



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 07 January 2004

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Arkansas Business Daily reports the explosion at an Arkansas chemical plant sent a column of black smoke into the sky and forced the evacuation of nearby residents and businesses. (See item [2](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security reports that after an extensive analysis, prototype demonstration, and testing phase, Homeland Security will provide the Administration and Congress with a recommendation for the most viable solution to defend against shoulder-fired missiles. (See item [8](#))
- PC World reports a security group warns there is a critical vulnerability in the code used to manage virtual memory on Linux systems. (See item [25](#))

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>]

1. *January 06, The Dispatch (IL)* — **Iowa works to store wind power in underground aquifers.** Iowa is working on a project that would use compressed air stored in underground aquifers to store energy harnessed from the wind. Iowa has more than 400 wind turbines with a capacity to produce 423 megawatts of power. Currently, Iowa municipal utilities are pursuing an idea to use wind energy to compress air in underground aquifers. The compressed air then could be

released at any time to produce electricity on demand. Only two compressed air plants exist today — one in Germany and the other in Alabama. The Iowa project would be the first to harness wind energy to produce the compressed air. **Storing compressed air for use in power generation is relatively new, and this would be the only plant to use wind power to compress the air. The Iowa Stored Energy Project facility is expected to store both compressed air and natural gas. The compressed air could be used to replace two-thirds of the natural gas normally used in a turbine.** The plant would have a number of benefits, including the ability to store wind energy, which has been the biggest problem facing wind power, and it would provide power to the main power grid.

Source: <http://www.qconline.com/archives/qco/sections.cgi?prcss=disp lay&id=179385>

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Chemical Sector

2. *January 06, Arkansas Business Daily* — **Detco explosion in Arkansas forces evacuations. An explosion at a Conway, AK, chemical plant sent a column of black smoke into the sky and forced the evacuation of nearby residents and businesses.** It was not clear how many were hurt in the late morning explosion at the Detco Industries plant on East Robins Street. Reports said at least two people were rushed to the hospital; one apparently airlifted to Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, home of the state's only burn unit. **Nearby businesses, including the Conway offices of Acxiom Corp. of Little Rock and Kimberly Clark, have been evacuated.** Smoke from the fire could be seen as far away as Little Rock. Little Rock television stations with cameras on the TCBY Tower broadcast images of smoke rising from the burning building about 30 miles away. **Incorporated in 1988, Detco produces cleaning chemicals as well as insecticides, water treatment chemicals, herbicides, lubricants and disinfectants.** It also has its own line of aerosol products.

Source: http://arkansasbusiness.com/news/headline_article.asp?aid=36283

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *January 06, Associated Press* — **Army orders more troops to remain in service. About 7,000 U.S. soldiers in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan who were planning to retire or otherwise leave the service in the next few months are not being allowed to leave. The Army is expanding on what it calls a "stop loss" order to keep soldiers in uniform** — even those who have met their contractual service obligation or are scheduled to retire — during a rotation of tens of thousands of troops that begins this month and is scheduled to finish in May. Colonel Elton Manske, chief of the Army's enlisted division, said on Monday, January 5, that **the move was deemed necessary to maintain the cohesion and combat effectiveness of units now operating in Iraq and Afghanistan.** Manske said the Army also is using a more common management tool to keep soldiers in uniform — it is offering bonuses of up to \$10,000 for soldiers in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan who reenlist for three years or more.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A57094-2004Jan 5.html>

4. *January 06, USA Today* — **Army updates training. The Army is overhauling its basic training to help recruits survive the particular dangers of missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. The changes enhance instruction on skills that include traveling in convoys and fighting in cities.** The program begins this month and will be in use at all basic training installations by spring. **Army basic training, a rite of passage for generations of soldiers, is designed to transform civilians into fighters by teaching them to march, shoot rifles and kill the enemy.** Every recruit attends basic training for a minimum of nine weeks. "When soldiers arrive in Baghdad and get off the planes and into Humvees, they are immediately thrust into combat operations," said Colonel William Gallagher, who commands the basic combat training brigade at Fort Benning in Georgia. "They have to go in with a mind-set that they will engage and kill the enemy on their first day in country." Among the changes the Army is making are more weapons training — recruits will be taught to fire weapons other than the M-16, the standard rifle for foot soldiers, and new training on how to identify and counter remote-controlled bombs known as IEDs, or improvised explosive devices.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2004-01-06-army-training_x.htm

