



Department of Homeland Security IAIP Directorate Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 July 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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Daily Overview

- Reuters reports law enforcement officials say they are looking for a man seen taking pictures of two refineries in Texas City, TX. (See item [4](#))
- The Honolulu Star–Bulletin reports eighteen percent of Honolulu air traffic controllers are eligible to retire, part of a nationwide looming crisis in manpower that threatens to disrupt travel by increasing delays and decreasing flights. (See item [9](#))
- Information Week reports Mississippi is in the midst of upgrading its public–safety information and communications infrastructure, using federal money to create an integrated system that may serve as a model for the nation. (See item [29](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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

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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. *July 20, Reuters* — **Transformer fire in Arizona. Arizona Public Service Co. said Tuesday, July 20, about 50,000 homes and businesses in the Phoenix, AZ–area lost power during a heat wave overnight due to a fire that damaged a transformer at a substation.** The utility said it cut the number of customers without power to about 13,000 by about 4:30 a.m. MT. The demand for power in Phoenix was above–average for this time of year due to forecast calling for high temperatures to remain at above–normal levels (109–112 degrees Fahrenheit) for the rest of the week, compared with the city's normal high of 104 degrees. The damaged

transformer was one of three 230,000 volt transformers at the Deer Valley substation in Phoenix. The company said it has a spare transformer and fire officials were at the scene. Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/040720/utilities_pinnaclewest_fire_2.html

2. *July 20, NewsNet5 (OH)* — **Emergency declared at power plant. The Perry Nuclear Power Plant, located near Cleveland, OH, is operating normally Tuesday, July 20, after an emergency was declared.** Akron, OH–based FirstEnergy Corp, operators of the power plant in Lake County, notified the Emergency Operations Center 3:44 a.m. about the alert, classified as the second–lowest level of emergency classification at nuclear power facilities. Just after 9 a.m., the event was terminated and the plant returned to normal operating status, Lake County Commissioners said. **Officials said an instrument malfunction caused the emergency to be declared. It indicated a false reading in a plant ventilation system.** The system processes and filters gas from the plant's turbine. The monitor instrument will be repaired Tuesday. No protective actions had to be issued to the public and no radiation was released to the environment. Technicians took multiple gas samples to verify the reading was incorrect. Source: <http://www.newsnet5.com/news/3551127/detail.html>

3. *July 19, Associated Press* — **California sets record for electricity use.** Three years after a wave of blackouts, California set a record for electricity use Monday, July 19, however, the system held steady, the state's power grid manager said. **The spike in demand nonetheless caused the California Independent System Operator (ISO) to call for energy conservation as a heat wave was expected to hit northern California later in the week.** "The most remarkable aspect of that is we were not in a major heat wave today," ISO spokesperson Stephanie McCorkle. "There's a lot more load out there than you would normally see." The record was attributed to temperatures that topped 90 degrees in much of the state, a rebounding economy, and the state's rapid population growth. At 4:26 p.m., demand reached 44,042 megawatts of electricity, breaking the previous record of 43,609 megawatts set on July 12, 1999, the ISO said. Construction of new power plants has helped ease peak demand and cut the number of alerts issued when reserves dip low and blackouts are possible. **The ISO ordered power plants not to perform any unplanned maintenance or repairs until temperatures begin to cool.** Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-Electricity-Peak.html>

4. *July 19, Reuters* — **Man sought for photographing refineries. Law enforcement officials said on Monday, July 19, they are looking for a man seen taking pictures of two refineries in Texas City, TX.** Texas City, located on the Texas Gulf coast about 30 miles south of Houston, has three refineries including the largest U.S. plant operated by BP Plc., which is the third–largest U.S. refinery, processing 470,000 barrels of crude oil per day. The man was seen taking pictures outside the refineries, all located on the same highway, at about 5 p.m. CDT on Saturday, July 17, said Bruce Clawson, emergency management and homeland security director for Texas City. **While it is not illegal to take pictures of a refinery from a highway or street, officials would like to talk to the man to find out his reason for taking the photographs.** Valero Energy Corp. operates a 243,000 barrel per day (bpd) refinery in Texas City. Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC operates a 76,000 bpd refinery in Texas City. **The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation has repeatedly warned refiners that they are possible targets for would–be terrorists.** U.S. refinery security officials say their security guards regularly report people observing or taking pictures of refineries.

