
CABLE Gram
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Publisher, Zhi Hamby-Nye

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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 61

1 November 2006 CABLE Gram™

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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. Bush Signs U.S.-Mexico Border Fence Bill (AP, 26 Oct 2006)

WASHINGTON - President Bush signed a bill Thursday authorizing 700 miles of new fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border, hoping to give Republican candidates a pre-election platform for asserting they're tough on illegal immigration. "Unfortunately the United States has not been in complete control of its borders for decades and therefore illegal immigration has been on the rise," Bush said at a signing ceremony. "We have a responsibility to enforce our laws," he said. "We have a responsibility to secure our

borders. We take this responsibility serious." He called the fence bill "an important step in our nation's efforts to secure our borders." The centerpiece of Bush's immigration policy, a guest worker program, remains stalled in Congress.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20061026/D8L0DA1G0.html>

2. Border Agents: 6 Years for Taking Bribes (AP, 31 Oct 2006)

Two former Border Patrol agents were sentenced Tuesday to more than six years each in prison for taking nearly \$200,000 in bribes in exchange for releasing immigrant smugglers and illegal immigrants from federal custody. Mario Alvarez and Samuel McClaren released smugglers and their customers from jail while working on a prisoner transfer program with the Mexican government. They once released a prisoner in a Wal-Mart parking lot for a fee of \$6,000, according to court documents. The agents, based in El Centro, once smuggled two illegal immigrants across the border themselves in a government vehicle and released them for cash, according to court documents. They turned over the location of surveillance cameras and other Border Patrol intelligence to smugglers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=843550>

3. H5N1 strain could start wave of bird flu outbreaks (Reuters, 30 Oct 2006)

HONG KONG - Scientists in Hong Kong and the United States have detected a new strain of H5N1 bird flu virus in China and warned it might have started another wave of outbreaks in poultry in Southeast Asia and move deeper into Eurasia. The strain, called the "Fujian-like virus" because it was first isolated in China's southern Fujian province in March 2005, has increasingly been detected since October 2005 in poultry in six provinces in China, displacing other H5N1 strains. The strain might also have become resistant to vaccines, which China began using on a large scale from September 2005 to protect poultry from H5N1, said the scientists. The researchers are from the University of Hong Kong, including virologists Guan Yi and Malik Peiris, and Rob Webster of St Jude Children's Research Hospital in the United States.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Z2D33241E>

4. TSA faces staffing disparities at airports (GovExec.com, 26 Oct 2006)

The Transportation Security Administration needs to create uniform guidelines to address inconsistencies in staffing levels of administrative employees across airports, auditors said in a new report. "TSA's initial staffing actions lacked coherency and resulted in some cases in significant disparities in staffing at airports," the report from the Homeland Security Department inspector general stated. The tasks assigned to administrative personnel and screeners often overlap, which makes it difficult to determine how many workers an airport might need and how employees are classified, the auditors said. The report was completed Sept. 26 in response to a summer 2005 request from Rep. John Mica, R-Fla., chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation. But it was not released publicly until this week.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1006/102606j1.htm>

5. Registered Traveler Program in Demand (USA Today, 26 Oct 2006)

Ten of the USA's busiest airports have asked the federal government if they can start Registered Traveler programs that would give pre-screened passengers a shortcut through security lines. Those programs could begin by the end of the year, launching a much-delayed effort to expedite security for travelers who pass background checks. Atlanta, Chicago O'Hare and Los Angeles airports -- the nation's three busiest -- have asked the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to let them run voluntary Registered Traveler programs, along with 19 other airports.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.airportbusiness.com/article/article.jsp?id=8623&siteSection=5>

6. TSA enforcement of carry-on rules baffles fliers (Wall Street Journal, 31 Oct 2006)

An airport security screener sat at a Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport checkpoint beside a plastic tub filled with small cans of shaving cream and tiny tubes of toothpaste. Were they contraband items that ran afoul of safety rules? "No, people didn't have quart-size plastic bags," the Transportation Security Administration official said. Where's Seinfeld when you need him? In a quintessential bureaucratic bedevilment, the TSA allows small bottles and tubes of liquids to be carried aboard airplanes only if they are enclosed in a quart-size, zip-top plastic bag. No gallon bags. No fold-over sandwich bags. Even if you have only one bottle on you, it must be carried in a quart-size, zip-top plastic bag. Screeners confiscate any nonconforming items or send travelers to ticket counters to check luggage.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/1031wsj-middle-seat31-ON.html>

7. Agency delays deadlines to check air-cargo workers (By Chris Strohm, National Journal's Technology Daily, 26 Oct 2006)

The Transportation Security Administration has delayed security requirements, criminal background checks and threat assessments for tens of thousands of workers who handle passenger-airplane cargo, saying the aviation industry is unable to meet previous deadlines. The agency has pushed back several deadlines as required under a rule issued earlier this year. "TSA has concluded that the regulated community will be unable to meet some deadlines in the air-cargo final rule because of the large number of employees and agents subject to the requirements," the agency said in a *Federal Register* notice Wednesday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1006/102606tdpm1.htm>

8. Claim USA Cargo Security Gap (Air Cargo News, 31 Oct 2006)

Just as the USA Transportation Security Administration (TSA) unveiled new cargo regulations, critics of the current security environment were also out in force: "It's the fox guarding the henhouse in many cases," William McReynolds, Airline Pilots Association said speaking of air cargo security to Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) News. CBS

said that it just finished an investigation as U.S. government issued new directives designed to further tighten air cargo security. "Last week," CBS News said "we showed TSA officials the results from an elaborate test conducted to see what packages could get through.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.aircargonews.com/061025/usacargosecurity.html>

9. Little to Show for Multimillion-Dollar Anti-Terror Effort (AP, 31 Oct 2006)

Two anti-terrorism ID programs have been sent back to the drawing board and a third is being farmed out to private companies after costing hundreds of millions of dollars over the past four years. Begun after the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackings, the programs were supposed to help prevent catastrophic terrorist attacks on the U.S. transportation system by checking airline passenger names against watch lists and providing special identification cards to every worker with access to airports, railroads, seaports or trucks. So far, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration - which has been overseeing development of the three programs - has not gone beyond testing, has issued no IDs and has screened no passengers against terrorist lists. TSA chief Kip Hawley defended the agency's efforts this week, saying the projects by their very nature use expensive and unreliable advanced technology.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M1E62441E>

10. New Credit Report Block Option to Combat Identity Theft (Northender.com, 30 Oct 2006)

Beginning November 1st, residents of New York State will have increased power to block access to their credit reports, under a law signed into effect in June. The law is aimed to strengthen consumers' defenses against identity thieves, particularly those who open fraudulent accounts under other people's names. "By blocking access to credit information, New York State consumers will be better protected from unauthorized and illegal use of their identity. This will limit the ability of identity thieves to commit their crimes on innocent residents and further the protective efforts of law enforcement," Senator John Flanagan (R-East Northport), a sponsor of the bill, said in a statement. "Identity thieves are getting more sophisticated and the laws must be continually strengthened to fight this growing threat to our residents. This law will further the state's efforts continue that fight."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.northender.com/northend_news_details.jsp?id=637

