



Department of Homeland Security IAIP Directorate Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 July 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

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Daily Overview

- Newsday reports experts say a biological attack on a cattle ranch or wheat farm would kill few, if any, people, but the economic impact of a deliberately introduced disease could prove disastrous. (See item [12](#))
- The Register reports Chicago's 911 emergency call center was sent into a state of disarray Thursday after a power outage knocked the center offline. (See item [25](#))
- KVBC reports Hazmat crews were called to a Las Vegas office building as employees were overwhelmed by a sickening smell inside caused by a kerosene-based spray. (See item [31](#))

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](#)

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

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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 26, Associated Press* — Yukos warns oil exports may be interrupted. While Yukos, Russia's largest oil company, tries to fight off government moves to take it apart, the pumps that produce 2 percent of the world's oil supply continue to work for now. However, as the company is pushed further into a corner over a gargantuan back-taxes bill, it's warning that exports could be interrupted. Oil traders were speculating about a possible 1 million barrel drop in daily output after the company announced it could run out of cash to fund production within a few weeks. Analysts say the gap would probably be filled quickly by other Russian oil companies — but world oil prices leaped about 80 cents a barrel

on fears of a shortage after Yukos's Thursday, July 22, warning. With the company's key Siberian production unit being readied for sale by bailiffs and a slew of proposals for restructuring the \$3.4 billion tax steadfastly getting the silent treatment from the government, those fears were reiterated by U.S. officials Friday, July 23. Yukos says it doesn't have the cash to pay the current bill, much less another \$3.3 billion recently announced by tax authorities or the further crushing bills that are widely expected.

Source: http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2004/07/26/yukos_war_ns_oil_exports_may_be_interrupted/

2. *July 26, Associated Press* — **Transformer fire closes 34th Street. Midtown traffic was disrupted and people were evacuated from three commercial buildings near Penn Station in New York City on Monday, July 26, after an underground transformer fire created a heavy smoke condition in the busy area,** fire department officials said. The fire scene was across the street from Penn Station and Madison Square Garden, the site of next month's Republican National Convention. Construction of security barriers and other facilities for the convention already is in progress, adding to congestion in the area. The fire was reported at around 9:15 a.m. Four hours after the fire, a Con Edison utility spokesperson said the fire was out. The cause for the fire is being investigated.

Source: http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/ny-bc-ny--transformer_fire0726jul26.0.5445537.story?coll=ny-ap-regional-wire

3. *July 26, The Arizona Republic* — **Transformer back on the road.** A giant Arizona Public Service (APS) electrical transformer that shifted on the trailer bed and forced a two-day delay of its trip to Phoenix, AZ, got back on the road on Monday, July 26, but only for a short trip. The 380,000-pound transformer, transferred onto a special trailer with hydraulic lifts, traveled for about 15 miles before pulling off on the side of California 18 highway. Workers will transfer the unit back onto the original tractor-trailer Monday night before resuming the trip. **The forced delay was caused by a shift in the load that happened shortly after 9 a.m. Saturday, July 24, in Victorville, CA, and raised questions about the trip route and the equipment used to haul the transformer.** The trailer carrying it left Long Beach, CA, on Wednesday, July 21, along a route that included back roads and interstate highways. The multimillion-dollar transformer is now expected to arrive at the end of the week. Whenever it does, APS hopes to have it up and easing Phoenix's tense power shortage within three weeks. **The transformer was not damaged in the accident, which happened when the truck hit a short, steep curve coming out of Victorville.**

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0726tranformer26-ON.html>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *July 24, Idaho State Journal (ID)* — **Workers hospitalized after inhaling fumes at INEEL. Five workers from an out-of-state demolition contractor were hospitalized Friday, July 23, after being exposed to chemical fumes at an Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) site.** John Walsh, INEEL spokesperson, said the incident occurred Friday morning when the workers were cutting old pipes in a building slated for demolition. **A small amount of liquid – reportedly about half a cup – containing**

various chemicals flowed out of the pipe and almost immediately caused headaches and breathing problems for the five men. INEEL Hazmat personnel and a site nurse responded to the scene and provided initial medical treatment. The workers were then taken to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls, but all were released by 2:00 p.m., Walsh said. Following company protocol, representatives from the subcontractor contacted and notified family members of the incident. Work on the project is halted, and an investigation is under way.