5. *January 05, Associated Press* — **Air Force finds defective engine parts in fighter jets. Dozens of faulty engine parts were discovered in F-16 fighter jets that fly over Arizona skies from their home base in suburban Phoenix. At least 44 defective turbine blades have been found since June in F-16 engines at Luke Air Force Base, the world's largest F-16 training facility.** The problematic parts were found when military officials ordered engine inspections after an F-16 from Luke Air Force Base crashed near Gila Bend on June 10. Investigators blamed the crash on a faulty turbine blade that caused massive engine failure. Military officials say the parts have since been repaired and extra inspections were ordered to avert crashes in the future. **Troubles with the base's F-16s are part of an Air Force-wide problem involving Pratt and Whitney engines used in some fighter jets,** said Major Jodi Unsinger of the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker Air Force Base, the installation responsible for most of the Air Force's aircraft engines. The problems stem from a manufacturing defect in blades that came from one of Pratt and Whitney's suppliers, said company spokesman Mark Sullivan. Pratt and Whitney is helping inspect the fighter jets and replace the blades as needed, Sullivan said.
Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0104ONLf16.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *January 06, Dow Jones Business News* — **U.S. Treasury undertaking survey on terrorism risk coverage.** The U.S. Department of Treasury is undertaking a broad, multi-period survey of the availability and price of terrorism risk insurance coverage. **The survey is pursuant to a Congressional directive that the Treasury assess the effectiveness of the federal Terrorism Risk Insurance program** and the likely capacity of the property and casualty insurance industry to offer insurance for terrorism risk after the program expires next year. According to a Treasury Federal Register filing, which seeks Office of Management and Budget clearance for the 2004 and 2005 phases of the survey, more than 10,000 people and organizations are expected to be surveyed.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/djus/040106/0921000752_1.html

Transportation Sector

7. *January 06, CNN* — **Saudi charged for firecrackers in luggage.** A Saudi man is facing federal felony charges after three small "firecracker-type" pyrotechnic devices were found during a search of his backpack after he arrived at Logan International Airport in Boston, MA. **Essam Mohammed Almohandis, 33, of Riyadh, was arrested this weekend after arriving on a Lufthansa flight from Frankfurt, Germany. He was charged Monday, January 5, with carrying incendiary or explosive devices on an aircraft and lying to agents who questioned him.** A bond hearing for Almohandis has been scheduled for Tuesday. The charges can carry up to 15 years in prison. **The firecrackers were about 1.5 inches long, yellow and cylindrical,** according to an affidavit accompanying the charges against Almohandis. While going through a customs check at Logan airport Saturday afternoon, Almohandis — who was carrying a backpack but no other luggage — told agents he was traveling alone to the United States on business, according to the affidavit. Almohandis consented to a search of his backpack, and the devices were found, the affidavit said. When questioned about the devices, Almohandis first told agents they were artist's pens, then later said he did not know what they were and that his wife may have placed them in his backpack.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/Northeast/01/05/boston.airport.arrest/index.html>

8. *January 06, Department of Homeland Security* — **The Department of Homeland Security plans to counter shoulder-fired missile threats to commercial aircraft.** The Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with other federal agencies, is taking an aggressive approach to counter the threat of shoulder-fired missiles to civilian commercial aviation. Homeland Security's Science and Technology division is leading the technology aspects of the effort through its Counter-MAN Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) Special Program Office. This Office will help determine the viability, economic costs and effectiveness of adapting existing technology from military to commercial aviation use. **Following an aggressive 18–24 month analysis, prototype demonstration and testing phase, Homeland Security will provide the Administration and Congress with a recommendation for the most viable solution to defend against shoulder-fired missiles.** In December 2002, the Homeland Security Council and the National Security Council convened an interagency task force representing 21 agencies and offices including the Departments of Defense, Treasury and Homeland Security as well the Federal Aviation Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation to develop an aggressive plan to assess and counter the MANPADS threat.
Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=2735>

