
CABLE Gram
Collecting and Broadcasting for Law Enforcement
Subscription information available at www.cablegram.org
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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 51

31 August 2006 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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

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

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

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

FEDERAL

1. \$23 Million in Emergency Response Grants Awarded to 26 States - Seventy-four school districts to use funds to help improve crisis management (US Dept of Education, 30 Aug 2006)

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced today the award of over \$23 million in grants to 74 school districts in 26 states to help them enhance and fortify their emergency response and crisis management plans. “Knowing how to respond in a crisis and the ability to do so quickly is critical to ensuring the safety of our schools and students,” Spellings said. “These grants will help school districts incorporate appropriate methods and procedures in their emergency response plans and will also help them better coordinate with the entire community.” The Emergency Response and Crisis Management program provides funds to help local education agencies prevent or mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from crises. Funds can be used to train school personnel and students in crisis response; communicate emergency response and reunification procedures to parents and guardians; coordinate with local emergency responders, including fire and police; purchase equipment; and coordinate with groups and organizations responsible for recovery issues, such as health and mental health agencies. This year, school districts must also commit to developing a written plan designed to prepare for a possible infectious disease outbreak, such as influenza pandemic.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2006/08/08302006.html>

2. HHS To Purchase 10,000 Courses Of Anthrax Immune Globulin (US Medicine, 29 Aug 2006)

WASHINGTON - The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced it will purchase 10,000 therapeutic courses of treatment of Anthrax Immune Globulin (AIG) from Cangene Corporation of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, for a total of about \$143.8 million. This acquisition is via modifications to an existing HHS contract for anthrax therapeutics awarded to Cangene last September. Deliveries of AIG to the U.S. Strategic National Stockpile are expected to begin in 2007. Under the terms of the agreement, full payment to Cangene is contingent on the product receiving authorization for marketing in the U.S. from the Food and Drug Administration, but permits delivery of the product before licensing for emergency use should it be needed. "Our first line of defense against anthrax is antibiotics," said HHS Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Rear Adm. Craig Vanderwagen, MD, PHS, in a statement. "While additional studies are underway to determine its efficacy and ultimate role in treatment, AIG may have the potential to provide physicians with a source of human antibodies against the anthrax toxin that could improve the management of patients with the life-threatening toxemia associated with severe anthrax."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.usmedicine.com/dailyNews.cfm?dailyID=292>

3. FEMA urban rescue teams understaffed, unprepared (GovExec.com, 30 Aug 2006)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's urban search and rescue teams are underfunded, understaffed and in need of better oversight, according to a report by the Homeland Security Department's inspector general. On the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's landfall, lawmakers pointed to the report as a reminder that agencies responsible for overseeing disaster response are in need of reform. Urban search and rescue "is a great program, staffed with the cream of the crop of the first responder community," said House Homeland Security Committee Ranking Member Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss. "However, as we have seen with FEMA as a larger agency, the program lacks consistent funding, financial oversight and adequate administrative staffing to handle routine maintenance of the program."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34907&dcn=e_gvet

4. The science of networks analyzes the hidden weaknesses and strengths of critical infrastructures now at risk from terrorist attack (IEEE Spectrum, Sep 2006)

The fall of the Twin Towers on 9/11 cut off Internet service in South Africa. A cyberattack in 2003 shut down a section of the Internet, halting the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant in Ohio. Later that year, an apparently minor fault at FirstEnergy, an electric utility in Ohio, plunged 50 million North Americans into darkness. Each case posed a problem of particular concern for homeland security: how to guard critical infrastructure that is so vast and complex that we cannot afford to protect every part or anticipate the ultimate effects of a disruption? Modern societies depend on such infrastructure for

power, communications, transportation, and public health, yet everywhere governments are still addressing vulnerabilities one component at a time.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/sep06/4441>

5. Security Measures Hike Secrecy Costs (Washington Post, 31 Aug 2006)

Secrecy does not come cheap. The federal government spent \$7.7 billion last year to safeguard classified information - and that did not even include what the Central Intelligence Agency spent, says a new report by the federal Information Security Oversight Office. (The CIA's costs, wouldn't you know it, are classified.) Throw in another \$1.5 billion spent by contractors who have ties to the government and access to some classified information, and the total cost for protecting government secrets last year was \$9.2 billion, the report said. That was \$1.2 billion more than was spent in 2004. The authors of the report based the numbers on estimates from 41 executive branch agencies. The report accounts for costs associated with such things as security clearances; physical measures to protect classified facilities and information; securing computer equipment, software and databases; and security training and awareness.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?N20F35BAD>

6. ASBTA: Small Business Travelers Unfazed by Recent Terrorist Attempt; Confident in Increased Security Measures (PrimeZone, 29 Aug 2006)

DALLAS - The recent unsuccessful terrorist attempt on U.S. airlines has done little to curtail the domestic and international travel of small business travelers, according to a recent survey by the American Small Business Travelers Alliance (ASBTA), a national alliance that provides valuable services and functions focused specifically on the travel needs and interests of small business owners. The survey also revealed an overall sense of confidence among small business travelers regarding both current and proposed increased security measures. The 2006 ASBTA Airline Security Survey found that a majority of respondents (68 percent) believe airport security plans are headed in the right direction considering recent events and the overall war on terrorism. Most (81 to 89 percent) further indicated that the recent terrorist attempt does not change their plans for domestic or international travel, business related or otherwise.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.primezone.com/newsroom/news.html?d=104498>

