



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 09 December 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports a new California law designed to shield farms from protesters and protect the food supply from contagious disease will take effect January 1. (See item [13](#))
- The Associated Press reports the two makers of flu shots in the U.S. said they have run out of vaccine and will not be able to meet a surge in demand resulting from fears of a particularly bad flu season. (See item [19](#))
- eWEEK reports that Oracle has issued a high severity security alert confirming that a variety of its server products could be tampered with through vulnerabilities via the OpenSSL protocol. (See item [26](#))

### **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. *December 08, Florida Today* — Shot power line causes outage. Power has been restored this morning to about 3,200 homes in Scotsmoor, FL, after a shooting caused a major power line to collapse, sparking a small brush fire. The insulator — which holds the power lines to a pole — was shot off. The insulator is near the intersection of Interstate 95 and State Road 5A in northern Brevard County. When the power line fell, it caused a brush fire about a quarter of an acre in size, said Agent Todd Calhoun of the Brevard County Sheriff's

Office. **Detectives were trying to figure out if it was an accidental shooting or intentional.** The power was reported off about 2 p.m. and was restored at 4:42 p.m., said Margaret Harms, spokesperson for Florida Power & Light Co.

Source: <http://www.floridatoday.com/topstories/120803fire.htm>

- 2. *December 08, Associated Press* — Nuclear plant's reactor to be taken to South Carolina this week.** Officials at the decommissioned Connecticut Yankee nuclear power plant in western Massachusetts plan to ship the 31–high, 820–ton reactor vessel to South Carolina on Friday, December 12, or Saturday, December 13. **The vessel, which once held highly radioactive nuclear fuel rods used to make electricity, will placed on a barge and brought down the Connecticut River to Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean in a voyage expected to take 10 days.** The reactor vessel will be encased in concrete and steel to protect people and the environment from radiation. The Coast Guard will accompany the barge on the first leg of the journey, and the state Department of Environmental Protection will make sure the vessel is securely attached to the barge. Its destination is a 15– to 20–foot deep trench at the Chem Nuclear low–level radioactive waste disposal site near Barnwell, SC. Kelley Smith, spokesperson for Connecticut Yankee, said that **a security detail will not accompany the transport barge, because Connecticut Yankee does not consider the vessel a target for terrorism.** She said it is not in a form that would be useful to terrorists.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/news/local/7441694.htm>

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## **Chemical Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

- 3. *December 08, Government Computer News* — DARPA sets unmanned aerial vehicle agenda.** The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) plans to develop at least seven unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technologies within the next several years. The agency's job is to take innovative concepts from the point of initial idea, design them and then release a product to Department of Defense agencies for further development and use, said DARPA director Tony Tether. **The seven UAV initiatives cover a wide spectrum of uses, including: Joint Unmanned Combat Air Systems, a project being run jointly by DARPA and the Air Force and Navy to demonstrate the technical feasibility of using networked high–performance, armed UAVs for combat; Unmanned Combat Armed Rotorcraft, an aircraft integrated into the Army's Objective Force structure that will be capable of collaborating with multiple manned and unmanned systems; and WASP Portable Tactical, a small, wide–area surveillance projectile that will be used by the Navy.**

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/24361-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/24361-1.html)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

