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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 46

7 August 2006 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

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Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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FEDERAL

1. Senator Cornyn introduces \$3.9 billion emergency border security measure (The Monitor, 3 Aug 2006)

WASHINGTON - Moving forward with his commitment to seek emergency funding for border security and immigration enforcement, Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas), chairman of the Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship subcommittee, on Wednesday introduced an amendment to provide \$3.9 billion in additional resources. The amendment to the Department of Defense appropriations bill, H.R. 5631, would fund a range of critical border security initiatives such as additional border patrol agents, detention beds,

employer verification and strategic barriers that have either been previously authorized but not funded by Congress or called for by President Bush.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?U4896258D>

2. U.S. Sen. Grassley Appalled By Lack Of Technology At Border Crossings (IowaPolitics.com, 2 Aug 2006)

WASHINGTON – Senator Chuck Grassley today said that a lot of people have been paying attention to how people sneak in the back door to the United States, but today’s testimony from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) shows its time to start paying attention to the front door as well. In a hearing before the Senate Finance Committee, the Senator heard testimony from the GAO that showed its agents crossing the border 18 times with counterfeit documents. The agents were not caught during any of their attempts. Grassley held a hearing in 2003 to outline similar concerns after GAO agents crossed the border with counterfeit documents. “Three years after our first hearing it appears our borders are no more secure,” Grassley said. “I certainly hope we aren’t back here in another three years asking the same questions.”

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.iowapolitics.com/index.ihtml?Article=68318>

3. Defense bill attracts potential border security additions (By Megan Scully, CongressDaily, 3 Aug 2006)

Border security and immigration issues took center stage Wednesday during the first full day of Senate debate on the fiscal 2007 Defense appropriations bill, with members angling to add billions of dollars to deter immigrants from illegally entering the country. Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., proposed an amendment that would designate \$4 billion in emergency spending to pay for 500 additional border patrol agents and 800 new immigration and customs enforcement officials, as well as 1,300 detention beds, physical barriers, Coast Guard equipment and other items. The amendment comes a week after Cornyn, Kyl and Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., called on President Bush to send Congress an emergency supplemental request to fully cover the cost of border security priorities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34699&dcn=e_ndw

4. Immigration: Minutemen blast Senate over border fence (The New Mexican, 5 Aug 2006)

The Senate's vote Wednesday to give the National Guard \$1.8 billion to build fences and other vehicle barriers along the Mexican border has one group that favors restrictions on immigration crying foul over the process that got it what it wants. The Minutemen Civil Defense Corps, which sends volunteers to the border to prevent undocumented immigrants from entering the country, said the Senate is flip-flopping on the fence issue. "The Senate voted against the fence, then voted for the fence, and then voted against funding the fence, and now for funding the fence. Politics as usual," Minutemen president Chris Simcox said in a news release.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.freewmexican.com/news/47436.html>

5. Immigrant detention centers forming quickly (AP, 2 Aug 2006)

RAYMONDVILLE, Texas – Men have been working around the clock since late June on the futuristic cluster of tentlike domes to house illegal immigrants. The quest for laborers has tapped local employment centers dry. Express delivery trucks rumble in and out with materials ordered on the fly. Less than 12 weeks after President Bush told the nation he was boosting the U.S. Border Patrol and ending the "catch and release" policy blamed on a shortage of federal detention space, 500 metal bunks are to be filled with immigrants awaiting deportation. By Sept. 26, 2,000 will be ready. The army of workers were under a strict directive from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to complete the project quickly, and Mr. Bush is scheduled to visit the region Thursday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X5796158D>

6. FAA Authorizes Predators To Seek Survivors (AFNS, 4 Aug 2006)

Langley AFB VA - Traditionally tasked to hunt for targets, Air Combat Command's Predators are now authorized to seek survivors during disaster relief operations. A certificate of authorization allows the MQ-1 or MQ-9 to support relief operations by providing video and infrared search and rescue capability within specified flight restrictions. In 2005, 1st Air Force requested unmanned aircraft system support to provide video for search and rescue purposes in the wake of Katrina; however, because of national airspace restrictions, the request was cancelled.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M1504278D>

7. Airline Anti-Missile System Years Away (AP, 31 Jul 2006)

WASHINGTON - It could be 20 years before every U.S. passenger airplane is outfitted with a system to protect it from small portable missiles, according to a government report obtained Monday by The Associated Press. Under a test program, BAE Systems and Northrop Grumman developed laser-based systems over the past two years that still don't meet the reliability standards set by the Homeland Security Department, the report said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?B2E81558D>

8. Problems Arise With Port Worker IDs (AP, 3 Aug 2006)

WASHINGTON - A Department of Homeland Security plan to require port workers to carry tamperproof photo ID cards has numerous security problems that threaten to delay it, investigators said Thursday. In an audit, Homeland Security Inspector General Richard Skinner said his review of prototype systems at participating U.S. ports identified vulnerabilities in the Transportation Worker Identification Credential program, known as TWIC. The weaknesses, some of which were deemed high risk, included instances of false positives in detecting which workers might pose a security risk as well as cases in which the system inadvertently disclosed sensitive personal information inappropriately.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?A2F84158D>

9. ID program for transport workers called vulnerable (Computer Partner, The Netherlands, 4 Aug 2006)

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) must address significant security vulnerabilities in its Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program before rolling out the system, according to a redacted report released this week by Richard Skinner, the DHS's inspector general (download PDF here: http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/OIGr_06-47_Jul06.pdf). When fully implemented, the TWIC program, now in its pilot phase, will use biometrics to confirm the identities of up to 6 million workers across all transportation industry sectors. "We determined that significant security vulnerabilities existed relative to the TWIC prototype systems, documentation and program management," Skinner said in the report. "Due to the number and significance of the weaknesses identified, TWIC prototype systems are vulnerable to various internal and external security threats."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.computerpartner.nl/article.php?news=int&id=4057>

10. Governors Wary of Change on Troops (Washington Post, 06 Aug 2006)

The nation's governors on Saturday launched a bipartisan drive to block a move to expand the president's authority to take over National Guard troops in case of natural disaster or homeland security threats. At a closed-door luncheon on the opening day of the annual summer meeting of the National Governors Association, the chairman, Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (R), told colleagues that a provision in the House-passed defense authorization bill would end the historic link between the states and their Guard units. Huckabee and the association's vice chairman, Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano (D), plan to ask all the governors at the session to sign a letter of protest Sunday aimed at killing the provision when House and Senate conferees meet next month on the bill.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?T1273258D>

