We're working in a bipartisan way ... to try to make our drug laws more consistent and fairer and more equitable," Pryor said in a conference call with reporters Wednesday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kristv.com/Global/story.asp?S=5200185&nav=Bsmh>

36. LA: St. Martin Sheriff's Deputies Confiscate \$200,000 Worth of Cocaine (KLFY, 26 Jul 2006)

Hundreds of thousand of dollars in drugs was found in a vehicle, after the driver led police on a chase through Henderson, Wednesday morning. Law enforcement officials recovered \$200,000 in suspected cocaine and over \$15,000 in cash. St. Martin Parish sheriff's officials stopped the vehicle on I-10 for a traffic violation, but the two occupants fled in the vehicle.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.klfy.com/Global/story.asp?S=5206022>

37. MD: Nine indicted in suspected Maryland cocaine ring (AP, 26 Jul 2006)

BALTIMORE - Nine men were indicted Wednesday in a suspected cocaine and crack cocaine ring in Maryland, including a man from Phoenix. The indictment, handed down by a Baltimore grand jury in May but announced Wednesday, includes five Cecil County men, two from Pennsylvania and one each from Delaware and Arizona. The indictments came after the 2005 conviction of Richard Harris, 30, of Philadelphia, who admitted to giving cocaine and crack cocaine to distributors in Cecil County. The nine men incited this year are accused of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine between 2004 and April 2006.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?O23215A7D>

38. MD: Pot Gumballs Prompt DEA Bulletin (AP, 27 July 2006)

Marijuana packaged in yellow, smiley face gumballs found at Howard High School was a first for local, state and federal investigators. Howard County police confiscated the "Greenades" gumballs in January at the Ellicott City school. The federal Drug Enforcement Agency recently released an intelligence bulletin about them. Police charged three 17-year-old students after a teacher alerted a school resource officer. She told the officer that she saw a student give a plastic bag that the teacher believed contained drugs to another student. The officer seized the bag, which contained two "candy balls" wrapped in foil, police said. Instructions on the foil told users to chew for 30 minutes to 1 hour "before you would like receive your high" and to "chew for as long as possible, then swallow." A state police lab found that each gumball contained approximately 1 gram of marijuana.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=25&sid=862236>

39. MA: Three Roxbury men arrested in stimulant-smuggling sting (Boston Globe, 27 Jul 2006)

A late-night drug raid on a Roxbury apartment building, part of a multicity bust federal authorities said dismantled an international smuggling ring, has sparked debate about the use of khat, an herbal stimulant that is widely used in Africa but is illegal in the United States, where some say it is gaining popularity. Agents from the US Drug Enforcement Administration, the FBI, and the US attorney's office arrested 42 people in cities from New York and Boston to Minneapolis and Seattle after an 18-month investigation dubbed Operation Somali Express. Authorities stormed an apartment building on Walnut Avenue in Roxbury Tuesday night, arresting three men on narcotics charges and detaining 15 others. Investigators said they seized 5 tons of khat in the multistate investigation, worth about \$2 million.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?H24215A7D>

40. NY: Dozens arrested nationwide in distribution of African stimulant (AP, 26 Jul 2006)

NEW YORK - Federal agents say they have broken up a smuggling ring responsible for most U.S. distribution of a leafy stimulant called khat, which is illegal here but commonly used in East Africa and parts of the Arabian peninsula. Prosecutors announced the indictment of 44 people in New York on Wednesday on charges that they helped bring 25 tons of the plant into the U.S. in recent years. All but 14 of the suspects were under arrest after a series of sweeps in several states. Some 5 tons of the drug, worth \$2 million, have been seized by agents during the 18-month investigation, authorities said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Z35261A7D>

41. NY: U.N. Employee Is Charged With Drug Smuggling (NY Sun, 27 Jul 2006)

A U.N. employee used U.N. diplomatic pouches to smuggle illegal drugs as part of a ring that brought 25 tons of contraband into New York in the past year and a half, federal prosecutors and the FBI said yesterday. The shipments of khat — an illegal stimulant grown in East Africa — were received by a mail clerk employed by the United Nations, Osman Osman, who sent them across America, according to an indictment unsealed yesterday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nysun.com/article/36814>

42. OH: Alleged Smuggling Ring Busted (Ohio News Now, 27 Jul 2006)

Federal agents say they've broken up a smuggling ring responsible for most U.S. distribution of a leafy stimulant called khat. The U.S. attorney's office says six people considered midlevel distributors or transporters were arrested yesterday in Columbus. They're part of a group of 44 people indicted in New York on charges they helped bring 25 tons of the plant into the U.S. in recent years. The substance is illegal here but commonly used in East Africa and parts of the Arabian peninsula to induce a mild buzz.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?C57224A7D>