4. *December 08, news.com.au* — **St. George hit by e-mail scam. St. George Bank in Australia has been hit by another fraudulent banking scam. Like previous scams of this sort, the bulk e-mail asks customers to click on a link to "reactivate" their account due to a technical update of the St. George online banking Website.** St. George first fell victim to this type of scam in August this year and has suffered several incursions since then. A spokesperson said since August, the scams had impacted a small number of customers and value of accounts affected had totaled about \$10,000. The spokesperson also said that since August, the Bank had been closely monitoring any third party transactions.  
Source: [http://www.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,4057,8099703%25E15306,00.html](http://www.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,4057,8099703%25E15306,00.html)
5. *December 08, The Register (UK)* — **NatWest warns of bogus e-mail. NatWest Bank has warned people to ignore an e-mail calling for individuals to disclose private information about their bank accounts. The e-mail -- the latest in a series supposedly from UK banks seeking to con people into disclosing personal information -- has apparently been sent randomly to both customers and non customers of NatWest.** When recipients of the e-mail click on the link it takes them to a site that asks them to input sensitive banking details. Confirming that it was yet another fraud, a spokesperson for Natwest said, "NatWest would never ask customers to provide us with this type of information by e-mail and would urge our customers to delete e-mails asking for this information without responding."  
Source: <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/55/34399.html>
6. *December 07, Associated Press* — **Michigan and Ohio seventh in nation for victims of online fraud. The Internet Fraud Complaint Center, created three years ago by the FBI, says about 2,500 people in Michigan and Ohio filed complaints about fraud involving Internet auction site last year. Fraud cases involving the auction sites nearly tripled in the United States from 2001 to 2002. Consumers reported about \$54 million in losses last year, up from \$17 million a year earlier.** Auction site managers say they work to prevent fraud, but they're not held legally responsible when Internet users are scammed. Deciding whether local or federal authorities should handle online fraud cases has stalled some efforts to catch perpetrators, especially when the scam is run from another country. "Even if we're able to identify the perpetrator, which would be difficult to do, getting the person over here to stand trial is difficult," said Bill Cousins, a supervisor of fraud squads at the Detroit branch of the U.S. Secret Service. "For a \$5,000 fraud case, the U.S. government isn't going to put forth the assets needed."  
Source: <http://www.ohio.com/mld/ohio/business/7438164.htm>
7. *December 06, Reuters* — **HSBC hit by fake Website scam. An Internet site made to look like the Hong Kong home page of global bank HSBC Holdings asked customers to type in their user identification and password, the bank said on Friday, December 5.** The Website, which was no longer accessible, is the latest in a string of bank-related scams to hit Hong Kong in recent months. "The fraudulent website attempts to replicate the personal financial services pages of HSBC's Hong Kong website," the bank said in a statement. The portal's address, [www.hkhsbc.com](http://www.hkhsbc.com), was similar to the bank's Hong Kong website, [www.hsbc.com.hk](http://www.hsbc.com.hk). The fake site included the bank's logo at the top, and a hyperlink to a log-on page asking customers to type in their online banking user identification and password. **An HSBC**

spokesperson said the bank had received no reports from customers of losses because of the site. The fake site was hosted overseas from Hong Kong.

Source: <http://straitstimes.asia1.com.sg/asia/story/0,4386,223897,00.html>

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## **Transportation Sector**

8. *December 08, Associated Press* — **Ferry probe looks at city oversight.** The criminal investigation of the Staten Island ferry crash has expanded past the crew's actions to probe whether the city shuttled millions of passengers across New York Harbor under unsafe conditions, officials familiar with the investigation said Wednesday. U.S. Attorney Roslynn Mauskopf and the New York Police Department are examining the actions of ferry director Patrick Ryan and other officials in the chain of command, according to two law enforcement officials. **Investigators are looking with particular interest at whether a safety rule that may have been broken immediately before the crash was routinely neglected by Department of Transportation supervisors.** On October 15, the off-course ferry Andrew J. Barberi plowed into a concrete pier, killing 10 people and injuring dozens. The ship's pilot, Richard Smith, said he passed out at the controls. Witnesses said the captain, Michael Gansas, was not in the wheelhouse as the ship came in to dock. **Transportation officials said city policy requires the pilot and captain to be in the wheelhouse during docking. But a union official said Wednesday that it was not unusual for a captain to be away from the pilothouse during docking.**  
Source: [http://1010wins.com/topstories/winstopstories\\_story\\_33707340\\_7.html](http://1010wins.com/topstories/winstopstories_story_33707340_7.html)
9. *December 08, The Honolulu Advertiser (Hawaii)* — **Deadline near for harbor security plans.** Maritime agencies and businesses statewide are scrambling to meet new federal port security requirements that go into effect at the end of the month. Five Hawaii companies and the state will receive \$4.1 million in federal money to help offset the cost of new security programs, U.S. Sen. Dan Inouye announced Friday. **The Department of Homeland Security's emphasis on ports nationwide is especially important to Hawaii, where almost every aspect of the economy, from cargo goods to the rapidly expanding cruise ship industry, is tied one way or another to the harbors,** said Robert Housman, a former White House aide and now a private adviser in Washington for maritime security. "Terrorists are big on symbolism and let's not forget that the last great attack on American territory before September 11 was Pearl Harbor. That's not lost on these people," Housman said.  
Source: [http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2003/Dec/07/ln/ln0\\_2a.html](http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2003/Dec/07/ln/ln0_2a.html)
10. *December 08, Associated Press* — **Railroad worker killed by remote-controlled train.** The death of Jody Allen Herstine has revived a debate over whether the devices assist rail workers or threaten their safety **The locomotive hit the 37-year-old worker just before 1 a.m. Sunday at the Union Pacific rail yards on San Antonio's near East Side, said Union Pacific spokesman Mark Davis.** Davis said Herstine was using the waist-mounted device to operate two locomotives when the accident happened. The National Safety Transportation Board and the Federal Railroad Administration are investigating. A Union Pacific engineer was injured in June when the locomotive he was in was struck by another being operated by remote control near the old Kelly Air Force Base. **Similar accidents have prompted many rail yard workers**