Source: http://www.journalnet.com/articles/2004/07/24/news/local/new_s11.txt

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *July 24, Washington Post* — **Air Force faulted on plane purchase. The Air Force spent \$2.6 billion to buy 50 transport planes that do not meet the military's requirements, preventing squadrons based in six states from being fully prepared for their missions in the Middle East and elsewhere, the office of the Department of Defense's (DoD) inspector general disclosed Friday, July 23.** After conducting a lengthy investigation set off by a whistle-blower's phone call, the inspector general's office concluded that the Air Force used an inappropriate procedure to buy the C-130J transport planes from a private contractor, and then mismanaged its production. The Air Force's top acquisitions official, Marvin R. Sambur, in a statement appended to the new report, said that the C-130J program is properly managed, the manufacturer is meeting its delivery schedule, and the planes have been cleared to drop equipment over land and water and to conduct medical evacuations. However, other military officials confirmed on Friday that the planes have not passed key readiness tests, and so no C-130J has been used as planned by the Air Force Reserve, the Air National Guard, or the Marine Corps in combat zones or military assaults.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A10266-2004Jul_23.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

Nothing to report.

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Transportation Sector

6. *July 26, New York Times* — **Some steps put in place to aid border security. Immigration officials said they had already started taking some of the urgent steps recommended last week by the September 11 commission to enhance border security, but with intelligence reports describing the threat of a new attack as extraordinarily high, the effort remains far from complete.** Over the past six months, officials said, the two departments have turned away hundreds of criminals, travelers with fraudulent passports and fake documents and others barred from entry to the United States after immigration workers screening visitors in airports and State Department officials interviewing visa applicants in embassies compared their names,

fingerprints and photographs to those in available security databases. Significant loopholes remain, however. There is no plan yet to screen systematically millions of visitors from Mexico and Canada, a problem cited in the commission's report. Most travelers from those countries, who make up the bulk of foreign visitors here, enter and leave the United States without any automated analysis of their photographs or fingerprints. The system intended to track the departures of foreign visitors with digital technology — a security measure set up to ensure that travelers do not vanish into the shadows after their arrival in the country — might take several years longer than expected to implement at land crossings.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/07/26/politics/26border.html>

- 7. *July 26, Boston.com* — Challenge starts now on roadways and rails. Starting Monday, July 26, Boston–area commuters will have the largest series of road and rail closures, detours, searches, and parking restrictions in the region's history, all brought on by concerns about terrorism during the Democratic National Convention at the FleetCenter.** An estimated 24,000 North Shore commuter rail riders, meanwhile, will be forced to transfer to buses or the subway in Cambridge, Woburn, Malden, and Lynn, due to the weeklong closure of North Station that began Friday. In addition, the estimated 6,000 people who normally take the Green Line into Boston from Lechmere will be taken to Kendall Square to hop on the Red Line instead. At 4 p.m. the real test begins. The closure of a six–mile stretch of I–93 through Boston, required by federal security officials because the roadway passes within feet of the FleetCenter, will begin at that time and continue to 1 a.m. for all four evenings of the convention.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/politics/conventions/articles/2004/07/26/challenge_starts_now_on_roadways_and_rails/

- 8. *July 26, Department of Transportation* — United States, Indonesia sign Open–Skies aviation agreement.** U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta and Indonesian Minister of Transportation and Communications Soenarno on Monday, July 26, signed an Open–Skies aviation agreement between their countries that removes all restrictions on air services to, from and beyond each other's territory. As a result of the new agreement, the United States now enjoys Open–Skies relationships with 65 partners. “This Open–Skies agreement will connect our countries, our citizens, and our economies, opening new opportunities for trade, tourism and investment,” Secretary Mineta said. **The new agreement, which replaces an outdated agreement from the 1960s that provided only limited commercial opportunities, eliminates restrictions on how often carriers can fly, the kind of aircraft they can use, and the prices they can charge.** In addition to both passenger and cargo services, the agreement covers scheduled and charter operations.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot10604.htm>

- 9. *July 26, Transportation Security Administration* — Senate confirms Admiral Stone as Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for TSA. The United States Senate on Thursday, July 22, unanimously confirmed the nomination of Rear Adm. David M. Stone, USN (Ret.), as Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).** President Bush nominated Admiral Stone on April 8, 2004. The Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation supported the nomination. Admiral Stone was appointed as TSA's Acting Administrator on December 4, 2003 after serving as Deputy Chief of Staff since August 2003. He joined TSA as the first Federal Security Director at Los Angeles International Airport after

retiring from active duty in the U.S. Navy in April 2002.

