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21 August 2007 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

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Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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

FEDERAL

1. U.S. experts see more dangerous world for Americans (Reuters, 20 Aug 2007)

A majority of top U.S. foreign policy experts say the world is a more dangerous place for Americans today than just six months ago, thanks largely to the war in Iraq and a failing U.S. war on terrorism, a new survey shows. A majority of the 108 experts polled by Foreign Policy magazine and the Center for American Progress also said they would expect another Sept. 11-scale attack within the next decade, despite substantial improvements among U.S. security, law enforcement and intelligence agencies. The findings appear as a Terrorism Index in the September/October issue of Foreign Policy magazine, which is published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The survey was conducted on May 23 to June 26. Following are the top countries named by experts as posing major challenges to U.S. national security policy.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3yc3jg>

2. Small terror groups pose greatest threat, officials say - Recent plots not work of 'lone wolf' (Los Angeles Times, 16 Aug 2007)

CHICAGO - In December, when Derrick Shareef, a young Muslim convert, was arrested near the city for allegedly plotting to blow up holiday shoppers with hand grenades, he

was described as a home-grown "lone wolf" terrorist whom 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. Shareef, US authorities now allege, was plotting with another American Muslim convert who they say had ties to terrorists in the United Kingdom. The two were discussing sniper attacks on US troops and assaults on military recruiting stations, a federal prosecutor said in a July 28 court hearing. And, law enforcement officials now say, it is small groups like this, rather than disaffected individuals, that constitute the most dangerous form of home-grown terrorism.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2acs2x>

3. Homeland Security funds available (UPI, 20 Aug 2007)

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has released application kits and supplemental grant guidance for three grant programs for 2007. The three programs include the Port Security Grant Program, Transit Security Grant Program and Emergency Management Performance Grant Program. The \$567 million awarded was already announced for the programs in the regular fiscal year 2007 appropriations. An additional \$260 million supplemental increase announced for TSGP, PSGP and EMPGP brings the total to approximately \$827 million available for this fiscal year. "State and local governments will benefit from this additional influx of federal dollars to enhance security measures at our ports and transits systems," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, in a statement. "It will also assist emergency managers with even more tools to build on national preparedness goals."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/33pg9u>

4. IG urges better post-disaster data sharing (GovExec.com, By Elizabeth Newell, 16 Aug 2007)

The Homeland Security Department inspector general is urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency to streamline information sharing to help law enforcement agencies locate missing children, registered sex offenders and fugitive felons during disasters. A report released by the IG this week showed that after Hurricane Katrina, law enforcement agencies struggled to get information from FEMA that would have helped them track down missing children and criminals. Among those missing after the storm were 5,000 children, more than 2,000 sex offenders and a number of fugitive felons. The FBI, New Orleans district attorney's office and state and local law enforcement agencies had to go through a time-consuming process to gain access to FEMA's disaster recovery assistance files. The agencies were not granted direct access due to FEMA's concerns about improperly disclosing information protected by the 1974 Privacy Act.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=37768&dcn=e_gvet

5. 2 tribes selling entry to aliens (AP, 18 Aug 2007)

OMAHA, Neb. - For prices starting at \$50, two nonfederally recognized Indian tribes are offering membership to thousands of illegal aliens, claiming they can achieve legal status

by joining the groups. But immigration authorities insist becoming a tribe member gives no protection against being deported. And immigration advocates condemn the practice, saying it defrauds immigrants of money and gives them false hope. "You can't just decide to become a member of a tribe and all of a sudden legalize your status," said Marilu Cabrera, a spokeswoman for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/article/20070818/NATION/108180051/1001>

6. TSA Deploys 'Behavior Detection Officers' at U.S. Airports (World Hum, 21 Aug 2007)

It's an Orwellian name for a rather Orwellian program. According to a story by Kaitlin Dirrig of McClatchy Newspapers, Transportation Security Administrator Kip Hawley revealed last month that Behavior Detection Officers are currently working in airports around the country. They're "watching body language and facial cues of passengers for signs of bad intentions," Dirrig writes. "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." A TSA spokesperson added that 500 officers will be working in airports nationwide by the end of this year. Among the signs they're looking for are "micro-expressions," including fear and disgust, which are associated with deception.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yrcy94>

7. Homeland Security chief touts faster cargo scanning (By Andy Leonatti, CongressDaily, 17 Aug 2007)

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said Thursday the United States was making progress toward scanning more incoming cargo without slowing commerce. Speaking before the Departmental Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, a panel of private-sector shipping and retail executives, Chertoff said the United States would not be able to scan 100 percent of inbound cargo for terrorist activities without disrupting the supply chain and clogging ports. "If I shut them, there won't be any risk, but there won't be any ports," Chertoff said. He criticized lawmakers who pushed for 100 percent physical scanning in a recently enacted homeland security bill, saying he would like to take certain members to ports and show them what would happen once their plan became reality.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=37801&dcn=e_gvet

8. Railroad Security Still Needs Upgrades (by Jim Kouri, CPP, 17 Aug 2007)

The July 2005 London subway bombings and July 2006 railway attacks in Mumbai, India dramatically revealed the vulnerability of passenger rail and other surface transportation systems worldwide to terrorist attack and demonstrated the need for increased focus on the security of these systems. The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Grants and Training has conducted risk assessments of passenger rail systems to identify and protect rail assets that are vulnerable to attack, such as stations and bridges. TSA has also begun to conduct risk assessments of passenger railways. While TSA has begun to

establish a methodology for analyzing and characterizing risks, as of January 2007, the agency has not completed a comprehensive risk assessment of the US passenger rail system, according to analysts with the Government Accountability Office.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.theconservativevoice.com/article/27349.html>

9. Lawmakers pursue more money to guard intellectual property (By Andrew Noyes, National Journal's Technology Daily, 16 Aug 2007)