11. Terrorists Plot to Attack Americans Through Food Supply (AXcess News, by Jim Kourim, 31 Jul 2006)

New York - While airport security, seaport protection, illegal immigration and other functions of the Department of Homeland Security garner more attention and news headlines, one of the most feared terrorist tactics is the use of the United States' domestic food supply chain to kill as many Americans as possible. Intelligence sources believe that this type of terrorist plot is being considered by members of several groups including Al-Qaeda. In fact, the DHS has a term to describe such a tactic: Agroterrorism. US agriculture generates more than \$1 trillion per year in economic activity and provides an abundant food supply for Americans and others. Since the September 11, 2001, attacks, there have been new concerns about the vulnerability of US agriculture to the deliberate introduction of animal and plant diseases.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.axcessnews.com/modules/wfsection/article.php?articleid=10665>

12. DHS informant implicated in House of Death mass murder is still in U.S., attorney confirms (the narcosphere, 4 Aug 2006)

The fate of the U.S. government informant who was involved in at least a dozen murders at the in Ciudad Juárez is still up in the air, but prior about his imminent extradition to Mexico are not accurate, according to the informant's Harlingen, Texas-based attorney. The informant's real name is still a bit of a mystery, but court records identify him as Guillermo Eduardo Ramirez Peyro, also known as "Lalo." He was under the watch of U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agents in El Paso, Texas, when the mass murder operation was carried in out in Juárez between August 2003 and mid-January of 2004. During that period, a dozen people were kidnapped, tortured and butchered at the House of Death by Mexican cops and drug dealers affiliated with a narco-trafficking organization that had been infiltrated by the informant -who was working for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which is part of DHS.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://narcosphere.narconews.com/story/2006/8/4/202050/1592>

13. Latest batch of Chinese spies wear the collar of Catholic priest (Canada Free Press, 4 Aug 2006)

Attache-carrying businessmen in pinstriped suits are ripping off North American enterprises by first stealing then carrying trade secrets back to the Peoples Republic of China. The FBI believes that as many as 3,500 Chinese "front companies" are involved in espionage for the People's Republic of China (PRC). While North America is fighting Islamic terrorism, China will be America's greatest counterintelligence problem during the next 10 to 15 years. After the United States and Russia, the PRC can boast the world's third-largest intelligence apparatus, still growing to spy on governmental, military and high technology secrets.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.canadafreepress.com/2006/cover080406.htm>

14. ARGENTINA: Residents Face Uranium Threat in Water Supply (Tierramerica, 4 Aug 2006)

BUENOS AIRES - Argentine judicial authorities are investigating cases of uranium contamination around the Ezeiza Atomic Centre, in Buenos Aires province. A married couple who have been diagnosed with cancer have been accepted as plaintiffs in a related lawsuit. The first complaint reached the judicial branch in 2000, when residents of the area sounded the alert about possible "poisoning" of the water supply with uranium, and blamed the nuclear facility for the potential health consequences for the nearby population. "All of the reports recognise that there is contamination, and all are valid. The judge will have to combine the results and reach a conclusion," biologist Raúl Montenegro, president of the independent Foundation for Defence of the Environment (FUNAM), told Tierramérica. On its web site, the organisation says it obtained a report by the government of Buenos Aires province -- signed by nine officials and filed in late 2005 -- "in which uranium contamination of underground water in Ezeiza is acknowledged."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=34235>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

15. CA: Cigarette tax opponents cite terrorism (insideBayArea.com, 6 Aug 2006)

SACRAMENTO — California voters may soon aid cigarette-smuggling Hezbollah terrorists, who before Sept. 11 had killed more Americans than any other such group, say ballot-measure foes who cite homeland-security developments and warnings. Supporters of Proposition 86 on the November ballot — which would boost cigarette taxes for health care by 13 cents per cigarette, to the highest levy in the nation — dismiss the claim as "scare tactics." The argument has been fueled by two thefts of \$5,000-plus in cigarettes each from stores in Marin County and Southern California in recent days. The Proposition 86 clash centers on foes' assertion that if the measure passes, terrorist cigarette smugglers, who transport cigarettes from low- to high-tax states and sell them at a discount, will find California much more lucrative.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/trivalleyherald/localnews/ci_4143371

16. CT: After 37 Years, Spy Comes In From Cold (New Haven Independent, 4 Aug 2006)

Sure, Kelly Moyer told the Black Panthers, go ahead and borrow my car. They didn't tell them they were on their way to murder somebody. He didn't tell them he was spying on them for the cops. Moyer didn't tell anyone except his wife -- until now, 37 years after New Haven's most notorious political murder.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.newhavenindependent.org/archives/2006/08/a_spy_comes_in.php

17. FL: Security barriers will no longer be mandatory for oil tankers at Port Everglades (South Florida Sun-Sentinel, 3 Aug 2006)

Security barriers in the water around the docks at Port Everglades no longer will be regularly used to protect oil tankers from a seaborne terrorist attack like the one that damaged the USS *Cole* in 2000. County commissioners, who are in charge of the port, say the change never was discussed with them. They, along with port businesses and security experts, are raising questions about the move. Port administrators ended a \$900,000-a-year deal with a local maritime company to open and close the special fencing in the water around the petroleum docks each time a tanker enters and leaves. The fencing has been removed and will be used only if the nation's terror-alert level is raised.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?I5404278D>

18. FL: You Can Leave Your Shoes On (Jodi Richards, Managing Editor, Airport Business, 2 Aug 2006)

By now everyone has probably seen the news reports about the various bacteria found when the floors of airport passenger screening areas were examined - including staffoid, an organism that can cause skin infections that go deep through the layers, and nazeria, which is of the species that can lead to gonorrhoea. And, some of us, after hearing this,

have even since refused to remove our shoes in the security lane and were then subjected to the friendly pat-down from a same-sex Transportation Security Administration agent. While most travelers won't argue the need for increased security, they do have something to say about long lines at security checkpoints. Each time someone refuses to remove his or her footwear, the staffing of the checkpoint is stretched, thus slowing down the flow. It would seem that there has to be a better way. Some airports are now supplying booties for travelers to wear over their feet while their shoes make their way on the belt for screening, but at least one is taking it a step further. Orlando International Airport passengers enrolled in the airport's registered traveler program, Clear, operated by Verified Identity Pass, Inc., will be testing new technology for screening for explosives and metal on a person that, if approved by TSA, will potentially allow travelers to keep their shoes and jackets on, according to Verified Identity Pass spokesperson Cindy Rosenthal. However, during the test phase, travelers will still have to remove their shoes and jackets. Clear is the first privately run registered traveler program operating at a U.S. airport. It has been operational since July 19, 2005, at Orlando and has enrolled more than 20,000 members.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.airportbusiness.com/publication/article.jsp?pubId=1&id=7414>