7. Faces may reveal motives - Airports use behaviorists as part of security screening (New York Times, 30 Aug 2006)

DULLES, Va. - As the man approached the airport security checkpoint here recently, he kept picking up and putting down his backpack, touching his fingers to his chin, rubbing some object in his hands and finally reached for his pack of cigarettes, even though smoking was not allowed. Two Transportation Security Administration officers stood nearby, nearly motionless and silent, gazing straight at him. Then, with a nod, they moved in, chatting briefly with the man and then swiftly pulling him aside for an intense search. Another flier had just made the acquaintance of the TSA's "behavior detection officers." Taking a page from Israeli airport security, the transportation agency has been

experimenting with this new squad, whose members do not look for bombs, guns or knives. Instead, the assignment is to find anyone with evil intent.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G19421AAD>

8. Behavioral profiling must be balanced (Sun-Sentinel, 28 Aug 2006)

With the Transportation Security Administration's new behavioral profiling system - termed SPOT, for Screening of Passengers by Observation Techniques - going on-line in many major airports in the U.S., we must be vigilant to not allow this threat detection program to deprive us of our inalienable constitutional rights. While Rachel Patron's opinion piece in the Aug. 21 *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* highlights some obviously absurd searches by TSA officials, the new program employs a smarter system. By training TSA officials in behavioral psychology, we hope to give them the tools needed to spot a person who acts in a "suspicious" manner, rather than fits a particular profile.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Q18421AAD>

9. Homegrown terror suspects raise concern (AP, 29 Aug 2006)

Born in the USA terrorists - as well as potential ones - are stirring the government's interest. Worried about American citizens attacking their own country, law enforcement and intelligence officials are trying to learn how and why extremist sympathizers cross a line and become operational terrorists. Intelligence officials now fear that homegrown pose as much of a threat to the U.S. as foreign terrorists. State and local police are being enlisted to watch for signs from people who in the past would have never gotten a second look.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M21E528AD>

10. Reactor security fears - Part 1 (UPI, 30 Aug 2006)

Some experts still claim that insufficient safety measures have been taken to protect U.S. nuclear reactors from terrorist attacks. Nuclear watchdog groups say current safety measures would be easy to penetrate, but U.S. nuclear industry officials maintain that ample safeguards are in place to prevent attacks and to withstand impact should an assault occur. If nuclear reactor casings were penetrated, whether by an aerial attack similar to one seen on Sept. 11, 2001, or by ground forces the aftermath has the potential to be the worst disaster in U.S. history. Radioactive material emitted could release 100 times the amount of radiation that was seen after the Hiroshima atomic bomb in 1945, experts say.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20060825-035311-8680r>

11. College aid screened in terror probe (AP, 31 Aug 2006)

Searching for terrorists, the FBI and the Education Department's investigative arm have secretly vetted people applying for college aid, documents show. The goal of "Project Strike Back" was to determine if terrorism suspects, through identity theft or other means, illegally obtained college aid to finance their operations. The data-mining project was

first disclosed by the Medill School of Journalism. The secret effort began right after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. The program was shut down this June, nearly five years later, according to documents obtained through Medill's Freedom of Information Act request.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?U21F25BAD>

12. 500 hazmat drivers to redo background check (Chicago Tribune, 30 Aug 2006)

About 500 drivers applying for hazardous materials transport licenses must undergo background checks and fingerprinting again after the federal Transportation Security Administration found that some of the prints were unreadable or missing, state officials said Tuesday night. The issues, which surfaced "in the last couple of months," stemmed from several of the private fingerprinting companies the state recommended for license applicants, said Illinois secretary of state's office spokesman Dave Druker. After the state learned of the problem, it notified the drivers affected, Druker said. "We have sent letters out to people," he said. "We're making every effort ... to encourage them to go through the process. We're [now] recommending specific firms that the TSA has recommended." Another spokesman for the office, Randy Nehrt, said the letters were sent at the beginning of August.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.logisticsmgmt.com/index.asp?layout=articleXml&xmlId=501592295>

13. Canada: 'Credit card factory' closed by identity theft task force (The Surrey Leader, 30 Aug 2006)

The crooks had all the tools needed to forge convincing credit cards. A raid by the Surrey Identity Theft Unit (SITU) on a local house earlier this month seized credit card blanks, foil for creating holograms, an embossing machine, thermal card printers and software. Police also found a number of counterfeit Canada Post mail keys and locks, as well as two handguns. Police said the sophisticated "credit card factory" could produce working credit cards drawn on a major financial institutions, from a delivery of blank white plastic cards using stolen drivers' licences and other ID obtained from as far away as New Brunswick.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.surreyleader.com/portals-code/list.cgi?paper=73&cat=23&id=718700&more>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

14. CA: New Identity Theft Legislation:Gov. Schwarzenegger Signs Legislation to Help Law Enforcement Track, Fight Identity Theft (California Office of the Governor, 29 Aug 2006)

Governor Schwarzenegger has signed [SB 1390](#) by Senator Poochigian (R-Fresno) that will help law enforcement agencies spot trends of identity theft and more effectively combat the growing crime. "Last year, one million Californians were victimized by identity theft - this is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. Law enforcement must utilize every tool available to stay ahead of the criminals who organize and steal personal information to commit fraud," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "This legislation

will give California law enforcement agencies access to valuable data to use in the fight against identity theft."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://communitydispatch.com/artman/publish/article_6231.shtml

15. FL: Teen Arrested As Alleged Member Of ID Theft Ring (All Headline News, 31 Aug 2006)

Pompano Beach, FL - According to a report by the Sun-Sentinel, a 17-year-old teenage boy was arrested for the alleged theft of vehicle burglaries in Broward County, Florida, as undercover detectives saw him driving around a gas station that had already reported 10 vehicle burglaries over the last few days. The police found several identification cards of other individuals, jewelry and a couple of PDAs in the car that the teenager was driving, which was also reported as stolen. The Broward County Sheriff's Office believes that the teenager is involved as a member of an identity theft ring that they have been investigating for the last year.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7004712782>