Intellectual property protections for U.S. inventors and businesses would get a modest boost in fiscal 2008 if the House and Senate agree to the funding levels proposed for various programs across several agencies and departments. The Patent and Trademark Office would receive \$1.9 billion - the full amount requested by the Bush administration - under the House-passed appropriations bill and the measure awaiting a vote in the Senate. The agency got \$1.7 billion in fiscal 2007. But appropriators in both chambers also offered a stern warning. The committee reports accompanying the bills, S. 1745 and H.R. 3093, indicate that lawmakers are troubled by the growing backlog of patent applications and the time it takes to process them.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=37789&dcn=e_gvet

10. Psychologists Scrap Interrogation Ban (AP, 20 Aug 2007)

SAN FRANCISCO - The nation's largest group of psychologists scrapped a measure Sunday that would have prohibited members from assisting interrogators at Guantanamo Bay and other U.S. military detention centers. The American Psychological Association's policy-making council voted against a proposal to ban psychologists from taking part in any interrogations at U.S. military prisons "in which detainees are deprived of adequate protection of their human rights."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Torture-Psychology.html?pagewanted=print>

11. APEC to examine food bioterrorism (The Australian, 19 Aug 2007)

THE US will urge greater protection of food supplies from potential bioterrorism at next month's APEC meeting. US envoy to APEC Patricia Haslach said the US also would seek to encourage discussion about a free trade zone among APEC's 21 members. She called such an area an ambitious long-term goal. President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will attend the meetings. A sprawling APEC-wide free-trade area would stretch from the United States to Russia and from Chile to Australia and cover 40 percent of the world's population and 56 percent of its gross domestic product.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,22261280-23289,00.html>

12. Contingency Planning, for Technology and Terrorism (Washington Post, 16 Aug 2007)

Small things often trip up large organizations. That's what happened at the Los Angeles International Airport last weekend. Network cards allow computers to communicate with one another, and most home computer users know them as Ethernet cards. Most of the

time, when network interface cards feel like having a nervous breakdown, they go all the way and fail completely. This usually means that one computer goes down, but other work stations continue to function. Customs and Border Protection, part of the Department of Homeland Security, wasn't so lucky. The network card at LAX took down the local area network when the card repeatedly began seeking attention and assistance in performing its functions, setting off a "data storm," overloading the network's efforts to manage itself.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

13. AL: 350 more Army jobs expected (The Huntsville Times, 18 Aug 2007)

Thanks to an Army reorganization plan, Huntsville stands to gain about 350 additional Space & Missile Defense Command jobs on top of military work slated to come here because of the 2005 base realignment decisions, a command chief deputy said Friday. Michael Schexnayder, SMDC deputy for research, development and acquisition, said the command reorganization would bring 50 jobs from Colorado Springs, Colo., to Huntsville "and possibly up to 300 from Kwajalein" Island, part of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

14. AK: Airline, TSA allow minor to fly south without permission (AP, 19 Aug 2007)

JUNEAU, Alaska - A Juneau woman says her 15-year-old daughter was allowed to board a jet and fly south without her permission. The girl was on her way to visit a boyfriend she met on the Internet. Elise Pringle says she wants Alaska Airlines and the Transportation Safety Administration to reconsider policies that allow minor children to fly without parents' permission. Pringle learned her daughter had departed Wednesday. The girl had purchased a one-way ticket with cash at Juneau International Airport.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=6953266>

15. AZ: Disasters raise awareness of need for emergency readiness plan (Sierra Vista Herald Review, 17 Aug 2007)

SIERRA VISTA — Events surrounding two major disasters in this country — 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina — redefined public health and brought the need for emergency preparedness to the forefront. In the aftermath of both disasters, one thing was clear: The country needed to take a hard look at its emergency preparedness plans and come up with strategies for handling widespread emergencies and hazards. Advertisement "9/11 and Hurricane Katrina demonstrated how vital public health really is," said Karla Jensen, public information officer for the Cochise County Health Department. "Virtually every other aspect of life in our community is affected by public health." As part of the county's bioterrorism preparedness plan, Jensen visits businesses, schools and civic organizations and discusses the importance of a communitywide infrastructure to address all types of emergencies.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.svherald.com/articles/2007/08/17/news/doc46c541c45c5cb198932880.txt>

16. AZ: Smuggling Operation Halted (KOLD News 13 News, 20 Aug 2007)

A human smuggling operation is out of action south of Tucson. Border Patrol Agents pulled over an older recreational vehicle near milepost 32 on Highway 82 in Sonoita, Arizona Sunday. U.S. Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol Agents say the driver was acting nervously and that prompted them to conduct a search. Inside the motor home officers found 54 illegal immigrants. All of the subjects inside the vehicle, including the driver, were determined to be citizens of Mexico without immigration documents, according to authorities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=6957632>

17. AZ: Arizona state police plan to turn statewide speed camera program into a surveillance network (The Newspaper, 20 Aug 2007)

The Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) is planning to turn its statewide speed camera program into a spy camera network. According to a written request for proposals sent to various speed camera companies and obtained by the Associated Press, the state police are seeking to include automated number plate recognition (ANPR) technology in its new automated ticketing system. This would allow motorists accused of no wrongdoing to have their movements monitored and recorded for use by police agencies. The for-profit company selected to operate the camera ticketing program must also "provide computer queries" for "any law enforcement purpose as requested by the DPS designee."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thenewspaper.com/news/19/1926.asp>

18. CA: LAX outage is blamed on a single computer - City officials demand a full report on the U.S. Customs system failure and contingency plans lax 15 Aug 2007)

U.S. Customs officials said Tuesday that they had traced the source of last weekend's system outage that left 17,000 international passengers stranded in airplanes to a malfunctioning network interface card on a single desktop computer in the Tom Bradley International Terminal at LAX. The card, which allows computers to connect to a local area network, experienced a partial failure that started about 12:50 p.m. Saturday, slowing down the system, said Jennifer Connors, a chief in the office of field operations for the Customs and Border Protection agency. As data overloaded the system, a domino effect occurred with other computer network cards, eventually causing a total system failure a little after 2 p.m., Connors said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/23bt63>

