



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

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- Congress has sent its \$368 billion FY04 Defense Appropriations Bill to President Bush. (See item [4](#))
- The Associated Press reports health care experts say the government's soon-to-be-released hospital guidelines on how to prevent the spread of SARS don't go far enough in preparing for a possible U.S. outbreak. (See item [18](#))
- The GAO has issued Report-GAO-03-1083: Homeland Security: Risks Facing Border and Transportation Security. (See item [24](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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

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

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

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

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

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Energy Sector

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

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

1. *September 28, Reuters* — **Most Italians regain power after national blackout.** Italy regained most of its power on Sunday, September 28, after a nationwide blackout hit virtually the whole population in the dead of night. **Italy's worst blackout for nearly a decade, which struck at 3:20 a.m., hit all Italy except the island of Sardinia and some small pockets of the mainland, officials said.** Power was expected to be up in all of Italy before Monday, September 29, said Industry Minister Antonio Marzano, who urged the government to call a vote of confidence on a bill to supply 12,000 more megawatts of power — one fourth of Italy's

actual capacity. Almost all of the country's 57 million people were affected, but coming on a weekend night its initial impact was less dramatic and caused less economic damage. It was the fourth major Western blackout in two months, after cuts in North America, parts of London and Scandinavia. **Sixteen hours after the blackout hit the exact cause was not known, but Italy ruled out foul play. Italy, France and Switzerland all sought to deflect blame for the outage, which spread through Italy within four seconds and highlighted its reliance on power imports. Authorities attributed the outage on a breakdown of electricity lines, some in heavy storms, from France and Switzerland -- neighbors supplying Italy some 17 percent of its power.**

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/reuters20030928_124.html

2. *September 26, The Indianapolis Star (IN)* — **120 tanks of propane gas stolen. Authorities in Hendricks and Marion counties in Indiana are investigating the theft of more than 120 propane gas tanks from Westside businesses recently. Investigators said they weren't sure why thieves have stolen the cylinders from warehouse and distribution operations where propane is used to power forklifts.** Theories range from production of methamphetamine to stockpiling it for a terrorist attack to selling it to food vendors at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Concern about the thefts increased when a person called Plainfield, IN, police about 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 23, saying there was going to be a "big boom" at a construction site near Indianapolis International Airport. It triggered a call to federal authorities, including the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security. No explosion occurred at any construction sites near the airport, said Detective Jeff Stephens, Plainfield's lead investigator in the case. Stephens said similar thefts of propane tanks occurred in May before the Indianapolis 500-Mile Race. And he raised the specter of a more ominous use -- as a weapon. "Our fear is there is a whole lot of gas out there, and it can be used for explosives," Stephens said.

Source: <http://www.indystar.com/print/articles/1/077973-1071-009.htm>

3. *September 26, Associated Press* — **Ohio power grid said to have 64 glitches.** Ohio's section of the regional power grid had at least 64 glitches in the four hours before the nation's worst blackout, according to a timeline by the state's utility regulator. The draft timeline by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is consistent with reports showing glitches across the grid that were released earlier by power companies and the joint U.S.-Canadian task force investigating the August blackout that knocked out power to over 50 million people. **The timeline that the Ohio utility regulator sent to Governor Bob Taft this week shows that most problems involved power plants and major transmission lines that tripped off momentarily or went down completely. The Ohio timeline has been given to the task force and purposely does not identify a cause of the blackout,** regulator spokesperson Shana Gerber said. "We're not making any correlations or analysis. We're leaving that to the task force," Gerber said. "These are events that occurred in Ohio as we know them to have occurred."

Source: http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/breaking_news/6868803.htm