**to appeal for the remote controls to be discarded, and several cities across the country have banned their use, the newspaper reported.** Davis said the system has been used in Canada for more than a decade and has cut rail yard accidents in half. However, Don Hahs, international president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers union, said the remote-controlling of locomotives is dangerous. He also said the two weeks of training workers is not enough. Even worse, he added, is the practice of sending conductors out without any backup.

Source: [http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/metropolitan/227985\\_5](http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/metropolitan/227985_5)

11. *December 08, KOIN TV (Portland, OR)* — **Foreign ship under armed guard.** Armed guards will continue to surround a foreign cargo ship this week off the coast of Washington state. **Prior to the U.S. visit, the military told Korean authorities that there might be al Qaeda operatives on board the Greek-owned Athena trying to enter Korea. South Korean officials searched the ship but found nothing, according to published reports.** After receiving an intelligence tip, the Coast Guard searched the vessel Friday at the mouth of the Columbia River. Officials would not confirm whether the tip was related to al Qaeda. Nothing suspicious was found, but fearing a terrorist connection, homeland security agents plan to watch the vessel around the clock until it leaves U.S. waters. The shipping agent and others from shore were allowed aboard to conduct their business, but the Coast Guard was confining the captain and crew to the ship. While a Coast Guard official said it's fairly common to search ships based on intelligence tips, it's the first time for the small port of Longview. The Athena is set to depart for Richards Bay, South Africa, on Thursday.

Source: [http://www.koin.com/webnews/20034/20031208\\_athena.shtml](http://www.koin.com/webnews/20034/20031208_athena.shtml)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Agriculture Sector**

12. *December 08, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **EU delays lifting moratorium on biotech crops. A divided European Union (EU) failed Monday to agree on whether to lift the five-year-old moratorium on biotech foods, dragging out a dispute that has led the U.S. to start legal action at the World Trade Organization.** A committee of national experts split 6–6 with three abstentions on allowing the sale of canned sweet corn from a strain known as Bt11, officials and diplomats said. The failure to reach a decision means the application will be sent directly to EU farm ministers, who would have another 90 days to consider it. **The proposal from the EU Commission was the first to be considered since strict labeling and traceability rules were enacted for products with genetically modified ingredients. That was supposed to mean an end to the de facto moratorium imposed in 1998.** Diplomats said the EU head office refused a request to delay a vote on the proposal, which was first presented in November, leading at least one country, Italy, to abstain because the ministries involved hadn't yet agreed on a position. Even if it had been approved, the cans wouldn't have appeared

on European store shelves until April at the earliest, when new EU-wide legislation for labeling biotech foods comes into force.