19. DC: Army Lab Documents Found in Trash Bin (AP, 21 Aug 2007)

Boxes of documents containing personal information from the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research were supposed to be shredded but instead turned up last week in a trash bin, police said. A resident of a suburban Washington neighborhood near the Army medical research's campus found the boxes Friday and alerted Montgomery County

police. The files were research study records, said Cynthia Vaughn, a public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Medical Command. An investigation is under way to determine precisely what information they held and why they appeared off base, Vaughn said Monday. Police said most were from the late 1990s and were likely placed in the bin on the same day they were discovered.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=3504903>

20. FL: 2 Florida Men Caught Allegedly Smuggling Cubans (CBS4, 19 Aug 2007)

KEY WEST Two South Florida men have been taken into custody after they were allegedly caught trying to smuggle 19 Cubans into the U.S. According to the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, the Coast Guard was notified by Cuban authorities around 4:30 a.m. Friday that a go-fast boat was headed northbound from Cuba with migrants onboard. The Coast Guard dispatched a cutter and helicopter to intercept the go-fast boat. They were able to locate the 33 foot 2007 Avanti with twin 275 horsepower Mercury engines as it headed for the Marquesas. The Coast Guard boat attempted to stop it using the lights and siren but the other vessel refused to be boarded.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://cbs4.com/topstories/local_story_231140853.html

21. FL: Padilla convicted of terrorism support (AP, 16 Aug 2007)

MIAMI—Jose Padilla, a U.S. citizen held for 3 1/2 years as an enemy combatant, was convicted Thursday of helping Islamic extremists and plotting overseas attacks in a case that came to symbolize the Bush administration's zeal to clamp down on terrorism. But it was hardly a complete victory for the government. When Padilla was arrested in the months following the 2001 terrorist attacks, authorities touted him as a key al-Qaida operative who planned to detonate a radioactive "dirty bomb" in a U.S. city. That allegation never made it to court. Instead, after a three-month trial and only a day and a half of deliberations, the 36-year-old Padilla and his foreign-born co-defendants were convicted of conspiracy to murder, kidnap and maim people and two counts of providing material support to terrorists.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://origin.mercurynews.com/news/ci_6639716?nclick_check=1

22. FL: D.C. School Official Convicted on Terrorism Charges (WTOP, 18 Aug 2007)

WASHINGTON - Many people in the D.C. public school system are surprised to hear that a former school official has been convicted in Miami on terrorism charges. Kifah Janyousi was the chief of facilities for the public schools from 1999 to 2001. A federal jury convicted the American citizen of conspiring to murder, kidnap and maim overseas; conspiring to provide material support for terrorists; and providing that support. He was convicted with "enemy combatant" Jose Padilla, who was accused by the U.S. government of plotting a radiological dirty bomb attack.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/index.php?nid=25&sid=1224471>

23. IL: TSA Recognizes Six Illinois Airports For Vigilance (Aero-News.net, 20 Aug 2007)

Six general aviation airports in Illinois were recently given Security Awareness Partnership awards for their vigilance in reporting suspicious activity to the TSA's 24/7 operations center, and local TSA offices. The airports are Quincy Regional/Baldwin Field; Galesburg Municipal; Mount Carmel Municipal; Southern Illinois (Carbondale); Saint Louis Regional (East Alton); and Canton Ingersoll. All six participate in the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's Airport Watch Program. "The excellent work of our transportation security inspectors, in concert with our local GA partners, shows the nation that all eyes are watching and we are working together to secure the skies," said Pat Broderick, the federal security director at Quad City International Airport who oversees the six GA airports.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/36rz3t>

24. ME: Sen. Collins, TSA chief visit BIA (Bangor Daily News, 17 Aug 2007)

BANGOR, Maine - Federal, regional and local officials visited Bangor International Airport on Thursday morning touting a legislative provision authored by U.S. Sen. Susan Collins that legally protects citizens who report suspicious activity which could result in a terrorist attack. Collins and Transportation Security Administration Administrator Edmund "Kip" Hawley held a press conference in the domestic terminal of the airport to explain the provision and stress the significant role the general public plays in national security. "An alert citizenry is our best defense against another terrorist attack," Collins said. The bill containing Collins' "See Something, Say Something" provision was signed into law by President Bush on Aug. 3.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://bangordailynews.com/news/t/news.aspx?articleid=153241&zoneid=500>

25. MA: Logan program tracking suspicious fliers takes off (Boston Herald, 16 Aug 2007)

An innovative security program that began at Boston's Logan International Airport four years ago has spread to a dozen airports, where undercover officers watch for suspicious body language and facial cues. The "behavior detection officers" are specially trained to detect subtle signs of stress, fear or deception, and could be the attendant standing behind the ticket-checker or the one handing you the tray for your keys. The program has led to several arrests on charges ranging from drug trafficking to possession of fraudulent documents, said Ann Davis, a Transportation Security Administration spokeswoman. "Clearly, the program's techniques have been successful at identifying individuals trying to suppress fear of detection," Davis said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bostonherald.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=1017428>

26. MD: Va. man arrested at BWI with gun (Baltimore Sun, 18 Aug 2007)

A Virginia man who appeared to be "exhibiting suspicious behaviors" was arrested at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport this month while carrying a concealed handgun with 30 rounds of ammunition, according to the federal

Transportation Security Administration. The Aug. 1 incident was not publicly announced at the time, but an account was later posted on the TSA Web site as an example of the success of its technique of screening passengers by closely observing their behavior. The program has been in place at BWI for almost a year. According to the TSA, the behavior of the arrested man was consistent with that of a terrorist before an attack. But Cpl. Jonathan Green, a spokesman for the Maryland Transportation Authority Police, said there were no indications that the suspect was involved in terrorism or "feeling out" security at the airport.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-md.bwi18aug18.0.5400373.story>