16. FL: FBI Warns About Identity Theft Scam (The Ledger, 31 Aug 2006)

The FBI and local law enforcement have issued a warning about a jury duty scam that really amounts to identity theft. According to an e-mail alert from the Winter Haven Police Department, the scam works like this: Someone calls claiming to be a jury coordinator and threatens that a warrant has been issued because you didn't appear for jury duty. When you protest that you did not receive a jury duty summons, the caller asks for your Social Security number and date of birth to verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. Sometimes the caller may ask for credit card numbers as well.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?C43F22BAD>

17. FL: Part-time Marco resident pleads guilty to cash smuggling (NaplesNews.com, 30 Aug 2006)

A part-time Marco Island resident pleaded guilty Tuesday to coming into the country with a wad of cash that he wasn't going to report. Through an interpreter Pavel Kyllar, said his decision to lie on his U.S. Customs Declaration Form "was a bad judgment." "He didn't realize the consequences and he's sorry," said Czech translator Milan Odstrcilik, during the plea hearing at the U.S. Courthouse & Federal Building in Fort Myers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?L17434AAD>

18. FL: High Springs home to area's first 'haz-mat' medical team (The High Springs Herald, 30 Aug 2006)

HIGH SPRINGS – A team of specially trained firefighter paramedics based out of High Springs are now equipped with the technical background to make 11 North Central Florida counties safer for everyone. High Springs is now home to Alachua County's only state-certified hazardous materials medic unit – a team that will provide assistance as needed in 10 additional neighboring counties as well. The team provides assistance when

worst-case-scenarios involving chemical, biological and radiological substances become a reality.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.highspringsherald.com/articles/2006/08/24/news/news04.txt>

19. GA: Identity Theft Suspects Caught (News 11, 29 Aug 2006)

Three people are now behind bars, accused of identity theft. What makes this arrest a bit different, is that identities were stolen at a popular fast food chain restaurant in the area. Police say it happened at the Taco Bell on South Cobb Drive in Smyrna. They say that a female employee working the drive-thru window was stealing customers' identities with their credit and debit cards. Police say they believe the scam is across Metro Atlanta. Takelia Anderson worked the drive-thru window at Taco Bell - right up until the moment police arrested her at her job on Friday. Someone reported she was swiping customers' credit and debit cards through an odd device - what police call a "skimmer," a device that captures people's card numbers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.11alive.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=83996

20. LA: Bells Toll 1 Year After Katrina Hit (AP, 29 Aug 2006)

NEW ORLEANS - Bells tolled in this shattered city Tuesday morning, marking the moment one year earlier when New Orleans' levees buckled and unleashed a torrent of water that ripped homes from their foundations and sent half the city into an uncertain exile. As the bells rang, survivors of the storm gathered outside City Hall.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20060829/D8JQ7DSO0.html>

21. MD: Identity theft hits local man despite his efforts (The Capital, 28 Aug 2006)

Jon Chapman shreds important documents and prepaid credit cards, and encourages his neighbors to do the same. But his diligence didn't stop him from becoming the victim of identity theft last week. His credit card company contacted Mr. Chapman on Wednesday and told him someone assuming his identity was asking for a duplicate credit card to be sent to a London address. He got a call later in the week about a similar situation, but this time the call originated in Connecticut. "It's quite a mystery," the Annapolis man said. "Apparently he knew quite a bit about me. He knew my mother's maiden name, my work number and my home number."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.hometownannapolis.com/cgi-bin/read/2006/08_28-31/BUS

22. MD: Green Party proposes lawsuit against plans for Fort Detrick lab (AP, 30 Aug 2006)

FREDERICK, Md. - The Maryland Green Party is proposing a lawsuit challenging the Army's plans for an expanded biological defense laboratory at Fort Detrick in Frederick, two of the group's congressional candidates said Tuesday. Senate candidate Kevin B. Zeese and 6th District House candidate Bob Kozak cited a July 31 Massachusetts state court ruling ordering further environmental review of a proposed Boston University biodefense lab. The Massachusetts decision "really energizes us and gives us hope,"

Kozak said. The Massachusetts judge found that a state environmental agency's approval of the lab was "arbitrary and capricious," partly because it lacked a thorough discussion of worst-case scenarios such as the deliberate, criminal release of an infectious agent. The Boston University and Fort Detrick labs both would handle some of the world's deadliest infectious agents in suites designated Biosafety Level 4 - the highest security level.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.herald-mail.com/?module=displaystory&story_id=145925&format=html

23. MI: Coast Guard aims to create live-ammo training zones (Muskegon Chronicle, 30 Aug 2006)

Boaters may soon hear the sounds of machine guns and pistols being fired on the Great Lakes, but the gunfire won't be coming from pirates. The U.S. Coast Guard wants to conduct target practice - using real guns and live ammunition - in 26 "safety zones" spread across all five Great Lakes. Thirteen of the proposed firing ranges are on Lake Michigan, and four of those are in areas regularly traversed by charter fishing boats, sailboats and cross-lake car ferries that operate out of Muskegon and Ludington, according to Coast Guard records. The agency wants to establish the safety zones to "protect vessels and people from projectiles associated with live-fire gun exercises ... (including) projectiles that may ricochet and damage vessels and/or cause death or serious bodily harm," according Coast Guard documents.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?H24F52BAD>

24. MN: Man charged with identity theft - Police say he had 65,000 credit card numbers (Pioneer Press, 30 Aug 2006)

A tech-savvy Plymouth man ran an identity-theft scheme and had more than 65,000 credit card numbers stored in a computer drive when police nabbed him, according to Hennepin County authorities. Corey Duane Johnson, 29, is accused of using stolen identities to scam more than \$35,000 from at least eight victims. Johnson, who already is on probation for a 2005 conviction for credit card fraud, has an Oct. 9 court date after being charged last week with offering a forged check and identity theft. He is currently jailed in Hennepin County on \$50,000 bond.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/news/local/15393736.htm>

