
CABLE Gram
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CABLE Gram Volume 2 Issue 72

22 November 2005 CABLE Gram™

Good Morning All,

A quick admin note: this will be the only issue of the *CABLE Gram* published this week. Those of you new to the *CABLE Gram* probably find that an odd statement, since we call this a weekly publication – but you'll find we usually publish twice a week.

Today's section on narco trafficking is rather lengthy – actually it's quite depressing. As the folks I've worked with in counter narcotics will tell you, income from drug trafficking is unequalled in any other profession and the demand is always there, regardless of the price. Article 59 in today's issue poses an interesting suggestion – why not buy the Afghan opium crop for legal, medical uses? I have no medical/chemical background and don't know if this is a viable idea. I do know that if we could de-criminalize a large population and turn their crop into a useful product – that would be a good idea. I would be interested in hearing your thoughts on this.

In the Current Update:

FEDERAL

1. House committee advances border security legislation (GCN, 21 Nov 2005)
2. Border Patrol revamps hiring - Illegal immigrant was on the payroll (Union-Tribune, 20 Nov 2005)
3. Homeland security's biggest challenge: too much information (Christian Science Monitor, 21 Nov 2005)

4. Hurricanes have little influence on citizen preparedness but have hurt confidence in all levels of government, report finds (GovExec.com, By Chris Strohm, 21 Nov 2005)
5. Counterterrorism: Passport Fraud Concerns Remain (TCV, 21 Nov 2005)
6. U.S. Bans Poultry From British Columbia (AP, 21 Nov 2005)
7. Poultry smuggling is real — and dangerous (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Bill Lambrecht, 19 Nov 2005)
8. Experts: Pandemic fears premature - Bird flu spread possible, not probable, officials caution (CNN, 21 Nov 2005)
9. Anthrax Vaccine Possibly Linked to 21 Deaths (Global Security Newswire, 21 Nov 2005)
10. Argentina Joins U.S. Container Security Initiative (Global Security Newswire, 21 Nov 2005)
11. Oman to screen sea cargo bound for US (Khaleej Times, 20 Nov 2005)
12. Manitoba magnet for human smuggling (CBC, 18 Nov 2005)

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

13. CA: Guard annuls domestic spy unit - Division would have led to 'unauthorized surveillance of Americans,' senator says (The Argus, 19 Nov 2005)
14. FL: Air Force Commander Cancels Next Spring's Air Show in Florida, Citing Security Concerns (ABCNews.com, 19 Nov 2005)
15. FL: Jury duty scam could lead to identity theft (Sun Herald, 20 Nov 2005)
16. GA: State Supreme Court changes ID theft ruling (AP, 21 Nov 2005)
17. IN: Work at Newport Chemical Depot Resumes (Global Security Newswire, 21 Nov 2005)
18. MD: Curran holds forum on identity theft - Attorney general to present consumer protection legislation to Assembly (Baltimore Sun, 21 Nov 2005)
19. MD: County matches homicide record (Diamondback, 21 Nov 2005)
20. MI: Detroit 'Sleeper Cell' Prosecutor Faces Probe (Washington Post, 20 Nov 2005)
21. NJ: Newark Airport security lapses come under scrutiny (NJ Star-Ledger, 19 Nov 2005)
22. NY: Couple plead guilty to smuggling women (UPI, 19 Nov 2005)
23. NC: Person Memorial participates in new N.C. emergency report system (Roxboro Courier, 19 Nov 2005)
24. SC: Teen arrested for threat - School security raised on Friday (The Island Packet, 19 Nov 2005)
25. UT: Pandemic Fear Could Bring Law Changes (KUTV, 19 Nov 2005)
26. UT: Smuggling ring cracked - 2 illegals are accused of bringing 3 into U.S. (Deseret Morning News, 18 Nov 2005)
27. VT: Vermont must update identity theft law (Opinion from the Burlington Free Press, 21 Nov 2005)

GANG ACTIVITY

28. Congress told cartel enforcers are at doorstep, knocking (Express-News Washington Bureau, 18 Nov 2005)
29. CA: Violent Central American gang appears in San Bruno (The Daily Journal, 18 Nov 2005)

30. CT: Affidavit says Bethel murder was apparently gang-related (NewsTimesLIVE.com, 21 Nov 2005)
31. NV: Hells Angels Members Face Federal Court (KLAS TV, 18 Nov 2005)
32. NJ: Gang targeted immigrants (NorthJersey.com, 19 Nov 2005)
33. NJ: Violence sparks gang worries in Jackson (Asbury Park Press, 21 Nov 2005)
34. NC: New Hanover Co. reinstates gang task force (WWAY, 21 Nov 2005)
35. TX: Inside the MS-13 and the effort to stop it (KENS 5 Eyewitness News, 18 Nov 2005)
36. TX: Police Wrap Up Undercover Nightclub Operation (KWTX, 21 Nov 2005)
37. VA: Getting at Gang Life (Washington Post, 20 Nov 2005)
38. VA: Gang-related murder in Manassas? (Potomac News, 21 Nov 2005)

NARCO TRAFFICKING

39. US claims a gain in war on cocaine - High prices said to show shortage (Knight Ridder, 20 Nov 2005)
40. AK: Feds bust cocaine, meth ring with Alaska ties (Anchorage Daily News, 21 Nov 2005)
41. AZ: Drug-smuggling planes still flying Sonora skies (AP, 21 Nov 2005)
42. AZ: 5 more guilty pleas in FBI cocaine sting (Arizona Daily Star, 18 Nov 2005)
43. FL: 2 admit cocaine smuggling plot - They're drug cartel bosses, feds say (Sun-Sentinel.com, 19 Nov 2005)
44. FL: Information on Haiti's drug trade lightens sentence for Aristide aide (Knight Ridder Newspapers, 20 Nov 2005)
45. IL: Chicago Police Say They've Crushed Cocaine Cartel - More Than \$40 Million Of Cocaine Seized (NBC5.com, 18 Nov 2005)
46. IN: Half ton of pot, 2 pounds of cocaine seized in raid (IndyStar.com, 20 Nov 2005)
47. MA: Springfield Residents Indicted for Distribution of Cocaine Base, Reports U.S. Attorney (PRNewswire, 21 Nov 2005)
48. NJ: Dozens Arrested In Massive Cocaine Sweep (AP, 20 Nov 2005)
49. Canada: Officer charged in cocaine bust - 15 kilograms found in house (The Star, 21 Nov 2005)
50. Canada: Meth, identity theft charges laid (Edmonton Journal, 18 Nov 2005)
51. Mexico captures leader of bloody drug gang (Reuters, 21 Nov 2005)
52. El Salvador: MS-13 gang uses deportation to build its ranks (Baltimore Sun, 20 Nov 2005)
53. Honduras: teen accused of killing DEA agent escapes youth correction facility (Pravda.ru, 20 Nov 2005)
54. Venezuela: National Guard (GN) seizes 4.7 tonnes of cocaine in two separate raids (VHeadline.com, 21 Nov 2005)
55. Peru seizes alleged drugs kingpin (BBC, 20 Nov 2005)
56. UK: Hmrc Seizes 400kgs Of Cocaine In Joint Operation With Belgian Police (UK Security Directory, 18 Nov 2005)
57. Spain: Three members of the Latin American Lions Black gang ordered to prison in Torrevieja (TypicallySpanish.com, 21 Nov 2005)
58. Bulgarian Court Hears Major Cocaine Case (Sofia News Agency, 21 Nov 2005)

59. West 'should buy the Afghan opium crop' (telegraph.co.uk, 21 Nov 2005) – I find this a very interesting suggestion and would welcome any comments!
60. Iran: Trial of drug-trafficking gang held publicly in Qom (IRNA, 22 Nov 2005)