27. MD: Federal Money Enhances Security At Balt. Ports (WJZ, 17 Aug 2007)

BALTIMORE More federal money is coming to Baltimore to enhance security at the ports. The Port of Baltimore is always busy. Trucks come in and out of the Seagirt Terminal all day long. "It's a major, major port on the East Coast. As a matter of fact, this particular terminal sees about 1,900 trucks over a period of a week. We're 14th in the nation for overall tonnage," said J.B. Hanson, spokesperson from Port of Baltimore. Now, there's a ton of money coming, too. There is \$1.8 million coming from an emergency supplemental spending bill passed earlier this year.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://wjz.com/local/local_story_229182735.html

28. MI: ADC Michigan conducts sensitivity training with TSA (The Arab American News, 18 Aug 2007)

DEARBORN — As part of its ongoing efforts to engage government agencies with matters that affect the Arab American and American Muslim communities, ADC Michigan recently conducted a sensitivity training session with a group of first tier airport security managers of the Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) at Detroit Metro Airport. The session covered areas related to Arab and Muslim customs and travel during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. ADC presenters, which included senior national advisor and regional director Imad Hamad and director of policy Nadia Fadel, discussed the behavioral expectations of passengers, specifically during this time (i.e. religious material they may carry aboard a plane, the growth of beards for men, prayer in public, breaking of the fast, language barriers, etc.).

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.arabamericannews.com/newsarticle.php?articleid=9536>

29. NY: TSA, JetBlue sued for racial profiling (Seattle Times, 17 Aug 2007)

A discrimination lawsuit charges federal officials and JetBlue Airways with racial profiling for refusing to let a passenger board an August 2006 flight at Kennedy International Airport because he wore a T-shirt inscribed with an Arabic phrase. The incident is part of a discriminatory pattern at airports since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, two civil liberties groups said in filing the lawsuit. The ACLU, joined by the New York Civil Liberties Union, filed the federal lawsuit on behalf of Raed Jarrar. The Iraqi architect was barred from the JetBlue flight for wearing a shirt that read, in English and Arabic, "We Will Not Be Silent." Last August, a Transportation Security

Administration official pulled Jarrar away from a boarding gate and told him his shirt made other passengers uncomfortable, the complaint said. Jarrar was told to cover up the message if he wanted to board the flight to his home in Oakland, Calif.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/travel/2003839571_travelupdate19.html

30. NC: Feds approve NC's new same-day voter registration (AP, 21 Aug 2007)

RALEIGH, N.C. - Citizens who develop a late interest in this fall's municipal elections across North Carolina will be able to act immediately on their piqued political passions under a new law that has won final federal approval. The law gives citizens the option of registering and immediately voting at one-stop voting sites during the final days of a campaign. Previously, registration was cut off weeks before Election Day. The U.S. Department of Justice signed off on the plan late last week, and a brief letter formalizing the approval arrived Tuesday, said Gary Bartlett, director of the State Board of Elections.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/332qb9>

31. TN: Tenn. Nuclear Fuel Problems Kept Secret (AP, 20 Aug 2007)

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. - A three-year veil of secrecy in the name of national security was used to keep the public in the dark about the handling of highly enriched uranium at a nuclear fuel processing plant - including a leak that could have caused a deadly, uncontrolled nuclear reaction. The leak turned out to be one of nine violations or test failures since 2005 at privately owned Nuclear Fuel Services Inc., a longtime supplier of fuel to the U.S. Navy's nuclear fleet. The public was never told about the problems when they happened. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission revealed them for the first time last month when it released an order demanding improvements at the company, but no fine.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20070820/D8R4VNS01.html>

32. VT: Bioterror grants in Vermont audited - \$629k intended for preparations (AP, 14 Aug 2007)

MONTPELIER - The Vermont state auditor is looking at the way the state Department of Health managed three bioterrorism grants totaling \$629,565 to help hospitals prepare for biological attacks. The audit is looking at how the Health Department accounted for money given to other organizations, said Deputy Auditor George Thabault. The report is nearing completion, but Thabault would not say what prompted the investigation or what conclusions were being drawn.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3c3ymd>

33. VA: In Study Of Gun Traffic, Va. Stands Out (Washington Post, 21 Aug 2007)

Law enforcement authorities traced more than 10,000 guns recovered in Virginia, Maryland and the District last year - and nearly half came from Virginia, according to federal data released yesterday. Virginia also was among the top sources of guns recovered by authorities in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and

South Carolina, the data show. In New York, more recovered guns came from Virginia than from any other outside state - roughly one of 11 traced.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

34. WA: FBI Investigating Unusual Ferry Passengers (KIROTV, 21 Aug 2007)

The Seattle Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Washington Joint Analytical Center are asking for the public's help identifying two individuals who have been seen aboard Washington state ferries on several occasions. According to authorities, the two men have exhibited unusual behavior while aboard the ferries. Agents said the men have shown an excessive interest in the ferries. Numerous passengers and ferry employees have reported the strange behavior. The FBI published photos of the men that were taken by ferry workers this month. The men are not accused of committing a crime.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kirotv.com/news/13934929/detail.html>

KEY PEOPLE

35. TSA names new Deputy Assistant Administrator for security operations (Travel Daily News, 17 Aug 2007)

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced Ray White as the agency's deputy assistant administrator for the office of security operations. White has been with TSA since 2002 and most recently served as the acting federal security director at Dallas Love Field. He has also served as assistant federal security director and interim federal security representative. During TSA's rollout, White was in charge of federalizing security operations in Arkansas, Oklahoma and much of Texas. Prior to joining TSA, White was a supervisory special agent in civil aviation security at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). In this position, he was responsible for security across a five-state region. White also worked as a program manager for risk management and physical security at the FAA. While there, he was responsible for security at over 200 facilities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.traveldailynews.com/new.asp?newid=39057&subcategory_id=96

