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Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council
NEWSLETTER



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US arms Coast Guard terror units



The United States is dramatically expanding its seacoast defenses by arming Coast Guard helicopters with machine guns, training security teams to rappel onto a hostile ship and take control of it through force, and deploying sensors, satellites, and surveillance cameras that feed new high-tech harbor command centers. The buildup of maritime muscle, part of a comprehensive program detailed in the Department of Homeland Security's 2006 budget plan, stems from fears that, deterred by land and air defenses, terrorists may try to attack the nation by sea. Scenarios include smuggling in a nuclear

bomb aboard a freighter or crashing an explosives-laden fast boat into a liquefied natural gas tanker, mimicking the 2000 USS Cole bombing. To counter the threats, Homeland Security is transforming US coastal defenses, from a search-and-rescue service that also policed for migrant and drug smugglers to a more militarized force aimed at stopping terrorists.

Full story: http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2005/03/27/us_arms_coast_guard_terror_units/

Raid nets machine guns; 11 charged

Federal agents and prosecutors announced Tuesday the largest seizure of machine guns in the history of Southern Illinois, and 11 people face weapons charges linked to the seized guns. Agents seized more than 50 machine guns, silencers, 128 destructive devices, 115 improvised explosive devices, gun powder, a spring-loaded booby trap, more than 100 firearms, 19 crates of ammunition and thousands of rounds of ammunition seized from a Madison County home. They also found a Nazi flag, neo-Nazi literature and scrawled on a wall of a home three words: "Hitler was right!"

Full story: <http://www.belleville.com/mld/belleville/news/11264548.htm>

It's not so much *what folks don't know* that's the problem.
It's that *they know too much... that ain't so ...* that's the problem !

Flow of illegal immigrants to U.S. unabated

Based on Census Bureau and other government data, the Pew Hispanic Center, a private research group in Washington, estimated the number of undocumented immigrants at 10.3 million as of last March, an increase of 23 percent from the 8.4 million estimate in 2000. More than 50 percent of that growth was attributable to Mexican nationals living illegally in the United States. "It's clear that America's lost control of its border," said Steven Camarota, director of the Center for Immigration Studies, which favors tighter immigration controls. "The problem is that once we all agree we have this enormous problem, then what to do about it is something we can't agree on. When you can't agree on the benefits and costs of a program, it becomes extraordinarily difficult to formulate any kind of a policy."

Full story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A55202-2005Mar21.html>

Related reporting



Illegal immigrants spreading out to new areas of the United States

<http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/metropolitan/3096400>

Texas Leads Illegal Immigrant Increase

<http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/news/newsbyid.asp?id=21787>

10.3 million illegals in U.S., study finds

http://www.insidebayarea.com/timesstar/ci_2617697

N.C. 8th in illegal migrants

<http://www.charlotte.com/mld/observer/news/local/11197596.htm>

New York Takes a Cue From Texas

<http://www.nysun.com/article/11126>

Activists to flock to border, set up citizen patrols

Jim Gilchrist simply got fed up with the federal government when it came to addressing illegal immigration. A few months ago, Gilchrist put out a call for citizens to peacefully gather on the Arizona-Mexico border during April to monitor and report illegal immigration. Since then, the [Minuteman Project](#) as it is called - has snowballed with national media coverage and international attention. More than 1,000 people, including 30 pilots with private aircraft, have pledged to set up camps along the border starting this Friday.

Full story: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0305/032805c1.htm>

Also see 'Related Stories' sidebar links at the above URL

Al-Qaeda is an excuse to close the border

Rodolfo Cruz Piñeiro, researcher and Academic Secretary General of the Northern Border College (*El Colegio de la Frontera Norte*) stated that border security initiatives aimed at preventing entry of terrorists into the U.S. are really just excuses by the Bush administration to enact migration controls along the border. He noted that, in 1994, efforts to shut down the border cited drug trafficking. Meanwhile measures, actions have been started to fight the "cazamigrantes" that have been armed in order to stop illegal migrants crossing the Arizona border.