43. TX: International 'Stash House' Busted by SAPD (WOAI, 24 Jul 2006)

A San Antonio man now faces federal charges after police confiscate dozens of drugs and guns, from what federal authorities are calling an international 'stash house.' This weekend, officers raided the home on Garnett Avenue. Inside they found 30 guns, body armor, heroin and cocaine. "This amount, having over a pound of cocaine, leads us to believe that this person was either holding it for somebody that sells or selling himself," says Officer Joe Rios. Neighbors tell News 4 WOAI that besides a "beware of dog" sign on the fence gate, they had no idea there was anything going on in the South side home.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?R18234A7D>

44. Dominican Republic: Holland Dutch woman arrested with 20 Kilos cocaine (Dominican Today, 27 Jul 2006)

SANTO DOMINGO.- The National Drug Control Direction (DNCD), informed today the arrest of a Dutch woman carrying 20 Kilos of cocaine in the Punta Cana airport.

Buenaventura Bueno Torres, the drug enforcement agency's spokesman said the arrested woman is Holland national Mandy Adriana Patricia Piinenburg, 18 years olds. She was arrested as she prepared to board Martinair Airline flight 607 with destination to Europe. He added the Dutch woman had been contracted by a narcotics trafficker's network to carry the drug to Amsterdam.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dominicantoday.com/app/article.aspx?id=15873>

45. Bolivian cocaine rises with Morales (Washington Times, 27 July 2006)

Counternarcotics officials say the number of cocaine laboratories in Bolivia has almost doubled in the seven months since Evo Morales, a former coca grower and organizer of coca-farming syndicates, was elected president. Mr. Morales, whose country faces sharp economic penalties if the United States does not recertify it as a fully cooperating partner in the war on drugs next year, insists Bolivia is committed to battling the international traffic in narcotics. Critics say new programs allowing farmers to cultivate small plots of coca are contributing to the rise in cocaine production. Coca production is a traditional way of life for Bolivia's Indian peasantry, who chew the raw leaves as a mild stimulant.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20060727-122200-2100r.htm>

46. UK: Colombian cocaine gang jailed for 57 years (4NI.co.uk, 24 Jul 2006)

A Colombian cocaine gang living in London have been jailed for a total of 57 years at Southwark Crown Court. The gang of three men and two women were convicted of harbouring 108 kilos of cocaine worth £7.2 million. Six people had originally been charged with harbouring a controlled drug. Two men - Alexander Anoyave Agudelo, 30, from Tottenham and Hector Fabio Correa Rios, 31, from Stoke Newington - pleaded guilty to the charge, while another man and two women - Victor Maurizio Gonzalez Justinico, 26, from Finchley, Liliana Andrea Garces-Rossero, 31, from Palmers Green and Omaira Zuluaga Giraldo, 32, from Stoke Newington - were found guilty following a six-week long trial in April. A fourth man was acquitted.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.4ni.co.uk/news.asp?id=53446>

47. France: Saudi Prince Said To Smuggle Cocaine in His Private Jet (The Daily Telegraph, 27 Jul 2006)

PARIS - A Saudi prince went on trial in his absence in Paris yesterday, accused of being involved in a plot to use his private jet to smuggle \$92 million of cocaine into Europe. Prince Nayef al-Chaalan faces charges relating to his alleged participation in, or organization of, an operation to fly nearly 2 tons of the drug to an airfield six miles from Paris from Colombia. He failed to appear at a preliminary hearing last month, citing "vital professional reasons," and is liable to arrest under an international warrant.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nysun.com/article/36831>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

48. VoIP security assessment is about to become a must (Network World, 24 Jul 2006)

Carriers are beefing up their VoIP security services, and demand for these offerings is growing as more VoIP vulnerabilities come to light. High-profile attacks against VoIP systems are helping drive this market. In early June, for example, two men were arrested and charged with routing approximately 500,000 calls illegally over the network belonging to Net2Phone, a Newark, N.J., VoIP provider. Fifteen Internet phone companies reportedly were victims of the scam.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X5A022A7D>

RESOURCES

49. Emergency Responders Rely on Smartphones and Handhelds to Gain Quick Access to Reference Materials During Hazardous-Materials Incidents (Business Wire, 26 Jul 2006)

SUNNYVALE, Calif - Palm, Inc. today announced that the National Library of Medicine (NLM), the largest medical library in the world and an organization within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has created a free application for emergency responders called Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER) that runs on Palm(R) Treo(TM) smartphones and handhelds. Emergency responders use Palm products paired with the WISER application as wireless or stand-alone reference tools for gathering information on hazardous substances and supporting comprehensive decision support. The solution serves as a reliable alternative to the current paper-based systems or outdated technology that emergency responders often contend with on a scene.