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

61. Justice to face lower-than-requested IT funding (GovExec.com, By David Perera, 21 Nov 2005)
62. Thief takes off with Boeing laptop in new identity theft scare (Computer Weekly, 21 Nov 2005)
63. FBI warns of e-mail about surveillance (Boston Globe, 21 Nov 2005)
64. Six Plead Guilty To Online Identity Theft (All Headline News, 18 Nov 2005)

COUNTERFEIT

65. MD: Company enters guilty plea in smuggling case (ArbutusTimes.com, 18 Nov 2005)
66. Canada: Fake credit card factory shut down - Police raid catches man drying dozens of just-made cards (Vancouver Sun, 18 Nov 2005)

TECHNOLOGY

67. 511 travel service expands statewide in Florida (FCW, 21 Nov 2005)

OPPORTUNITIES

68. Canada to Spend \$250M on WMD Protection Gear (Global Security Newswire, 21 Nov 2005)

EVENTS

69. Agriculture Show tackles animal disease preparedness (Farm News, 18 Nov 2005)
70. Influenza, Disaster Preparedness, Bioterrorism, Reproductive Health and Health Care Access Among Top Public Health Concerns (U.S. Newswire, 21 Nov 2005)

FULL REPORTS

71. United States Works To Confront Criminality at Southwest Border - Operation Black Jack launched to confront violent groups, drug-smuggling (Dept. of State, 18 Nov 2005)
72. "Political Will" Seen as Key Factor in Combating Drug Trade (Dept. of State, 21 Nov 2005)

Take care and for those of you in the US – Happy Thanksgiving,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate 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.

Please forward the *CABLE Gram* to all people you feel will find it useful!

FEDERAL

1. House committee advances border security legislation (GCN, 21 Nov 2005)

The House Homeland Security Committee has passed broad-ranging border security legislation that would strengthen surveillance IT at U.S. borders and increase usage of Defense Department technology in border surveillance, among other goals. The Border Security and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2005, [HR 4312](#), was sponsored by Committee Chairman Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.). It would enhance personnel at the borders and beef up communications and use of canine teams, among other features. The legislation requires that Homeland Security secretary Michael Chertoff submit a comprehensive plan for surveillance of land and maritime borders within six months.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/37626-1.html

2. Border Patrol revamps hiring - Illegal immigrant was on the payroll (Union-Tribune, 20 Nov 2005)

For Border Patrol officials, it could scarcely have been more embarrassing. One of their own was an illegal immigrant. And, investigators say, he was using his government-issued truck to smuggle other illegal immigrants into the United States. How could this happen? How could the government agency charged with guarding the nation's borders hire someone in the country illegally? And could it happen again? Border Patrol officials said this month that they hired Oscar Antonio Ortiz in 2002 even though a background check flagged a problem in his application, he admitted using drugs and had been arrested on suspicion of smuggling.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/mexico/tijuana/20051120-9999-1m20ortiz.html>

3. Homeland security's biggest challenge: too much information (Christian Science Monitor, 21 Nov 2005)

WASHINGTON – Four years into the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), Washington is drowning in an "information glut" of monumental proportions. America's National Security apparatus, built in another, perhaps simpler, time, cannot adequately understand,

analyze, and distribute the billions of pages of information on the Internet and in the cyberworld that have become a crucial battlefield in this worldwide struggle. The cold war of America's national security youth was about obtaining a relatively limited number of hard-won secrets from an enemy bent on hiding them from us. The GWOT is a total information war. It is about sorting through information of unimaginable volume. Terrorists print their plans on the Internet in tens of thousands of blogs and chat rooms. They take advantage of cellular communications that allows encrypted and encoded messages to be conveyed nearly instantaneously across the planet.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/1121/p09s02-coop.html>

4. Hurricanes have little influence on citizen preparedness but have hurt confidence in all levels of government, report finds (GovExec.com, By Chris Strohm, 21 Nov 2005)

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have had little impact on most people's preparations for disasters, but have hurt confidence in all levels of government, according to a recent study. More than half of Americans surveyed for the study said they have not taken steps to better prepare themselves for a disaster even though they are aware of the devastation caused by the hurricanes and subsequent flooding of New Orleans, according to a report from New York University's Center for Catastrophic Preparedness and Response. The study compared a survey conducted before the hurricanes hit to one conducted after. The report also found a "preparedness divide" between rich and poor Americans, with poll respondents who had lower incomes and less education saying they wished they had more money and time to take precautions.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32847&dcn=e_gvet

5. Counterterrorism: Passport Fraud Concerns Remain (TCV, 21 Nov 2005)

Maintaining the integrity of the US passport is essential to the State Department's efforts to protect US citizens from terrorists, criminals, and others. The State Department issued about 8.8 million passports in 2004. During the same year, State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security arrested about 500 individuals for passport fraud, and about 300 persons were convicted.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.theconservativevoice.com/articles/article.html?id=10145>

6. U.S. Bans Poultry From British Columbia (AP, 21 Nov 2005)

WASHINGTON - The United States banned poultry from mainland British Columbia on Monday because of a case of bird flu, though Canadian officials said it wasn't the virulent form in Southeast Asia blamed for more than 60 human deaths. The governments of Taiwan, Japan and Hong Kong indicated they would take similar action. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency said Sunday that a duck at a commercial poultry farm in British Columbia had tested positive for bird flu. The virus was a low-pathogenic North American form that doesn't kill poultry and is not a threat to people, officials said. "We're waiting to get more information from Canada, at which point we could be able to scale back" the ban, said U.S. Agriculture Department spokesman Jim Rogers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtop.com/index.php?nid=106&sid=166569>

7. Poultry smuggling is real — and dangerous (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Bill Lambrecht, 19 Nov 2005)

Chinese-raised poultry, banned in the United States out of fear of spreading diseases, is nonetheless reaching markets and restaurants in the United States after escaping detection at borders. Outbreaks of bird flu in Asia have led the government to step up its anti-smuggling operations. In a two-month period this fall, 165,000 pounds of Asian poultry was seized, according to figures compiled in the Department of Agriculture. No bird-flu virus was found in the prohibited items, which included frozen chickens, ducks, pigeons and poultry parts prized by Asians for cooking. The H5N1 avian influenza virus can stay alive in frozen products, leading some to fear that infected birds could be a conduit for the disease. That's why the government is working to shut down pathways by which the disease might enter the United States and pose threats to the nation's \$28.9 billion poultry industry - and potentially to people.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?I2903233C>

8. Experts: Pandemic fears premature - Bird flu spread possible, not probable, officials caution (CNN, 21 Nov 2005)

While health officials have serious concerns about the H5N1 bird flu virus becoming a pandemic, they say it won't be a worldwide threat until the virus is able to spread easily between people. That has not happened yet, and scientists stress that it might not happen with this strain. Three things have to happen for a pandemic to start, according to the World Health Organization. First, there has to be a new substrain of the flu virus. Second, it has to spread to humans and cause serious illness. Finally, it has to spread easily between people.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?I20F2323C>

9. Anthrax Vaccine Possibly Linked to 21 Deaths (Global Security Newswire, 21 Nov 2005)

The existing anthrax vaccine could be linked to 21 deaths and more than 4,100 illnesses, *Newsday* reported yesterday (see [GSN](#), Nov. 2). Experts also questioned whether the vaccine now being stockpiled or those being developed could protect people who inhale the pathogen during a terrorist attack. BioPort Corp. has received orders worth nearly \$250 million from the federal government for 10 million doses of its existing anthrax vaccine, while VaxGen Inc. of California is being paid at least \$877 to produce 75 million doses of a new vaccine. The Food and Drug Administration in December 2004 said that BioPort's vaccine could be linked to 16 deaths. When questioned by *Newsday*, that number rose to 21.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2005_11_21.html#B95427B4