11. EU, U.S., to share criminal investigation information (Reuters, 24 Oct 2006)

The European Union endorsed an agreement with the United States to facilitate the exchange of information between EU and U.S. prosecutors on terrorism and cross-border criminal cases, it said on Tuesday. The deal, endorsed by EU ministers on Monday, will allow the EU-wide prosecutors' office Eurojust to exchange information with U.S. counterparts on cases under investigation, said Maarit Loimukoski, a member of Eurojust representing the Finnish EU Presidency. "It will facilitate the cooperation," said

Loimukoski, one of the 25 prosecutors and judges who work at Eurojust's headquarters in The Hague.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?B2BC5390E>

12. Europe to Spend \$1 Million on Anti-Terror Project (AP, 26 Oct 2006)

The European Commission will spend euro9 million (US\$ 11.4 million) to fund anti-terrorism projects, officials said Thursday. The plans were all part of the 25-member bloc's pilot project to bolster EU readiness against terror attacks, EU security commissioner Franco Frattini said. Last year, the projects received euro7 million (US\$8.8 million). "It will assist in better protecting critical infrastructure, preventing terrorist financing, the use of explosives and violent radicalization and increase bio-preparedness, by training intervention personnel and by identifying key objectives and proper measures to protect our citizens," Frattini said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V2D61541E>

13. Ex-FBI Agent Pleads Guilty To Misdemeanor Count (CBS, 30 Oct 2006)

LOS ANGELES An ex-FBI agent who disclosed confidential information to a defense worker under investigation for allegedly selling information to China was sentenced Monday to one year of probation and a \$1,000 fine. Denise K. Woo, 47, pleaded guilty to a federal misdemeanor count under a plea bargain. Under the deal, prosecutors dropped more serious felony charges -- including disclosing a wiretap and revealing the identity of a covert operative -- that could have carried a sentence of about a dozen years.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://cbs2.com/topstories/local_story_303181939.html

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

14. AZ: Police bust large Arizona human trafficking ring (Reuters, 30 Oct 2006)

Police have arrested more than 40 people and broken up a family-run smuggling ring that hauled illegal immigrants from Mexico to Arizona for generations, officials said on Monday. The operation, which began in 2001, broke up a ring that smuggled undocumented immigrants to Bowie, Arizona, southeast of Phoenix, from Agua Prieta in Mexico, Immigration and Customs Enforcement said. Alonzo Pena, ICE special agent in charge of Arizona, said a grand jury handed down an indictment this month charging 55 people in connection with the operation. Eleven suspects remained at large. "This was an extremely significant smuggling operation and one of the largest of its kind in the state," Pena told Reuters.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P2081541E>

15. AZ: City to buy counter-terrorism vehicles (The Arizona Republic, 30 Oct 2006)

Mesa's Fire and Police departments soon will have their own counter-terrorism support vehicles. A 2005 \$136,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will provide each city department with a 2007 Ford Expedition XLT 4x4. The vehicles cost

about \$48,000 each. The remaining \$40,000 will pay for communications equipment, computers and mobile printers, said Gil Damiani, the Fire Department's emergency management coordinator.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/1030brk-vehicles1030.html>

16. HI: TSA Security Notebook Left In Passenger's Luggage (KITV, 26 Oct 2006)

HONOLULU - A Transportation Security Administration employee mistakenly left a notebook with sensitive security information in a checked piece of luggage at Kona International Airport, KITV has learned. The notebook full of records from an explosive detection machine in Kona ended up in a passenger's duffle bag on Oahu. TSA is investigating the mishap.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thehawaiichannel.com/news/10160794/detail.html>

17. IA: Ground broken for new state Hygienic Lab (Radio Iowa, 25 Oct 2006)

State, local and University of Iowa officials were on hand for the groundbreaking today (Wednesday) for the new University Hygienic Laboratory building at the school's Oakdale research campus. U-of-I Vice President for Research Meredith Hay was the master of ceremonies for the event. Hay says the staff of the new state-of-the-art laboratory will provide the "critical public health services to detect and help aid the prevention of outbreaks of infection, afflictions due to chemical contamination, bioterrorism and illness resulting from radiation." She says they will also work to preserve the quality of the air, water and soil in the state.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ygvqbr>

18. MA: Boston Police seeking out larceny, identity theft suspects (7 News, 27 Oct 2006)

BOSTON - Boston police are investigating a number of larceny and identity theft incidents that not only plague the Boston area, but other large cities on the East Coast as well. Boston Police Special Investigations Unit and the Postal Financial Crimes Task Force have identified several members of an organized crime ring that have been stealing pocketbooks from restaurants and hotels. Police believe the suspects use the contents of the stolen purses to obtain fraudulent identification by way of the victim's personal information. In some cases, the suspects would use this information to withdraw large sums of money from the victim's bank account.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www3.whdh.com:80/news/articles/local/BO32260/>

19. NJ: Newark Airport Screeners Fail to See Most Test Bombs (The Seattle Times, 30 Oct 2006)

Screeners at Newark Liberty International Airport, one of the starting points for the Sept. 11 hijackers, failed 20 of 22 security tests conducted by undercover U.S. agents last week, missing concealed bombs and guns at checkpoints throughout the major air hub's three terminals, according to federal security officials. The tests, conducted Oct. 19 by

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) agents, also revealed failures by screeners to follow standard operating procedures while checking passengers and their baggage for prohibited items, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X3C61341E>

20. OH: Chase for Suspect Closes Ohio Airport (AP, 31 Oct 2006)

An airport used primarily for cargo flights was closed for about 90 minutes early Monday while police pursued a man who crashed his car through a fence after a high-speed chase. No flights were affected at Rickenbacker International Airport because no takeoffs or landings were scheduled at the time, said Angie Tabor, spokeswoman for the Columbus Regional Airport Authority. The airport also has a charter passenger terminal. Police began chasing the suspect in Ashville, 19 miles south of Columbus, after a traffic offense, the village's police department said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Z5A62341E>

21. OR: Oregon National Guard Demonstrates Capabilities To Support Local, State, Federal Agencies (Medford News, 30 Oct 2006)

Brooks, Oregon - The Oregon National Guard's 102nd Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Team held a demonstration event at the Marion County Regional Fire Training Facility in Brooks, Ore. today showcasing their capabilities to support local, state, and federal authorities with weapons of mass destruction incidents. The 102nd CST, based in Salem, is a unit of 22 full-time Army and Air National Guard members that can be rapidly mobilized to an incident anywhere in Oregon to assist civil authorities with early-detection and analysis capabilities of a chemical, biological or nuclear incident. The goal is to minimize the impact on civilian populations and facilitate requests for follow-on emergency and military support by civil authorities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.medfordnews.com/articles/index.cfm?artOID=333015&cp=10996>