25. TX: September trial set for smuggling case - Three accused of sneaking immigrants past checkpoints (The Brownsville Herald, 30 Aug 2006)

A Sept. 12 trial date has been set for three of five men accused of smuggling undocumented immigrants on a luxury boat from Port Isabel to Corpus Christi. Breakaway Cruise Owner Mack Daniel Bryant, Robert Milton Moore and Norman Walker are accused of using a charter boat to smuggle undocumented immigrants past immigration checkpoints. The alleged transportation occurred on or about July 1, 2005, to May 21, according to a federal indictment.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/ts_comments.php?id=72447_0_10_0_C

GANG ACTIVITY

26. CA: County's gang task force yields dozens of arrests (Santa Cruz Sentinel, 30 Aug 2006)

Cooperation among five local law enforcement agencies during the last month has resulted in hundreds of contacts with suspected gang members and dozens of arrests. The effort was initiated after early summer gang-related violence culminated in a fatal shooting in Beach Flats. The joint operation includes investigators from Santa Cruz and Watsonville police, sheriff's deputies, Probation Department officers and inspectors from the District Attorney's Office. It is a precursor to the creation of countywide guidelines for handling gang issues that all county law enforcement agencies are expected to sign next month, Santa Cruz police Lt. Rick Martinez said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2006/August/30/local/stories/06local.htm>

27. CA: Death Penalty Phase Begins For Aryan Brotherhood Prison Gang Members (American Chronicle, 29 Aug 2006)

SANTA ANA, CA-Federal prosecutors on Monday told a jury that "At some point, somebody has to stand up and say, 'That's enough.' For Barry Mills and Tyler Bingham, today's the day. We're standing up and saying enough." Federal prosecutors are asking that the jury return a death sentence against Barry "The Baron" Mills, and Tyler "The Hulk" Bingham, who are the convicted leaders of the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang. Assistant U.S. Attorney Joey Blanch gave a reminder to the jury in the first day of the death penalty phase of the trial that Mills and Bingham were already convicted of conspiracy, racketeering, and murder. Mills and Bingham were convicted by the same jury at the end of July.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.americanchronicle.com/articles/viewArticle.asp?articleID=12976>

28. NJ: Upsurge in gang activity in Teaneck is focus of seminar (NorthJersey.com, 30 Aug 2006)

TEANECK - More than 200 students, parents and town officials packed into the high school auditorium Tuesday night to learn about gang activities in the aftermath of the shooting death last month of a 15-year-old boy. Police said gang activity has been on the rise in Teaneck as it has been in many East Coast suburbs during the last decade. Gang members have been responsible for everything from vandalism and burglary to armed assault and now homicide in the township, detectives with the juvenile division said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?A15F31BAD>

29. NY: Three More Elk Block Gang Members Plead Guilty (WSYR, 30 Aug 2006)

Syracuse (WSYR-TV) - A total of ten members of the Elk Block Gang have now pleaded guilty to racketeering charges in Federal Court. Three of those members pleaded guilty in the past two days, according to the United States Attorney's Office. The three members who recently pleaded guilty are 29-year-old Nathan Speights, AKA the Mole, 21-year-old Tyler Willis, AKA Trouble T, and 21-year-old Skyler Willis, AKA Sky. Guilty pleas

mean the men admit to being in the Elk Block Gang, engaging in acts of drug dealing, murder, attempted murder, and protecting their city of Syracuse turf using violence.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M36F23BAD>

30. OK: Authorities arrest 17 in gang crackdown (KTEN Local News, 29 Aug 2006)

OKLAHOMA CITY Law enforcement officers arrested 17 people today on gun and drug charges as part of a crackdown on area gang members. More than 100 officers were involved in the raids. U-S Attorney John Richter said authorities hope information developed during the action will lead to further arrests. A gang task force formed in April was responsible for the arrests.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kten.com/Global/story.asp?S=5341879>

31. SC: Killings were gang-related - Prosecutors say man accused in two deaths was member of Folk Nation (The State, 29 Aug 2006)

Prosecutors say they plan to introduce evidence that a Columbia man charged with murder was a member of the Folk Nation gang whose long-standing feud with the Bloods led to the killing of a 12-year-old and a 16-year-old in August 2004. Chris Anthony Liverman, 21, is on trial in the killing of Courtney Dixon, 12, and Terrence Merchant, 16. Defense attorneys had asked that Circuit Judge James Johnson ban any mention of gangs or gang activity for fear of inflaming jurors' emotions. "Gang membership is not an element of the crime," attorney Elizabeth Franklin said during Monday's pretrial hearings. But prosecutors disagreed, saying that proving Liverman's gang ties would establish a motive.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/news/local/15385661.htm>

32. TN: Gang Attacks Force Student To Be Homeschooled (Eyewitness News, 29 Aug 2006)

A special needs student is now homeschooled because he fears gang members will kill him. Eyewitness News told you on Monday how gangs aggressively recruit new members at the start of the school year. Now, we have the story of a 12 year old Memphis boy who was beaten and threatened when he refused to join. His parent's living room is now John Jones' classroom. He's homeschooled not by choice, but by doctor's orders. After being beaten up twice at school last year, once by gang members, his doctor says the 12 year old has post traumatic stress disorder.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?K57F31BAD>

33. TX: Suspected MS-13 gang member arrested in Brownsville (AP, 30 Aug 2006)

BROWNSVILLE - Border Patrol agents aided by National Guard members arrested a 22-year-old suspected member of the violent Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang today as he tried to re-enter the United States, Customs and Border Protection said. Andres Gonzalo Manzaneres, of El Salvador, was one of nine illegal immigrants spotted by National Guard members monitoring images from surveillance cameras placed near the Los