10. Argentina Joins U.S. Container Security Initiative (Global Security Newswire, 21 Nov 2005)

The Argentine port at Buenos Aires has become the 41st port to join the U.S. Container Security Initiative, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection service announced last week (see [GSN](#), April 29). Cargo heading to the United States from Buenos Aires will now be screened for weapons of mass destruction or other materials that could be used by terrorists, the agency said in a press release. "CSI is a way of addressing the threat to global trade making it more secure against terrorist exploitation, and Argentina was the first South American country to agree to participate," CBP Commissioner Robert Bonner said in the release. His agency "will continue to cast out the CSI security blanket to additional foreign ports." Ports in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and North and South America now participate in the effort. Roughly 75 percent of U.S.-bound cargo move through those facilities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2005_11_21.html#5D544FD9

11. Oman to screen sea cargo bound for US (Khaleej Times, 20 Nov 2005)

MUSCAT - All sea cargo leaving Oman for the US will soon be pre-screened for hazardous materials, terrorists and weapons according to an agreement concluded between the two sides here yesterday. The deal was signed under the Container Security Initiative (CSI) meant to prevent terrorists from making use of global maritime cargo to harm the US and other countries, an American official said. The Sultanate is only the second country or port in the Middle East region to join CSI after Dubai. The agreement was signed between the Royal Oman Police's Directorate-general of Customs and the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Department of Energy (DOE). The signatories were Lieutenant-General Malick bin Sulaiman Al Ma'amari, Inspector-General of Police and Customs, Keith Thomson, Assistant Commissioner of CBP's Office of the International Affairs, and Eleanor Melamed, Office Director of DOE's Second Line of Defence Programme.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Q3CF2523C>

12. Manitoba magnet for human smuggling (CBC, 18 Nov 2005)

Manitoba is gaining a rather unsavoury reputation as an easy target for human smuggling. Border enforcement authorities say smugglers from Ontario and Quebec are increasingly using Manitoba to sneak illegal aliens into the United States. Const. Glenn Odishaw, with the Integrated Border Enforcement Team or I-BET, says his Altona-based unit has seen a noticeable rise in illegal traffic between Emerson and Winkler. Earlier this year, three Brazilians were caught attempting to cross into the U.S. and two others were nabbed as they waited to be picked-up across the border. Odishaw said it raises serious security concerns.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cbc.ca/manitoba/story/mb-smugglers20051118.html>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

13. CA: Guard annuls domestic spy unit - Division would have led to 'unauthorized surveillance of Americans,' senator says (The Argus, 19 Nov 2005)

The California National Guard has dismantled an entire domestic surveillance division inside state military headquarters and dismissed the colonel who was tapped to set it up. In a memo Wednesday, Adjutant General Maj. Gen. William Wade wrote: "Effective immediately, I have discontinued the Civil Support Division — to include its functions of Domestic Watch Center, Information Synchronization Center and Combined Intel Fusion Group." Those units and the overarching division were the brainchild of Wade's predecessor, Maj. Gen. Thomas Eres. Eres was ousted last summer after news accounts about his efforts to create a kind of mini-FBI for California under the authority of the National Guard.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/argus/localnews/ci_3233711

14. FL: Air Force Commander Cancels Next Spring's Air Show in Florida, Citing Security Concerns (ABCNews.com, 19 Nov 2005)

TAMPA - The commander of MacDill Air Force Base canceled next spring's air show, citing security concerns. Air Force Col. Maggie Woodward said in a statement Friday that no specific threat prompted the move. She said it would simply require too much energy and resources to properly protect the nearly 6,000-acre facility that houses the 6th Air Mobility Wing. "As the leadership of the base weighed the pros and cons of having the airshow, our security situation and the incredible tempo our folks have been maintaining for over a year led us to decide that it was too much to ask of the troops to hold an airshow in 2006," Woodward said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=1329595>

15. FL: Jury duty scam could lead to identity theft (Sun Herald, 20 Nov 2005)

Has anyone called recently letting you know that you missed jury duty? Warning! It could be a scam. Clever thieves continue to deceive innocent victims with intentions of stealing an individual's identity, and the jury duty scam is one of the latest. Other states are reporting that a person claiming to be a Clerk of Court employee is calling people, telling them that a jury summons in his or her name has gone unanswered and that an arrest warrant has been issued. The caller then suggests he or she can verify the arrest warrant if the unsuspecting person will provide some personal identifying information, such as social security number, birth date or credit card number. Much of this information can easily be used to commit identity theft. "While this scam has not reached DeSoto County, if you ever experience this type of call, hung up and call my office immediately," Clerk of Court Mitzie McGavic said. "The clerk's office does not call summoned jurors. Please do not give out your personal information to anyone you don't know."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G5EF2523C>

16. GA: State Supreme Court changes ID theft ruling (AP, 21 Nov 2005)

ATLANTA - The Georgia Supreme Court said Monday that identity theft cases should be tried where the victim lives, a ruling the state's top lawyer said is critical in combating

identity theft. In a 4-3 ruling, the court changed an earlier decision that would have allowed ID theft cases to be tried where the alleged thief obtained the information, not the victim's home county. "Regardless of where the records were accessed, the use of the information obtained therefrom is consummated in the county where the victim lives," wrote Justice George Carley. Justice Harold Melton said the ruling created "a dangerous precedent allowing this court to rewrite the Constitution."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.macon.com/mld/macon/news/politics/13226584.htm>

17. IN: Work at Newport Chemical Depot Resumes (Global Security Newswire, 21 Nov 2005)

Weapons disposal resumed Saturday at the U.S. Army's Newport Chemical Depot in Indiana after workers replaced faulty gaskets on a neutralization reactor that leaked 490 gallons of wastewater last month (see [GSN](#), Nov. 9). Gasket failure has been identified as the cause of the Oct. 29 spill. All 88 gaskets are being replaced on the facility's two reactors. Work on the second reactor tank is expected to take another three weeks, according to AP. These reactors are being used to destroy 250,000 gallons of VX stored at Newport. To date, 6,571 gallons have been processed (Associated Press/Yahoo!News, Nov. 19). Meanwhile, more than 100,000 chemical munitions have been safely processed at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Alabama, according to an Army Chemical Materials Agency press statement.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2005_11_21.html#2E890C4B

18. MD: Curran holds forum on identity theft - Attorney general to present consumer protection legislation to Assembly (Baltimore Sun, 21 Nov 2005)

Identity theft, which affects millions of people nationwide, is a very serious problem in Maryland as well, according to state Attorney General J. Joseph Curran Jr., who said he will propose two consumer protection bills when the General Assembly meets next year. Curran hosted a forum today featuring victims, state officials, attorneys and consumer representatives, discussing the issue of identity theft, which has affected 50 million people across the country in 2005. Maryland ranks 13th in the country for complaints for identity theft, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?L53D2323C>

19. MD: County matches homicide record (Diamondback, 21 Nov 2005)

Prince George's County reached a grim milestone as police reported the county's 154th homicide in Oxon Hill Thursday, bringing the death tally on par with an all-time high reached in 1991. Although College Park has been passed over by the deadly crime plaguing the county this year, other violent crimes - robberies in particular - have remained a problem both on and off the campus. According to University Police spokeswoman Maj. Cathy Atwell, the county's crime problem has become a rising tide that has lifted all boats. As county police dealt with a killing spree early this year, University Police saw a spike in robberies, prompting police to ask for additional funding and add more patrol officers, Atwell said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.diamondbackonline.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2005/11/21/438165a769abe>

20. MI: Detroit 'Sleeper Cell' Prosecutor Faces Probe (Washington Post, 20 Nov 2005)

DETROIT - Once trumpeted as one of the Justice Department's significant triumphs against terrorism, the case targeting the so-called "Detroit sleeper cell" began less than a week after the attack on the World Trade Center. It was only after a jury convicted two men of supporting terrorism that the flimsiness of the government's case became clear. As hidden evidence spilled out and the Justice Department abandoned the effort, federal investigators began to wonder whether the true conspiracy in the case was perpetrated by the prosecution.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P52D2323C>

