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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 60

24 October 2006 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor
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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. Bush Signs Terrorism Measure (Washington Post, 18 Oct 2006)

President Bush enacted controversial changes in the system of interrogating and prosecuting terrorism suspects yesterday, setting the rules for the trials of key al-Qaeda members in a step that he says will help protect the nation. Surrounded by members of his Cabinet and legislators, Bush signed the changes into law during a White House ceremony as more than 100 protesters stood outside in the rain chanting slogans denouncing the measure as a violation of fundamental American traditions.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?L1E62110E>

2. U.S. will use vicinity RFID at border (UPI, 19 Oct 2006)

The United States is to move ahead with vicinity radio ID chips in its new border-crossing documents, despite fears about privacy and security. The State Department published a draft rule Tuesday confirming its decision to use ultra-high frequency vicinity chips, which can be read at distances of more than 30 feet, for its long-awaited new People Access Security Service, or PASS, cards.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20061018-021151-5645r>

3. Rise In Bribery Tests Integrity Of U.S. Border (KTLA, 23 Oct 2006)

EL PASO — Bribery of federal and local officials by Mexican smugglers is rising sharply, and with it the fear that a culture of corruption is taking hold along the 2,000-mile border from Brownsville, Texas, to San Diego. At least 200 public employees have been charged with helping to move narcotics or illegal immigrants across the U.S.-Mexican border since 2004, at least double the illicit activity documented in prior years, a Times examination of public records has found. Thousands more are under investigation.

Criminal charges have been brought against Border Patrol agents, local police, a county sheriff, motor vehicle clerks, an FBI supervisor, immigration examiners, prison guards, school district officials and uniformed personnel of every branch of the U.S. military, among others. The vast majority have pleaded guilty or been convicted.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://ktla.trb.com/news/la-na-border23oct23,0,7903087.story?coll=ktla-news-1>

4. U.S. ports tighten trucker regulations (UPI, 17 Oct 2006)

WASHINGTON - The Safe Port Act signed into law by President Bush last week will have a significant impact on the trucking industry as well as shipping. Fleet Owner reported on Monday that the legislation imposes stricter standards for the issuance of commercial driver licenses, or CDLs. Under the act's provisions holders of such licenses must be either U.S. citizens or permanent legal residents. The legislation also strengthens anti-fraud measures for CDL programs and requires that all truckers visiting commercial ports undergo a background check prior to being given permission to work within the facility. Within 90 days of the bill becoming law Oct. 13, the Department of Homeland Security must implement a threat assessment process for port truckers who don't have currently hold a hazardous materials endorsement. This process will include identity checks against terrorist watch lists and an immigration status check. Holders of the so-called Hazmat licenses have been subjected to similar checks for two years.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20061017-110940-9789r>

5. Japan May Help With Cargo Probes (AP, 22 Oct 2006)

TOKYO - Japan may deploy naval destroyers and surveillance aircraft to cooperate with the United States and other countries in proposed inspections of cargo vessels moving to and from North Korea, a news report said Sunday. Tokyo was considering the deployment of several naval destroyers and P-3C patrol aircraft in the Tsushima Strait and waters northwest of Okinawa, Japan's largest daily, Yomiuri Shimbun, reported, citing an outline of a government plan. The Tsushima Strait lies between South Korea and Japan's western coast. Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force would provide information to the United States and other foreign forces deployed in the area if it spots a suspicious ship, the report said. An official from Japan's navy said he could not comment on the report.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20061022/D8KTKKD80.html>

6. Maritime Risks Increase For Cruise Ships And Ferries (UPI, 18 Oct 2006)

Washington - A just published Rand report entitled "Maritime and Terrorism: Risk and Liability" states that maritime terrorism risk includes cruise ships and ferries. The Insurance Journal quoted Rand report co-author Peter Chalk on Oct. 16 as saying: "Attacks on cruise ships and ferry boats would meet the interrelated requirements of visibility, destruction and disruption that drive transnational terrorism in the contemporary era. Recognizing this is essential to any comprehensive regime of maritime security." According to the study, a terrorist attack on cruise ships and ferries could kill and injure massive numbers of passengers and cause serious financial losses. The Rand

report states that concentrating maritime counter-terrorism efforts solely on port security and cargo container ships, rail cars and trucks that import and export goods into U.S. ports is insufficient.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X2493250E>