36. HI: Anthony Mira Named TSA's Federal Security Director for Kahului Airport (TSA, 20 Aug 2007)

AirportKahului, HI – August 2007 – The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has named Anthony M. Mira federal security director for Kahului Airport (OGG). Mira comes to TSA from the Department of Commerce where he was the assistant director of the anti-terrorism division. In this position, he was responsible for armed protection detail for the secretary of commerce, continental U.S. critical risk assessments and international non-located U.S. and foreign commercial offices. After serving more than 30 years in the United States Air Force, Mira retired as a Chief Master Sergeant. He has also held positions for the U.S. Agency for International Development, including international physical security specialist for Eastern Europe, senior security officer for the USAID compound in Baghdad, Iraq and national industrial security program manager.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://hospitality-1st.com/PressNews/TSA-082007.html>

GANG ACTIVITY

37. GA: Money laundering ring busted (The Courier Herald, 21 Aug 2007)

The Dublin Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation helped stop a money laundering scam over the past week that was allowing large amounts of money to be wired overseas. According to Dublin Police Chief Wayne Cain, FBI agents worked with the Dublin Police Department recently to issue warrants to confiscate a computer and question a subject of interest after that person attempted to wire money overseas. “We worked with the FBI on a local scam,” said Cain. “A company was offering healthy salaries for a job and that job was laundering money.” He said the “company” out of London offered the job over the Internet. A Washington County resident took that offer and opened an account in Dublin at a local bank for the London-based company to use to deposit money into. Then the local resident would wire that money out of the country. Cain would not say to who or why the money was being laundered.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yvyjt5>

38. IN: Suspected gang member sentenced for dealing cocaine (Journal & Courier, 16 Aug 2007)

A suspected gang member who moved to Lafayette from California to escape problems there was sentenced Thursday to 40 years in prison for dealing cocaine. Jose Valencia, 26, also was ordered to serve 20 years on probation by Judge Pro Tem Jason Bennett, who filled in for Judge Don Johnson of Tippecanoe Superior Court 1. A Tippecanoe County jury convicted Valencia in June of Class A felony counts of conspiracy to deal cocaine and dealing cocaine.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.jconline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070816/NEWS09/70816029>

39. 950 organized crime groups in Canada: report (CBC News, 17 Aug 2007)

Police identified 950 organized crime groups operating in Canada in 2007, up from 800 the year before, according to a report released Friday. The report, prepared by Canada's Criminal Intelligence Service, provides a picture of organized crime in the country based on information provided by police forces and law enforcement agencies across the country. But RCMP Commissioner William Elliott, who chaired the report, said the findings do not necessarily mean there are more crime groups operating in Canada — it may just mean that police are getting better at working together to identify the groups.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/montreal/story/2007/08/17/crime-report.html>

40. IT: Mysterious Mob Eclipses Cosa Nostra (AP, 21 Aug 2007)

A decade ago, while the Sicilian Mafia was imploding under a ruthless crackdown, another crime syndicate rooted in the rugged mountains at the tip of Italy's boot was quietly eclipsing Cosa Nostra in power and reach. The bullet-riddled bodies of six young Italians who had just dined at a pizzeria in Germany's industrial heartland told the world

last week what Italian authorities already knew: The clannish 'ndrangheta crime syndicate had come of age as an international force. The mob based in Calabria was once largely limited to shaking down small-town merchants and carrying out kidnappings for ransom. Composed of clusters of families so loyal they practically pledge their newborns to a life of crime, it has expanded to become the biggest player in Europe's flourishing cocaine market.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=3506135>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

41. Scientists need just teaspoon of urine to drug-test whole cities (AP, 21 Aug 2007)

WASHINGTON - Researchers have figured out how to give an entire community a drug test using just a teaspoon of wastewater from a city's sewer plant. The test wouldn't be used to finger any single person as a drug user. But it would help federal law enforcement and other agencies track the spread of dangerous drugs, like methamphetamines, across the country. Oregon State University scientists tested 10 unnamed American cities for remnants of drugs, both legal and illegal, from wastewater streams. They were able to show that they could get a good snapshot of what people are taking.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3y9hg8>

42. Tribes see FBI support for drug war dwindle (Seattle Post Intelligencer, 20 Aug 2007)

NEAH BAY - Christina Pendleton is an unlikely casualty of the Bush administration's war on terrorism. The Makah woman was romanced on her remote Pacific Northwest reservation by a Mexican drug dealer who fed her methamphetamine addiction and then peddled dope to her tribe. Last September, Pendleton confessed her addiction at a community meeting and pleaded for help. Clean and sober since December, she now has a job in tribal government and takes every opportunity to warn of the dangers of meth. "They are told in Mexico, even before they come here, to find an Indian woman and marry her," she said of the dealers. "You will get a free home, a free clinic. And they basically do it and set up shop."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/328272_fbinative20.html?source=myspi

43. FL: Lehigh Acres man charged with cocaine trafficking (Naples Daily News, 17 Aug 2007)

A 26-year-old Lehigh Acres man was arrested Thursday after authorities say he sold thousands of dollars worth of cocaine to an undercover officer. James Richard Young, 26, 1111 North Ave., Lehigh Acres, was charged with trafficking in cocaine 28-200 grams, trafficking in cocaine 400 grams to 150 kilograms and delivery of cocaine. Young first met with the undercover officer from the Collier County Sheriff's Office on August 1, on Immokalee Road near the Interstate 75 interchange, an arrest report said. Young agreed to sell the officer two ounces of cocaine for \$1,500.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yr35rn>

44. IN: 21 Members of Haughville Syndicate Charged in Two Federal Indictments for Cocaine Drug Conspiracy Charges (PRNewswire, 14 Aug 2007)