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *July 20, Clinton Herald (IA)* — **Officials investigate mercury spills.** City, county and state officials are continuing their investigation into what led to mercury spills that closed Clinton, IA's post office and led to the evacuation of a residence Monday, July 19. The Clinton Post Office and a Clinton residence at 235 N. Bluff Blvd. were evacuated around 5 p.m. on Monday. **Those closures happened after an investigation by the Clinton Fire Department determined there were possible mercury spills in the back of a mail truck and in the back of the post office. The post office was evacuated and the truck was locked and secured.** A fire department crew was then sent to 235 N. Bluff Blvd, the address where the leaking package was delivered. Clinton Fire Department Battalion Chief Mark Stremlow stated the Davenport Hazmat team was called to respond to the scene. County Emergency Management Director Wally Henry was also notified of the incident. Crews secured the residence on North Bluff Boulevard and evacuated the resident, who was transported to Mercy North Hospital for evaluation. Two postal employees were also transported to the hospital for evaluation; they and the resident were treated and released. When the Davenport Hazmat team arrived on North Bluff Boulevard, they secured the house.

Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=12404088&BRD=1408&PAG=461&dept_id=463231&rfti=6

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *July 20, Aerospace Daily & Defense Report* — **U.S. Navy close to defining international role in new program.** The U.S. Navy soon will lay out a plan for including other countries in its Multi-mission Maritime Aircraft (MMA) development effort, a program official said Monday, July 19. **Within the next few weeks, the Navy will roll out a "policy position" spelling out the extent of potential international involvement in MMA, said Capt. Steve Eastburg, the Navy's program manager for maritime surveillance aircraft.** The policy position could pave the way for significant international industrial participation in the program, as well as the placement of foreign representatives in the U.S. government's program office, Eastburg said. Eastburg said MMA has generated a "lot of international interest," especially among many of the 15 countries that fly the P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft, which MMA is designed to replace. **The U.S. Navy plans to buy 108 MMAs, mainly for anti-submarine warfare, but also for reconnaissance and anti-surface ship warfare.** The Navy wants MMA to achieve an initial operational capability in 2013. Eastburg views the aircraft as the "the poster child for network-centric warfare" because it will be capable of long flights and come heavily equipped with data links and other information-sharing devices.

Source: http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_aerospacedaily_story.jsp?id=news/mma07204.xml

Banking and Finance Sector

7. *July 20, TechWeb News* — **Source code thieves back in business. The brazen hacker bunch that last week shilled stolen source code is back in business, but has abandoned the Web and instead is relying on Usenet to advertise its services.** Self-dubbed the Source Code Club, the group has moved operations to a Usenet newsgroup, according to a message posted to the Full Disclosure security mailing list by someone claiming to be "Larry Hobbles." The group says it has the source code of Enterasys Networks' Dragon intrusion detection system and Roxio's Napster file-sharing software. It shifted to the online discussion group because "we feel usenet is better suited for us," according to a newsletter posted to the alt.gap.international.sales newsgroup. A more likely explanation is that a Website can be easily shut down by a hosting service, while Usenet newsgroups cannot. **Beyond the source code it is advertising, the group claims it can obtain almost any information by hacking into corporate networks.**

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/story/TWB20040720S0003>

8. *July 20, Internetnews.com* — **MasterCard, others plug script injection leak. Credit card giant MasterCard was among a slew of online financial institutions rushing to fix Website design flaws that put users at risk of phishing attacks.** After British researcher Sam Greenhalgh posted demos of cross-site scripting and script-injection flaws on sites run by MasterCard, Barclaycard, Natwest and WorldPay, the financial firms moved to plug the holes. **Greenhalgh's discovery of the "oversight of some basic security flaws" highlights the security risks faced by financial institutions looking to do business online.** While most phishing attacks typically redirect users to fake Websites resembling the target site, Greenhalgh found that the new attack scenarios could allow hackers to hijack sensitive financial data from within the bank's Website, even if SSL security features were being used. "What makes cross-site scripting vulnerabilities far more dangerous is that the genuine site is itself manipulated to display spurious content, rendering it almost undetectable to the victim," Greenhalgh explained. Netcraft, a firm that offers application testing and code review services, said Greenhalgh's findings will put pressure on the banks to eliminate design flaws for their sites.