Source: [http://www.agprofessional.com/show\\_story.php?id=22569](http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=22569)

13. *December 08, Associated Press* — **New California farm law. A new California law designed to shield farms from protesters and protect the food supply from contagious disease will take effect January 1. The law makes trespassing on lands where animals are raised for human consumption a misdemeanor punishable by six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.**

Currently, someone who trespasses faces a citation and a \$10 fine. This year, seven states considered bills to make animal and ecological terrorism subject to stiffer penalties. State Senator Charles Poochigian, R-Fresno, introduced the California law in February to prevent the potential spread of disease between animal farms and to curb increasing acts of violence by animal rights activists, said Deborah Gonzalez, a spokesperson for the senator. Poochigian wrote in his proposal that an outbreak similar to the Exotic Newcastle poultry disease, which killed more than 3 million hens in Southern California earlier this year, could occur if a trespasser were to inadvertently spread a disease. The quarantine for the disease cost more than \$160 million. Some members of the Pacific Egg and Poultry Association have reported that trespassers entered their farms, burned trucks, and stole animals, said Debbie Murdock, a spokesperson for the group.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/7440312.htm>

14. *December 08, Associated Press* — **Computer system helps track livestock. A new computer system developed by an Iowa company will help state and federal health officials track livestock moving across state lines.** The system will be tested as part of a pilot project conducted by California, Colorado, Florida, North Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has signed an eight-year license. **The system has the ability to track movements of livestock in case of a foreign animal disease outbreak, or a terrorist attack,** said Tom Burkgren of Perry, head of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians. The computerized system allows a certificate of veterinary inspection to accompany an animal traveling across state lines. An electronic copy of the certificate can be transmitted to the destination state, probably arriving before the animal does. **Veterinarians can log onto the system to create an inspection certificate online with the owner's name, name of animal, how the animal is transported, where it is coming from, and where it's going, the purpose of the trip, and health information.** Photos can be attached, and any identifying characteristics, or an electronic identity chip can be listed. Livestock officials in the destination state are automatically notified.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2003-12-08-vet-track\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2003-12-08-vet-track_x.htm)

15. *December 06, News-Gazette (Illinois)* — **Illinois to track threat to farms. Illinois plans to launch a pilot program in Clinton County that will use satellite technology and the Internet to map out agricultural assets that are potentially at risk of terrorism.** Governor Rod Blagojevich pledged Friday to "expeditiously" expand the program to the state's other 101 counties if it proves to be successful. The first phase of the project involves using satellites to map out the locations of livestock, grain elevators, food processing facilities, water reservoirs, and related sites. "Funding for Global Positioning System technology, infield computers, and mapping software is critical to having the ability to mount a rapid response in the event of a terrorist attack on the agriculture industry," said Colleen O'Keefe, acting state veterinarian at

the Illinois Department of Agriculture. "It's imperative that the state be able to accurately locate animals at risk, slaughter facilities, and warehouses, and be able to identify sensitive environmental concerns in the case of an outbreak." **In addition to the mapping program, Illinois has expanded the scope of its 24-hour animal poison control hotline to include reports of other animal diseases and suspicious activity involving food animals, wildlife, or pets.**

Source: <http://www.news-gazette.com/story.cfm?Number=15035>

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## **Food Sector**

16. *December 05, CBC News* — **Antibiotic powder. University of Alberta researchers have developed a powder they hope will protect against food-borne bacteria like E. coli and salmonella.** The powder, made from the egg yolks of chickens, has no taste and no smell. The chickens are injected with bacteria and develop antibodies, which are passed along to the yolks. "You just sprinkle on food then this powder contains antibodies to prevent bacteria growth," food chemist Hoon Sunwoo said. "This spice represents a safe, easy, and inexpensive way to enhance your protection against germs that attack humans via food." They have developed powder and capsules for individual consumers, and a concentrated powder that can be put into food products. They are working on a spray that could be used in larger industries, such as meat packing. **The researchers say the powder doesn't kill germs, but it prevents them from infecting humans.** The effects lasts for a couple hours after ingestion.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/stories/2003/12/05/spice031205>