19. FL: Businessman gets 2-year sentence for smuggling radioactive material (AP, 4 Aug 2006)

MIAMI - An importer-exporter found guilty of smuggling radioactive material to the Bahamas was sentenced Friday to two years in prison, the U.S. Attorney's Office said. Harold J. DeGregory Jr., of West Palm Beach, was convicted in January of illegally transporting a radioactive material known as Iridium-192, and of making false statements to the government. He is president of Fort Lauderdale-based H&G Import Export. Prosecutors said DeGregory reached an agreement with the Bahamas Oil Refining Co. to transport the radioactive material, but he never submitted proper documentation and intentionally omitted the cargo on customs paperwork.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/news/breaking_news/15201296.htm

20. GA: Atlanta airport unveils underground baggage screening system (AP, 6 Aug 2006)

ATLANTA - With suitcases piled on a luggage cart before them, transportation safety officers Lisa Brandt and Cassandra Frederick helped each other hoist a large black wheeled bag onto the ramp of a federal baggage screening machine Thursday at the Atlanta airport. Then they moved another. And another. In a single work shift, Transportation Security Administration officers such as Brandt and Frederick may hoist up to 800 bags _ many weighing about 50 pounds _ onto the explosives detectors. Such constant heavy lifting, which can jar backs and injure toes and feet, has left TSA employees with the highest injury rate in federal government.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.accessnorthga.com/news/ap_newfullstory.asp?ID=78509

21. HI: State simulates terror attack (Star Bulletin, 6 Aug 2006)

For 34 straight hours beginning Aug. 15, state Civil Defense planners will be manning the command center inside Diamond Head Crater in an exercise to cope with the effects of the detonation of a low-yield nuclear bomb planted by terrorists. It's one of 15 scenarios -- wiping out 30 percent of the communications in the downtown area and killing 10,000 people -- involving improvised nuclear devices that the Defense Threat Reduction Agency wants states to prepare for, according to Edward Teixeira, state vice civil defense director. "The state civil defense's job will be to tie into the various, state, city and non-governmental agencies and to coordinate their efforts," Teixeira added. The mock half-kiloton nuclear explosion would take place at the entrance of Honolulu Harbor and would result in immediate casualties of nearly 400 people within 2,000 feet of ground zero, Teixeira said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://starbulletin.com/2006/08/06/news/story09.html>

22. MA: Judge hits BU biolab: Ruling calls for safety review, may stall plan (Boston Herald, 4 Aug 2006)

A Superior Court ruling could bring to a halt or delay plans for a controversial level-four biosafety lab slated for Boston's densely populated South End. The ruling, released yesterday, requires the state to subject Boston University Medical Center's \$178 million project to additional environmental review. As part of the National Institutes of Health's biodefense research, the biolab would study infectious diseases that occur naturally or are introduced by acts of bioterrorism. It would house potentially deadly bacteria and viruses, including Ebola virus, smallpox and anthrax.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://business.bostonherald.com/businessNews/view.bg?articleid=151357>

23. MI: Michigan man charged with lying about Ohio terrorism suspect (AP, 31 Jul 2006)

DETROIT - A Michigan man has been charged with lying to officials investigating what the U.S. government says was a plot to recruit and train terrorists to attack U.S. and allied troops overseas. Jihad Hekmat Dahabi, 47, of Dearborn was charged Thursday in U.S. District Court with making "false, fictitious and fraudulent material statements" in the course of an investigation of Marwan Othman El-Hindi. In February, a federal grand jury indicted El-Hindi, a 42-year-old Jordanian-born U.S. citizen, and two other Toledo, Ohio, men on terrorism charges alleging they planned attacks to kill U.S. and coalition military personnel in Iraq and other countries.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X17B21F7D>

24. MN: TSA Revokes Air Cargo Security Program Approval for Minneapolis-Based Professional Export Services (PRNewswire, 7 Aug 2006)

WASHINGTON - The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced today that it is revoking the security program approval of Professional Export Services (PES), an Indirect Air Carrier (IAC) based in Egan, Minnesota (near Minneapolis), because PES does not meet TSA security standards. Specifically, among other violations of TSA security requirements, PES tendered at least 48 shipments from unknown shippers to

passenger air carriers on numerous occasions and failed to provide cargo security training to their employees involved with the transport of air cargo. PES also failed to provide the required cargo security information to contractors hired to perform duties on behalf of the company. PES was notified today that it will no longer be permitted to tender cargo for transport on passenger aircraft.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Y1303278D>

25. NY: Steady fliers to get fast lane - Albany airport to participate in program that offers quicker service to frequent travelers (Times Union, 5 Aug 2006)

COLONIE - If all goes as planned, frequent travelers by the end of the year will have their own, faster security lane at Albany International Airport. Albany was chosen by the Transportation Security Administration to participate in a pilot registered-traveler program that will include 10 to 20 airports nationwide. Regulators hope to expand the program to other airports after seeing what works and what doesn't. So far, about a dozen airports and "one or two" airlines have expressed interest in participating, a TSA spokeswoman said. TSA officials originally hoped to have the program operating this summer. Participation by passengers will be voluntary and is targeted toward frequent travelers who would undergo a background check by the TSA and be given an identity card with biometric information that would confirm who they are.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?S2095258D>

26. NY: New York declares emergency as heat wave bakes East Coast (Agence France-Presse, 1 Aug 2006)

A heat wave that claimed more than 130 lives in California reached the US east coast, settling over the US capital and forcing New York City to declare a state of emergency for the first time. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed an order for city agencies "to take whatever steps necessary to protect the well-being and safety of city residents in the face of excessive heat" as the city baked under the sun. Temperatures were expected to climb to around 100 degrees F (38 C) in New York this week while the heat index, which takes moisture readings into account, could reach 110 F (43 C), the weather service said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.breitbart.com/news/2006/08/01/060801185146.pspqh3ti.html>

KEY PEOPLE

27. DHS science and technology chief confirmed (National Journal's Technology Daily, 7 Aug 2006)

The Senate on Thursday confirmed retired Navy Rear Adm. Jay Cohen to be the undersecretary for science and technology at the Homeland Security Department. Cohen, who served as the Navy's chief of research from June 2000 to late 2005, takes over a directorate that has faced heavy criticism from lawmakers in recent months. Senate appropriators expressed strong frustration with the lack of communication from the

directorship in their version of the department's fiscal 2007 appropriations bill. They called the directorship "a rudderless ship without a clear way to get back on course."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34717&dcn=e_gvet

28. ATF Director Resigns Amid Spending Probe (Washington Post, 05 Aug 2006)

The director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives announced his resignation yesterday, six months after the launch of an internal investigation into questionable spending on a new headquarters and other items during his tenure. Carl J. Truscott, a 22-year veteran of the Secret Service who took over as ATF chief in 2004, was under fire for his spending and management practices at a time when the agency was considering sharp cuts in the number of new cars, bulletproof vests and other basics it provides agents.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?E5A85258D>

29. New chief targets air marshal morale (Washington Times, 06 Aug 2006)

Dana Brown, the new director of the Federal Air Marshal Service, never really thought there was a morale problem when he was promoted to the top position in March, but then again, he never asked. But now he is asking, and the Transportation Security Administration's 2006 Organizational Satisfaction Survey confirms what he is hearing from his men and women who are protecting America's skies from another terrorist attack. "The results are not good," Mr. Brown said in a five-page memo last week to all agents within the Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS).