During the past 40 years, the NLM has produced a Hazardous Substance DataBank (HSDB) that compiles comprehensive data for close to 5,000 chemicals. The WISER application gives emergency responders access to relevant information on more than 400 of the most commonly encountered HSDB substances. The user interface is designed to

present the data to the emergency responder in a format that is easy to access and comprehend during an emergency, as well as during disaster-preparedness training.

Available as an application download useable on Palm devices from <http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov>, the WISER application can travel wherever the responder needs to go. To date, NLM has recorded more than 11,000 application downloads for the Palm OS(R) application. The free application is stored either on the Palm device or a storage card (purchased separately) and then updated at the user's discretion.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?U5B226A7D>

50. US Cops Continue Studying Counterterrorism in Israel (By Jim Kouri, CPP, 26 Jul 2006)

A private US-Israeli company, Security Solutions International, is responding to the need for better quality training by sponsoring a training missions to Israel for US law enforcement and security officers. While the Department of Homeland Security continues to fund courses for law enforcement at local community colleges and other educational institutes, they are not exactly what most first responders really need. “I think that while the curriculum in these courses is well thought out, law enforcement needs to have real-time, real-world experience of the terror situation to be able to really counter terror,” says Henry Morgenstern, Security Solutions’ President. SSI looked at what first responders really need and has created a training mission that reflects US security needs. The participants will be looking at the main areas of Homeland Security—Port Security, Airports, Malls and Public Events, Critical Infrastructure and Government buildings—and seeing for themselves what security measures the Israelis have in place to protect against terror attacks.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://newsbyus.com/more.php?id=4623_0_1_0_M

OPPORTUNITIES

51. Guard seeks MPs for missile defense battalion (ArmyTimes.com, 27 Jul 2006)

The National Guard is looking for military police officers – or those who can qualify to be one – to serve in its missile defense battalion in Alaska. The 31B positions are Active Guard and Reserve slots for E-4s and below and O-2s and below. Soldiers who aren’t MPs have a year to qualify as one if they’re hired as an AGR soldier. By recruiting younger soldiers, “we can constantly have a flow of people coming in, give them promotion opportunities and career opportunities,” said Brig. Gen. Tom Katkus, assistant adjutant general for space and missile defense for the Alaska Guard. The soldiers would serve with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, which has almost 200 soldiers, all of them AGR. Most of them are air defenders, who maintain and control the missile system, or military police officers, Katkus said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.armytimes.com/story.php?f=1-292925-1980224.php>

EVENTS

52. N.C. Tech Association Says Leadership Conference for Aug. 24-25

RALEIGH, N.C. – The North Carolina Technology Association will host its annual leadership conference on Aug. 24-25 at the Pinehurst Resort in Pinehurst, N.C. The conference theme is: "Achieving Success: Teaching, Surviving, Serving, Protecting and Leading." Speakers include: Stuart McKee, U.S. national technology officer with Microsoft; Jay Bryson, global economist for Wachovia; Timothy Berezney, assistant director for the Counterintelligence Division of the FBI; Leo Colborne, vice president of customer services for EMC; and Gerald Bell, founder of the Bell Leadership Institute. CABLE Gram Suggested URL: <http://www.nc-tech.org>

FULL REPORTS

53. FBI Announces Restructuring (FBI, 26 Jul 2006)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – FBI Director Robert S. Mueller today announced structural changes to support the next phase of the FBI's transformation efforts.

A key part of the reorganization is the creation of the Associate Deputy Director (ADD) position. Comparable to a Chief Operating Officer, the ADD will oversee the management of the FBI's personnel, budget, administration, and infrastructure; thereby allowing the Director and Deputy Director to focus on operations, intelligence, and liaison. As the first ADD with these responsibilities, Joseph Ford will work to ensure that the FBI's management systems, budget, and infrastructure are aligned to support the Bureau's missions and priorities. Mr. Ford previously served as the Bureau's Chief Financial Officer.

Director Mueller said, "The increased size of the FBI, including growth in our workforce and budget, coupled with efforts to be more strategic in our management of human capital and technology, has presented executive management with new challenges. At the same time, the FBI's growing role in the Intelligence Community and the pace of FBI operations have increased the need for special focus on longer-term, strategic efforts. This requires the full attention of an executive at the Associate Deputy Director level. The FBI and its employees will benefit from the creation of this position and the focus Joseph Ford will provide."