17. *December 05, CIDRAP News* — **Salmonella outbreak tied to mangoes. A 1999 outbreak of Salmonella infections in 13 states was traced to Brazilian mangoes, which may have been contaminated when they were treated to kill fruit flies, according to a new study.** The mangoes were dipped in hot water and then in cool water, a procedure that may have caused Salmonella organisms on the surface of the fruit to be drawn inside, says the report by a team of federal and state disease investigators led by Sumathi Sivapalasingam of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). **The investigators say their report is the first of a salmonellosis outbreak involving mangoes.** The outbreak was detected when Virginia health officials noticed that the molecular fingerprints of Salmonella enterica serotype Newport isolates from five patients were identical. Analysis subsequently showed that 78 of 494 S Newport isolates reported from November 1999 through January 2000 had matching patterns. Interviews with the patients revealed that 65 percent had eaten mangoes or cilantro within 5 days before they became ill, according to the report. Tracing of those mangoes led to a farm in Brazil. U.S. investigators inspected this farm in June 2000 and learned that mangoes were dipped in unchlorinated hot water to eliminate fruit flies.

Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/fs/irradiation/news/dec0503mangoes.html>

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## **Water Sector**

18. *December 06, Associated Press* — **Wildfires have endangered water supplies in California. The Southern California wildfires that stripped forest hillsides have created threats to drinking water supplies for millions of people**, Dale Bosworth, the chief of the U.S. Forest Service said Friday. The blazes across Southern California scorched nearly 275,000 acres. About \$9 million has been approved to rehabilitate burn areas, Bosworth said. **Helicopters and ground crews are spreading thousands of tons of rice straw, hoping to beat the winter rains and reduce the threat of ash and debris runoff into lakes used for drinking water.** Recent light rains helped nurture new plants, but heavier rains could cause problems.  
Source: [http://www.thedesertsun.com/news/stories2003/state/200312060\\_44544.shtml](http://www.thedesertsun.com/news/stories2003/state/200312060_44544.shtml)

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## **Public Health Sector**

19. *December 08, Associated Press* — **Flu shot manufacturers say they have run out of vaccine. The two makers of flu shots in the U.S. said Friday they have run out of vaccine and will not be able to meet a surge in demand resulting from fears of a particularly bad flu season. Nevertheless, the companies said people who have put off getting their shots may still be able to find them, since distributors and doctors' offices may still have some left.** The companies, Chiron and Aventis Pasteur, together made about 80 million doses of the injected vaccine, which ordinarily would be enough to take care of U.S. demand. **The companies said they cannot make more vaccine this year, because the process takes four months.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said that in a typical year, between 70 million and 75 million Americans get the shots. The CDC said it is not unusual for supplies to run short this time of year, as health care providers stop giving vaccinations. **The CDC said it is working to locate supplies that can be sent where they are needed.** The sudden late demand for flu shots was triggered by reports of an especially bad flu season, especially for children.  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2003-12-05-flu\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2003-12-05-flu_x.htm)

20. *December 08, Associated Press* — **Injections said to hamper bioterror fight. Developing medicines that can be given in a nasal spray or by skin patch rather than injections would be a big help in developing and stockpiling vaccines against major bioterrorism threats, an official involved in the government's Project Bioshield said Sunday.** Trying to prepare and administer injections to the entire populations of just major urban areas would be unwieldy and impractical, said Philip K. Russell, an official in the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Public Health and Preparedness. "That could crush the public health structure, if you needed a multi-dose vaccine," said Russell. Biotechnology companies have been seeking a new anthrax vaccine because the only vaccine now approved requires six shots over 18 months and an annual booster. **In addition to trying to reduce the number of shots, scientists will discuss other ways of administering vaccines, at a conference, including jet injectors, transdermal patches, and oral and nasal sprays.** Health officials also want to be sure vaccines being developed for Project Bioshield won't deteriorate in storage, Russell said. Arranging trials of new vaccines also will be time consuming, Russell said, adding that it isn't yet known when the first new vaccines might be delivered.  
Source: [http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Living/ap20031208\\_750.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Living/ap20031208_750.html)

