



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 29 December 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- IDG News Service reports security experts are warning of a new Internet scam that preys on Visa credit card holders, using e-mail and a specially designed Website to collect customer account numbers and personal identification numbers. (See item [7](#))
- Reuters reports Saudi security forces have seized light planes packed with explosives near Riyadh's King Khalid airport, foiling a plot by suicide pilots to blow up a Western airliner on the runway. (See item [8](#))
- WUSA TV9 News reports the government is increasingly focused on the vulnerability of cargo planes as it responds to intelligence indicating al Qaeda might use aircraft to strike targets far from major cities, including power plants, dams and oil facilities. (See item [11](#))
- The Associated Press reports investigators have tentatively traced the first U.S. cow with mad cow disease to Canada, which could help determine the scope of the outbreak and might even limit the economic damage to the American beef industry. (See item [17](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: HIGH, Cyber: ELEVATED

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

December 27, Associated Press — **Oak Ridge to ship last of its nuclear waste.** After almost 20 years, contractors at Oak Ridge National Laboratories are nearing the end of a project to ship tons of radioactive waste to the federal government's Nevada Test Site. **The last of 232 concrete shipping—and-burial casks is expected to be trucked to Nevada for disposal by the end of February.** Each 25-ton cask contains a solidified mixture of about 800 gallons of highly radioactive liquids and cement weighing about 10 tons. Only one nuclear monolith can be shipped at a time because of the weight. Engineers developed a special system to help the flatbed trucks meet with transportation requirements.

Source: http://www.tennessean.com/local/archives/03/12/44651482.shtm!Element_ID=44651482

- December 26, Associated Press* — **NRC wants data on Bay City nuclear plant. Operators of the South Texas Project nuclear plant, located in Bay City, TX, were working to repair a failed emergency diesel generator and continuing to test the plant's other generators for similar problems. Project spokesperson Alan Mikus said the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has given the plant until Tuesday, December 30 to supply data related to whether similar problems exist in the five other generators.** Earlier this month, plant workers believe a flawed rod had microcracks that expanded and eventually resulted in failure of a generator during a routine test. The generators, three connected to each of the units of the twin reactor, would be used in emergencies if the plant's offsite power were to fail. Only one generator is required for emergency backup of each unit. Mikus said plant workers have completed their inspection of the three generators hooked to Unit 1 and found no problems.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/metropolitan/2321862>

- December 24, Reuters* — **Utility accepts blame for San Francisco power outage. Pacific Gas & Electric Co. on Tuesday, December 23, accepted full responsibility for the large blackout in San Francisco, CA, on Saturday, December 20. The main culprit for the blackout was an overheated cable that triggered a fire at a major, unmanned power substation.** However, company officials, citing a preliminary investigation, said a speedier response to the first alarm in their control room might have limited or even prevented the outage. "It was almost two hours from when we received the first alarm of a breaker trip until we had a person in the building," Jeff Butler, Pacific Gas & Electric's vice president of operations, maintenance and construction, said. **The fire knocked out electric service to about a third of San Francisco's 780,000 residents, forcing the evacuation of stores, restaurants and theaters packed with holiday shoppers and tourists. It took the utility about 30 hours to fully restore power in the city.**

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_12_23_eng-reuters_pma_PGE-AC_CEPTS-BLAME-FOR-SAN-FRANCISCO-POWER-OUTAGE&SMContentSet=0

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *December 28, New York Times* — **Quick-hitting brigade test-drives a new Army vehicle in Iraq. The United States Army is betting much of its future on the success of an unlikely new warrior -- an ungainly 19-ton wheeled combat vehicle wrapped in a steel-grilled hoop skirt. In Iraq, the vehicle's combat debut is unfolding with the Army's first Stryker Brigade combat team.** This much-debated \$10 billion experiment aims to field as many as half a dozen 3,600-soldier units equipped with these high-tech, lightly armored vehicles that can speed infantry to a fight. **Unlike an Abrams tank or a Bradley fighting vehicle, the Stryker is a medium-weight, eight-wheel vehicle that can carry 11 soldiers and weapons at speeds of more than 60 miles an hour.** With its giant rubber tires instead of noisy tracks, it is fast and quiet and draws on the brigade's reconnaissance drones, eavesdropping equipment and the Army's most advanced communications gear to outflank an enemy rather than outslug it. The Stryker has more armor than a Humvee and is equipped with a .50-caliber machine gun and a grenade launcher -- an antitank variant has heavier weapons.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/12/28/international/middleeast/28TROO.html>