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20060806-120855-5696r.htm>

30. Security Expert Ray Semko, 'THE D*I*C*E MAN,' Joins Counterintelligence Training Company (PRNewswire, 3 Aug 2006) – Many of you have seen Ray's presentations – now you know where to keep in touch.

WASHINGTON - Ray Semko, security expert and presenter of the well-known "Defensive Information to Counter Espionage (D*I*C*E)" security awareness briefings, has joined the Centre for Counterintelligence and Security Studies (CI Centre), a counterintelligence, counterterrorism and security training company in Alexandria, VA. He will continue to provide his popular D*I*C*E briefings but now to an expanded audience of federal, state and local government, police, public safety, military, corporations and other organizations who wish to increase their employees' security awareness of threats from espionage (including cyber and industrial espionage) and terrorism, as well as enhance employee awareness of OPSEC (operations security) and information security.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060803/phth011.html?.v=58>

GANG ACTIVITY

31. CA: Courthouse powder fits voodoo ritual (Herald Salinas Bureau, 7 Aug 2006)

Gypsum found in piles and strewn about the perimeters of a courtroom in the Salinas courthouse recently may have been part of a ceremonial practice meant to purify -- or perhaps curse -- the premises, an authority on the subject said. Ruben Mendoza, director of the Institute of Archaeology at CSU-Monterey Bay, said the mystical practice goes back to ancient times among indigenous groups in Mexico and Central America and is still used today. Mendoza said Aztecs, Mayans and other Mesoamerican communities purified each corner of a structure by tossing corn pollen or ground corn or limestone into the wind to the north, south, east and west.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.montereyherald.com/mld/montereyherald/news/15216460.htm>

32. CA: Avenues Gang Members Meet the End of the Road (LA Weekly, 2 Aug 2006)

Although members of a Latino street gang were convicted in federal court last Tuesday of committing a string of deadly hate crimes intended to drive blacks out of Highland Park, the predominantly Latino neighborhood just north of downtown is far from free of gang-fueled strife. Even as the trial was unfolding, another young man was shot at a party during a confrontation between gang members and a black youth.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W2202278D>

33. MD: Officials study prison gangs amid rise in violence (AP, 3 Aug 2006)

HAGERSTOWN - State corrections officials have begun a new study of prison gangs, including the growing numbers of Spanish-speaking gang members, amid mounting violence against prison workers, an agency spokeswoman said today. The news follows Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.'s statement Wednesday linking gangs to the July 25 fatal stabbing of Correctional Officer David McGuinn at the maximum-security Maryland House of Correction in Jessup. Inmates Lamarr C. Harris and Lee E. Stephens have been charged with first-degree murder. McGuinn's funeral was held today in his hometown of Atlantic City, N.J. "The theory of the case developing in the latest incident is there's increasing gang presence -- gangs who are increasingly violent, gangs who are more than willing to target tough correctional officers," Ehrlich told the *Cumberland Times-News*.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P3102578D>

34. MS: Reputed gang leader arrested (Hattiesburg American, 3 Aug 2006)

The alleged leader of one of Hattiesburg's larger gangs was arrested Tuesday on a federal weapons charge, Hattiesburg Police Lt. Keith Crawford said. Jason Bullock, 30, of 59 Jim Burch Road, was taken into custody after a federal probation officer found body armor at the suspect's home. Crawford said individuals previously convicted of violent crimes or drug distribution crimes are prohibited from having weapons and other related items. That was the core of the nine-man NET team's recent training that was a partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, state and federal prosecutors and the federal probation office, Crawford said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?A1003278D>

35. NJ: Anti-gang effort expands (AP, 3 Aug 2006)

HAMILTON - A policing program that takes a hard-line approach to gun and gang violence will be expanded from the northern New Jersey city where it was first tried last year to 12 other urban areas - including New Brunswick. The Cease Fire program combines law enforcement, prosecution and community outreach in areas most affected by gang violence. A pilot program that began more than a year ago in a crime-plagued 2-square-mile area on the Newark-Irvington border saw shootings decline by about a third in the targeted zone, said state police Col. Rick Fuentes.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thnt.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060803/NEWS03/608030420/1041>

36. PA: Gang Signs - Residents, police can drive out troublemakers before they take root, authorities, experts say (Altoona Mirror, 6 Aug 2006)

Warning signs are all around: arrests, drugs, graffiti, recruiters, recruiting and other literature and violence. Gang activity has been a longtime part of Blair County, from groups such as the Ku Klux Klan to Keystone State Skinheads to gatherings of neighborhood toughs. Groups like the Bloods and Crips add a whole new complexity with drugs and violence. Members of the two gangs have been spotted in the county since at least November. Drug sales are attracting gang members to a seemingly wide-open market with a thirst to get high, authorities and gang researchers say. "We're seeing the drug trade, but we're not seeing any neighborhood infiltration," Altoona Deputy Police Chief Mitchell Cooper said. Police are responding to the threat with better training and increased enforcement, and residents and government leaders are not hiding their heads "in the sand" - positive effects, two gang researchers said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.altoonamirror.com/News/articles.asp?articleID=3761>

37. PA: Gangs Quietly Infiltrate Pocono Region (AP, 06 Aug 2006)

When New Yorkers and Philadelphians want to get away from the noise and crowds, they often come to the Pocono Mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania. It's a bucolic, tourist-friendly place of forests and streams and lakes, a place where you can play a round of golf, take in a show, angle for trout or simply lose yourself on a country road. A place where a Crip or a Blood would seem ... out of place. Yet, jarringly, they are here: gang members from New York City and its suburbs who authorities say have quietly taken up residence in some of the private, gated communities of the Poconos, where they can stake out new drug turf with little interference from municipal or state police.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=872354>

38. WY: Cody cops tell of Hells Angels tactics (Billing Gazette, 2 Aug 2006)

CODY - Security was tight last week during the Hells Angels World Run and police were active and aggressive in their enforcement efforts for good reason, local law enforcement leaders said Tuesday. Officials said measures were warranted based on multiple threats of violence between motorcycle groups, including a tip in early July about a plan by rival bikers the Outlaws to use explosives against the Hells Angels in Cody. Police also said

