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

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CABLE Gram Volume 4 Issue 27

15 August 2007 CABLE Gram™

Good Morning All,

In the Current Update:

**FEDERAL**

1. U.S. to Expand Domestic Use Of Spy Satellite (Wall Street Journal, 15 Aug 2007)
2. Law enforcement officials say small groups of Islamic militants with no ties to Al Qaeda represent a greater threat to the U.S. than disaffected 'lone wolves.' (Los Angeles Times, 15 Aug 2007)
3. Guard troops pulled back from border (Washington Times, 09 Aug 2007)
4. Administration announces border, immigration initiatives (By Winter Casey, National Journal's Technology Daily, 12 Aug 2007)
5. China Enacting a High-Tech Plan to Track People (New York Times, 12 Aug 2007)
6. US doles out millions for street cameras (Boston Globe, 12 Aug 2007)
7. U.S. unveils new plan for passenger pre-screening (Reuters, 09 Aug 2007)
8. TSA agents watch suspicious body language (Miami Herald, 15 Aug 2007)
9. Lawyers wary of expanded wiretapping powers (By Andrew Noyes, National Journal's Technology Daily, 14 Aug 2007)
10. Upkeep Of Security Devices A Burden (Washington Post, 13 Aug 2007)
11. Cases dropped in FBI/ICE turf war (UPI, 14 Aug 2007)
12. Biological surveillance falls short, report says (The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10 Aug 2007)
13. Biolabs, CDC get Congress' attention (The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 8 Aug 2007)
14. Indonesia Still Not Sharing Virus Samples for Avian Flu Vaccines - U.S. scientists create H5N1 vaccine that could target emerging virus (Cheryl Pellerin, USINFO Staff Writer, 13 Aug 2007)
15. Feds: Padilla was terror cell's 'star recruit' (AP, 13 Aug 2007)

## STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

16. AZ: Cross-Border Money Laundering Ring Broken (KPHO, 10 Aug 2007)
17. AZ: US Attorney Reports Phoenix Businessman Sentenced On Tax And Money Laundering Charges – IRS (Law Fuel, 13 Aug 2007)
18. CA: L.A. police downplay threat of terrorism (Daily Breeze, 12 Aug 2007)
19. CA: California appeals court to review spying cases (By Andrew Noyes, National Journal's Technology Daily, 14 Aug 2007)
20. FL: Port security remains unresolved in Florida - Lawmakers disagree about ID and background checks (The Florida Times-Union, 14 Aug 2007)
21. NV: Valley's new Counter-Terrorism Center already proving effective (KVBC, 9 Aug 2007)
22. NJ: White powder causes terrorism scare in West Deptford (South Jersey Online, 9 Aug 2007)
23. NY: New York police take precautions after purported al Qaeda threat (CNN, 11 Aug 2007)
24. NC: TSA Can't Find Man Who Bypassed Airport Security in Charlotte (WRAL, 10 Aug 2007)
25. PA: Proposed bill outlines state's response to public health, safety threats (CitizensVoice.com, 11 Aug 2007)
26. PA: Ticket checkers replaced at Pittsburgh International (Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, 14 Aug 2007)
27. TN: Guard members train at new Y-12 facility (The Oakridger, 10 Aug 2007)
28. VT: State auditor investigating bioterrorism grants to Health Department (AP, 13 Aug 2007)
29. VA: Liberty University kicks off intelligence analysis center (The News & Advance, 13 Aug 2007)

## KEY PEOPLE

30. TSA Names New Security Official (AP, 13 Aug 2007)
31. FBI Veteran to Lead Vincennes University Program (Inside Indiana Business, 15 Aug 2007)

## NARCO TRAFFICKING

32. U.S. sees cocaine shortage in Detroit, elsewhere (Detroit Free Press, 8 Aug 2007)
33. AZ: 150 pounds of cocaine uncovered in traffic stop (The Arizona Republic, 8 Aug 2007)
34. GA: Woman Buys Fake Cocaine, Calls Cops to Help Her Get Refund (Fox News, 13 Aug 2007) - Sorry, but I had to include this one!
35. IN: Raids target cocaine ring centered on Westside (IndyStar.com, 15 Aug 2007)
36. NJ: Gang officer says he managed cocaine network (The Times of Trenton, 8 Aug 2007)
37. SC: Deputies make largest powder cocaine seizure ever in Florence County, sheriff says (SC Now, 8 Aug 2007)
38. U.S. May Provide Billions to Mexico to Fight Drug Cartels (New York Times, 14 Aug 2007)
39. Drug cartel-terrorist ties known in 2001 (Washington Times, 14 Aug 2007)

40. U.S. unveils carrot and stick Afghan drug strategy (Reuters, 09 Aug 2007)
41. Ecuador Eyes U.S. Drug Surveillance Move (AP, 11 Aug 2007)
42. Colombia navy seizes submarine suspected of hauling cocaine (AP, 8 Aug 2007)
43. Colombian drug lord seeks to speed up extradition (Reuters, 14 Aug 2007)
44. Mauritania seizes cocaine haul worth more than US\$100 million (AP, 13 Aug 2007)

#### CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

45. Too much terrorism on web group (CP, 14 Aug 2007)
46. State Sponsored Internet Terrorism (Strategy Page, 11 Aug 2007)
47. UK: Tackle e-crime that has made Internet 'Wild West', urge peers (Earthtimes.org, 10 Aug 2007)

#### TECHNOLOGY

48. UC San Diego fighting terrorism on the medical front (SpiritIndia.com, 14 Aug 2007)
49. Barcode system allows instant product identification (Food Production Daily, 9 Aug 2007)
50. GE Security Awarded TSA Contract for 80 CTX 9000 DSi Explosives Detection Systems (EDS) (Business Wire, 14 Aug 2007)