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *September 29, American Forces Press Service* — **Congress sends \$368 billion appropriations bill to President.** Congress has sent the fiscal 2004 Defense Appropriations Bill to President Bush for his signature. The \$368.2 billion bill funds the basic necessities for the department through Sept. 30, 2004. The administration already has submitted separate, supplemental bills to cover the cost of the global war on terrorism. The bill fully funds the president's \$115.9 billion operations and maintenance request. Procurement is set at \$74.7 billion in fiscal 2004. The research and development portion of the budget is pegged at \$65.2 billion. **Procurement and research and development, defense officials have said, are the heart of the administration effort to transform the U.S. military to face the challenges of the 21st century.** "What we've laid out in our plan is a balanced approach to the various accounts," said a senior defense official. "We have been deliberate in ensuring that the operations and maintenance accounts and procurement accounts will not rob each other."
Source: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Sep2003/n09262003_200309264.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *September 26, NorthJersey.com* — **NJ identity theft law is signed.** Under a new law in New Jersey, a person charged with falsifying a driver's license, using up to five identities, or selling or possessing a doctored license can face up to 10 years in prison and a \$150,000 fine. Defendants also can be prosecuted for selling phony licenses or other government documents that could be used to verify someone's identity. **The bill will allow victims to recoup three times the value of their losses, court costs, and attorney's fees from defendants,** although legislators acknowledged this could be difficult to accomplish. Last year, officials said, nearly 5,000 New Jerseyans were victimized by thieves using their name and credit card numbers to buy products and goods. New Jersey ranked 14th in the number of cases of identity theft, according to a 2001 study by the Federal Trade Commission. Lawmakers said identify theft can endanger public safety. They cited accused Washington-area sniper John Allen Muhammad, who used fraudulent documents to obtain a motor vehicle registration for the car believed used in the shootings, and Mohamed El-Atriss of Union Township, who pleaded guilty to selling fake identification to two of the September 11 hijackers, not knowing what they planned to do.
Source: <http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnF1ZUVFeXk3JmZnYmVsN2Y3dnF1ZUVFeXk2NDMxMDI0JnlyaXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5Mw==>
6. *September 26, WBAL-TV (MD)* — **Scam could give con artists access to passwords.** 1-800-Flowers.com is the latest website to be targeted by the "phishing" e-mail scam. The scheme, which has been sent to e-mail boxes around the country, makes it look like a person has recently placed an order with the well-known 1-800-Flowers.com. To straighten out the apparent mistake, victims must log on to another website that conveniently asks for their username and password. Divulging a username and password

opens the door to major problems. Impostors use them to run up thousands of dollars in charges. Victims are left to prove that somebody else used their name and password to make the purchases. The real 1-800-Flowers.com says that it continues to field many calls from consumers trying to determine the truth. The offending link has been shut down and blocked. Source: <http://www.thewbalchannel.com/technology/2512903/detail.html>

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Transportation Sector

7. *September 27, Associated Press* — **Transportation Security chief admits gaps in airport security.** The head of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) admits there are gaps in airport security, including X-ray machines that can't detect blades positioned in certain ways. **James Loy told reporters he doesn't deny that a blade of a boxcutter on its edge can get through the system. But he called it more of a "technology issue" than a "screener performance issue."** Government officials believe terrorists used boxcutters to hijack the four jets that crashed on September eleventh, 2001. A General Accounting Office report released this week said the TSA isn't keeping close enough track of its airport security screeners' performance.

Source: <http://www.whnt19.com/Global/story.asp?S=1459235>

8. *September 27, The Australian* — **Cracks ground Qantas jets. Qantas has grounded two jumbo jets and called in manufacturer Boeing after maintenance engineers found a 75cm crack in a crucial part that joins sections of the fuselage near the rear of the plane.** The crack is thought to have spread from damage caused when a metal tool was used to scrape off paint. The damaged strap, called body station 2181, is used to knit together sections of the aircraft during manufacturing. The damage is believed to have been done before Qantas acquired the leased aircraft in 1998 and could potentially have led to a structural failure if left unrepaired. **Qantas sources said the airline also had found problems with other production joints in the aircraft. "(Qantas is) now looking at all the fuselage joints right around the aircraft, and they've actually found other damage in those joints," a source said. A 1.76m crack in the skin of a China Airlines 747-200 was blamed for the aircraft breaking up in mid-air in 2002. All 209 passengers and 16 crew were killed shortly after take-off from Taipei.** Boeing spokesman Ken Morton said last night the manufacturer was taking the crack "very seriously".

