



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 08 December 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](#)
www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Detroit News reports law enforcement agents have arrested a man accused of stealing more than \$3.5 million by installing ATM machines across the country and stealing customers' account numbers. (See item [7](#))
- The Associated Press reports the American Trucking Association has asked its drivers to report anything out of the ordinary to law enforcement as authorities try to solve shootings along a stretch of I-270 around Columbus, OH. (See item [9](#))
- The Washington Post reports radioactive Alazan warheads have disappeared during the ethnic conflicts that have surrounded the collapse of the Soviet Union. (See item [28](#))

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](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels:

[\[set manually\]](#)

1. *December 05, Energy Information Agency* — After decline, U.S. electricity generation grows in 2002. Net electricity generation in the United States resumed its historical path of almost continual growth in 2002, reaching 3,859 billion kilowatthours, 3.3 percent higher than in 2001, according to a report released on Friday, December 5, by the Energy Information Administration. This contrasts with a decline in generation of 1.7 percent in 2001. According to the report, in 2002, coal plants accounted for 50 percent of generation and

nuclear plants for 20 percent of generation, although coal and nuclear plants provided only 35 percent and 11 percent of total capacity, respectively; consumption of coal for electricity generation in 2002 was up 1.5 percent from 2001, to 988 million short tons; the use of petroleum for electricity generation decreased 22 percent to 169 million barrels in 2002; and consumption of natural and other gases used for electricity generation increased 7.7 percent to 6.8 trillion cubic feet in 2002. The report, the Electric Power Annual 2002, is available at:

http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epa/epa_sum.html

Source: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/neic/press/press225.html>

2. *December 05, Business Wire* — **Transmission outage affects customers in northeastern Wisconsin. American Transmission Co. officials are investigating the cause of a widespread power outage that left thousands of people in the dark from just north of Green Bay, WI, to just west of Manistique, MI, on Thursday, December 4.** The outage began at approximately 10:33 p.m. Thursday when the electric transmission lines that connect northeastern Wisconsin with Michigan's Upper Peninsula tripped out of service. **According to ATC, the system is designed to sustain the outage of one of the three lines. However, two lines tripped out of service and the third was unable to sustain the connection on its own.** When the affected area was separated from the rest of the system and blacked out, ATC began working to restore transmission service. The cause of the initial outage is still under investigation.

Source: <http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?nd>

[mViewId=news_view&newsId=20031205005140&newsLang=en](http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?nd=20031205005140&newsLang=en)

3. *December 05, Philadelphia Inquirer (PA)* — **Liquefied natural gas facility planned in New Jersey. Oil company BP announced plans on Thursday, December 4, to build a terminal on the Delaware River in Logan Township, NJ, that it said would import enough liquefied natural gas to serve five million homes a day in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.** The Gloucester County facility could be operational by 2008, according to Neil Chapman, BP public affairs director. It would include three storage tanks and a pier that would accommodate about 100 ships a year. **The gas would be imported primarily from Trinidad, where BP has a large natural-gas operation, and converted back into gaseous form at the Logan plant before being sent into an existing pipeline network in the region.** The company, which has discussed the proposal with local elected officials, emergency personnel, and the U.S. Coast Guard, plans to submit an application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission within the next few weeks. The commission will review the proposal, conduct environmental reviews, and seek community input — a process that could take up to 18 months. Liquefied natural gas is natural gas that has been chilled and condensed into a liquid. It takes up 600 times less space than natural gas, permitting it to be shipped to and from remote locations.