#### RESOURCES

51. E.C. launches medical intelligence system (Business Insurance, 14 Aug 2007)
52. CD-ROM tracks hatred and terrorism websites

#### FULL REPORTS

53. The DoD Chemical and Biological Defense Program – Annual Report to Congress April 2007
54. Increased Domestic Role For Intelligence Foreseen (Contributed by Steven Aftergood, Federation of American Scientists, [www.fas.org](http://www.fas.org))

Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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

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

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## **FEDERAL**

### **1. U.S. to Expand Domestic Use Of Spy Satellite (Wall Street Journal, 15 Aug 2007)**

The U.S.'s top intelligence official has greatly expanded the range of federal and local authorities who can get access to information from the nation's vast network of spy satellites in the U.S. The decision, made three months ago by Director of National Intelligence Michael McConnell, places for the first time some of the U.S.'s most powerful intelligence-gathering tools at the disposal of domestic security officials. The move was authorized in a May 25 memo sent to Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff asking his department to facilitate access to the spy network on behalf of civilian agencies and law enforcement. Until now, only a handful of federal civilian agencies, such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the U.S. Geological Survey, have had access to the most basic spy-satellite imagery, and only for the purpose of scientific and environmental study.

ZGram Suggested URL:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB118714764716998275.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB118714764716998275.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

### **2. Law enforcement officials say small groups of Islamic militants with no ties to Al Qaeda represent a greater threat to the U.S. than disaffected 'lone wolves.' (Los Angeles Times, 15 Aug 2007)**

CHICAGO - In December, when a young Muslim convert named Derrick Shareef was arrested near here for allegedly plotting to blow up holiday shoppers with hand grenades, he was described as one of those homegrown "lone wolf" terrorists that the FBI had been warning about for more than a decade. But federal law enforcement officials have changed their minds about Shareef - and about what kinds of bred-in-America Islamic militants represent the greatest threat to the United States.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2l63d9>

### **3. Guard troops pulled back from border (Washington Times, 09 Aug 2007)**

Sgt. Tony Briscoe of the Texas National Guard last week repaired a portion of the fence on the Rio Grande in El Paso, Texas. The number of troops on the border is expected to be halved by Sept. 1 to 3,000, prompting complaints from Arizona and New Mexico officials. National Guard troops assigned to help increase security along the U.S.-Mexico border are being pulled off the line a year earlier than promised, and some state and federal officials are not happy about it. "The drawdown of Operation Jump Start's strength level is ill-timed and should be halted and re-examined," Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano wrote in a letter last week to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "Arizona remains a problematic border in the Southwest region, and the long-planned drawdown in personnel and patrol is premature," she said.

ZGram Suggested URL:  
<http://tinyurl.com/2zmj72>

#### **4. Administration announces border, immigration initiatives (By Winter Casey, National Journal's Technology Daily, 12 Aug 2007)**

The Bush administration said Friday it will begin a rulemaking process to require all federal contractors and vendors to use a federal electronic employment verification system known as E-Verify to help crack down on illegal immigration. The administration said this move will "significantly expand use of E-Verify, and make it more difficult for illegal immigrants to obtain jobs through fraud." E-Verify is a free Internet-based system "operated by the Department of Homeland Security in partnership with the Social Security Administration that allows participating employers to electronically verify the employment eligibility of their newly hired employees," according to the DHS Web site. The changes to the E-Verify system were part of a series of immigration and border initiatives Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez announced Friday.

ZGram Suggested URL:

[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=37720&dcn=e\\_gvet](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=37720&dcn=e_gvet)

#### **5. China Enacting a High-Tech Plan to Track People (New York Times, 12 Aug 2007)**

At least 20,000 police surveillance cameras are being installed along streets here in southern China and will soon be guided by sophisticated computer software from an American-financed company to recognize automatically the faces of police suspects and detect unusual activity. Starting this month in a port neighborhood and then spreading across Shenzhen, a city of 12.4 million people, residency cards fitted with powerful computer chips programmed by the same company will be issued to most citizens. Data on the chip will include not just the citizen's name and address but also work history, educational background, religion, ethnicity, police record, medical insurance status and landlord's phone number. Even personal reproductive history will be included, for enforcement of China's controversial "one child" policy. Plans are being studied to add credit histories, subway travel payments and small purchases charged to the card.

ZGram Suggested URL:

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

#### **6. US doles out millions for street cameras (Boston Globe, 12 Aug 2007)**

WASHINGTON - The Department of Homeland Security is funneling millions of dollars to local governments nationwide for purchasing high-tech video camera networks, accelerating the rise of a "surveillance society" in which the sense of freedom that stems from being anonymous in public will be lost, privacy rights advocates warn. Since 2003, the department has handed out some \$23 billion in federal grants to local governments for equipment and training to help combat terrorism. Most of the money paid for emergency drills and upgrades to basic items, from radios to fences. But the department also has doled out millions on surveillance cameras, transforming city streets and parks into places under constant observation.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2pyy36>

**7. U.S. unveils new plan for passenger pre-screening (Reuters, 09 Aug 2007)**

The U.S. government on Thursday proposed a scaled back plan to upgrade computerized airline passenger screening using personal information, a long delayed centerpiece of aviation security. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said officials believe they have resolved congressional and other concerns about personal privacy and were ready to begin testing with airlines this fall. "This information will better identify individuals who may pose a known or suspected threat to aviation or national security," Chertoff said at a news conference at Washington Reagan National Airport. More than 600 million passengers fly on domestic airlines annually.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=3464110>