7. Analysis: Terror goes beyond cargo ships (UPI, Jacob Russell, 23 Oct 2006)

WASHINGTON - Cruise ships could prove softer, more attractive targets for terrorists than container cargo vessels, U.S. experts warn. The issue of maritime terrorism is much more complex than the threat of nuclear or radiological detonation on container ships, according to a recent report from experts. "There is, admittedly, an overly strong emphasis on containers," Detlof von Winterfeldt, director of the Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events, said. The threats of targeting cruise ships or ferries are much more probable and must be taken into account. "It's beyond just being concerned about containers," Henry Willis, policy researcher for Rand Corp., told United Press International. Container ships are for the most part bad for terrorist agendas, according to Peter Chalk, associate political scientist for the Rand Corp. They are difficult to sink and they more often than not operate on skeleton crews. Most attacks warrant little publicity.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20061020-122532-9525r>

8. GAO Calls Radiation Monitors Unreliable (Washington Post, 18 Oct 2006)

The Department of Homeland Security's plan to spend \$1.2 billion deploying next-generation nuclear-detection equipment at U.S. ports and border crossings cannot be justified, given test results that showed the devices are unreliable, congressional investigators warned yesterday. The department ignored its own tests showing the new monitors could not meet a standard of detecting enriched uranium 95 percent of the time, according to the Government Accountability Office, Congress's audit arm. When the nuclear material was shielded, detection rates ranged from 17 percent to 53 percent.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?N6D61410E>

9. Fines lurk for fliers (The Dallas Morning News, 23 Oct 2006)

Most passengers don't realize that if they take banned items through airport security – knowingly or unknowingly – they could face as much as \$10,000 in fines. Usually the threat is obvious, such as being caught with a loaded gun. But try to pass through metal detectors with a large pair of scissors and a bad attitude and you could be out as much as \$1,500. TSA assessed \$1.4 million in passenger fines in 2005, and Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and three other Sun Belt airports topped the list, in part, said one federal official, because these states usually have more gun owners along with laws that allow individuals to carry firearms. D/FW security uncovers about one gun a week during the screening process, said Dallas-based TSA spokeswoman Andrea McCauley. Agency officials say the financial penalties are needed to enforce rules on prohibited items. But some passengers, already frustrated by what they say are uneven standards at security

checkpoints, contend that fines are unnecessary. They say some vaguely worded reasons for fines, such as "interference with screening," are too arbitrary.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?C12C2470E>

10. Airlines rap DHS proposal on passenger lists (GovExec.com, 23 Oct 2006)

American airline companies have joined foreign travel businesses and offshore drillers in opposition to a proposed regulation from the Homeland Security Department's Customs and Border Protection bureau that would mandate earlier passenger list submissions. The concerns center around CBP's proposal to collect aircraft and boat passenger manifests an hour, rather than 15 minutes, before departure. This would allow more time to check them against terrorist watch lists. But United Airlines suggested that an increase to 30 minutes before departure would be more reasonable. "United is confident that, given the proper investment, CBP could complete its pre-departure review of passenger manifests in 30 minutes or less," the company said in a 30-page response to the July proposal. The company would save more than \$1 billion over a decade if CBP were able to check passenger identities in 30 minutes instead of 60, the comment stated.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35301&dcn=e_gvet

11. Warning over global bird flu plan (BBC, 17 Oct 2006)

A third of countries which have drawn up flu pandemic plans have failed to set out how they would distribute medical treatment, a report has found. Researchers at the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Ben Gurion University Israel studied 45 national pandemic plans. They warned resources would be scarce, so decisions on who should get drugs or vaccines should be made in advance. They said prioritising treatment could help reduce death and disease. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has urged every country to develop and maintain a national plan on bird-flu. It also recommends nations prioritise the allocation of pharmaceutical resources among the population.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/6054810.stm>

