



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 04 August 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports the Minnesota Bankers Association has introduced an anti-crime database to help banks detect fraud in 10 states. (See item [5](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of State on Saturday suspended two programs that allow certain international air passengers to travel through the United States for transit purposes without first obtaining a visa. (See item [8](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security has issued a Security Advisory concerning the W32/Mimail virus, a mass-mailing worm with the potential to exploit a vulnerability in Microsoft's Outlook Express. (See item [25](#))
- The Associated Press reports Ning Ma, a Chinese graduate student in the United States on a student visa, was arrested and charged on July 31, with hacking into the University of Michigan's network. (See item [27](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *August 01, Energy Info Source* — Senate passes energy bill. On Thursday, July 31, the Senate passed last year's version of an energy bill, breaking an impasse over the first

major overhaul of U.S. energy policy in a decade. The Senate's newly-passed energy bill still has to be reconciled with energy legislation passed in April by the House of Representatives. **Common ground between this year's version of the bill and the one from last year that was passed includes repeal of the 1935 Public Utility Holding Company Act restricting industry consolidation, reform of Public Utility Regulatory Practices Act supports for alternative energy, and a renewable fuels mandate that could more than double demand for corn-derived ethanol.** The bill's renewable portfolio standard would require that by 2020 electric utilities get 10% of their supply from non-hydro renewable sources, including primarily wind but also geothermal, biomass and solar energy. Utilities would be able to buy credits to meet the requirement. The measure would lead to nearly fivefold increase in non-hydro renewables' market share.

Source: <http://www.energyinfosource.com/aoi/news-details.cfm?id=19674&FLink=>

2. *August 01, Reuters* — **California's silicon valley gets more power supplies. Pacific Gas & Electric Co. has completed a \$140 million project to supply badly needed electricity to Silicon Valley, the heart of California's high-technology industry, a spokesperson for the utility said on Friday, August 1.** The project expands power capacity in the region by 30 percent, adding 800 megawatts for about 800,000 homes and businesses. Silicon Valley consumes about 20 percent of the electricity in the San Francisco Bay Area, and was on of the first areas hit by the blackouts during California's energy crisis in 2000-2001. The spokesperson said that the project added that more than 7 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, a new electric substation, and other equipment to route more electricity into the area, increasing the total supply of electricity to more than 3,000 megawatts.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A12420-2003Aug_1.html

3. *July 31, Associated Press* — **Pipeline accident sends gasoline spewing. An underground pipeline carrying gasoline from Texas to Arizona burst near a construction site in Tucson, AZ, and sent about 10,000 gallons gushing into the air on Wednesday, July 30.** The pipeline carries about 450 million gallons of gasoline from El Paso, TX, to Tucson and Phoenix, AZ according to the Arizona Department of Weights and Measures. Tucson Fire Department Deputy Chief Randy Ogden said no one was hurt in the accident, but officials are trying to determine what caused the 8-inch high pressure line to break. Construction workers were evacuated during the emergency and the line remains shut down, officials said. It is not known how long the cleanup effort will take.

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0731gaspipes-burst-ON.html>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

- 4.

August 04, Government Accounting Office — Report—GAO—03—709: Defense Inventory: Several Actions Are Needed to Further DLA's Efforts to Mitigate Shortages of Critical Parts. DoD's management, funding, and reporting of spending for spare parts programs have been a focus of GAO high risk reports for over a decade. They noted that spare parts shortages adversely affect military operations and readiness. **However, managing to mitigate shortages still challenges the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA).** GAO examined if (1) DLA's strategic planning addresses mitigating critical spare parts shortages that affect readiness, (2) strategic initiatives will likely mitigate these shortages, (3) a DoD-directed initiative has improved availability of critical aviation parts, and (4) DLA can identify the impact of added investment on parts availability. **GAO recommends DoD direct DLA to (1) submit requests for waivers to a DoD regulation to allow the investment necessary to attain a minimum 85-percent availability goal for each critical part that affects readiness, (2) change its aggregate supply availability goal to an 85-percent minimum goal and establish annual performance targets for measuring progress, and (3) prioritize funding to achieve the minimum 85-percent goal.**