Tomatoes international bridge in Brownsville. The Guard members alerted Border Patrol agents in the field, who arrested the immigrants.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/4153136.html>

34. TX: Zetas member's bond hearing expected today (The Monitor, 31 Aug 2006)

McALLEN - A federal judge is scheduled to have a bond hearing today for a high-ranking member of the Mexican mercenary group "Los Zetas" accused of shuttling and hiding illegal immigrants from Miguel Aleman to Houston, authorities said. Maximiliano Castillo-Jimenez, 28, was arrested Aug. 25 in connection with the June 30, 2005, breakup of a Roma house used to hide illegal immigrants. He shuttled immigrants from another house in Miguel Aleman to the one in Roma, where Jose Aguirre-Nunez would take them to Houston, according to the criminal complaint. The case, which is being handled by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, seems to be one of the first brought against a Zeta member in the United States.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?R28F51BAD>

35. VA: Gang Expert: "Crips Are In Lynnhaven" (News Channel 3, 30 Aug 2006)

Right now, people in the Lynnhaven section of Virginia Beach are on high alert after gang symbols were discovered there earlier this week. You told us you wanted to know if this was the work of pranksters, or an organized gang. We returned to the neighborhood with a gang expert, who says the signs are no joke. Pastor Bill Emery claims he was a gang member years ago in another state. Emery came out to Bow Creek Boulevard to check the graffiti for himself. He doesn't like what he sees. "That's for real right there," Emery said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtkr.com/Global/story.asp?S=5348204&nav=ZolHbyvj>

36. VA: Schools, law enforcement agencies join to prevent local gang activity (Daily Press, 30 Aug 2006)

Schools and law enforcement agencies are teaming up across Hampton Roads to prevent gangs from gaining a foothold here and to curb the rise of youth violence.

Superintendents, police chiefs and sheriffs from Newport News, Hampton, Williamsburg, James City County, Gloucester, Poquoson and York County met Tuesday morning at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton to announce the group project. Officials from each agency, along with a representative from Ferguson Enterprises and from the U.S. Attorneys Office, have formed a board and will oversee a program to fight gang violence with education. They are hiring a regional staff member to run the program and will each contribute to the program coordinator's salary and other operational costs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?U59F21BAD>

37. VA: Chief Wants Placement On Gang Task Force (Leesburg2day.com, 31 Aug 2006)

Purcellville Police Chief Darryl Smith has figured out quickly that his experience in Herndon has proven beneficial for the town in which he now works. During Smith's tenure as a captain in Herndon, gangs had populated the Fairfax town, and became a major law enforcement problem. Hired by Purcellville in March, Smith said during an Aug. 23 town hall meeting about gangs that he has recognized two people in Purcellville- one a former MS-13 gang member who he said was stabbed in Leesburg and the other who claimed to have friends in the 18th Street Gang. "It's coming and we have to be prepared," he told a crowd of about 25 people.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.leesburg2day.com/current.cfm?catid=6&newsid=12441>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

38. GA: Second Huge Georgia Drug Find Points to Pattern, Officials Say (New York Times, 31 Aug 2006)

ATLANTA, Aug. 30 - Just six days after federal agents set a Georgia record by confiscating 187 pounds of crystal methamphetamine buried behind a home in Buford, federal, state and local law enforcement officers found 341 pounds of the crystals in Gainesville, Ga., the authorities announced Wednesday. Executing a search warrant on Aug. 22, officers found packages of methamphetamine crystals, which look like broken rock candy, hidden in the closets and the garage and under freshly disturbed mounds of dirt in the backyard. They also found 300 marijuana plants, three sets of digital scales and a gun. The stash was the sixth-largest supply of methamphetamine confiscated in the United States since 1970, said Ruth Porter-Whipple, the group supervisor of the Atlanta field division of the Drug Enforcement Agency.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/31/us/31meth.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

39. KY: Taser fails to stop man on cocaine (Cincinnati.com, 30 Aug 2006)

JACKSON TWP. - Sheriff's deputies, fire and emergency medical personnel followed proper procedures when a Williamsburg man crashed his car into a tree and acted in a threatening manner, leading to him being tased and medicated. Eventually, the man died, but the exact cause of death has not been determined. "All the personnel (on the scene) did the best they could considering his behavior. They followed procedure and were very professional. I'm sorry this ended this way," said Clermont County Sheriff A.J. "Tim" Rodenberg. But the personnel on the scene "had to do something. We wanted to get him medical attention. He was going to hurt someone. He did hit a deputy with the claw hammer and the deputy had to go to the hospital."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?S5FF21BAD>

40. LA: Drug gangs taking New Orleans by storm (The Globe and Mail, 29 Aug 2006)

NEW ORLEANS - To the world, New Orleans appeared short of law and order in the months after hurricane Katrina, with an overtaxed police force and a Wild West mentality. And for members of an organized crime ring that included at least two

Canadians, the storm's aftermath seemed like a golden opportunity to expand their drug distribution network. In just one example of the city's resurging crime problem, the gang used the post-storm period to do business with family members and other contacts in New Orleans's underworld. The group is the best-organized drug ring police have encountered in the city since the hurricane, said Special Agent James Bernazzani, who is in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's New Orleans office.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Y1AF25BAD>

41. MT: Man admits cocaine conspiracy (Billings Gazette, 30 Aug 2006)

A Billings man pleaded guilty Wednesday to conspiring to traffic large amounts of cocaine in the Billings area. Julian Tim Mathis, 49, was indicted in federal court along with nine others on 36 counts. He pleaded to a conspiracy count, with the remaining charges to be dismissed at sentencing, under the terms of a plea agreement. Mathis admitted he conspired with others to distribute more than 50 grams of cocaine in 2004 and 2005.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2006/08/30/news/local/70-cocaine.txt>