INDIANAPOLIS - Twenty-one individuals known as members of the Haughville Syndicate were charged in two federal indictments with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribution of cocaine and crack, and an additional 24 individuals were charged with state drug offenses. On August 14, 2007, in excess of 300 federal, state, and local law enforcement executed 36 federal search warrants and 2 state search warrants at 38 different locations in Indianapolis. Approximately \$67,000 cash was seized along with 70 weapons, including a machine gun, an Uzi, assault rifles, a Cobray 9 millimeter rifle, and several thousand rounds of ammunition. Miscellaneous drug paraphernalia and small amounts of drugs were recovered at the various search sites. As a result of this investigation 22 individuals are in custody. An additional 20 individuals not previously charged were arrested on state charges at various search sites today.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://sev.prnewswire.com/legal/20070815/DCTU07615082007-1.html>

45. NC: Four nabbed in three-county drug sweep (Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald, 19 Aug 2007)

HALIFAX - Four people suspected of being large-scale drug dealers in the area were arrested Thursday in a multi-jurisdiction bust, according to the Halifax County Sheriff's Office. The sweep was wide ranging involving agencies in Nash and Northampton counties, the city of Roanoke Rapids and State Bureau of Investigation, Maj. Bruce Temple, of the Halifax Sheriff's Office, said Friday. Temple declined to discuss the amount of drugs the four were allegedly moving or the financial aspects of the operation, but did say drugs and cash were seized and taken into SBI custody.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.rrdailyherald.com/articles/2007/08/19/news/news2.txt>

46. Costa Rica: 300 kg of cocaine seized in Costa Rica (People's Daily Online, 18 Aug 2007)

A total of 300 kg of cocaine has been seized in an abandoned boat in Costa Rica, the Public Security Ministry said on Friday. The drugs, worth over 600 million colones (1.2 million U.S. dollars), were found on Thursday afternoon hidden in a specially built boat with a false layer, at El Jobo playa in Guanacaste province. The owner of the boat is yet to be identified, said the police. However, they are suspecting a 32-year-old Panamanian native surnamed as Casio. The foreigner turned himself over to the police requesting deportation because he entered Costa Rica illegally, said the police. It is unusual for an illegal immigrant to request deportation, they added. So far in 2007, Costa Rica has seized 24 tons of cocaine.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90777/6242751.html>

47. Uruguay: Police seize record 485 kg of cocaine (Xinhuanet, 20 Aug 2007)

MONTEVIDEO - Uruguayan anti-drug agents seized 485 kg of cocaine at a cattle ranch in the northern Salto department, the biggest cocaine bust in this South American country, police said on Sunday. The drug was seized in an overnight operation, which also led to the arrest of five Colombians and two Brazilians. The crackdown was the culmination of a 10-month investigation carried out by the Uruguayan Anti-drug Brigade. Uruguay's Air Force sent three helicopters in support for the police action.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2007-08/20/content_6033939.htm

COUNTERFEIT

48. Drug sales, counterfeiting funding terrorism - Sheriff's office says it's intercepted plots, traced money back to extremist groups (Daily News, 19 Aug 2007)

Terrorists and terrorist sympathizers in Los Angeles and around the world are using proceeds from counterfeiting, drug trafficking and other crimes to fund global activities, authorities said Friday. The news comes as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is expected to release a Gallup study on consumer behavior and data today showing counterfeiting and piracy costs Americans \$250 billion annually. Chamber spokeswoman Katie Wilson said counterfeiting of everything from CDs, DVDs and handbags to medications, cigarettes and toothpaste is one of the biggest problems in the nation. And about two-thirds of the counterfeit products are being shipped to ports including Long Beach and Los Angeles from China, Russia, the Middle East, India and South America, Wilson said. "These are sophisticated criminals who are linked to organized crime and terrorism and can move items with a speed that is unlike any multinational corporation," Wilson said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_6665995

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

49. Monster attack steals user data (BBC, 21 Aug 2007)

US job website Monster.com has suffered an online attack with the personal data of hundreds of thousands of users stolen, says a security firm. A computer program was used to access the employers' section of the website using stolen log-in credentials. Symantec said the log-ins were used to harvest user names, e-mail addresses, home addresses and phone numbers, which were uploaded to a remote web server. The stolen data could be used to send phishing and spam e-mails. "This remote server held over 1.6 million entries with personal information belonging to several hundred thousands of candidates, mainly based in the US, who had posted their resumes to the Monster.com website," reported Symantec.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/6956349.stm>

50. Pentagon to Suspend Anti-Terror Database (AP, 21 Aug 2007)

The Pentagon said Tuesday that it will shut down an anti-terror database that has been criticized for improperly storing information on peace activists and others whose actions posed no threat. It will be closed on Sept. 17 and information collected subsequently on

potential terror or security threats to Defense Department facilities or personnel will be sent by Pentagon officials to an FBI database known as Guardian, according to Army Col. Gary Keck, a Pentagon spokesman. Keck said the Pentagon database is being shut down because "the analytical value had declined," but not because of public criticism of how it was used. Eventually the Pentagon hopes to create a new system - not necessarily a database - to "streamline such threat reporting," according to a brief statement issued Tuesday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=116&sid=1226820>

51. "Internet Search Engines: Copyright's 'Fair Use'" in Reproduction and Public Display Rights," Congressional Research Service Report updated July 12, 2007

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33810.pdf>

52. Welcome to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia – pivotal battleground in the global jihad. (The Globe and Mail, 17 Aug 2007)

The town of 7,000 doesn't look the part. Its quietly beautiful downtown lives and dies by tourists. The coastline puts postcards to shame. The New York Islanders have held their training camp here for the past two years. But unwittingly, Yarmouth has become an example of the sort of unassuming places that are serving as relay stations in a virtual war. The town is home to a branch of Register.com, one of its largest employers and one of the most popular Internet domain-name registration services in the world. For a fee, the company allows users to register website names – the .com, .net or .org addresses you type into your web browser to surf the Internet. Normally, when anyone signs up new domains, they have to provide a name, address and contact information, all of which become publicly available to anyone who's even remotely net-savvy. (The information is copied to one of the central databases that form the backbone of the Internet, to ensure there are no conflicts, such as two separate entities owning the same domain.) But for a few extra dollars, Register.com also offers an anonymous registration service: Try to find out who registered any one of these websites, and you'll be handed the same address and phone number in Yarmouth.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

TECHNOLOGY

53. DHS aims to spur innovation in radiation detection (By Jon Fox, Global Security Newswire, 21 Aug 2007)

When Charles Ferguson was studying for his doctorate in the early 1990s, the science of radiation detection and the basic physics behind it were not particularly sexy topics.