**8. TSA agents watch suspicious body language (Miami Herald, 15 Aug 2007)**

WASHINGTON - Next time you go to the airport, there may be more eyes on you than you notice. Specially trained security personnel are watching body language and facial cues of passengers for signs of bad intentions. The watcher could be the attendant who hands you the tray for your laptop or the one standing behind the ticket-checker. Or the one next to the curbside baggage attendant. They're called behavior detection officers, and they're part of several recent security upgrades, Transportation Security Administrator Kip Hawley told an aviation industry group in Washington last month. He described them as "a wonderful tool to be able to identify and do risk management prior to somebody coming into the airport or approaching the crowded checkpoint."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation/story/203552.html>

**9. Lawyers wary of expanded wiretapping powers (By Andrew Noyes, National Journal's Technology Daily, 14 Aug 2007)**

The expansion of the government's ability to eavesdrop on U.S. citizens' telephone calls and e-mails was a prominent discussion topic at the American Bar Association's annual meeting, which attracted about 9,000 attorneys to San Francisco over the weekend. ABA President Karen Mathis kicked off the conference on Friday by calling on Congress to roll back a week-old law expanding that power. Lawmakers should "move at once" upon reconvening after Labor Day, she said. The mandate, which expires in six months unless Congress extends it, lets the director of national intelligence and the attorney general authorize the spying without first getting warrants from a secret court created by the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

ZGram Suggested URL:

[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=37732&dcn=e\\_gvet](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=37732&dcn=e_gvet)

**10. Upkeep Of Security Devices A Burden (Washington Post, 13 Aug 2007)**

In 2003, the FBI used a \$25 million grant to give bomb squads across the nation state-of-the-art computer kits, enabling them to instantly share information about suspected explosives, including weapons of mass destruction. Four years later, half of the Washington area's squads can't communicate via the \$12,000 kits, meant to be taken to

the scene of potential catastrophes, because they didn't pick up the monthly wireless bills and maintenance costs initially paid by the FBI. Other squads across the country also have given up using them. "They worked, and it was a good idea - until the subscription ran out," said Mike Love, who oversees the bomb squad in Montgomery County's fire department. At the local level, he said, "there is not budget money for it."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yc662>

### **11. Cases dropped in FBI/ICE turf war (UPI, 14 Aug 2007)**

Turf disputes between the FBI and Immigration and Customs Enforcement have resulted in leads or even entire cases being ignored or dropped, says a new report. The report is a joint effort by the inspectors general at the Department of Homeland Security, of which ICE is a part, and the Department of Justice, which houses the FBI. "The findings of this report justify concerns about a lack of trust between our two largest federal law enforcement agencies," said Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, who requested the investigation. "They need to work together in order to do everything possible to protect Americans in the war on terror. I hate to think how much our law enforcement agencies could be missing because of petty turf battles." Grassley requested the probe after reports last year from retired ICE agent Joe Webber, a 30-year veteran and former head of the Houston field office, about a particular case he said was dogged by turf rivalries.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/26vjyr>

### **12. Biological surveillance falls short, report says (The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10 Aug 2007)**

The nation's biological surveillance system is "falling short" of its goals - some three years after President Bush ordered the Homeland Security Department to consolidate biological threats uncovered by agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention into a central early warning system - a new report found. Homeland Security has failed to provide "consistent leadership and staff support to ensure successful execution" of the program, the National Bio-Surveillance Integration System, according to the report, authored by the agency's Inspector General Richard Skinner. Skinner found the system has "struggled since its inception" to hire enough staff to effectively manage the program. The report, obtained by Cox Newspapers in advance of its release next week, is already creating a stir on Capitol Hill.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2o5srg>

### **13. Biolabs, CDC get Congress' attention (The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 8 Aug 2007)**

A power failure at a CDC infectious disease lab in Atlanta is one of several incidents prompting Congress to examine safety at the nation's bioterrorism labs. The House Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing in September or October to examine safety and security issues surrounding the recent increase in the number of these labs across the country, committee spokeswoman Jodi Seth said Tuesday. The hearing is expected to include testimony from investigators for the Government Accountability

Office, the investigative arm of Congress. The session is expected to examine recent incidents and releases at high-containment labs, including the June 15 power outage at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new lab building, Seth said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2umf8p>

**14. Indonesia Still Not Sharing Virus Samples for Avian Flu Vaccines - U.S. scientists create H5N1 vaccine that could target emerging virus (Cheryl Pellerin, USINFO Staff Writer, 13 Aug 2007)**

Washington - Despite agreeing to share viruses with the World Health Organization (WHO) in March, Indonesia - the nation with the highest rates of infection and death from highly pathogenic avian influenza - still has not done so. All countries except Indonesia are sharing human samples of the H5N1 avian flu virus with the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network so experts can assess the risk that a viral strain might mutate to pass easily from person to person and so diagnostic tests and vaccines can be developed.

ZGram Suggested URL:

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

**15. Feds: Padilla was terror cell's 'star recruit' (AP, 13 Aug 2007)**

MIAMI, Florida - Jose Padilla was a "star recruit" for a terrorism support cell that provided Muslim extremist soldiers to fight around the globe with al Qaeda, prosecutors said Monday in closing arguments. The arguments mark the end of a three-month federal trial in which prosecutors have tried to prove that Padilla, 36, and two others provided support to terrorists. "They decided that this end justified any means, including murder," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian Frazier told jurors. "They were disciplined, they were secretive, and they advocated violence."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/law/08/13/padilla.trial.ap/index.html>

## STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

**16. AZ: Cross-Border Money Laundering Ring Broken (KPHO, 10 Aug 2007)**

PHOENIX - Authorities said Friday that they broke up a money laundering ring run through a shuttle service whose employees sneaked money from Arizona into Mexico for drug and immigrant smugglers. Attorney General Terry Goddard said 47 people, including the owners and drivers for the business known as Mota's Shuttle Place, were indicted on conspiracy, money laundering, weapons and drug charges. The business shuttled people by van between Phoenix and locations in Mexico. The indictments were the result of a four-month investigation conducted by the Phoenix Police Department.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kpho.com/news/13868586/detail.html>

**17. AZ: US Attorney Reports Phoenix Businessman Sentenced On Tax And Money Laundering Charges – IRS (Law Fuel, 13 Aug 2007)**

US District Judge James A. Teilborg sentenced Jeffrey A. Meranto, 52, of Phoenix, today to 37 months in federal prison. The Court also ordered Meranto to pay restitution to the U.S. Treasury for back taxes for the years 1998-2000, in addition to interest and penalties, in a total amount of \$275,292. Meranto had pleaded guilty on September 7, 2006 to one count of Subscribing to a False Return and one count of Engaging in Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activities. In his plea agreement, Meranto admitted that he under-reported income to the Internal Revenue Service and that he laundered the proceeds of a marijuana trafficking operation through his business, A-1 Motorsports.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://lawfuel.com/show-release.asp?ID=14214>

**18. CA: L.A. police downplay threat of terrorism (Daily Breeze, 12 Aug 2007)**

Unlike authorities in New York City, Los Angeles police did not beef up security Saturday in response to an Internet report that al-Qaida was planning radioactive truck attacks in both cities and Miami, a police spokesman said. Debka.com, an Israeli Web site that monitors terrorist activities, reported the threat based on "a rush of electronic chatter" on al-Qaida Web sites on Thursday. According to the Web site, al-Qaida communications accused America of not taking seriously last week's video narrated by al-Qaida spokesman Adam Gaddahn, an American who grew up in Orange County. The video threatened terrorist attacks on American interests, especially embassies.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/articles/9109541.html>

**19. CA: California appeals court to review spying cases (By Andrew Noyes, National Journal's Technology Daily, 14 Aug 2007)**

A California appeals court will examine two cases this week that could impact the federal government's high-tech surveillance of Americans. The Wednesday hearings come after a new law that broadens intelligence officials' eavesdropping power. The Bush administration wants the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to dismiss the lawsuits, contending that they could jeopardize highly sensitive "state secrets." Because the privilege prevents litigants from obtaining classified data, the cases lack standing, the Justice Department argued. The Supreme Court ruled in 1953 that the executive branch could bar evidence from court if it was deemed a national security threat, senior agency officials told reporters Monday. When the material in question is scrubbed from a case, the complaint may or may not fall apart, they said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=37731&dcn=e\\_gvet](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=37731&dcn=e_gvet)

**20. FL: Port security remains unresolved in Florida - Lawmakers disagree about ID and background checks (The Florida Times-Union, 14 Aug 2007)**

TALLAHASSEE - After several years, a long list of disagreements and one particularly thorny memo, state and federal officials are no closer to ending a long-running standoff over security at Florida's seaports. The dispute centers on two vastly different sets of standards for ID cards and background checks for port workers and visitors. It first emerged soon after the federal Transportation Security Administration was created in

2003, and it has now enmeshed Gov. Charlie Crist's executive branch just as it did the administration of former Gov. Jeb Bush. The two governments are struggling to align credential systems that determine who is allowed into the state's 14 seaports including the Port of Jacksonville. While Florida state law requires a certain level of background checks and considers certain criminal offenses as disqualifying criteria, for example, federal policy exists only as a rule - considered less enforceable than law - and has a much different list of disqualifying criminal offenses.

ZGram Suggested URL:

[http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/081307/met\\_190900743.shtml](http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/081307/met_190900743.shtml)

**21. NV: Valley's new Counter-Terrorism Center already proving effective (KVBC, 9 Aug 2007)**

Emergency communications between police, fire and paramedics may still be a problem in the event of a local terrorist attack. But a new Counter-Terrorism Center will help stop acts of terror before they happen. The center's been open for about a month and it's still pretty quiet inside. But more and more agencies are starting to move in including Metro, Henderson and North Las Vegas Police, as well as the FAA, the FBI and several other agencies. The important thing is because they're all in the same building, they can all share information with each other without having to pick up the phone.

ZGram Suggested URL:

[http://www.kvbc.com/Global/story.asp?S=6912023&nav=menu107\\_2](http://www.kvbc.com/Global/story.asp?S=6912023&nav=menu107_2)

**22. NJ: White powder causes terrorism scare in West Deptford (South Jersey Online, 9 Aug 2007)**

WEST DEPTFORD TWP. - Counter-terrorism and HAZMAT crews were called to the scene of a suspicious package containing five pounds of white powder here late Wednesday morning. Sheet metal manufacturer P&M Industries, located at 1425 Grandview Ave., received two United Parcel Service shipments from a firm in Canada at 11:28 a.m., one containing a five pound bag of white powder, said the prosecutor's office. In the shipping/receiving department, a female employee developed an immediate rash after coming into contact with the substance. The West Deptford Township Police Department responded to the scene with fire departments from Thorofare, Verga, Colonial Manor and Greenfield.