42. NM: 14 bundles of cocaine worth \$1.2 million found in car near Las Cruces (AP, 29 Aug 2006)

LAS CRUCES, N.M. - A traffic stop in southern New Mexico has led to more than \$1.2 million in cocaine. Border patrol agents made the stop at a checkpoint near Las Cruces on Saturday. The driver and passenger seemed nervous so their car was searched. Both men are from Mexico. Agents found 14 bundles of cocaine wrapped in black plastic inside the engine compartment. The two men were arrested and turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?J10061CAD>

43. NY: 7 Spanish tourists charged with smuggling Ecstasy at JFK airport (AP, 29 Aug 2006)

NEW YORK - Tourists have smuggled \$4.3 million worth of Ecstasy pills into the country in false-bottomed suitcases, raising concern about a new surge of the illicit drug from Europe rather than across the United States' northern and southern borders, customs officials said. Since early July, authorities at John F. Kennedy International Airport have seized 77 pounds of the tablets, more than 170,000 of them, and have arrested seven people, all identified as Spanish citizens, U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokeswoman Lucille Cirillo said Tuesday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?R35426AAD>

44. PA: Eagle eyes combat a crop and its illegal highs (Philadelphia Inquirer, 31 Aug 2006)

After a Pennsylvania National Guard helicopter had hovered and police had hauled seven long plants from his cornfield outside Lenhartsville, Berks County, Ronald Donat

recalled that this wasn't the first marijuana raid in the neighborhood. In the late '80s, he returned to the farm one day to find neighbors talking about "the goings-on" at a nearby property. Whoever planted the marijuana back then knew what he was doing. "Had them staked up, taking good care of them," Donat said. In the field that he now rents out, someone had been equally meticulous. Donat didn't know who had planted the seeds. Deep in the cornfield, the marijuana plantings were in a row, each about 20 feet from the next. But no longer. This is harvest time for the pot police, the cannabis cops.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/15401771.htm>

45. TX: Two air marshals sentenced in cocaine plot (Reuters, 29 Aug 2006)

HOUSTON - A U.S. air marshal was sentenced to more than seven years in prison, and another to nine years for a plot to smuggle cocaine by using their positions to clear airport security, federal prosecutors said on Tuesday. Shawn Ray Nguyen, 38, and Burlie Sholar, 33, got 87 months and 108 months, respectively, from U.S. District Judge Kenneth Hoyt after they earlier pleaded guilty to conspiring to possess and distribute cocaine and to bribery. They were arrested in a February sting operation in which they agreed to carry 15 kg (33 pounds) of cocaine on a flight from Houston to Las Vegas, Nevada for \$75,000.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?S31011CAD>

46. Jamaica: Security forces destroy drug smuggling tool (Radio Jamaica, 30 Aug 2006)

An operation aimed at destroying an illegal airstrip is underway in Portland Cottage, Clarendon. Since 6:00 Wednesday morning members of Operation Kingfish, the Special Anti-Crime Task Force, the Narcotics Division and the Engineering regiment of the Jamaica Defence Force have been working to destroy the airstrip. According to Spokesman for Operation Kingfish, Inspector Steve Brown, the airstrip is being destroyed because it is being used by criminal elements involved in narco-trafficking.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.radiojamaica.com/news/story.php?category=2&story=27692>

47. German, Polish Police Smash Steroid-Smuggling Ring (MensNewsDaily.com, 28 Aug 2006)

German and Polish police have arrested 10 people in a cross-border operation targeting suspected smugglers of steroids. German police say more than 200 officers took part in raids in more than 50 buildings in cities in Germany and in the Polish port city of Gdansk.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M24412AAD>

48. Druglords target South Africa for money-laundering (IOL, 29 Aug 2006)

Drug-generated money is pouring through Johannesburg's estate agents, car dealerships, casinos, hotels and diamond traders. British authorities have admitted that South Africa is being targeted as a money-laundering hotspot, and local authorities are fighting to make

money laundering as difficult as possible. The Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) has launched an awareness campaign to stem the exploitation of the South African property and casino market by crime syndicates. The campaign is urging property buyers and sellers to "guard yourself from becoming a participant in organised crime". It is pushing for all estate agents to be registered and educated about the requirements of the Financial Intelligence Centre Act (Fica).

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?F1BE358AD>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

49. Laptops with sensitive data stolen from Education contractor (GovExec.com, 30 Aug 2006)

Two laptop computers believed to contain unencrypted personal information about 43 grant reviewers were stolen from an Education Department contractor in Washington, D.C., earlier this month. The laptops, stolen Aug. 11, contained information about grant reviewers for the Teacher Incentive Fund. An official for the contractor overseeing the reviews, DTI Associates of Arlington, Va., said the firm could not rule out the possibility that Social Security numbers, used in the processing of the reviewers' payments, were on the computers. The data breach was first reported Friday on Eduwonk, an education news and commentary blog.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34906&dcn=e_gvet

50. Hacking the Cable Modem – a New Book (Contributed by Rick Forno)

In the beginning there was dial-up, and it was slow; then came broadband in the form of cable, which redefined how we access the internet, share information, and communicate with each other online. Hacking the Cable Modem goes inside the device that makes Internet via cable possible and, along the way, reveals secrets of many popular cable modems, including products from Motorola, RCA, WebSTAR, D-Link and more.