21. NJ: Newark Airport security lapses come under scrutiny (NJ Star-Ledger, 19 Nov 2005)

Spurred by another streak of security gaffes, top officials have formed a task force that will meet weekly for the next 90 days in an attempt to solve persistent breaches of anti-terrorism defenses at Newark Liberty International Airport. "We are going to draw a line here and figure out how to do it right," said Anthony Coscia, the Port Authority chairman who vowed the task force will change Newark Airport from a major embarrassment to a model of airline security. This would be the first time there would be weekly security meetings among the major players at Newark, though another regional hub, Boston Logan International Airport, has held such meetings daily. Newark and Logan were used by 9/11 terrorists.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W2A05233C>

22. NY: Couple plead guilty to smuggling women (UPI, 19 Nov 2005)

NEW YORK - A New York City couple face 10 years in prison after they pleaded guilty to smuggling women from Korea to work in a bar and nail salons. Wun Kang and his wife, Kyongja, pleaded guilty Friday to the human trafficking scheme, the New York Daily News reported Saturday. The couple were accused of promising the women high wages, while encouraging them to work as prostitutes so they could pay down their smuggling fee. Prosecutors are seeking to deport Kyongja Kang, who is not a U.S. citizen. Former Immigration and Naturalization Service inspector Nisim Yushuvayev also pleaded guilty for coercing two of the Korean women into returning to their native country so they wouldn't testify against the couple, the News said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P3705233C>

23. NC: Person Memorial participates in new N.C. emergency report system (Roxboro Courier, 19 Nov 2005)

Person Memorial Hospital is one of 100 North Carolina hospitals participating in a new, fully automated statewide emergency department surveillance system that was unveiled

this week. Jennifer Phillips, PMH director of quality, said the hospital received a state grant to help pay for the computer software and training to implement the North Carolina Hospital Emergency Surveillance System (NCHESS). With the new program, said Phillips, the hospital transmits data, every 12 hours, that tells the state Division of Public Health why patients are visiting the emergency department. She said no names, birth dates, or other personal identification is transmitted, only the reason for visiting the hospital.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.roxboro-courier.com/newsnowstories/ts111905-3.htm>

24. SC: Teen arrested for threat - School security raised on Friday (The Island Packet, 19 Nov 2005)

BLUFFTON - A former Bluffton High School student's threat of violence against Bluffton schools in an online chat room on Thursday prompted high alert and beefed-up security at schools throughout southern Beaufort County on Friday. Samuel David Watts Jr., 17, of the Mungin Creek subdivision in Levy, was arrested at the Jasper County Sheriff's Office around 5:30 p.m. Friday. Watts, in the company of his parents, turned himself in, Chief Deputy Roy Hughes said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/story/5343720p-4837918c.html>

25. UT: Pandemic Fear Could Bring Law Changes (KUTV, 19 Nov 2005)

SALT LAKE CITY Utah's public health officials say the state's quarantine law should be revised to better respond to possible threats from bioterrorism and avian influenza.

Currently state law only allows the Utah Department of Health to quarantine one person at a time. Department officials say they'll seek a legal change to quarantine groups of infected people. "It would be very difficult to protect the public health using the current law if we had to use it on many people," state epidemiologist Robert Rolfs said. Rep. Bradley Last, R-St. George, will introduce a bill to change the law when the Legislature convenes in January.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://kutv.com/topstories/local_story_323180230.html

26. UT: Smuggling ring cracked - 2 illegals are accused of bringing 3 into U.S. (Deseret Morning News, 18 Nov 2005)

Federal agents say they've cracked a human smuggling ring where three young Mexican females were promised jobs and housing in the United States but ended up instead living in fear for their relatives' lives and paying inflated smuggling fees. Armando Gutierrez-Valencia Martina Gutierrez A federal grand jury on Thursday returned an eight-count indictment charging Armando Gutierrez-Valencia, 40, and his wife, Martina Ernestina Gutierrez, 49, with harboring illegal aliens, bringing in illegal aliens, aggravated identity fraud and possession of cocaine with the intent to distribute. The couple, who are here illegally as well, sneaked a young woman and two teenage girls across the border, provided false identification so the females could work and then held the females in the couple's home until each paid a \$2,800 smuggling fee — not the \$1,700 fee originally agreed upon, prosecutors said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,635162210,00.html>

27. VT: Vermont must update identity theft law (Opinion from the Burlington Free Press, 21 Nov 2005)

More than 200 Vermonters reported being the victims of identity theft last year, a figure most experts agree falls short of the actual number of cases. Their "new" identities ran up credit card and cell phone bills, took out loans, collected government benefits, and more, according to the Federal Trade Commission. The Vermont Legislature will consider an important bill to crack down on identity theft. That measure should be passed into law. And there are steps Vermonters and businesses can take to help keep themselves, their employees and their customers safe from thieves who steal a person's very identity. The bill seeks to limit the amount of personal and financial information that can be collected on an individual, and requires businesses in most cases to notify people whose information is compromised and inappropriately released or stolen. It is also expected to ensure that businesses properly destroy material containing such information.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?N6BD5323C>

GANG ACTIVITY

28. Congress told cartel enforcers are at doorstep, knocking (Express-News Washington Bureau, 18 Nov 2005)

WASHINGTON - Paramilitary enforcers for Mexican drug cartels are responsible for a wave of violence in Nuevo Laredo that poses a serious threat for residents on both sides of the Southwest border, U.S. law enforcement officials told a House committee Thursday. Assassinations, kidnappings and daylight shootouts between military-trained gangs place citizens at risk along the border where violence has soared past historical norms, officials said. "These paramilitary groups work for the cartels as enforcers and are a serious threat to public safety on both sides of the border," said Chris Swecker, the FBI assistant director for the criminal investigative division. Law enforcement officials said the violence is intertwined with other criminal activities along the border, including the smuggling of narcotics and undocumented immigrants.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?B2001233C>

29. CA: Violent Central American gang appears in San Bruno (The Daily Journal, 18 Nov 2005)

Two San Bruno men accused of gunning down two brothers walking along the street this summer are members of the Mara Salvatrucha, an infamously violent street gang with links to Central America that is beginning to carve out a niche in San Mateo County, according to the District Attorney's Office. Mauricio Elias Martinez and Juan Ramon Velasquez, both 19, are charged with attempted murder, assault and firearms charges in the July 2 shooting at two men on a San Bruno street. According to prosecutors, Martinez and Velasquez attacked the men who denied any gang involvement and tried to leave. As they walked away, Velasquez fired a handgun four times, striking one victim in the back,

according to police reports. On Thursday, the two men were ordered to stand trial after a third day of preliminary hearings on the evidence, according to court records clerks. Meanwhile, Martinez and Velasquez remain in custody on no-bail status.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=51198

30. CT: Affidavit says Bethel murder was apparently gang-related (NewsTimesLIVE.com, 21 Nov 2005)

DANBURY - A 17-year-old from Rhode Island shot and killed a man outside the Masonic Temple in Bethel in 2004 after confronting him for wearing a rival gang's color, according to a court document. That information and other details about the killing of a 21-year-old Stamford man became available Tuesday after the alleged shooter, Kavin Soum, was arraigned in Superior Court. Soum, from Providence, R.I., was charged with murder and is in custody on \$1.5 million bond. A member of the Asian Boyz gang, Soum allegedly shot Darnell Patrick Merritt after the 1:30 a.m. confrontation Nov. 27, 2004.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.newstimeslive.com/story.php?id=76925&category=Local>

31. NV: Hells Angels Members Face Federal Court (KLAS TV, 18 Nov 2005)

The Supreme Court justices seem to have a lot of questions about how a deadly fight was a conspiracy among all the men who fought inside a Laughlin casino back in 2002. Bill Kephart, Clark County prosecutor, said, "Part of their creed that if you want to be a Mongol you have to be required to step in and fight for the Mongols at any time same way with the Hells Angels. Prosecutor Kephart says it's the nature of the gang to step in and fight, as was the case on April 27, 2002 when a melee occurred inside the Harrah's Laughlin casino. Three men -- two Hells Angels and one Mongol -- died in the shooting and stabbing.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.klastv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4136714&nav=168Y>