5. *December 24, Washington Post* — **Cost of developing fighter jet could go up. The cost of developing the Joint Strike Fighter, a radar-evading jet, could increase by as much as \$5 billion, to \$38 billion, and the project could fall more than a year behind schedule, Pentagon sources said.** The increase would be mostly because of the higher-than-expected cost of developing parts of the technology and the addition of new capabilities for the fighter jet, according to Pentagon and industry sources. **Part of the additional cost would be to add anti-tampering technology to the plane, which would prevent foreign buyers from replicating sensitive systems,** an industry source said. That could add \$1 billion to \$2 billion to the program's budget. The proposed increase would also put aside more money for unforeseen changes in design requested by the military or for development problems. The Joint Strike Fighter, also known as the F-35, is expected to be the largest weapons program in Pentagon history, ultimately costing nearly \$200 billion. Last summer, the prime contractor began building the first test model of the plane, which is to be used by the U.S. Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy, as well as Britain's navy and air force. The first fighter is expected to enter service in 2008.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A26217-2003Dec 23.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *December 24, The Marlborough Express (New Zealand)* — **Scam targets ANZ customers again. ANZ Bank customers have again been targeted by e-mail fraudsters trying to obtain credit card details.** A spam email claiming to be from the "ANZ Billing Department" asked customers to update their credit card details by clicking on a link to a fake ANZ Website, ANZ New Zealand spokesperson Cathy Wood said. The site was shut down quickly and no customers appeared to have been affected, she said. The latest attack showed the fraudsters were becoming more sophisticated, Wood said. **The wording of the e-mail was more professional and even included the same warnings that the bank used about such scams.**

"These e-mail scams are becoming more sophisticated so customers need to be careful and trust their instincts," Wood said.

Source: http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/marlboroughexpress/0,2106,27664_67a6425,00.html

- 7. *December 24, IDG News Service* — Scam targets Visa customers. Security experts are warning of a new Internet scam that preys on Visa credit card holders, using e-mail and a specially designed Website to harvest customer account numbers and personal identification numbers.** The ruse is the latest example of "phisher" scams, and the incident came to light after Internet users began receiving e-mail messages purportedly coming from "Visa International Service." The messages claimed that Visa had implemented a new "security system to help you to avoid possible fraud actions" and asked users to click a link to "reactivate your account," according to messages posted in Full-Disclosure, an online discussion list frequented by computer security experts. **The message contained a link that appeared to direct users to www.visa.com, Visa International's official Website. However, security experts who looked at the HTML message's source code discovered the link really directed users to a page at an Internet address that does not belong to Visa,** according to messages posted on Full-Disclosure. The Website has since been taken down.

Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/home/index/0,00.asp>

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Transportation Sector

- 8. *December 28, Reuters* — Saudi police foil airliner attack.** Saudi security forces have seized light planes packed with explosives near Riyadh's King Khalid airport, foiling a plot by suicide pilots to blow up a Western airliner on the runway, a British newspaper said on Sunday, December 28. **Two pilots apparently intended to crash their light planes into a Western jet as it taxied slowly on the tarmac, the Mail on Sunday quoted Patrick Mercer, homeland security policy chief for Britain's opposition Conservative Party as saying.** "My understanding is that (the light planes) were found on the flight line and that the plan was to fly them into a passenger jet either about to land or take off," Mercer told the paper. The two pilots were among several people arrested after the planes were discovered some time in the past few weeks, the paper said. It said British Airways was believed to be the most likely target, although several other European carriers also use the airport. Britain and the United States have both warned of possible threats to Western aviation targets in Saudi Arabia over the past few months.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A34944-2003Dec27?language=printer>