Hells Angels members wearing club colors were stationed outside the homes of local officers late at night, and there were complaints from waitresses and clerks of harassment and intimidation by Hells Angels members, they said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?B3FF2168D>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

39. MS: Miss. police chief and assistant arrested on drug charges (AP, 4 Aug 2006)

RULEVILLE, Miss. - Ruleville's police chief and assistant chief are out on bond after being arrested early Friday on drug and extortion charges. The arrests in the Delta town of 2,935 came after Chief Ronald Durelle Robinson, 46, and Assistant Chief Larry Mitchell, 33, were indicted by a federal grand jury on July 25. The indictment had been sealed until the arrests took place. Hours after they were taken into custody, Robinson and Mitchell made an initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Jerry Davis in Aberdeen. The chief was released on a \$20,000 bond and the assistant chief was released on a \$10,000 bond, court officials said. Each was assigned a court-appointed attorney.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/news/state/15199145.htm>

40. NJ: 13 Suspects Arrested in Cocaine Bust (1010 WINS, 4 Aug 2006)

ASBURY PARK, N.J. - Federal and local law enforcement officials in Asbury Park say they have taken down major cocaine distribution networks with 13 arrests. The suspects charged after the arrests late yesterday and early today include several alleged dealers, as well as people -- including one alleged dealer's girlfriend and mother -- who are accused of helping other suspects hide drugs, money or themselves. The latest arrests are the fourth wave of apprehensions during a two and a half year effort by federal and local law enforcement officials to crack down on illegal drugs in the run-down beach resort.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://1010wins.com/pages/64968.php>

41. SC: York police seize 5 kilos of cocaine (AP, 7 Aug 2006)

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Investigators seized 5 kilograms of cocaine at two Fort Mill hotels in what police are saying may be the largest bust of the drug in York County. Marvin Brown, commander of the York County Multijurisdictional Drug Enforcement Unit, said Saturday's seizure followed a monthlong investigation of Victor Demont Brown, 34, and David William Sleet Jr., 35, both of Knoxville, Tenn.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/news/local/15215501.htm>

42. TX: Friday morning raid nets 60 pounds of cocaine (The Monitor, 5 Aug 2006)

SAN JUAN — Police raided a North San Juan stash house early Friday morning, coming away with 60 pounds of cocaine valued at more than \$800,000. Around 10:30 p.m. Thursday, investigators with the San Juan Police Department received a tip about a large quantity of cocaine at the house on East Johnson Street, said Investigator Anthony Flores. Twelve officers were assembled to go out to the house and conduct what police term a

"knock and talk," during which police forego requesting a search warrant and simply ask the owner for permission to conduct a search.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?D5C01178D>

43. VA: Man sentenced to life for drug deal shooting (AP, 31 Jul 2006)

RICHMOND, Va. -- A Richmond man who shot and killed a man during a drug deal was sentenced Monday to life in prison plus 40 years, federal prosecutors said. Darryl Boynes Jr., 21, was convicted in February on charges of conspiracy to distribute cocaine base, distribution of cocaine base, and murder in furtherance of a drug crime stemming from the October 2003 incident.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X18B21F7D>

44. WI: Cocaine a big seller for alleged drug ring (La Crosse tribune, 6 Aug 2006)

Court records allege the drug trafficking ring operating between Madison and small towns in west-central Wisconsin over the past year was anything but small. A criminal complaint, filed in Monroe County after a year-long investigation, claims Madison resident Alvin Tubbs and the other 34 defendants allegedly sold more than five times as much crack between May and December 2005 in Black River Falls as was seized by police in Dane County that entire year. A witness interviewed by police said the group sold three ounces of crack cocaine at a time, about three times a week, in Black River Falls alone during that time period. At about 28 grams per ounce, that would be more than 6,000 grams of crack. By comparison, police seized 1,140 grams of crack — valued at \$83,788 — in all of Dane County in 2005, according a Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force's report.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.lacrossetribune.com/articles/2006/08/06/news/drugs3_0806.txt

45. US, Jamaica Make Major Cocaine Seizure (AP, 7 Aug 2006)

KINGSTON, Jamaica - U.S. authorities working with Jamaican anti-drug agents seized 7.5 tons of cocaine off the Caribbean island's coast in the last week, police said Friday. The seizures, among the largest in the Caribbean this year, come as Jamaican authorities step up efforts with their U.S. and British counterparts to stem the flow of illegal drugs. Aided by intelligence from Jamaican police, U.S. authorities in a vessel offshore intercepted three speedboats carrying the cocaine between Sunday and Wednesday in the northwest Caribbean Sea, Assistant Police Commissioner Glenroy Hinds said. The cocaine, valued at \$40 million, was likely destined for the United States, Hinds said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.mycaribbeannews.com/news/041113.htm>

46. Canada: Woman had 50 kilos of cocaine (Toronto Sun, 6 Aug 2006)

A Montreal woman is in jail and the three young children travelling with her are in the care of Children's Aid after she was arrested at Pearson airport for allegedly trying to smuggle 50 kilos of cocaine. "This is probably our largest cocaine seizure this year," said Patrizia Giolti of the Canada Border Services Agency. Customs officers suspect the

woman was trying to slip into Toronto among thousands of revellers arriving from the Caribbean for this weekend's Caribana festival. Agents are trying to determine if the children belonged to the woman or if they were part of a ploy used by traffickers to help drug mules slip through Customs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://torontosun.com/News/TorontoAndGTA/2006/08/06/1721487-sun.html>

47. Liverpool a drugs trade 'hub' (By Deborah James Daily Post Staff, 3 Aug 2006)

LIVERPOOL and Birmingham are two of the UK's most significant hubs for illegal drugs distribution outside London, a report published yesterday said. The Serious Organised Crime Agency (Soca) said trafficking in class A drugs, people smuggling and fraud are the biggest threats posed to the UK. Serious organised crime is "increasing in scope and complexity", and will cost the UK £20bn annually, according to a "threat assessment" report by the agency. Soca warns the trafficking of class A drugs "poses the single greatest threat to the UK".

