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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 56

25 September 2006 CABLE Gram™

Good Morning All,

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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. Tainted spinach sparks calls for more food safety oversight (AP, 19 Sep 2006)

WASHINGTON - Leafy vegetables are the second leading source of E. coli infections in the United States, behind ground beef, but the government relies primarily on voluntary safety steps by farmers and packagers to prevent outbreaks. The cleanliness of fresh produce is drawing new attention amid reports that tainted spinach has been found recently in 21 states, killing at least one person and sickening more than 100 others. A second death was under investigation. Some consumer groups believe the government

should do more to regulate farming and packaging, including the quality of water used for irrigation, the application of manure and sanitary facilities used by workers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/HEALTH/09/19/food.safety.ap/index.html>

2. Bid to Stockpile Bioterror Drugs Stymied by Setbacks (New York Times, 18 Sep 2006)

The last of the anthrax-laced letters was still making its way through the mail in late 2001 when top Bush administration officials reached an obvious conclusion: the nation desperately needed to expand its medical stockpile to prepare for another biological attack. The result was Project BioShield, a \$5.6 billion effort to exploit the country's top medical and scientific brains and fill an emergency medical cabinet with new drugs and vaccines for a host of threats. "We will rally the great promise of American science and innovation to confront the greatest danger of our time," President Bush said in starting the program. But the project, critics say, has largely failed to deliver. So far, only a small fraction of the anticipated remedies are available. Drug companies have waited months, if not years, for government agencies to decide which treatments they want and in what quantities. Unable to attract large pharmaceutical corporations to join the endeavor, the government is instead relying on small start-up companies that often have no proven track record.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G446626DD>

3. U.S. tests Montana ducks for avian influenza strain (Reuters, 21 Sep 2006)

Federal laboratories will do more tests to determine the avian influenza strain found in some wild ducks in Montana but it does not appear to be the contagious strain feared worldwide, U.S. officials said on Thursday. "These samples were collected from apparently healthy ducks and initial test results indicate the presence of low pathogenic avian influenza, which poses no threat to human health," the Agriculture and Interior departments said in a joint statement. State game officials collected 66 samples from wild Northern pintail ducks in Cascade County, in west central Montana, a week ago. Sixteen samples merited further tests and one tested positive at a U.S. Agriculture Department lab for the H5 and N1 virus subtypes.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?B450252DD>

4. House committee approves biodefense measure (By Kristen A. Lee, CongressDaily, 21 Sep 2006)

The House Energy and Commerce Committee on Wednesday passed legislation to promote countermeasures to bioterrorism and other public health threats. The Biodefense and Pandemic Vaccine and Drug Development Act of 2006 ([H.R. 5533](#)), expands on Project BioShield, which was signed into law two years ago. The bill establishes a point of authority in the federal government -- the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority -- to coordinate and facilitate efforts to develop countermeasures for bioterrorism or pandemic infectious diseases. The legislation, which passed on voice

vote, also authorizes \$160 million in fiscal 2007 and fiscal 2008 for advanced research and development.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0906/092106markup1.htm>

5. TSA May Shift Funds To Improve Airports' X-Ray Technology (Washington Post, 22 Sep 2006)

The Transportation Security Administration is considering a plan to upgrade X-ray machines or buy new ones for airport checkpoints using millions of dollars originally allocated for the purchase of sophisticated explosive-detection devices known as puffers, top U.S. security officials said. The proposal calls for a shift of \$20 million from the puffers to fund improvements in X-ray technology. After the upgrades, the X-ray machines would be able to take multiple images of the contents of carry-on bags, giving screeners an extra chance to detect suspicious items, including bottles or containers that might hold explosives, officials and experts said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?I256156DD>

6. Standards suggested for airline ID card (AP, 21 Sep 2006)

WASHINGTON — The Transportation Security Administration on Thursday announced standards for an ID card that frequent fliers can buy to get through security lines faster at airports. The announcement comes nearly five years after Congress first authorized the program, two years after the TSA first tested it and three months after it was supposed to start. The public has two weeks to comment on the standards, which are only in draft form. The program, called "Registered Traveler," would establish airport-security fast lanes for those who pay a fee, pass a government background check and submit 10 fingerprints.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/politics/4205303.html>