32. NJ: Gang targeted immigrants (NorthJersey.com, 19 Nov 2005)

Ten illegal aliens arrested during a series of raids in Bloomingdale and Butler on Thursday morning are suspected members of a Mexican gang known as Sureno 13, authorities said Friday. Several teams of police, led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, carried out predawn raids at four apartments - two on Kiel Street in downtown Butler and two on Main Street in Bloomingdale. They rounded up 10 men, ranging in age from 18 to 31, and took them to Hudson County Jail to await deportation hearings, officials said. Tom Maniface, the deputy special agent in charge of the operation, said the Sureno 13 members preyed on other Mexican immigrants, often shaking down day laborers for protection money or robbing them outright.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?A4202133C>

33. NJ: Violence sparks gang worries in Jackson (Asbury Park Press, 21 Nov 2005)

JACKSON - Parents and other residents concerned after a drive-by shooting that wounded two Jackson teenagers last week can attend a gang-awareness information

session early next month at Jackson Memorial High School. The Dec. 5 program's topic, Gangs: Awareness and Influence on Youth, was scheduled prior to the Nov. 13 shooting, but the program will have added significance "in light of the event we had," interim Public Safety Director Christopher Dunton said. The event will include a presentation by Sgt. Ron Hampton and other members of the State Police Street Gangs Unit. It will give residents and parents accurate information about gangs and clue them in to some of the things to look for, such as gang colors, that might indicate a gang presence or influence, said Jackson Township Police School Resource Officer John Pejowski.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051121/NEWS02/511210335/1070>

34. NC: New Hanover Co. reinstates gang task force (WWAY, 21 Nov 2005)

With a large-scale drug problem in Maple Hill, Pender County Sheriff Carson Smith, Duplin County authorities and federal agents conducted an undercover investigation. More than 50 people, mostly Mexican and Honduran, were put behind bars. Guns, pot and cocaine were smuggled from Mexico to Houston on through Duplin County and into Pender County. "A great deal, if not the majority, of drugs we see coming in here are coming in by Hispanics across the Mexican-Texas border," Mr. Smith said. April 9, 2005, Gilberto Aguayo is found in the Green Swamp area. Tony Sanchez, a member of the Latino gang MS-13, is found slain in the Wacamaw River. Named suspects in the Aguayo murder were two Hispanic men in a Nebraska prison.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wwaytv3.com/Global/story.asp?S=4147190>

35. TX: Inside the MS-13 and the effort to stop it (KENS 5 Eyewitness News, 18 Nov 2005)

They are members of possibly the most violent gang in America today, and they're showing up right here in San Antonio. The Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, is an extremely violent gang, known for using intimidation and extortion and has built a reputation of being enforcers. In other words, you do what they say or you're going to pay a price. Salvadorian refugees started MS-13 as a street gang. Now, with more than 10,000 members, the gang is considered one of the fastest-growing and most violent street gangs in the nation. "They're very ruthless in the way they, if somebody's done something that's not all of what they want done, it's going to be dealt with violently," said Al Peña of the San Antonio division of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V2FF3523C>

36. TX: Police Wrap Up Undercover Nightclub Operation (KWTX, 21 Nov 2005)

The Organized Crime Section of the Killeen Police Department wrapped up a four-month undercover operation over the weekend at Teazer's nightclub at 3300 S. Fort Hood St., police said Monday. The operation was focused on alleged narcotics trafficking, alcoholic beverage code violations and sexual offenses, police said. The operation led to eight arrests and the seizure of 472 grams of cocaine, 700 tablets of Ecstasy, four grams of crystal methamphetamine, two stolen vehicles, a handgun, \$17,300 in cash and about \$10,000 in property, police said Monday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/1996312.html>

37. VA: Getting at Gang Life (Washington Post, 20 Nov 2005)

LONG BEFORE "MS-13" became a familiar, dreaded name in too many area neighborhoods, Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-Va.) was sounding an alarm about gang violence. For a long time, few state or local officials were tuning in. It took a string of grisly machete hackings and shootings of teenagers last year to spark a serious reaction to the growing presence of gangs, especially the swelling ranks of Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13. Thanks largely to Mr. Wolf's dogged, successful pursuit of federal money to do something, Northern Virginia now has a task force focusing on how best to understand the culture and allure of gangs. In addition, local authorities are working on various programs, trying not to duplicate efforts. But the allure and reach of the gangs knows no jurisdictional limitations; gang violence is regional. To boost Maryland's anti-gang efforts, Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) recently went to Mr. Wolf for help in securing federal funds

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V21D4123C>

38. VA: Gang-related murder in Manassas? (Potomac News, 21 Nov 2005)

A 25-year-old Manassas man was shot and killed early Sunday morning outside Confety's Restaurant in a possible gang-related attack, according to Prince William County police. Armando Garcia Planos of the 10200 block of Calypso Drive walked out of the restaurant around 2 a.m. with a friend. He exchanged some words with some men near the door and then went to his car. As he was standing near his car, a blue compact car drove past. The passenger in the car leaned out and shot Planos, police said. Planos was taken to Prince William Hospital where he died a short time later.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?F45C2323C>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

39. US claims a gain in war on cocaine - High prices said to show shortage (Knight Ridder, 20 Nov 2005)

WASHINGTON - Declaring a key victory, John P. Walters, director of the national drug control policy, said last week that cocaine has become more expensive and less pure on US streets this year. This was the first sign that billions of dollars in counter-drug aid to Colombia's government may be having an impact. Walters's aides said the new data reverse three years of steadily declining cocaine prices, which had perplexed policy makers as Washington poured more than \$4 billion into Colombia since 2000 to help increase Bogota's ability to fight a battle against drug production and trafficking.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?A3F01233C>

40. AK: Feds bust cocaine, meth ring with Alaska ties (Anchorage Daily News, 21 Nov 2005)

Ten people, including four in Alaska, were arrested over the weekend in what law enforcement officials are describing as a multi-state drug ring that sold cocaine and methamphetamine. One Florida man is still wanted, they said. The alleged ring, run by Carlos Rainey, 30, of Tacoma, Wash., pulled in roughly \$100,000 a week from sales, U.S. Attorney Tim Burgess told reporters today. It had been operating since at least April 2003, he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/story/7225118p-7137125c.html>

41. AZ: Drug-smuggling planes still flying Sonora skies (AP, 21 Nov 2005)

PHOENIX - Drug smugglers are still using aircraft to ply their trade, and nowhere is the problem as great as it is in the Mexican state of Sonora. The smugglers in the sky never cross the border, where increased airborne and ground security has cut off the flow of airborne drugs pervasive in the 1980s. Now, they're using small planes to ferry drugs like marijuana and cocaine north, stopping at border airstrips to transfer their loads to staging areas just south of the international line. Once there, the drugs are loaded into cars, trucks, backpacks or saddlebags for the home stretch into the United States. Last year, some 697,000 pounds of marijuana, cocaine, meth, heroin and Ecstasy were confiscated by U.S. authorities along the border, up from 395,000 pounds in 1999.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/103439>

42. AZ: 5 more guilty pleas in FBI cocaine sting (Arizona Daily Star, 18 Nov 2005)

Four more former military members and a civilian agreed to plead guilty Thursday to bribery, conspiracy and drug-running in the ongoing FBI sting known as Operation Lively Green. The five accepted more than \$22,000 in cash bribes while moving loads of cocaine from Tucson and Nogales, Ariz., to Phoenix and Las Vegas in 2002, according to the U.S. Justice Department. The then-military members wore service uniforms and used military vehicles to move the narcotics, flashing their government ID badges to get past various checkpoints. In one episode in August 2002, some of the defendants drove two Army National Guard Humvees to a secret desert airstrip near Benson to rendezvous with a twin-engine aircraft flown by undercover FBI agents posing as drug kingpins.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azstarnet.com/metro/103080>

