



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 19 November 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Register reports a new scam has appeared which attempts to con PayPal users into handing over credit card details. (See item [5](#))
- The Salt Lake Tribune reports airport security and law enforcement officials have announced a "zero tolerance" policy on guns at Salt Lake City International Airport. (See item [11](#))
- The Washington Post reports federal health officials say the flu season has started much more quickly than usual and features what could be an especially nasty strain of the virus, signs that the nation could be facing a severe influenza outbreak this year. (See item [16](#))

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](#)

Other: [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

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. *November 18, Reuters* — **Glut, uneven rules hamper U.S. power sector according to CERA. It will likely take at least another five years for the U.S. electricity market, struggling under a combination of regional rules, to absorb its current supply glut, an industry report warned on Tuesday, November 18.** "After a decade of deregulation, the power industry is, at best, halfway along in the transition from regulation to the marketplace," said Jone-Lin Wang, Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA) director of North American Electric Power and one of the report's authors. "The process has now stalled, leaving

us with an unintended half market-based, half regulated 'hybrid' structure for at least five more years," Wang said in the study. **The report went on to forecast that the power plant building boom a few years ago, launched amid a strong U.S. economy and cheap financing, will leave many parts of the nation with abundant electricity supplies until at least 2008.** The study said the rise in demand for gas-fired generation, which includes nearly all the newly built plants, would likely make wholesale power prices more volatile. Spikes in gas prices this past year forced several companies to mothball less efficient gas power plants as fuel costs outpaced the price of electricity in the spot market.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_11_18_eng-reuters_pma GLUT-U NEVEN-RULES-HAMPER-U-S-POWER-SECTOR-CERA&SMContentSet=0

2. *November 18, Dow Jones Business News* — **GAO says 2003 blackout cost billions in lost productivity.** In a new report on the 2003 blackout, Congressional auditors said the blackout affected as many as 50 million customers in the U.S. and Canada as well as a wide range of vital services and commerce and imposed heavy costs in terms of lost productivity. **"The lost productivity and revenue have been estimated in the billions of dollars," said the General Accounting Office (GAO), citing some of the results of the blackout — air and ground transportation systems shut down, drinking water systems and sewage processing plants not operating, manufacturing disrupted, and some emergency communications systems not functioning.** GAO said that while the root cause of the blackout hasn't yet been conclusively established, a recent Department of Energy report describes a sequence of events that culminated with the outage. "A series of power plants and transmission lines went off-line beginning at about noon eastern daylight time because of instability in the transmission system in three states," it said. "The loss of these plants and transmission lines led to greater instability in the regional power transmission system, which — four hours later — resulted in a rapid cascade of additional plant and transmission line outages and widespread power outages."

Report: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04204.pdf>

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/djus/031118/1604001452_1.html

3. *November 17, Associated Press* — **Port Pelican LNG project gets federal approval. ChevronTexaco Corp. received federal approval Monday, November 17, for a proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal to be located about 40 miles off the central Louisiana coast.** A license for the Port Pelican project was issued by the U.S. Maritime Administration, a key step in developing the terminal, which will receive shipments of LNG and turn them back into gas for delivery to market. LNG is created by chilling natural gas to minus 260 degrees. The liquid can be transported in double-hulled tankers, much like oil. When it reaches its destination, it is heated back into a gas and transported by pipeline. **The company said it expects to begin construction in 2004 with the first LNG shipments being received in 2007. The terminal will be able to process 1.6 billion cubic feet of gas each day, enough for one day's normal energy needs of 5.4 million homes.** Energy experts expect the United States to rely increasingly on imported gas as natural gas demand grows as much as 50 percent over the next 25 years.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/7287242.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