Source: <http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/7417211.htm>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *December 05, Aerospace Daily* — **USAF no longer viewing Global Hawk as an autonomous system. Combat experience has prompted the U.S. Air Force to discard its original concept of the Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) as an autonomous platform, and instead operate it as a remotely piloted aircraft capable of rapidly responding to changes on the battlefield,** according to Brig. General Rudy Wright, commander of the Air Force's 9th Reconnaissance Wing. The Air Force began rethinking the concept of operations (CONOPS) for the high-altitude surveillance UAV during a deployment to Australia in 2001, Wright said. "The original concept for the Global Hawk was an autonomous aircraft that flew on a pre-programmed route collecting" data, Wright said. "Our deployment to Australia was the first time we operated concurrently with an exploitation cell. The amount of retasks due to weather, look angle and other factors caused a significant amount of unexpected pilot and sensor operator intervention," he said. Subsequent Global Hawk missions flown in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom validated this feedback, according to Wright.
Source: http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_aerospacedaily_story.jsp?id=news/haw12053.xml
5. *December 04, Computerworld* — **Department of Defense working to resolve RFID standards issue. The Department of Defense wants a writeable, passive RFID tag with a data store larger than the 96 bits used in existing commercial tags, and believes it can work out any standards issues it has "in a matter of months,"** according to Alan Estevez, assistant deputy under secretary of defense, supply chain integration. In a media briefing on Wednesday, December 3, Estevez said the Pentagon is working with a private contractor to develop RFID, or radio frequency identification, tag standards that can be incorporated into the International Standards Organization standards it wants to use. **The Pentagon wants RFID tags capable of "multiple reads and writes" and with a larger data store to accommodate its unique identification number on "high value" parts or good priced over \$5,000,** Estevez said. Estevez declined to say how much the infrastructure to support RFID in the Pentagon's supply chain — including readers in warehouses and supply depots — will cost. But he did say "reader costs are plummeting." In his briefing, Estevez said the Pentagon wants to have its top 100 suppliers "live" with RFID tags by January 2005, and the top 500 suppliers using them by July 2005.
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/softwaretopics/erp/story/0,1080_1,87808,00.html
6. *December 04, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-258: Military Personnel: Information on Selected National Guard Management Issues (Report). In the past few years, the nation's media have focused public attention on a series of mismanagement issues within the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. As part of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2003, Congress directed the General Accounting Office (GAO) to examine four issues related to the management of the National Guard.** In this report, GAO assesses the effectiveness of the (1) procedures that the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard have established and implemented to deal with service members who stop attending required training; (2) procedures that the National Guard uses for federally recognizing state promotions of senior National Guard officers; (3) process that the National Guard uses for disciplining senior officers who are guilty of misconduct; and (4) federal protections for National Guard members or civilian federal

employees who report allegations of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement. The report discusses GAO's conclusions; the Department of Defense concurred with the report. Report: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-258>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04258high.pdf>

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Banking and Finance Sector

- 7. *December 05, The Detroit News (MI)* — Police accuse man of ATM scheme. U.S. Secret Service agents and Wixom, MI, police have arrested a man accused of stealing more than \$3.5 million by installing ATM machines across the country and stealing customers' account numbers.** Iljmija Frljuckic, who is from eastern Europe and not a U.S. citizen, waived his right to an extradition hearing at an arraignment in U.S. District Court in Detroit. He will be returned to New York City to face a six-count indictment of conspiracy, bank fraud and access device fraud that was issued in May. **The indictment says Frljuckic defrauded more than 1,400 U.S. banks, installing more than 55 ATM machines in California, Florida and New York. He acquired at least 21,000 bank account numbers and stole at least \$3.5 million from those accounts,** the indictment said. Frljuckic and another unidentified man were arrested at the Baymont Inn in Wixom on Wednesday, December 3. A room search turned up a large amount of cash and phony credit cards, Wixom Detective Sgt. Jim Osborne said.
Source: <http://www.detnews.com/2003/metro/0312/05/d08d-342300.htm>

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Transportation Sector

- 8. *December 07, CNN* — Parts of Northeast measuring snow in feet. The season's first major snowstorm walloped the Northeast on Saturday, closing Boston's Logan International Airport and dumping at least 23 inches in parts of New York.** The storm hit much of New England late Saturday with heavy snow, coastal winds and blizzard conditions. Logan airport shut down Saturday evening with no prediction on when it might reopen, said Barbara Platt, a spokesperson for the Massachusetts Port Authority, which manages the airport. Platt said the airport had closed several times Saturday for plowing. By 10 p.m., the airport had reported 11 inches of snow. At LaGuardia Airport in New York City, most flights were canceled. Those that were not were landing and taking off with 30-minute delays, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey reported. At Newark Liberty International Airport, 200 flights were canceled, and delays of 30 minutes to three hours were the norm. At John F. Kennedy International Airport, numerous cancellations were reported. Baltimore-Washington International Airport closed for a half-hour in the afternoon. **Impacts from the flight cancellations were also felt in areas unaffected by the storm.**
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/WEATHER/12/06/winter.storm/index.htm>
- 9. *December 05, Associated Press* — Truckers asked to help in highway shooting case.** A trucking association has asked drivers to report anything out of the ordinary to law enforcement as authorities try to solve 12 shootings — one of them fatal — along a stretch of interstate