43. FL: 2 admit cocaine smuggling plot - They're drug cartel bosses, feds say (Sun-Sentinel.com, 19 Nov 2005)

Two high-ranking members of a drug cartel pleaded guilty Friday to conspiring to import tons of cocaine into the country, the U.S. Attorney's Office said. Cousins Juan Carlos Montoya Sanchez and Carlos Felipe Toro Sanchez helped lead Colombia's North Valley cartel until their Dec. 29, 2003, arrest by the Colombian National Police, federal prosecutors said. Both men pleaded guilty before United States District Judge Cecilia M. Altonaga in Miami. Sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 16.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X3604233C>

44. FL: Information on Haiti's drug trade lightens sentence for Aristide aide (Knight Ridder Newspapers, 20 Nov 2005)

MIAMI - Oriel Jean, the one-time security chief for former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was sentenced Friday to just three years in prison for his role in helping drug traffickers move tons of Colombian cocaine through Haiti to the United States. With good reason: The 40-year-old defendant, held in custody since March 2004, gave federal investigators invaluable information on Haiti's drug underworld and the location of fugitives - and even continued to testify after a cocaine smuggler threatened his life. Indeed, Jean proved to be the prosecution's star witness. At his sentencing hearing in Miami last week, U.S. District Judge Jose Martinez paid Jean a compliment, praising his "good work" for the government. The judge then gave him half of the six-year sentence he otherwise would have received for his money-laundering plea deal.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/news/nation/13220237.htm>

45. IL: Chicago Police Say They've Crushed Cocaine Cartel - More Than \$40 Million Of Cocaine Seized (NBC5.com, 18 Nov 2005)

CHICAGO - Bonds were set Friday for two men accused of possessing more than \$40 million worth of cocaine in their homes and vehicles in Chicago and Berwyn. A tip led to the arrests of Jose Arreola, 43, of Berwyn, and Lorenzo Salgado, 43, of Chicago, Chicago Police Gang and Narcotics Investigation Unit Sgt. Armando Ramirez said at a news conference where packages of about 325 kilograms of cocaine were displayed. Both men were charged with possession of a controlled substance. Arreola had bond set at \$500,000 cash and Salgado at \$100,000 cash during the 1 p.m. call in Central Bond Court, according to Cook County state's attorney's office spokesman Tom Stanton. NBC5's Jennifer Mitchell reported that Chicago police and the Drug Enforcement Agency worked together on the raid. Officials said they hit the drug trade at one of its highest levels, breaking up a drug cartel and arresting the two suspects.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V6D03233C>

46. IN: Half ton of pot, 2 pounds of cocaine seized in raid (IndyStar.com, 20 Nov 2005)

Indianapolis police seized about 2 pounds of cocaine and 1,000 pounds of marijuana Saturday during a raid at an Eastside house. Officers served a search warrant at the house in the 2000 block of Green Rock Lane at 11 a.m., Indianapolis Police Lt. Randall West said. The cocaine was found in a mattress and a box spring, and the marijuana was neatly stacked in a bedroom, he said.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?C4E05233C>

47. MA: Springfield Residents Indicted for Distribution of Cocaine Base, Reports U.S. Attorney (PRNewswire, 21 Nov 2005)

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. - Two Springfield residents were charged Friday, November 18, 2005, in federal court with distributing crack cocaine and conspiring to distribute crack cocaine.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Z10D3223C>

48. NJ: Dozens Arrested In Massive Cocaine Sweep (AP, 20 Nov 2005)

Morristown, N.J. - More than 100 people are arrested in four counties during a massive sweep that authorities say disrupted a cocaine distribution ring allegedly being run out of a Morris County restaurant. The arrests, which mostly occurred early yesterday, took place in Morris, Sussex, Warren and Essex counties and were the culmination of a six-month investigation dubbed "Operation Bulldog." It was led by Morris County authorities and involved close to 400 law enforcement officers from 31 agencies, and among those arrested were two minor league baseball players the daughter of a reputed mob figure. Authorities say the investigation was ongoing, and more arrests were expected.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=local&id=3651044>

49. Canada: Officer charged in cocaine bust - 15 kilograms found in house (The Star, 21 Nov 2005)

A Peel police officer has been charged with drug trafficking and other related offences involving cocaine with a street value of more than \$500,000. Const. Sheldon Cook, 38, was arrested by RCMP officers at his residence on Friday night where it's alleged 15 kilograms of cocaine were found hidden in a storage area. Neither the RCMP nor Peel police would comment on the arrest, but sources said the 14-year veteran police officer had been in charge of guarding the drugs when they disappeared from a Peel police station in Mississauga last Wednesday.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G16D2323C>

50. Canada: Meth, identity theft charges laid (Edmonton Journal, 18 Nov 2005)

City police have busted what appears to be another methamphetamine and identity theft ring. Officers from the tactical unit searched a home near 127th Street and 117th Avenue early this morning and seized a quantity of methamphetamine, stolen identification and weapons. The search turned up 15.6 grams of the drug and related paraphernalia as well as several machetes, a paintball gun, stolen credit cards and receipts and stolen pieces of identification.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?S3DF1223C>

51. Mexico captures leader of bloody drug gang (Reuters, 21 Nov 2005)

MEXICO CITY - Mexico has captured the leader of a drug cartel that has waged a bloody turf war near the U.S. border, the government said on Monday. Attorney General Daniel Cabeza de Vaca said the arrest of Ricardo Garcia Urquiza, a surgeon known as "The Doctor," was a mortal blow to the Juarez cartel, a loose affiliation of drug gangs from the western state of Sinaloa prone to bloody feuding. "This drug trafficker is probably one of the most important to be arrested in history," Cabeza de Vaca said. "Not only are we detaining an important drug trafficker, but the criminal organization is being dismantled."

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W24C2323C>

52. El Salvador: MS-13 gang uses deportation to build its ranks (Baltimore Sun, 20 Nov 2005)

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador - On a sweltering afternoon, an unmarked white jetliner taxis to a remote terminal at the international airport here and discharges dozens of criminal deportees from the United States. Marshals release the handcuffed prisoners, who shuffle into a processing room. Of the 70 passengers, at least four are members of Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, a gang formed two decades ago in Los Angeles. For one of them, Melvin "Joker" Cruz-Mendoza, the trip is not new. This is his fourth deportation - the second this year. Wiry with a shaved head, the 24-year-old pleaded guilty in separate felony robbery and drug cases in Los Angeles. "MS" covers his right forearm. Other tattoos are carved into the skin above his eyebrows. In the last 12 years, U.S. immigration authorities have logged more than 50,000 deportations of immigrants with criminal records to Central America, including untold numbers of gang members like Cruz-Mendoza.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?E1301633C>

53. Honduras: teen accused of killing DEA agent escapes youth correction facility (Pravda.ru, 20 Nov 2005)

A teen accused of killing a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent and implicated in 16 other slayings has escaped from a youth correction facility just as he promised he would officials said Saturday. Herlan Colindres, a 16-year-old street gang member, slipped out of a rehabilitation center housing 156 youths outside the Honduran capital Tegucigalpa on Friday night, authorities said. Colindres and his 13-year-old bodyguard Manuel Romero were arrested in July in connection with the murder of DEA agent Michael Timothy Markey outside Tegucigalpa at a temple dedicated to Honduras' patron saint. He had previously been identified as 13-year-old Erlan Colindres, but authorities said Saturday he was three years older than believed and had modified the spelling of his first name. Authorities said Markey, 44, who was based in El Paso, Texas, came to Honduras to train local drug police.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:
<http://newsfromrussia.com/accidents/2005/11/20/68033.html>

54. Venezuela: National Guard (GN) seizes 4.7 tonnes of cocaine in two separate raids (VHeadline.com, 21 Nov 2005)

Last Saturday, Venezuela's National Guard (GN) has seized 2.2 tonnes of kilos at a traffic checkpoint in La Pastora (Lara). Another 2.5 tonnes were discovered in South Anzoategui's Moron sector. The cocaine in Lara was discovered on board a military truck. According to President Chavez Frias, the driver of the truck was accompanied by an Army Sergeant. The drugs seized in Lara were hidden amid boxes of ceramic tiles and came from San Cristobal.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:
<http://www.vheadline.com/readnews.asp?id=47037>