Chemical Sector

4. *November 18, U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board* — **Investigation team to site of chlorine leak in Glendale, AZ.** The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) has deployed an investigation team to conduct a preliminary investigation into the chlorine release which occurred at the DPC Enterprises facility in Glendale, AZ, on Monday. **The release, which caused authorities to evacuate citizens from the immediate area and close neighboring streets for hours, occurred as chlorine was being transferred from a railroad tank car to a tanker truck on the site.** According to news media reports, 14 people, including ten Glendale police officers, were treated for chlorine related symptoms, including nausea, throat irritation, and headaches. CSB Board Member John Bresland will accompany lead investigator John Murphy and investigator Michael Morris. The preliminary investigation will determine whether circumstances warrant a full-scale investigation. **“Chlorine is a dangerous chemical if not handled correctly and one which can have tragic consequences for workers and citizens who may be affected by chlorine leaks,”** said Bresland.
Source: <http://www.csb.gov>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

5. *November 18, The Register (UK)* — **New worm scams PayPal users. A new scam has appeared which attempts to con PayPal users into handing over credit card details. Mimail-J, the latest in a series of security-threatening worms, has spread quickly since its first appearance Monday, November 17.** Mimail-J typically arrives in an e-mail with a subject line of "IMPORTANT" and an attachment named either `www.paypal.com.pif` or `infoupdate.exe`. Except for some changes in the text of the infected e-mail, the worm's code is almost exactly the same as Mimail-I. Again, targets of the scam are advised to run an attached program, which contains viral code. If the program is run, a dialog box pops up requesting the intended victim to enter a range of personal information. The dialog includes a PayPal logo in a further attempt to appear legitimate. **As well as attempting to steal financial information, Mimail-J sends itself to everybody whose e-mail addresses appear on a user's hard disk.**
Source: <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/56/34050.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

6. *November 18, The Trucker* — **New Hours of Service will cost consumers plenty. The new Hours of Service (HOS) rules to take effect in January of 2004 could increase trucking**

rates to more than they've been in two decades, leading to across-the-board price hikes on consumer goods, analysts say. According to Dow Jones Business News, government estimates are that the HOS could cost trucking companies as much as \$1.3 billion a year. The News, which quoted a Wall Street Journal story of Nov. 12, reported that Wal-Mart expects to spend \$24 million for additional trucks to comply with the new HOS. Trucks haul an estimated 81 percent of the nation's goods, leading to the belief by some transportation users that after the new rules take effect, trucking rates will be passed on to consumers and as a result raise the cost of everything from diapers to trash cans. Wal-Mart is adding 275 new drivers and some 300 new trucks to haul the same amount of cargo it did before new HOS rules, according to the News. The report stated that shippers and receivers will pay higher prices, as well.

Source: http://www.thetrucker.com/stories/11_03/1118_truck_rates.htm

- 7. November 18, The Trucker* — Canadian truckers want sleeper berth exception, too. The Owner-Operator's Business Association of Canada (OBAC) wants the Canadian government to include a "split sleeper" exception to its Hours of Service (HOS) rules, much like the U.S. government's sleeper berth exception to its new HOS, according to an OBAC press release. **OBAC spokesmen said Canada's Hours of Service proposal isn't compatible with U.S. HOS rules that are to go into effect in January, 2004. OBAC would like to see the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators and Transport Canada to add a "split-sleeper" exception that would allow Canadian drivers to get their mandated ten hours of daily rest in two intervals rather than in a single period of at least eight, consecutive hours, with the remaining two taken at the driver's discretion.** The U.S. sleeper berth exception says drivers may split on-duty time by using sleeper berth periods and may accumulate the equivalent of 10 consecutive hours off-duty by taking two periods of rest in the berth if neither period is less than two hours. **The exception gives American truckers extra flexibility on cross-border trips and puts Canadian truckers at a disadvantage, the OBAC release stated.**

Source: http://www.thetrucker.com/stories/11_03/1118_obac_hos.html

- 8. November 18, The Staten Island Advance* — Assembly bill would set rules on docking for ferry captains, pilots. State law should require Staten Island Ferry captains and pilots to be standing inside the pilothouses within 1,000 yards of each docking, New York Assemblyman Robert Straniere said on Monday. In addition, Straniere wants a deckhand or prospective mate-in-training to be in the pilothouse on every harbor voyage between Staten Island and Manhattan. The South Shore Republican's legislation, to be introduced soon, aims to require all ferry personnel who are "on watch" or in the pilothouse to be standing. The standing rule would ensure "those responsible for the safe navigation of our ferries have their attention focused totally on passenger and vessel safety." Straniere's bill comes in response to the October 15 tragedy aboard the ferryboat Andrew J. Barberi — the deadliest incident aboard the ferry in 132 years. Straniere contacted the Coast Guard and city Department of Transportation (DOT) to research the bill. **Straniere argued it was "absolutely necessary" for state lawmakers to take action and increase ferry safety. His regulations, he said, are common-sense measures most people thought were already on the books.**

Source: http://www.silive.com/news/advance/index.ssf?base/news/1069_166840253420.xml

9.

