
CABLE Gram
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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 50

29 August 2006 CABLE Gram™

Good Morning All,

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60. "Emergency Communications: The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and All-Hazard Warnings," Congressional Research Service Report updated July 17, 2006
61. "Homeland Security Department: FY2007 Appropriations," Congressional Research Service Report updated July 5, 2006
62. "Privacy: An Abbreviated Outline of Federal Statutes Governing Wiretapping and Electronic Eavesdropping," Congressional Research Service Report updated May 5, 2006

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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Issues covered in the CABLE Gram include: Homeland Defense, Homeland Security, Terrorism, Federal Law Enforcement, First Responders, Money Laundering, Identity Theft, NBC Weapons, Cybercrimes, Smuggling, Narco Trafficking, Hazardous Materials and other related topics.

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

FEDERAL

1. US Airways flight disrupted by threat (Reuters, 28 Aug 2006)

WASHINGTON - A US Airways flight en route to Houston from Philadelphia was diverted to Bristol, Tennessee, Monday after a bomb threat was found in a note on board, officials said. The plane landed at the Tri-Cities Airport, which serves eastern Tennessee, southwestern Virginia and western North Carolina, and the passengers were being questioned by the FBI after leaving the plane, a Transportation Security Administration official said. "It's a Philadelphia to Houston flight that was diverted to TRI, which is Tri Cities Airport in Tennessee, due to a threatening note," the TSA spokesperson said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/08/28/plane.note.reut/index.html>

2. Checked luggage strains security (USA Today, 24 Aug 2006)

Air travelers are checking an unprecedented amount of luggage after the recent disclosure of an alleged terrorist plot, an onslaught that threatens to overwhelm bomb detectors and create security gaps, the nation's aviation-security chief said Wednesday. In an interview with USA TODAY, Transportation Security Administration head Kip Hawley said there has been a 20% surge in checked luggage at U.S. airports since liquids were banned from carry-on bags Aug. 10. Domestic passengers usually check almost 1 billion bags each year, according to the Air Transport Association, an airline trade group. The increase means that the nation's security screeners are handling more than half a million additional checked bags each day. The sudden increase "puts on a strain that could result in some vulnerabilities," Hawley said. The system that screens all checked luggage for bombs "is being stressed," he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-08-23-checked-baggage_x.htm

3. Trans-Atlantic flight diverted to Maine because of threat (AP, 25 Aug 2006)

BANGOR, Maine - Passengers aboard a trans-Atlantic flight to Chicago that was diverted Friday to Bangor International Airport said a man was pulled out of line, handcuffed and placed in a police car as they were leaving the jetliner. FBI spokeswoman Gail Marcinkiewicz said no one was arrested but she declined to say if anyone who was aboard American Airlines Flight 55 from Manchester, England, was in custody. The Boeing 767, which was carrying 167 passengers and 12 crew members, was diverted at the request of the Transportation Security Administration. It landed in Bangor at 12:59 p.m., and passengers were taken off the plane and questioned. "Suffice to say, the TSA had learned of a reported threat while the plane was en route to Chicago which contributed to the plane being diverted," Marcinkiewicz said. She declined to elaborate on the source of the threat. She also declined to say whether officials believed the threat was legitimate.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?J196137AD>

4. Overseas Airports Can Be Weak Link (AP, 26 Aug 2006)

A passenger's stick of dynamite on a flight from Argentina to Houston exposed a weak link in aviation security: International airports are not always as secure as those in the United States. U.S. and Argentine authorities were investigating how the explosive made it onto the airplane in a college student's checked bag. The dynamite was discovered during a baggage search in an inspection station at Bush Intercontinental Airport shortly after a Continental Airlines flight landed Friday. Officials said terrorism was not involved and that the student said he works in mining and often handles explosives. The head of the Transportation Security Administration said the government is aware of the potential problem posed by international airports and is taking steps to fix it.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtop.com/?nid=116&sid=893965>

5. 7 Incidents in a Day Show Air Travel Anxiety Is Up (Los Angeles Times, 26 Aug 2006)

BOSTON - Amid renewed anxiety about air travel and tough new regulations about what passengers may bring on planes, at least seven U.S. flights were involved in security incidents Friday. In one case, a stick of dynamite was found to have been aboard a flight. The series of events, safety consultants and others said, reflected heightened emotions and appropriately tightened security in the wake of an alleged plot to blow up transatlantic airliners that was thwarted this month by British authorities. "I think it's a combination of both," said Douglas Laird, a Reno-based consultant to the airline industry and former longtime security director for Northwest Airlines. "I think there is a heightened awareness of what happened in London, and that causes some people to overreact."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X186327AD>

6. A year after Katrina, 12 FEMA teams activated for tropical storm (Boston Globe, 28 Aug 2006)

With a tropical storm swirling almost exactly a year after [Hurricane Katrina](#), it was déjà vu this morning for a New England-based search and rescue team. A convoy of 34 firefighters, medics and other rescue workers left Beverly Fire Department headquarters at 7 a.m. in an eight-truck convoy heading south, the same way the team responded when the monstrous hurricane hit the Gulf Coast a year ago Tuesday. The New England squad was one of 12 urban search and rescue task forces activated for [Ernesto](#), a jumble of clouds churning over Cuba that barely qualifies as a tropical storm. Its winds have dropped to 40 miles an hour, just above the 39 mile-an-hour benchmark for tropical storm status and a long way from the 73-mile-an-hour threshold for a hurricane. The system, however, is predicted to strengthen in the warm waters between Cuba and Florida, and officials say there is no such thing as being over prepared after what happened to New Orleans and the Mississippi coast last year.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?O2A7127AD>

7. Agroterrorism awareness - Coordination key to preparedness (Agriculture Online, 25 Aug 2006)

This time of year is a busy one for farmers and ranchers. It's easy to let some things slip the mind with subjects like crop marketing strategies, pest management and pre-harvest planning looming large. But, all it takes is a few seconds...a spritz of a spray bottle...the turn of the blades of a ventilation fan...the inhalation by an animal...for an act of agroterrorism to become an animal disease epidemic that could potentially bring the U.S. economy to a screeching halt. Farmers, ranchers and other rural residents should not let busy schedules and today's generally furious pace of life interfere with vigilance and awareness of agroterrorism and how they, by simple daily actions, can help prevent someone with ill intentions from carrying out an economically and physiologically debilitating attack.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?T31F225AD>