55. Peru seizes alleged drugs kingpin (BBC, 20 Nov 2005)

Police in Peru have arrested a former airline owner whom the United States accuses of being a "drugs kingpin". Fernando Zevallos is suspected of cocaine trafficking, murder and witness tampering, Peru's state attorney for drugs crimes told Associated Press. He is already being tried in Peru over an attempted shipment of cocaine to Mexico in 1995, which was foiled.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4453784.stm>

56. UK: Hmrc Seizes 400kgs Of Cocaine In Joint Operation With Belgian Police (UK Security Directory, 18 Nov 2005)

Over 400kgs of cocaine were seized last week in a joint operation between officers from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), the National Criminal Intelligence Service and Belgian police. The cocaine was smuggled in four containers carrying un-processed coffee beans for Belgian importers on board a ship from Duenaventura in Colombia. HMRC officers carried out a search when the containers were unloaded at Tilbury. 410 blocks of cocaine, weighing around one kilogram each were found in black sacks on top of the coffee beans. No attempt had been made to conceal the sacks. The cocaine was replaced with an innocuous substance and re-loaded onto the vessel. HMRC officers assisted in a controlled delivery of the shipment, following which four men were arrested by the Belgian authorities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://uksecuritydirectory.co.uk/index.php/content/view/147/40/>

57. Spain: Three members of the Latin American Lions Black gang ordered to prison in Torre Vieja (TypicallySpanish.com, 21 Nov 2005)

The judge in court number 2 in Torre Vieja, has ordered that 3 of the members of the 'Lion Black' gang arrested in the town be held in prison on remand. A total of 17 people were arrested by the Civil Guard last week in a crackdown on the Latin American gang. The other 14, most from Ecuador, although a Spanish girl is among those arrested, have now been released on the condition that they attend the local police station every week. Their passports have also been taken.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.typicallyspanish.com/news/publish/article_892.shtml

58. Bulgarian Court Hears Major Cocaine Case (Sofia News Agency, 21 Nov 2005)

A panel of the Plovdiv Regional Court will hear the case against four men accused of participating a drug channel from Bolivia to Bulgaria on Monday. Three Bulgarians and a Macedonian were arrested in summer 2003 in an operation dubbed "moonlight" which local special services had carried out with their US and British counterparts. Moonlight was conducted simultaneously in a number of countries including Bulgaria, Bolivia and Spain. Police then seized five tons of cocaine in Bolivia, three of which were designated for Bulgaria.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=55504

59. West 'should buy the Afghan opium crop' (telegraph.co.uk, 21 Nov 2005) – I find this a very interesting suggestion and would welcome any comments!

The West should buy up Afghanistan's opium crop and license its use for pain-relief medicines rather than trying to destroy the crop, it is proposed today. The Senlis Council, an international drug policy think-tank with operations in Afghanistan, says the planned deployment of 3,000 British troops to smash the narcotics trade there is doomed to fail. Since the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan has once again emerged as the world's leading producer of opium. Almost all the heroin sold on Britain's streets comes from remote farms in the mountains, controlled by tribal warlords out of reach of the central government in Kabul. The UN last year called Afghanistan a "narco-economy" responsible for 87 per cent of the world's supply of illegal opium, with a harvest of 4,100 metric tonnes. Some 3.5 million Afghans are involved in the opium trade, which accounts for two thirds of its gross domestic product.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M2DE3223C>

60. Iran: Trial of drug-trafficking gang held publicly in Qom (IRNA, 22 Nov 2005)

The trial of a notorious four-member drug trafficking gang was held publicly in Qom on Monday. The gang is charged with transporting 1,000 tons of opium, 49 kg of heroin, and 24 kg of hashish. Judge Mohammad Ali Qasedi said that the smuggling and consumption of illicit drug is a world-wide menace. "Iran's proximity to the drug-producing countries and arrogant policies of some Western powers in not preventing drug cultivation has significantly contributed to the flow of narcotics to our country," he said. All of the accused have long record of drug and financial-related offense, the judge added.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/news/view/menu-234/0511226754011534.htm>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

61. Justice to face lower-than-requested IT funding (GovExec.com, By David Perera, 21 Nov 2005)

The Justice Department will not be able to spend as much money as anticipated on information technology this fiscal year. In the conference version of the fiscal 2006 State-Justice-Commerce appropriations bill, lawmakers included \$90 million for a combined account funding legacy narrowband wireless communications and the Integrated Wireless Network, a nationwide effort to create an integrated voice, data and multimedia network to be used by law enforcement officers, first responders and others in the homeland security community. That final amount is \$38 million less than the \$128 million Justice wanted for the combined account. It also is nearly \$9 million less than the \$98.7 million necessary to keep existing services in place, according to the department's budget request.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32842&dcn=e_gvet

62. Thief takes off with Boeing laptop in new identity theft scare (Computer Weekly, 21 Nov 2005)

Boeing has warned that a thief has lifted a US employee's laptop containing the names, social security numbers and other sensitive information of 161,000 current and former employees. The theft from the Seattle-headquartered company is the latest identity theft threat to hit corporate US, which has seen major companies fall victim to remote hackers and laptop thieves on numerous occasions this year. Earlier this year, a female employee at communications company MCI had her laptop stolen from an unlocked car in her garage. That PC contained sensitive information on thousands of employees. Boeing said the laptop theft did not take place at a Boeing building but did not say where it took place. With identity theft on the internet now an increasing problem, US legislators are considering tougher laws to force companies to bolster security.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V24D1323C>

63. FBI warns of e-mail about surveillance (Boston Globe, 21 Nov 2005)

WASHINGTON - The Federal Bureau of Investigation issued an alert Monday about a scam involving unsolicited e-mails, purportedly sent by the FBI, that tell computer users that their Internet surfing is being monitored by the agency. Latest national news The users are told they have visited illegal Web sites and are instructed to open an attachment to answer questions. The FBI did not send these e-mails and does not send any other unsolicited e-mails to the public, an agency statement said. As many harmful computer viruses are located in e-mail attachments, the FBI said it strongly encourages computer users not to open attachments from unknown recipients. The FBI is investigating the scam. Recipients of these e-mails are asked to report them by visiting the Internet Crime Complaint Center at <http://www.ic3.gov>.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?O45D5223C>

64. Six Plead Guilty To Online Identity Theft (All Headline News, 18 Nov 2005)

Newark, NJ - Six more people plead guilty to operating a Web site, which investigators claim was one of the largest online sites for trafficking stolen identity information and credit cards. Coupled with others who pleaded guilty in recent weeks, that brings the total to 12 people who acknowledged playing some role in the site, shadowcrew.com. According to the *Associated Press*, federal prosecutors say the site counted with about 4,000 members and at least 1.5 million stolen credit card numbers, which resulted in the loss of over \$ 4 million. The site used "phishing" and spamming techniques to illegally obtain bank and credit card information, which were then used to make purchases over the Internet.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7001087672>

COUNTERFEIT

65. MD: Company enters guilty plea in smuggling case (ArbutusTimes.com, 18 Nov 2005)

A Lansdowne company and its controllers have pleaded guilty to smuggling counterfeit merchandise and illegal switchblade knives into the United States. Mohammed Aslam,

57, and his sons Farhan, 31, and Zeeshawn, 27, all of Ellicott City, and their company, NFZ Products, also known as Turkey Creek Trading Company, have admitted to charges they conspired to import and distribute more than \$750,000 in prohibited merchandise from Pakistan, Taiwan and China, according to a statement issued Nov. 10 by U.S. Attorney Rod Rosenstein.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?S1505133C>

66. Canada: Fake credit card factory shut down - Police raid catches man drying dozens of just-made cards (Vancouver Sun, 18 Nov 2005)