ZGram Suggested URL:

[http://blog.nj.com/gloucester/2007/08/white\\_powder\\_causes\\_terrorism.html](http://blog.nj.com/gloucester/2007/08/white_powder_causes_terrorism.html)

**23. NY: New York police take precautions after purported al Qaeda threat (CNN, 11 Aug 2007)**

NEW YORK - New York police officers screened vehicles Saturday near Wall Street with radiation detection devices as "a precautionary measure" after an unconfirmed Web report about a possible radiological attack on U.S. cities. New York police scan traffic with radiation detectors Saturday morning in Manhattan. The report was based on chatter allegedly seen Thursday on al Qaeda Web sites, but the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and New York Police Department insist the threat is unsubstantiated. Octavia Nasr, CNN's senior editor for Arab affairs, said the purported message doesn't appear on any Web sites that CNN monitors and that the claim cannot be independently verified. In

addition, counterterrorism experts who work closely with CNN also were unable immediately to verify the claim, Nasr said. The report about the purported radiological attacks was published on the Israeli Web site DEBKAFfile based on a "rush of electronic chatter on al Qaeda sites." One of the messages mentioned New York, Los Angeles, California, and Miami, Florida, as possible targets.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/08/11/terror.chatter/index.html>

**24. NC: TSA Can't Find Man Who Bypassed Airport Security in Charlotte (WRAL, 10 Aug 2007)**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Transportation officials searched planes in Charlotte and at 15 other airports on Friday but failed to find a man they said bypassed security at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport. The Transportation Security Administration noticed shortly before 8 a.m. that the man had slipped past screeners sometime earlier that morning, said agency spokesman Jon Allen. Officials halted flights, shut down a concourse and searched several planes in an effort to find him. When he couldn't be located in Charlotte, officials turned their attention to 15 flights that had left the airport after the incident took place, said TSA spokesman Chris White. Passengers on those planes were reverse-screened or escorted out of the airport's secure areas.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wral.com/news/state/story/1691994/>

**25. PA: Proposed bill outlines state's response to public health, safety threats (CitizensVoice.com, 11 Aug 2007)**

HARRISBURG - A major bill giving state officials specific authority to deal with everything from quarantines to the disposal of corpses during bioterrorism attacks and pandemics has been introduced by state Rep. Ken Smith, D-Dunmore. The measure outlines steps officials would take to protect public health and safety following the declaration of a health emergency by a governor. While the bill addresses nightmarish scenarios, Smith said Pennsylvania needs to update its public health laws to reflect the post Sept. 11 era. "It's the reality of today's world," he said Friday. "We in Pennsylvania don't really have a significant emergency response law. We can either stick our head in the sand and hope nothing happens or we can be proactive."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3dpgk9>

**26. PA: Ticket checkers replaced at Pittsburgh International (Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, 14 Aug 2007)**

Harry Toma will lose his \$8.50-an-hour job checking IDs and boarding passes at Pittsburgh International Airport's security checkpoint as of Thursday. Toma and 20 other Huntleigh USA workers will be replaced by employees of the U.S. Transportation Security Administration as it introduces a more sophisticated system to monitor passengers.

ZGram Suggested URL:

[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregion/s\\_522056.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregion/s_522056.html)

**27. TN: Guard members train at new Y-12 facility (The Oakridger, 10 Aug 2007)**

The Y-12 National Security Complex has converted a former nuclear research facility used during the Manhattan Project into space for hands-on nuclear and radiological field training for civil support teams from across the nation. It's reportedly the only facility of its kind in the country. The Nuclear and Radiological Field Training Center is located within the Y-12 National Security Complex and allows for the use of realistic quantities of radiological and nuclear materials. More than 20,000 square feet of high bays, hot cells, change rooms, research labs, control rooms, and office space can be set up to replicate nuclear or radiological hazards that may be found in the event of a terrorist attack or natural disaster.

ZGram Suggested URL:

[http://www.oakridger.com/stories/081007/new\\_190200603.shtml](http://www.oakridger.com/stories/081007/new_190200603.shtml)

**28. VT: State auditor investigating bioterrorism grants to Health Department (AP, 13 Aug 2007)**

MONTPELIER, Vt. - The Vermont state auditor is looking at how the state Health Department managed three bioterrorism grants totaling almost \$630,000 to help hospitals prepare to deal with biological attacks. The report is nearing completion, but Deputy Auditor George Thabault wouldn't say what prompted the investigation, what was being focused on or what conclusions would be drawn. Health Department spokesman Nancy Erickson says the department won't comment until the final report is released.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=6925185&nav=4QcS>

**29. VA: Liberty University kicks off intelligence analysis center (The News & Advance, 13 Aug 2007)**

A new collaborative program under development at Liberty University will seek to improve law enforcement officers' methods of analyzing evidence and ultimately combating terrorism. Intelligence analysis is one of the greatest issues that officers and prosecutors face, said Charles Murphy, professor of government at LU. He is helping develop the Center for Intelligence Analysis for Law Enforcement, a collaboration between LU, the Bedford County Sheriff's Office and the National White Collar Crime Center, to help fight that problem.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2e43jc>

**KEY PEOPLE**

**30. TSA Names New Security Official (AP, 13 Aug 2007)**

WASHINGTON - The Transportation Security Administration, which oversees security at the nation's airports, said Monday it named a new No. 2 official leading the agency's security efforts. Ray White, formerly acting federal security director at Dallas Love Field, was named the agency's deputy assistant administrator for security operations. White reports to Morris McGowan, the TSA's assistant administrator for security operations. He replaces Earl Morris, who returned to an earlier post as federal security director at Salt Lake City International Airport.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/08/13/ap4014675.html>

**31. FBI Veteran to Lead Vincennes University Program (Inside Indiana Business, 15 Aug 2007)**

Vincennes University has named former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent Louis J. Caprino, Jr. to chair its Homeland Security and Public Safety program. Caprino most recently served with the FBI in California and was in charge of its white-collar crime and cybercrime divisions.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?ID=24963>