I-270 in Columbus, OH. **The American Trucking Association sent the alert this week to drivers, who can use a toll-free number that links them with law enforcement. In the Washington-area sniper shootings case, a truck driver was credited along with another man with tipping police to the suspects' location.** "Ohio's one of the top states in terms of all traffic, not just truck traffic," said Dave Bartosic, spokesman for the Ohio Trucking Association. "It's called the bridge state. You have to go through here to go just about anywhere." **So far, 836 Ohio drivers, and thousands nationally, have been trained through the trucking association's Highway Watch program, Bartosic said.** All trucks carrying hazardous materials must use I-270, which rings Columbus, or find smaller county roads because they are prohibited from bringing their loads through downtown.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-12-05-highway-shootings_x.htm

10. *December 05, Bridgeton News (NJ)* — Ice homicide prompts safety fence legislation.

Spurred on by the death of a Pennsylvania woman killed by an 18-pound chunk of ice hurled onto a busy highway, **a New Jersey Senate panel cleared a bill Thursday mandating safety fencing be put up on all overpasses in New Jersey.** William Ubry, of Hopewell Township, said he wants to see the law passed, then exported beyond the Garden State's borders. Ubry's daughter, 33-year-old Elaine Cowell, was killed in January when a teen threw a block of ice off a Route 22 overpass in Whitehall Township, PA. **Under the bill, a fence would be required to go up along all state, county and municipal overpasses.** No cost estimate exists for the proposal. According to bill sponsor Sen. Shirley Turner, D-Mercer, proper safety fencing needs to be high enough to prevent people from accurately throwing objects onto the road below. According to proponents of the measure, many communities in New Jersey have passed resolutions in support of the bill.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/bridgeton/local/index.ssf?/base/news-6/107063794077790.xml>

11. *December 05, Canada.com Network* — New Brunswick ferry mishap to be probed. The New Brunswick's Department of Transportation is investigating how a provincial ferry broke free from its cable and drifted down the Saint John River with passengers aboard. No one was hurt in the incident at Westfield, near Saint John. **The ferry's cable snapped Wednesday, December 3, afternoon in high winds and it drifted downstream about 600 metres before the anchor took hold. A handful of passengers and ferry workers were stranded aboard the vessel.** The passengers eventually had to be removed by boat. The vessel was later towed to shore where passengers were able to retrieve their cars. The province will have to file a report with the Transportation Safety Board and the federal agency will decide whether to launch its own investigation.

Source: <http://canada.com/national/story.asp?id=9B85E16F-FA9C-4AEB-A5A6-0CCD302A3850>

12. *December 05, Associated Press* — Logan's luggage-screening machines had problems, now fixed. Problems cropped up with some luggage-screening machines at Logan Airport, according to a federal agency memo, but officials said the problems have been fixed and none of the issues jeopardized passenger safety. **According to an internal Transportation Security Administration document obtained by The Boston Globe, the main problems were incomplete images and baggage jams caused by the relatively small machine openings. The memo said the problems were not fixed for more than eight months.** "I will absolutely

grant you that there were some operational issues that we were working to resolve at the time" the document was written last August, said Mark Hatfield, a spokesman for the federal agency. The Transportation Security Administration said the document does not reflect its official position on Logan's screening equipment, the Globe reported on Friday. Logan installed the machines, manufactured by L-3 Communications Security and Detection Systems of New York, last December at a cost of \$146 million. The installations made Logan the first airport in the country to comply with a federal mandate that all checked baggage be screened for explosives before being loaded onto aircraft.