Source: <http://www.internetnews.com/security/article.php/3383651>

Transportation Sector

9. *July 20, Honolulu Star-Bulletin (HI)* — **Staffing crisis looms for isle air traffic control. Eighteen percent of Honolulu air traffic controllers are eligible to retire, part of a nationwide "looming crisis" in manpower that threatens to disrupt travel by increasing delays and decreasing flights, say industry officials.** The problem is compounded here because it takes three to five years to train controllers for the Honolulu air traffic control center, which is already shorthanded. Controllers are eligible for early retirement after 25 years of service or if they are 50 and have worked as a controller for 20 years. They are required,

though, to retire at 56. Fifteen of Honolulu's 83 air traffic controllers were eligible to retire in February, Sherry said. And at least three of the 12 to 15 controllers employed at airports on Maui and the Big Island are also eligible, he said. **Controller retirements are a problem nationally, too. By 2010 nearly half of the nation's 15,000 air traffic controllers will have retired, according to union and government statistics. If nothing is done, airports across the country will start seeing the effects of short-staffed control centers in the next four to five years, Sherry said.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is working on a plan to meet the staffing demands of the air traffic controllers' retirement wave, and is expected to address Congress with a possible solution in December.

Source: <http://starbulletin.com/2004/07/13/news/story2.html>

10. *July 20, TheBostonChannel.com* — **Harbor patrols, security stepped up.** The U.S. Coast Guard, state police and other agencies began stepped-up security patrols in Boston Harbor Tuesday, July 20, to prepare for the Democratic National Convention. **Beginning this week, the harbor will see the highest security it has ever seen. The Coast Guard is coordinating the overall effort that stretches from the FleetCenter to the federal courthouse to Logan International Airport on the other side of the harbor.** The goal is to keep most of the harbor open for the public, but it will not be business as usual. "It includes increased harbor patrols that will occur on the water, in the air and on land, an increase in the number of security boardings on vessels approaching or operating within Boston Harbor," said Coast Guard Capt. Brian Salerno.

Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/3551650/detail.html>

11. *July 20, Philadelphia Inquirer* — **Amtrak's Philadelphia-Harrisburg line to get \$145 million. Amtrak passengers from Philadelphia to Harrisburg could enjoy a shorter, smoother ride by 2007. That is when a \$145 million rehabilitation announced today is expected to be complete, said Amtrak president David L. Gunn.** If congressional support of Amtrak continues, the project will turn the current two-hour, bumpy trip into a 105-minute ride, Gunn said. Express trains will make the run in 90 minutes, he added. Amtrak and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation will each pay half the cost to smooth 72 miles of track, upgrade signals, rehabilitate the electrical power system -- reversing decades of neglect on the once-grand Main Line of the venerable Pennsylvania Railroad. Just last week, a House funding subcommittee offered only \$900 million for Amtrak's operation in 2005, half of the \$1.8 billion Gunn sought to continue long-needed capital improvements on the nation's passenger railroad. To counter the instability of Amtrak's funding, Gov. Rendell has pledged \$100 million upfront to sustain the Keystone Corridor initiative.

Source: <http://www.philly.com/mld/philly/news/local/9198396.htm?1c>

12. *July 20, Associated Press* — **All bags screened at Hobby, probe finds. Claims that unscreened luggage was repeatedly loaded onto passenger jets at Dallas-Fort Worth's Hobby Airport have been disproved in a federal investigation, security officials say.** The federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has received complaints from several airport screeners that mechanical failures at Hobby resulted in a large backlog of unscreened luggage and that airline officials, upset by delays in flight departures, successfully pressured the TSA to load bags onto passenger jets without checking them. But two internal investigations found no evidence that unscreened luggage was loaded onto passenger jets, said Andrea McCauley, a spokesperson for the TSA in Dallas-Fort Worth. However, Clarice Gaines, a lead

screeener at Hobby who disagrees with the findings, wants an independent agency to investigate the claims. Screeners have also called or written to members of Congress and reporters about their concerns arising out of the luggage backlogs on March 12 and June 21.