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d03709high.pdf>

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *August 01, Associated Press — Info-sharing database helps banks flag fraud in 10 states. A new anti-crime database, called FinCrime, was introduced on Thursday, July 31,* by the Minnesota Bankers Association. It will be used by Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Missouri, Indiana and Kansas. **The database is intended to be a secure information-sharing system that immediately links criminals to their acts.** Currently, the average fraud scheme lasts 18 months before it is detected, according to the Federal Trade Commission and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. Using FinCrime, banks and police post the names of suspected perpetrators and their activities on the database and share it with law enforcement and banks in the 10 states. **The new tracking and flagging tool should bolster fraud prosecutions and aid bankers in setting up fraud prevention systems that thwart thieves before they strike,** said Iowa bank officials who were the first to use FinCrime.

Source: http://wcco.com/localnews/local_story_213103836.html

6. *August 01, The China Post — Asian money laundering rampant. Asia remains a haven for global money laundering, but the region's governments are making efforts to crack down on the multi-billion dollar industry.* The Anti-Money Laundering Asia conference was told between US\$500 billion and US\$1.5 trillion was laundered each year through the global banking system. **Money launderers are taking advantage of Asia's many emerging markets and bustling financial service centers.** According to Ravi Menon of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, "September 11 has highlighted a more threatening dimension of the problem – the use of the financial system to mobilize and direct funds for terrorist activities." He also said that Singapore's framework for anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism was now being assessed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Source: <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/business/detail.asp?ID=39854&GRP=E>

Transportation Sector

7. *August 03, The Miami Herald* — **Four killed, 16 hurt as cargo ship, ferry collide in Bahamian waters. A ferry boat carrying nearly 200 passengers collided with a cargo ship in deep Bahamian waters early Saturday, killing four people and injuring at least 16 more, officials said.** One American was aboard the ferry but was not among those injured, Coast Guard Lt. Tony Russell told The Herald. **Police are investigating what caused the 100-foot Sea Hauler passenger ferry to strike the 170-foot United Star cargo ship eight miles west of Eleuthera Island at 1:30 a.m. Saturday.** Police escorted both ships, still able to run on their own power, to Nassau, said Assistant Commissioner Allan Gibson. Passengers and crew members were taken there as well. Prime Minister Perry Christie promised a thorough investigation into the crash, which he deemed a national tragedy. **Coast Guard helicopters and airplanes from stations in both Miami and Clearwater took part in a search-and-rescue mission, which was called off after roughly 11 hours.** No one, dead or alive, was discovered in the water, Coast Guard officials said.
Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/6446468.htm>
8. *August 02, Department of Homeland Security* — **Homeland Security and Department of State take immediate steps to make air travel even safer. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of State suspended two programs Saturday, August 2, that allow certain international air passengers to travel through the United States for transit purposes without first obtaining a visa. The suspension of the Transit Without Visa program (TWOV) and the International-to-International transit program (ITI) does not affect U.S. citizens or citizens from visa waiver countries.** Airlines have been instructed to no longer allow passengers to utilize these transit programs, and Homeland Security agencies are increasing security at airports and on airplanes that normally transport and process passengers under these programs. **"Our number one mission is to protect Americans and American interests from the threat of terrorism and we realize that terrorists aim to exploit our vulnerabilities and freedoms,"** said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.
Source: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_re_lease_0227.xml
9. *August 01, Sacramento Bee* — **Five train cars derail into river near '91 Cantara Loop spill. A Union Pacific train derailed Thursday near the site of a California 1991 toxic rail spill, reviving concerns about trains carrying hazardous materials along a treacherous stretch of track.** The early Thursday morning derailment caused five rail cars to tumble into the Sacramento River north of Dunsmuir. Officials said all north-south train service, including Amtrak, would be interrupted until late Friday, August 1. All five rail cars were empty or contained only residues of leftover oil or chemicals, but none of them ruptured, and authorities said there were no injuries or spills. **As of Thursday night, railway officials hadn't determined the cause of the derailment, which occurred on a steep, northbound stretch of track where train wheels are known to slip, causing derailments.** The cars that made it into the river were mostly empty, but had the cars been full and ruptured, a spill of ammonium nitrate could have easily been lethal to fish in the river, state authorities said.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/content/news/story/7141155p-8088514c.html>