Source: http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,574,4,7387509%5E421,00.html

9. *September 26, Associated Press* — **Amtrak struggling to keep old junk from popping up along tracks.** On its Web site, Amtrak tells passengers to expect a scenic ride as they take the train from Philadelphia to Harrisburg. **What the cash-strapped railway doesn't mention is the refuse that has piled up along those tracks – everything from bags of trash to dishwashers, washing machines and dryers – and the difficulty it has had keeping the 700 miles of track it owns in the Northeast from becoming a permanent dumping ground. The railway says the problem has plagued it for years and is tough to resolve because it only owns a small part of the land along its tracks and because it's very expensive to wage clean-ups.** Efforts have proven very costly in recent years, especially in Baltimore and New

York City, where Amtrak sent out teams of workers and machinery and built high fences, officials said. The 105 miles of track between Philadelphia and Harrisburg are a virtual free-for-all of old junk, from appliances to motorcycles and shopping carts to piles of tires. "You name it, it's out there," said Amtrak spokesman Clifford Black. "They simply use the railroad as a dumping ground." **Recently, groups have pushed Amtrak to clean it up, or allow another group to take care of it.**

Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/business/6870170.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

10. *September 26, Virginian-Pilot* — **Shellfish operations in ruins after hurricane. Along the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's Eastern Shore, oyster and clam producers are assessing extensive damage wrought by Hurricane Isabel on an industry already struggling to stay afloat. The storm's rains, huge tidal surge and fierce winds caused a flood of dirt and sediment that washed into waterways and smothered oyster and clam beds, destroyed equipment and tore away piers and docks. In Northampton County, at the southern tip of the Eastern Shore, damage estimates to aquaculture businesses run as high as \$3 million.** The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is trying to compile estimates elsewhere, but because of phone and power outages in many waterfront communities, the agency is having difficulty even contacting seafood farmers, said spokesperson Elaine Lidholm. Many farmers and processors contacted this week say they don't know the extent of the damage to their clams and oysters because the state has imposed a shellfish-harvest ban due to pollution hazards stemming from the storm. That ban is scheduled to be lifted Saturday night, as water quality in the Bay and its tidal tributaries returns to safe levels of bacteria, said Robert Croonenberghs, state director of shellfish sanitation.

Source: <http://home.hamptonroads.com/stories/story.cfm?story=60255&ran=384>

11. *September 26, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **USDA funds agricultural innovation centers. Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman Friday announced \$10 million in grants to establish agricultural innovation centers in 10 states.** The centers are part of an ongoing effort, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), to assist rural businesses, farmers, and ranchers in developing value-added businesses. **The 2002 Farm Bill created the program to provide technical and business development assistance to increase and improve the ability of agricultural producers to develop markets and processes for value-added agricultural commodities and products.** Funding of individual recipients will be contingent upon meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

Source: <http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2003/09/0331.htm>

12.

September 25, Yahoo News — U.S. agriculture import status. After more than 40 years of exporting more meat, grains, and produce than it imports, the United States is on the brink of becoming a net agricultural importer, economists warn. If current trends continue, Purdue University economists Phil Paarlberg and Phil Abbott say agriculture imports could overtake exports by 2007, driven by a sluggish export market and consumers' growing appetite for foods grown overseas. Paarlberg and Abbott said U.S. agriculture exports were projected to grow by about \$500 million in the coming fiscal year to about \$56.5 billion. Agriculture imports, meanwhile, are expected to grow as much as \$3.5 billion to about \$47.5 billion, during the same period, they said. "We can see this gap narrowing. Where we were looking at an agricultural trade surplus five or six years ago of \$15 billion to \$20 billion, now it's under \$10 billion," Paarlberg said. **Paarlberg said imports have generally been growing since the mid-1980s, driven in part because Americans are consuming more crops the nation produces little or none of, such as coffee, tea, cocoa, and bananas. At the same time, it is importing lower-quality meat from several countries for hamburger-grade cuts, wheat from Canada, even baby back ribs from Denmark, all products it also produces.**

Source: http://www.cropdecisions.com/show_story.php?id=21459

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Food Sector

13. *September 26, Associated Press* — **Employees at poultry plant test positive for latent TB. About 170 workers at a poultry processing plant in Stillmore, GA, tested positive for tuberculosis (TB) infection after a former employee living in Tennessee was diagnosed with the disease, health officials said.** Emanuel County public health officials said Tuesday none of the workers at the poultry plant is sick and none are infectious. Many people infected with TB never develop the disease, particularly if they follow up with preventive drug treatments. Officials began testing plant workers after learning about the former worker who tested positive for TB.