12. Growing Concern Over Estrogen-Like Compounds In US Rivers (UPI, 18 Oct 2006)

Washington - An upsurge in the number of male fish growing female reproductive parts is sounding an alarm bell for the dangers of pollutants and estrogen-like compounds in U.S. rivers, where millions of Americans get their drinking water, environmental experts say. A recent survey of bass in the Potomac River, a major tributary in the nation's capital, found almost 100 percent of the smallmouth bass species were feminized, or had eggs in their testes. In largemouth bass the incidence of feminization was lower, but still highly prevalent. Although some fish species are true hermaphrodites and change sex throughout their lives, bass should be only one sex, said Vicki Blazer, a fish pathologist at the U.S. Geological Survey.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?D6596250E>

13. United States stops entry of British Muslim leader (Reuters, 19 Oct 2006)

The United States barred a British Muslim leader from flying to New York from London on Thursday morning, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security said. The department's Customs and Border Protection section would not elaborate on why Kamal Helbawy, 67, a founding member of the Muslim Association of Britain, was told by airline staff to get off his flight shortly before it was due to leave London. "The individual was inadmissible to enter the U.S.," said spokeswoman Kelly Klundt. "I can't speak specifically to this case as to why he was inadmissible." Helbawy was due to speak on a panel on the Muslim Brotherhood, organized by the Center on Law and Security, an independent think tank based at New York University.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?H2C65210E>

14. We Don't Need Our Own MI5 (Washington Post, 18 Oct 2006)

On July 5, 2005, police in Torrance, Calif., a small city bordering Los Angeles, arrested two men leaving a gas station after a robbery. That kind of crime predates Bonnie and Clyde. The next day, Torrance detectives executed a search warrant on the apartment of one of the suspects in my city, Los Angeles. There they found documents that seemed to give clues to the planning of attacks on locations in Los Angeles. Immediately, Torrance called in the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force. FBI agents, detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department and the county sheriff's department, and a team of analysts began to go through the documents. According to the indictment, they uncovered plans to attack U.S. military facilities in Los Angeles County and places where Jews gather, from synagogues to the Israeli consulate.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?K2F61210E>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

15. AZ: 4 immigrants arrested over weekend (The Arizona Republic, 23 Oct 2006)

Maricopa County sheriff's deputies arrested four more undocumented immigrants this weekend, accusing them of conspiracy to smuggle themselves into the United States. The arrests happened Saturday near Wickenburg and brought the total arrests under Arizona's year-old human smuggling law to 330. Sheriff's officials said the arrests came just five days after deputies arrested nine undocumented immigrants in the same area. Those immigrants were in possession of a Mexico government sponsored pamphlet with instructions on how to safely cross the desert.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/1023brk-MCSO1023.html>

16. CA: Muslim Scholar Denied Entry to U.S. (AP, 21 Oct 2006)

SAN FRANCISCO - An Islamic scholar from South Africa has been denied entry into the United States, prompting questions from Bay Area Muslims who had invited him to participate in activities marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Fazlur Rahman Azmi was detained by officials from U.S. Customs and Border Protection when he arrived at San Francisco International Airport from London on Friday afternoon,

according to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a civil liberties group. Azmi, who made previous visits to the country as recently as April without problems, was questioned for hours before being denied entry and sent on a plane out of the country Saturday, the group said. Michael Fleming, a Customs and Border Protection spokesman, confirmed Saturday that Azmi was forced to leave the country after a brief detainment. He refused to give any details of the case. "His application for entry into the U.S. was determined to be inadmissible," he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20061022/D8KTDP20E.html>

17. CO: TSA Considers New And Improved X-Ray System (CBS4, 18 Oct 2006)

DENVER The new rules for liquids and gels continue to cause confusion and delays at Denver International Airport so a more efficient x-ray system is being evaluated even though it most likely won't be ready for the hectic holiday travel season. Ever since the London terror plot was disrupted in the summer, the Transportation Security Administration forbade air travelers from possessing most liquids and gels in their carry-on luggage. Even two months later, there's still confusion. "I don't think they're doing a very good job of getting the information out to people," said a passenger at DIA. The TSA decided to replace the current style x-ray with a more efficient 3-dimensional system called multi-view x-ray. The new system is expected to do a better job of pinpointing liquids and might reduce the need for confusing restrictions.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://cbs4denver.com/local/local_story_291233645.html