Source: <http://www.wfaa.com/s/dws/news/texasouthwest/stories/072004dntexairport.23a6d.html>

13. *July 20, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-04-985T: Pipeline Safety: Preliminary Information on the Office of Pipeline Safety's Actions to Strengthen Its Enforcement Program (Report)**. Interstate pipelines carrying natural gas and hazardous liquids (such as petroleum products) are safer to the public than other modes of freight transportation. The Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), the federal agency that administers the national regulatory program to ensure safe pipeline transportation, has been undertaking a broad range of activities to make pipeline transportation safer. However, the number of serious accidents— those involving deaths, injuries, and property damage of \$50,000 or more—has not fallen. When safety problems are found, OPS can take enforcement action against pipeline operators, including requiring the correction of safety violations and assessing monetary sanctions (civil penalties). This testimony is based on ongoing work for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and for other committees, as required by the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002. The testimony provides preliminary results on (1) the effectiveness of OPS's enforcement strategy and (2) OPS's assessment of civil penalties. **GAO expects to issue a report in the next several days that will address these and other topics and anticipates making recommendations aimed at improving OPS's enforcement program and management controls over civil penalty collection.** Highlights:
<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04985thigh.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-985T>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

14. *July 20, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **Manitoba and Saskatchewan wheat threatened by fusarium. The quality of this year's wheat crop in western Canada is being threatened by fusarium, according to industry officials.** Bruce Burnett, a Weather and Crop Specialist with the Canadian Wheat Board, said it was too early to determine the quality of the crop, but he said fusarium concerns in Manitoba and parts of Saskatchewan were legitimate. Fusarium, also known as scab, is a colorless spore that causes a fungal disease on cereal crops. **The disease can lower the yield and the grade of a particular crop and also can contaminate the grain with fungal toxins.** Wheat crops are particularly vulnerable to fusarium under conditions of extreme heat and high humidity. Burnett did not have any specific numbers, but he said the areas in Saskatchewan and Manitoba that are vulnerable to fusarium infection encompass a significant amount of western Canada's wheat-production area. He said much of

southern Manitoba, in particular the Red River Valley region, and most of southeastern Saskatchewan have reported fusarium outbreaks in the past.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=26293

15. *July 20, USAgNet* — **Roundup Ready Corn 2 technology gets EU approval.** The European Commission has approved the import, processing, and use in animal feed of Monsanto's NK603 Roundup Ready Corn grain in the European Union (EU), conditional upon its pending approval under the EU Novel Foods Regulation. NK603 corn, which is designed to be tolerant to the active ingredient in Roundup agricultural herbicides, is currently marketed as Roundup Ready Corn 2. **The approval does not include the approval of Roundup Ready Corn 2 for cultivation in the EU, which is the subject of a separate submission.** "We're hopeful that this is a signal that the European Communities and its Member States are serious about ending the moratorium on biotech approvals," said Brett Begemann, Executive Vice-President of International Commercial for Monsanto.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=749&yr=2004>

16. *July 20, Caspar Star Tribune (WY)* — **Infected herd commingled with elk. A Jackson cattle herd found to be infected in June with brucellosis might have picked up the disease after commingling with elk near a state feedground, state officials said Monday, July 19.** Though the herd grazed in the vicinity of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, officials don't believe the latest brucellosis outbreak was transmitted to cattle from bison. Wyoming lost its federal brucellosis-free status in February after infected cattle were found in a Sublette County herd and in a herd near Worland. In a setback to livestock producers, a third case of brucellosis was confirmed July 8 in a Jackson area cattle herd. The single, 11-year old cow was first identified in late June, when it was tested as part of a herd-wide move to summer pasture in Idaho. The cow was the only animal within a 105-head herd that tested positive. The cow was calfhood vaccinated with the vaccine known as Strain 19. It had also tested negatively for the disease in blood tests drawn several times over the past few years. State Veterinarian Jim Logan said officials are confident the infection is new to the herd. He noted the cow had recently given birth to a live, healthy animal. Logan said cows in the Jackson herd did winter for several grazing seasons near the Game and Fish Department's Dog Creek elk feedground in Teton County.