Source: <http://www.projo.com/ap/ma/1070627486.htm>

13. *December 05, Vancouver Sun (Canada)* — **Security to be tightened at British Columbia ports.** British Columbia (B.C.) port officials are poring over more than 600 proposed new security guidelines aimed at thwarting potential terrorist attacks as a July 1, 2004, deadline approaches for meeting stronger international security standards. The draft regulations, released last week by Transport Canada, call for extensive measures to boost security at the country's ports. **Vessel security assessments, for example, must include the likelihood of any possible threats to key vessel operations and a list of weaknesses in the infrastructure, policies and procedures vessels. Marine facility assessments must address the potential for damage to the facility by "explosive devices, arson, sabotage or vandalism." The new guidelines say port cargo must be routinely screened for "weapons, explosives and incendiaries," while screening areas for persons, goods and vehicles wanting access to restricted areas should be covered so they can operate in all weather conditions.** Vancouver Port Authority vice-president Chris Badger said the Vancouver Port Authority has budgeted about \$12.5 million for improved security over the next three years, as it is responsible for the over-all security of the port and the port perimeter. The funds will be spent on items like fencing, gating and surveillance equipment.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/vancouver/vancouverstory.asp?id=7A48AAAC-0A4A-4DA3-9CB5-A859BD428FF1>

14. *December 05, Department of Transportation* — **United States, Vietnam sign historic air services agreement.** As part of the continuing effort to strengthen U.S.–Vietnam relations, ease travel and expand trade between the two countries, **U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta and Vietnamese Transport Minister Dao Dinh Binh today signed the first-ever comprehensive U.S.–Vietnam air services agreement.** “Since our two countries signed a bilateral trade agreement late last year, our economic ties have become stronger,” said Secretary Mineta. “Last year, the United States and Vietnam engaged in almost \$3 billion in direct trade. Today, s agreement solidifies that partnership and lays the groundwork for even greater growth and success in our economic relationship.” **The Secretary added that the agreement also will make it easier to travel between the two countries,** helping to reunite families and further strengthening human ties between the two nations.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot13203.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15.

December 04, Associated Press — **FedEx announces rate increase.** FedEx Corp. is raising its rates for air and ground shipments effective January 5. **FedEx Express, the company's cargo airline, will boost rates an average of two and a half percent for domestic and foreign shipments, the package delivery company said. FedEx Ground domestic rates will increase an average of 1.9 percent.** In November, FedEx's chief rival UPS said it would boost its ground shipping rates 1.9 percent effective January 5. Other Fed-Ex rate changes effective January 5 include: a delivery surcharge of \$1 per package for ground shipments sent to commercial locations in select ZIP codes, an increase in the FedEx Express and FedEx Ground residential delivery surcharge to \$1.75 from \$1.40 per package, and an increase in the surcharge for residential delivery of FedEx Home Delivery shipments will increase to \$1.40 from \$1.15 a package. In general, the surcharge for select ZIP codes includes sparsely populated areas or those that generate little traffic.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/business/local/nyc-fedstory1205.0.186441.story?coll=sfla-business-front>

16. *November 26, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-238: Postal Pension Funding Reform: Issues Related to the Postal Service's Proposed Use of Pension Savings (Report).** In April 2003, Congress enacted the Postal Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) Funding Reform Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-18), which lowered the U.S. Postal Service's annual payment for its CSRS obligation by over \$2.5 billion beginning in fiscal year 2003. The General Accounting Office evaluated whether the Service's proposals were consistent with P.L. 108-18; the impact of the escrow account; and whether the proposals were fair to current and future ratepayers, affordable, and helped achieve transformation goals. The GAO found the Service's report presented two proposals for how it would use the savings, and GAO found both to be generally consistent with P.L. 108-18. **The GAO recommends that to ensure continuing progress in addressing the Service's financial challenges, Congress should consider repealing the escrow requirement after it receives an acceptable plan on rationalizing the Service's infrastructure and workforce. Absent an acceptable plan, Congress could direct the Service to fund specific purposes, such as prefunding its retiree health benefits obligation or supporting the Service's transformation.** Highlights:

<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04238high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04238.pdf>