10. *August 01, Associated Press* — **New Jersey Transit outlines emergency response plan.**

Following a train derailment that left riders injured and uninformed, New Jersey Transit yesterday announced steps to improve its response to emergencies by forming "go teams" to rush to accident scenes and placing bull horns on trains. **The measures were among several recommendations presented by New Jersey Transit Executive Director George Warrington to his board of directors in response to the July 14 derailment, which caused about 25 minor injuries and disrupted rush hour service between Newark and New York.** Warrington said the steps would apply to incidents like the power outage Tuesday night, when trains were delayed and riders rankled after an Amtrak train brought down overhead wires near the Metropark Station. The derailment was blamed on a combination of mechanical failure and human error. **Each "go team" will consist of 6–8 employees, preferably with emergency response experience, to help passengers at the scene. The teams will have wireless communication devices to be reachable at any time.** Bullhorns would allow conductors to communicate with commuters if the public address system fails, Warrington said.

Source: http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/index.ssf?base/news-1/10597_39804218100.xml

11. *August 01, Federal Computer Week* — **Senate panel ups Deepwater funding. A Senate committee authorized \$702 million for the U.S. Coast Guard's Deepwater program**

Thursday, July 31, \$172 million more than what the House appropriated to it. Deepwater is the Coast Guard's \$17 billion plan to build new ships and planes. Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME), the bill's sponsor, said **the increase is enough money to rectify a funding shortfall and put the program back on track.** This new bill represents a 15 percent increase over last year's authorization. Snowe has worked to accelerate the Deepwater program to modernize the Coast Guard fleet so it can keep pace with the expansion of its homeland security duties. According to Snowe, the Coast Guard's deployment to the Middle East during the recent conflict in Iraq marked the agency's first support of a wartime contingency since the Vietnam War. **Overall, the bill, approved by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation committee, boosts Coast Guard spending to \$7 billion next year.**

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0728/web-uscg-08-01-03.asp>

12. *August 01, San Francisco Chronicle* — **Securing ports could cost \$7 billion. The federally mandated changes to tighten security at the nation's ports could run more than \$7 billion during the next decade — and squeeze cash-strapped ports, shippers and consumers.**

Industry experts say the changes require more paperwork, more high-tech equipment, closer vetting of port and shipping company personnel, surveillance cameras and perimeter fencing. All are required by the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, which Congress passed in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. While there is broad agreement on the need for vigilance along the nation's 95,000 miles of shoreline, the question remains who will pay for all these changes — which the Coast Guard estimates will cost taxpayers, city- and state-owned ports and private firms \$7.3 billion during the next 10 years. The security bill for this coming year alone will run to just over \$1.1 billion, according to Coast Guard estimates. **User fees of several hundred dollars per container are being discussed on Capitol Hill as one way to pay for the higher security costs,** said Erik Autor, vice president and trade counsel for the National Retail Federation. If that happens, Autor said, retailers may have to pass along price increases to consumers to recover their own rising costs.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/business/133263_shippers01.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *August 01, DM News* — **Final Postal Service report. The President's Commission on the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) presented its report to President Bush and Treasury Secretary John Snow Thursday, after eight months of deliberation.** Bush is expected to present the report to Congress soon, with hearings to follow in September. The report noted that because of rapid technological change, the scope of its recommendations was limited to a 15 to 20 year timeline. It also made dire predictions about the fate of the USPS should it fail to change. In one scenario presented by the report in which the postal service is assumed not to have enacted reforms, it sees mail volume hold steady and even increase through 2007, then fall rapidly through 2017. Annual mail volume will have declined to 181.7 million, 20 percent lower than the present level, and the USPS will have lost \$47.5 billion, according to the report. **The report lays out a road to the future for the postal service that calls for the USPS to: overhaul its "1950s Era" mail network with increased modernization, remain a public entity but contract itself and narrow its monopoly to focus on providing universal mail service, accept the guidance of best business practices and broader oversight, and work together with labor to achieve a "right size" work force.**