Source: http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198_00bb494

10. *July 23, Transportation Security Administration* — **TSA pledges \$4 million toward an 'in-line' explosives detection system at Harrisburg airport.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on July 23 announced it has signed a \$4 million agreement with the Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority to offset costs of developing and installing a permanent in-line checked baggage screening system at Harrisburg International Airport, Middletown, PA. **The new system is designed to have Explosives Detection System (EDS) machines built into the baggage conveyor system for the new terminal that is currently under construction and is scheduled to open in late August.**

Source: http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198_00bb417

11. *July 23, Transportation Security Administration* — **TSA launches registered traveler pilot program at LAX. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on July 23 began the Registered Traveler Pilot Program at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) in conjunction with United Airlines.** A similar pilot was launched successfully in Minneapolis with Northwest Airlines on July 7. "TSA is eager to expand this pilot program as it provides frequent travelers with a high level of security and an expedited screening experience," said Carol DiBattiste, TSA Chief of Staff. "This pilot provides us with an opportunity to test cutting-edge technology including a 'smart' card containing a chip with biometric information for confirming identity." Approved registered travelers will be directed to a designated checkpoint lane where they will provide their Registered Traveler Smart Card containing biometric information (a fingerprint and iris scan) for identity confirmation. Registered travelers and their carry-on bags will still go through primary screening, but more extensive secondary screening will be largely eliminated. The pilot will expand to three other airports this summer – George Bush Intercontinental in Houston with Continental Airlines will launch in the next few weeks; and Boston Logan International and Ronald Reagan Washington National, both with American Airlines by the end of August.

Source: http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198_00bb3e1

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

12. *July 26, Newsday (NY)* — **Terrorism risk re-examined. Experts say a biological attack on a cattle ranch or wheat farm would kill few, if any, people. But the economic impact of a deliberately introduced disease could prove disastrous, a realization that has prompted a rethinking of how the risk of agroterrorism, should be assessed in the United States.** Whether by terrorists or by Mother Nature, scientists say, potentially devastating plant and animal diseases will almost certainly continue to threaten farmers in the coming years,

underscoring the urgent need for improved contingency plans. Many researchers agree that the nation's porous borders pose enormous challenges for strategies focused mainly on prevention, especially when only about two percent of all imported agricultural products can be inspected. Even within the U.S., security can be problematic on farms that contain tens of thousands of animals or encompass tens of thousands of acres. So far, 19 universities and institutions have been tapped for the National Plant Diagnostic Network and its sister group, the National Animal Health Laboratory Network. A main goal of each is to create a first-line defense system in the event of a deliberate or accidental disease outbreak.

Source: http://www.nynewsday.com/news/health/ny-hsagro183907273jul26_0.5618816.story?coll=ny-health-headlines

13. *July 26, USAgNet* — **USDA seeks voluntary livestock registry. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) plans to launch its livestock tracking system next month, but it will ask cattle suppliers to register their animals in the national database on a strictly voluntary basis.** "Starting next month, states and tribes, on a limited basis, can begin registering locations where livestock are held, sold or commingled," said John Clifford of the USDA. The agency plans to begin registering animals by late fall. The government stepped up its efforts to launch the animal identification system after a Holstein cow in Washington state was diagnosed with mad cow disease last December. **The system will eventually be used to track all livestock, but in the beginning it will focus on cattle.**

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=773&yr=2004>

14. *July 24, Associated Press* — **Bird flu spreads in Vietnam. Bird flu outbreaks have spread to 10 provinces in southern Vietnam, local media reported Saturday, July 24.** The People's Army newspaper quoted national veterinary officials as saying the latest outbreaks were reported in Ben Tre and Kien Giang provinces in the Mekong Delta on July 21. To date, no provinces in northern Vietnam have reported outbreaks, but officials are worried about the dangers of bird flu recurring there, the newspaper said. The devastating avian influenza, which made its way across Asia earlier in the year, forced the slaughter of 100 million chickens. Vietnam has already culled about 50,000 chickens as a precautionary measure, all in the southern part of the country. Hanoi, along with the country's 21 northern provinces, is stepping up measures to prevent the bird flu's return. **Beginning Sunday, July 25, city officials will set up 16 animal checkpoints, and begin disinfecting all poultry farms, markets, and slaughter houses once a week over the next month.**