7. Crisis Seen in Luggage Screening (USA Today, 20 Sep 2006)

WASHINGTON - The nation's airports face a looming crisis in their ability to screen checked luggage for bombs that will require billions of dollars to avert, a new report ordered by Congress says. Many airports have too few screeners and use slow, labor-intensive bomb detectors that are being overwhelmed by increasing passenger traffic, the study says. The report criticizes how bomb detectors were installed in airports after 9/11. Because of a tight deadline, "many if not most of the implementations were suboptimal," it says. The van-sized machines clog terminals and operate so slowly that flights are sometimes held up or bags don't make it onto their flights, airport officials say. Those problems will worsen unless luggage scanners are replaced at most U.S. airports with faster machines that are part of baggage-conveyor systems. "It's very urgent," said James Bennett, CEO of the authority that runs Washington's Reagan National and Dulles airports. "It's one of the — if not *the* — most pressing improvement that needs to be made in aviation security."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2006-09-19-baggage-screening_x.htm

8. U.S. to issue port security cards without readers (Reuters, 20 Sep 2006)

NEW YORK - The United States will begin issuing high security biometric identification cards for port workers as planned at the year-end, but the roll-out of card readers will be postponed to next year, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said on Wednesday. The second phase of the U.S. Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program, which will extend full background checks to all with unescorted access to port facilities and vessels, will more than double the number of checks. This will be effective from the end of this year.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M266536DD>

9. Plenty of Holes Seen In a 'Virtual Fence' (Washington Post, 21 Sep 2006)

Border Sensors Not Enough, Experts Say

The selection of Boeing Co. to erect a "virtual fence" along 6,000 miles of U.S. border marks a potential turning point in the government's long quest to stop illegal immigration, but its success hinges on overcoming obstacles that doomed past efforts, funding shortages and other problems with the country's immigration controls, according to experts and former U.S. officials. Congress and the Department of Homeland Security must focus on overcoming technology and management problems that have derailed similar remote-sensing networks set up over the decades by the military and border agencies from Vietnam to Iraq to the southwestern United States, they said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M460122DD>

10. Key lawmaker hints at border, port spending plans (By Chris Strohm, National Journal's Technology Daily, 20 Sep 2006)

The head of the Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee said on Tuesday that he is looking at using part of \$1.8 billion in new border funding to bolster other Homeland Security Department accounts, such as the Coast Guard, but probably will not provide as much funding for port security grants as lawmakers have authorized. The Senate has approved a plan to add \$1.8 billion for border security to the pending fiscal 2007 Homeland Security spending bill. The funding was primarily intended for border fencing. But Subcommittee Chairman Judd Gregg, R-N.H., said part of the new money also would be put toward the Coast Guard. "We're going to use it to aggressively improve border security, which will include not only fencing but other things that are needed in border security," he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35057&dcn=e_gvet

11. DHS aims to keep more about security clearance applications secret (GovExec.com, 20 Sep 2006)

The Homeland Security Department is proposing to scale back what information can be viewed by clearance applicants under the 1974 Privacy Act, saying the investigative techniques of its Office of Security are jeopardized when documents are made available. In a recent proposed rule published in the Federal Register, DHS stated that it is seeking

to exempt parts of its Office of Security File System from the privacy law. The file system will be used beginning Oct. 12 and will contain documentation of background reviews for clearances and espionage investigations, DHS said in a separately published notice.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35061&dcn=todaysnews

12. Customs bureau merges trade activities into new office (GovExec.com, 19 Sep 2006)

The Customs and Border Protection agency is consolidating trade-related activities now in three separate offices under one roof, starting next month. CBP's new Office of Trade will aim to better monitor trade and protect consumers from potential attacks through commerce. It will encompass work now completed in the offices of Strategic Trade, Regulations and Rulings, and Field Operations. The Strategic Trade, and Regulations and Rulings offices will be fully integrated into the new Office of Trade, while only some field operations employees and managers will make the switch, said CBP Deputy Commissioner Deborah Spero.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35040&dcn=e_gvet