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Agriculture Sector

17. *December 05, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **CWD-positive Buck found on farm. A fourth deer from a Portage County, WI, hunting preserve has tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD), State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Ehlenfeldt said Thursday.** The National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Iowa, said that on November 2, a five-year-old whitetail shot at Buckhorn Flats Game Farm, was infected with the fatal disease. The animal was routinely sampled for CWD after being shot in a paid hunt. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture requires that all farm-raised deer and elk 16 months or older must be tested when they die, go to slaughter, or are killed. According to farm owner Stan Hall, the animal was born on the premises. **Two previous CWD-positive animals on his preserve had been purchased from other farms, and one previous one was also born on the farm.** The department issued

an order in July 2003 to kill Hall's herd for testing, based on the first positive result, but he has appealed the order. The Hall farm has been under quarantine since September 2002, when the first CWD-positive animal found on a Wisconsin farm was shot there.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=1452 &yr=2003>

18. *December 05, Associated Press* — Disease hurts pecan harvest. Georgia's pecan crop is suffering from a disease called scab, a fungus that defoliates pecan trees and causes nuts to fall too early. Scab has ruined between 10 percent and 12 percent of the states pecan crop this year, said Paul Bertrand, a professor of plant pathology at the University of Georgia. The biggest problem scab causes is making nuts smaller, thereby lowering the volume and weight yield, he said. Pecan scab has caused problems this season because it flourishes in warm, wet weather, said Lenny Wells, an agriculture and natural resources agent with the University of Georgia Extension Service. Pecan production tends to be cyclical between on and off years, meaning next year could be extremely lean for pecan growers, said Tom Stevenson, a grower and consultant. It could cause a very low crop next year, which would push prices higher, he said.

Source: http://www.accessnorthga.com/news/ap_newfullstory.asp?ID=26475

19. *December 05, Associated Press* — Wyoming cattle herd confirmed to have brucellosis. A herd of cattle in Wyoming is infected with brucellosis, prompting concern that other states might ban imports of Wyoming cattle. The infected herd is in Sublette County. Neighboring herds have been tested and officials are awaiting results to determine the extent of the infection. Governor Dave Freudenthal said he is extremely concerned about the possible impact on Wyoming's livestock industry. **Colorado officials have prohibited cattle shipments from Sublette County, northern Lincoln County or the Teton County area,** Freudenthal said. To his knowledge, no other states have taken action regarding Wyoming cattle. The herd will be slaughtered to prevent the disease's spread, officials said. **"Of great concern to both Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and other states is the extent to which this is more than one herd. This gets to be fairly serious business,"** he said. Brucellosis is a bacterial disease that can be spread among bison, elk, and cattle and cause abortions. Though rare in humans, brucellosis is a potentially debilitating and chronic disease that can be transmitted by drinking unpasteurized milk or handling infected cows.

Source: http://www.trib.com/AP/wire_detail.php?wire_num=373090

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

20. *December 05, Courier–Journal (Louisville)* — **Panel backs pills in case of nuclear incident. To protect the public in the event of a nuclear accident or terrorist attack, pills that could lessen the risk of radiation–induced thyroid cancer should be made available to everyone 40 and younger living near a reactor, a national scientific panel recommended Thursday.** The National Research Council committee, made up of some of the nation's top experts on the subject, provided the latest and most authoritative endorsement for making the potassium iodide pills available. But who should receive the pills is an issue in many states where critics of the present policy believe the federal government underestimates the number of people who could be affected by a nuclear incident. Potassium iodide can prevent thyroid cancer caused by exposure to radioactive iodine. But it doesn't protect against other radioactive materials released in a nuclear–plant accident or terrorist attack, nor by so–called "dirty bombs" that terrorists might detonate. The pills are especially important for children and pregnant and lactating women, the committee said. **It also recommended that state and local officials should decide how to make the pills available, that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration should re–evaluate its recommendations for the appropriate dose in the pills, and that governments should carefully develop public education campaigns.**
Source: <http://www.courier–journal.com/localnews/2003/12/05ky/met–front–nuke1205–5327.html>
21. *December 05, Scotsman* — **Scientists hope to attack MRSA with virus. British researchers hope to turn the tables on the methicillin–resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) superbug by infecting it with viruses. The team is developing technology that will incorporate bacteriophages into cleaning agents and dressings.** MRSA is responsible for the vast majority of serious hospital infections that are immune to most antibiotics. MRSA has no defense against the bacteriophages being developed at the University of Warwick. Viruses that kill MRSA are rare, but Nicholas Mann, who heads the team, found that the bugs were full of prophages that live harmlessly within them. Using a chemical stimulant, his team coaxed the prophages to mutate into a new form that destroyed the bacteria. Once inside an MRSA bacterium, they multiplied to produce even more viruses which spread among the bugs, wiping them out. **The viruses have an almost unlimited life–span in normal indoor environments. Laboratory experiments have already shown that the phages can protect mice from MRSA blood poisoning.** The scientists are now working on a way to incorporate the viruses into wound dressings for ulcers.
Source: <http://www.news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm?id=2263816>
22. *December 05, Guardian* — **Government launches bacteria crackdown. Every United Kingdom National Health Service (NHS) trust is to appoint a bacteria tsar in a "call to arms" against poor hygiene practices that have lead to the rise of deadly infections, the Department of Health (DOH) announced Friday. The directors of infection control will be responsible for imposing stringent rules to reduce infections acquired in hospitals.** Last year, the number of patients contracting hospital acquired infections, in the UK, increased by 586 cases from the previous year, up to 18,519. The health secretary, John Reid, said tackling healthcare associated infection was a "top priority". In a statement Reid added: "The greatest concern is, of course, the illness and death that result from these infections, but the economic costs are also high, and provide a compelling reason to reduce the number and severity of these