18. KY: Potential "Hit List" Alarms Danville (WTVQ, 19 Oct 2006)

A Danville High School freshman was removed from the school by police, after he reportedly talked about a "hit list." The male teen was overheard Tuesday talking about having a list of threatened students. This led the Danville High School administration to contact the city's police department. Their initial investigation resulted in the issuance of a Juvenile Mental Detention Order. The student will not be allowed back on the school's campus pending a threat assessment. Parents were notified of the incident by a letter from Danville's principal, Win Davis, which was sent home with their children Wednesday night. Danville police are still investigating to determine if the student will face criminal charges.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G2695150E>

19. PA: Data Recorders Found After Train Crash (AP, 22 Oct 2006)

NEW BRIGHTON, Pa. - Federal investigators removed data recorders from a train that derailed and burst into flames over a bridge in southwestern Pennsylvania as ethanol tanker cars continued to burn. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board on Saturday also removed a section of track that was broken in two when 23 cars from the train's midsection derailed late Friday. No one was injured. Robert Sumwalt, vice chairman of the safety board, said preliminary indications from the data recorders from three locomotives showed that the train was traveling 36 to 39 mph when it crashed. The speed limit is 45 mph along the rail bridge. NTSB officials said they would gather

maintenance records and interview witnesses, including crew members of the Norfolk Southern train.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20061022/D8KTILK00.html>

GANG ACTIVITY

20. CA: S.F. attorney wants to create gang-free zone (San Francisco Gate, 23 Oct 2006)

San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera is seeking the city's first civil injunction against a street gang, asserting that a court order is needed to protect Bayview-Hunters Point residents from criminals who commute there to sell drugs and kill rivals and witnesses. Herrera wants Oakdale Mob members, who allegedly terrorize the public housing development known as Oakdale, to face jail time if they're outside after 10 p.m. or hang out together in public in a four-block "safety zone." The injunction also would bar them from committing a variety of crimes such as trespassing, intimidating witnesses, painting graffiti and stashing guns in bushes and crawl spaces.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/10/23/GANGS.TMP>

21. CA: Postal theft probe expands - Industry workers allegedly involve (Pasadena Star News, 22 Oct 2006)

Postal workers from the Industry Processing and Distribution Center stole refund checks and credit cards from the mail and sold them to an identity theft ring, according to a recently unveiled indictment. Using bogus IDs, members of the ring cashed the checks and used the cards to get cash advances or buy merchandise. The losses totaled \$1 million in a little more than 3 1/2 years. But while 20 alleged members of the ring have been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of conspiracy and conspiracy to launder money, the unidentified mail thieves have not been arrested.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_4534317

22. Mexican Gangs Displaying Severed Heads (AP, 21 Oct 2006)

VILLA MADERO, Mexico - The drug lords at war in central Mexico are no longer content with simply killing their enemies. They are putting their severed heads on public display. In Michoacan, the home state of President-elect Felipe Calderon, 17 heads have turned up this year, many with bloodstained notes like the one found in the highlands town of Tepalcatepec in August: "See. Hear. Shut Up. If you want to stay alive." Many in Michoacan's mountains and colonial cities are doing just that: They are tightlipped, their newspapers are censoring themselves and in one town, 18 out of 32 police officers quit saying they had received death threats from drug smugglers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20061022/D8KTDK100.html>

23. Spanish police break up credit-card fraud gang (AP, 23 Oct 2006)

MADRID, Spain - Spanish police broke up a credit card fraud gang allegedly led by a man who had been arrested 97 times while operating under 10 aliases, authorities said Monday. The suspects — a total of four were arrested in August and October — allegedly stole credit cards from foreign tourists in Barcelona and ran up charges on them in stores around Spain, a National Police official in Barcelona said. He said the alleged leader of the gang was a 42-year-old Moroccan who had been arrested 97 times — not all of them for alleged credit card fraud crime — using 10 fake names. The suspect's real name was not given.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/10/23/europe/EU_GEN_Spain_Fraud_Arrests.php