8. National Congress of American Indians responds to border concerns (Indian Country Today, 28 Aug 2006)

TUCSON, Ariz. - The Bush administration recently initiated efforts that would nullify the benefits of the Jay Treaty, which recognizes the right of border passage to indigenous peoples at the northern border; further, the administration planned to press for new laws to require DNA tests to determine Indian blood, according to Louis Guassac, executive director of the Kumeyaay Border Task Force. "The Indian tribes said, 'No way,'" Guassac said, speaking at a border workshop hosted by the Alianza Indigena sin Fronteras/Indigenous Alliance Without Borders in Tucson. Guassac said that in response to these plans of the Bush administration and other new regulations for border-crossers, the National Congress of American Indians has passed two resolutions. The resolutions call on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to enter into government-to-government consultation with Native tribes on border issues, including consultation on a proposed national Indigenous Identification Card for border pass and re-pass.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.indiancountry.com/content.cfm?id=1096413530>

9. Army Corps takes steps to fix shortcomings exposed by Katrina (GovExec.com, 28 Aug 2006)

The Army's Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, on Thursday announced that the Corps would take a dozen specific actions to transform the way it sets priorities and does business. The actions constitute the agency's "institutional response" to failures brought to light following Hurricane Katrina, he said. The plan stems from the Corps-commissioned Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force and other reviews of the agency's performance both before and after the hurricane made landfall. Among the most significant changes will be a more rigorous focus on risk analysis in both project design and construction, and a more comprehensive effort to communicate that risk to the public and other stakeholders.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34880&dcn=e_gvet

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

10. CA: Navy Men Get Prison For Smuggling Illegal Immigrants (NBCSandiego.com, 25 Aug 2006)

SAN DIEGO - Two men have each been sentenced to three years in prison for smuggling illegal immigrants across the U.S.-Mexican border in San Diego while they were serving in the U.S. Navy. Antonio Pina and Jose Guadalupe Hernandez-Valdez pleaded guilty in May. U.S. District Judge Napoleon Jones sentenced Hernandez-Valdez Wednesday and Pina on Thursday. Pina admitted to leading six illegal immigrants through the Old Port Building at the San Ysidro border crossing, authorities said. He was to be paid \$3,000 per person. At the time, he was on duty as master at arms for the Navy's Shore Patrol.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/9735132/detail.html>

11. FL: Woman gets 5-year prison term in identity-theft case (Orlando Sentinel, 26 Aug 2006)

A Polk County woman was sentenced to five years in prison after pleading guilty to participating in an identity-theft ring that operated in Central Florida, the Florida Attorney General's Office said Friday. Jeri Lynn Caruthers, 31, pleaded guilty to charges of organized scheme to defraud and criminal use of personal-identification information. The ID-theft ring stole mail to obtain personal information, including bank-account numbers from more than 20 victims during a six-month period. The stolen information was then used to create fake checks and open credit-card accounts. More than \$70,000 was stolen, the report said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?A176517AD>

12. GA: State equipped to handle agroterror (Red and Black, 25 Aug 2006)

The United States may be vulnerable to a terrorist attack on its food supply, but Georgia is one of the best prepared states in the nation, a panel of experts said at a Congressional field hearing on campus Thursday. Emphasizing the University's rising importance in the area of agroterrorism research, the U.S. House Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack held a hearing in the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. Four Georgia congressmen expressed their frustration with the nation's current agro- and bio-terrorism defense plan as they questioned the panel of experts at the hearing, "Agroterrorism's Perfect Storm: Where Human and Animal Disease Collide."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.redandblack.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2006/08/25/44ee6766acee5>

13. ID: Dennis Franz Helps Out Idaho Police (AP, 27 Aug 2006)

HAYDEN LAKE, Idaho - He's not a police officer, but he played one on TV. "NYPD Blue" star Dennis Franz, a multiple Emmy-winner who recently moved to Coeur d'Alene, was celebrity guest at a golf fundraiser for the Kootenai County Police and Fire Memorial Foundation. "I am a tremendous supporter of law enforcement, wherever I go," Franz said. "I just feel a great debt of gratitude." The newly formed organization hopes to help injured police and firefighters, and the families of those killed in the line of duty. The Friday tournament raised more than \$20,000. Formed by retired officers after a shooting left Coeur d'Alene police officer Michael Kralicek with severe injuries and hefty medical bills, the foundation is based on a similar organization in Los Angeles.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=894197>

14. IL: A matter of preparedness - Agency also opens doors to grant funding (The Register-Mail, 27 Aug 2006)

MONMOUTH - Supporters of a Warren County Health Department say one is needed to help the county be prepared if emergencies involving bioterrorism or pandemic flu were to break out in the region. Besides helping the county prepare, they say the county can tap into grants for disaster preparation with a health department in place. "I think it's absolutely mandatory that we get it done right now," said Don Brown, CEO of Community Medical Center. "Warren County is missing out on grant funds for both avian flu and bioterrorism grant money. I think we absolutely need to get it done. We can certainly do it without any additional tax burden on the public." The Warren County Board will meet in special session Monday night to vote on a resolution to form a county health department.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.register-mail.com/stories/082706/MAI_BAPMEG2L.GID.shtml

15. IN: Sting net two suspects, 47 barrels of hazardous materials (AP, 27 Aug 2006)

GARY, Ind. - A police raid on an industrial warehouse led to the arrests of two Illinois men accused of illegally storing a hazardous material used in steel production. Police and fire personnel waited several hours Saturday with state environmental officials outside the warehouse until a tractor-trailer approached the building. Officers ordered the driver to pull over, blocked the road and drew their firearms. Although the trailer was empty, officials entered the warehouse and confiscated 47 barrels of magnesium nitrate granules,

which is used to make steel and can react violently with water. The tractor-trailer's driver, Douglas McGlothlin, 47 of Alsip, Ill., was arrested and accused of storing the granules in 55-gallon barrels.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/15376165.htm>

16. IA: Rescue Crews Simulate Emergency Situation (KWVL, 26 Aug 2006)

Eastern Iowa emergency crews coordinated their efforts Saturday to make sure if disaster happens they could provide an effective response. The Hudson Fire Department simulated a chemical spill at the East Central Iowa Co-op. During the drill, the Northeast Iowa Hazardous Materials team and area fire departments worked together to contain the spill and help those who were injured. Emergency crews say they want to improve communication between departments that would respond to a real chemical spill.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kwvl.com/Global/story.asp?S=5330618&nav=2Ifu>

17. MO: Activist's Remark Starts FBI Probe (AP, 26 Aug 2006)

ST. LOUIS - Jim Bensman thought his suggestion during a public hearing was harmless enough: Instead of building a channel so migratory fish could go around a dam on the Mississippi River, just get rid of the dam. Instead, the environmental activist found himself in hot water, drawing FBI scrutiny to see whether he had any terrorist intentions. The case "shows just how easy it is to be labeled a suspected terrorist," he says.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Q20F625AD>