22. PA: Hispanics Flee Pa. Town Before Crackdown (AP, 31 Oct 2006)

Elvis Soto's variety store used to make money. But few customers have been walking through his door lately, and his merchandise _ calling cards, cell phones, car stereos, clothing _ is collecting dust on the shelves. With bills mounting, Soto might have to take another job to stay afloat financially, and may even close the store. On Wednesday, a tough, first-of-its-kind law targeting illegal immigrants goes into effect in this small hillside city in northeastern Pennsylvania. But the evidence suggests many Hispanics _ illegal or otherwise _ have already left. That, in turn, has hobbled the city's Hispanic business district, where some shops have closed and others are struggling to stay open. "Before, it was a nice place," said Soto, 27, who came to the United States from the Dominican Republic a decade ago. "Now, we have a war against us. I am legal but I feel the pressure also." The ordinance, approved by City Council in September, imposes fines on landlords who rent to illegal immigrants and denies business permits to companies that give them jobs. The law empowers the city to investigate written complaints about a person's immigration status, using a federal database.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.breitbart.com/news/2006/10/31/D8L3PSRG0.html>

23. VA: Mass flu inoculation clinic will serve as bioterrorism drill for county (The New Castle Record, 30 Oct 2006)

A planned mass flu clinic Nov. 7 will serve a two-fold purpose for the county. "On that date our goal is to get everybody in the community inoculated with the flu vaccine," said Registered Nurse Pat Johnston, the Public Health Nurse for Craig County. "The second goal is to successfully run the clinic as a bioterrorism drill." Although this is a first for Craig County, such mass clinics have been successfully run in other counties through County Health Departments. "A lot of planning and work has gone into this clinic," said Nancy Surface, an employee of the Health Department who is helping to get the program together. "Erin DeCarli who serves as Health Educator for the Alleghany, Craig and Roanoke City Health Districts has been instrumental in helping us plan and organize the program," Surface added.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://mainstreetnewspapers.com/articles/2006/10/30/new_castle/news/news05.txt

KEY PEOPLE

24. Charting a new course (Tiffin OH, Advertiser-Tribune, 25 Oct 2006)

Willie Hulon, executive assistant director of the National Security Branch of the FBI, speaks at Chisholm Auditorium on Tiffin University's campus Tuesday morning. The terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, were tragic, but they shaped the transformation of the FBI, said one of the agency's top-ranking officials. Willie Hulon — executive assistant director of the National Security Branch of the FBI — said the bureau has transformed its national security mission. The change has been a huge challenge, he said, but the bureau's employees have been able to step up to modify the way they do business. Hulon said the FBI is fighting terrorism to protect civil liberties and ensure people aren't targeted because of their ethnicities, nationalities or races. "We want to protect the way we live," he said. "Terrorism has had a huge impact on our freedoms." Hulon spoke at Tiffin University Tuesday and visited a former colleague.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.advertiser-tribune.com/News/articles.asp?articleID=4524>

25. U.S. official urges WMD vigilance (The Daily Princetonian, 26 Oct 2006)

Ambassador Kenneth Brill, director of the National Counterproliferation Center, said the government must expand the resources it devotes to countering the spread of deadly weapons. "The biggest challenge to both policy and intelligence is the effort by states to acquire WMDs, like North Korea and Iran," Brill said in an interview with The Daily Princetonian yesterday. "Policy and intelligence need to both work harder together and be more innovative in developing partnerships." Brill was on campus to speak with students in WWS 488: Terrorism and the Role of Intelligence, who are studying reforms in U.S. national intelligence strategy after Sept. 11, 2001.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dailyprincetonian.com/archives/2006/10/26/news/16384.shtml>

26. DHS gets new head of state grants office (UPI, 31 Oct 2006)

The Department of Homeland Security is set to announce a new head for its grants office that doles out federal cash to first responders. Corey Gruber, currently the executive director of the national preparedness taskforce, will be named acting director of the Office of Grants and Training this week, a department official told United Press International. The department's press office had no immediate comment.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20061031-025631-5603r>

27. TSA names acting airport security head for Miss. (Clarion Ledger, 25 Oct 2006)

The Transportation Security Administration has named Dempsey Jones III as acting head of federal security for Mississippi, replacing Federal Security Director Larry Rowlett. Amid an investigation into security practices at Jackson-Evers International Airport, the TSA announced Monday that Rowlett had accepted another job within the agency. Jones currently is federal security director for the Allentown, Penn., airport and three other Pennsylvania airports, and has been with TSA since 2002. Prior to joining TSA, Jones spent 23 years in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, most recently as agent in charge of the Philadelphia field office.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061025/NEWS/61025021>

GANG ACTIVITY

28. CA: Judge issues restraining order against 22 alleged gang members (San Francisco Chronicle, 30 Oct 2006)

SAN FRANCISCO - A San Francisco Superior Court judge issued a temporary restraining order today against 22 alleged members of the Oakdale Mob, a Bayview-Hunters Point street gang, but delayed a ruling on whether to impose a 10 p.m. curfew for gang members. Judge Peter Busch's decision means that the alleged gang members could be put in jail if they hang out together in public in a four-block "safety zone" near the public housing development known as Oakdale. However, the judge chose -- at least for the time being -- not to impose the curfew for the men identified by City Attorney Dennis Herrera as Oakdale Mob members. Herrera is also seeking the ability to add names of gang members in the future who would be covered by the curfew and ban on gathering in public.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/10/30/BAGLNM2QRP8.DTL>

29. CA: Attorney Proposes Curfew For Suspected Gang Members (NCBC11, 30 Oct 2006)

SAN FRANCISCO - An effort to create San Francisco's first gang-free zone is headed for a court fight. The city attorney asked a judge Monday for a civil injunction to create a four-block safety zone in Bayview Hunters Point, near Palou Avenue and Ingalls Street. Suspected gang members could face jail time if they are found hanging out in that zone after 10 p.m.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nbc11.com/news/10193570/detail.html>

30. CA: Fresno's Compassionate Approach to Gang Prevention (KFSN-TV, 25 Oct 2006)

Fresno police will be taking a compassionate approach to stopping gangs. It's a progressive effort aimed at helping gang members start a new life. The City Council provided over a million dollars for the first year program.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=local&id=4692631>

31. IL: Officers shoot and kill alleged armed gang members (AP, 31 Oct 2006)

CHICAGO - Police shot and killed two alleged gang members and wounded a third who the officers believed were on their way to kill a rival gang member Monday, Police Superintendent Philip Cline said. The officers, members of the Chicago police gang intelligence unit, were tailing three suspected New Breed street gang members after learning of a planned drive-by shooting through electronic surveillance during an investigation into area shootings, Cline said. When the officers attempted to pull over a car the alleged gang members were riding in, they saw a man in the back seat raise an AK-47 assault rifle toward them, Cline said. The officers opened fire, killing the man with the rifle and the front-seat passenger.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.belleville.com/mld/belleville/news/state/15889870.htm>