Source: http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=2465_1

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Agriculture Sector

14. *August 01, Associated Press* — **Genetically engineered trees. Scientists are planting genetically engineered trees in dozens of research projects across the country. They are working to create trees that grow faster, yield better wood, produce hardier crops, fight pollution, even serve as sentinels for detecting germ and chemical attacks.** Biotechnology may provide just what is needed to help reverse global deforestation and industrial pollution while satisfying increased demand for wood and paper products. **Already, biotechnology has been credited with saving Hawaii's \$14 million a year papaya industry. A virus had wiped out 40 percent of the crop and threatened to destroy the rest before seeds engineered to resist the virus were introduced in 1998.** Now the industry is thriving again. About 230 notices of genetically engineered tree experiments have been filed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture since 1989, with about half since 2000. **So far, papayas are the only approved engineered tree for market. The rest are still experimental.**

Source: <http://www.citizenonline.net/citizen/archive/articleBB025846402540F7A2AD137774C8789F.asp>

15. *July 31, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **Japan urges U.S. to back off trade demands. Japan wants the United States to reduce its agricultural trade demands.** "It is indispensable for countries making excessive demands to become more realistic," Japanese Agriculture Minister Yoshiyuki Kamei said during a three-day trade ministers meeting at which officials hope to

revive troubled World Trade Organization (WTO) talks. "Dramatic and abrupt reductions in tariffs will only give benefits to a handful of exporting countries," Kamei said. At the same time, they will deliver "a fatal blow to the agriculture of many countries," he said. **The United States and Cairns Group of agricultural exporting nations want agreement on a formula to harmonize farm tariffs worldwide by reducing high tariffs far more than low ones. But a slim majority of WTO members want something similar to the 1994 Uruguay Round pact, which required developed countries to cut their tariffs by an average of 36 percent and developing countries by 24 percent.**

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.cfm?Id=827&yr=2003>

16. *July 31, Agricultural Research Service* — **New finding on bacterium linked to disease of oranges, grapes. For 60 years, experts have believed that the bacterium, named Xylella fastidiosa, is spread only by insects such as the glassy-winged sharpshooter, or through contaminated bud wood.** Xylella bacteria have various strains which are known to cause several diseases, such as citrus variegated chlorosis (CVC) in Brazilian oranges, coffee leaf scorch in South America, and Pierce's disease of grapevines in North and Central America. **Agricultural Research Service plant pathologist John Hartung and colleagues reported this month that X. fastidiosa can infect and colonize orange fruit tissues and seeds, and that the bacterium transmits from infected seeds to seedlings.** The idea of this new route of transmission casts new light on another finding reported last year. In greenhouse experiments, Hartung and collaborators unexpectedly found that the strain of X. fastidiosa that causes disease in Brazilian sweet orange also causes symptoms of Pierce's disease in grapes. "We knew that the strain in orange was genetically different from the one in grapes, so we had assumed that it would not be able to also cause disease in grapes," said Hartung. The CVC strain thus could become a threat to U.S. orange and grape growers.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2003/030731.htm>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

17. *August 01, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* — **Water woes have worsened, state says. The state of Florida will not allow Pompano Beach's water plant laboratory to conduct tests for contaminants because of serious deficiencies in its operations and inability to fix the problems.** The Florida Department of Health denied the city's request to resume testing in a letter received by the city Tuesday. The agency had revoked permission for certain types of testing last fall, which forced the city to hire a private company to do the work. Those problems have only worsened, according to a report accompanying the letter. **The laboratory made consistent reporting errors, permitted unqualified personnel to perform analyses, failed to maintain required records of tests, and made false statements in its application to the state to resume the types of testing the state had disallowed last year, the health department**

said. The study found 28 uncorrected deficiencies identified in September. These include a poorly organized laboratory, not keeping equipment maintenance records, a lack of records for water quality checks, and not having operating procedures. It also found 22 new problems, such as not checking equipment. Most of the new issues involve deficiencies in the in-house operations manual.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/broward/sfl-scwater01aug01.0.4150912.story?coll=sfla-news-broward>

18. *July 30, KMBC TV (Kansas City)* — **Town struggles to cope with lack of water.** The lack of significant rainfall has forced some cities to consider drastic measures to conserve water, including disconnecting some customers. The corn stalks in Grain Valley, MO are brittle, leaves are brown and the ground is dry and cracked. A recent population boom that's doubled the town's residency in the last three years has also contributed to the current water shortage. **Grain Valley is considering water control restrictions that could have harsh penalties for violators. The city adopted shut-offs as a possible penalty for those who go against conservation efforts in the event of a water emergency.** Grain Valley has a brand-new 750,000-gallon storage tank that should help keep the water flowing in the short run. But that reserve won't hold out forever if the dry conditions continue. **The city is currently under voluntary water restrictions.**