incidents." **An estimated 100,000 people a year become infected, in the UK, while in a hospital, costing the NHS around \$1.7 billion a year to treat.**

Source: <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/publicservices/story/0,11032,1100907,00.html>

23. *December 05, Associated Press* — **Vaccines running low as flu season hits.** Flu vaccines are in short supply in Wyoming, health officials say. Vaccine manufacturers and suppliers also are having trouble keeping flu shots in stock, said Stephanie Nicholson, with the Wyoming Department of Health Immunization Program. **The flu season is usually from October to May, peaking in December and January, but this year cases were reported in some western states as early as September.** So far, the flu has been blamed for the deaths this year of at least six children in Colorado, three in Texas and one each in Oklahoma and New Mexico. Authorities in Indiana also were investigating whether the death of a 10-year-old girl might be that state's first from influenza this season. **Texas was the first state this season where the flu was considered widespread, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's most severe ranking. Nine other states, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Arkansas, Tennessee and Pennsylvania have since been classified as having widespread flu outbreaks.** More than 6,300 flu cases have been reported in Colorado, more than in the previous two years combined. North Dakota has tallied 292 flu cases so far, compared to just two this time last year.

Source: http://canadaeast.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20031205/CP_W/19562022

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

24. *December 05, The Amarillo Globe-News (TX)* — **Computer database to help Hazmat teams ID cargoes.** What's in the car? That's a crucial question Hazmat teams often need a quick answer to when responding to accidents involving trains or tractor-trailers. **A new computer database soon will be able to give such answers to local hazardous materials responders as quickly as they can type a number into a laptop computer.** Laura Blount, hazardous materials planner for Amarillo and Potter and Randall (Texas) counties, presented the database system, called OREIS, during the local emergency planning committee's quarterly meeting Thursday. **When responders input identification numbers found on railcars and tractor-trailers, the database will offer blueprints for the kind of car, tank or trailer. The database will tell the responders what cargo is inside, whether the material is hazardous and how to handle its cleanup.** The service is free to Amarillo-Potter-Randall Emergency Management. By the end of February, all Hazmat personnel in the city and two counties will have the software on their laptop computers and the training to use it, said Walt Kelley, emergency management coordinator. **Rail lines participate with the service and provide information to keep it updated. "In a few years, all 50 states will require that trucks have identifying numbers when crossing over their borders," Kelley said.**