Source: http://www.accessnorthga.com/news/ap_newfullstory.asp?ID=203_52

14. *September 26, Food Production Daily* — **A global perspective on food safety.** The European Commission has resolved to ensure that the same standards of food safety apply to all products, regardless of origin. **Speaking at an informal agricultural council this week, European Commissioner for health and consumer protection David Byrne said that food imports into the European Union (EU) should be subject to the same rigorous criteria. According to Byrne, the EU must recognize that some developing countries experience difficulties in reaching EU food safety levels.** The EU has banned imported food products from less developed countries on a number of occasions on the grounds of food safety.

Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/news/news.asp?id=3514>

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Water Sector

15. *September 28, WNH News Online (CT)* — **Boil advisories lifted for Connecticut towns with tainted water. Authorities say the water is safe for 4500 customers in Middlebury, Southbury and Oxford, CT.** The residents were told to boil their water earlier in the week because of bacteria contamination. The Heritage Village Water Company says that's no longer necessary, and the CT Department of Public Health has deemed the tap water safe. Heritage Village says it is keeping two wells that tested positive for contamination turned off. Authorities also say all of the water tests taken since Friday have been bacteria-free. The water company also says it will add more chlorine to the water to make sure it's safe.
Source: <http://www.wtnh.com/Global/story.asp?S=1460631&nav=3YeXIETd>
16. *September 26, San Diego Union-Tribune* — **Third water board signs on to Colorado River deal. The San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) became the third of four water boards Thursday to again agree on how to allocate Colorado River.** But the one water board yet to sign off on the new deal, the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), is the same one that held up a deal last time it was considered. Under the deal, known as the Colorado River Quantification Settlement Agreement, the IID would transfer 200,000 acre-feet of water to San Diego per year for up to 75 years. An additional 77,700 acre-feet would be brought annually to the San Diego County Water Authority through the All-American and Coachella canals for 110 years, for a total of 8.5 million acre-feet. An acre-foot is about 325,800 gallons, or roughly the amount used every year by two Southland families. **The agreement is an outgrowth of a failed deal structured two years ago. The draft agreement limits California to 4.4 million acre feet of water from the Colorado River annually and divides that water between four water agencies: the SDCWA, IID, Coachella Valley Water District, and Metropolitan Water District.**
Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20030925-1721-water deal.html>
17. *September 25, Desert Sun* — **Water district passes 45-year transfer plan. The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) on Wednesday voted unanimously to enter into a 45-year pact that calls for it to import as much as 3.15 million acre-feet of river water during the life of the deal.** The deal would increase annual deliveries of river water to the Coachella Valley by about one third by 2026. **CVWD is one of four water districts involved in the deal, considered a model for the future of water dealing in the arid west.** CVWD became the second of the four water districts involved to approve the deal. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California endorsed it Tuesday. San Diego County Water Authority is expected to approve it Thursday. **But the Imperial board must still vote on the deal. As late as Tuesday two of five board members were undecided and another is opposed.** The agreement basically calls on farmers in the Imperial Irrigation District to conserve about 10 percent of its annual supply for sale to San Diego and the Coachella Valley.
Source: http://www.thedesertsun.com/news/stories2003/local/200309250_33553.shtml

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Public Health Sector

18. *September 26, Associated Press* — **Experts warn of gaps in SARS prevention.** Health care experts say the government's soon-to-be-released hospital guidelines on how to prevent the spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) don't go far enough in preparing for a

possible U.S. outbreak. **Many hospitals don't have the space for isolation wards for numerous SARS patients, state health officials say. There still is no accurate test for rapidly diagnosing SARS. Systems for quarantines are not set up. And there's no national plan for rushing extra doctors to a hospital that might be overwhelmed by SARS cases.**

"That part's very problematic," said Dr. Keith Woeltje, a member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. "We already have a nursing shortage without SARS." Instead, the meetings that Woeltje and other outside health officials have attended at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have focused on other issues, such as how to keep severe acute respiratory syndrome from rapidly spreading in hospitals. The health agency is expected to submit new hospital guidelines for controlling SARS to its parent agency, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) soon. CDC officials say the recommendations won't be given to hospitals until the HHS has signed off.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20030926_1414.html

19. *September 26, Reuters* — **Health agencies preparing against SARS return. U.S. health agencies are testing drugs and taking steps to protect the nation's blood supply to prepare for any re-emergence of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said on Friday, September 26.** Thompson, who visited the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cited a possibility that SARS, which killed more than 800 people this year, could reappear. Although it is not known whether SARS can be transmitted through blood, the FDA is taking steps to safeguard the nation's blood supply, he said. **Thompson said the National Institutes of Health was developing vaccines and working with other health agencies to screen antiviral drugs to assess their effectiveness against SARS.** "Some compounds have shown quite a bit of promise so far," he said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=0PNVU0BE MFI4WCRBAEOCFEY?type=healthNews&storyID=3516702>