24. Before EU Accession, Bulgaria Steps Up Fight Against Organized Crime (World Politics Watch, 23 Oct 2006)

Like a scene from a Hollywood gangster film, two masked gunmen burst into the Amedic bar in Bulgaria's capital, Sofia, and opened fire on patrons watching a Bulgaria-Netherlands soccer game. Seconds later, their target, Nikolai Ivanov -- a.k.a the Beaver -- lay dead from 9 bullets; two of his associates lay bleeding on the floor next to him. The slaying on Oct. 7 in the small Balkan nation was the latest bloody salvo in an organized crime turf war that has seen over four dozen mob hits in the past five years and, in the last decade, 120 contract-style killings -- many in broad daylight -- of businessmen, politicians, and journalists. With Bulgaria on track to join the European Union on Jan. 1, 2007, this latest attack highlights persistent questions over Bulgaria's ability to reign in the violence and effectively police the EU's soon-to-be southernmost border.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://worldpoliticswatch.com/article.aspx?id=280>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

25. SC: Officers seize cocaine and marijuana worth \$350,000 (WIS10, 22 Oct 2006)

Officers with the Lexington County Multi-Agency Narcotics Enforcement Team have arrested two men and seized 27 ounces of cocaine and 153 pounds of marijuana that had a combined street value of about \$350,000, authorities say. Lexington County Sheriff James R. Metts said officers charged David Scott Browder, 34, Irmo, with trafficking in more than 400 grams of cocaine, trafficking in more than 200 grams of cocaine, possessing marijuana with the intent to distribute it and possessing a firearm during the commission of a violent crime. Enrico Tyron Dinkins, 33, Rembert, was charged with one count of trafficking in marijuana, one count of failing to stop for a blue light and two counts of unlawfully carrying a pistol.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=5573177>

26. Canada: Investigations continue into cocaine plane crash (Black Pres, 22 Oct 2006)

The RCMP and provincial coroner's service continue to investigate a fatal plane crash that took the life of James Darwin, 39, of Vernon. The older-model Piper aircraft crashed on the west side of Okanagan Lake last Wednesday. Police discovered 109 kilograms of

cocaine on board. RCMP have not determined the origin of the plane or its destination, although it may have arrived from the U.S. Officials are unwilling to speculate if the cocaine was targeted for Vernon.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W28E4270E>

27. Cocaine Crisis Prompts Spain to Unleash Flood of Anti-Drug Ads (Bloomberg, 23 Oct 2006)

Tofol, a cook on the Spanish island of Majorca, began sniffing cocaine on weekends four years ago. He soon was spending all his money on the drug and stealing from family members to support his habit. "It got to a point that after snorting cocaine I was hoping my heart would stop," said Tofol, now 26 years old and clean, who declined to give his full name. "Youngsters taking cocaine have no idea of the risk." Cocaine, once a vice of the rich, is now affordable to middle-class youths. Spain's economy grew an average of 3 percent a year for the past decade, beating the European Union average and boosting incomes. A government report to be released later this month may show that Spain has the world's highest cocaine use among 15- to 64-year-olds, outpacing the U.S. for the first time.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V27E1270E>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

28. US Congress steps into cyberspace (BBC, 19 Oct 2006)

US politicians could soon be rubbing shoulders with orcs and night elves in World of Warcraft. The Joint Economic Committee (JEC) of the US Congress has announced it is investigating the amount of commerce taking place in virtual game worlds. The investigation is unlikely to mean that in-game trading will start to be taxed. Many popular virtual worlds such as Eve Online and Second Life revolve around trade of one sort or another.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/6065534.stm>

29. Conquering Five Top IT Control Weaknesses In a Sustainable Manner, with Database Auditing (Sarbanes-Oxley Compliance Journal, 18 Oct 2006)

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act, coupled with other regulations and increasing business requirements to protect sensitive data, have placed the effectiveness of IT controls under increased auditor scrutiny. At the center of this maelstrom are the IT executives who must ensure that the requisite general computer and application controls are adequately designed to satisfy the regulations that apply to their business. In addition, they must demonstrate to auditors, information security managers, and executives that these IT controls are operating effectively. IT executives must also ensure that the controls are sustainable from a cost, personnel, and process perspective. Information security executives in turn must support the business by working collaboratively with IT to ensure the integrity and security of sensitive information.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.s-ox.com/Feature/detail.cfm?ArticleID=2010>