**NARCO TRAFFICKING**

**32. U.S. sees cocaine shortage in Detroit, elsewhere (Detroit Free Press, 8 Aug 2007)**

WASHINGTON – The White House drug czar says a shortage of cocaine is being felt in dozens of cities across the nation, including Detroit, as law enforcement efforts in the United States, Mexico, and Central and South America disrupt trade. John P. Walters, director of National Drug Control Policy for the Bush administration, said if reports he is receiving from investigators are accurate, the scale of the cocaine shortage is unprecedented, covering at least 37 cities across the nation and forcing up prices. That, in turn, can lead to fewer people using the drug.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ysxzdq>

**33. AZ: 150 pounds of cocaine uncovered in traffic stop (The Arizona Republic, 8 Aug 2007)**

Officers confiscated nearly 150 pounds of cocaine in a July traffic stop, the Arizona Department of Public Safety announced Wednesday. The stop, along Interstate 10 near Tucson on July 19, led to the discovery of 134 pounds of the drug, DPS officials said. The cocaine had an estimated street value of \$1 million, according to DPS.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0808abr-k-drugseizures0808-ON.html>

**34. GA: Woman Buys Fake Cocaine, Calls Cops to Help Her Get Refund (Fox News, 13 Aug 2007) - Sorry, but I had to include this one!**

ROCHELLE, Ga. - A woman was arrested after she called local police to help "get her money back" after she was unhappy with the crack cocaine she purchased. Juanita Marie Jones, 53, called Rochelle Police late Thursday night after she purchased what she thought was a \$20 piece of crack cocaine, according to police reports. She told officers she broke the rock into three pieces and smoked one, only to discover the drugs were "fake." She took Officer Joel Quinn and Deputy John Shedd of the Wilcox County Sheriff's Office into her kitchen and showed them the drugs, police said. She was promptly arrested on charges of possession of cocaine.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,293112,00.html>

**35. IN: Raids target cocaine ring centered on Westside (IndyStar.com, 15 Aug 2007)**

Indianapolis police and federal authorities say they have busted a cocaine and crack dealing ring, and officials contend that could result in fewer homicides in the city. The raids Tuesday broke up what investigators said was called the "Haughville syndicate," which was based near West 10th Street, west of White River. The ringleader, identified by investigators as Roy "Baby Boy" Lampkin, 27, was arrested in Atlanta, Ga., where police said he has a residence. "We hope that we have taken off the head of the group," said U.S. Attorney Susan W. Brooks. Michael Spears, chief of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, said breaking up the syndicate was a key to reducing the number of homicides linked to the drug trade.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ypkod3>

**36. NJ: Gang officer says he managed cocaine network (The Times of Trenton, 8 Aug 2007)**

TRENTON - A high-ranking member of the city's Sex Money Murder set of the Bloods who is awaiting trial on a murder charge pleaded guilty in federal court Wednesday to helping distribute over \$1 million worth of cocaine, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced. Omar Aikens - a 28-year-old city resident who has remained in federal custody since his Aug. 29, 2005 arrest by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and other authorities - admitted in court yesterday that between September 2003 and his arrest he conspired with others to distribute and possess more than five kilograms of cocaine, Christie said. Aikens admitted that he obtained multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine from a supplier in Houston and that, while running his cocaine distribution network, he managed at least five other people who distributed the cocaine to other drug dealers in the Trenton area, Christie said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

[http://blog.nj.com/timesupdates/2007/08/gang\\_officer\\_says\\_he\\_managed\\_c.html](http://blog.nj.com/timesupdates/2007/08/gang_officer_says_he_managed_c.html)

**37. SC: Deputies make largest powder cocaine seizure ever in Florence County, sheriff says (SC Now, 8 Aug 2007)**

The nearly 72 pounds of powder cocaine Florence County sheriff's deputies seized on Interstate 95 on Wednesday have a \$3.2 million street value - and constitute the largest seizure of the drug ever in the county, authorities say. A deputy with the sheriff's office's Criminal Enforcement Unit found the drugs around 6:30 a.m., when he stopped 35-year-old Edelson Caban of New York City for failure to maintain a lane. The deputy, who is also assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration, became suspicious during the stop, Florence County Sheriff Kenney Boone said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3dggjj>

**38. U.S. May Provide Billions to Mexico to Fight Drug Cartels (New York Times, 14 Aug 2007)**

Mexico and the United States are holding intensive talks to develop a plan for the United States to provide billions of dollars to Mexico to support its fight against drug cartels, but

the negotiations are not likely to produce an agreement before next week's trilateral meeting with Canada, officials from both countries said. Both sides are trying to keep the details of the talks secret, but officials with knowledge of the issue said the aid would include money and training for the Mexican police, as well as advanced eavesdropping, surveillance and other spying technology.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3yaeqx>

**39. Drug cartel-terrorist ties known in 2001 (Washington Times, 14 Aug 2007)**

A former director of the Drug Enforcement Administration warned federal officials shortly after the September 11 attacks that violent drug cartels from Mexico were teaming with Muslim gangs to fund terrorist organizations overseas. Asa Hutchinson, who also has been a Homeland Security undersecretary, said that in 2001, DEA agents uncovered the link between the drug cartels and terrorist groups but too few government officials listened.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/385bbg>

**40. U.S. unveils carrot and stick Afghan drug strategy (Reuters, 09 Aug 2007)**

The United States on Thursday said it plans to reward Afghan provinces that combat the opium trade with more development aid in a new anti-drug strategy but analysts doubted it will make much difference anytime soon. U.S. officials unveiled the plan as part of a new carrot-and-stick approach of giving greater financial incentives to provincial governors to fight the opium trade while stepping up efforts to eradicate poppy crops and stem the flow of drugs. They said they plan to spend \$25 million to \$50 million to reward provinces that make significant progress against drugs, up from about \$21 million budgeted in the current fiscal year and \$6 million the previous year.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=3464747>