9. *January 06, Reuters* — **U.S.–Paris flight lands after false alarm.** A flight from Paris landed safely at its U.S. destination on Tuesday but its passengers were taken away for additional screening after a security scare caused by a woman's coat. **The Boeing 767 jetliner, Delta Flight No. 43 operated under a code sharing arrangement with Air France, landed at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport about an hour late.** The 184 passengers and 12 crew were removed from the plane by stairway at a remote area and taken to the terminal. A federal law enforcement official in Washington said agents from the FBI's Louisville, Kentucky, office would interview the passengers out of an "abundance of caution."

One U.S. official said a young woman was denied boarding in Paris because she was wearing a jacket with wires and a battery connected to it apparently for heating the coat. A French Interior Ministry spokesman said the woman was stopped at Charles de Gaulle airport after a security search found the jacket but bomb disposal experts confirmed the wires were for a warming device and the woman was not a terror suspect.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=domesticNews&storyID=4082974>

10. *January 06, The Christian Science Monitor* — **Egyptian crash spotlights air-charter safety record.** A row has broken out over the safety record of the Egyptian airliner that crashed near Sharm el-Sheikh Saturday, January 3, killing all 148 people aboard, in the wake of revelations that the plane had been banned from landing in Switzerland for safety reasons. The worst crash in French history has focused attention on the low-cost charter airlines that fly millions of European holidaymakers every year to destinations all over the world. **Tour operators say that the charter companies save money, enabling them to offer the lowest fares in the sky, by filling their planes, not by cutting safety corners. Planes owned by charter companies do crash much more often than those operated by standard airlines, relative to the number of miles they fly.** The responsibility for ensuring airplane safety lies with the national authorities of an aviation company's home country. A recent report by the International Civil Aviation Organization gave Egypt high marks for maintaining standards, and French Transport Minister Gilles de Robien said Monday that Flash Airlines had "a good reputation." The European Union is close to adopting tough new regulations that will force member governments to check any plane that has been found faulty in the past by another country's inspectors, according to Gilles Gantelet, spokesman for the European Commission.

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0107/p07s01-wogi.html>

11. *January 05, Federal Computer Week* — **US-VISIT tests exit technology.** The exit portion of the newly-launched system for tracking foreign visitors to the United States is being tested in Baltimore, MD, and Miami, FL. **Starting January 5, travelers at Baltimore Washington International Airport and selected Miami Seaport cruise line terminals will use automated kiosks when exiting the country. The kiosks are the first of several exit solutions for the U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) system that will be tested throughout 2004,** according to Bob Mocny, US-VISIT deputy director. Travelers will be required to scan their visas and fingerprints to confirm their departure. This will let officials know if they have overstayed their visas. Officials will evaluate the pilot tests before determining the proper exit technology. For example, the exit system ultimately may include handheld devices in place of or in addition to the kiosks, for example, Mocny said. The first phase of the system was launched at 115 airports and 14 seaports, collecting biometric data on foreign visitors entering the country.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0105/web-mocny-01-05-04.asp>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

12. *January 06, DM News* — **UPS, FedEx get more time for arguments in Astar case.** UPS and FedEx Corp. received an extension last week to make their argument for a review of a recommendation to allow rival Astar Air Cargo to fly as a U.S. airline. The U.S. Department of

Transportation (DOT) gave the airlines until January 23 instead of January 12 to file their petitions and let them use 50 pages to make their argument instead of 20. The challenge by UPS and FedEx comes after a DOT administrative law judge issued a recommended decision December 19 that Astar Air Cargo, formerly DHL Airways, is owned and controlled by U.S. citizens, allowing the airline to continue hauling packages domestically and internationally for Deutsche Post's DHL Worldwide Express unit. **FedEx and UPS are challenging the ownership and control structure of DHL Airways, arguing that it remains controlled by Brussels-based DHL Worldwide Express and its parent Deutsche Post despite being sold last summer to a group of American investors and renamed Astar. Under federal law, an airline owned or controlled by a foreign entity cannot carry passengers or freight between U.S. based locations.**