32. MD: Corrections officials developing gang management strategy (AP, 29 Oct 2006)

Maryland corrections officials are studying ways to better manage incarcerated gang members -- including confining members of the same gang together in a separate prison unit. Acting Division of Correction Commissioner John Rowley recently sent a team of corrections officials to Connecticut, which has a nationally recognized program for managing gangs in prison. Rowley has scheduled a meeting this week to discuss the benefits of the program. He told The Associated Press in an interview that Maryland needs to look at the best practices that are out there for keeping gang violence in check.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtnh.com/Global/story.asp?S=5605000&nav=3YeX>

33. NV: Heavily-Armed Raids Target Notorious Richmond Gang (Fox Reno, 26 Oct 2006)

NORTH RICHMOND - Armed with federal arrest and search warrants, more than 200 heavily armed FBI agents, Richmond police officers and Contra Costa Sheriff's deputies swept down on a one-mile area of North Richmond early Wednesday in search of members of the notorious Project Trojans street gang. In all, 16 arrest warrants and search warrants for 10 locations were issued and were being executed on Wednesday. At least nine suspects have been taken into custody.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.foxreno.com/news/10156809/detail.html>

34. NJ: Bloods gang in Morris - Sting operation may have crippled drug network (Daily Record, 31 Oct 2006)

MORRISTOWN - Gang members arrested this weekend were plotting a murder, selling drugs and engaging in beatings and other violence in Morristown, according to prosecutors. The gang activity allegations came after an investigation that led to the arrests of 47 adults and three juveniles, 11 of whom were identified by authorities as members of the Bloods gang. Morris County Prosecutor Michael Rubbinaccio declined to identify the individual who was being targeted for murder, and also declined to specify the violent acts, or how those arrested were selling or buying drugs, but said that he believes law enforcement officials have crippled a violent drug-distribution network operated by the Bloods.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yea8no>

35. NY: Morris County Police Crack Down On Gang Activity (CBS, 30 Oct 2006)

NEW YORK Pedro Narvas had just moved into a suburban community in Morristown, where he wanted his family to be safe. But after authorities say they just busted 50 members of a street gang who operated out of the neighborhood, allegedly selling drugs on the streets and threatening residents, Narvas is second guessing his decision. "Now I'm a little scared, you know," Narvas said. "[I've] got my daughter with me." Authorities say Tyson McCoy and Casey Chatmon -- both affiliated with the Bloods gang -- were the ring leaders. They along with the others have been charged with a slew of offenses, including drug distribution. But why would gangs target a quiet area in Morristown?

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://wcbstv.com/topstories/local_story_303192212.html

36. NC: Gang markings show up more and more in region (Goldsboro News-Argus, 31 Oct 2006)

KENANSVILLE - The sloppy graffiti tagged all over abandoned buildings, isolated barns, bridge sidings, street signs and in alleyways throughout Duplin County doesn't mean much to most people. But gang members and Detective Eric Southerland notice it all -- all the spider webs, the numeral 13s, the curse words and the other cryptic symbols. "There is no mistaking the fact that gangs are now, and have been in Duplin County for some time. One of the first indicators of gang activity is the appearance of graffiti in an area and we have a variety of gangs in Duplin County," said Southerland, a detective with the Duplin County Sheriff's Department. "Gangs mark their territory like a dog does. It means something to the gang members themselves and it means something to members of rival gangs. It's a challenge to rival gang members."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X4F73641E>

37. NC: State using new software to track growing gang activity (WWAY, 26 Oct 2006)

WILMINGTON - The state is cracking down on gangs. It involves a new piece of software that tracks individuals thought to be part of gangs. The new program is called

GangNet. It is a nearly \$1 million computer system that tracks gang activity. In the past departments had to buy the system. Now they can get it and use it for free. The state is helping local law enforcement track gang activity. GangNet is a software system that can keep track of individuals thought to be involved in gangs. That information can then be shared state-wide.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wwaytv3.com/Global/story.asp?S=5589661>

38. VA: Teens describe details of Fairfax MS-13 shooting (The Sentinel, 27 Oct 2006)

At 8 p.m. on a cold, snowy Friday night, a group of high school kids were doing what high school kids do best: loiter on a stoop, sneak some beer and just hang out at a favorite haunt, an apartment building lobby with steps covered by a green awning. It was a hang out the group of high school students had been to plenty of times before, a retreat from homework and parents. At approximately 8:20, two men dressed in black approached the building and fired into the group at a deadly range, killing one and injuring two others before fleeing. Four members of the street gang MS-13, including defendant Edgar "Pony" Ayala, have been named in a superseding indictment for conspiracy to commit murder to aid their racketeering in the Fairfax County, Virginia shooting. They were allegedly looking for rival gang members on that Jan.21, 2005.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thesentinel.com/297583920910100.php>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

39. FL: South Florida cocaine deaths on the rise (South Florida Sun-Sentinel, 26 Oct 2006)

West Palm Beach · Of the nearly 2,000 people who died in Florida last year after using cocaine, many overdosed in front of fellow drug users who were too afraid to call 911. Offering amnesty or immunity to drug users in such situations -- similar to a program that allows women to leave newborns at fire stations, no questions asked -- could save lives. That was one of the ideas presented Wednesday at the "Cocaine: Call for Action" forum at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, which brought more than 250 people who work closely with drugs and drug users together to discuss the state's growing cocaine problem.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?F5E72141E>

40. GA: Cocaine kingpin suspect captured (Savannah Now, 31 Oct 2006)

The kingpin of a cocaine trafficking ring is off the streets after more than a month on the run, police said Monday. Gary Ervin was the leader of a 16-person drug operation connected to more than five kilos of cocaine, according to the Chatham-Savannah Counter Narcotics Team. "He was a principal in the case," CNT Assistant Deputy Commander Lt. Gregory Mitchell said Monday. "Getting him off the street is a big asset."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://savannahnow.com/node/169338>

41. IL: Cops seize 22 pit bulls, cocaine from home (Chicago Sun-Times, 30 Oct 2006)

Twenty-two pit bulls, an assault weapon and two kilograms of cocaine have been seized from a south suburban home - and a Chicago man faces a court hearing today in the sting, officials said. Brian Washington, 31, is charged with weapons and drug violations that could lead to a prison term of at least 30 years if he is convicted, said Tony DeBois, director of the Harvey Police narcotics and gangs unit. Washington, who uses a wheelchair, was paralyzed from the waist down in a shooting in Chicago, DeBois said. In a written statement, Washington told police he earns \$600 a month on disability, but he was living in a house in Markham valued at about \$300,000, according to DeBois.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/116811,103006sting.article>

42. IL: State ranks high in heroin abuse but low in pain pill abuse (Chicago Sun-Times, 30 Oct 2006)

Although Illinois has a high rate of heroin abuse, researchers were surprised to find residents are among the least likely to abuse pain pills. About 0.3 percent of Illinois residents abuse heroin -- the eighth-highest rate among states. Like heroin, many prescription pain pills are opioids, a class of drug. But only 3.7 percent of Illinois residents abuse pain medications, making Illinois the ninth-lowest state for the abuse. Illinois' rate was lower than the rates in every bordering state except Iowa.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/116295,CST-NWS-meds30.article>