18. OR: Stolen time cards raise ID theft concerns for employees (KATU, 23 Aug 2006)

BEAVERTON, Ore. - About 1,600 employees of the Beaverton School district are at risk of identity theft after their personal information was stolen. Administrators first discovered the theft on July 24th when someone kicked down the door of the district's storage shed which is on the grounds near the Administration building. The thieves took a box full of time cards which listed extra hours worked by employees in January and April of 2003. The slips had names and social security numbers, but not addresses and while the district is doing what it can to help the employees monitor their credit Beaverton police say the theft speaks to a greater problem: employers using social security numbers to identify employees.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.katu.com/stories/88628.html>

19. PA: \$1.07M grant will help Montco fight bioterrorism (Pottstown Mercury, 25 Aug 2006)

NORRISTOWN - The Montgomery County Health Department will receive a three More than half of those funds will pay the salaries and benefits of a bioterrorism coordinator, a communications manager and an epidemiologist, according to Health Department Deputy Director Kevin Smith. An epidemiologist keeps on top of statistics and reports to

determine any health trends or disease outbreaks. In addition to funding personnel, the grant funds will be used for equipment and public education, according to Smith, who also serves as the department's bioterrorism coordinator.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V2FE125AD>

20. TX: Texas Immigration Proposal Draws Protest (AP, 26 Aug 2006)

FARMERS BRANCH, Texas - Clutching American flags and signs that read "America was formed by immigrants," more than 300 protesters on Saturday denounced a city proposal that would prohibit landlords from leasing to illegal immigrants. About two dozen counter-protesters staged a demonstration nearby. The proposal by City Councilman Tim O'Hare would also make it tougher for illegal immigrants to work in the Dallas suburb, penalize businesses that employ undocumented workers and make English the city's official language. Protesters branded the proposal a racist initiative that would single out Hispanics, who make up about 37 percent of the city's population, according to U.S. Census Bureau figures from 2000.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.breitbart.com/news/2006/08/26/D8JOE29G0.html>

21. VT: 'They did exactly what they were trained to do' (Rutland Herald, 27 Aug 2006)

ESSEX – The teachers and staff of the Essex Elementary School did "exactly what they were trained to do," according to Jim Fitzpatrick, superintendent of the Essex Town School District, in an interview on Saturday. Fitzpatrick said the 39 staff members at the school immediately attempted to lock down the school on Thursday when a lone gunman went on a rampage, shooting two staffers in search of his ex-girlfriend, Andrea Lambesis. Christopher Williams, 27, allegedly shot and killed Mary Alicia Shanks, a second-grade teacher, and wounded Mary Snedeker, a first-grade teacher. Shanks, 56, died in her classroom. Snedeker, 52, was shot at through a window. School was not in session at the time of the shootings.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?A166217AD>

22. VA: Submariner accused of espionage, desertion faces general court martial (The Virginian-Pilot, 25 Aug 2006)

A Navy submariner accused of espionage and desertion will face a general court-martial, a top Navy official has decided. Adm. John B. Nathman, commander of the U.S. Navy's Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, approved the prosecution of six charges against Ariel J. Weinmann, a petty officer third class, the Navy announced Friday. Weinmann is being held in the Norfolk brig. A trial date has not been set.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://home.hamptonroads.com/stories/story.cfm?story=109856&ran=107175>

23. VA: Ex-teacher gets 15-years for aiding terror group (AP, 25 Aug 2006)

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia - A former third-grade teacher at a Muslim school was sentenced to 15 years in prison Friday for providing support to a Pakistani terrorist

organization. Ali Asad Chandia, 29, who taught at the al-Huda school in College Park, Maryland, is one of 11 Muslim men convicted in what prosecutors called a "Virginia jihad network." The network involved a group of men who played paintball in the Virginia woods in 2000 and 2001 as a means of training for global holy war. After the September 11 attacks, some group members turned their efforts against the United States, traveling to Pakistan with the goal of receiving military training and joining the Taliban in its fight against U.S. troops. None ever made it into Afghanistan.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/LAW/08/25/terror.paintball.ap/index.html>

KEY PEOPLE

24. WA: Indian Island command changes hands (Peninsula Daily News, 27 Aug 2006)

INDIAN ISLAND - Command of Naval Magazine Indian Island changed Friday during an official ceremony on the island. Capt. Jonathan Kurtz, commanding officer since July 2004 of the Navy's most strategically important weapons base on the West Coast, handed that role to Cmdr. George Whitbred during the morning ceremony. Kurtz's next assignment will be as commanding officer of Naval Weapons Seal Beach in Southern California. Whitbred, a 41-year-old native of Campbell, N.Y., served on the staff of U.S. Fleet Forces Command and U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, Va., as the Maritime Homeland Defense Special Operations Forces staff officer from 2003 to 2005.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/sited/story/html/263322>

GANG ACTIVITY

25. CA: Multicounty gang task force planned (Mercury-Register, 25 Aug 2006)

REDDING - Police agencies from throughout Northern California met in Redding on Wednesday to discuss the formation of a North State Anti-Gang Enforcement cooperative. Redding Police Chief Leonard Moty, who said he started a similar group among Shasta County law enforcement agencies a few years ago, said the purpose of the group will be to provide mutual support and share information about gang members and gang activities. Moty said gangs are highly mobile, and one of the missions of the cooperative will be to keep members from moving to different jurisdictions. "In the past, counties have tended to push gang members from one place to another," Moty said. "We hope this program will get them behind bars, or drive them to another area far away," Moty said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.oroillemr.com/news/chico/ci_4235670

26. FL: Gang war started over girl (South Florida Sun-Sentinel, 28 Aug 2006)

BOYNTON BEACH - The recent wave of gang shootings and drive-bys isn't over drugs, money or turf. It's over a girl, investigators said. It started in February, when a girl who was dating a member of one gang started going out with a member of another. That sparked a fight that ended in a shooting in the parking lot of Club Boca near Boca Raton.