Source: http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=26083

13. *January 06, Radio Free Europe* — **Italy opens task force to probe letter-bomb campaign. Two European Parliament members became the latest targets of a string of letter bombs mailed to European Union politicians Monday, December 5. At least six such packages have been received and others intercepted in the last three weeks.** Authorities suspect anarchists are behind the bombs, most of which have been sent from the Italian city of Bologna. Suspicion is also falling on a group identified as the Informal Anarchist Federation. The group took responsibility for two small bombs that exploded in garbage containers outside Romano Prodi's, president of the European Commission, house a few days before he opened a parcel bomb. Little is known about the group. **Italy is setting up a European task force to curb anarchist unrest. The Interior Ministry says it will coordinate the force, which will involve experts from other European countries, such as France, Greece, and Spain.** There's only so much you can do to prevent such attacks, John Purvis, a Scottish MEP, noted. "Democratic parliaments are open to the public. We want our constituents to come here and visit us, and they're also invited to write in and send in what they want."

Source: <http://www.rferl.org/nca/features/2004/01/06012004165831.asp>

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Agriculture Sector

14. *January 06, Iowa Ag Connection* — **Downer slaughter ban snarls mad cow tests.** Now that the nation has its first case of mad cow disease, federal officials want to know whether there are others. The Bush administration is promising to nearly double the number of cattle tested for mad cow disease in 2004. **The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) complicated the testing by banning slaughterhouses from accepting cattle that are too sick or injured to walk. Testing so-called downer animals at packing plants has been the USDA's prime method of checking for the disease.** That is how the first U.S. case was discovered last month in Washington state. Because of the ban on slaughtering the cattle, farmers will be forced to dispose of the animals on their farms or pay rendering plants to take them away. **The ban "may actually make it more difficult for the USDA to identify other potential cases,"** said Rep. Charles Stenholm of Texas, the senior Democrat on the House Agriculture Committee. Downer cattle are considered the highest risks for having the fatal brain disease. An estimated 200,000 downed cattle are slaughtered annually. About 200 of them each year, like the Washington cow, show some neurological problems that could be associated with mad cow

disease.

Source: <http://www.iowaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=9&yr=2004>

15. *January 06, Nebraska Ag Connection* — **Nebraska Department of Agriculture ram project testing to begin.** The Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Industry, has received a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary Service, to be used to advance the efforts in Nebraska for scrapie eradication. **The "Nebraska Ram Project," is aimed at enhancing flock resistance to scrapie in Nebraska. The Nebraska Ram Project will focus on genetic testing of rams. The tests will look for animals that carry the "R" resistance gene for scrapie.** Only flock sires (rams) will be tested because they have the greatest impact for development of scrapie resistance in replacement breeding stock.

Source: <http://www.nebraskaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=5&yr=2004>

16. *January 06, Reuters* — **Asian soy rust found in Brazil. Asian soybean rust, a devastating fungus, was found in several areas in the north of Parana state, Brazil's No. 2 soy producer, the government's agricultural research agency (Embrapa) said on Tuesday.** It follows the discovery of the disease in November in Mato Grosso state, Brazil's No. 1 soy producer, as well as in the neighboring center-west state of Goias. "Outbreaks discovered so far (in Parana) are concentrated in the districts of Londrina, Maua de Serra, Bela Vista do Paraiso, Rolandia, Arapongas, and Apucarana," Embrapa Soy's manager Vania Castiglioni said in a statement. Embrapa said that the disease had arrived earlier this year in Parana due to favorable mild and humid weather. "We are advising all producers to closely monitor their crops. Soy rust can only be controlled if it's discovered early," Castiglioni added. **In 2002 and 2003 farmers lost three million tons of the 52 million tons soy crop due to Asian soybean rust, mainly in the center-west and in the western part of Bahia state.** However, losses are expected to be smaller this year because farmers are ready to spray at the first sign of the fungus that causes leaves of soy plants to fall and sharply reduces yields.