43. NJ: Heroin kingpin convicted, could get life sentence (AP, 31 Oct 2006)

TRENTON, N.J. - An Irvington man who authorities say was a major heroin kingpin faces up to life in prison after a jury convicted him Tuesday of conspiracy, racketeering, drug, gun and money laundering charges. Authorities said Charles "Black" Hamilton was the head of an operation that moved huge amounts of heroin _ about 20,000 doses a week _ from northern New Jersey to the Trenton area. At the time Hamilton was arrested in 2004, authorities believed his operation was responsible for three-fourths of the heroin in Trenton. Hamilton, 36, also had ties to the Bloods street gang, the Attorney General's office said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?F2875141E>

44. NM: Drug Raid Yields Los Alamos Documents (AP, 24 Oct 2006)

A drug raid on a Los Alamos scientist's home in New Mexico turned up what appeared to be classified documents taken from the nuclear weapons lab, the FBI said Tuesday. Police discovered the documents at the scientist's home while making an arrest in a methamphetamine investigation, according to an FBI official in Washington who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the case. The police alerted the FBI to the documents, prompting a federal search of the unidentified female scientist's home. The official would not describe the documents except to say that they appeared to contain classified material.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=116&sid=953591&sidelines=1>

45. NY: Largest cocaine bust in St. Lawrence County history (News 10 Now, 31 Oct 2006)

Police said it's the largest cocaine bust in St. Lawrence County history. And now \$120,000 worth is in the hands of police. Gouverneur Police Chief David Whitton said, "I think it's substantial for any law enforcement agency to make a seizure of that nature, 980 grams is just 20 grams shy of a kilo of powdered cocaine. And then the 35 grams which is much more potent of crack cocaine." In addition, police said they found \$30,000 in cash in the home of Maurice Webb, 26. Police arrested Webb after a two-week long investigation by the Drug Task Force.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P5772141E>

46. OH: Rampant Identity Theft in Ohio May Spread to Voter Records (Government Technology, 31 Oct 2006)

According to new research by Identity Theft 911, the upcoming election in Ohio has emerged as a test case for identity theft as a political issue, and may well serve as a proving ground for how well local governments can safeguard sensitive personal information in the new world of electronic voting. The lead-up to the election has been characterized by a number of scandalous incidents involving security breaches that have put the personal records of tens of thousand of Ohioans at risk for identity theft.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/102011

47. PA: Cocaine ring cracked (Times Herald, 31 Oct 2006)

COURTHOUSE - Montgomery County law enforcement authorities Monday announced they cracked a major cocaine-trafficking ring headed by four illegal aliens from Mexico, who all gedly distributed high-quality, low-c "This is a big case," said county District Attorney Bruce L. Castor Jr., standing in front of a conference table heaped with 44 pounds of cocaine having a street value of more than \$2 million and piles of cash totaling more than \$300,000. "Many, many drug dealers were being supplied by this group of men," said Castor. "I think we have struck a very, very serious blow to narcotics trafficking here in Central Montgomery County." While seven of the nine-member drug ring have been arrested and are behind bars, including the four alleged ringleaders, two remain at liberty.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W2675241E>

48. TN: Federal authorities arrest nine in major cocaine bust (News Channel 5, 31 Oct 2006)

NASHVILLE, Tenn. The U-S Attorney's office in Nashville say they have shut down a main source of cocaine in Middle Tennessee. Investigators announced yesterday the arrest of nine people involved in bringing cocaine from Mexico to be sold in the Nashville area. Agents raided a Brentwood home last week and found one-and-a-half (m)

million dollars worth of cocaine, the second largest drug bust in Middle Tennessee history. In addition to the drugs, agents found one (m) million in cash stashed in hidden compartments in cars and a tractor trailer.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.newschannel5.com/Global/story.asp?S=5613112>

49. Identify Dominican link in Barcelona 550K cocaine bust (Dominican Today, 31 Oct 2006)

SANTO DOMINGO.- The National Drugs Control Agency (DNCD) announced that it has identified the Dominican accomplices in the international drug trafficking network that recently sent 550 kilos of pure cocaine to Barcelona, Spain. DNCD president Rafael Ramirez said that those responsible for sending the drug to Spain are Jose Miguel Castro and Melvin Antonio Cordero Campusano, who "capably constituted ghost companies, also with ghost addresses," but in operations conducted in the country investigators located the place from where the cocaine was shipped, which was seized when it was being disembarked. The official urged the two men to "turn themselves in to the authorities, whether the DNCD, the National Police or any branch of the Armed Forces, to avoid worse consequences."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dominicantoday.com/app/article.aspx?id=19209>

50. Cocaine from Venezuela seized in Belgium (el universal, 31 Oct 2006)

Two Belgians, one Dutchman and one Italian were detained in northern Antwerp port. During the operation, 67 kilograms of cocaine onboard of an oil tanker from Venezuela were confiscated, the Belgium federal police announced. "The drug was concealed under the floating line in the ship rear section," the police said in a press release, AFP disclosed. "The gang that came for the cocaine was using a specially equipped ship, where some divers could move in the water without been seen," the police explained.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://english.eluniversal.com/2006/10/31/en_pol_art_31A798503.shtml

51. Spain holds 'Colombia trafficker' (BBC, 31 Oct 2006)

Spanish police have arrested one of Colombia's most-wanted drug traffickers in Madrid, the Interior Ministry said on Tuesday. Orlando Sabogal Zuluaga, 40, was arrested by officers at a shopping centre in Majadahonda on the outskirts of Madrid last Thursday. Mr Zuluaga is alleged to be second-in-command of Colombia's notorious "Norte del Valle" cartel. The cartel is believed to account for up to 50% of global cocaine traffic. The "Norte de Valle" organisation is accused of smuggling more than 500 tonnes of cocaine into the Unites States since 1994 with a value of more than \$10bn.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6103626.stm>

52. Nearly a Tonne of Cocaine Washes Up on Beaches (The Age, 26 Oct 2006)

Police have collected over 800kg of packed cocaine off northern Portuguese beaches and another 175kg off beaches in Galicia, Spain. So far the possibility that more is on the way has not been ruled out. According to Portuguese police inspector Carlos Garcia the origin

of the drugs is yet to be determined. He theorised that the drugs had either been thrown overboard off a ship during recent heavy weather or dislodged from a hiding place at sea.
CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X5D72241E>

53. Serbian authorities arrest Macedonian citizens for attempted heroin smuggling (makfaxonline, 30 Oct 2006)

The Serbian Police seized on Monday 17.5 kilograms of heroin at Presevo border crossing and arrested Macedonian citizens Fatih Xhaferi, Serbian Interior Ministry announced. The Police uncovered 30 packages of heroin in Xhaferi's automobile BMW with Swiss license plates, the announcement adds.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P2472341E>

54. Saudi Arabia beheads two convicted drug smugglers (AP, 29 Oct 2006)

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia - Saudi Arabia on Sunday beheaded two foreign nationals on charges they smuggled heroin and cocaine into the country, the Interior Ministry said. Adam bin Mohammed Ali Hussein, of Nigeria, was convicted of swallowing lumps of cocaine in plastic bags and smuggling them into Saudi Arabia, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. Mahmoud Haji Shadi, an Afghan, was convicted of smuggling heroin. Saudi Arabia follows a strict interpretation of Islam under which people convicted of murder, drug trafficking, rape and armed robbery can be executed.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/10/29/africa/ME_GEN_Saudi_Beheadings.php