Translated from 21 March 2005 source: http://www.el-universal.com.mx/pls/impreso/noticia.html?id_nota=20682&tabla=primera

Gang will target Minuteman vigil on Mexico border

Members of a violent Central America-based gang have been sent to Arizona to target Minuteman Project volunteers, who will begin a monthlong border vigil this weekend to find and report foreigners sneaking into the United States, project officials say. James Gilchrist, a Vietnam veteran who helped organize the vigil to

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protest the federal government's failure to control illegal immigration, said he has been told that California and Texas leaders of Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, have issued orders to teach "a lesson" to the Minuteman volunteers.

Full story: <http://washingtontimes.com/national/20050328-125306-7868r.htm>

The most dangerous gang in America

They're a violent force in 33 states and counting.

Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, wasn't terrifying just northern Virginia. "They were popping up everywhere," says Chris Swecker, assistant director of the FBI's criminal investigative division. "It seemed like we were hearing more and more about MS-13." Then one day last fall, FBI Director Robert Mueller called Swecker into his office. "You have a mandate to go out and address this gang," Mueller told him. Mueller declared MS-13 the top priority of the bureau's criminal-enterprise branch—which targets organized crime—and authorized the creation of a new national task force to combat it. The task force, which includes agencies like the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), aims to take on MS-13 much as the FBI once tackled the Mafia.

Full story: <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/7244879/site/newsweek/>

U.S. sees *Zetas* as large threat

The U.S. Justice Department has named the paramilitary *Los Zetas* gang as a serious threat to security in the border region. *Los Zetas* are considered dangerous to law enforcement personnel because of their military training, tactics, and weapons. It is believed that *Los Zetas* have put a bounty on U.S. law enforcement officials.

Translated from 24 March 2005 source: <http://estadis.eluniversal.com.mx/nacion/123289.html>

Related reporting

Striking At Kidnappers

<http://www.delrionewsherald.com/report.lasso?wcd=8467>

Muslim Brotherhood demonstration in Cairo March 27

Egypt's banned but tolerated Muslim Brotherhood has called for a large street rally in Cairo March 27 to demand additional changes to the constitution that will increase political freedoms. The rally will take place in front of the People's Assembly building. The parliament building is in central Cairo - to the south of Al-Tahrir Square. Protests are illegal in Egypt under emergency laws in place since 1981.

COMMENT:

Police may attempt to prevent the rally or disperse the gathering crowd using force. If the rally is allowed to take place, authorities will likely deploy a very large number of police throughout central Cairo to control the crowd. This will be the first rally by the Brotherhood - the largest opposition group in Egypt - and follows rallies held by numerous smaller opposition groups in recent weeks. The demonstration was announced during a press conference given by the Brotherhood's Supreme Guide Mahdi Akef in which he said the rally will be similar to those staged by Hizballah in Lebanon. Those rallies drew between 200,000 and 400,000 people. Akef said that the Brotherhood will not participate in the upcoming presidential election unless the governments implements "comprehensive political reforms **that include *stopping the work on emergency law, freedom of publishing newspapers and forming political parties without restrictions, and activating institutions of the civil society.***" The Brotherhood will, however, participate in local and parliamentary elections.

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Related reporting:

Will they, won't they

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2005/732/eg8.htm>

Muslim Brotherhood to support competent candidate

http://www.aljazeera.com/me.asp?service_ID=7479

Gamal El-Banna

<http://www.egypttoday.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=2269>

Tariq Ramadan

<http://www.egypttoday.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=2481>

Moderate Muslims using Quran to wage 'counter-jihad' against radicals' interpretation of Islam

The e-mail messages from Muslims began moments after release of a religious edict condemning al-Qaida. They came from every corner of the world. Soon they were tumbling in too fast to handle. "I couldn't even read them all. There's at least 1,000. Maybe more," said Mansur Escudero, secretary-general of the Islamic Commission of Spain. "The tone was nearly all the same: 'It's about time someone did it. Bravo!'"