**41. Ecuador Eyes U.S. Drug Surveillance Move (AP, 11 Aug 2007)**

President Rafael Correa said Saturday that the U.S. should move its anti-drug surveillance flights to Colombia after its lease runs out on an Ecuadorean air base in 2009. Correa, who took office in January, has repeatedly said he will not extend the agreement letting the U.S. military use the Manta base for the air operations. In his weekly radio address he denied that the decision would result in increased drug trafficking.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2ndwn9>

**42. Colombia navy seizes submarine suspected of hauling cocaine (AP, 8 Aug 2007)**

BOGOTA, Colombia - Colombia's navy seized a 65-foot submarine that likely was used to haul tons of cocaine on part of its journey to the United States, officials said Tuesday. No drugs were found or arrests made when the fiberglass submarine was discovered Sunday in a swampy mangrove about six miles off the northernmost point of Colombia's Caribbean coast. The blue-colored, diesel-powered vessel had sophisticated

communications systems and was capable of carrying up to 11 tons of cocaine, Rear Admiral Roberto Garcia Marquez, head of the navy's Caribbean fleet, told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/195419>

**43. Colombian drug lord seeks to speed up extradition (Reuters, 14 Aug 2007)**

The lawyer representing one of Colombia's most notorious drug kingpins will travel to the United States on Tuesday to try to speed up his potential extradition from Brazil. Juan Carlos Ramirez Abadia, 44, was nabbed in a dawn raid on August 7 at a luxurious mansion in a gated community outside of Sao Paulo, from where authorities say he oversaw a multibillion-dollar drug ring that stretched to Europe and the United States. Since his arrest, Ramirez Abadia has made it clear that he wants to be extradited to the United States, where he is wanted on drug trafficking charges and in connection with the murder of 15 people, including some police officers.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=3479179>

**44. Mauritania seizes cocaine haul worth more than US\$100 million (AP, 13 Aug 2007)**

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania: Authorities seized cocaine worth more than US\$100 million Monday in Mauritania's capital - the country's largest haul ever, officials said. Security agents arrested five people - two Moroccans, a Senegalese and two Mauritians with 830 kilograms (about 1,800 pounds) of cocaine, said state prosecutor Ben Amar Ould Vetten, who also heads a legal team investigating drug trafficking in the country. He said the street value of the drug was about US\$115 million. The desert country recently stepped up efforts to combat drug trafficking. There are concerns that it was becoming a transit point for drugs coming from South America and headed to Europe - where cocaine is fetching ever higher prices.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/08/13/africa/AF-GEN-Mauritania-Cocaine.php>

**CYBERTHREAT & THEFT**

**45. Too much terrorism on web group (CP, 14 Aug 2007)**

VANCOUVER - The promotion of terrorism has eclipsed hate-mongering as a trouble area on the Internet, says a prominent watchdog organization. In its latest report, the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies says the two issues are closely linked but it's increasingly concerned about the web's role in terror recruitment, training and financing. It says there are thousands of web sites, blogs, news groups and video-streaming sites that contain problematic material, including YouTube. The centre's 2007 report, presented Friday, highlights 600 sites analyzed by volunteer researchers around the world.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/Canada/852693.html>

**46. State Sponsored Internet Terrorism (Strategy Page, 11 Aug 2007)**

More details are emerging about the recent Russian Cyber War against Estonia. Earlier this year, tiny Estonia (population 1.3 million), a former component of the Soviet Union, got involved in a nasty, and very public, dispute, with Russia. It was all about moving a war memorial from the center of the capital, to a park in the suburbs. The statue was of a Russia World War II soldier, and it was long resented by Estonians, as a symbol of Russian conquest and occupation. But in Russia, popular opinion painted the Estonians as a bunch of ingrates, not appreciating the sacrifice of Russian soldiers, who had to push German soldiers out of Estonia so that Russian occupation of the country could resume.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.strategypage.com/htm/htiw/articles/20070811.aspx>

**47. UK: Tackle e-crime that has made Internet 'Wild West', urge peers (Earthtimes.org, 10 Aug 2007)**

LONDON - A report from the House of Lords' Science and Technology Committee has said that crime gangs are operating with impunity on the Internet, which has become as lawless as the 'Wild West,' according to the report. The peers report pointed out that the government's approach to leave security issues in the hands of individuals was "inefficient and unrealistic". The House of Lords report also said that although there was no accurate report on e-crimes, it was a known fact that the public was getting anxious. "We are firm believers in the internet. It is a huge force for good. But it relies on the confidence of millions of users," said Lord Broers, the chairman of the committee. "At the moment it seems that the internet is increasingly perceived as a sort of 'Wild West', outside the law."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/92190.html>

**TECHNOLOGY**

**48. UC San Diego fighting terrorism on the medical front (SpiritIndia.com, 14 Aug 2007)**

A cooperative research project involving seven institutions in the United States and Peru, led by Joseph Vinetz, M.D., professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Disease at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine, has received a biodefense grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The \$4.7 million grant will enable University of California researchers to fight a disease that is a potential bio-threat to U.S. security. The grant will be used to study brucellosis, a highly infectious disease with the potential to be exploited as a bioterrorism disease, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Humans most often become infected by consuming unpasteurized milk products from animals infected with the bacteria that cause brucellosis. The five-year project is being conducted in collaboration with the Pacific Southwest Regional Center for Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research at UC-Irvine, directed by Alan Barbour, M.D., and will become part of the University of California's new Global Health Initiative.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.spiritindia.com/health-care-news-articles-12128.html>

**49. Barcode system allows instant product identification (Food Production Daily, 9 Aug 2007)**

A new identification system can be used to instantly identify the source of packaged products throughout the supply chain. HarvestMark said its two-dimensional bar-code based allows anyone, anywhere to instantly trace fresh produce via the internet or cell phone from the home or store back to the specific ranch, field and date on which it was picked. Tracking and tracing is becoming increasingly important to food manufacturers because of the costs involved when contamination is found to have tainted food. The Bioterrorism Act and a series of food safety issues are forcing manufactures to consider the security of products as they move through the supply chain.