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X2191258D>

48. U.S. anti-drug agency opens Poland office (UPI, 7 Aug 2006)

WARSAW, Poland - The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Monday opened an office in Warsaw in a bid to help Poland's police crush drug trafficking channels. The DEA office in Warsaw, situated in the U.S. Embassy, plans to strike strongly against Poland's biggest and strongest drug smuggling rings, Radio Polonia reported. DEA agents will be using database and back-up facilities of their headquarters in the United States.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20060807-121344-1454r>

49. NATO in charge of southern Afghanistan - Alliance faces resurgent Taliban and drug lords (New York Times, 1 Aug 2006)

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN - NATO on Monday took over command of international forces from the United States in southern Afghanistan, where the fight against the Taliban insurgency has turned more deadly than at any time since American forces ousted the radical movement in 2001. The transfer will allow more American forces to shift toward the border with Pakistan, where leaders of the Taliban and al-Qaida are believed to have taken refuge and continue to operate across a porous frontier.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/world/4085560.html>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

50. More VA Data Is Stolen, This Time From Subcontractor Unisys (InformationWeek, 7 Aug 2006)

It's different than the last VA computer theft: It involves far fewer names, and the VA has moved quickly to spread the word. After spending the past few months getting an earful from angry veterans and posturing politicians, the Veterans Affairs Department thought it might begin to distance itself from the stigma of May's stolen laptop and hard drive

containing sensitive information about millions of veterans and their spouses. Not so. Veterans Affairs Monday delivered cringe-inducing news that a PC containing personal information on thousands of veterans is missing from a Unisys Corp. office.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=191801304>

51. Computer hackers get lesson on cloning passport, cash card tags (Agence France-Presse, 6 Aug 2006)

LAS VEGAS, Nevada - High-tech passports touted as advances in national security can be spied on remotely and their identifying radio signals cloned, computers hackers were shown at a conference. Radio frequency identification technology, referred to as RFID, used in cash cards and passports, can be copied, blocked or imitated, said Melanie Rieback, a privacy researcher at Vrije University in the Netherlands. Rieback demonstrated a device she and colleagues at Vrije built to hijack the RFID signals that manufacturers have touted as unreadable by anything other than proprietary scanners.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?E3996258D>

52. Google warns on 'unsafe' websites - The warnings will pop up before people visit a site (BBC, 7 Aug 2006)

Google has started warning users if they are about to visit a webpage that could harm their computer. The warning will pop up if users click on a link to a page known to host spyware or other malicious programs. The initiative comes out of a larger project cataloguing programs that plague people with unwanted ads, spy on web habits or steal personal data. Google is one of several companies trying to act as an "in-flight adviser" to ensure people stay safe online.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/5251742.stm>

53. Special Report | Computer forensics: The new DNA - DOD lab excavates bits, bytes to dig out information (GCN, 31 Jul 2006)

Within a week of discovering computer equipment in the bombed-out safehouse of slain terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, U.S. and Iraqi forces carried out more than 450 raids targeting followers of al-Qaida's leader in Iraq. The vital information that led to the military action came from the Defense Department's growing ability to uncover and comprehend information stored on everything from disk drives and cell phones to personal digital assistants and Global Positioning System equipment. "We have the capability, and do pretty sophisticated forensic analysis for an array of things," said Steven Shirley, executive director of DoD's Cyber Crime Center.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.gcn.com/print/25_22/41500-1.html

54. AOL apologizes for release of user search data (c|net, 7 Aug 2006)

AOL apologized on Monday for releasing search-log data on subscribers that had been intended for use with AOL's newly launched research site. The randomly selected data, which focused on 658,000 subscribers and posted 10 days ago, was among the tools

intended for use on the recently launched AOL Research site, according to published reports on various blog sites. But the Internet giant has since removed the search logs from public view.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Y3EA2168D>

55. Apple makes Trusted Computing cool (Security Focus, 2 Aug 2006)

LAS VEGAS - Apple Computer is doing far more to help the adoption of the controversial security technology known as Trusted Computing than other proponents, Mac security researcher Bruce Potter told attendees on Wednesday at the Black Hat Briefings. Through the coolness of the iPod and its iTunes Music Service, the company has already made another controversial technology--digital-rights management--widely accepted by the the company's consumers, Potter argued, pointing to the more than 1 billion songs sold by the company. "More than anything happening on the enterprise side, it's the coolness and the consumers that will get this accepted," said Potter, a member of the Shmoo Group, a collection of security professionals.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.securityfocus.com/brief/270?ref=rss>

56. Vista hacked at Black Hat (c|net, 4 Aug 2006)

LAS VEGAS - While Microsoft talked up Windows Vista security at Black Hat, a researcher in another room demonstrated how to hack the operating system. Joanna Rutkowska, a Polish researcher at Singapore-based Coseinc, showed that it is possible to bypass security measures in Vista that should prevent unsigned code from running. And in a second part of her talk, Rutkowska explained how it is possible to use virtualization technology to make malicious code undetectable, in the same way a rootkit does. She code-named this malicious software Blue Pill.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://news.com.com/Vista+hacked+at+Black+Hat/2100-7349_3-6102458.html

57. IT Versus Terror: Preventing a terror attack is invaluable. But even invaluable IT projects need realistic business case analysis to succeed (CIO,

On the evening of Sept. 27, 2001, Howard Rubin, a computer science professor at City University of New York who had advised the Clinton administration on technology issues, was home observing Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Hebrew calendar. Observant Jews don't work, drive or use appliances on Yom Kippur, but Rubin had a strong feeling he should pick up the phone when it rang that night. "My wife didn't want me to answer it," he recalls. But he did. On the other end of the line was one of the most senior members of the previous administration. He wanted to know if Rubin knew of any technologies the government could use to help catch terrorists. Rubin's answer has since become a technology mantra among members of the intelligence community: data mining, he told the official.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cio.com/archive/080106/antiterror.html>

TECHNOLOGY

58. FDA has new test for possible bioterror agents (CIDRAP News, 4 Aug 2006)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says it is developing a technology that can identify real or fake bioterrorism agents faster and more cheaply than existing methods. The technique uses mass spectrometry to sort out different species and strains of bacteria and distinguish them from inert substances such as flour and cornstarch, often used in bioterrorism hoaxes, the FDA said in a news release yesterday. Mass spectrometry sorts ionized particles according to their weight, usually by passing them through a magnetic field and then using a photographic plate or some other device to trace their different paths. The FDA's technique, called pyrolysis mass spectrometry, uses heat to vaporize the substance to be tested and then bombards it with argon atoms to cause ionization, according to a report by the FDA researchers in the journal *Rapid Communications in Mass Spectrometry*. "The testing process works in a way similar to the FBI's fingerprint library for criminals," the FDA said. "A researcher can take patterns generated by a mass spectrometer's analysis of a substance to be identified and compare them to a database of known substances, for immediate recognition."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/bioprep/news/aug0406hoax.html>