Inside Hacking The Cable Modem, you'll learn:

- the history of cable modem hacking
- how a cable modem works
- the importance of firmware (including multiple ways to install new firmware)
- how to unblock network ports and unlock hidden features
- how to hack and modify your cable modem
- what uncapping is and how it makes cable modems upload and download faster

Written for people at all skill levels, the book features step-by-step tutorials with easy to follow diagrams, source code examples, hardware schematics, links to software (exclusive to this book!), and previously unreleased cable modem hacks.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.nostarch.com/frameset.php?startat=cablemodem_toc

TECHNOLOGY

51. FBI Shows Off Counterterrorism Database (Washington Post, 30 Aug 2006)

The FBI has built a database with more than 659 million records - including terrorist watch lists, intelligence cables and financial transactions - culled from more than 50 FBI and other government agency sources. The system is one of the most powerful data analysis tools available to law enforcement and counterterrorism agents, FBI officials said yesterday. The FBI demonstrated the database to reporters yesterday in part to address criticism that its technology was failing and outdated as the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks nears.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?K36B12BAD>

52. US Customs and Border Protection Awards NG Port Security Contract (SPX, 29 Aug 2006)

McLean VA - U.S. Customs and Border Protection, an agency of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has awarded Northrop Grumman Corporation a contract to provide border security surveillance for land ports of entry along the southwest U.S. border. The pilot program will offer total operational security while facilitating the flow of legitimate trade and travel.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?C26F248AD>

53. Raytheon testing radiation detector (The Boston Globe, 29 Aug 2006)

ANDOVER, Mass. - Raytheon Co., whose military radars scan the skies to spot hostile aircraft and missiles, is readying a new system that will help U.S. border authorities peer into trucks, railcars 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.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/144076>

54. Pilot border tech project won by Northrop (UPI, 29 Aug 2006)

WASHINGTON - Defense contractor Northrop Grumman Corp. has won a \$33.7 million deal to set up a pilot project for a border security surveillance system. The contract was awarded by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the agency in the Department of Homeland Security that guards the borders and the ports of entry. Under the five-year deal, Northrop will run the pilot at 40 border crossing points along the U.S.-Mexico frontier. Washington Technology, the industry newsletter that first reported the deal, said the project was "being billed as an adjunct" to the Secure Border Initiative, a \$2 billion comprehensive surveillance network for the U.S. borders due to be awarded next month.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20060829-122732-9406r>

55. Digimarc Enhances Biometric Solution to Reduce Driver License Identity Theft (TMCnet, 28 Aug 2006)

Identity theft and fraud are both serious crimes on a rapid rise. In the case of driver's license fraud, a crime is committed when someone else's identity or false documents are used to obtain a drivers license. Already helping to put an end to this crime in states like Alabama, Colorado, and Kansas is a biometric solution from Digimarc. Today, Digimarc Corporation, provider of secure identity solutions, announced enhancements to their biometric identification solution. The new version, Digimarc Biometric Identification 2.0, provides tools for license issuers and investigators to aid in the prevention of this crime. The solution is already being used in Massachusetts- Oregon and Texas both have plans to also implement the solution. Using facial recognition biometrics, the solution scans the face of those applying for driver's licenses against a database of others in that jurisdiction to ensure they have not already been issued a license or of they are eligible to receive one.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?E27F238AD>

RESOURCES

56. Introducing the Data Loss Database - Open Source (Contributed by Rick Forno)

Since July of 2005, attrition.org has been tracking data loss and data theft incidents not just from the United States, but across the world. Our archives go back to the year 2000, and with over 142 MILLION records compromised in over 300 incidents across six years, we would finally like to introduce a very basic and rudimentary database that will assist others in tracking these incidents.

DLDOS (Data Loss Database - Open Source) is a simple flat comma separated value file that can be imported into your database of choice, whether it be MySQL, Microsoft Access, or Oracle (good luck). We provide the date, the company that reported the breach, the type of data impacted, the number of records impacted, third party companies involved, and a few other sortable items that may be of interest.

At this point, attrition.org is not hosting an actual database itself, but the raw data is free and available for use as long as attrition.org is credited for the use of said data. Really, we're not trying to be jerks, but if you're going to use our data in your research, be it a web site or paper written for a commercial entity, just give us a shout out please.

Attrition.org's main data loss page can be found here:

<http://attrition.org/dataloss/>

Attrition.org's Data Loss Mail List information:

<http://attrition.org/security/dataloss.html>

Please feel free to use this information, build on it, grow on it, and share it. Updates to the raw data will be provided by attrition.org weekly, if not daily. Share and share alike; distribute and learn.

EVENTS

57. Apply Best Strategies for Emergency Planning to Optimize Response and Recovery Success at IQPC's Business Continuity Planning and Emergency Preparedness (PRNewswire, 30 Aug 2006)

YORK - Leading Quality professionals will come together at IQPC's Business Continuity Planning and Emergency Preparedness, the only conference taking place this fall that is specifically for presidents, vice presidents, directors and managers of continuity planning and emergency management. Taking place on Nov. 13-16, 2006 in San Francisco, at the Crowne Plaza Union Square, this conference will bring together top companies such as: Microsoft Corporation, KeySpan Energy Corporation, Comcast Corporation, FEMA, T-Mobile, USA, PNC Financial, BellSouth Corporation, Entergy Nuclear Corporation and many more. They will share case studies and insights on how to achieve management buy-in, streamline communications to stakeholders, assess organizational risks, enhance training techniques, prepare for a pandemic and it doesn't end there.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?U36415AAD>

FULL REPORTS

58. Cheney, Rumsfeld Outline U.S. Counterterrorism Strategy (Dept. of State, 29 Aug 2006)

Washington - The United States never will back down in the face of terrorism or abandon its allies, Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld declared in separate appearances at the national convention of a U.S. veterans organization.

Cheney made remarks in the afternoon to the annual gathering of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on August 28 in Reno, Nevada. Rumsfeld spoke to the same group that evening.