November 18, News Channel 10 (Providence, RI) — **Amtrak's getting ready for Thanksgiving travelers.** Amtrak says it will be ready for Thanksgiving — the busiest travel period of the year. **The passenger railroad will increase capacity in the Northeast by 40,000 seats and operate 70 extra trains, including 31 additional Acela Express trains, between Washington, New York and Boston.** Amtrak said the extra trains will start November 25, and run through December 1. Amtrak will also add passenger capacity by putting into service every available passenger car, increasing the frequency of Regional and Metroliner trains and leasing "holiday extra" train equipment from commuter agencies. **During Thanksgiving week, Amtrak expects to serve more than 300,000 passengers in the Northeast alone. On the busiest travel day of the year, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, Amtrak said it expects to carry as many as 110,000 passengers nationwide or about 70 percent more than a typical Wednesday.** The rail company will offer all-reserved service on most Northeast trains, including many that normally do not require reservations, ensuring that every passenger has a seat.

Source: <http://www.turnto10.com/travelgetaways/2646185/detail.html>

10. *November 18, Reuters* — **Coast Guard says tanker being investigated off NY. A tanker awaiting entry to New York Harbor is being investigated for leaking vapors, the U.S. Coast Guard said Tuesday.** "I was told it is 30 miles out of our jurisdiction and there is no danger to it. It is waiting to be granted access to New York Harbor," a Coast Guard spokesman said. The Coast Guard said the tanker's personnel were conducting the investigation and no Coast Guard vessels were on the scene. "There is cargo in cargo holds, and there are voids with no cargo, and there is vapor from the cargo in the voids that is being investigated now," the spokesman added. **The Coast Guard could not immediately confirm what the cargo was, but oil market sources said they believed it held gasoline.**

Source: http://www.forbes.com/home_asia/newswire/2003/11/18/rtr11522_77.html

11. *November 17, The Salt Lake Tribune* — **Airport to announce "zero tolerance" gun policy. Airport security and law enforcement officials have announced a "zero tolerance" policy on guns at Salt Lake City International Airport. Passengers who show up at an airport security checkpoint with a weapon in their possession will be automatically detained and charged, an official said Sunday.** Previously, such situations involving weapons would be reviewed by airport security officers on a case-by-case basis, said Suzanne Luber of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). "Should someone come to the checkpoint with a gun, they will be processed for prosecution," Luber warned, adding that the policy will apply to all weapons, including guns covered by a state-issued concealed weapons permit. In August, the Department of Homeland Security announced a new airport crackdown on small electronic gadgets, urging added checkpoint scrutiny of items such as cell phones, cameras and car key alarms, based on fears they might be disguised bomb components. **This is a joint effort by the TSA, the United States Attorney's Office, Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City prosecutors, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the FBI and the Salt Lake Airport Police Department.**

Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/2003/Nov/11172003/utah/111745.asp>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

12. *November 17, ComputerWorld* — **USPS bill-paying service. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) said it will discontinue eBillPay, its online bill-paying service, as of April 4, 2004.** In a filing with the Postal Rate Commission on Friday, Nicholas Barranca, the Postal Service's vice president for product development, said the USPS won't renew its contract for the service with CheckFree Corp. when it expires. The Postal Service didn't give a reason for its decision in its filing. CheckFree operates the service, which enables customers to review, view and pay their bills electronically via the USPS Web site. **In addition, the USPS said it will stop two other services currently operated by CheckFree: USPS Send Money, an electronic money-transfer service, and USPS Pay@Delivery, which allows customers to combine the Send Money offering with its Delivery Confirmation service.**