Source: <http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2004/07/20/news/wyoming/a5c98269c0c4a1c587256ed700034135.txt>

17. *July 19, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Interim national animal ID system.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Monday, July 19, announced that it has selected a premises registration system, as an interim solution, that will record locations where animals reside or will reside. This is an important first step in the implementation of a national animal identification system (NAIS). The Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium developed the system. "Before animals can be tracked during a disease outbreak, we need to know where the animals are located," said APHIS Administrator W. Ron DeHaven. **"Registering animal premises is a key component of a national animal identification system and will help trace animal movements during any future outbreaks."** The interim system was selected based on the results of an independent review. Currently, USDA is enhancing the system for use in multiple states and will provide it to a limited number of states in early August. It will be phased-in to

ensure that any problems can be addressed before it is available nationally. USDA will provide the interim standardized premises registration system that states or tribes can elect to use. States and tribes also can use other premises registration systems, as long as these systems meet national data standards.

Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/news/2004/07/premreg_vs.html

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Food Sector

18. July 20, *Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — Tainted tomatoes blamed in Salmonella outbreak. A salmonella outbreak among at least 110 people who ate deli sandwiches from a convenience store chain has been traced to contaminated tomatoes, officials said. The tomatoes were supplied to the Sheetz stores by Coronet Foods of Wheeling, WV, Sheetz, based in Altoona, PA, pulled all tomatoes and lettuce from its 300-plus stores in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina after the salmonella cases were first reported last week. The stores sanitized their deli areas, switched suppliers, and brought in new produce. An unopened bag of tomatoes from a Sheetz store in Greencastle, PA, tested positive for the bacteria, officials said. "This test result brings us one step closer to understanding this outbreak," said Joel Hersh, director of epidemiology at the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Officials at Coronet Foods said in a statement the company tested all areas and equipment but found no evidence of contamination. The company said it still decided to suspend purchasing and processing Roma tomatoes, which represent one percent of its line. State health officials said that 110 people were sickened in Pennsylvania alone.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=26292

19. July 20, *Seattle Times (WA)* — Samples fail to meet goal at mad cow testing lab. The shipment of cow brains arrived at Washington State University (WSU) in six identical FedEx boxes. The recent delivery was the largest yet for the laboratory where mad cow tests for Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana are conducted. Inside the containers: a total of 14 brain samples. That's a small fraction of the 100 specimens the lab was prepared to process daily when it opened June 1. **As of Monday, July 19, the WSU lab had processed 288 brain samples in the seven weeks the program has been under way. To meet its target of 25,000 animals from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana over the next year, the lab should be getting about 2,000 specimens a month.** The slow start in the region illustrates some of the problems the U.S. Department of Agriculture's inspector general warned about last week. The goal of that program is to test as many as 268,000 cattle nationwide — a tenfold increase over last year — in a one-time push to learn whether the brain-wasting disease is present in America's herds. The WSU lab is one of seven testing facilities across the country. The inspector general's report said the program is flawed because it relies on a chaotic patchwork of voluntary agreements with slaughterhouses and rendering plants that vary widely and could undermine the goal of random sampling.

Source: http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2001983692_m_adlab20m.html

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Water Sector

20. *July 19, Houston Business Journal* — **Firm hopes water demand runneth over. American PureTex Water Corp. is ready to sell underground water in metropolitan areas. The Houston, TX, based company recently announced acquisition rights to 24 trillion gallons of subterranean water in Austin, Colorado, and Wharton counties.** The company plans to market the aquifer water in Houston and San Antonio. The company envisions development of a pipeline system that will take six years to build and cost an expected \$350 million. A study is under way on how to deliver the water. Houston officials say a 30–year to 35 year water supply is available now, and pending water rights permits for surface water supplies would serve the city through the year 2050.