Frisner St. Cyr, 24, who police said is a member of the gang B-Town Boys, suffered minor injuries. B-Town Boys of Boynton Beach and a rival gang, San Castle Soldiers, based north of the city, have been in a street war using military assault rifles and automatic handguns.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?L267417AD>

27. FL: Haitian gang rivalry leads to bloodshed (Palm Beach Post, 25 Aug 2006)

Their feud stems from a San Castle Soldiers rap video on the Internet - lyrics that send a pounding, ominous threat: 'You cross that line boy then I'm takin' your life.' Add to the volatile mix a dispute over a woman and a leadership vacuum and you're left with a full-blown power struggle that's putting the public at risk. ``It all goes back to mack [sex], murder and money. It's however and wherever I can make my money and have respect," Boynton Beach police investigator Troy Raines said. ``That's their way of life. There is no tomorrow. That's their mindset."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/15354817.htm>

28. FL: More Charges Filed Against Alleged Gang Leader (The Tampa Tribune, 25 Aug 2006)

TAMPA - Authorities filed additional charges against a man they say has been running the Latin Kings gang in Florida for the past three years. Late Thursday, a charge of conspiracy to commit racketeering, or RICO violation, was filed against Michael Victor Lugo. Lugo, 28, has been held in Hillsborough County since late May on charges that he and other Latin Kings members kidnapped and beat the former leader of the gang in Tampa, Alexander Valdez Perez.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.tbo.com/news/metro/MGBD4W03ARE.html>

29. IL: Alleged gang member convicted in firebomb attack that killed two (AP, 25 Aug 2006)

JOLIET, Ill. - An alleged gang member has been convicted in a firebomb attack last year that killed a Joliet woman and her young daughter. A Will County jury Thursday found Juan Santana, 26, of Joliet guilty of murder and aggravated arson in the April 9, 2005, bombing. Prosecutors said Santana and Ignacio Jacobo, 20, threw a Molotov cocktail into the first floor of a Joliet home, causing a fire that killed Lourdes Nunez, 35, and her 4-year-old daughter Merary. Nunez's sons, a 12-year-old and a 14-year-old, escaped with minor injuries. A 15-year-old daughter wasn't home at the time.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.belleville.com/mld/belleville/news/state/15359419.htm>

30. NY: Shooting rampage suspect taken to Bellevue (AP, 27 Aug 2006)

The suspect in a bizarre shooting rampage awaited arraignment on murder and other charges Sunday and was hospitalized for psychiatric evaluation. Matthew Colletta, 34, of Woodhaven was taken Sunday to Bellevue Hospital Center in Manhattan, where he was expected to be admitted for psychiatric observation. Colletta's attorney, Todd Greenberg,

said Colletta has a long history of mental illness and has been diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic. Meanwhile, family and friend remembered the Long Island father who was returning home from taking a daughter to college when he was fatally shot, allegedly by Colletta.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?B256157AD>

31. NC: Local community prepares for gang war (News 14 Carolina, 27 Aug 2006)

CHARLOTTE - Graffiti in one Charlotte community may be more than an eyesore. Police say it could be a sign of more trouble to come. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department said they have seen gang activity from the Kings gang in the Hidden Valley Community, but now the Bloods gang may be trying to move in. Saturday morning, neighbors awoke to messages that read, "Blood City," painted in red on fire hydrants and signs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.news14charlotte.com/content/local_news/?AC=&ArID=125811&SecID=2

32. TN: Latino Street Gang in Cleveland, TN (WDEF-TV/DT, 24 Aug 2006)

The discovery of a body in a burnt-out car in Polk County has had serious implications throughout the area. Authorities link at least two people in custody in connection with the death to a latin street gang called MS-13. Here's what we know about the gang. • It started in El Salvador as guerillas fighting in that country's civil war. • It numbers more than 40-thousand members in North, Central and South America. • They are extremely violent, dealing in drug smuggling, gun running , theft and protection strong-arming. Now it appears some members have set up shop in Cleveland, Tennessee. News 12's Louis Lee reports on police concerns.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P246227AD>

33. TX: HPD Kicks Off Gang Violence Initiative (Click2Houston.com, 25 Aug 2006)

HOUSTON - Local, state and federal agencies teamed up to combat gang violence in Houston, KPRC Local 2 reported. The Houston Police Department announced the Violent Crime Gang Initiative on Friday. Officials said the department will receive funding and the assistance of 10 FBI agents to help identify and dismantle violent gangs. "The goal is to target the most violent gangs in the Houston-area, arrest and prosecute targeted gang members and disrupt and dismantle the gangs themselves," Chief Harold Hurtt said. Some of the people targeted are part of local gangs and some have links to foreign gangs, officials said. Officials hope to stop violence before it gets worse.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.click2houston.com/news/9738401/detail.html>

34. VT: Police blame drugs, street gang for uptick in slayings (WCAX-TV, 28 Aug 2006)

BUFFALO, N.Y. The number of homicides in Buffalo this year has risen due to the combination of drug warfare and the resurgence of a notorious street gang. That's according to homicide investigators in Buffalo, where 51 homicides have been committed

so far this year, compared with 56 for all of 2005. The most recent victim is 21-year-old Carlos Ross. He's one of three brothers fatally shot in the past five years. Investigators say all three are believed to have been directly or indirectly involved in the city's drug trade.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=5334056&nav=4QcS>

35. VA: Alleged Gang Member Caught In Loudoun (Leesburg2day.com, 25 Aug 2006)

An alleged MS-13 gang member convicted of murder who escaped from a prison in El Salvador was captured in Loudoun County in July. Loudoun Sheriff's Office spokesman Kraig Troxell explained that the authorities didn't release details of the capture because they weren't positive the person was Juan Elias Rodriguez-Luna. Confirmation that the person was Rodriguez-Luna came Wednesday, he said. "He was under a false name," Troxell said. "We believed it was this guy."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.leesburg2day.com/current.cfm?catid=6&newsid=12422>

36. WA: Gang worries grow in area - Upturn in violence first since mid '90s (The Olympian, 27 Aug 2006)

Gang activity is escalating statewide, a new study this year by the Washington Attorney General's Office shows. That comes as solemn news to law enforcement agencies because gang violence had been declining across Washington since the mid-1980s and early 1990s, when it reached its peak. "We're not the least bit blind to the fact that we have a gang presence in Olympia of varying types," Olympia Police Cmdr. Tor Bjornstad said. State law defines gangs as a group of three or more people that has identifiable leadership and regularly conspires and acts together for criminal purposes.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://159.54.227.3/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060827/NEWS/608270354>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

37. AZ/CA: Minutemen Helping To Curb Drug Smuggling (10 News.com, 25 Aug 2006)

SAN DIEGO - The minutemen at the Arizona-Mexico border have helped to curb drug smuggling. A new drug enforcement administration report shows that over the past two years, drug seizures for marijuana have doubled and for cocaine they have quadrupled. The report partially attributed the change to the minutemen. However, the report states that the minutemen have not curbed drug smuggling into San Diego significantly.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.10news.com/news/9738956/detail.html>