"That was considered sort of ho-hum," said Ferguson, a physicist and now a fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations. "There wasn't really a strong motivation for talented young scientists to study these subjects." Following Sept. 11, 2001, however, detecting radiation took on a new immediacy. Radiation detectors were no longer needed just to

stop contaminated scrap metal from ruining industrial processing equipment or making sure nothing radioactive from inside a nuclear power plant ended up outside.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=37819&dcn=e_gvet

54. TSA To Test Additional Personal Imaging Systems At Airports (Defense Daily via NewsEdge Corporation, 21 Aug 2007)

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) yesterday said it has awarded small lease contracts to three companies to pilot test their passenger imaging systems for secondary screening at security checkpoints at three airports in the coming months. A total of \$2.3 million in lease agreements have been signed with American Science and Engineering [ASEI], L-3 Communications [LLL] and OSI Systems [OSIS] Rapiscan division requiring each company to deliver five of their systems to TSA for testing in airports for up to six months. The contracts include options to purchase additional units. AS&E and Rapiscan are providing their respective X-Ray backscatter imaging systems while L-3 is providing its active millimeter wave imaging system.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.advancedimagingpro.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=3&id=4392>

55. An eye toward a future with electronic passports (By Heather Greenfield, National Journal's Technology Daily, 21 Aug 2007)

As the State Department tries to meet the demand for electronic passports, which the agency began issuing last August, the companies producing the chip technology are marking the anniversary by looking ahead to what's next. Frank Moss, the former deputy assistant secretary for passport services at the State Department who oversaw the transition to e-passports, said as chips become faster and more reliable, it may be possible to issue visas electronically five years down the road. "These first-generation chips are good, but they can certainly be better," Moss said. He looks forward to technical improvements to make it faster to write data to the electronic chips imbedded in the passports, faster to read the chips and easier to scan the passports in the readers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=37816&dcn=e_gvet

56. Appropriators question funding for emergency wireless project (By Andrew Noyes, National Journal's Technology Daily, 20 Aug 2007)

A multi-agency project aimed at creating a wireless communications network that would connect police and other emergency responders across jurisdictions could lose a chunk of its federal allowance in fiscal 2008, according to House and Senate appropriations committee reports. The Justice, Homeland Security and Treasury departments already have spent \$195 million on the program, which could have a \$5 billion price tag by 2021, according to some estimates. It has also gained the attention of Justice's inspector general. The initiative would update outdated land-mobile radio systems by incorporating cellular telephones and walkie-talkies to provide reliable, secure wireless capabilities for 81,000 agents nationwide. But a March IG report drew attention to its "disparate funding mechanisms" and inadequate documentation.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=37807&dcn=e_gvet

57. FBI's budget chock-full of tech-related efforts (By Andrew Noyes, National Journal's Technology Daily, 21 Aug 2007)

The FBI would get \$6.4 billion for its increasingly high-tech crime-fighting mission in fiscal 2008 under the House-passed appropriations bill and \$125 million less from the Senate measure, which awaits a floor vote when lawmakers return in September. The House calculation is \$148 million more than the Bush administration's request and \$508 million more than fiscal 2007 funding. Both bills, H.R. 3093 and S. 1745, would assign \$2.3 billion to counter terrorism, foreign counterintelligence, and related security activities, and the legislation would make substantial program changes. The House committee report for the bill calls for 245 positions and \$40 million to boost field resources dedicated to security investigations. Another 50 positions and \$11 million would support surveillance operations.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=37817&dcn=e_gvet

58. Advanced Life Sciences Collaborates with U.S. Government to Study Cethromycin as Treatment for Anthrax and Other High-Priority Biodefense Agents (PRNewswire, 21 Aug 2007)

CHICAGO - Advanced Life Sciences Holdings, Inc., today announced the commencement of its collaboration with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the lead governmental institute supporting biodefense research, under which the NIAID will conduct studies to evaluate cethromycin, the Company's late-stage antibiotic, as a treatment for anthrax and other high-priority biodefense agents. This collaboration is part of the U.S. Government's effort to accelerate the research and development of medical countermeasures through the crucial phase of drug development between basic research and acquisition of final products under Project BioShield.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2315ym>

59. Disease Outbreak and Bioterrorism: The Ultimate Supply Chain Test (W. P. Carey School, Arizona State University, and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, 15 Aug 2007)

A smallpox outbreak starts in Los Angeles, and before long cases are reported in the Phoenix metro area, and in the small communities that dot the desert across California and Arizona. Public health officials must make decisions about how to allocate a finite number of drug doses and hospital beds - decisions that impact the spread of the disease and the number of lives lost. Ajay Vinze and Raghu Santanam, both information systems professors at the W. P. Carey School of Business, wondered what might be the best way to allocate critical resources in this scenario. They realized that, viewed from a business perspective, the public health system is actually a very large and complex supply chain - in many ways even more intricate than the highly developed supply chain of an enterprise like Wal-Mart.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://knowledge.wpcarey.asu.edu/index.cfm?fa=viewfeature&id=1456>

RESOURCES

60. Crisis Information Management Software - Information sharing during a disaster (Officer.com, 20 Aug 2007)

The age of instant communications and information sharing is all around us, and emergency management is no exception. In order for the professional emergency manager to make the most up-to-date and informed decisions during disasters, accurate, real-time information is critical.

Even with the latest technology, information is of little value if it is not collected, evaluated and used in a timely matter. One solution is in the various collaboration applications that are currently available, and are known as Crisis Information Management Software (CIMS). CIMS computer applications allow information to be collected from the field, Emergency Operations Center (EOC), HQ, etc., and then be evaluated, shared or viewed by any authorized user.