Under the new structure there are now five branches headed by Executive Assistant Directors. As announced last month, Willie Hulon now oversees the National Security Branch (NSB) composed of the Counterterrorism Division, Counterintelligence Division, and Directorate of Intelligence. Added to the NSB will be the new Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Directorate, which consolidates WMD and counterproliferation initiatives. This new Directorate will study the consequences of a WMD attack, increase our level of preparedness, and coordinate the Government's response in the event of a WMD attack in the continental United States. The WMD Directorate will be headed by Assistant Director Vahid Majidi. Dr. Majidi comes to the FBI from the Los Alamos National Laboratory where he headed the Chemistry Division, including such strategic

programs as nuclear weapons-related research and non/counter-proliferation. He previously served as Chief Science Advisor to the Department of Justice.

The Criminal Investigations Branch, headed as previously announced by Executive Assistant Director (EAD) Michael Mason, is composed of the Criminal Investigative Division, Cyber Division, Critical Incident Response Group, Office of International Operations, and the Office of Law Enforcement Coordination. Placing in one official the responsibility for criminal and cyber investigations, coordination with law enforcement, international operations, and crisis response, will ensure that the criminal programs receive strategic guidance and support, and that the FBI maintains its unparalleled level of excellence in criminal investigations.

The Human Resources Branch, headed by EAD Donald Packham (former Senior Vice President of Human Resources Americas for BP), combines the Human Resources Division and the Training and Development Division (TDD). This allows the FBI to restructure its human capital program and to focus on the FBI's greatest assets – its people. The FBI is committed to recruiting, training, developing, and retaining people who will further the FBI's reputation for excellence.

The Science and Technology (S&T) Branch, headed by EAD Kerry Haynes (formerly with the Central Intelligence Agency's Directorate of Science and Technology), combines the Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Laboratory, the Operational Technology Division and the Special Technologies and Applications Section (formerly part of the Cyber Division). The S&T Branch will ensure that the FBI continues to provide exceptional service to the law enforcement community and stays on top of technical innovation and developments in the sciences to support investigative and intelligence-gathering activities.

The fifth branch is the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), headed by Zalmi Azmi. While the OCIO's current composition will not change, its place in the larger organization will more closely align it with the components handling strategic planning, finance, security, and facilities. Given the importance of IT to the FBI's transformation efforts, this alignment is critical.

Under the new structure, there will no longer be an EAD for Administration or an EAD for Law Enforcement Services. The ADD will have direct oversight over the Human Resource Branch, OCIO, Inspection Division, Facilities and Logistics Services Division, Finance Division, Records Management Division, and Security Division.

Director Mueller said, "The initial phase of our post-9/11 transformation was our immediate response to the new terrorist threat. The next phase focused on developing enhanced intelligence capabilities. Today we are aligning our organization to better support our priorities. This includes a strategic approach to human resources, IT, science and technology, facilities, and budget. This last phase is about institutionalizing the changes we have made to date, and building a foundation to support us into the future."

54. Time to Rethink Airport Security (The Heritage Foundation, by Robert W. Poole, Jr., and James Jay Carafano, Ph.D., Background #1955, 26 Jul 2006)

Although well-intentioned, much of the effort to enhance aviation security since September 11, 2001, has done little to make the skies significantly safer. Despite large amounts of taxpayers' money and passengers' time, little has been accomplished that actually increases aviation security. The time has come for Congress to start over and mandate a new approach.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/HomelandDefense/bg1955.cfm>

55. Persistent Homeland Security Problems at Agriculture - USDA Ignoring Security Rules While Dispensing Advice to Farmers (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, 27 Jul 2006)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has failed two straight audits over its unsafe handling of highly toxic agents at the same time the agency is distributing a detailed Homeland Security "checklist" to farmers, ranchers and dairy operators, according to agency documents released today by Sinapu and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER).

The audits, conducted by the Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General in 2005 and 2006, concern a branch of the agency, ironically named Wildlife Services, which exterminates wildlife at the request of farmers and ranchers. In 2004, the last year for which figures are available, Wildlife Services killed 2.7 million animals, principally birds, using an array of lethal chemical agents ranging from sodium cyanide to aluminum phosphate, deployed across the country as bait, in fumigants, sprays and gases.