55. Afghanistan: NATO says 48 militants killed in the south; police seize marijuana, opium (AP, 25 Oct 2006)

KABUL, Afghanistan NATO-led troops backed by artillery and airstrikes battled insurgents in southern Afghanistan, killing 48 suspected militants in three separate confrontations, the alliance said Wednesday, as Afghan police and Western troops elsewhere seized more than 10 tons of marijuana from a truck. At least four civilians also were wounded in the clashes in Kandahar's Zhari and Panjwayi districts on Tuesday, the alliance said, adding that they were receiving treatment at military medical facilities. The clashes had targeted militants who were attacking NATO's development efforts in the area, said Maj. Luke Knittig, a spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/10/25/asia/AS_GEN_Afghanistan.php

56. US Pair accused of cocaine smuggling (Sidney Morning Herald, 30 Oct 2006)

Two Americans have faced a Sydney court on cocaine smuggling charges after being caught with up to two kilograms of the drug strapped to their legs that was detected by a drug sniffer dog when they flew into Australia on Sunday. The pair, Sasha Donaji Robles, 22, and Hector Joel Rodarte, 21, were arrested in the baggage collection area of Sydney Airport at 7.30am after arriving on a flight from San Francisco. A distraught

Robles wiped tears from her face when she appeared in the prisoner dock of Central Local Court before Magistrate Ian Barnett after the lunch time break today.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Y2572141E>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

57. FBI raids Ph.D. student's apartment, investigates Web site - Site generated fake Northwest Airlines tickets (Indiana Daily Student, 31 Oct 2006)

The FBI and Transportation Security Administration are investigating an IU doctoral student who created a Web site that generated fake Northwest Airlines boarding passes. Informatics graduate student Chris Soghoian reported Friday on his blog that the FBI showed up at his home in Bloomington and demanded he take down the Web site. That same day, Massachusetts Congressman Edward Markey publicly called for his arrest because of the site. The site has since been taken down. Soghoian, who is working on a Ph.D. in Informatics with a focus in computer security, said he created the Web site to call attention to a "security hole" in airport regulations, according to his blog at <http://slightparanoia.blogspot.com/>. However, he never printed or used a fake boarding pass, he wrote in the blog. Soghoian said in an e-mail to the Indiana Daily Student his lawyers are not allowing him to comment to the press at this time.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.idsnews.com/news/story.php?id=38874&adid=news>

58. Hackers Penetrate Water System Computers (ABC News, Oct 2006)

A foreign hacker who penetrated security at a Harrisburg, Pa., water filtering plant is under investigation by the FBI for planting malicious software capable of affecting the plant's water treatment operations, ABC News has learned. The hacker tried to covertly use the computer system as its own distribution system for e-mails or pirated software, officials told ABC. "The concern was high because it is a computer that controls an important infrastructure system, and if, for some reason, it caused it to fail, it would have disrupted service," said Special Agent Jerri Williams of the FBI's Philadelphia field office.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://blogs.abcnews.com/theblotter/2006/10/hackers_penetra.html

59. FBI: Companies Need to Report Cyber Attacks (eWeek, 24 Oct 2006)

NEW YORK - Companies should do more to report cyber-crimes such as hacking and phishing to help federal authorities investigate and ensure that additional data isn't compromised beyond initial attacks, a high-ranking FBI official said. "A huge issue for us is the underreporting of successful or almost successful hacking," Special Agent Mark Merishin, the assistant director-in-charge of the FBI's New York City Office, told a crowd gathered here at the Infosecurity Conference and Exhibition on Oct. 24. A 30-year FBI veteran, Merishin was appointed to his current position at the bureau's largest field office in May 2005. The expert spoke for a little more than an hour in a keynote address about the three most important issues facing the agency each day: counterterrorism, counterintelligence and cyber-crimes.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2036619,00.asp>

TECHNOLOGY

60. TIGER system biting into germ detection at Fort Detrick (News-Post, 31 Oct 2006)

FREDERICK - Though plants and tigers may not have much in common, a project at Fort Detrick is bringing them together -- sort of. Scientists are using a system nicknamed TIGER to fight disease and agroterrorism in the nation's plants and crops. The system, whose feline acronym is catchier than Triangulation Identification for Genetic Evaluation of Risks, can identify every microbe in a sample of soil, water, air or blood and show researchers which pathogens are present, even agents they weren't expecting. These systems are rare, with only about five in the country and some versions costing as much as \$1 million each.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/display.htm?storyid=53569>

61. Technological Development Critical To Outpacing Terrorists (SPX, 30 Oct 2006)

Washington DC - The same globalization that's created vast opportunities for economic growth and information sharing among freedom-loving people has become a favorite tool of terrorists trying to destroy their way of life, Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England told industry representatives here yesterday. Speaking at the Military Communications Conference 2006, England called rapid technological change, and particularly the ways it can be abused, "the fundamental technical and operational challenge of our time." Terrorists are "technologically very savvy," he said, and see no conflict in using their technological expertise to close doors it's helped opened. "Though they aim to undo centuries' worth of progress, they are not at all reluctant to take full advantage of that progress," he told the group, who he described as "today's rock stars of science and technology." Terrorists "use the latest technological innovations to communicate, recruit and transfer money," the deputy secretary said. "They keep Web sites, and they update them in real time to share their lessons learned."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?C5962141E>

62. Academic urges government-run emergency communications network (By Terry Kivlan, CongressDaily, 27 Oct 2006)

A Carnegie Mellon University expert on Thursday called for the development of a government-run communications network that would enable police, firefighters and other emergency responders from different jurisdictions to talk to each other. "A government system is feasible, and it would clearly be more cost effective than what we have today," Jon Peha, an engineering and public policy professor, said during the presentation of a paper on the issue at a forum sponsored by the New America Foundation. Peha said that after the disastrous communications failures on Sept. 11, 2001, and during Hurricane Katrina, he could "not see why we should tolerate" the current decentralized emergency-

response system, which gives the flexibility of local "first responder" agencies precedence over standardization and regional cooperation.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35360&dcn=e_gvet

RESOURCES

63. Transnational Organized Crime: Principal Threats and US Responses Congressional Research Service Report, 20 March 2006

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.usembassy.it/pdf/other/RL33335.pdf>

64. Keeping Secrets New Initiative Offers Tips for Businesses (SOPnewswire, 25 Oct 2006)

An executive of a hi-tech American firm on a business trip overseas returns from a jog and finds her electronic key won't open her hotel room door. A hotel employee explains it will take an hour to get a replacement and can't let her in. The executive thinks nothing of it and waits in the lobby. Sounds innocent enough, doesn't it? What the executive may not realize is that someone could be going through her baggage at that very moment, looking for trade secrets. It's called economic espionage, and it's more common than you think. In fact, if your company does any military research—or other classified work for the U.S. government—it's a safe bet that foreign countries and business competitors would love to learn more about your work. And they are willing to go to great lengths to get it. That's why the FBI recently launched a new Research and Technology Protection (RTP) program, part of our long-standing InfraGard program. Now in its 10th year, InfraGard is a national partnership between the FBI and the major industries that make up the critical U.S. infrastructure.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thesop.org/index.php?id=2607>