The majority of these applications are web-based, meaning that the program is not loaded locally on a computer, but rather accessed online through the internet to a remote server that hosts the application. This means that wherever the application and the important information you need is also where the Internet is. The latest versions of some of these applications support handheld devices such as the BlackBerry, Treo/Palm, and the Windows Mobile systems.

An example of how these applications work is as follows: if a tornado were to hit several counties or states in the Midwest, each affected entity could enter the type of damage that occurred, the number of injured or killed, the type of resources requested or the assets deployed. This information can then be viewed in real-time by pre-approved, authorized individuals or agencies as needed to get an up-to-the minute report as to what is happening. This greatly improves the situational awareness of all concerned, as everyone is reviewing the same information at the same time.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ytvfqq>

61. BioQuest Technologies Creates Disaster Relief Crew to Assist with Pre and Post Treatments for Hurricane Property Victims (Business Wire, 15 Aug 2007)

JUPITER, Fla. - BioQuest Technologies, Inc., a leading developer of innovative, environmentally safe antimicrobial products, today announced it has created its first disaster relief team to assist with treatments for homes and businesses that either wish to have pre treated properties or follow up post treatments for Hurricane path properties. "Our highly trained professionals have created quality protocols that will assist in reduction from bacteria, mold and mildew brought on by huge storms and hurricanes," stated Arne Rotne, President of BioQuest. "This offers better asset management and protection for those that either live or work in these properties. We are offering awareness to thousands that having their homes and businesses treated first in a proactive campaign will highly reduce your sick home and business syndrome that may occur after

such storms. Even power outages create the conditions that can grow all kinds of bacteria, mold and mildew in these properties - so the storms themselves do not even have to hit these properties head on to feel the damaging effects to your properties."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

FULL REPORTS

62. More Transparency Urged on U.S.-Canada-Mexico Security Plan (By Eric Green, USINFO Staff Writer, 17 Aug 2007)

Washington - A trilateral partnership among the United States, Canada, and Mexico is undergoing intense scrutiny as President Bush prepares to meet August 20-21 with Mexican President Felipe Calderón and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), created in March 2005, aims to form a common approach to security to protect North America from external threats, further streamline the secure and efficient movement of legitimate, low-risk traffic across the three countries' shared borders and advance collaboration on environmental issues and public health. (See [related article](#).)

The State Department's Thomas Shannon told *USINFO* August 17 that the SPP "provides a framework for cooperation among Canada, Mexico and the United States - ranging from health and the environment to issues affecting North American competitiveness to how we can secure our borders while facilitating legitimate trade and the movement of people."

Shannon, assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, said that SPP's "essence is partnership among sovereign countries - working together we enhance our quality of life, make our economies stronger and our people more secure."

The White House has said that the August 20-21 meeting, to be held at a site outside Montreal, would review progress made in carrying out the ambitious goals of the SPP.

However, some SPP critics have expressed concerns that the partnership will erode the three countries' national sovereignty, leading to integrated hemispheric court systems and currency, following the model of the European Union.

Christopher Sands, co-author of a Hudson Institute report on the SPP, discounts such criticism.

Speaking about Canada specifically, Sands told *USINFO* August 16, "I honestly don't think the Canadian fears" about integration with the United States "are warranted by the SPP."

Sands said Canadian concerns about losing its sovereignty to the United States date back a few hundred years.

“There’s always the fear that if you’re harmonizing standards or getting rid of differences [between the countries] that the end result will be that Canada looks more like the United States, and ... that the United States will look a little bit like Canada,” Sands said.

Therefore, “people fear the loss of sovereignty and the loss of identity” that comes with making binational and trilateral agreements on a host of common issues, said Sands, who is a senior fellow at the Washington-based public policy group.

A U.S. Commerce Department fact sheet on the SPP also seeks to dispel what it calls a “myth” that the partnership would form a “North American Union and establish a common currency.” Rather, the fact sheet said, the SPP seeks to make the United States, Canada, and Mexico “open to legitimate trade and closed to terrorism and crime.”

The SPP “in no way, shape or form, considers the creation of a European Union-like structure or a common currency,” according to the fact sheet.

The Hudson Institute’s Sands said he wanted to give SPP’s critics “some credit” for their effectiveness in denouncing the partnership. He said that both “executive-level” and “low-profile” negotiations on the SPP have left many people wondering “what the heck is going on” with the partnership.

The SPP’s public outreach campaign, Sands said, “has not been great” and many of the agencies involved in the negotiations “are really poor at outreach and media briefings.” The negative result, he said, is that critics assume the worst about the SPP and the “challenge” for the United States and the other two governments involved is to say otherwise.

Another problem, he said, is that the SPP “has not accomplished much” to date. But he added that a mitigating factor is that the SPP has been in existence for only a few years. “Early deliverables” produced by the SPP, along with more transparency about the negotiating process, would help dispel criticism about the partnership, Sands said.

Sands and his co-author, Gregory Anderson, a political science professor at Canada’s University of Alberta, wrote in their 37-page report that the SPP is the successor to two previous efforts on trilateral partnerships that had stalled or expired prior to 2005. Officials in the United States, Canada and Mexico sought to use the SPP to continue progress toward greater security cooperation among the three countries, the authors wrote.

The State Department’s Thomas Shannon said he views the SPP as helping to improve the economic competitiveness of the three North American countries in the global market, and to improve trading relationships within the region. More important, Shannon said, the SPP allows officials to work together to protect the prosperity and the well-being of the citizens in the three countries.

Shannon said in a July 5 podcast that the SPP respects the national sovereignty of its three member nations, but that the countries “share a common economic space and a common geographic space that we have to protect” from potential outside attack.

The [full text](#) of the Hudson Institute report is available on the organization’s Web site.

A [fact sheet](#) on myths about the SPP is available on the Commerce Department Web site.

[More information](#) on the SPP also is available on the White House Web site.

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