In his remarks, the vice president enumerated the administration's four-point counterterrorism strategy:

- Prevent attacks before they occur. This means pursuing terrorists both in the United States and around the world, Cheney said.
- Deny terrorists safe haven. Since 9/11, Cheney said, "we've applied the Bush Doctrine: Any person or government that supports, protects, or harbors terrorists is complicit in the murder of the innocent, and will be held to account."
- Stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and keep them from terrorists. In the post-9/11 world, said the vice president, "we have to confront such dangers before

they fully materialize." To wait until attacked, he said, would not be self-defense but rather suicide.

- Deny terrorists control of any nation. That is why, said Cheney, the United States continues to fight Taliban and al-Qaida operatives in Afghanistan, why it works with the Pakistani government to fight terrorists and why it fights the remnants of Saddam Hussein's regime and foreign terrorists in Iraq.

Those who criticize the U.S. liberation of Iraq on the grounds that it has "stirred up a hornet's nest" overlook the fact that the United States had no presence at all in Iraq on 9/11, but was attacked regardless, he said.

Cheney quoted President Bush: "The hatred of the radicals existed before Iraq was an issue, and it will exist after Iraq is no longer an excuse."

America is assisting Iraq, Cheney said, because democracy gives men and women "the power to determine their own destiny," and they will "turn their energies to the pursuit of peace" and "ideologies of violence and resentment will lose their appeal."

Rumsfeld stressed that the fight against terrorism is not and will not be cost-free. There will be setbacks in the War on Terror, he said, but that does not mean the United States is losing ground.

Rumsfeld also focused on Iraq, which he called "the epicenter of the War on Terror." Great progress is being made there, he said, though the insurgents want the world to believe otherwise. The enemy in the War on Terror is ruthless, he said, and will lie constantly to advance its cause.

"A country that was once brutalized by a cruel dictatorship," said Rumsfeld, "is working to secure a future under a representative government at peace with its neighbors."

Rumsfeld added that "we will not tell 50 million Afghans and Iraqis that because the going is tough ... we will abandon them to the beheaders, the terrorists, the assassins, and 21st century fascists who seek to attack us abroad and here at home."

"By standing with our friends, we are making a better day possible in the broader Middle East. By supporting democracy, we serve both the ideals and the security of our nation," Cheney said.

The transcript of [Cheney's speech](#) is available on the White House Web site.

An article focusing on [Rumsfeld's remarks](#) is available on the Defense Department Web site.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

59. New Flu Test Will Expand, Speed Diagnoses - U.N. health agency issues H5N1 case definition to improve reporting (By Charlene Porter. Washington File Staff Writer, 29 Aug 2006)

Washington – U.S. government and academic researchers have come up with a new method to identify influenza viruses that will speed the identification process and allow more labs to determine where viruses come from and how dangerous they are.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) August 28 announced the new test, developed in partnership with scientists from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

The FluChip, a microchip-based test, distinguished among 72 influenza strains – including the H5N1 avian influenza strain – in fewer than 12 hours, according to a CDC press release.

Basic identification of a virus type and subtype can be conducted at many laboratories in the developed and developing world. But only a relatively small number of laboratories have high-level biosafety facilities that can determine if a virus comes from a human or nonhuman source and whether it is related to recognized viruses or is becoming more virulent.

“The ability to quickly and accurately identify strains of influenza would be invaluable to international flu surveillance efforts,” said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health, the organization that funded the research.

The limited number of worldwide facilities capable of performing the complete array of complex tests has caused routine delay in confirming human cases of H5N1.

Days can pass as samples from an individual suspected to have H5N1 are transported from sometimes-remote areas to qualified laboratories.

Accurate identification of a particular viral strain can influence other critical health policy decisions, such as quarantine or the distribution of anti-viral drugs to other vulnerable people, so timeliness in diagnosis is important.

The CDC and University of Colorado researchers are attempting further refinement of the methods to produce results in as little as one hour.

H5N1 CASE IDENTIFICATION GUIDELINES

The World Health Organization (WHO) is issuing guidelines for medical practitioners to follow while identifying a person who is a suspected, probable or confirmed case of the H5N1 avian influenza strain.

The U.N. health agency took this step August 29 to ensure the use of standardized language for communication among health authorities dealing with the avian influenza outbreaks at different times and in different places.

The guidelines define a suspected H5N1 case as a person who has a fever and respiratory symptoms and also has had close contact with a person known to have H5N1, or contact with contaminated birds, or has consumed raw or undercooked poultry in an area where H5N1 has been confirmed or suspected in recent days.

A probable H5N1 case will meet all the criteria of a suspected case, but also will have evidence of acute pneumonia and respiratory failure.

Laboratory confirmation of the presence of an influenza type A infection, even though the subtype may be unconfirmed by more sophisticated tests, also will be considered adequate evidence to call a case probable, according to the new guidelines.

A case will be confirmed only with proper sample testing at a certified laboratory, according to the WHO guidelines.

MILD BIRD FLU IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The highly pathogenic avian influenza strain H5N1 has been detected in wild and domestic bird populations in more than 50 countries but still has not appeared in the United States.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed August 28 that some wild mute swans tested earlier in the month showed no sign of the dangerous strain that has killed an estimated 200 million birds in the almost three years since it first appeared in Southeast Asia.

The USDA announcement says low-pathogenic strains of bird flu in wild birds are not unusual.

The “low-path” strains are much different from the other types of the virus, do not circulate as rapidly, and frequently have no adverse effects on wild birds.

The USDA and the Department of the Interior are working with state-level agencies to conduct rigorous testing of wild bird populations that are thought to be carriers of the virus.

For ongoing coverage, see [Bird Flu \(Avian Influenza\)](#).

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

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