59. Video cameras on the lookout for terrorists (AP, 7 Aug 2006)

NISKAYUNA, New York - It sounds like something out of science fiction. Researchers at General Electric Co.'s sprawling research center, are creating new "smart video surveillance" systems that can detect explosives by recognizing the electromagnetic waves given off by objects, even under clothing. Scientist Peter Tu and his team are also developing programs that can recognize faces, pinpoint distress in a crowd by honing in on erratic body movements and synthesize the views of several cameras into one bird's eye view, as part of a growing effort to thwart terrorism. "We're definitely on the cutting edge," said Tu, 39. "If you want to reduce risk, video is the way to do it. The threat is always evolving, so our video is always evolving."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/TECH/08/07/terrorism.technology.ap/index.html>

60. HSPD-12 System to be installed in Atlanta, New York, Seattle and Washington (UPI, 1 Aug 2006)

Atlanta, New York, Seattle and Washington will be fitted with a Department of Homeland Security enrollment and card production system over the next three months. Washington Technology reported on July 26 that the systems will be installed by Oct. 20 as the first large scale test of DHS technology under Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12. The HSPD-12 system, which will be installed in all federal buildings in those cities, provides for using interoperable identity cards for government and contractor employees with enhanced security features. The embedded card technology includes biometrics and digital certificates. David Temoshok, General Services Administration's director of identity policy and management, said: "We are qualifying vendors based on their past experience with government or commercial biometric and identity management systems. We are not performing a system review."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20060728-121212-8174r>

61. NanoDetection Technology and Leading Centers of Excellence Announce Partnership to Develop Onsite Avian Flu Detection System (PR Newswire, 1 Aug 2006)

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. - Today, NanoDetection Technology, an in vitro diagnostics company that has a patented system for detecting the presence of specific genes or pathogens within a biological or environmental sample, and its partners announced that they are collaborating to develop an avian influenza (avian flu or "bird flu") test and mobile detection product. Collaborators include: The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The combination of a specific test and a rapid, sensitive, handheld detector creates a solution for onsite detection of bird flu, an approach that the World Health Organization (WHO) states is the most effective method for preventing, or at least slowing, a global avian flu pandemic.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060801/sftu090a.html?.v=1>

62. TSA awards \$20M contract for info security (FCW, 3 Aug 2006)

The Homeland Security Department has awarded Knowledge Consulting Group (KCG), a small-business information technology professional services firm, a five-year, \$20 million blanket purchase agreement for DHS' Transportation Security Administration's IT Security Office. KCG will provide information security assurance services to TSA's IT Security Office, director of IT security and the Office of the Chief Information Officer. Under the first task order, worth about \$3.4 million in the first calendar year, the company will begin its on-site support to TSA within the next 30 days. Computer Sciences Corp. will serve as subcontractor on the program.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article95516-08-03-06-Web>

RESOURCES

63. "European Approaches to Homeland Security and Counterterrorism," Congressional Research Service Report July 24, 2006 (Contributed by Steven Aftergood, Federation of American Scientists, www.fas.org)

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RL33573.pdf>

64. Standard developed for collection of suspicious powders

GAITHERSBURG, MD, August 7, 2006 – Federal, state, and local agencies have reached consensus on the first validated national standard for collecting, packaging, and transporting samples of visible powders that are suspected of being biological threat agents, such as anthrax. The new standard meets the needs of the first responders to test the powders on site, and the needs of the federal agencies to conduct tests on the same, uncontaminated powder samples for forensic and confirmatory analysis.

The national sample collection procedure was developed and approved by AOAC INTERNATIONAL, which is a worldwide provider and facilitator in the development of analytical standards. The new standard is applicable to nonporous surfaces only and incorporates reference guidance for packaging and transport of suspicious powders to comply with all appropriate federal regulations regarding bio-safety and bio-security.

The development and testing of the standard were supported by the Science & Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in response to a need for a coordinated effort with federal agencies and emergency responders to standardize activities related to anthrax and other biological agent incidents.

"The development of this AOAC/ASTM standard represents an important step towards building consensus between the emergency responder communities and the federal agencies on national standards for responding to possible terrorist attacks," said Bert M. Coursey, Director of DHS Office of Standards. [For reference to ASTM, see last page of release.]

The purpose of the sampling procedure is to have a standard that is accepted and followed by emergency responders for suspicious powder collection in order to reduce exposure risks, reduce the variability associated with sample handling and analysis, and increase the reliability of sampling visible powders from nonporous surfaces.

Emergency responders need to sample a suspicious powder in order to do a presumptive analysis. Federal agencies also need a sufficient quantity of the powder to do confirmatory testing. The new method provides both groups with sufficient powder to perform their tests in a manner that protects the powder from contamination. Training emergency responders who collect and disseminate the powder is planned.

"The development of a national standard for the collection of suspicious powders is an important step forward," said Chief John Eversole (Ret), Chairman, Hazardous Materials Committee, International Association of Fire Chiefs. "This standard provides a uniform and systematic procedure whereby accurate, presumptive information can be determined by the First Responders and ensure the preservation of sample evidence for confirmatory analysis and criminal prosecution. Our next step must be to broaden the scope to do sampling in other situations."

"This is a major achievement. With this standard, a confidence can exist among all of the partners engaged in the response, testing and investigation of suspected biological agent releases," said David Ladd, Director, Hazardous Materials Emergency Response for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Fire Services.

The sample collection standard is a two-step procedure that is performed after an initial risk assessment is conducted and a visible powder is deemed a credible biological threat.

The first step of the procedure, or Method A, covers the bulk collection and packaging of the suspicious visible powders from solid nonporous surfaces. Bulk samples are collected

and transported in a manner that permits public health and safety, and law enforcement agencies to obtain uncompromised samples for confirmatory analysis and forensic testing. The second step, or Method B, covers swab sampling of residual suspicious powders for presumptive on-site biological screening.

A study was conducted in March 2006 to validate the reliability of the sampling procedure at the U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground. The study demonstrated that the sampling procedure can be used by trained emergency responders in simulated emergency conditions to consistently recover samples. The study also proved that sufficient number of *Bacillus anthracis* spores can be detected by emergency responders to make a presumptive, on-site determination even after all bulk samples have been collected. The evaluation study was designed to determine the recovery efficacy on seven environmental surface types that included stainless steel, food-grade painted wood, rubber, tile, concrete, finished wood, and plastic.

The study involved six teams, including four National Guard Civil Support Teams, the Navy's Chemical Biological Incidence Response Force (CBIRF) as well as a hazmat team from the Florida Hazard Materials Response Unit. Team members were dressed in Class C personal protective equipment during the entire study so that the efficacy of the sample collection procedure could be tested under as close to real-life conditions as could be attained.