38. ID: Cocaine bust thwarts Lynyrd Skynyrd concert attendance (AP, 25 Aug 2006)

TWIN FALLS - Idaho State Police seized nearly \$9,000 worth of cocaine from a man they say was headed south across the southern Idaho border to a classic rock concert in a northern Nevada casino town of Jackpot. A 48-year-old Heyburn, Idaho, resident was

arrested on US Interstate 93, about a mile south of Hollister. That's after the driver who was taking him to a concert by Lynyrd Skynyrd was pulled over for allegedly going over the 60 miles per hour speed limit. The officer says he smelled marijuana inside the vehicle, and a subsequent search of the car uncovered about 88 grams of the illegal white powder.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?B677257AD>

39. MD: Parkville man pleads guilty to cocaine charges (AP, 25 Aug 2006)

Two brothers have pleaded guilty to running a major drug operation that distributed cocaine in Hagerstown and elsewhere, federal prosecutors announced today. William Wells, 33, of Parkville, pleaded guilty today to conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine. His 30-year-old brother, Leonardo Wells of Baltimore, pleaded guilty Monday to the same charge.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Q287157AD>

40. PA: Four charged in cocaine ring (The Valley Independent, 26 Aug 2006)

State investigators charged four suspects Friday in a \$500,000 cocaine distribution ring in which an inmate at a state prison in Fayette County allegedly directed three relatives by telephone how to transport the drugs from the Philadelphia area to Southwestern Pennsylvania. Known as "Operation Pen Pals," the six-month investigation began in February after security officers at the State Correctional Institution in Luzerne Township informed state police that they suspected the inmate, Donta T. Thomas, 29, of Republic, Fayette County, was coordinating the illegal operation on prison phones.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleyindependent/news/s_467867.html

41. Canada: Border guard convicted of drug smuggling (The StarPhoenix, 25 Aug 2006)

A woman from Saskatoon who was an inspector for the Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA) will spend three years in a United States prison for helping smuggle more than 700 kilograms of marijuana into the U.S. Rose Chetrit Palmer, who worked for the agency in Stanstead, Que., crossed the border into Vermont in September 2004 and was arrested on an outstanding warrant. The 53-year-old woman, who had worked with the agency for 20 years, pleaded guilty last April to conspiring with eight other people to import more than 100 kilograms of marijuana into the U.S. Assistant U.S. Attorney James Gelber said prosecutors believe Palmer would ride in vehicles carrying deliveries of marijuana from Quebec into Vermont.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?O2B6127AD>

42. Mexican narcotics Mafia invades Peru (Dominican Today, 26 Aug 2006)

LIMA.- Peruvian police has arrested 25 Mexican narcotics traffickers in the last 18 months. This unprecedented number of arrests involving Mexican nationals is, according to Peruvian authorities due to the presence in that country of the five major narcotics

cartels from Mexico operating in order to supply their North American market. The United States anti drug Office (DEA, for its abbreviations in English) assures that 30 percent of the cocaine that enters that country come from Peru and is smuggled by Mexican Mafias. After the American Coast Guard captured a fishing boat with 4.7 tons of cocaine on board on July the 28th, which aimed at transferring its cargo to Mexico, the amount of cocaine seized this year so far amounts to 12 tons, 300 Kilograms more than in 2005.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dominicantoday.com/app/article.aspx?id=16834>

43. Tri-border organized crime stirs concern (Washington Times, 25 Aug 2006)

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia - Concerns about renewed criminal activity in South America's tri-border area have prompted calls for a joint intelligence center to monitor the borders. "The government is worried about increasing organized crime in the zone, which is the reason that it's taking measures," said a spokesman for Brazil's Federal Police, which this month announced the creation of a unit to upgrade border controls with Argentina and Paraguay from a new base in Foz D'Iguazu. The calls come amid reports from Argentina's police that about a dozen members of Hezbollah have arrived from Lebanon in recent weeks. Arab groups have long been suspected of using the tri-border area to launder money for terrorist organizations in the Middle East. Although the reports concerning Hezbollah cannot be independently verified, a member of the Islamic militant group's political committee, Muafak Jamal, told the Argentine newspaper La Nacion last week that his organization raises funds in South America.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20060824-101025-1986r.htm>

44. Saudi guards executed for smuggling (GulfNews.com, 28 Aug 2006)

Riyadh: Two Saudi border guards were beheaded on Monday after being found guilty of smuggling drugs into Saudi Arabia. An Interior Ministry statement said Ma'idh Al Waily and Mahdi Al Mansour had been transporting drugs in patrol vehicles. The men were beheaded by sword at Arar, a border crossing town into Iraq. Five executions have reportedly taken place in the kingdom this year. Eighty-six people were put to death in 2005 and 35 in 2004.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.gulfnews.com/region/Saudi_Arabia/10063311.html

45. Dubai: One gets life imprisonment for smuggling drugs (GulfNews.com, 29 Aug 2006)

Dubai: A Pakistani drug dealer who smuggled heroin capsules in his stomach has been sentenced to life in jail, a court ruled yesterday. The Dubai Court of First Instance sentenced 32-year-old F.A. to life imprisonment and seizure of the capsules. He will be deported after serving his term. F.A. arrived at Dubai International Airport from Pakistan in March. When he entered the arrivals hall, an airport inspector suspected him and upon a physical search and X-ray examination the strange capsules were detected in his stomach.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.gulfnews.com/nation/Police_and_The_Courts/10063413.html

46. India: Delhi Police seize 4,400 kg of mandrax in record haul (Indo-Asian News Service, 28 Aug 2006)

In one of the biggest narcotic hauls in recent times, Delhi Police has seized 4,400 kg of mandrax worth Rs 2 billion (\$42 million) from a south Delhi area, destined most probably for South Africa. The seizure of mandrax, just eight days after 100 kg of banned narcotic ephedrine and three kg of hashish were caught on August 20, took place late on Sunday from a godown in the Badarpur area in south Delhi. A person called Vinod Sharma has been arrested in this connection from nearby Kalkaji.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_1779624,000600010001.htm

47. Australia: Ex-banker convicted in cocaine conspiracy (News.com.au, 28 Aug 2006)

A former Macquarie Bank executive has been convicted of conspiring to import cocaine into Australia. Ian Robert Chalmers, 41, of Paddington in Sydney, pleaded not guilty to the charge when he faced trial in the NSW District Court. The court was told he was part of a syndicate that plotted in 2005 to smuggle cocaine from Argentina into Sydney with the help of airport baggage handlers. Chalmers was accused of buying plane tickets for a drug courier and organising tickets and travel for another conspirator. The plan involved a courier flying to Sydney from South America before joining a connecting Qantas flight to another state, the jury heard. The bag containing the drugs was to be intercepted by baggage handlers at Sydney Airport before it was placed on the connecting flight.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,20278226-1702,00.html>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