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/managementtopics/ebusiness/story/0,10801,87224,00.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Agriculture Sector

13. *November 18, Agricultural Research Service* — **Seeing salmonella move through pigs.** About two million salmonella cases are found in livestock in the U.S. each year, costing \$1.4 billion. Certain swine seem prone to shedding Salmonella bacteria in manure when stressed by the transport and mixing with different herds, associated with going to market. Scientists don't know how bacteria migrate through an animal's body, including where they hide and what causes them to be shed. These gaps are largely due to an inability to follow the progression of infection in live animals. **Donald C. Lay, of the Agricultural Research Service, and Scott T. Willard, of Mississippi State University, have shown they can treat bacteria to give off light, making it possible to track infections in living piglets and through tissues of adult pigs after slaughter.** Now they've received a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to further pursue the work. **Their goal: to adapt the technique so cameras can see through the denser mass of live, adult, market-ready pigs, which is more difficult than seeing through piglets.** Lay and Willard will research ways to improve swine management by identifying animals that are more susceptible to infection, and by designing techniques to prevent those swine from spreading infection to their herd mates.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2003/031118.htm>

14. *November 18, Agri News* — **Minnesota swine herd declared free of pseudorabies.** Pseudorabies started in southwestern Minnesota and was found mostly in the southern part of the state, where most hog farms are located. At the height of the disease, 903 herds were quarantined. Steve Olson, a veterinarian with Austin Vet Clinic, said pseudorabies made it difficult for Minnesota pork producers to send hogs to Canada or to another state. Extra testing was required before moving hogs to different areas in the state. The testing and vaccination requirements added expense and labor requirements for hog farmers. Now, the state is pseudorabies-free. The last reported infection occurred more than a year ago. **Pseudorabies brought together producers and state and federal regulators, who worked to eradicate the disease, said Jim Lewis, a pork producer. The partnership set a pattern that can be followed to eradicate other diseases, he said.**

Source: <http://webstar.postbulletin.com/agrinews/132737864323702.bsp>

15. *November 17, Xinhuanet* — **Poland reports new mad cow case. A new case of mad cow disease, also known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), was confirmed Thursday, bringing the total number of cattle infected with the disease in Poland to nine, Poland's chief veterinarian Piotr Kolodziej said on Monday.** The seven-year-old animal tested positive for the disease Thursday in the central Mazowsze province, said the chief veterinarian in a bulletin. Other cattle that were kept with the infected cow have been slaughtered as part of preventive measures, so were all the 18-month-old cows on the farm. Polish agricultural authorities are taking measures to test all cattle over 30 months old for BSE across the country. The first case of the brain-wasting disease in Poland was found in May 2002.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2003-11/18/content_1184605.htm

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Food Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

16. *November 18, Washington Post* — **Flu season may be severe. The flu season has started much more quickly than usual and features what could be an especially nasty strain of the virus, signs that the nation could be facing a severe influenza outbreak this year, federal health officials said Monday.** Although it remains too early to know how bad the winter will be, Texas is reporting flu cases statewide, Colorado is experiencing a regional outbreak and cases have been reported in 30 other states. Moreover, the proportion of suspected cases that lab tests confirmed to be the flu rose above 19 percent last week, the earliest such a high number of tests have come back positive since 1976, officials said. **Officials are particularly concerned because they have detected a strain of the flu virus, called H3N2 Fujian, that was not specifically included in developing the vaccine.** H3N2 flu strains have been especially virulent. **This year's vaccine includes another variant of the H3N2 virus, and officials are hopeful that the immunity it produces will protect people against the unexpected variant.**