Source: http://houston.bizjournals.com/houston/stories/2004/07/19/st_ory2.html

21. *July 19, Associated Press* — **NMSU finds lead in water at housing complex. New Mexico State University (NMSU) is replacing water filtration systems and taking other action to remedy water problems at a student housing complex. A school officials says elevated levels of lead were found in drinking water in some units of the complex at NMSU last summer.** However, NMSU facilities director Rich MacRorie said the school wasn't sure what action needed to be taken. **Residents weren't alerted of the problem and it wasn't fixed.** A university spokesman says the source of the lead is believed to be lead solder used in plumbing joints in that complex. The state has sent a violation letter alerting the university of a failure to monitor for lead and copper and specifying the next steps the university should take. Monitoring is continuing and the university is installing filtration systems.

Source: http://www.kobtv.com/index.cfm?viewer=storyviewer&id=12429&c_at=4HEALTH

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Public Health Sector

22. *July 20, Durango Herald (CO)* — **Stray cat has bubonic plague. A stray cat found near the Junction Creek Campground on the Colorado Trail has tested positive for bubonic plague, an infectious disease that can be fatal to humans and animals.** A hiker spotted the cat on Sunday, July 11, and became suspicious when he noticed a large wound on the its neck, said Joe Fowler, regional epidemiologist with the San Juan Basin Health Department. The hiker returned to the site with a baited trap he obtained from the Humane Society and brought the cat to a local veterinarian. The veterinarian treated the cat for the plague after tests came back positive for the disease July 12. The cat is now recovering, Fowler said. The plague is usually spread between animals by bites from infected fleas, but can also be spread through direct blood or tissue contact, such as eating an infected animal. Antibiotics are effective in battling the plague, but if an infected person is not treated promptly, the disease is likely to lead to severe illness or death. Southwest Colorado has the highest incidence of human plague infection in the United States.

Source: http://durangoherald.com/asp-bin/article_generation.asp?article_type=health&article_path=/health/health040720.htm

23.

July 20, University of Rhode Island — **Antibiotics gain strength with natural compound.** More and more common antibiotics are losing their effectiveness because they are used too often, allowing bacteria to develop resistance to the drugs. A University of Rhode Island (URI) researcher has found a solution to this problem with a natural compound that boosts antibiotic strength from 100 to 1,000 times. While conducting research on infection prevention, URI Microbiology Professor Paul Cohen stumbled upon a compound — lysophosphatidic acid — that is naturally produced in the human body in great quantities wherever there is inflammation. According to Cohen, bacteria are divided into two groups — Gram-positive and Gram-negative — based on the structure of their cell walls. When lysophosphatidic acid is administered in small amounts (80 micromolars), it sensitizes the Gram-negative bacteria 100 to 1,000 times so only small quantities of antibiotics are needed to kill the bacteria. When administered to fight Gram-positive bacteria, the compound kills the bacteria without needing any antibiotics. "In combination with this compound, even older antibiotics become much more powerful," Cohen said. "It not only makes older antibiotics useful again, but it also allows them to be used in reduced dosages." Lysophosphatidic acid is currently available commercially as a powder for researchers.

Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-07/uori-ags072004.php

24. *July 19, News-Medical* — Virginia mans dies from Hantavirus disease. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) announced last week that a man from the New River Health District in Southwest Virginia has died from Hantavirus disease. The man died last week after being hospitalized for pneumonia. Laboratory tests were conducted at the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). VDH received confirmation of Hantavirus from CDC Wednesday afternoon. Only one other case of Hantavirus disease has been reported in Virginia. That case occurred in 1993. **The man was a Virginia Tech student and had recently been conducting field studies of small mammals in West Virginia. Health officials believe that he was most likely exposed to the virus through contact with these animals.** Hantavirus disease is not transmitted from person to person and there does not appear to be an ongoing risk to public health. Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) disease is a rare but extremely serious illness of the lungs caused by a family of viruses known as Hantavirus. Persons who have exposure to wild rodents or rodent-infested areas are at highest risk of getting HPS. At the present time, there is no specific treatment for HPS.