- 9. *December 26, Associated Press* — Death toll at least 113 in Benin crash. Rescue teams searched waters off the West African nation of Benin on Friday in a desperate hunt for survivors of a plane crash that killed at least 113 people. The Boeing 727 crashed on takeoff Thursday, scattering debris into the Atlantic Ocean just 500 yards from the airport.** Most of the casualties were Lebanese headed home for the Christmas holidays. Thousands of immigrants from Lebanon work in West African countries. Lebanese Foreign Minister Jean Obeid, who flew to Cotonou on Friday, said 113 bodies had been recovered so far, most of them Lebanese. There were 22 survivors, he said, including the pilot. Obeid said there were 161 people, 151 passengers and 10 crew, aboard the Union des Transports Africains

plane, which was owned by Lebanese businessmen and registered in Guinea. **The Boeing lifted off in clear weather about 2:55 p.m. from the airport in Cotonou, and troubles began right away, said Jerome Dandjinou, a senior airport security official.** "The back of the plane hit a building at the end of the runway. There was a fire and an explosion was heard," Dandjinou told The Associated Press. "The plane exploded and the debris fell into the water." Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/World/ap20031226_935.html

10. *December 25, Reuters* — Stowaway found dead in NY jet. Maintenance crews have found the body of a man believed to be a stowaway inside an American Airlines jet at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, a spokesman for the airport says.

Maintenance workers discovered the dead man, estimated to be about 25, around 11 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24, in the wheel well of the aircraft. The plane, American Air flight 1190, landed at 7 p.m. (midnight GMT) on a flight from Montego Bay, Jamaica, said Dan Maynard, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey that operates the airport. "Port Authority police are investigating the circumstances of the case but believe the unidentified man was a stowaway because he was found in a location where people are not supposed to be," he said on Thursday.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=857&ncid=757&e=10&u=/nm/20031225/od_uk_nm/oukoe_odd_stowaway

11. *December 24, WUSA TV9 News (Washington, DC)* — Cargo planes at possible risk. The government is increasingly focused on the vulnerability of cargo planes as it responds to intelligence indicating al Qaeda might use aircraft to strike targets far from major cities, including power plants, dams and oil facilities. On Tuesday, December 23, the Pentagon said it had broadened air patrols throughout the country, while the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) said it had increased inspections of cargo companies to ensure compliance with tighter rules enacted last month. A TSA spokesman said extra law enforcement added to the perimeters of airports in the past three days was specifically put in place to fortify air cargo facilities. Security experts and cargo pilots said the industry's surveillance of airports, planes and freight — and of warehouse employees who pack boxes — remains dangerously inadequate, particularly among small- and mid-sized companies. They also noted that the U.S. government has even less control over cargo and passenger planes originating in other countries. **James Shilling, a full-time pilot for a major cargo carrier and consultant to the Coalition of Airline Pilots Association, said he would like to see the TSA screen and conduct background checks on every person with direct access to cargo planes.**

Source: http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=25567

12. *December 24, CNN* — U.S. intensifies 'Code Orange' security measures. In Washington, one federal law enforcement official said the greatest level of concern nationally appeared to be "in L.A. and LAX," referring to Los Angeles' airport code. **Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn announced a ban on curbside drop-off and pick-up of passengers by private cars at the airport until January 4. Bratten said police patrols around the perimeter of LAX have been increased because of concerns that someone could try to shoot down an airliner using a shoulder-launched missile.** He said the ports of Los Angeles and nearby Long Beach, California, could be targeted by terrorists using explosives to disrupt commerce and that security has been beefed up at both places. In response to the alert, Los Angeles police made an

arrest in an ongoing post-9/11 roundup aimed at disrupting terrorist activity.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/12/24/threat.level/index.html>