Source: http://www.agriculture.com/worldwide/IDS/2004-01-06T165819Z_01_N06255324_RTRIDST_0_FOOD-BRAZIL-SOY-RUST.html

17. *January 06, Kansas City Star* — **New way to track cattle.** A steer or heifer might change hands a half dozen times before it arrives on the killing floor. A brand won't tell you all the places the animal grazed, what calves it bore, what mills it fed from. The ownership of perhaps ten percent of American cattle can't be traced completely. Even for the rest, a hodgepodge paper trail can take months to reveal a cow's heritage and travels. **The federal government is launching a high-tech plan to track in 48 hours precisely where cattle, swine, and small cud-chewing livestock are born, bred, and fed.** It's not scheduled to go into effect until July 2005. The new tracing plan was developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture last October. One company uses radio tags similar to those all cattle in America will soon bear to make the record-keeping seamless with computer data banks. **The animals wear ear tags that carry radio frequency identification devices. As an animal passes through a chute, or within about eight feet of an electronic reader, a signal turns on the chip and the animals' progress is charted in a computer.**

Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/news/nation/7644871.htm>

18.

January 06, Associated Press — **U.S. confirms mad cow came from Canada. Genetic testing confirms that the cow diagnosed with the first U.S. case of mad cow disease was born in Canada, agriculture officials said Tuesday.** The test results will allow investigators to intensify their search for the source of infection, most likely from contaminated feed, in Alberta, where the Holstein was born in 1997. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman announced the mad cow diagnosis on December 23, the first time the disease has been found in the United States since its discovery in Great Britain in the mid-1980s.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=519&e=3&u=/ap/20040106/ap_on_re_us/mad_cow

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Food Sector

19. *January 06, Associated Press* — **Mexico to consider importing some U.S. beef.** Mexico could reopen its borders to some cuts of U.S. beef and relax a ban imposed after discovery of a case of mad cow disease in Washington state, agriculture officials said Tuesday, January 6. **It could take months to grant the partial reopening, because Mexican experts must first visit the U.S. and determine that anti-disease controls are adequate, officials said.** Those visits are expected to start next week. "An exception would be made for those kind of meat products that are considered low-risk," said Javier Trujillo, director of safety and inspection at Mexico's Agriculture Department. He noted that after Mexico banned Canadian beef in 2002, it took four months before exemptions were granted for certain cuts. **Trujillo suggested that only U.S. beef cuts containing no nerve tissue, and cattle under two years of age, might be allowed in.** Cattle take several years to develop the disease. Trujillo also said he believes the U.S. infection "is an isolated case" and that in Mexico's view, sanctions currently imposed against countries with isolated cases "are too severe and only serve to discourage reporting." Mexico banned imports of all U.S. cattle and beef on December 24. **Mexico was the top buyer of U.S. beef in 2002, importing 384,900 tons.**

Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/business/7645168.htm>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

20. *January 06, Irish Examiner* — **Japan develops device to combat bioterrorism. Reports from the Japanese press say that a Japanese company has developed a device that can identify microbes such as anthrax in about one hour, making it useful in fighting bioterrorism.** The company, a developer of bio-related equipment, will start shipping its product which can identify microscopic organisms in a variety of substances including soil, clothes, and blood, in coming months to the U.S. military and medical research institutions. **Currently germs need**

to be cultured in a medium for several days before they can be identified. The new device can perform the task in just one hour with a degree of accuracy, even when the number of microbes in the test sample is very small. The device is portable, weighing a little more than 10kg and standing just under 50 centimetres high.