13. Plan to overhaul FEMA lacks funding commitment (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 19 Sep 2006)

House and Senate authorizers who negotiated an agreement late last week to fix glaring problems in the federal government's emergency management system have yet to receive a commitment from appropriators to provide the hundreds of millions of dollars in fiscal 2007 funds needed under their plan. The authorizers' compromise plan to overhaul the Federal Emergency Management Agency includes increases of 10 percent for FEMA's operating budget for three years; \$175 million for emergency management performance grants; \$30 million for metropolitan medical response teams; and \$20 million for urban search and rescue teams. The authorizers expect the overhaul plan -- based in large part on recommendations from investigations into government failures during last year's Hurricane Katrina -- to be added to the fiscal 2007 Homeland Security appropriations bill, which is now in a House-Senate conference. But there is no certainty the funding will be approved by conferees.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35044&dcn=e_gvet

14. Deeper Spying Is Seen in Hewlett Review (New York Times, 18 Sep 2006)

A secret investigation of news leaks at Hewlett-Packard was more elaborate than previously reported, and almost from the start involved the illicit gathering of private phone records and direct surveillance of board members and journalists, according to people briefed on the company's review of the operation. The effort received some degree of supervision from three officials - Patricia C. Dunn, the company's chairwoman, along with its general counsel and another staff attorney - but was quickly farmed out to a network of private investigative firms early last year, according to descriptions of the findings. It is still unclear how much they knew of the details. Those briefed on the

company's review of the operation say detectives tried to plant software on at least one journalist's computer that would enable messages to be traced, and also followed directors and possibly a journalist in an attempt to identify a leaker on the board.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/09/18/technology/18hp.html?th&emc=th>

15. Study: Prisons can't combat terror recruiting (AP, 19 Sep 2006)

U.S. prisons are becoming major breeding grounds for Islamic terrorists, but state and local authorities are too cash-strapped to prevent or track recruiting, a new report concludes. The report, to be released Tuesday, found there aren't enough legitimately trained Muslim religious leaders to counsel an estimated 9,000 U.S. prison inmates who want Islamic services. That allows Islamist extremists to target their vulnerable prison-mates with distorted versions of the Quran and other Muslim readings that urge radicalization and violence. "Radicalized prisoners are a potential pool of recruits by terrorist groups," concludes the joint study by George Washington University and the University of Virginia. "The U.S., with its large prison population, is at risk of facing the sort of homegrown terrorism currently plaguing other countries Prisons have long been considered recruiting stations for gangs and, more recently, terrorists, but little has been done throughout government to combat them. The report, which will be released at a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing, comes as law enforcement and intelligence officials focus on finding out how and why extremist sympathizers cross a line to become operational terrorists.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/14902394/from/RS.4/>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

16. CA: San Diego-based warships to help ward off missile threat (Copley News Service, 24 Sep 2006)

WASHINGTON – When North Korea launched seven ballistic missiles July 4, the U.S. national missile defense system was on operational alert, even though a long string of test failures made most experts doubt the land-based interceptors could stop a threatening warhead. But closely watching those North Korean test launches from the Western Pacific were Navy warships that had a nearly perfect record of knocking down test ballistic missiles, including a San Diego-based cruiser that two weeks earlier had successfully intercepted a dummy warhead more than 100 miles in space.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/military/20060924-9999-1n24missiles.html>

17. MD: Pistol Found in Carry-On at Md. Airport (AP, 22 Sep 2006)

Security screeners discovered a pistol in a carry-on bag at Baltimore's main airport Friday morning, and two concourses were evacuated when its owner disappeared, authorities said. The bag was held at the security checkpoint at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, but the man who owned it passed through, airport spokesman Jonathan Dean said. There was no indication of terrorism, police said. Police, security officers and search dogs unsuccessfully hunted the terminals for a man in his early 30s,

wearing blue jeans and a red and black track jacket, Transportation Security Administration police spokesman Jonathan Green said. "We simply were acting with all due precaution," Dean said. The pistol was a .25 caliber semiautomatic, Green said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=921279>

18. MA: Boston Slaps Tighter Regulations on Biolabs (NTI, 21 Sep 2006)

The Boston Public Commission has tightened regulations on laboratories conducting biological research in the city and has banned classified or biological weapon activities (see [GSN](#), Aug. 24). Under a new set of rules passed Tuesday, labs working at biosafety levels 3 and 4 must be permitted by the city commission, create a safety committee including two community members and submit periodic reports on safety procedures, the *Boston Globe* reported yesterday. Laboratories must also hold public meetings to disclose the type of research being conducted. Failure to comply would result in a \$1,000 daily fine per violation and suspension of research. Applications for permits are due in April 2007.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2006_9_21.html#23909BFD