Source: <http://www.thekansascitychannel.com/news/2370096/detail.html>

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Public Health Sector

19. *August 01, Star-Ledger* — **Drug makers weigh quotas to Canadian wholesalers. Drug makers could limit shipments to Canadian wholesalers if Congress makes it easier for Americans to buy cheaper medicines from Canada. By doing so, the pharmaceutical industry may find a way to blunt the effects of the reimportation legislation.** The measure would allow drugs to be reimported from Canada and other countries at prices well below what they cost in the U.S. Next week, Congress will debate the legislation, which already passed the House of Representatives, as part of a Medicare drug-benefit package. **A report issued last week by the Congressional Budget Office determined that drug makers are "unlikely to increase their sales in Canada enough to permit a significant share of their U.S. market to be imported from Canada."** The report also noted that if drug makers could not limit the supply of drugs flowing from Canada to the U.S., prices in Canada would actually rise faster than U.S. prices would decline. That would mean the savings to Americans would diminish.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/business/ledger/index.ssf?/base/business-0/1059716386151620.xml>

20. *July 31, Associated Press* — **Scientists blame rare virus for death of 273 Indian children. In recent months, 165 children have died in Andra Pradesh state, along with 108 in the state of Maharashtra in India.** Doctors had been puzzled because the cases were similar to Japanese encephalitis. Yet in the recent cases the disease progressed much faster than normal. **Indian scientists and a World Health Organization (WHO) doctor say it appears likely there are two viruses at work, one of them called Chandipura.** It is "very much confirmed

beyond doubt" that the outbreak in Andhra Pradesh is caused by the Chandipura virus, said A.C. Mishra, director of the National Institute of Virology. "We still haven't confirmed the cases in Maharashtra as Chandipura virus." Chandipura is from the same virus family as rabies. **Mishra said his team is still trying to identify the second virus, but that Japanese encephalitis had been ruled out. The WHO has said the second virus may be a member of the Japanese encephalitis family, and could be acting more quickly because the victims are so vulnerable.** Dr. Sampat Krishnan, of WHO India, said the Chandipura virus was probably spread by sand fly bites. "We have a lot of newly emerging diseases these days diseases that were quiet earlier and are now emerging again," Krishnan said.

Source: http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_326073.00080002.htm

21. *July 31, United Press International* — **West Nile strikes in Colorado. Eighteen human cases of West Nile Virus have been confirmed in Colorado, making that state the hardest hit this year by the mosquito-born virus.** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Texas has confirmed 11 West Nile cases this year, with Louisiana reporting 10 cases. However, another 10 suspected cases in Colorado would bring that state's total to 28, double Colorado's entire 2002 toll from the disease. **The Rocky Mountain News said this year's West Nile victims are suffering a high number of health complications, with six developing encephalitis and five developing meningitis.**

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/upi-breaking/20030731-072755-6732.r.htm>

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Government Sector

22. *August 03, Reuters* — **Secretary Ridge comments on new purported al Qaeda audio tape.** The director of U.S. homeland security said on Sunday he was grateful the United States had not been hit again by terrorists but officials were preparing for other possible attacks. **The former governor of Pennsylvania made his comment in regards to an audio tape purportedly from a top al Qaeda official warning the United States on Sunday it would pay a high price if it harmed detainees at a U.S. base in Cuba,** saying the "real battle" had not yet begun. **"Once again they have underestimated the resolve of this country and our capacity to deal with these kind of challenges," Ridge said.** Ridge's department last week warned the airline industry that Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network was planning new suicide hijackings and bombings in the United States or abroad, saying the danger ran until at least the end of summer. **Ridge said Sunday a new advisory had been sent out to ferry operators nationwide, warning of possible attacks. "It was specific information about ferry operators," he said, but like other such warnings, was issued as a precaution based on vague information picked up by U.S. intelligence.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A16188-2003Aug 3.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

23.