Source: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=3409>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

25. *July 20, Ghillicoth Gazette (OH)* — Emergency group tests terror plans. First responders in Ross County, OH, have performed a simulated large-scale attack at the Camp Sherman Rifle

Range. The simulation placed emergency personnel right in the middle of a scenario that will have a real life impact on the way they do business. It was learned Monday, July 19, at the bi-monthly meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee that while the county's first responders are mostly prepared for a local terrorist attack, a few kinks still need to be worked out to make their response perfect. The exercise the group critiqued at the meeting took place Saturday, June 19, and simulated a massive chemical-based explosion during the EasyRiders Rodeo. Except for the video cameras taping the entire thing, it was as close as possible to real life with injured victims and actors who played as hostile participants. **Members of five fire departments, the Ross County Sheriff's Office, the Chillicothe Police Department, the Chillicothe post of the State Highway Patrol, the Ross County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) were on hand during the entire drill.** The Ross County EMA funded the exercise through a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant.

Source: <http://www.chillicothe Gazette.com/news/stories/20040720/locanews/878618.html>

26. *July 20, Tuscola Review (IL)* — **Terror drill in the heartland. In a mock drill that took place Friday, July 9, in Tuscola, IL, the University of Illinois Department of Community Health staged a tabletop exercise, entitled Terrorism in Rural Illinois.** Some of the Douglas County agencies in attendance include the Illinois Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA), the health department, sheriff's department, state's attorney, coroner's office, highway department, and 9-1-1. The goal of the exercise, according to organizers, was to have an informal group discussion, in a low stress environment, based on a specific scenario. Throughout the two and a half-hour drill, agencies role-played, and in the process learned more about their fellow emergency response peers. Business cards were exchanged, questions asked, and procedure redefined.

Source: <http://www.tuscolanews.net/news/newsview.asp?c=115026>

27. *July 20, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-04-740: Homeland Security: Federal Leadership and Intergovernmental Cooperation Required to Achieve First Responder Interoperable Communications (Report).** Lives of first responders and those whom they are trying to assist can be lost when first responders cannot communicate effectively as needed. This report addresses issues of determining the status of interoperable wireless communications across the nation, and the potential roles that federal state, local governments can play in improving these communications. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) **recommends that the Secretary of The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) (1) continue to develop a nationwide database of and common terminology for public safety interoperability communications channels; (2) assess interoperability in specific locations against defined requirements; (3) through federal grant awards encourage state action to establish and support a statewide body to develop and implement detailed improvement plans; and (4) encourage that grant applications be in compliance with statewide interoperability plans, once they are developed.** DHS generally agreed with our first two recommendations but did not specifically address the other recommendations to DHS. OMB had no comments. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04740high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-740>

28. *July 19, Huntsville Times (AL)* — **Mock attack helps county try to prepare for the worst. Nearly 30 Fayetteville, TN, first responders spent most of Tuesday, July 6, through**

Friday, July 9, studying real and imaginary disasters as they developed a "unified command" for "incident management." Those terms are part of what will keep Lincoln County, TN, at the forefront of disaster preparedness, a role already recognized by awards from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Emergency workers here are learning the National Incident Management System (NIMS), said Mike Hall, director of Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). NIMS helps emergency workers decrease the confusion that can occur during disasters requiring help from local, state, and federal agencies. Source: <http://www.al.com/news/huntsvilletimes/index.ssf?/base/news/1090259102114530.xml>

29. *July 19, Information Week* — **Mississippi deploys systems to link police, fire, medical, and other personnel to fight crime and better respond to emergencies.** The state of Mississippi is in the midst of upgrading its public–safety information and communications infrastructure using federal money to create an integrated system that may serve as a model for the nation. **Three counties in the southern part of the state -- Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson -- are the first to begin integrating communications and public–safety records collected by state and local law enforcement, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and fire departments and emergency medical responders.** When completed, the project will provide law–enforcement officials and first responders with mobile access to public–safety information, including arrest warrants, mug shots, and data on criminals, as well as hazardous–materials data and medical–emergency protocols. Dubbed the Automated System Project (ASP), it will link about 30 public–safety agencies in the three counties to a centralized information–sharing system, says Chris Alley, chief technology architect for the project. The project is expected to cost around \$25 million in federal grant money. Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=YZSJLRUY41M2OQSNDBGCKHQ?articleID=23901111>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