19. MS: Jackson Airport Security Probed (Clarion Ledger, 24 Sep 2006)

The Transportation Security Administration has launched an investigation into allegations TSA management at Jackson-Evers International Airport warned security screeners about undercover tests at the airport. Bill Gilliam, a TSA screener from September 2002 to December 2004, said he was interviewed under oath for about two hours last week. He said he welcomes the investigation as a chance to improve security at the airport. "I told them that I had other things I would be willing to talk about what I believe to be wrong and unethical (at the airport)," he said. "I just would like to see security be taken a lot more seriously, and I would like to see the screeners be able to have an environment where they would work without being in fear every day."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?K376526DD>

20. NY: Railroads to Expand Chemical Detection in NYC (NTI, 21 Sep 2006)

Two New York railroads have approved a joint contract to expand and improve chemical-detection systems in two New York City train stations (see [GSN](#), Sept. 13). The \$4 million contract between the Long Island and Metro-North railroads would allow the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to expand the chemical-detection system it has been testing at Grand Central Terminal for the past two years, *Newsday* reported today. The Long Island Railroad would also install a similar system in a section of Penn Station. The systems are "designed to detect chemicals that at least historically have been used by terrorist organizations," said Lewis Schiliro, director of interagency preparedness for the MTA.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2006_9_21.html#23909BFD

21. NY: Hancock Airport has upgraded security systems (News 10 Now, 21 Sep 2006)

In the post-Sept. 11 world, it has been a race against time to develop systems to protect passengers on the nation's airlines against more sophisticated efforts by terrorists to smuggle aboard explosive devices. The defense against such an attack begins at check-in counters across the country. Most passengers have gotten used to TSA checkpoints at airports. Checkpoints where baggage is sniffed electronically to find any traces of explosives. TSA personnel swab the inside of bags, then take the material and place it in a machine that checks for traces of explosives. Now, a new generation of detectors has arrived. TSA Director, Gary Milano, says the new system is vision oriented. "Is more akin to an MRI type thing," Milano said. "It's more of a visual of the molecular structure of the items in the bags and from there we can determine whether or not there are explosives contained in it." It's the first of four of the machines due at Hancock Airport. They will be used to supplement the normal detection procedures. Those units should be in place and in full use by later in the fall.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://news10now.com/content/all_news/central_new_york/?ArID=80285&SecID=86

22. OH: New building will handle CVG security (Cincinnati Post, 19 Sep 2006)

Passengers checking in for flights at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport's busy Terminal 3 would be screened in a special new hall built solely to handle security under a plan the airport moved ahead on Monday. The Kenton County Airport Board voted to spend \$157,600 for schematic design plans for a new building that would house the Transportation Security Administration's checkpoints and be built just south of Terminal 3.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.cincypost.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060919/NEWS01/609190344>

23. TN: Security Concerns Guards at Ammo Plant (AP, 24 Sep 2006)

Guards at a riverfront Army ammunition plant in Tennessee report that boaters have entered restricted areas, holes are often found in a perimeter fence and a government contractor steps up security to impress inspectors. One time, the guards say, two teenage runaways were found wandering around the 6,000-acre property after getting dangerously close to explosives. The Army says the plant is meeting Defense Department security standards. In written statements to lawmakers and in interviews with The Associated Press, about half a dozen security officers discussed alleged problems at the Holston Army Ammunition Plant. The facility in Kingsport, near the Virginia border in northeastern Tennessee about 100 miles from Knoxville, is a major supplier of explosives to the military since World War II.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=922830>

24. VA: Virginia Beach firm plans terrorism drill (Washington Times, 24 Sep 2006)

A Virginia Beach company is planning a massive attack on the country, but don't worry - it's their job. Applied Marine Technology Inc. (AMTI) is coordinating for the Department of Homeland Security the country's largest terrorist emergency response

exercise. Dubbed the Top Officials National Exercise Series, or TOPOFF4, the exercise will be conducted sometime next year and involve more than 200 domestic and international organizations. "The goal is to raise the nation's preparedness to the highest level we can," said Cary Ellis, AMTI's vice president for national preparedness. "We use the lessons learned to roll back into a new and higher level of preparedness."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/metro/20060923-111300-1308r.htm>