Source: <http://www.irisht Examiner.com/breaking/2004/01/06/story128299.html>

21. *January 06, innovations report* — **Parasite's enzyme structure helps address a public health issue.** Researchers in the laboratory of Amy Anderson, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Dartmouth, have unveiled the structure of an enzyme called dihydrofolate reductase–thymidylate synthase (DHFR–TS), from a waterborne parasite called *Cryptosporidium hominis*. **Knowing the chemical structure of the enzyme will help researchers design highly targeted drugs to combat the parasite, which needs this enzyme to reproduce.** "We wanted to know how DHFR–TS is assembled and how it works," said Anderson. "Then we'll know how to disable it and kill the parasite." The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have been watching *Cryptosporidium* and tracking its impact on human populations, where it spreads easily and quickly, for more than 20 years. **According to the CDC, *Cryptosporidium* is often found in public water supplies in the U.S. and cannot be easily filtered out or killed by traditional treatments like chlorine. Currently, there is no cure.** The study helps better define the evolution of this protozoan family that includes *Plasmodium*, which causes malaria, and *Toxoplasma*, which induces toxoplasmosis, a disease that can lead to central nervous system disorders.

Source: http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/life_sciences/report-24493.html

22. *January 06, Voice of America* — **No conclusive evidence linking civet to SARS.** The World Health Organization (WHO) has cast doubt on China's decision to kill thousands of animals it believes may be responsible for the emergence of one case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in the southern province of Guangdong. Iain Simpson, spokesman for the WHO, says there is no conclusive evidence linking the civet cat, to the SARS outbreak. **"We believe that more research is needed, and we also believe that if the cull is to be carried out, it is essential that it be carried out in a controlled way, because there is a risk of both human and environmental contamination," he said.** Simpson says a thorough risk assessment should be done before any mass killing of civet cats. Civet cat is a term applied to several types of mongoose. Civet cats are hunted or raised as food. The type of SARS found in civet cats is almost identical to the type that affects humans. **The WHO is concerned that focusing entirely on the animals might divert attention from other possible causes for the re-emergence of the disease. The WHO is also concerned that any crackdown on street markets where civet cats are sold would drive the trade to secret locations, where it would be impossible to monitor or control.**

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectID=A5B75D7D-E485-4D73-AB9DAB56C41FBC41>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

23. *January 06, Hattiesburg American (MS)* — **Project gives deputies data about drivers.** Forrest County, MS, deputies who pull over suspicious vehicles soon will be able to get immediate information about the vehicles and their occupants when the county joins an information project already under way on the Gulf Coast. The board of supervisors on Monday authorized Sheriff Billy McGee to join the Automated System Project, which ultimately will allow deputies to check a suspect's outstanding warrants, bond history and car tag information from their patrol cars. **"It automates the (record management) system and gives you what Mississippi needs, which is statewide interconnectivity," McGee said. In other words, the system will create a central, accessible server for all local law enforcement records to Jackson, Harrison, Hancock and Forrest county deputies, in addition to 13 coastal cities' officers. Currently law enforcement agencies share local information over the telephone or by radio, which forces officers to contact their dispatchers for computer checks on violators.** Forrest County's access to the system will be free for five years, with the federal government picking up the tab. After that period, the county would have to pay its share of the \$22 million program on a pro rata basis. The amount would depend on how many other agencies are involved.

Source: http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/news/stories/20040106/loc_alnews/176543.html

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

24. *January 06, Government Technology* — **Broadband lines surpass 100 million worldwide.** According to a survey by British firm Point Topic, worldwide broadband Internet lines surpassed 100 million in 2003. The total number of broadband lines rose to more than 89 million in September, an increase of more than 10 million lines. That same percentage growth in the fourth quarter would push the global total of lines past 100 million, **making broadband Internet one of the fastest growing technologies in history.** The survey results can be found at <http://www.point-topic.com/content/dslanalysis/Broadband%20i>
[n%202003%20analysis1.htm](http://www.point-topic.com/content/dslanalysis/Broadband%20i)