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A54059-2003Nov_17.html

17. *November 18, Canadian Press* — **Canadian hospitals to check infection controls. All Ontario, Canada, hospitals have been ordered to review their infection control procedures after a second Toronto-area hospital within a month admitted Monday to using improperly sterilized equipment on patients.** Toronto's Sunnybrook hospital announced Monday it has sent letters to 861 men who received ultrasound prostate biopsies at the hospital,

asking them to get blood tests for hepatitis and HIV. **Although the instrument was being cleansed and disinfected, the sterilization process was not meeting current infection control standards, the hospital said.** "The team that interpreted the instructions by the manufacturer probably misinterpreted it, and there was a series of checks and balances that didn't occur," said said Bob Lester, Sunnybrook's chief medical executive. Hospital officials said they are concerned the same mistake may have been made by other health-care facilities, many of whom use the same machinery for prostate exams. **The hygiene breach comes one month after a similar incident at Lakeridge Health Center in Oshawa, just east of Toronto. Nearly 120 Lakeridge patients were advised to get HIV and hepatitis tests after having throat or colon exams with equipment that had been cleaned but not sterilized.**

Source: <http://www.canada.com/search/story.aspx?id=687e4e87-b06d-4479-987b-d8f4deeb621b>

18. *November 18, Oregon Health & Science University* — **OHSU researchers study recent monkeypox outbreak.** Researchers at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) are trying to gain a better understanding of last summer's monkeypox outbreak. They have obtained blood samples from those exposed to the disease. The samples will be used to better understand the human immune system's ability to fight monkeypox, information that will be critical for future vaccine development. **"Blood samples provided by those infected with monkeypox and those who were exposed but remained illness-free can give us insight into how the human body fights off poxviruses, including smallpox,"** said Mark Slifka, assistant scientist at the OHSU Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute (VGTI). **"Tracking immune responses as they occur is tremendously helpful not only in learning how to develop better vaccines, but in providing us an opportunity to observe firsthand how the immune system attacks and destroys an invading pathogen."** VGTI researchers also hope to learn if more people were infected with monkeypox than initially reported. "We believe there's a strong chance that some people who were immunized against smallpox may have still maintained cross-reactive resistance to monkeypox infection as well," said Sifkla. "If this occurred, then monkeypox infection would have resulted in very limited or no disease symptoms. It is possible that some cases of monkeypox went undiscovered."

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2003/11/031118072629.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

19. *November 18, The Sun News (Myrtle Beach, SC)* — **Volunteers train for emergency response.** Brunswick County, NC, will have more people to assist with emergency response after January 1. **The county's Emergency Services office is holding the first meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, for those who want to be a part of Brunswick County's initial Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The goal is to have a network of people throughout**

Brunswick County who can provide emergency support to their neighbors after natural or human disasters. Team members will learn how to give three days of support without outside help. The team, which will be composed of volunteers, will not replace any of the county's other emergency response staff but will assist it in times of great need, said Randy Thompson, Brunswick County's emergency services director. Brunswick County is planning for an initial class of 25 people who will spend 21 hours learning how to handle things such as hurricane response or assistance after a terrorist attack. **Brunswick County is the first in southeastern North Carolina to train volunteers for the CERT system. Brunswick County has sent five of its employees for state CERT training, so they will be able to teach the volunteers.**

Source: http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/mld/sunnews/news/local/7289_509.htm

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information and Telecommunications Sector

20. *November 17, US-CERT* — **US-CERT announces the National Cyber Security Summit. The National Cyber Security Summit, to be held December 3 in Santa Clara, CA, is the first of a series of invitational events focusing on Internet security.** Invited delegates to this one-day summit may serve on one of the five cross-sectoral task forces, which will be responsible for recommending solutions to the challenges posed in the President's National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace. The five task forces, which will be sponsored by the private sector, are: Awareness for Home Users and Small Businesses, Cyber Security Early Warning, Best Practices and Standards: Corporate Governance, Best Practices and Standards: Technical Standards and Common Criteria, and Security Across the Software Development Life Cycle: Secure Software.

Source: <http://www.us-cert.gov/events/summit/>

21. *November 14, CNET News.com* — **Mail server flaw opens Exchange to spam. Administrators of e-mail systems based on Microsoft's Exchange might have spammers using their servers to send unsolicited bulk e-mail,** a consultant warned this week. Aaron Greenspan, a Harvard University junior published a white paper Thursday, November 13, detailing the problem. Greenspan's research concluded that **Exchange 5.5 and 2000 can be used by spammers to send anonymous e-mail.** He says even though software Microsoft provides on its site certifies that the server is secure, it's not. "If the guest account is enabled (on Exchange 5.5 and 2000), even if your login fails, you can send mail, because the guest account is there as a catchall," he said. "Even if you think you've done everything (to secure the server), you are still open to spammers." The guest account is a way for administrators to let visitors use a mail server anonymously, but because of security issues, the feature is generally not enabled. **Exchange servers that had been infected by the Code Red worm and subsequently cleaned will still have the guest account enabled,** Greenspan said.