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The development of the sample collection standard was a cooperative, interagency effort involving many stakeholder organizations including federal, state, and local governments. Member organizations serving on the AOAC Sampling Standard Task Group included the federal agencies NIST, CDC, FBI, DOD, EPA, the U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground, and the DHS Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP). State and local organizations represented included the New York State Department of Health, State of Florida, International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the U.S. National Guard. Volunteers from ASTM Committee E54 and the AOAC Official Methods Board also provided extensive review and input.

The standard developed by AOAC has been published by ASTM INTERNATIONAL under the title Standard Practices for Bulk Sample Collection and Swab Sample Collection of Visible Powders Suspected of Being Biological Agents from Nonporous Surfaces, E2458. It is available by contacting ASTM INTERNATIONAL, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700 West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, www.astm.org.

AOAC INTERNATIONAL, located at 481 North Frederick Avenue, Suite 500, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2417, www.aoac.org, is a worldwide provider and facilitator in the development of analytical standards. AOAC (www.aoac.org) is a 120 year-old not-for-profit scientific association committed to worldwide confidence in analytical results.

65. Book: Sept. 11 Panel Doubtful Officials (AP, 04 Aug 2006)

The Sept. 11 commission was so frustrated with repeated misstatements by the Pentagon and FAA about their response to the 2001 terror attacks that it considered an investigation into possible deception, the panel's chairmen say in a new book. Republican Thomas Kean and Democrat Lee Hamilton also say in "Without Precedent" that their panel was too soft in questioning former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani _ and that the 20-month investigation may have suffered for it. The book, a behind-the-scenes look at the investigation, recounts obstacles the authors say were thrown up by the Bush administration, internal disputes over President Bush's use of the attacks as a reason for invading Iraq, and the way the final report avoided questioning whether U.S. policy in the Middle East may have contributed to the attacks.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?A2F66558D>

OPPORTUNITIES

66. FBI seeks hacker help against cyber-crime (UPI, 04 Aug 2006)

In its battle against cyber-crime and Internet terror, the FBI is courting the U.S. hacker community. ZDNet News reported Wednesday that during the annual Black Hat security conference in Las Vegas, FBI cyber-crime division unit chief Daniel Larkin told participants: "We need your expertise and input as we develop strategies to battle cyber-crime in the 21st century. "The people we're going after are not just the script kiddies anymore. These people are making a lot of money. I am a recovering technophobe; I used to be really afraid of you all. But I realize that you all are really important." U.S. federal agencies have increasingly reached out to the private sector as Internet-based crime has continued to grow in organization and sophistication.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20060804-013311-5044r>

67. Spanish speakers at a premium at border and immigration agencies (GovExec.com, 7 Aug 2006)

Following the lead of the Customs and Border Protection bureau, Immigration and Customs Enforcement is considering requiring its trainees to learn Spanish as part of their academy curriculum. Spanish-speaking agents are at a premium at border and immigration agencies as federal managers and Capitol Hill staffers say the fight against illegal aliens hinges, in part, on the ability to communicate effectively in the field. At the United States-Mexico border, the inability of some National Guard members sent to assist in border control to speak and understand Spanish was noted by veteran Customs and Border Protection officials, said one congressional staffer familiar with illegal immigration issues.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34708&dcn=e_gvet

EVENTS

68. First Location-Based Social Networking for Crisis Management Conference Makes New Connections

WASHINGTON, DC –The Carbon Project is pleased to announce that they will sponsor the world’s first Location-Based Social Networking (LoSoNet™) for Crisis Management Conference. The conference will be held at the prestigious Sheraton National in Arlington, Virginia on Tuesday, October 3, 2006. The LoSoNet conference will provide a forum to connect the world of social networking with location-based information. The conference will focus on innovative methods and best practices to achieve situational awareness for defense and homeland security programs that are in compliance with an all-hazards approach to meeting the nation’s goals for preparedness.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.directionsmag.com/press.releases/index.php?duty=Show&id=14952&trv=1>

FULL REPORTS

69. U.S., Other Nations Concerned by European Chemical Rules - European Union legislation would affect 30,000 compounds (By Vince Crawley, Washington File Staff Writer, 1 Aug 2006)

Washington - The United States and other trading nations around the globe want the European Union (EU) to modify a sweeping new chemicals regulation that could affect the import and export of 30,000 manmade compounds, many of which are used in common products worldwide.

The United State is “actively engaged now in trying to get some language changed in the chemical directive,” C. Boyden Gray, U.S. ambassador to the EU, said in a *Washington File* interview in Brussels, Belgium, in mid-July. (See [related article](#).)

But American diplomats stress that a dozen other leading trading nations outside Europe have joined together to voice concern about the new EU proposed system of Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH), which could come into force in 2007 under the current legislative schedule. (See [related article](#).)

Trading partners outside the EU have until August 31 to provide formal comments on the draft REACH legislation.

The United States has joined with Australia, Brazil, Chile, India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Singapore, South Africa and Thailand in calling on the EU to lessen the impact of REACH. Some Europeans have tried to portray opposition to REACH as primarily a U.S. concern, but the trading partners opposed to the new legislation represent an “almost unparalleled group of countries,” said an American official in Brussels spoke on condition of not being identified.

REACH would be the most far-reaching business legislation the EU has ever passed. “The EU expects the rest of the world will follow these rules,” the U.S. official said.

REACH addresses the import and export of industrial chemicals as well as raw ore and such household products as office supplies, inks, consumer electronics and cosmetics.

“What concerns a lot of us is the workability” of enforcing the new legislation, the official said. “Nobody argues with the goals,” the official said. REACH is aimed at ensuring the environmental and health safety of products traded within the European Union. But REACH uses a “threat-based” assessment instead of a “risk-based” assessment preferred by the United States and other trading partners. The issue is legally complex, but U.S. officials say REACH essentially regulates the use of any product that could be harmful under any circumstances. The risk-based approach preferred by non-EU trading partners evaluates the likelihood of whether a product is harmful when used as intended.

“The fact is that no government has the resources to monitor all chemicals and substances that are sold in commerce,” Gray said in a speech June 8 at the American Chamber of Commerce in Brussels. “In a world of finite resources, we must make informed choices. In order to focus our resources on what will benefit our citizens most, a scientific risk-based approach to registration and authorization is crucial. We should not regulate if there is no harm to address and there is no benefit of safety to confer.”

In a joint statement issued June 8, the non-EU trading partners said REACH could harm international trade because of the high cost of complying with the new regulations. Many developing countries would face serious challenges in complying with proposed regulations, they said. In addition, the trading partners said, hazardous and potentially toxic materials are already governed by existing international chemicals and trade agreements.

The 25 nations of the European Union include more than 450 million people and represent the world’s largest single economic bloc.

The [full text](#) of Gray’s June 8 remarks and [additional information](#) on the proposed chemical regulations are available on the U.S. Mission to the EU Web site.

(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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