August 02, Associated Press — **Audit suggests lack of money is hurting preparation for terrorist attacks. A lack of money is hurting California's ability to prepare for terrorist attacks, according to the National Guard and Governor's Office of Emergency Services in an audit released this week.** Emergency Services told auditors it lacked funding to properly train its staff and to conduct state-level terrorism readiness exercises with other state and local agencies. The National Guard said it, too, lacked the money to participate in such exercises, and that more than \$10 million in state funding it had requested for anti-terrorism activities had been turned down over the last three years. **Both agencies have developed adequate emergency plans for how 25 separate agencies should cooperatively respond to a terrorist strike, auditors found.** But Emergency Services has not crafted a strategy to prevent terrorist attacks, as required by the federal government. Vinson told auditors he recognizes the need and intends to develop such a plan. **The Guard, while generally well prepared, has been unable to complete many of its plan's objectives because it first needs action from others like Congress and the state Legislature, according to the audit.**

Source: <http://www.bayarea.com/mld/cctimes/news/6443834.htm>

24. *August 02, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **FEMA fire grant helps build Illinois facility for first responder training. The first annual McDonough County Emergency Responder School was held in Macomb, IL, on July 19.** The school's unique design was a direct result of input from local fire departments, Macomb Police Department, McDonough District Hospital, and Spoon River College. Topics and activities of the school will help develop and sharpen skills and knowledge of emergency responders and community leaders. More than 150 firefighters and first responders attended the school according to Lt. Roger Lunt, school director and Macomb firefighter. **The First Responder School attracted local departments from Illinois, Iowa, and several other states. Topics in the school include fire ground basics, lifesaving drills, pump operations, hazards and treatment of injuries, and fire scene management.**

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=3913>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

25. *August 02, U.S. Department of Homeland Security* — **Department of Homeland Security Advisory "W32/Mimail Virus".** First reported on on Friday, August 1, the W32/Mimail virus is a malicious file attachment containing a specially crafted MHTML file named 'message.html'. This file is delivered inside of a .ZIP archive file named 'message.zip'. Viewing the 'message.html' file on a vulnerable system will cause the malicious code, which is a mass-mailer, to be installed and executed. The vulnerability, which was identified in April 2003 and described in Microsoft Security Bulletin MS03-014, makes it possible for W32/Mimail to execute automatically once the .ZIP archive is opened. **DHS/IAIP encourages sites to review Microsoft Security Bulletin MS03-014 and apply the Cumulative Patch for Outlook Express** available on the Microsoft Website:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/security/bulletin/MS03-014.asp>

Source: <http://www.nipc.gov/warnings/advisories/2003/W328022003.htm>

26. *August 01, CNET News* — **Government preps Net security system.** An official from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said Thursday, July 31, that **a centralized early warning system for Internet security alerts is being developed. The Global Early Warning Information System (GEWIS) is expected by October 2003** and a final version by March 2004, said Marcus Sachs, the cyber program director for the DHS. **GEWIS is intended to act as a kind of central hub that monitors sensitive areas of the Internet and alerts DHS officials to suspicious activity.** Sachs, speaking at the Black Hat Briefings security conference in Las Vegas, NV, offered the example of the department monitoring unusual numbers of domain name lookups and requests to authenticate VeriSign certificates as possible precursors to an electronic attack.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/cnet/CNET_2100-1009_3-5058578.html
27. *August 01, Associated Press* — **Michigan college student accused of hacking. Ning Ma, 24, a Chinese graduate student in the United States on a student visa, was arrested and charged Thursday, July 31, with hacking into the University of Michigan network,** authorities said Friday. From August to April, **Ma accessed other people's e-mail accounts and grabbed usernames and passwords using software that capture keystrokes entered by another person,** Attorney General Mike Cox said. Ma is also accused of sending fake e-mails from a professor's account to a student, canceling a student's job interview, obtaining a credit card number and bank account and PIN number of another, and getting into the private network storage areas of two professors, where exams and answer sheets were stored.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A12994-2003Aug_1.html
28. *July 31, Washington Post* — **Senator: ICANN crucial to 'Net security.** Sen. Conrad Burns (R-MT) said Thursday, July 31, at a meeting of the Senate Commerce subcommittee on Communications that **the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) must be more accountable to the public in order to defend against catastrophic hacker attacks on the Internet's Domain Name System (DNS).** ICANN manages the DNS under an agreement with the Commerce Department, and plays a key role in ensuring the system is safe from electronic attacks. ICANN's CEO Paul Twomey told the panel that **an ICANN security committee has taken steps to secure the DNS, including conducting exercises to test the resiliency of the servers in case of attack.** ICANN's ability to protect those systems is limited, however, because private companies control most of the pieces that make up the domain name system.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A10169-2003Jul_31.html?referrer=email
29. *July 31, National Journal* — **Homeland official outlines opportunities for tech firms.** Jane Alexander, deputy director of Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency (HSARPA), said **the agency aims to rapidly prototype and adapt existing technologies for short-term solutions and develop revolutionary technology options.** Speaking Thursday, July 31, during a conference sponsored by the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) in Mountain View, CA, Alexander said **HSARPA will ascertain departmental technology needs based on several issues that are the responsibility of multiple agencies including cyber, biological, chemical, radiological and nuclear security.** The agency also must meet several "customer specific" concerns within the department, such as: protecting critical infrastructure, borders and transportation systems; and aiding the Coast Guard, Secret