VANCOUVER - Police have shut down a bogus-credit-card factory in Vancouver linked to Asian organized crime that had the potential to rack up \$32 million worth of fraudulent purchases. When Vancouver police and RCMP executed a search warrant at a rented east Vancouver home on Nov. 8, they found a man drying dozens of newly printed counterfeit cards.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M4402333C>

TECHNOLOGY

67. 511 travel service expands statewide in Florida (FCW, 21 Nov 2005)

Florida travelers can now access real-time traffic and weather information by dialing a voice-enabled 511 system on their telephones. The state's Transportation Department launched the system last Thursday in most areas except southeast Florida, which will be online Dec. 2. By dialing 511 from their landline or wireless phones, travelers can get free traffic incident reports, such as road closures and weather-related information on all state roads and highways identified by the department, said Fred Korangy, chief executive officer and president of LogicTree, a College Park, Md.-based company that provides the voice-enabled technology for the system.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article91515-11-21-05-Web>

OPPORTUNITIES

68. Canada to Spend \$250M on WMD Protection Gear (Global Security Newswire, 21 Nov 2005)

The Canadian military plans to spend more than \$250 million on detection and response equipment against the threat of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, the CanWest News Service reported yesterday (see [GSN](#), Nov. 3). Equipment to be purchased includes chemical and biological agent sensors, protective gear for soldiers, and computer software that could track the spread of a deadly agent in the event of a terrorist attack. This would be the Canadian Forces largest acquisition of such equipment, CanWest reported. Some purchases have already been made, while the entire program is expected to be spread over five years.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2005_11_21.html#5968A12A

EVENTS

69. Agriculture Show tackles animal disease preparedness (Farm News, 18 Nov 2005)

FORT DODGE — If a highly infectious animal disease somehow traveled to Iowa, officials here are leading the nation in being ready, according to Dr. Patrick Webb, a private consultant from Ames who specializes in training individuals for agroterrorism and animal disease outbreaks. Webb, who will be a featured speaker at the 2005 Farm News Ag Show Dec. 2, contracts with the state of Iowa to help prepare local and rural people plan for such disasters.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.farmnews-iowa.com/top_stories_full.asp?652

70. Influenza, Disaster Preparedness, Bioterrorism, Reproductive Health and Health Care Access Among Top Public Health Concerns (U.S. Newswire, 21 Nov 2005)

Thousands of Experts to Address Leading Issues at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Dec. 10-14, in Philadelphia, Pa. The nation's public health officials will gather in Philadelphia Dec. 10-14 to tackle pressing health concerns from pandemic influenza planning and prescription drug access to reproductive health and the public health response to disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. About 10,000 experts will attend to share the latest public health research and practice. The meeting will feature reports on the processes of systematically finding, appraising and using scientific research as the basis for developing sound practices. It will also include hundreds of sessions on other significant issues in public health such as influenza pandemic planning, emergency contraception, HIV/AIDS, disaster preparedness, chronic disease prevention and control and health disparities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=57038>

FULL REPORTS

71. United States Works To Confront Criminality at Southwest Border - Operation Black Jack launched to confront violent groups, drug-smuggling (Dept. of State, 18 Nov 2005)

Competition among rival drug cartels has given rise to dramatic levels of violence in the Nuevo Laredo area along the Southwest border of the United States, and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is working to confront the groups responsible for this violence, says William Reid, ICE's acting assistant director of the Office of Investigations.

In November 17 testimony before the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee, Reid outlined the scope of the violence as well as U.S. efforts to confront it.

"The current level of violence in the Nuevo Laredo area dramatically exceeds historical norms," Reid said. The number of homicides in Nuevo Laredo has climbed from 68 in 2004 to 157 so far in 2005, he said.

Beyond this increase in the volume of violence, the tone of the violence differs from past violent periods, Reid added.

"There are aspects of the violence we are seeing that is distinguished from other periods of instability between competing cartels," he said. "For instance, the murder of public officials, particularly the public execution of the chief of police of Nuevo Laredo within hours of his appointment, is a sign of the lengths to which cartels are going to attack anyone who seeks to thwart" their activities.

As part of the United States' efforts to confront the violent cartels, ICE and its partners in federal, state and local law enforcement launched Operation Black Jack in July.

The goals of Operation Black Jack are first to increase information-sharing among federal agencies responsible for border security and state and local authorities, so that crimes of violence properly can be attributed to the cartels responsible. Second, the initiative seeks to attack the human- and drug-smuggling organizations that fuel the border-area violence.

In accordance with this effort, ICE works with Mexican law enforcement to target organized criminal activity, public corruption and resulting border violence, Reid explained. He said that the effort is yielding results.

"Based upon the real-time exchange of tactical law enforcement information between the United States and Mexico, Operation Black Jack has successfully targeted numerous individuals involved in the drug cartel-related violence in the Nuevo Laredo region," Reid said.

He recalled that since its inception, Operation Blackjack has resulted in the seizure of more than \$1 million, 300 pounds of marijuana, 300 pounds of cocaine, 18 assault rifles, 2 handguns and 3 vehicles, and the arrest of 20 individuals.

For additional information on U.S. policies, see [*The U.S. and Mexico: Border/Migration Issues*](#).

Following is the text of Reid's testimony, as prepared for delivery:

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?D1102633C>

72. "Political Will" Seen as Key Factor in Combating Drug Trade (Dept. of State, 21 Nov 2005)

Washington - In combating the extremely profitable illicit drug trade, no nation's resources are enough -- only a collective long-term commitment can hope to succeed, a

State Department official said at a November 15-17 conference on narcotics trafficking in Central and South Asia held in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

Ambassador Nancy Powell, acting assistant secretary of state for international narcotics and law enforcement affairs, also pointed out that drugs and terrorism both flourish in regions where government authority is weak.

“Drug producers and traffickers rely on weak institutions and powerless populaces to ply their trade,” said Powell. They “seek to subvert government authority, to exploit weak criminal justice systems,” she said, adding that corruption is “an indispensable tool of criminals.”

Political will is an important resource against narcotics trafficking, Powell said. “Foreign assistance can only make a difference if all countries prioritize fighting drugs and other crime,” she said.

Powell was keynote speaker at the conference on narcotics trafficking hosted by the Defense Department’s U.S. European Command and U.S. Central Command at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies.

The meeting was the inaugural gathering of the Central and South Asia Counter-Narcotics Working Group. Those attending included representatives from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NATO, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and others.

A senior British adviser with U.S. Central Command said counterdrug efforts may take decades.

“We are taking our first step toward what I believe will be a very long road,” said Air Vice Marshall Michael Heath of the United Kingdom’s Royal Air Force. “I talk to people [involved in counternarcotics] and they tell me counternarcotics is a 50-year solution.”

“But it’s nonetheless something we need to undertake and to move on. We need to ... eradicate the narcotics trafficking in Central and Southern Asia,” Heath said.

The cost of combating large criminal networks – which also may traffic in humans as well as arms and weapons of mass destruction -- requires collective action and cooperation, Powell said.

“The extent of these interconnected problems is beyond the ability of any one country to solve,” she said.

“Government commitment at all levels to a long-term sustained effort is essential. The enemy is well-funded and often entrenched in the political system and society at large. It cannot be defeated by half-measures, or overnight,” Powell added.

She noted that Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai “has declared a *jihad* against the drug trade, which he says ‘has dishonored our national image among the international community.’ The U.S., under the international lead of the United Kingdom, is committed to fully supporting the Afghan government in its efforts.”

Afghanistan long has been the world’s leading exporter of heroin, with most of its poppy crop ending up in Europe and Eurasia.

“In considering U.S. assistance to a country, the first thing we look for is political will to confront the challenges. We know that anything we offer will go for nothing if the government is not committed to achieving the goals of the program,” Powell said.

A [press release](#) on the conference and [additional information](#) is available on the Marshall Center’s Web site.

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

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