30. *July 20, Reuters* — **Philippines stops foreign phone–hacking syndicate.** The Philippines arrested eight members of an international hacking syndicate who had broken into the country's largest telephone company for more than six years, officials said Tuesday, July 20. Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes, commanding general of the Philippine Air Force, said two Indian nationals, a Bangladeshi and five Filipino accomplices were believed to have been illegally tapping into the Philippine Long Distant Telephone (PLDT) company's system since 1998. **PLDT, the Philippines' largest phone service provider, had reported losses amounting to \$3.5 million since 1998 due to syndicates hacking into its subscribers' PABX system and used it for illegal call–selling activities,** he said. PLDT sought help from the military, police and immigration officials after tracing illegal calls made through the hackers' system. **Most of the illegal calls were made to the Middle East.** Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2004-07-20http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=technologyNews&storyID=57126197-20-oly-security-wires_x.htm

31.

July 20, internetnews.com — **Windows 2000 exploit code released.** Less than a week after Microsoft released a fix for an "important" privilege elevation vulnerability in the Windows 2000 Utility Manager feature, hackers have reverse-engineered the patch and released the code that could lead to an exploit. **Microsoft confirmed that the vulnerability could allow a logged-on user to misuse the Utility Manager to start an application with system privileges and take control of the system. The SANS Internet Storm Center also detected another exploit targeting the MS04-022 flaw.** The center did not provide any additional information. The MS04-022 advisory patches a buffer overflow in the Windows Task Scheduler feature that could lead to system hijack. Affected products include Windows 2000 and Windows XP. The Windows NT Workstation and Windows NT Server operating systems are not affected by default. This flaw also allows attackers to hijack affected systems, install programs, view, change, or delete data with full privileges. Microsoft Security Bulletins: <http://www.microsoft.com/security/bulletins/default.mspx>
Source: <http://www.internetnews.com/security/article.php/3383471>

32. July 20, IDG News Service — **New Bagle, MyDoom variants roil Internet.** New versions of the Bagle and MyDoom worms surfaced on the Internet Monday, July 19, and appear to be spreading. **Bagle.AI and MyDoom.N are both "mass mailing" worms that use a built-in SMTP engine that sends e-mail messages carrying worm-infected file attachments from computer to computer on the Internet, both using faked sender addresses,** anti-virus companies said. The MyDoom.N worm uses spoofed sender addresses such as "postmaster," "Post Office" and "MAILER-DAEMON" that make the e-mail resemble a rejected message. MyDoom.N messages also have nondescript Subject lines such as "hello," "hi" and "delivery failed." Virus file attachments have names like "readme," "mail," "text" and "attachment." Anti-virus companies issued updated virus definitions that can detect the new Bagle and MyDoom variants and recommended that customers update their anti-virus software.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/04/07/20/HNnewbaglemydoom_1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

| | |
|--|---|
| DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis | |
| Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures. | |
| US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: Microsoft has released its July Security Updates. Two of these updates are of a critical nature and should be applied to vulnerable systems. For more information, see Microsoft's bulletin here: http://www.microsoft.com/security/bulletins/200407_windows.m_spx | |
| Current Port Attacks | |
| Top 10 Target Ports | 137 (netbios-ns), 9898 (dabber), 135 (epmap), 5554 (sasser-ftp), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 445 (microsoft-ds), 4000 (Connect-BackBackdoor), 4899 (radmin), 3127 (mydoom), 443 (https) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center |
| To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov . | |

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

33. July 20, Associated Press — Athens port closed for Olympic security installations. Athens' main port was sealed for two hours Tuesday, July 20, to allow divers to install an underwater monitoring system as part of an Olympic security network that protesters contend is a privacy invasion. **The fiber-optic cables are a key element of an electronic web of cameras, sensors and other intelligence-gathering devices designed to help safeguard the August 13–29 Olympics. Greece is spending \$1.24 billion on Olympic security.** Police officials Tuesday tried to reassure Athenians that the electronic monitoring system, which includes a blimp and thousands of infrared and high-resolution cameras, will not violate privacy. The 200-foot blimp, which carries chemical "sniffers" and high resolution cameras, will start flying over the city this week, police said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2004-07-20-oly-security-wires_x.htm

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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 page (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

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

[DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – 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.

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