25. FBI searching for militant Puerto Rican separatists (AP, 18 Sep 2006)

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - FBI agents returned Monday to the homes of two Puerto Rican activists whose properties were searched in February in an investigation into a militant group seeking independence for the U.S. island territory. FBI teams went to the apartment of Liliana Laboy and the house of Norberto Cintron Fiallo, both in the San Juan area, but neither activist was home at the time and the agents left without entering. FBI spokesman Harry Rodriguez said the agents went to the homes as part of an ongoing investigation into the Macheteros, also known as the Puerto Rican People's Army. He declined to provide details or say whether agents planned to arrest the activists or search their homes.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/americas/09/18/puertorico.militants.ap/index.html>

KEY PEOPLE

26. DHS names cybersecurity czar (GovExec.com, 20 Sep 2006)

The Homeland Security Department announced the appointment of a cybersecurity chief Monday, more than 14 months after the position was created. Gregory Garcia, vice president of an information technology trade group and a former lobbyist and Capitol Hill staffer, will serve as the department's first assistant secretary for cybersecurity and telecommunications. The position does not require Senate confirmation. A DHS spokeswoman said the department is negotiating with Garcia on his official start date, which likely will be in early October.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35050&dcn=e_gvet

27. DHS appoints WMD intelligence chief (UPI, 15 Sep 2006)

WASHINGTON - A new post at the Department of Homeland Security will get it up to speed with the latest intelligence about terror threats from weapons of mass destruction. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced this week that Maureen McCarthy, a career government scientific advisor, had been appointed to the new post of senior advisor for weapons of mass destruction, or WMD, intelligence programs within the department's Intelligence and Analysis Directorate. McCarthy "will be responsible for improving the department's capability to acquire timely and actionable strategic intelligence in support of homeland security operations that counter WMD threats," said Chertoff in a statement Wednesday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20060915-043733-7767r>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

28. Key House GOP members support Dem anti-narcotic measure (The Hill, 19 Sep 2006)

Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) may not have expected his \$700 million amendment to the defense-spending bill to pass; Democratic amendments are usually shot down one by one. But the senator's proposal to allocate money for narcotics eradication in Afghanistan passed by voice vote in early September. It won the vote of the Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner (R-Va.) among others, and has support from several key GOP members in the House. One is Rep. Mark Souder (R-Ind.), chairman of the Government Reform subcommittee with jurisdiction over drug policy, who admitted on the House floor last week that he is "not always a big ally of Sen. Schumer." "But," he added, "we need to back his amendment here. He is right. We need a unified campaign like in Colombia where drugs and terror are treated the same way." Five lawmakers are now working to convince House appropriators to agree to the \$700 million in conference negotiations. The House's 2007 defense appropriations bill does not contain such a measure.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.thehill.com/thehill/export/TheHill/Business/091906_antinarcotic.html

29. Cross-border drug tunnel found (Washington Times, 19 Sep 2006)

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents in San Diego yesterday announced the discovery of a cross-border drug-smuggling tunnel beneath a private residence in Calexico, Calif., that extended nearly 400 feet to a house in Mexicali, Mexico. The tunnel, which ran 20 feet underground and was accessible by a ladder, was equipped with lighting and supported by wooden beams every few feet, said John S. Fernandes, DEA special agent in charge. "Today's discovery is yet more evidence of the desperation that drug traffickers are feeling as law enforcement efforts continue to impede the flow of drugs into the U.S.," Mr. Fernandes said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20060918-105759-6614r.htm>

30. Plea Bargain Is Close in Cali Drug Case (AP, 22 Sep 2006)

The two brothers accused of running Colombia's Cali cocaine cartel are nearing an agreement to plead guilty in exchange for guarantees that some other family members won't face charges and will have access to assets they can prove are not linked to \$2 billion in drug profits, The Associated Press has learned. Gilberto and Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela would probably spend the rest of their lives in U.S. prison under the tentative deal, according to federal law enforcement officials and attorneys familiar with the negotiations. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement was not complete Friday. The pleas would cap a 15-year U.S. investigation into the Cali cartel, which made more than \$2 billion in profits by smuggling some 250 tons of cocaine into the United States since the 1970s. More than 100 other members of the cartel have been convicted since 1991, and prosecutors were seeking forfeiture of \$2.1 billion in assets from the brothers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=921436>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