30. New Phishing e-Mail Identity Theft Scam (Government Technology, 23 Oct 2006)

With a new scam targeting consumers who receive social security benefits popping up in e-mail inboxes, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan warned consumers not to give out their Social Security information or bank account numbers in response to an unsolicited e-mail. Madigan's Consumer Protection Division has received reports from other states that a new e-mail scam is circulating, falsely informing the recipient "that social security records need to be confirmed." The e-mail directs the recipient to a phony Web site designed to look like the official Social Security Web site. Once directed to the phony site, the e-mail recipient is asked to confirm his or her identity by providing personal and financial information, including social security number and bank account numbers. The phony website also may request specific information about the individual's credit card number, expiration date and PIN number. In addition, the scammers may be installing "spyware" in the computers of those who click on the link in the message.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/101821

31. Caller ID Identity Theft Scam (Government Technology, 23 Oct 2006)

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox is warning consumers to be aware of a telephone scam in which phony information is transmitted through Caller ID as a ruse to con individuals into providing illicit callers with sensitive personal information. The Attorney General also released a Consumer Alert that provides tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of telemarketing scams. Stated Cox, "Many people rely on Caller ID as a way to shield their privacy. Unfortunately, scammers are taking advantage of this protective technology as a way to make bogus phone calls appear to be coming from legitimate sources." This warning comes in response to reports of a recent scam in which residents of the Washington, D.C. area received information over Caller ID stating that calls they were receiving originated from a District Courthouse.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/101822

TECHNOLOGY

32. Contracts to shield planes from missiles are awarded (Chris Strohm, National Journal's Technology Daily, 23 Oct 2006)

The Homeland Security Department has launched an 18-month program to evaluate technologies for protecting commercial aircraft against shoulder-fired missiles. The department has awarded \$7.4 million in contracts to L-3 Communications AVISYS, Northrop Grumman Space Technology and Raytheon Company to evaluate and demonstrate emerging technology for defeating man-portable air-defense systems, or MANPADS.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1006/102306tdpm1.htm>

33. Homeland Security Department To Evaluate Skyguard High-Energy Laser From NGC (SPX, 23 Oct 2006)

Redondo Beach CA - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will evaluate the capabilities of Skyguard, a high-energy laser proposed by Northrop Grumman to defeat the man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) threat to commercial aviation under a newly awarded contract. The company's Space Technology sector received a \$1.9 million, 18-month contract from DHS to evaluate emerging solutions to counter the MANPADS threat to commercial aircraft and civil airports. Northrop Grumman will develop a detailed operational concept for using ground-based high-energy laser systems in the civil aviation environment, perform component-level testing and assess life-cycle costs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P23C6270E>

34. Page One Science Releases The NO-PLODE IED Countermeasure (SPX, 23 Oct 2006)

Alexandria VA - Page One Science has released its Improvised Explosive Device (IED) countermeasure, NO-PLODE, to defend against wirelessly detonated IED's. This device utilizes highly-advanced, cutting edge technology to prevent the remote triggering of cellular communications typically used by terrorists to detonate IED's around the world. The NO-PLODE can be vehicle-mounted, personally-worn, or placed in fixed sites to create an effective safe zone, free of unauthorized cellular devices. Unlike jammers, the NO-PLODE does not disrupt essential communications. The NO-PLODE temporarily "spoofs" hostile cellular devices causing them to default to an inactive mode, thus preventing the IED from being triggered. The NO-PLODE has been designed for domestic and overseas use, and is built to survive and operate efficiently in harsh environments. The NO-PLODE has been successfully tested within all frequency bands at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, AZ.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?K14C1670E>