65. "Arsenic in Drinking Water: Regulatory Developments and Issues," Congressional Research Service Report updated October 5, 2006 (Contributed by Steven Aftergood, Federation of American Scientists, www.fas.org)

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RS20672.pdf>

66. "Chemical Facility Security," Congressional Research Service Report updated August 2, 2006 (Contributed by Steven Aftergood, Federation of American Scientists, www.fas.org)

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RL31530.pdf>

OPPORTUNITIES

67. Security Analysis and Risk Management Association – a new group with great resources

Check out the newly-formed Security Analysis and Risk Management Association (SARMA). SARMA is a not-for-profit association dedicated to providing for the leadership, education and certification of security analysis and risk management professionals. As such, it serves those who are responsible for analyzing and managing the risks to systems, structures and operations from man-made hazards. SARMA engages leading experts with diverse backgrounds and experience in the field to identify and promulgate more consistent and uniform practices.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.sarma.org/>

EVENTS

68. ME: Identity theft workshop to be presented through Five Town CSD Adult Ed

ROCKPORT: Learn how to protect yourself from identity theft! Identity theft is the act of using a piece of sensitive information without your knowledge to commit fraud or theft. Everyday, we reveal bits of personal information in financial and other transactions: bank and credit card numbers; income figures; Social Security numbers; and name, address, and phone numbers. On Nov. 7, Five Town CSD Adult & Community Education will offer a free workshop aimed at protecting you from being a victim of identity theft.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://waldo.villagesoup.com/education/story.cfm?storyID=80019>

FULL REPORTS

69. International Counterproliferation Cooperation Remains Vital - Proliferation Security Initiative activities attract international interest (By Jacquelyn S. Porth, Washington File Security Affairs Writer, 27 Oct 2006)

Anti-terrorist units in Japan conduct a joint US, Japanese, French, and Australian drill against terror with the PSI.(© AP Images)

Washington -- North Korea's October 9 nuclear test sent reverberations throughout the international community and sparked heightened interest in counterproliferation measures.

Pyongyang's test, followed by the threat of a second one, and North Korea's propensity for selling weapons and technology to the highest bidder on the black market have focused attention on the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI).

PSI is a voluntary group of partner nations working together to halt the trafficking of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems and related materials to and from states and nonstate agents that raise proliferation concerns. Nearly 80 nations have expressed support for the initiative, which has been growing in popularity since its launch.

President Bush proposed PSI in Krakow, Poland, in 2003 in response to growing concerns that potential traffickers of weapons of mass destruction were trying to sidestep

export controls and other enforcement measures to ply their proliferation trade. Bush calls it “a very strong initiative to prevent proliferation.” Partners have met at various venues since the initiative was announced, and met again in June in Warsaw at Poland’s invitation to share their experiences. (See [related article](#).)

Any nation interested in being part of the effort must accept the PSI’s statement of principles and decide to what extent it wishes to be involved in activities such as exercises or interdiction operation. (See [related article](#).)

Involvement depends on a nation’s circumstances and capabilities. Some nations, for example, attend exercises or Operational Expert Group meetings as observers only. Canada will host the next experts-level meeting in December. (See [related article](#).)

INTELLIGENCE SHARING, JOINT TRAINING EXERCISES ARE KEY ACTIVITIES

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said there is great concern that North Korea might try to make an illicit weapons transfer “to either another state, or, perhaps, even more alarmingly, to a non-state actor: a terrorist.” But she also has pointed to the effective intelligence sharing already under way as part of PSI, indicating that it could be used to interdict any dangerous cargo that North Korea might be trying to transfer.

Even before Pyongyang’s test, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld singled out North Korea as “a known proliferator of weapons technology,” warning that any number of proliferators may traffic by air, land or sea.

With attention focused on Northeast Asia, Japan has been involved fully in PSI. During her trip to Tokyo October 19, Rice said intensive consultations were under way in the region “on how to have a robust, effective means by which to give scrutiny to North Korean cargo.”

Countries such as South Korea have been approached about expanding cooperation or participation in PSI activities. With respect to China, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said October 13 that the Chinese “will make their own decisions about what kind of relationship they want” to have with PSI.

Rice said important PSI activities, including air, ground and maritime training exercises, have been conducted since cooperation was initiated. Turkey, for example, hosted a PSI exercise, “Anatolia Sun,” in May. Central Asia and Gulf nations participated for the first time, working to develop capabilities to interdict shipments of concern.

The United States will host the 25th PSI interdiction training exercise, “Leading Edge” October 30 and October 31. Other nations that have hosted or led exercises, simulations or meetings include Australia, France, Poland, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Spain, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Germany, Canada and Italy.

PSI RELIES ON, COMPLIES WITH, EXISTING LAW

All PSI efforts are carried out according to the national laws of participating countries and international legal authority. As an example, maritime interdictions within a PSI nation's seaport are subject to local laws.

Rice says PSI relies on legal authorities that nations already have "to make certain that there is not trade in dangerous weapons or weapons materials." She says there has been some misunderstanding about the initiative. "It isn't just sort of constant random inspections of ships."

A series of ship-boarding agreements have been concluded as part of the initiative that make it easier for PSI partner nations to board and inspect suspicious vessels. The United States, for example, has signed reciprocal agreements with Croatia, Liberia, Panama and the Marshall Islands. (See [related article](#).)

There also has been outreach to representatives of the shipping industry on the subject of PSI cooperation. For example, the Pentagon sent its nonproliferation policy director, David Cooper, to a workshop in London in September to learn how governments and representatives of the maritime industry "can intercept WMD-related shipments" without disrupting the legitimate flow of cargo. An air cargo industry workshop was held in Los Angeles in September 2005, and a maritime workshop in Denmark in August 2004. (See [related article](#).)

The message to industry is that interdiction efforts will be initiated only where reliable intelligence suggests a shipment is destined for a state or nonstate entity of proliferation concern. Legitimate dual-use commerce rarely will be affected.

U.S. officials have said that the initiative has transformed the way countries harness diplomatic, military, law enforcement and intelligence assets to disrupt proliferation networks. Rice said October 19 in South Korea that PSI has been effective and nonconfrontational. (See [related article](#).)

In her 2005 remarks on the second anniversary of the initiative, Rice said the quiet international cooperation of PSI partners led to around a dozen successful efforts to halt the transshipment of materials and equipment intended for ballistic missile programs in countries of concern, including Iran. (See [related article](#).)

PSI partners continue to encourage all nations to participate actively in combating a global proliferation problem. As Rice said: "The dangerous trade in weapons of mass destruction can only be stopped through coordinated and continued efforts by the international community."