The Inspector General repeatedly found the agency in violation of the Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act for failing to secure "dangerous biological agents and toxins," including not keeping accurate inventories whereby theft, unauthorized sale or other losses of these toxins could be detected. Other violations included regular access to toxins by unauthorized persons, distribution of chemical agents to untrained individuals and inadequate security plans. All ten of the Wildlife Services sites audited by the Inspector General were found to be out of compliance with bioterrorism regulations.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.yubanet.com/artman/publish/article_39615.shtml

56. U.S., Mexico Working To Keep Border Secure, Open for Trade - State Department, Homeland Security officials testify on immigration issues (By Eric Green, Washington File Staff Writer, 26 Jul 2006)

Washington - The United States is working closely with Mexico to ensure maximum security on the joint border while providing for the free flow of trade, say U.S. officials from the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security.

In prepared testimony July 26 for the House International Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, the State Department's Elizabeth Whitaker outlined programs the

United States has in place with Mexico to enhance border security while making border transit "easier and quicker" for "legitimate travelers and goods."

Whitaker, the State Department's deputy assistant secretary for Western Hemisphere affairs, said the U.S. trade relationship with Mexico – more than \$270 billion per year, and second in size only to U.S. trade with Canada -- means that "we must continue to make those [border] crossings "even more swift and safe, and we are committed to doing even more to achieve that goal."

Regarding the rise of crime and violence in the border region, largely due to the activities of narco-trafficking organizations, Whitaker said the Mexican government has attacked this problem on its territory by sending in military and federal police forces to take temporary control over security.

The United States continues to strengthen and extend cross-border linkages among the law enforcement agencies on the border, "so that both sides are able to mount coordinated responses to breaking security events," she added.

Mexico has taken "its own measures to stem the flow of illegal immigrants on its southern border --- people clearly headed to the United States," Whitaker said. She said that in 2005, Mexico deported 235,000 people who had crossed its border illegally.

The United States, Whitaker said, has supported the Mexican government's efforts to control its southern border by establishing, training and equipping three specialized mobile interdiction teams, and providing three highly sophisticated mobile inspection vans that can inspect cargo vehicles for contraband and hidden passengers. In addition, the U.S. government has sponsored border safety training for Mexican officials in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas.

"Such cooperation on so many fronts is critical on Mexico's southern border, which is remote, sparsely populated, and essentially porous," Whitaker said.

She said immigration is largely a domestic and not a foreign policy issue for the United States. But ultimately, she said, U.S. officials know that immigration from Mexico to the United States will not be reduced permanently until Mexico's economy is more "competitive and produces more good jobs," and until the Mexican government improves education and infrastructure in Mexico's poorer states.

The U.S. government believes "that the best way to reduce illegal migration is through economic development" in Mexico, Whitaker said.

Cresencio Arcos from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security said international cooperation from Mexico, as well as Central and South America, is needed to uproot human trafficking and smuggling networks that bring illegal immigrants into the United States.

Arcos, the Homeland Security Department's assistant secretary for international affairs, told the subcommittee that Mexico has proven to be a "critical partner" with his agency in the last several years in helping to control illegal immigration.

In his prepared testimony, Arcos, a former State Department official, described a number of joint U.S. programs with Mexico and Canada to stop the flow of illegal immigrants into the United States.

For example, Arcos said, the Security and Prosperity Partnership for North America -- involving the United States, Canada and Mexico -- is designed to keep U.S. borders closed to terrorists and open to trade. The partnership, unveiled in March 2005, includes the North American Competitiveness Council comprised of members of the three countries' private sectors who will meet on an ongoing basis with government officials to enhance competitiveness in the region while ensuring its security. (See [related article](#).)

In addition, Arcos said the State Department is working on visa policy coordination with Canada and Mexico to implement policies and procedures that will lead to "comparable" decisions about travelers destined for North America. The end result of this coordinated work, said Arcos, will enable a traveler heading for a Canadian or Mexican port of entry to experience "substantially the same screening as a traveler bound for a U.S. port of entry."

Arcos said the United States has a number of programs in place with other countries in the Western Hemisphere to manage illegal migration in the region. For instance, the Regional Commission on Migration, launched in 1996, brings together migration and foreign policy officials from Central America, as well as Mexico and Canada, for a multilateral forum on common issues related to transnational migration, he said.

Arcos called on the U.S. Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation, which he said requires a combination of border law enforcement involving international partners, expanded enforcement against illegal immigrants within the United States and a temporary worker program. This reform package, he said, will help officials "deal with immigration issues on a regional basis within the Western Hemisphere."

The prepared testimonies of [Whitaker](#) and [Arcos](#) are available on the House Committee on International Relations Web site.

For additional information on U.S. policy, see [Mexico](#) and [Immigration Reform](#).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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