Source: http://www.amarillonet.com/stories/120503/new_puterdata.shtm

25. *December 05, Federal Computer Week* — **San Francisco adopts crime mapping tool.** San Francisco recently unveiled a crime mapping analysis tool that police expect will lead to better deployment of resources. **The Crime Mapping and Analysis for Public Safety (CrimeMAPS) tool, which was developed with \$1.5 million in federal assistance, will enable officers to query criminal information through the Web or a desktop PC.** "For example, an officer may say, 'I want to know all the residential burglaries a quarter mile from this location on Sunday over the last six months,' " said Erich Seamon, technology manager with the city's telecommunications and information services department. "They may be better able to redistribute officers in a certain location where there is a high-crime area." **Data from different databases, such as 911, sex offenders and probationers, will be extracted, geo-coded on the fly and transferred to the system on a daily basis,** he said. The system will also include a variety of geospatial layers, including demographic data, patrol areas, neighborhood watches, gang territories and business-related information. CrimeMAPS is similar to the Chicago Police Department's Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting (CLEAR) system, but more complex in the sense of pulling data in near real time, said Seamon.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2003/1201/web-sf-12-02-03.as.p>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

26. *December 05, Washington Post* — **UN summit to focus on Internet. Leaders from almost 200 countries will convene next week in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss whether an international body such as the United Nations should be in charge of running the Internet.** The representatives attending the World Summit on the Information Society will also analyze the way that Website and e-mail addresses are doled out, how online disputes are resolved and the thorny question of how to tax Internet-based transactions. Many developing nations complain that the world's most visible Internet governance body—the U.S.-based Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)—does not adequately represent their interests and should be scrapped in favor of a group allied with the United Nations. ICANN oversees the Internet's addressing system under an agreement with the U.S. government. **Sarbuland Khan, head of the United Nations' Information and Communications Technology Task Force, said the United Nations is not trying to transfer ICANN's powers to its own International Telecommunications Union (ITU), as some countries have advocated, but he conceded that such recommendations would be on the table in Geneva.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A36852-2003Dec 4.html>

27. *December 05, ZDNet UK* — **Patch fixes flaw behind Gentoo attack.** The team responsible for Rsync, an open-source file-transfer program, has released a fix for a security flaw used in the recent compromise of a Gentoo Linux project server. **The attacker used a flaw in Rsync along with a recently-announced bug in the Linux kernel to penetrate the security of the Gentoo machine,** which was subsequently taken offline for analysis. The attack and compromise of Gentoo's server came after several machines belonging to the Debian Linux project were breached by attackers last month. Gentoo and Debian are both distributions of the

open-source operating system based on the Linux kernel. The flaw in Rsync versions 2.5.6 and earlier cannot be used on its own to remotely gain administrator, or root, access to a Rsync server, but could be used with the kernel flaw for a full remote compromise—as was apparently the case with Gentoo's Rsync server. The exploit does not work unless Rsync is being used as a server. **Users are recommended to immediately upgrade to Rsync version 2.5.7, a version of the Linux kernel later than 2.4.23, and turn off the "use chroot = no" option in Rsync.** Additional information available here: <http://rsync.samba.org/>
 Source: <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/internet/security/0.39020375.3911833.0.00.htm>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
[fetch AlertCon (manual)]	 <p>Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</p>
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	[fetch #1 Virus (manual)]
Top 10 Target Ports	135 (epmap), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 137 (netbios-ns), 21 (ftp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 80 (www), 20168 (----), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 139 (netbios-ssn), 4662 (eDonkey2000)
Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center	

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General Sector

28. December 07, Washington Post — Dirty bomb warheads disappear. In the ethnic conflicts that surrounded the collapse of the Soviet Union, fighters in several countries seized upon an unlikely new weapon: a small, thin rocket known as the Alazan. **Originally built for weather experiments, the Alazan rockets were packed with explosives and lobbed into cities. Military records show that at least 38 Alazan warheads were modified to carry radioactive material, effectively creating the world's first surface-to-surface dirty bomb. And now, according to experts and officials, the radioactive warheads have disappeared.** The last known repository was here, in a tiny separatist enclave known as Transdniester, which broke away from Moldova 12 years ago. When the Soviet army withdrew from this corner of Eastern Europe, the weapons were deposited into an arsenal of stupefying proportions. In fortified bunkers were stored 50,000 tons of aging artillery shells, mines and rockets, enough to fill 2,500 boxcars. Conventional arms originating in Transdniester have been turning up for years in conflict zones from the Caucasus to Central Africa. Now, governments and terrorism experts fear the nonconventional weapons such as the radioactive Alazan may start turning up, possibly with terrorists.
 Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A41921-2003Dec 6.html>