ZGram Suggested URL:

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

**50. GE Security Awarded TSA Contract for 80 CTX 9000 DSi Explosives Detection Systems (EDS) (Business Wire, 14 Aug 2007)**

BRADENTON, Fla. - GE Security, Inc., a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of the General Electric Co. (NYSE:GE), today announced the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has awarded a contract for 80 CTX 9000 DSi advanced technology explosives detection systems for screening of air passengers' checked bags at the nation's airports to its GE Homeland Protection business. The order is the largest TSA order for EDS systems of any kind in the last three years. When deployed, these systems will bring the number of GE CTX 9000 DSi units helping protect commercial aviation passengers at airports across the United States to nearly 430. All told, approximately 625 GE Security CTX 9000 EDS systems have been ordered by airports around the world to screen checked bags for threats.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yp4ath>

## RESOURCES

**51. E.C. launches medical intelligence system (Business Insurance, 14 Aug 2007)**

BRUSSELS, Belgium- The European Commission has launched a medical intelligence system that it hopes will provide health authorities with real-time knowledge about disease outbreaks or industrial accidents. It hopes that the new system will therefore help to identify incidents as early as possible and enable the authorities to react in a timely way. The Commission said that it also hopes that MediSys will help authorities tackling a major incident such as a biological terrorist attack. MediSys constantly collects and sorts information from more than 1,000 news and 120 public health websites in 32 languages.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.businessinsurance.com/cgi-bin/news.pl?newsId=10886>

**52. CD-ROM tracks hatred and terrorism websites**

A new study lists a white supremacist website and an online jihad group as two of Canada's most problematic sources of hate and terror on the Internet. The Simon

Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies' Digital Terrorism and Hate 2007 CD-ROM report is an international effort involving researchers in Los Angeles, Toronto, Jerusalem, Paris, New York and Buenos Aires. It compiles more than 600 of the world's most troubling websites. The final list was culled from a list of close to 7,000 problematic websites, blogs and newsgroups, as well as YouTube and other user-generated video sites. It was released Friday in Vancouver.

ZGram Suggested URL:

[http://www.fswc.ca/digital\\_terrorism\\_hate.htm](http://www.fswc.ca/digital_terrorism_hate.htm)

## **FULL REPORTS**

### **53. The DoD Chemical and Biological Defense Program – Annual Report to Congress April 2007**

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.acq.osd.mil/cp/>

### **54. Increased Domestic Role For Intelligence Foreseen (Contributed by Steven Aftergood, Federation of American Scientists, [www.fas.org](http://www.fas.org))**

Spy satellites and other classified intelligence technologies are poised to play a greater role in domestic homeland security and law enforcement missions, challenging long-standing legal and policy barriers against their domestic use.

The Wall Street Journal reported today that the Director of National Intelligence recently authorized access to intelligence satellite products by officials of the Department of Homeland Security to help support border security.

See "U.S. to Expand Domestic Use of Spy Satellites" by Robert Block, Wall Street Journal, August 15, p.1:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB118714764716998275.html>

A comprehensive 2005 government study of the use of intelligence capabilities for domestic applications concluded that "significant change is needed in policy regimes regulating domestic use of IC [intelligence community] capabilities" in order to permit their full exploitation.

"The use of IC capabilities for domestic purposes should be based on the premise that most uses of IC capabilities are lawful rather than treating any use as an exception to the rule requiring a case-by-case adjudication," the study said.

"There is an urgent need for a top-down, Executive Branch review of all laws and policies affecting use of intelligence capabilities purposes," the report said.

In particular, the 1981 Executive Order 12333 which governs intelligence activities "should be amended to permit as unfettered an operational environment for the collection,

exploitation and dissemination [of domestic intelligence data] as is reasonably possible," the report recommended.

The authors acknowledged that such "unfettered" operation would require increased oversight, but they suggested that it could be satisfactorily accomplished by the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. The Board has been a minor, not notably influential player in recent intelligence policy disputes.

The report acknowledged in passing a problematic 2001 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the case *Kyllo v. United States*, which concluded that the use of infrared sensors to scan a private residence for heat lamps used in marijuana cultivation constituted an unlawful warrantless search. The ruling appears to be significantly at odds with the new domestic intelligence thrust.

"This decision has placed in question the continued viability of past settled practice of the IC within the domestic domain," the study delicately observed.

Nevertheless, "to date we are not aware of any clear authoritative guidance issued on the impact, if any, of this decision."

The 2005 study was first reported by the Wall Street Journal today. A copy of the unclassified study, which was "produced solely for the use of the United States Government," was obtained by Secrecy News.

See "Civil Applications Committee (CAC) Blue Ribbon Study," Independent Study Group Final Report, September 2005:

<http://www.fas.org/irp/eprint/cac-report.pdf>

Intelligence support to domestic environmental monitoring and emergency response has been conducted since the 1970s under the supervision of the little-known interagency Civil Applications Committee. A 2001 fact sheet describing the history and mission of the Committee is available here:

<http://www.fas.org/irp/eprint/cac-fs.pdf>

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people we are trying to either protect or protect our citizens from – it's vital. We do not endorse any particular publications or coverage, but we certainly feel you need to know what's being written.