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## **Government Sector**

**21. *December 08, Associated Press* — Challenge apparent at world's busiest border crossing.**

With deadlines fast approaching, the Department of Homeland Security is racing to work out details of a hugely ambitious effort to use biometric technology to track foreigners entering and leaving the country. **Each day, about 50,000 vehicles funnel into the United States from Mexico through 24 lanes at the San Ysidro Port of Entry.** Drivers already wait up to two hours for what is usually a cursory inspection before entering San Diego. Government officials say wait times would balloon at San Diego and other busy checkpoints if inspections lasted just a few seconds longer, potentially damaging commerce and tourism. To ease congestion expected to be created by the new plan, the U.S. government is considering whether to make room for 50 northbound booths and 24 southbound. Dealing with such tight space constraints is essential if Homeland Security is to carry out its mandate — established by Congress after September 11, 2001 — to scan biometric data on travelers' visas against terrorist and criminal watch lists. **Travelers would be scanned upon entering and exiting, which at the very least would let authorities flag people who overstay visas.** In January, visa-holders at 115 airports and 14 seaports will begin having two fingerprints and a facial photograph scanned upon entry. Source: [http://www.oaklandtribune.com/Stories/0,1413,82~10834~181538\\_6,00.html](http://www.oaklandtribune.com/Stories/0,1413,82~10834~181538_6,00.html)

**22. *December 04, Department of Homeland Security* — Secretary Ridge announced the swearing-in of the new Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.** On December 4, Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge announced the swearing-in of Admiral James Loy as the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Admiral Loy formerly served as the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration until he was nominated by President Bush in October. **"I am pleased that Admiral Loy has been appointed and sworn in as Deputy Secretary at the Department of Homeland Security. The skills that he brings to the position as a leader and administrator are invaluable. His talent and knowledge of issues important to Homeland Security will benefit the nation, as well as this Department. I congratulate Jim, and I look forward to working closely with him,"** said Secretary Ridge. Admiral Loy graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1964 and holds a masters degree from Wesleyan University and one from the University of Rhode Island. He has received a number of commendations, including the Department of Transportation Distinguished Service Medal; four Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medals; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Bronze Star with Combat "V"; the Combat Action Ribbon; and other unit and campaign awards.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=2512>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

**23. *December 08, Tampa Tribune (FL)* — Anti-terrorism training facility opens with a bang.** In a field in rural Hillsborough County (FL) Monday, two sheriff's helicopters and an armored

tank descended upon a Boeing 727 airliner, and a loud explosion rocked the air. A dozen SWAT Team members jumped from the tank and helicopters and swarmed the plane with rifles and handguns drawn. They entered the aircraft in a flurry of activity and ran down the center aisle, pointing guns at the 50 or so passengers and ordering them to put their hands on their heads. **Though the scenario was just a training exercise, it's an indication of how prepared local law enforcement could be in the event of a terrorist attack or airline hostage situation in the Bay area.** The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, along with other local, state and federal law enforcement officers and a host of politicians and dignitaries, dedicated the agency's Anti-Terrorism Training Facility Monday morning. The event was at the sheriff's office Practical Training Site in rural Lithia. The centerpiece of the facility is an American Airlines Boeing 727 commercial jet that will be used by law enforcement agencies all over the country to practice anti-terrorism tactics and homeland security measures.

Source: <http://news.tbo.com/news/MGA5J2PZYND.html>

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## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

24. *December 08, New York Times* — **Hackers steal from pirates, to no good end.** Rogue programs known as "Trojan horses" are used by hackers to mask their identities by using unwitting people's computers as relay stations. It had been assumed that investigators could ultimately shut down a system by identifying the server computer used as the initial launching pad. But computer expert Joe Stewart has said that **a program called Backdoor.Sinit uses the commandeered machines to form a peer-to-peer network like the Kazaa program** used to trade music files. Each machine on the network can share resources and provide information to the others without being controlled by a central server machine. **When there is no central machine, "these tactics make it impossible to shut down,"** he said. Rings of infected computers have been used to send spam, present online advertisements for pornographic Websites, or trick people into giving up information like credit card numbers. "Sinit appears to have been created as a money-making endeavor," Stewart said. "This Trojan is also further evidence that money, not notoriety, is now the major driving force behind the spread of malware these days." **On Websites frequented by hackers, spammers and people who identify themselves as practitioners of credit card fraud, the remote-access networks, or "radmins," are offered openly.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/12/08/technology/08trojan.html>