29. *December 07, Associated Press* — **Ohio police shut highway in hunt for sniper clues.**

Authorities closed nearly half of the I-270 beltway around the Columbus, OH, for two hours after dusk Saturday as federal agents investigating 14 shootings there used lasers to take ballistic measurements. **Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives walked in the westbound lane of I-270 as a sedan crept along in the eastbound lane. The car appeared to be similar to the one 62-year-old Gail Knisley was riding in when she was fatally shot November 25.** A red laser shone between the driver's side door and agents working along the opposite side of the highway. The car stopped often and occasionally reversed as investigators with flashlights searched wooded areas and brush along the road. Franklin County Chief Deputy Steve Martin would not say whether authorities also used the time to install security cameras. "Investigators are interested in that particular neighborhood because the school is off the I-270 area where most of the linked shootings occurred," Martin said. "We continue to believe that the person or persons involved in the shooting incidents may live, work or are comfortable in the particular area where these shootings took place."

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-shots07s1.html>

30. *December 05, Voice of America* — **Explosion aboard Russian commuter train.** At least 36 people are dead and about 60 others injured after an explosion on a commuter train in southern Russia, near Chechnya, Friday, December 5. At the Kremlin, **President Vladimir Putin denounced the bombing as an attempt to destabilize Russia before Sunday's parliamentary elections.** A spokesman for Russia's Emergency Situations ministry, Viktor Beltsov, says the blast occurred as the train traveled between the towns of Mineralnye Vody and Yessentuki. The area is located just north of Chechnya, where separatists have been battling Russian federal forces for more than a decade. The spokesman said investigators on the scene say a bomb is to blame for the explosion. No one has claimed responsibility for the blast, which the spokesman called an act of terror. **Investigators are focusing their early investigation on reports that a female suicide bomber detonated the explosives from a belt strapped to her waist.** Increasingly, Chechen separatist rebels have turned to women to carry out violent attacks. **The blast is the second explosion to strike a train in the same region in as many months.**

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectID=38D935D2-5D67-474C-94443DECA84468D4>

31. *December 05, U.S. Department of State* — **Travel Warning: Lebanon. Recent events in Lebanon, such as bombings directed at U.S. franchises and the November 2002 murder of a U.S. citizen in Sidon, underscore the need for caution and sound personal security precautions.** There have also been demonstrations and spontaneous protests, sometimes violent, in Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps, most major cities, and near the U.S. Embassy and United Nations headquarters. The U.S. Government considers the potential threat to U.S. Government personnel assigned to Beirut sufficiently serious to require them to live and work under a strict security regime. Unofficial travel to Lebanon by U.S. **American air carriers are prohibited from using Beirut International Airport (BIA) due to continuing concern about airport and aircraft security arrangements.** Asbat al-Ansar, a terrorist group with apparent links to al Qaeda, has targeted U.S. Lebanese, U.S. and other foreign government interests. It has been outlawed by the Lebanese government but continues to maintain a presence in Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp.

Source: http://travel.state.gov/lebanon_warning.html

32. December 05, *The Christian Science Monitor* — Europe tightens security following Turkish blasts. A spate of arrests of suspected Islamic terrorists and rising security–alert levels in Europe point to heightened fears of a Christmas attack on European soil. "The networks that had been hunted and disorganized have started to reorganize," says Alexis Debat, a former French counterterrorism official. "The attacks on British interests in Istanbul [last month] sent a very strong message that these networks are still alive and still consider Europe a prime target." British police have arrested more than 20 people since last week in a series of antiterrorism raids in Britain. In Germany, police arrested three men of North African origin Friday, November 28, on an Italian warrant, including one suspected of recruiting fighters for operations against U.S. troops in Iraq. Germany has also increased already tight security around the U.S. and British embassies in Berlin. The UK recently upgraded its security alert to "severe general," its second–highest level, while French authorities raised their alert level one step on Monday, December 1. **Of the 15,000 to 30,000 jihadis whom terrorist experts believe to exist worldwide, about 10 percent are thought to hold passports from European Union member states,** said Claude Moniquet of the European Strategic Intelligence and Security Center in Brussels.

Source: <http://csmonitor.com/2003/1205/p07s01-woeu.html>

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