13. *December 24, Reuters* — **U.S. screening some flight crews. New U.S. intelligence has prompted stepped-up scrutiny into whether international airports and airlines pose a terror threat, The Washington Post reported on Wednesday, citing U.S. law enforcement officials.** U.S. security officials were thoroughly checking the identities of international flight crews and had questioned a few people with names that appeared to be similar to those on the FBI's "watch lists" of suspected terrorists, the report said, citing Bush administration sources. Some foreign airlines were planning to have their countries' armed air marshals on board U.S.-bound flights, sources told the newspaper. **The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said that it asked international carriers to tighten security in light of the elevated alert for terrorist attacks. "At this time, our customs and border-protection inspectors are increasing scrutiny of all international passengers coming into the United States," said Department of Homeland Security spokesman Brian Roehrka.** The Washington Post quoted law enforcement officials as saying that they were concerned about security throughout the United States but in particular in Washington, New York, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TRAVEL/12/24/security.usa.airlines.reut/index.html>

14. *December 24, Associated Press* — **Security fears ground Paris-L.A. flights. Six airline flights between Paris and Los Angeles were canceled at the U.S. Embassy's urging because of terrorism fears, the French government and Air France said Wednesday, December 24.** The flights scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday were called off because of information obtained "in the framework of the French-American fight against terrorism," the French prime minister's office said. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security had been meeting with French officials in recent days over concerns about a possible terrorist attack. The airline said it was working to arrange accommodations for stranded passengers. "These flights have been canceled for security reasons. It comes out of a disposition given by American authorities in France," said Anna Laban, deputy press attache at the French consulate in Los Angeles. **In recent days, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge had personally been involved in security briefings with French officials, as well as officials from other nations, Transportation Security Administration spokesman Brian Doyle said.** Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=518&e=1&u=/ap/20031224/ap_on_re_eu/france_us_flights

15. *December 24, Associated Press* — **Truckers warned to stay extra vigilant during upgraded alert.** Mandatory check points for trucks on the Golden Gate Bridge and at other San Francisco Bay-area bridges were part of beefed up security December 22 following the terror alert level's upgrade from yellow to orange the day before. Security was tightened in and around New York City, Boston and other large cities on East and West Coasts, and patrols were increased at major transportation hubs, at chemical facilities and along the U.S.-Canadian border as well. **Some state trucking organizations sent alert bulletins to members, advising them of the changed alert status. In one such warning, drivers participating in the Highway Watch program were asked to stay vigilant, keep their eyes and ears open and to report "any" suspicious activity. Truckers are being asked to be vigilant not only on the road but at rest areas, truck stops and at other stopping points along their routes.** Source: http://www.thetrucker.com/stories/12_03/1224_alert.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *December 26, Associated Press* — FedEx hub, other air cargo terminals tighten security.

Cargo terminals are trying to fight perceptions that they are a vulnerable target for terrorists. **Potential weak spots include spotty package checks, technology barriers, and high employee turnover, a Colorado-based security analyst said.** "Right now, there is no such thing as 100 percent screening and no way to detect every form of material used for explosives," said David Forbes, president and chief operating officer of Boyd Forbes Inc. FedEx updated procedures as recently as November, when the government issued federal rules to gather data on high-risk cargo shipments, company spokesman Jim McCluskey said. FedEx's hub at Indianapolis International Airport is its second-largest worldwide, with 4,000 employees at a terminal with 77 flights arriving daily. **From pilots to sort workers, each FedEx employee reports to work by passing through metal detectors and a wand search if necessary, McCluskey said. Once pilots and their bags are cleared, they ride to their aircraft in a FedEx vehicle, with no detours allowed.** U.S. Customs Service officials are at each hub and have bomb-sniffing dogs, McCluskey said. **FedEx's internal security force are stationed in 215 countries, FedEx spokesman Ed Coleman said.**

Source: <http://www.ohio.com/mld/ohio/business/7574607.htm>

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Agriculture Sector

17. *December 28, Associated Press* — Sick cow may be from Canada. Investigators tentatively traced the first U.S. cow with mad cow disease to Canada, which could help determine the scope of the outbreak and might even limit the economic damage to the American beef industry. In addition, some calves in a quarantined herd of 400 calves that included a male offspring of the sick cow likely will be killed, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said Saturday. Ronald DeHaven, the USDA's chief veterinarian, said Saturday that Canadian officials provided records indicating the sick Holstein was in a herd of 74 cattle shipped from Alberta, Canada, into this country in August 2001 at Eastport, Idaho. The sick cow's presence in that herd does not mean all 74 animals are infected, DeHaven said. Investigators will probably find where the other 73 animals are within a matter of days, he said. Finding them will help investigators determine if any other animals are sick and need to be tested.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/health/ny-uscow28q3602308dec28.0.3345711.story?coll=ny-health-headlines>