20. *September 25, Associated Press* — **Laboratory network dedicated to microbial forensics.** Detectives hunt a criminal's fingerprints. Scientists hunt a germ's genetic fingerprints. Tracing the origin of bioterrorism takes both specialties. **The FBI is teaming up with public health experts and other scientists to create a national laboratory network dedicated to this field of "microbial forensics," analyzing evidence from crimes committed with germs.** It's the same type of partnership invoked in the investigation of the 2001 anthrax-by-mail attacks. The FBI consulted experts in anthrax genetics to learn that the type used was the virulent Ames strain, narrowing the probe to people with access to that particular microbe. **One goal is to have on-call all the necessary experts on a particular bioweapon. For some types, there may be only one or two specialists in the country whose home labs know how to handle evidence so that it's admissible in court, said Steven E. Schutzer of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, who is helping to draft quality-assurance guidelines for lab participants.** Another goal is to foster research ensuring all the analytical methods used are scientifically solid, he added.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Politics/ap20030925_1416.html

21. *September 25, Rockefeller University* — **Salmonella changes structure of infected cells. Salmonella uses protein "staples" to restructure the shape of the cells it invades, forcing these cells to flow around the bacteria and engulf them, researchers at Rockefeller**

University have discovered. The research provides the first detailed insight into how bacteria manipulate host cells at the onset of an attack. The findings may help develop a more general understanding of similar strategies used by an array of bacteria and lead to improved drugs for fighting them. The researchers found that Salmonella injects proteins into host cells that staple together molecules of actin, the protein that provides structure to a cell. Like welding girders to each other to construct a skyscraper, Salmonella proteins tack actin into long filaments that expand the size and change the contour of a cell so it can fold itself around the bacterium. **Worldwide, Salmonella bacteria cause more than one billion human infections each year, resulting in more than three million deaths.** Most infections are due to consumption of contaminated food. But because Salmonella has also been used as a biological weapon, the pathogen is classified as a food and water safety threat in biodefense by the National Institutes of Health.

Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2003-09/ru-sum092303.php

22. *September 25, HealthDayNews* — **U.S. West Nile cases near 5,000.** The number of cases of West Nile virus set an annual record this week, the U.S. government reports, and is rapidly approaching the 5,000 mark. **As of Thursday, 4,952 human cases of West Nile had been reported with a total of 95 fatalities, said Llewelyn Grant, a spokesman for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Those cases came from 40 states. Last year, which also established a record, saw 4,156 cases of West Nile. However, so far this year the virus has been less lethal; in 2002, it claimed 284 lives.** West Nile was first identified in the United States in 1999 in New York, and has rapidly moved westward. The country seems to be approaching the end of the season. According to Grant, the third week of August marked the high point last year. Although cases were still being reported into November (which meant mosquitoes were still biting in October), they were clearly tapering down by the end of September.

Source: <http://www.healthcentral.com/news/NewsFullText.cfm?id=515257>

23. *September 25, South Florida Business Journal* — **Generic Cipro. A Miami, FL, drug maker said it expects to be able to market a generic version of Cipro, a drug that is used to treat several bacterial infections including anthrax. The company said the Food and Drug Administration has tentatively approved it to market ciprofloxacin tablets in 100 mg, 250 mg, 500 mg, and 750 mg strengths.** Ciprofloxacin is the generic equivalent of Cipro, an antibiotic marketed by Bayer Corp. U.S. sales of Cipro tablets in 100, 250, 500, and 750 mg dosage strengths were more than \$1.1 billion for the past 12 months ending in the second quarter of 2003. Upon final approval, the company said it will sell the antibiotic through its pharmaceuticals subsidiary. News reports have said Bayer is expected to lose its Cipro U.S. patent protection in January. At that time, the FDA would offer final approval if the regulatory agency proceeds in its usual way.