31. Computer Hacker Group Offers Stealth Internet Surfing (Agence France-Press, 21 Sep 2006)

San Francisco - A group calling itself "Hacktivism" launched a web browser Thursday that promises to protect the privacy of Internet surfers from "hostile governments" or "data thieves." "Torpark," a modified version of the popular Mozilla Firefox browser, enables computer users to travel the Internet in a way that "leaves no tracks behind," Hacktivism said in a statement. Hacktivism's website describes it as an international group of hackers, human rights workers, lawyers and artists that evolved from the renowned Texas-based hacker organization called "Cult of the Dead Cow." Torpark changes the unique numbers used by websites to identify individual computers online every few minutes to stymie "hostile governments, data thieves" or other trackers, according to Hacktivism.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?C386126DD>

32. 1,100 Laptops Missing From Commerce Dept. (Washington Post, 22 Sep 2006)

More than 1,100 laptop computers have vanished from the Department of Commerce since 2001, including nearly 250 from the Census Bureau containing such personal information as names, incomes and Social Security numbers, federal officials said yesterday. This disclosure by the department came in response to a request by the House Committee on Government Reform, which this summer asked 17 federal departments to detail any loss of computers holding sensitive personal information. Of the 10 departments that have responded, the losses at Commerce are "by far the most egregious," said David Marin, staff director for the committee. He added that the silence of the remaining seven departments could reflect their reluctance to reveal problems of similar magnitude.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G272126DD>

33. Missing computer containing sensitive VA data recovered (GovExec.com, 18 Sep 2006)

A stolen desktop computer containing sensitive data on about 16,000 patients at Veterans Affairs Department medical centers has been recovered, and a suspect has been arrested, officials announced Thursday. Washington, D.C., resident Khalil Abdullah-Raheem, 21, was charged in federal court Wednesday with the theft of government property and released on a \$50,000 personal recognizance bond, according to the VA Inspector General's Office. Abdullah-Raheem was employed by a company that provides temporary labor to VA contractor Unisys Corp., the IG said. Unisys was hired to assist in insurance collections for various VA medical centers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35028&dcn=e_gvet

34. Gonzales Wants ISPs to Save User Data (AP, 19 Sep 2006)

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said Tuesday that Congress should require Internet service providers to preserve customer records, asserting that prosecutors need them to fight child pornography. Testifying to a Senate panel, Gonzales acknowledged the concerns of some company executives who say legislation might be overly intrusive and encroach on customers' privacy rights. But he said the growing threat of child pornography over the Internet was too great. "This is a problem that requires federal legislation," Gonzales told the Senate Banking Committee. "We need information. Information helps us make cases." He called the government's lack of access to customer data the biggest obstacle to deterring child porn.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=116&sid=917749&sidelines=1>

TECHNOLOGY

35. Trying to Find the 'Secure' in Security - How new technical fixes could help defend the homeland (US News & World Report, by Angie C. Marek, 24 Sep 2006)

Rear Adm. Jay Cohen, the man now leading the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate, picked a heck of a time to start work. On August 10, the day the United Kingdom arrested 24 suspects for allegedly plotting to blow up 10 U.S.-bound airliners with liquid explosives, Cohen was sworn in. Within 24 hours, he ran a teleconference with officials from the country's national laboratories on liquid explosives and established a rapid-response team of chemists to study ways to detect slurry bombs. "I'm from the Navy," says Cohen. "This is just how I do business."

Which is a big deal, because for years DHS's research and development efforts - especially in the 600-person Science and Technology Directorate-haven't been much to brag about. Now, Cohen, a man who spent six years overseeing a group he calls "the country's premier mad scientists" as head of research for the U.S. Navy, could change that. But Cohen's new gig will be a major challenge. DHS efforts to upgrade airport security hit a major roadblock this summer. And insiders say the directorate Cohen inherits-which also focuses on port and mass transit security-is in tatters. "The guy's got the chops," says Jim Carafano of the Heritage Foundation. But will that be enough?