Source: http://news.com.com/2100-7355-5107904.html?tag=nefd_hed

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: WORM_LOVGATE.G Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	80 (www), 135 (epmap), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 137 (netbios-ns), 21 (ftp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 111 (sunrpc), 23 (telnet), 53 (domain) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

[[Return to top](#)]

General Sector

22. *November 19, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-100: Embassy Construction: State Department Has Implemented Management Reforms, but Challenges Remain.** Since the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa, the U.S. State Department has done much to improve physical security at overseas posts. However, **most overseas diplomatic office facilities still do not meet the security standards the department developed to protect these sites from terrorist attacks and other dangers.** To correct this problem, the department in 1999 embarked on an estimated \$21 billion embassy construction program. The program's key objective is to provide secure, safe, and functional compounds for employees overseas — in most cases by building replacement facilities. In 2001, State's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) — which manages the program — began instituting reforms in its structure and operations to meet the challenges of the embassy construction program. This report discusses (1) OBO's mechanisms for more effectively managing the embassy construction program and (2) the status of and challenges facing the program. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04100high.pdf>
 Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-100>
23. *November 18, Associated Press* — **Japan issues al Qaeda alert.** The Japanese government issued a terror alert for citizens traveling or living abroad Monday, November 17. The Foreign Ministry's alert was issued after two London-based Arabic-language newspapers, the daily Al-Quds Al-Arabi and weekly Al-Majallah, received separate statements over the weekend threatening car bomb attacks against the United States, Britain, Italy, Australia and Japan. **According to Al-Majallah, an alleged al Qaeda operative identified as Abu Mohamed al-Ablaj in an e-mail warned Tokyo against sending troops to Iraq to help with postwar reconstruction.** The statements claimed responsibility for the attack that killed 23 people in Turkey on Saturday and the November 12 car bombing outside the Italian police headquarters in Iraq that claimed more than 30 lives. They also contained a direct warning to U.S. President

George W. Bush and his allies.

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/asiapcf/east/11/18/japan.t error.ap/>

24. November 18, Associated Press — UN pulls staff from Afghanistan. The UN refugee agency on Tuesday, November 18, pulled international workers out of south and east Afghanistan and suspended all aid to refugees returning from Pakistan. **The agency withdrew its surviving international staffer out of Ghazni, where Bettina Goislard was gunned down as she traveled Sunday through a bazaar in a clearly marked UN vehicle. That same day, a remote-controlled bomb went off beside a UN vehicle in Paktia province.** And on November 11, a car bomb exploded outside UN offices in Kandahar, wounding two people. As violence has escalated, there have been increasingly strident calls for the 5,000-strong NATO-led peacekeeping contingent to be expanded beyond the Afghan capital, Kabul. **The government of President Hamid Karzai has little power outside the capital, where warlords hold sway and Taliban and al Qaeda militants launch frequent attacks.** Squadron Leader Paul Rice, a spokesman for the peacekeepers, said he understood the growing impatience but warned that **expansion of the peacekeepers' mission alone must not be viewed as a solution to Afghanistan's security problems.**

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/World/ap20031118_922.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

[DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive](#) – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions: nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at 703-883-6631

Subscription and Distribution Information Send mail to nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at 703-883-6631 for more information.

Contact DHS/IAIP

To report any incidents or to request information from DHS/IAIP, contact the DHS/IAIP Watch at nipc.watch@fbi.gov or call 202-323-3204.

DHS/IAIP Disclaimer

The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary and assessment of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. This is an internal DHS/IAIP tool intended to serve the informational needs of DHS/IAIP personnel and other interested staff. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions of the content. The IAIP provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or of accuracy in respect of the original source material.