18. *December 26, Reuters* — China bars U.S. beef imports. China has joined other nations in suspending U.S. beef imports after the discovery of the first U.S. case of mad cow disease, authorities said Thursday. "China will temporarily ban imports of U.S. cattle and cow products. This does not include milk, milk products, leather and gelatin," the Agriculture Ministry and quarantine bureau said in a joint statement in Shanghai. Total U.S. beef imports to China are estimated to rise by 11 percent to 30,000 tons in 2004, according to U.S. figures.

About ten percent of U.S. beef is exported. **Japan, Mexico, and South Korea, the top buyers of U.S. beef, halted imports after the case was disclosed Tuesday. Other countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Russia, Ukraine, and South Africa have followed suit.** An initial estimate by Purdue University put the loss to the beef industry at \$2 billion for next year due to lost exports and lower cattle prices.

Source: http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2003/12/25/china_bars_us_beef_imports_markets_react/

19. *December 24, Agricultural Research Service* — **New defense against insect pests.** A new biological control developed by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists may provide an important defense against some of the most destructive insect pests that farmers face. **A bacterium called *Chromobacterium suttsguga* has been found to be effective against Colorado potato beetles, corn rootworms, diamondback moths, silverleaf whiteflies, and green stinkbugs. These pests collectively cost farmers almost three billion dollars annually in crop losses and control expenses.** A patent application for the discovery has been filed. In lab tests, the scientists found that *C. suttsguga* seems to produce multiple toxins that deliver a lethal blow to the pests. Preliminary results from field tests have confirmed lab results, and more field tests are planned. The bacterium's toxins can be combined with chemical compounds and then applied to soil, plants, or seeds. Insect pests often develop resistance to chemical insecticides, so biological compounds are regularly investigated for insecticidal properties. Biological control agents can be an important addition or alternative to synthetic chemical pesticides, and important in integrated pest management.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2003/031224.htm>

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Food Sector

20. *December 26, Crop Decisions* — **FSIS training for inspectors on target.** Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Administrator Garry L. McKee has announced that more than **1,000 individuals have completed FSIS' inaugural, customized job training regime.** In April 2003, FSIS inaugurated new Food Safety Regulatory Essentials (FSRE) training, which is designed to better equip inspection personnel in verifying an establishment's Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) food safety system. **All trainees receive training in the fundamentals of inspection, covering the Rules of Practice, Sanitation Performance Standards, and Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP). Customized food safety training is then provided based on the types of products being produced at the establishments where inspectors are assigned.** Also, in April 2003, a training session was held in which all Compliance Officers and Consumer Safety Officers were instructed in the proper review and analysis of plant records and testing data. During fiscal year 2004, FSIS will train all new entry-level slaughter establishment inspectors and veterinary medical officers in technical, regulatory and public health methods.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=22826

21. *December 23, Food Safety Inspection Service* — **Firm recalls beef following BSE determination.** Verns Moses Lake Meats, a Moses Lake, WA, establishment, is voluntarily recalling approximately 10,410 pounds of raw beef that may have been exposed to tissues

containing the infectious agent that causes bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Wednesday. The beef subject to this Class II recall was produced on December 9 and was shipped to several establishments where it was further processed. FSIS is continuing its investigation to ensure that all distribution of the beef products is correctly identified. **FSIS' designation of this recall as Class II is due to the extremely low likelihood that the beef being recalled contains the infectious agent that causes BSE.** According to scientific evidence, the tissues of highest infectivity are the brain, spinal cord, and distal ileum, which were removed from the rest of the carcass at slaughter. Therefore, the meat produced were cuts that would not be expected to be infected or have an adverse public health impact, but are being recalled out of an abundance of caution.