48. Investigator urges companies to report cybercrime (IDG News Service, 24 Aug 2006)

Companies that work with law enforcement agencies on cybercrime can get valuable information, including lists of hostile IP addresses and information on new types of attacks, a U.S. Air Force cybercrime investigator said today. During a presentation at the 2006 InfraGard National Conference - which is focused on protecting U.S. critical infrastructure - Wendi Whitmore, a special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, urged companies that are victims of cybercrime to report the problems to law enforcement agencies. Even though many cybercriminals don't get caught, the sharing of information between law enforcement and private businesses can help both groups develop better defenses, she said. Some cybercriminals do get caught, and those arrests serve as a deterrent to others considering cyberscams, she said. "No criminal prosecution is ever going to be taken if the crime is never reported to law enforcement," Whitmore added. "Until we start developing longer lists of people who got five years, who got 10 years [in jail], who had to pay back hundreds of thousands of dollars, then you're not going to have a deterrent."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M3C6257AD>

49. The U.S. to seek extradition of 3 wanted in Dominican spyware case (Dominican Today, 25 Aug 2006)

SANTO DOMINGO.- U.S. federal agents are expected to arrive in the country tomorrow to ask for the extradition of 3 Dominican citizens, as well as to widen the investigation into the traffic of equipment and technology used to eavesdrop on phone conversations. The agents will investigate also on the laundering and trafficking with dollars and cellphones. The foreign investigators will meet with Dominican intelligence and Customs officials, to exchange information on how the smugglers retrieve the equipment from the ports and airports. The local probe determined that many shipments were transacted by private courier companies whose operations include different U.S. cities, but the group base of operations are Miami and New York. According to investigators the smuggling ring was uncovered as the result of 3 months intelligence work, which confirmed that the group had become a supplier for 3 large companies which sell cellphones and other equipment.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dominicantoday.com/app/article.aspx?id=16816>

50. WA: Man gets 3 years for 'botnet' attack (AP, 26 Aug 2006)

SEATTLE - A man was sentenced to three years in prison Friday for launching a computer attack that hit tens of thousands of computers, including some belonging to the Department of Defense, a Seattle hospital and a California school district. Christopher Maxwell, 21, of Vacaville, Calif., was also sentenced to three years of supervised release. He pleaded guilty in May to federal charges of conspiracy to intentionally cause damage to a protected computer and conspiracy to commit computer fraud. U.S. District Judge Marsha J. Pechman said the crime showed "incredible self-centeredness" with little regard for the impact on others. She said the prison time was needed as "deterrence for all those youth out there who are squirreled away in their basements hacking."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20060826/ap_on_hi_te/hospital_computer_attack

COUNTERFEIT

51. Suspects Admits Smuggling N.Korean 'Supernotes' (Chosun Ilbo, 28 Aug 2006)

A Californian man indicted on charges of smuggling counterfeit dollars into the U.S. testified at his trial that the high-quality counterfeit US\$100 bills or "supernotes" were manufactured in North Korea, the National Intelligence Service said Monday. The NIS reported to the National Assembly's Intelligence Committee that the man admitted conspiracy to smuggle the supernotes and admitted where the phony bills were made. The man is a Chinese-American named Chao Tung Wu, the NIS said. There have been reports in the U.S. media quoting anonymous government officials as saying the supernotes were made in North Korea, but this is the first time the claim was confirmed in legal testimony by a chief suspect. A joint taskforce of the FBI, the CIA, the Justice Department and the Treasury conducted secret investigations and rounded up 59 suspects around the U.S. on charges of smuggling counterfeit dollars and cigarettes in August last year. The taskforce

worked under the code name "Smoking Dragon" and "Royal Charm" between 1999 and 2005. It alleges suspects attempted to smuggle millions worth of forged dollars and some \$40 million worth of counterfeit cigarettes.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://english.chosun.com/w21data/html/news/200608/200608280028.html>

TECHNOLOGY

52. Raytheon targets nuclear smuggling (Boston Globe, 28 Aug 2006)

ANDOVER - Raytheon Co., whose military radars scan the skies to spot hostile aircraft and missiles, is readying a new system that will help US border authorities peer into trucks, rail cars, and shipping containers to thwart the smuggling of nuclear materials. The nuclear detection system, called an advanced spectroscopic portal, or ASP, is part of a Raytheon push into the growing homeland security market. And its partnership with a Canadian company on the screening program is pioneering a new collaboration model, enabling the Waltham defense contractor to rapidly adopt emerging technologies to use in homeland security. "There's a lot of ways we can use technology to make our country safer from terrorist attacks," said Michael A. Sharp, the ASP program director at Raytheon's Integrated Defense Systems unit here.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?N297427AD>

53. Defense companies competing to build high-tech shield at U.S. borders (Mercury News, 25 Aug 2006)

WASHINGTON - The Bush administration is expected next month to choose an industry consortium to erect a high-tech security shield along the U.S. borders, launching one of the federal government's most ambitious public-works projects in years. The Department of Homeland Security calls the proposed Secure Border Initiative Net the "most comprehensive effort in the nation's history" to gain control of more than 6,000 miles of border with Mexico and Canada as well as 2,000 miles of coastline. SBInet is a centerpiece of President Bush's efforts to fortify the porous U.S.-Mexico border at a time when Congress is locked in a struggle to overhaul the nation's immigration laws. Administration officials say they intend to proceed with the security net regardless of the outcome of the debate over immigration legislation. The multibillion-dollar undertaking has ignited an intensely fought contract battle among industry teams headed by four leading defense companies - Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Raytheon - and Ericsson, the Swedish-based telecommunications giant with U.S. headquarters in Plano, Texas.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/politics/15363187.htm>

54. Northrop nabs air-safety pact (dailynews.com, 26 Aug 2006)

MOJAVE - Northrop Grumman will continue development of an anti-terrorism system for jetliners under a Department of Homeland Security contract, an effort that could lead to additional flight test work at the Mojave Airport. Northrop Grumman has received a \$55.4 million contract to continue the development of a system aimed at decoying

shoulder-launched missiles fired at jetliners. Under the contract, Northrop Grumman will build 12 missile defense systems it calls Guardian; modify 11 MD-10 cargo aircraft to handle the system; and fly nine of the systems aboard MD-10 aircraft. "We have the technical issues in hand," said Jack Pledger, Northrop Grumman's director of business development for infrared countermeasures. "It's the operational issues that need to be taken care of. What we need to prove is the reliability of the system."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.dailynews.com/antelopevalley/ci_4244003

55. OH: Devices spy approaching trains - Group buying system to improve traffic flow near Loveland tracks (The Enquirer, 26 Aug 2006)