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/news/articles/060924/2security.htm>

RESOURCES

36. "Homeland Security Research and Development Funding, Organization, and Oversight," Congressional Research Service report updated August 22, 2006

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RS21270.pdf>

37. "Federal Counter-Terrorism Training: Issues for Congressional Oversight," Congressional Research Service report August 31, 2006

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/RL32920.pdf>

38. "Legal Developments in International Civil Aviation," Congressional Research Service report updated August 25, 2006

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33255.pdf>

39. "Science and Technology Policy: Issues for the 109th Congress," Congressional Research Service report updated September 1, 2006

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL32837.pdf>

OPPORTUNITIES

40. TSA Issues Draft Security, Privacy and Compliance Standards for Registered Traveler Program - Two-Week Public Comment Period Begins (PR Newswire, 21 Sep 2006)

WASHINGTON - The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has released draft Security, Privacy and Compliance Standards for Sponsoring Entities and Service Providers for the industry- driven Registered Traveler program. The draft standards have been posted to the Registered Traveler homepage on TSA.gov and are open for a two-week public comment period. Ultimately, these standards will help to direct Registered Traveler vendors on how to enroll participants, validate their biometric and biographical information, maintain privacy, and operate the program in compliance with government requirements.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:
<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060921/dcth050.html?.v=64>

FULL REPORTS

41. The American Muslim Dilemma (Council on Foreign Relations, 22 Sep 2006)

Richard A. Falkenrath, New York City's deputy police commissioner for counterterrorism, recently warned Congress, "The possibility of a 'homegrown' terrorist attack against New York City or any other American city is real and is worsening with time" (PDF). He is just one of many experts in recent months to warn about the danger of homegrown terrorism in the United States. In a discussion at a recent CFR symposium, counterterrorism expert R.P. Eddy said America's next attackers will likely be "a lot closer to the Columbine killers," than traditional jihadis.

Though it has produced relatively few terrorists to date, much discussion over the homegrown threat focuses on the American Muslim community. As a new Backgrounder explains, this group of Americans is one of the country's greatest assets for foiling homegrown Islamist terrorists. The diversity of this group, a fact not widely understood outside Muslim-American circles, also plays a role. Arab-Americans, for instance, may hail from Morocco or Iraq, Egypt or the West Bank. Muslims could come from further

afield - India to Indonesia, Tanzania to Trinidad. These factors help prevent the segregation of Muslim communities in America typical of European cities, and thus the homegrown attacks that hit Madrid in 2003 and London in 2004. Peter Skerry, a Brookings Institution senior fellow, credits American society's more thorough assimilation of Muslims as essential to making them less prone to radicalism than their European counterparts.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/11508/american_muslim_dilemma.html

42. American Muslims and the Threat of Homegrown Terrorism (Council on Foreign Relations, 22 Sep 2006)

Introduction

Experts say it is quite likely the next terrorist attack in the United States will not be the work of well-trained al-Qaeda operatives sent from abroad, but rather that of an American citizen. As al-Qaeda leaders focus more of their energy on trying to inspire others to commit acts of terror, most security and counterterrorism officials believe their message will resonate with at least some small number of Americans. Such fears tend to focus on American Muslims, and experts say this is logical given recent events in Europe. Yet the American Islamic community also has proven one of the government's best resources for preventing the emergence of homegrown Islamic terrorists.

How serious a threat is homegrown terrorism in the United States?

"The possibility of a 'homegrown' terrorist attack against New York City or any other American city is real and is worsening with time (PDF)," Richard A. Falkenrath, New York City's deputy police commissioner for counterterrorism, recently told the Senate Homeland Security Committee. This kind of threat is particularly troublesome to counterterrorism officials because it is hard to anticipate the motives or actions of a homegrown terrorist. Yet despite the high probability of a homegrown terrorist attack, experts say such an event is likely to have a relatively small impact when compared to attacks by conventional terrorist networks. As CFR Senior Fellow Steven Simon told a recent symposium, homegrown terrorists are often "feckless and ineffective," though they have at times proven quite lethal. Simon cautioned that self-radicalized individuals and groups can become far more dangerous when they reach out for support from more established terrorist networks.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cfr.org/publication/11509/>

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