Source: <http://southflorida.bizjournals.com/southflorida/stories/2003/09/22/daily46.html>

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Government Sector

24. *September 26, General Accounting Office* — **Report-GAO-03-1083: Homeland Security: Risks Facing Border and Transportation Security Program Need to Be Addressed.** The

Homeland Security Department should establish an executive body formed of representatives to oversee the U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator System, according to a General Accounting Office (GAO) report that cited risks in developing the massive “virtual border” system. **GAO identified 10 risk factors that imperil the U.S. Visit program, from its unformed governance structure to the lack of clear facility needs. As a result of the risks, the audit agency concluded that it is not clear whether the U.S. Visit will be able to “measurably and appreciably achieve DHS’ stated goals for the program.”** But the audit agency praised some activities under the program, saying that DHS had fulfilled an Office of Management and the Budget requirement that agencies state whether projects are approved by investment review boards and reviewed by chief financial and procurement officers.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d031083.pdf>

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Emergency Services Sector

25. *September 26, The Daily Oklahoman* — Firefighters find victims by satellites. Firefighters are turning to satellite technology to help locate occupants of storm shelters the next time a damaging tornado hits. **The fire department has ordered a Global Positioning System receiver with a 2,301 forestry grant from the state Agriculture, Food and Forestry Department, Fire Chief Loren Bumgarner said. The device will enable firefighters to use maps created this summer by the Choctaw Amateur Radio Club.** The GPS is a worldwide radio–navigation system consisting of 24 satellites and their ground stations. GPS uses the satellites as reference points to calculate positions accurate to a matter of meters, according to a Web site operated by Trimble Navigation Ltd. "We wanted to make sure we have the ability to go ahead and use GPS in case another tornado or severe thunderstorm hits," Bumgarner said. "The time–saving can be enormous when surroundings are completely different because of a storm."

Source: <http://www6.lexisnexis.com/wpublisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=34&topicId=17906&docId=1:51528815&start=9>

26. *September 25, Click2Houston* — Texas citizens, officers, firefighters complain about new 911 system. Houston officials received more complaints Wednesday from citizens and emergency workers over Houston's new dispatch system for emergency response calls. **The city switched to the \$53 million high–tech system Tuesday for fire and police departments. Sources told News2Houston it caused delays in response times and confusion among emergency personnel since it was put online.** A woman in southwest Houston, who wished to remain anonymous, said it took nearly 90 minutes to get a patrol car to her apartment after she reported a man tried to force his way inside early Wednesday morning. **Police said dispatchers responded correctly to the call but cannot explain why it took an hour and 16 minutes to send a patrol car. Firefighters complained Wednesday when Station 68 was dispatched to fight a transformer fire in southwest Houston but was delayed until they received an address.** At the same time, too many units were sent to fight a house fire in southeast Houston. **City managers admitted there are some technical glitches but insist the public's safety is not at risk. They are working around the clock to fix the problems, officials said.**

Source: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=19344>

27. *September 24, Reuters* — **Athens runs mock Olympics chemical attack drill.** Olympics organizers staged their first mock chemical and biological attack exercise on Wednesday, less than a year before the start of the 2004 Athens Games. **It was the fifth major Olympic exercise deploying forces from all of Greece's security and rescue agencies in under two years. Intelligence officers, chemical and nuclear energy centers and health services will also be involved in the two-day drill.** The participants will be asked to respond to the exercise called Blazing Sword, based on a complex simulated scenario set in the Olympics, police said in a statement. Games organizers, who have said security was their top priority, have planned the biggest security operation in the history of the Olympics, with a \$600 million security plan. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A57454-2003Sep 24.html>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

28. *September 26, esecurityplanet.com* — **Worm allows remote intruder system access. Sophos on Friday, September 26, 2003, issued an alert for W32/Randex-G, a network worm with backdoor capabilities that allows a remote intruder to access and control a computer via IRC channels.** W32/Randex-G spreads over a network by copying itself to the Windows system32 folder of C\$ and Admin\$ shares with weak passwords. Each time the worm is run it tries to connect to a remote IRC server and join a specific channel. The worm then runs in the background as a server process, listening for commands to execute. When first run the worm copies itself to Windows system folder as ntd32.exe and creates certain registry entries so that the worm is run when Windows starts up. Source: <http://www.esecurityplanet.com/alerts/article.php/3084001>