Source: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/recalls/prelease/pr067-2003.htm>

22. *December 23, Food and Drug Administration* — **Cheese recalled. Lactalis USA of Turlock, CA, announced Wednesday that it is recalling 1,782 cases of Brie President Soft-Ripened Cheese Double Cream in seven-ounce gold foil wedges because it has the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*.** *Listeria* can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. The recalled Brie President Soft-Ripened Cheese Double Cream in seven-ounce gold foil wedges was distributed nationwide in retail stores. The contaminated cheese was discovered through routine sampling and testing by the Florida State Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Lactalis USA representatives report that no illnesses are known to have occurred as a result of consumption of this product.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/lactalis12_03.html

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

23. *December 28, Voice of America* — **China goes on nationwide SARS alert. China has gone on nationwide alert for a possible outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), while the country's first suspected victim in seven months recuperates in a Guangzhou hospital.** Airports and rail stations around the country and in Beijing have stepped up health screenings of travelers in an effort to prevent the spread of the pneumonia-like disease. Meanwhile, China's health ministry says the patient, a 32-year-old in southern Guangdong province, is in stable condition in isolation. Several people with whom the man had contact before being hospitalized December 20 also are in quarantine but have not shown symptoms. A World Health Organization (WHO) expert is due in Beijing on Monday. In a statement Sunday, WHO said tests on the man are inconclusive and urged China to send samples overseas for international verification of a diagnosis. **If confirmed, the case in southern China would be the first not linked to laboratory accidents since the WHO**

declared the SARS outbreak over in July. Two recent cases in Singapore and Taiwan were linked to accidents in medical research laboratories.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectID=58AB6379-9B03-4D47-ACC8E0FB7A29E8A5>

24. December 26, Associated Press — Death rate for salmonella strain is lower. Outbreaks and deaths from one of the worst strains of salmonella to hit the U.S. in recent decades are on the decline, according to a new federal health study. The rise of salmonella enteritidis in the 1980s was one of the most serious foodborne epidemics in recent U.S. history. The bacteria strain rapidly spread from the Northeast to the rest of the country, and by the early 1990s it had reached Hawaii and other continents. **Since the early 1990s, the case rate has been cut by half. In 1995, infections from the strain reached a high of 3.9 per 100,000 people but that dropped to 1.98 per 100,000 in 1999.** That's still higher than the rate of 0.55 per 100,000 recorded in 1976 prior to the 1980s outbreaks. In addition, deaths from such outbreaks in health facilities dropped from 14 in 1987 to zero in 1999. **During the peak of the epidemic in the 1980s, enteritidis was the top salmonella strain in the country. Now it represents about 15 percent of all salmonella cases.** Health officials credited the reduction to extensive control efforts, including encouraging the use of pasteurized eggs, refrigerating eggs, and teaching people to avoid eating raw or runny eggs.

Source: <http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20031226/APA/312260586>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

25. December 26, State Gazette (Dyersburg, TN) — California quake underscores the need for training at Dyersburg EOC. Dyersburg's Tommy Gibbons was reviewing the results of an earthquake preparedness drill staged in Dyersburg last Thursday when news of the killer 6.5 magnitude quake in Southern California broke in the national media. It confirmed for him the results of the emergency drill, training is everything when it comes to managing a crisis. This was the very first time a drill of this magnitude had been held at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The scenario was the aftermath of an earthquake registering 6.5 on the Richter scale in the heart of the New Madrid fault zone. **"In a major event like a devastating earthquake or a tornado, the truth is emergency services are overwhelmed," said Gibbon, who directs emergency response for Dyersburg.** According to Lt. Steve Isbell, a spokesman for the Dyersburg Police Department and coordinator of this training drill, earthquake preparedness training was critically needed in this region. He said the greatest risk east of the Rocky Mountains for a devastating earthquake is along the New Madrid fault system and scientists estimate the probability of a six to seven magnitude earthquake occurring in this seismic zone within the next 50 years to be higher than 90 percent.