Moderate Muslims are increasingly turning to Islam's sacred core -- the Quran and the laws and traditions it inspires -- to defend their views and discredit radicals as part of a "counter-jihad" for Islamic hearts and minds. "The long and painful silence of moderate theologians and experts in Islam jurisprudence -- who had been bought off or intimidated into silence -- is finally starting to break apart," said Khaled Abou El Fadl, an authority on Islamic law at the University of California, Los Angeles. "We are seeing signs of a counter-jihad."

Full story: http://www.9news.com/acm_news.aspx?OSGNAME=KUSA&IKOBJECTID=e549919e-0abe-421a-01c8-a56bdd3833ca&TEMPLATEID=0c76dce6-ac1f-02d8-0047-c589c01ca7bf

Man sent \$3 million to Iran, U.S. says

Federal authorities unsealed charges Friday alleging an Iranian native from Lincolnwood illegally funneled several million dollars to Iran in recent years in violation of U.S. trade sanctions. Prosecutors also linked the suspect, Hossein Esfahani, to a Chicago car dealer arrested Tuesday on charges of laundering millions of dollars in drug money, saying the two trafficked in cocaine and heroin for years.

Full story: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/northwest/chi-0503260129mar26,1,4898065,print.story?coll=chi-newslocalnorthwest-hed>

Feds see flood of phony badges

Scam artists determined to breeze through security checkpoints at New York's federal buildings are increasingly using the same criminal tool - fake police badges. In the past two months, the agents who safeguard high-profile federal buildings, including the FBI's Manhattan headquarters at 26 Federal Plaza, have seen a spike in the number of counterfeit shields.

Full story: <http://www.nydailynews.com/front/story/293900p-251538c.html>

Be Prepared for Cyberterrorism

During a recent Gartner conference, Robert Gates, formerly a director of the CIA and currently the president of Texas A&M University, warned attendees that companies must prepare for terrorism in all aspects of business. He also asserted that the three big threats to business today are terrorism, global organized crime and economic espionage. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's definition, acts of terrorism range from threats of terrorism, assassinations, kidnappings, hijackings, bomb scares and bombings, and cyberattacks to the use of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. While any

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one of the aforementioned events could have a dramatic effect on the integrity and availability of your valuable information assets, the threat of cyberterrorism should be taken particularly seriously.

Full story: <http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/story/0,10801,100655,00.html>



Hackers look to flip switches: Providers of power are targeted

Electric companies and power-grid operators are being subjected to increasingly sophisticated hack attacks on their computer systems, a new report says. Symantec Corp., a California software security firm, said in a report that hack attacks against all types of systems and corporations are on the rise. Power plants and grid systems are also being hit with more hackers trying to pry their way into networks. Symantec also said that hacker attacks on Apple Computer Inc.'s Macintosh OS X operating system, thought by many who use the Mac to be virtually immune to attack, are on the rise.

Full story: <http://business.bostonherald.com/technologyNews/view.bg?articleid=74662>

Cyber-Terrorism: Propaganda or Probability?



Citing dire statistics and Governmental warnings, the media has become increasingly vocal in expressing concern over the potential for an all-out Cyberwar.

COMMENT:

The author provides insightful coverage in this 3 part article. For parts 2, and 3 select from the 'Related Resources' side panel. Also visit the hyperlinked feature articles.

<http://antivirus.about.com/library/weekly/aa090502a.htm>

Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) Announced

Through the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP), the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) provides smaller law enforcement and emergency responder agencies with equipment items that will enhance and support regional response, mutual aid, and interoperability of responder equipment.

Access more information on CEDAP at: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/whatsnew/whats_new.htm

Featured Internet Site

RESPONDER KNOWLEDGE BASE

This Knowledge Base has been built specifically to serve the needs of Emergency Responders. It contains information on currently available products, along with a wealth of related information such as standards, training, and grants.

<http://www2.rkb.mipt.org/>

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