29. *September 26, silicon.com* — **Cyber cops get forensics code. Police have been issued new guidelines for gathering computer crime and electronic forensic evidence that deals with handling PDAs and mobile phones and the use of outside expert witnesses in investigations.** The revised Good Practice Guide for Computer-based Electronic Evidence has been compiled by the National Hi-Tech Crime Unit and the Association of Chief Police Officers with the aim of assisting the seizure of equipment and data and preventing its corruption. The guide said: "Computer-based electronic evidence is, by its very nature, fragile. It can be altered, damaged or destroyed by improper handling or improper examination. Operating systems and other programs frequently alter and add to the contents of electronic storage." "With an organizer/PDA there is no hard disk and the concern has to be to change the evidence in the main memory as little as possible," it said. Commenting on the new guidelines, Mark Morris, head of forensics intelligence and security at LogicaCMG and former Scotland Yard Computer Crime Squad officer, said **it is very easy for officers to unwittingly corrupt data and weaken any case where there is a prosecution.** Source: <http://www.silicon.com/news/500007-500001/1/6179.html>

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	1434 (ms-sql-m), 135 (epmap), 445 (microsoft-ds), 137 (netbios-ns), 80 (www), 111 (sunrpc), 22 (ssh), 139 (netbios-ssn), 443 (https), 1433 (ms-sql-s) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

30. *September 26, Associated Press* — **Strong earthquake in Japan. A powerful earthquake injured more than 300 people and knocked out power in northern Japan, Friday, but experts said it was lucky things weren't far worse. The quake was centered deep under the ocean, and the region it shook was well prepared.** Two fishermen were missing after the pre-dawn magnitude-8 quake, and police suspected they may have been swept away by tsunami, or ocean waves, that followed. **Most of the injured on the northern island of Hokkaido suffered minor scrapes caused by broken glass and falling objects.** The earthquake cracked roads, capsized fishing boats, and caved in part of the roof of the airport in Obihiro. **Kushiro, 560 miles northeast of Tokyo, was believed to be the hardest hit. It forced the evacuation of 41,000 people and left some 16,000 homes blacked out. But by evening, power had been restored to all but 2,000 homes and only 1,400 evacuees remained in shelters, said Hiroyuki Nakao, a local government spokesman.** Experts said the damage was surprisingly light. It was the strongest earthquake in 2 1/2 years, the U.S. Geological Survey said.
 Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A4395-2003Sep26?language=printer>

31. *September 26, Reuters* — **U.S. forces hold 19 al Qaeda suspects in Iraq.** U.S. military forces in Iraq are holding 19 al Qaeda suspects among 248 foreign fighters captured there, Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator of the troubled country said on Friday, September 26. **The United States has said that foreign fighters moving into Iraq to oppose U.S.-led coalition forces have become a major "terrorist" problem.** Bremer said in response to questions at a Pentagon news conference that he did not have the nationalities of the al Qaeda suspects. But he said **a total of 248 foreigners were being held, among them 123 Syrians and a large number of both Iranians and Yemenis.** "That's been a matter that has come out in their interrogations or in their documents," he responded when pressed on how he knew the 19

prisoners in question were members of al Qaeda, the guerrilla group led by fugitive Osama bin Laden and accused of the September 2001 attacks on America. The United States has accused Syria of allowing foreign fighters to infiltrate into neighboring Iraq, a charge that Damascus has repeatedly denied. Bremer said he did not know if any of the 19 al Qaeda suspects were members of the radical Ansar al-Islam group in Iraq. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and others in the Bush administration have said that the two groups are closely linked.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=0PNVU0BE MFI4WCRBAEOCFEY?type=topNews&storyID=3516874>

32. *September 25, U.S. Department of State* — **Public Announcement: Worldwide Caution. This supersedes the Worldwide Caution dated September 10, 2003. It is being issued to remind U.S. citizens of the continuing threat that they may be a target of terrorist actions, even after the anniversary date of the September 11 attacks, and to add the potential for threats to maritime interests. This Worldwide Caution expires on February 25, 2004.** The U.S. Government remains deeply concerned about the security of U.S. citizens overseas. U.S. citizens are cautioned to maintain a high level of vigilance, to remain alert and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. Looking at the last few months, al Qaeda and its associated organizations have struck in the Middle East in Riyadh, in North Africa in Casablanca, and in East Asia in Indonesia. It is expected that al Qaeda will strive for new attacks that will be more devastating than the September 11 attack, possibly involving nonconventional weapons such as chemical or biological agents.

Source: <http://travel.state.gov/wwc1.html>

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