LOVELAND - A group working to improve railroad transportation throughout Ohio will buy a new system to regulate traffic lights at two intersections near the downtown tracks. The Ohio Rail Development Commission will spend about \$90,000 to buy computerized devices that communicate directly with railroad crossing warning systems. The units, called I-SPIs, can control nearby traffic lights to ease congestion. The system will detect an oncoming train two minutes before it hits the tracks and start changing lights so traffic doesn't continue all the way to the tracks and stop. It also will monitor that crossing gates are completely lowered and have battery backups that will keep the lights working when power is out.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M4D6127AD>

RESOURCES

56. Homeland Security Intelligence (Congressional Research Service Report) (Contributed by Steven Aftergood, Federation of American Scientists, www.fas.org)

The first in a new series of Congressional Research Service reports on homeland security intelligence presents a broad introduction to the subject. "The proliferation of intelligence and information fusion centers across the country indicate that state and local leaders believe there is value to centralizing intelligence gathering and analysis in a manner that assists them in preventing and responding to local manifestations of terrorist threats to their people, infrastructure, and other assets," the CRS report suggests. See "Homeland Security Intelligence: Perceptions, Statutory Definitions, and Approaches," August 18, 2006:

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/intel/RL33616.pdf>

57. Border shield to cost \$2.5 billion (Star-Telegram, 26 Aug 2006)

WASHINGTON - A multibillion-dollar effort to boost U.S. border security with state-of-the-art surveillance tools and more staff is under way at the Department of Homeland Security in one of the federal government's most ambitious public-works projects in years. Defense companies nationwide are vying for the lucrative contract to run the program, which has an initial projected cost of \$2.5 billion that could get much higher. State-of-the-art sensors, mounted cameras, unmanned aerial vehicles, radar and other surveillance hardware are among the new tools being bought to better protect the nation's

borders. Calls for toughening the border have intensified with the approach of the fifth anniversary of 9-11 and the recent allegations of a terrorist bomb plot in Britain.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/15368572.htm>

58. War on Terrorism Blog Surpasses 500 Entries (PRWEB, 25 Aug 2006)

San Dimas, CA - In June 2006, as he was researching book "From Cold War to Hot War: The New War on Global Terrorism," author and lecturer Lieutenant Raymond E. Foster, LAPD (ret.), MPA, realized he was amassing a tremendous amount of research.

Traditional academic research, open source information from the Department of Defense daily briefings, data from the National Counterterrorism Center and a host of daily, weekly and monthly news digests provided enough information to found a comprehensive blog on the War on Terrorism. The blog includes original works like "Terrorism: Crime or Asymmetrical Warfare;" an effort to define terrorism in the context of American criminal justice. Other original works, like the analysis of world-wide attacks on police officers provide important data, information and analysis for the development of "street" counterterrorism tactics. Indeed, that blog entry has been published by a number of American municipal police departments; and, translated by two foreign governments for use by their uniformed police officers. Updated daily, the blog can be read at <http://terrorism-online.blogspot.com/>

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/war/terrorism/prweb428707.htm>

59. "Detection of Explosives on Airline Passengers: Recommendation of the 9/11 Commission and Related Issues," Congressional Research Service Report updated August 9, 2006.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RS21920.pdf>

60. "Emergency Communications: The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and All-Hazard Warnings," Congressional Research Service Report updated July 17, 2006

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RL32527.pdf>

61. "Homeland Security Department: FY2007 Appropriations," Congressional Research Service Report updated July 5, 2006

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RL33428.pdf>

62. "Privacy: An Abbreviated Outline of Federal Statutes Governing Wiretapping and Electronic Eavesdropping," Congressional Research Service Report updated May 5, 2006

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/intel/98-327.pdf>

FULL REPORTS

63. Transcript of remarks by Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns To the Federal Bureau of Investigation InfraGard National Conference Washington D.C. - August 25, 2006

SEC. MIKE JOHANNNS: Well, thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. It's great to be here with you today. I know that you are being served a meal as I speak. Please do not allow me to interrupt that. I want you to do both. We'll do some multitasking here today if you will. So you continue with that, and I'll offer a few thoughts.

As was indicated I'd love to take a couple of questions before I depart, and for those who are in the media I'll step outside when I'm done and I'll be happy to take whatever questions that the media has.

So thanks for the nice introduction. Thanks for the warm welcome. It is a pleasure to be here with you. On behalf of the Bush Administration I'd like to thank InfraGard for hosting this national conference. This is an important conference. This program will serve as a very important venue for collaboration and education on issues critical to protecting agricultural infrastructure.

I understand that this is the first time that InfraGard has hosted a track dedicated entirely to food and agriculture. Let me just say that your foresight and level of awareness you have shown in doing so is commendable, and I appreciate it.

We are enormously blessed to have a very safe and abundant food supply in our country. In fact many of us take this for granted. Not only do our farmers and ranchers create abundance to provide for our nation, but there is enough food and fiber to sell our goods abroad in many nations as well.

We're fortunate to have a very efficient transportation system which allows the people across the country year around access to fresh crops- fresh fruit, fresh vegetables. And we have grown to expect nothing less than the very highest of quality, meat and dairy products that our ranchers and our farmers consistently provide to us and, as I said, customers around the world.

But our agricultural community provides more than just food and fiber. We're quickly developing a healthy energy industry that uses agricultural products to produce fuels and other products that will allow us to lessen our dependence on fossil fuels and on foreign sources of oil. Soybeans are being converted for use as biodiesel, literally as I speak to you. Corn is being processed to produce ethanol. And biomass from ranches and forests is helping to replace traditional fossil fuels.

Our agricultural industry is thriving. We've come off of a number of years of record harvest, and even as we have been challenged with drought, our farmers are resilient. They have endured hurricanes, they've endured floods, they've endured drought, and yet

they continue to provide the food and fiber that fuels our nation, both literally and figuratively.

My point is this. Our farmers and ranchers and all of those involved in the agricultural sectors, including the processing plants, the safety inspectors and transporters do their jobs so well that we might be tempted to take our food supply for granted. And that would be a mistake.

We have learned in a post-September 11th world that we cannot afford to take our safety, the safety of our food or ourselves for granted. Let me assure you from the start that there is no specific threat intelligence that exists that indicates an attack is being planned on our ag or on our food sectors. However, we know that there are individuals who want to harm us. And we are aware that there are people with the knowledge and capability of looking to our food supply to do harm.

And so we have to be always prepared. We must be vigilant, and we must make every effort to prevent any instance that threatens our food or our agricultural sectors.