Service, and state and local "first responders" to emergencies.
 Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0703/073103td1.htm>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 2 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 2 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: WORM_LOVGATE.G Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	445 (microsoft-ds), 80 (www), 137 (netbios-ns), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 41170 (----), 139 (netbios-ssn), 0 (----), 113 (ident), 25 (smtp), 4662 (eDonkey2000) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

30. *August 02, Ledger-Enquirer* — **Medical teams sent to Iraq after soldiers get sick. The Army is sending two special medical investigation teams to Iraq and Germany to look into pneumonia-related cases that killed two soldiers and sickened about 100 others who were deployed as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.** The Office of the Army Surgeon General made the announcement Thursday, July 31, the same day MSNBC reported that mysterious cases of pneumonia had been surfacing among U.S. troops in Iraq. That news report came following a July 16 account in a Missouri newspaper reporting the death of a 20-year-old Missouri National Guardsman. In a statement released Friday morning, the Army surgeon general's office said **about 100 soldiers—operating in and around Iraq—developed pneumonia since March 1. About 14 of those cases were "serious enough to warrant medical evacuation for ventilator support," the surgeon general said.** Of those cases, Neusche and another soldier died, three soldiers remain hospitalized while nine soldiers have recovered from their illnesses. The Army surgeon general's office said the number of cases "does not exceed expectations" of pneumonia-related illnesses in the Army.
 Source: http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/mld/ledgerenquirer/news/64403_06.htm
31. *August 02, CNN* — **Rescuers search Russia bomb rubble. Hundreds of rescuers combed the rubble of a military hospital in Russia's Caucasus after a suspected Chechen suicide bomber drove an explosives-laden truck into the building, killing at least 42 people.** The suicide attacker rammed a truck packed with explosives through the gates of the four-story red

brick hospital Friday night in the city of Mozdok in the North Ossetia region bordering Chechnya. Emergency workers had been pulled 42 bodies from the rubble as of Saturday, with more feared dead still in the ruins. Robert Kireyev, a spokesman for the Emergency Situation Ministry in southern Russia, said 74 people remained hospitalized, 10 in critical condition. **The blast is the latest incident in an upsurge of suicide attacks that have left more than 100 people dead since May.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/europe/08/02/russia.blast/index.html>

32. August 02, Associated Press — Officials suspect terror in California fire. Officials suspect radical environmentalists set a fire that swept through an unoccupied five-story apartment complex in San Diego, CA, causing more than \$20 million in damage. A banner reading "If you build it, we will burn it," with the initials "ELF," was found Friday next to the burning building still under construction in the University Town Centre residential neighborhood. No injuries were reported. The initials may correspond to the Earth Liberation Front, a loose-knit group that describes itself as "an international underground organization that uses direct action in the form of economic sabotage to stop the destruction of the natural environment." **Members of ELF have claimed responsibility for dozens of fires and other acts since 1997, causing \$50 million in damages to luxury homes, ski lodges and sport utility vehicles.** There was no immediate claim of responsibility posted on the group's Web site. The San Diego police and arson experts are investigating.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20030802_378.html

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