Source: <http://news.mywebpal.com/partners/870/public/news515099.html>

26. *December 24, Transportation Security Administration* — **Twelve new explosives detection canine teams join Homeland Security to prevent and detect terrorist activities.** Michael D. Robinson, assistant administrator for Aviation Operations at the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), on December 24, paid tribute to 12 new members of the TSA National Explosives Detection Canine Team. **During training, officers were provided instruction on handler skills, explosives safety, and safe handling and accountability of explosives canine training aids.** They also spent much of their time searching for explosives in a specialized outdoor training area that includes six different types of airplanes or "classrooms" where teams check cockpits, cabins, and overhead storage bins for hidden explosives. The teams also practice searching luggage and a parking lot filled with cars, trucks, vans and buses. **Once the teams return to their airports, they will undergo several hours of proficiency training each week in their operational environment that includes all the odors and distractions associated with a busy airport.** Since the events of September 11, 2001, the number of teams available for airport duty has doubled to 300 working regularly at 64 of the nation's busiest airports. Plans call for expanding the program to 354 teams at 82 airports in 2004.
Source: http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198_00762cf

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

27. *December 26, Associated Press* — **New high-speed network to connect China, Russia.** Soon scientists in the United States, China and Russia will be able to collaborate over a new high-speed computer network that includes the first direct computer link across the Russia-China border. **The network, separate from the public Internet, will enable scientists to transfer huge volumes of information more quickly and collaborate in real-time on high-tech experiments.** Russian and U.S. scientists have had direct computer linkage for about five years, but Russia and China often exchange scientific information by meeting in Chicago, said Greg Cole of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, one of the leaders of the Little GLORIAD project. Finishing touches are being made on the cable, and the global network should see its first traffic January 5. **The network rings the Northern Hemisphere, connecting Chicago with Amsterdam, Moscow, Siberia, Beijing and Hong Kong before hooking up with Chicago again.** The National Science Foundation contributed \$2.8 million to the project. Russia and China invested similar amounts, Cole said.
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,4149,1423040,00.asp>

28. *December 23, Federal Computer Week* — **Report urges network redundancy. To guard against a sudden loss of communications capabilities, the federal government should enact policies to create greater redundancy in its communications systems,** according to a new report from The Progress and Freedom Foundation. "Many federal agency buildings and installation locations apparently do not currently have true telecommunications network redundancy installed in their buildings," wrote the report's author, Randolph May. In the report, he emphasizes the importance of protecting the communications infrastructure and lays out basic requirements for redundancy. **May recommends physically separating entry and exit points to a building by a significant distance and separate rights-of-way between the building and the routing center. He also says alternate services should use a physically**

separate switching or routing center. The report is available online:

<http://www.pff.org/news/news/2003/121803blackout.html>

Source: <http://fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1222/web-comm-12-23-03.asp>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 <p>AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net</p>	 <p>Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</p>
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	135 (epmap), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 21 (ftp), 137 (netbios-ns), 80 (www), 6129 (dameware), 445 (microsoft-ds), 4899 (radmin), 53 (domain), 20168 (----) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

29. *December 29*, — **Iran quake toll rises.** Officials the ancient city of Bam raised the death toll from its earthquake on Friday, December 26, to 25,000. There were predictions that the death toll—in a 2,000-year-old city of 80,000 people—might keep growing. The earthquake, which Iranian agencies measured at 6.3 and American agencies at 6.7, rocked Bam, 610 miles southeast of the capital, Tehran, at 5:28 a.m. **Government spokesmen said that foreign aid workers would not need entry visas and that aid would be welcome from everywhere but Israel. Planes from China, Canada, Russia, Denmark, Britain, Belgium and Italy arrived on Saturday carrying rescuers, dogs, food and electronic search equipment, and more planes were expected. The United Nations said it was sending a planeload of equipment on Sunday.** The White House, which has had tense relations with Iran, announced Saturday that it would send more than 200 civilian experts in urban search and rescue, emergency surgery and disaster response coordination. Pentagon teams will deliver more than 150,000 pounds of medical supplies from bases in Kuwait, and the government is working with the Iranian authorities, the United Nations and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent to rapidly distribute the assistance.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/12/28/international/middleeast/2.8IRAN.html>