Agriculture contributes well over \$1 trillion or about 12 percent to our gross domestic product, and it employs about 17 percent of our entire workforce in this country. Protecting this industry is critical because diseases and pathogens, whether naturally occurring or intentionally delivered, well they just don't respect geopolitical borders.

Our products move quickly from state to state and nation to nation, so pests and diseases can spread just as quickly. Since 9/11, USDA has made great strides in expanding our mission to better secure our food supply. We have been structuring our efforts based on guidance provided by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9, or HSPD9 for short.

HSPD9 establishes a national policy to defend agriculture and food system against terrorist acts, major disasters and other emergencies that may confront us. In close cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security and close cooperation with Health and Human Services, state, tribal and local governments and private sector participants, we are developing a strategy that would include the following components, and let me if I might just take a moment to list those:

Awareness and warning. Vulnerability assessments. Mitigation strategies. Response planning and recovery. Outreach. Professional development. Research. And coordinated budgets.

All of this is an attempt to bring about a seamless response. Today I would like to tell you a little bit about what we're doing to address these various components.

Now importantly, the first step in ensuring that we have a comprehensive awareness is to be alert to the dangers. One of our key goals is to expand our surveillance and monitoring systems to provide that kind of early detection in tracing of diseases and tracing of outbreaks.

Now we do this in a number of ways. For instance, we maintain the offshore test information system which would collect and analyze and communicate information about agricultural pests and diseases offshore. This information helps us to prevent pests and diseases from ever being introduced inside of our borders.

We're expanding our ongoing surveillance of food safety processes, testing for harmful chemical, biological, and physical contamination of meat and poultry or egg products so that we can quickly detect and contain such contamination or outbreak related to those products.

We're also expanding our partnership to include nontraditional partners like members of the intelligence community and our law enforcement agencies across this country. This helps ensure that we have open channels for information sharing and for current intelligence.

Now those are just a few of our programs we've put in place to increase our awareness of the possible threats.

The next step is to determine where we are vulnerable. We're doing this through the Strategic Partnership Program for Agro-terrorism, or SPPA for short. It is a joint effort with the FBI, Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Homeland Security.

Through this program we investigate a variety of industries to initiate new vulnerability assessments while validating assessments that have been conducted in the past. I think this SPPA program really embodies one of the most important aspects of all of our efforts to combat agro-terrorism. I'm referring to partnerships.

By bringing together government entities with the knowledge and the ability to protect our food and ag sector along with the private sector and state and local governments, we are able to more clearly see a comprehensive picture of possible threats and determine then how best to protect ourselves.

And we quantify our vulnerabilities. We're also working to develop mitigation strategies to minimize the impact of any problems in the food and the agricultural sector. One way that we are doing this is through the National Animal Identification and tracking system. Once fully implemented, this system will allow us to quickly trace the origin of animal diseases.

Currently I'm very pleased to report to you that five tribes, two U.S. territories, and all 50 states are capable of registering premises according to USDA standards. Now in the near future we plan to allocate animal identification numbers, so the process is well under way.

We are also partnering with DHS to develop an automated inspection system that would screen imported agricultural products in high risk cargo. This would include remote

digital imaging to quickly identify pests and a nationwide database of regulation violators.

In the event of an attack or an unintentional contamination of our food supply, it is imperative that we have systems in place for response planning and for recovery that will be necessary. USDA is revising our existing policies so that we are in compliance with the national response plan. And we're also sharpening our readiness for the instant command system.

This program gives our federal, state and local governments a unified strategy as we work together to respond to domestic incidents.

We have state level emergency response teams on standby that can be on-site within 24 hours of detection of a pest or disease. We're planning for the possibility that we will have to safely dispose of large volumes of food products should a contamination occur. So we've developed a document that provides guidance for these types of situations.

Now equally as important as preparing for a possible threat to our food supply and mitigating potential risk is ensuring that we have the ability to quickly provide accurate information to the public in the event that there is an incident.

The Extension Disaster Education Network, or EDEN as we commonly refer to it, links our educational outreach specialists in our land grant universities across this country and enables them to better communicate potential risks and mitigation strategies to the general public.

Through this network, specialists share education and research programs that are designed to reduce the impact of natural and man-made disasters. It provides a very valuable link between disaster recovery experts and creates a national database of relevant information.

We're also working to educate our farmers and our ranchers and our vets across the country so that they are able to recognize the clinical signs of biosecurity threats and infectious diseases.

Our Agricultural Urgency Response Training Force trains USDA employees to serve as emergency responders as well as providing traditional first responders with training for managing emergencies in an agricultural setting.

Professional development goes hand in hand in our outreach efforts. Because the field of food and agricultural security is so new, we have a need for trained experts. To help meet that need we're collaborating with veterinarian schools to establish extensive programs with various units within the USDA that work with animal and plant health and food safety bioterrorism vulnerability assessments.

One of the most important aspects of our work to protect our food and our ag sector is new research and development. Our experience in this area provides us with new tests to detect harmful pathogens. Our Agricultural Research Service, ARS, supports our work in biosecurity and collaborates with academia and industry to carry out important research.

The ARS also conducts Homeland Security research in three broad areas- plant protection, animal protection, and in food safety.

In addition to researching new tests, the ARS helps develop vaccines and other risk intervention strategies. We're developing a world class animal disease biocontainment facility for research and diagnostics in Ames, Iowa. This facility will house the National Animal Disease Center and the Center for Veterinary Biologics. At this facility we're creating a comprehensive suite of rapid diagnostic tests to detect and identify within hours pathogens that pose the greatest threat to our U.S. livestock.

USDA is also closely evaluating the results of industry vulnerability assessments that we're completing so that we can conduct further research into how best to minimize risk.

Lastly, we're developing a Geospacial Economic Analysis System to serve as a platform for collaborative analysis of the economic impact of events that disrupt the production, the processing and distribution or consumption of food and agricultural products in our country.

These are just some of the examples of how we're strengthening the protections of our food and our ag sectors. You'll notice that many of the programs that I highlighted are not single programs offered just by the USDA. They are collaborative efforts. That's because, ladies and gentlemen, very, very clearly USDA cannot do this alone. Agriculture is an enormously complex, if not a unique, industry. And it requires our combined efforts to protect it.

I do value conferences like this that promote partnerships where we can work together, and I appreciate the hard work of the FBI and the FDA, HHS and DHS as we cooperate on these projects.

The threat to our food sector and our ag sector is a real threat, but I believe that we are making a great deal of progress in increasing our safeguards and in mitigating that threat. I look forward to our continued critical work in this area with our partners, with you, and enhancing our already strong agricultural industry.

Well thank you for inviting me here today to offer a few thoughts, and best wishes for a very successful conference. Thank you.

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