[Additional information](#) about the initiative and other counterproliferation efforts is available on the State Department Web site, as is the [full text](#) of the PSI Statement of Principles.

For more information, see [Arms Control and Non-Proliferation](#) and [Response to Terrorism](#).

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70. U.N. Official Sees Bird Flu as Threat for Next Decade - Indonesian human death rate distressing, coordinator Nabarro says (By Judy Aita, Washington File Staff Writer, 26 Oct 2006)

United Nations - Bird flu is likely to remain a health threat to animals, and possibly humans, for the next decade, the U.N. coordinator for avian influenza says.

Dr. David Nabarro said October 23 that the avian influenza virus H5N1 "still is a major animal health issue for most of the world and we think it's going to stay that way for five, perhaps 10 years, to come."

Health experts predict the virus will be an ongoing threat because of its highly pathogenic nature and its capability to survive in some species of wild birds for long periods without harming those species. These bird varieties then become carriers of the virus, transmitting it to more vulnerable bird populations.

Another factor adding to the health threat is the virus' ability to spread by a variety of mechanisms -- wild bird migration, trade in animals and poor biosecurity practices in agriculture.

Nabarro spoke at a press conference to discuss his first year as coordinator of avian influenza response. Formerly a senior public health expert at the World Health Organization (WHO), Nabarro was appointed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2005 to ensure that U.N. agencies mount an effective, coordinated response in support of global efforts to control the pandemic of H5N1 among birds and to prevent a human influenza pandemic.

In 2006, more than 30 countries reported outbreaks among wild birds or domestic poultry, Nabarro said. Although the disease did not spread quite as broadly as expected in Africa, the number of viral outbreaks worldwide was greater than in any previous year.

One of the major goals for African nations is building their capacity to deal adequately with bird flu outbreaks. Animal health services are understaffed and underbudgeted, he said.

The H5N1 virus also continues to affect people, with 256 known human infections causing 151 deaths, according to WHO. Hundreds of millions of birds have died or been killed to limit the spread of the virus, a primarily animal disease. But if the virus mutates into a form that is spread easily among humans, a global pandemic could result.

"The rate of human death is distressingly high with Indonesia increasingly becoming the country which causes all of us, including the Indonesian authorities, very great concern," Nabarro said.

"One absolute requirement" for the international community is "to get prepared for the [human] pandemic," he added.

Ten countries have reported human cases of H5N1. Indonesia has reported more human deaths – 55 – than any other nation.

VARIETY OF MEASURES AIMED AT MITIGATING THREAT OF PANDEMIC

On October 23, WHO released its Global Pandemic Influenza Action Plan to Increase Vaccine Supply, and the United States announced a \$10 million contribution to support flu vaccine development and manufacturing in other countries. (See [related article](#).)

Dealing with the problem also involves reforming poultry rearing, which includes separating commercial poultry from wild fowl and backyard birds, Nabarro said. That separation now is being adopted in agricultural practices in more and more countries around the world, especially in Asia where the virus has been more prevalent.

Countries also are gearing up their veterinary services to be able to respond to outbreaks quickly and efficiently, he added.

Even though much needs to be done, efforts to deal with avian influenza "are picking up steam," especially in Asia, Nabarro said.

Governments around the world are aware of their responsibility to be prepared for the possibility of a pandemic and are working to meet the challenge, he said. "We may well have reduced the probability of a pandemic happening, but we are never going to drop our vigilance."

Nabarro recently returned from a visit to Thailand, Vietnam and Burma. He reported that all three countries are working to control bird flu outbreaks.

"Thailand and Vietnam are enjoying a measure of success in controlling the virus," he said. "But both are concerned that the virus is still present in birds in their countries, and they could still end up with the situation deteriorating at any time."

Burma, which has been criticized by the international community for not cooperating on other major health issues such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, responded rapidly and with total transparency to intense outbreaks in the country in 2006, Nabarro said. Burmese officials did involve the international community, including U.N. agencies and officials of other governments.

The United States has invested almost \$400 million in the international effort to control and contain avian influenza to help stave off a human pandemic. (See [fact sheet](#).)

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

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71. Most Visa Waiver Program Nations Meet Electronic Passport Deadline - Upgrade a "significant advance" against terrorism, says Homeland Security chief (By Jeffrey Thomas, Washington File Staff Writer, 27 Oct 2006)

Washington -- Most countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) met the October 26 deadline to begin issuing electronic passports to their citizens, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

The new electronic passport, or e-Passport, facilitates travel by helping to prevent fraud and terrorism, while protecting the identity and privacy of the bearer, say U.S. experts.

Electronic passports bear the international e-Passport symbol on the cover and are equipped with an integrated circuit or "chip" on which the passport holder's biographic information is encoded digitally and a biometric identifier such as a digital photograph. The United States began issuing e-Passports to its citizens in August. (See [related article](#).)

The e-Passport is one part of a larger plan unveiled by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff in January to ensure the use of the best new technologies and most efficient processes to improve border security, while facilitating travel and welcoming visitors to the United States. (See [related article](#).)

"The United States is a welcoming country, encouraging citizens from all over the world to visit, study, and do business," a fact sheet on the Rice-Chertoff joint vision says. "While security remains paramount, we will ensure that the experience of travelers reflects this welcoming spirit – and shows that the United States is open to business travelers, tourists and students – while ensuring that our homeland is secure." (See [fact sheet](#).)

Visa Waiver Program travelers who have valid machine-readable passports with a digital photograph issued before October 26 do not need an e-Passport until their current passport expires, the U.S. State Department said in a separate statement released October 26. Machine-readable passports allow data in the passport to be scanned by a machine. (See [fact sheet](#).)

The State Department said travelers can determine whether their passports meet the requirements for travel under the Visa Waiver Program by checking the Department of State's VWP information page on the consular Web site, <http://travel.state.gov>, or by contacting their respective government.

“The upgrade to e-Passports is a significant advance in preventing terrorists from using lost or stolen passports to obtain entry into the United States,” Chertoff said in a statement released October 26. “I applaud the many Visa Waiver Program countries in compliance with this requirement, and we continue to work closely with the remaining countries toward their speedy and complete compliance.”

Of the 27 countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program, 24 met the deadline. Travelers from the three VWP countries not yet issuing electronic passports – Andorra, Brunei and Liechtenstein – will need to obtain a visa to enter the United States if they hold a passport issued on or after October 26 until e-Passports are available from those countries, the State Department said.

The International Civil Aviation Organization established the technical standards for digital passports, and most nations now are redesigning their documents to comply with those standards.

According to Homeland Security, the other types of valid passports that can be used to enter the United States by travelers from Visa Waiver Program countries include machine-readable passports with a digital photograph issued before October 26, 2006, or a machine-readable passport issued before October 26, 2005.

Travelers bearing e-Passports go through the same inspection process at a U.S. port of entry as other travelers, Homeland Security said. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers will have the ability to read the e-Passport's contactless chip at inspection booths displaying the international e-Passport symbol.

The 27 VWP countries are Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

[Additional information](#) is available on the State Department's visa Web site.

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