25. *December 07,* — **Cybercops and robbers growing trickier on World Wide Web.** When the World Summit on the Information Society convenes in Geneva, Switzerland, December 10 to 12, leaders will seek to build on their success in developing better cross-border guidelines to fight online crime. Investigators say **organized crime rings and terror groups are using the Internet to expand their reach and exploit the Web's anonymity to stay one step ahead of the law.** Internet experts are particularly concerned about the potential for "cyber terrorism" in which the Internet is used to shut down computer networks, potentially disabling vital infrastructure at banks, airports and emergency services. **"It is not at all unusual for a regional conflict to have a cyber dimension, where the battles are fought by self-appointed hackers operating under their own rules of engagement,"** said Dorothy Denning, a cyber terrorism expert at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. "A

rash of cyber attacks have accompanied the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, the conflict over Kashmir, and the Kosovo conflict, among others." Denning said that for now, at least, **studies indicated that anything more than irritating cyber attacks were still difficult for most extremists to mount — although the future could hold more technically savvy terrorists.**

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/s1005154.htm>

26. *December 05, eWEEK* — **Oracle issues high-severity vulnerability warning.** Oracle issued a high severity security alert warning Thursday, December 4, confirming that a variety of its server products could be tampered with through vulnerabilities via the OpenSSL protocol. **The flaws could potentially open the door for a remote hacker to cause a denial-of-service (DoS) attack, execute arbitrary code, and gain access privileges.** The notification addresses SSL vulnerabilities detailed in CERT Advisory CA-2003-26 and SSL vulnerabilities detailed in several older Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) Candidates. Products concerned with the vulnerability include certain releases of Oracle9i Database Server, Oracle8i Database Server, Oracle9i Application Server, and Oracle HTTP Server. Additional information is available on Oracle's Website: <http://otn.oracle.com/deploy/security/pdf/2003alert62.pdf>  
 Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.4149.1405700.00.asp>

### Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 <a href="https://gtoc.iss.net">https://gtoc.iss.net</a>	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 <a href="http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/">http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</a>
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
<b>Virus:</b>	#1 Virus in the United States: <b>JAVA_BYTVERIFY.A</b> Source: <a href="http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html">http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html</a> , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	135 (epmap), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 137 (netbios-ns), 139 (netbios-ssn), 445 (microsoft-ds), 80 (www), 21 (ftp), 53 (domain), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 57 (priv-term) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center

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## General Sector

27. *December 08, Telegraph* — **Tourists kidnapped in Iran.** Three Western tourists have been kidnapped in southeastern Iran, a top Iranian police official has said. A demand for five million euros (\$6.1 million) has been made for their release. "Two Germans and one Irish

tourist have been kidnapped," police official Col. Mahdi Ahmadi said. Ahmadi didn't identify the tourists but said they were kidnapped on the Bam–Zahedan road in Sistan–Baluchestan Province, close to Iran's border with Pakistan. **Kidnapping of Western tourists is rare in Iran, but Sistan–Baluchestan is known as a major drug smuggling route where drug smugglers resort to extortion.** The German and Irish embassies in Tehran refused to comment on the report.

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2003/12/08/uiran.xml&sSheet=/portal/2003/12/08/ixportaltop.html>

**28. *December 08, Voice of America* — Muslim rebel leader seized in Philippines. Philippine government forces say their capture of a top leader of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang has dealt a severe blow to the terrorist group, which is linked to the al Qaeda network.**

Government troops captured Galib Andang, better known as Commander Robot, after a gun battle on southern Jolo island late Sunday. The Abu Sayyaf commander, who had a \$90,000 bounty on his head, is suspected of plotting a string of kidnappings for ransom, including the abduction of 21 people from a resort in Malaysia (Sipidan island) in April 2000. One year later, Abu Sayyaf members kidnapped 17 Philippine citizens and three Americans, two of whom died during a rescue attempt. Abu Sayyaf's activities prompted the United States to send 1,000 troops to the Philippines last year to train local troops in counter–insurgency warfare. **The U.S. and Philippines governments both have linked Abu Sayyaf to the al Qaeda terrorist network. The gang also is suspected of cooperating with the Southeast Asian terror group Jemaah Islamiyah.**

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectID=E6A2A534-7C3A-4827-9EF1CF5C99002F15>

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