35. Raytheon wins contract for airport defense system (WPRI, 23 Oct 2006)

TUSCON, Ariz. Raytheon has been awarded a contract worth more than four (m) million dollars by the Department of Homeland Security to demonstrate an airport protection system. The Waltham-based defense contractor's "Vigilant Eagle" uses a network of infrared sensors to set up a protective dome around an airport. The company says its high-powered microwave beams can defend airliners from missiles.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.eyewitnessnewstv.com/Global/story.asp?S=5578840&nav=F2DO>

36. Intelligent Sensors Gear Up For Real-Time Flood Monitoring (SPX, 19 Oct 2006)

Lancaster UK - An intelligent flood monitoring system that could give advance warning of the type of rapid flood that engulfed the UK Cornish village of Boscastle in 2004, is under test in the Yorkshire Dales. Danny Hughes, Phil Greenwood and colleagues from Lancaster University won an award for their paper describing the system at the UK e-

Science All Hands Meeting in Nottingham last month. The system, which makes use of grid computing, could reduce the cost of flood damage by providing warnings of local flooding in time for people to take pre-emptive action. Most current systems issue general warnings over large areas because they rely on sparsely-distributed sensors which send information to a central point for analysis. The new system, which is based on a network of intelligent sensors that can be placed in flood-prone sites, promises rapid, low-cost warnings specific to these sites.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?N2794350E>

OPPORTUNITIES

37. TX: Foster families needed for TSA dogs (News 8 Austin Staff, 22 Oct 2006)

The Transportation Security Administration is in need of a few good boarders. The TSA is breeding dogs for use in the National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program, but now they need families in the Austin area to care for them while they grow as part of their Puppy Program. "[They need] exposure to children, adults, a wide variety of people and situations. The only expectation is that they socialize the dogs, bring them back for regular medical checks and just take care of them for a year on our behalf," Doug Johnson of the TSA said. The TSA pays for all of the dog's needs during the program. They hope to find 50 foster families in Austin over the next year.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.news8austin.com/content/your_news/default.asp?ArID=172983

FULL REPORTS

38. U.S. Seeks To Balance Trade, Security Concerns on Mexico Border (By Eric Green, Washington File Staff Writer, 20 Oct 2006)

Washington -- The United States is making a strong push to cut the "crossing time" of legitimate goods being brought across its border with Mexico.

U.S. Commerce Department official David Bohigian told reporters October 20 that the crossing time for bringing goods between the U.S. city of Detroit and the Canadian city of Windsor has been cut almost in half. With \$35 million in goods crossing the U.S.-Mexican border every hour, Bohigian said, the goal is to achieve similar gains for moving goods across the Mexican border between Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and Laredo, Texas, and at other land crossings, as well as making U.S. ports more efficient and secure.

That goal will be one of the topics of Bohigian's October 23 trip to Laredo and Nuevo Laredo before he meets with Mexican officials in Mexico City October 24.

In his briefing at the U.S. State Department's Foreign Press Center, Bohigian, the Commerce Department's assistant secretary for market access and compliance, said striking the delicate balance between security and improving efficiency in moving goods was stipulated in the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, comprising the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

That partnership, established by the three countries in March 2005, has as its goal to "ensure that North America remains the most economically dynamic region of the world," while also protecting the region's security. (See [related article](#).)

Bohigian said the U.S. relationship with Mexico is "incredibly important for both our economies and all of our people. That's why we look to extend that sort of relationship" with Mexico "throughout Latin America through our free-trade agenda."

The Commerce official said the achievements of the North American Free Trade Agreement among the United States, Mexico and Canada have "led us to have success in other areas, and we can build on that success" with the present Mexican government and with the administration of Mexican President-elect Felipe Calderón.

Bohigian said Bush and Calderón will discuss such issues as promoting economic reform in Mexico, liberalizing Mexico's energy and telecommunications sectors and promoting the rule of law in the country when the two leaders meet at the White House November 9.

The Bush administration seeks to enhance Mexico's competitiveness in the global economy, Bohigian said, "because when Mexico is more competitive and more prosperous, the citizens in the United States are more prosperous as well."

For more on U.S. policy, see [Mexico](#).

More information on the [North American Free Trade Agreement](#) is available on the Web site of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

The [announcement](#) of Calderón's upcoming visit to the White House is available on the White House Web site.

(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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