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=83462>

25. *January 05, PC World* — **Security group warns of Linux flaw.** There is a critical vulnerability in the code used to manage virtual memory on Linux systems. **The vulnerability affects versions of the Linux kernel up to and including version 2.6 and would give low-level Linux users total control over a Linux system.** ISEC Security Research said Monday, January 5, that the problem is in kernel code for a component called "mremap," the core of the Linux operating system that provides basic services for all other parts of the operating system such as allocating processor time for the programs running on the computer and managing the system's memory or storage. **Attackers could use the vulnerability to create an invalid virtual memory area, which could destabilize the Linux operating system or allow a malicious user to run attack code on the system.** Attackers would need local user access to the vulnerable machine, but would not need any special privileges on the Linux

system to exploit the hole, ISEC said. **ISEC said they have developed test code to exploit the mremap vulnerability.** Users should fix vulnerable systems as soon as software patches became available from their vendor. The original advisory is available here:

<http://isec.pl/vulnerabilities04.html>

Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/resource/printable/article/0.aid.1140.88.00.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), 21 (ftp), 137 (netbios-ns), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 80 (www), 445 (microsoft-ds), 6129 (dameware), 139 (netbios-ssn), 53 (domain), 1433 (ms-sql-s) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

26. *January 06, New York Times* — **Double bomb blast in Afghan town. As many as 17 people were killed and dozens were wounded in a double bomb blast in the southern town of Kandahar, in Afghanistan, Tuesday.** A statement from the office of President Hamid Karzai said that at least 8 children were among the dead, and that 58 people were wounded. The first bomb, in a gas cylinder, exploded but did not injure anyone. The second was far bigger and went off 10 to 15 minutes later in the same place, killing and wounding many people who had gathered at the site of the first blast, said Mohammad Nabi Majrooh, the head of the police criminal investigation department in Kandahar. **The governor of Kandahar, Yousuf Pashtun, blamed the Taliban movement for the blasts.** The bomb that did the damage had been laid underground and was probably set off by remote control, the police investigator, Majrooh, said. Casualties by evening had risen to 17 dead and 43 injured, he said. "We had information that the Taliban was going to explode several bombs in Kandahar," Pashtun said. "We found four bombs in recent days but unfortunately we did not find this one before it exploded." **Soldiers caught two suspects fleeing the scene, and were searching for four more men, he said.**
 Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2004/01/06/international/asia/06CND-A_FGH.html

27.

January 06, CNN — **North Korea offers 'bold' nuke deal.** In what Pyongyang calls "one more bold concession" aimed at resolving the standoff over its nuclear weapons programs, **North Korea says it would stop testing and producing nuclear weapons, as well as cease operating its nuclear power industry, to get the six–nations talks started again,** the official North Korean state news service reported Tuesday, January 6. **In exchange for freezing its nuclear program, North Korea wants the United States to take Pyongyang off its terrorism list; lift political, economic and military sanctions; and supply heavy oil, power and other energy resources.** In the past, Washington has shot down similar proposals, saying it wants North Korea to begin dismantling its nuclear program, not just freeze it. Representatives of six nations -- the U.S., China, Russia, Japan and the two Koreas -- held talks in Beijing in August over Pyongyang's nuclear program, but failed to set a date for another round of talks. February appears to be the soonest another round of talks could be held.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/asiapcf/east/01/06/nkorea.nuclear/index.html>

28. *January 06, Reuters* — **Iran–Egypt ties could yield al Qaeda suspects. A thaw between Iran and Egypt could help pave the way for a breakthrough on an important issue dividing Tehran from Washington -- accusations that Iran has sheltered senior al Qaeda militants** who escaped Afghanistan after the U.S. invaded in the wake of the September 11 attacks. A senior Iranian official said Tuesday, January 6, that Tehran and Cairo had agreed to restore diplomatic ties broken 25 years ago, although Egypt said a final decision had yet to be taken. **"This move is certainly a breakthrough between the two countries and it could well pave the way for the handover of al Qaeda suspects,"** said Kevin Rosser, Middle East expert at Control Risks Group security consultancy. Iran denies al Qaeda operated from its territory but says it is holding unnamed militants in custody. It has held talks with other countries, including Egypt, a strong U.S. ally in the Middle East, to extradite suspects. **The most important figure Western intelligence agencies say may be in Iran is an Egyptian -- Saif al–Adel, al Qaeda's security chief.**
Source: http://wireservice.wired.com/wired/story.asp?section=Breaking&storyId=811605&tw=wn_wire_story

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