30. *December 26, Associated Press* — **Survivors of toxic gas in China describe panicked escape.** Survivors and state media gave harrowing accounts Friday, December 26, of the

disaster that killed at least 191 people in China's southwest, forced 41,000 to flee and left a 10-square-mile "death zone" strewn with bodies lying in fields, by the sides of roads and in homes. Technicians were preparing to try to plug the well at the Chuandongbei gas field in the town of Gaoqiao, northeast of Chongqing. Work was to have begun Friday, December 26, but was postponed to Saturday while officials focused on getting food and water to the tens of thousands of evacuees from the remote, mountainous area who were living in schools and government buildings. **Some 9,185 people were treated for gas poisoning and other injuries, and 431 were still hospitalized -- 17 in critical condition, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The blowout -- caused when a drilling accident broke open a gas well Tuesday night, according to Xinhua -- poured out a toxic mix of natural gas and hydrogen sulfide,** the government said. The Chinese government on Friday already was using the disaster to fuel its campaign for tighter safety standards. The gas field belongs to the state-owned China National Petroleum Corp., the China Daily reported.

Source: <http://newsobserver.com/24hour/world/story/1096605p-7670037c.html>

31. December 26, Associated Press — Four dead, 12 missing in California mudslides. Searchers slogging through waist-high muck found four people dead Friday and looked for at least 12 others missing after mudslides engulfed two camps in the San Bernardino Mountains. The missing included nine children, ages 6 months to 16, who had been at a Greek Orthodox youth camp. **The mudslides were set off on Christmas Day after as much as 3 1/2 inches of rain fell on hillsides that had been stripped of vegetation by wildfires in October and November. Tree trunks and boulders went roaring down the hillsides, along with the mud.** "I thought I was going to die," said Brian Delaney, 19, who described mud crashing into a recreation center at a KOA trailer camp in Devore. He was trapped up to his neck before rescuers pulled him out. Two bodies were found near the Saint Sophia Camp, the Greek Orthodox retreat. Twenty-eight people were believed to have been spending Christmas Day with the caretaker of Saint Sophia Camp, when the mudslide smashed into two camp cabins. Fourteen of them were rescued on Christmas Day.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20031226_1110.html

32. December 25, Reuters — Saudis arrest five after seizing bomb-making CDs. Saudi authorities, facing a wave of militant attacks, have arrested five people after raiding computer shops selling compact disks containing hidden bomb-making instructions, a local newspaper reported on Thursday, December 25. Police were questioning four owners of computer shops in the southern Jazan region and a fifth person believed to have supplied the CDs to the shops, Al-Watan newspaper said. Officials were not immediately available for comment. **The daily said some of the shop owners might not have known about the bomb-making tutorial files hidden on the CDs. Only someone with technical knowledge would be able to find the files.** Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, has launched a crackdown on Muslim militants, especially after bombings in the capital Riyadh in May and November killed more than 50 people. The string of attacks have been blamed on al Qaeda.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TECH/ptech/12/25/saudi.disks.reut/index.html>

33. December 24, Associated Press — Classes canceled as search continues for Ohio I-270 sniper. Officials canceled classes for students in a Columbia, OH, school district bordering a stretch of Interstate 270 where authorities continue their investigation into a series of recent

shootings. **The cancellation was ordered December 18 after two buses serving the South–Western City School District were hit by bullets earlier in the week. Franklin County Sheriff Chief Deputy Steve Martin said two students were on board one of the buses at the time, but that neither was injured.** Bullets hit the taillights of the two buses. Martin said no bullet fragments were found, making it difficult for ballistics experts to link the bus shootings to a series of 16 others in the area. Classes were to be suspended through the district's two–week break for winter beginning December 22. The district has 20,500 students in grades kindergarten through 12. The Ohio Trucking Association Inc. at Columbus, has issued an alert concerning the shootings to the organization's 800–plus Highway Watch drivers, according to OTA President Larry Davis.

Source: http://www.thetrucker.com/stories/12_03/1223_sniper.html

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