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2004/07/24/international0906EDT0472.DTL&type=health>

15. *July 24, Southern Illinoian* — **Early signs of SDS.** Symptoms of soybean sudden death syndrome (SDS) have shown up early this year, say experts from Southern Illinois University Carbondale's College of Agricultural Sciences, and this could affect the state's bean crop. "Because we saw it so early, that tells us that the potential yield loss is much greater than it's been in recent years," said researcher Catherine A. Schmidt from the Department of Plant, Soil, and Agricultural Systems. **SDS, an incurable fungal disease, infects plant roots early in the growing season. By the time a farmer notices the damaged leaves, it is too late to take any precautionary measures.** SDS symptoms usually crop up around mid-August, making hot, dry weather for the next three weeks crucial for farmers concerned about SDS. "It's a spotty disease. It won't hit an entire 2,000-acre field — it will just hit splotches. And even if a farmer

gets hit with severe SDS, he will still have a yield. It just may not be enough to make his payments," Schmidt said.

Source: <http://www.thesouthern.com/rednews/2004/07/25/build/business/BIZ004.html>

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Food Sector

16. *July 26, Dallas Morning News (TX)* — **Food safety measures.** Nearly three years after the September 11 terrorist attacks, the restaurant and food industries and the U.S. government are still working to craft a coherent security plan to protect food. Industry professionals say that improvements have been made, from streamlined communications channels to the addition of armed guards. But with an estimated 878,000 restaurants, 57,000 food processors, and 34,000 supermarkets, the U.S. food chain is ill-suited for measures like the bomb-sniffing dogs at airports. **Officials say they can make it harder for everyone from disgruntled employees to organized terror groups to use food as a weapon. But they also stress that given the far-flung nature of the food business, the system can never be made bulletproof.** The government and industry-wide efforts in food security have largely involved attempts to improve coordination and communication, both within the industry and between industry and government. Some restaurants and food retailers have taken safety steps ranging from increased lighting and locked doors to armed guards.

Source: <http://www.centredaily.com/mld/centredaily/news/9245308.htm>

17. *July 26, Agence France Presse* — **European Union prolongs ban on imports of Asian poultry. The European Commission decided to prolong until December 15 a ban on imports of chicken products and pet birds from several Asian countries hit by avian flu. The commission said that the countries concerned were: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Pakistan, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam.** The current suspension was due to expire on August 15, but the commission said it had extended it until December 15. The commission said in a statement that it had "adopted a decision to continue the suspension of imports into the EU of chicken products and pet birds from several Asian countries where avian influenza has been confirmed since the beginning of this year". It said: "In some of these countries, outbreaks of avian influenza still occur and the overall disease situation in the area remains unclear."

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=1507&ncid=1507&e=1&u=/afp/20040726/hl_afp/eu_asia_health_trade_040726121_027

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Water Sector

18. *July 24, Bradenton Herald (FL)* — **Tallevast pollution may reach aquifer. Contamination from a former industrial plant, in Tallevast, could have reached Florida's major source of drinking water, officials said Friday, July 23. But they cautioned that further testing is needed to determine whether contamination has reached the Floridan aquifer, an underground reservoir that supplies 95 percent of Florida's drinking water.** Previous soil

and groundwater tests showed high concentrations of trichloroethylene (TCE), a solvent normally used to remove grease from metal parts, in a plume extending south and east of the plant. Those tests were on samples collected from the aquifer's top layer, while most of Florida's water supply comes from depths below that. Drinking large amounts of TCE over time can cause liver and kidney damage and weaken the human immune system, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. State and federal health officials also are considering additional testing of irrigation wells and possibly on fruits and vegetables grown in Tallevast yards.

Source: <http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/news/local/9231503.htm>

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Public Health Sector

19. *July 26, Associated Press* — Feds caution on certain blood donations. People with signs of West Nile infection, including headache and fever, should be barred from donating blood until nearly two months after the symptoms wane, federal health officials proposed Friday, July 23. A Food and Drug Administration (FDA) official briefed the agency's Blood Products advisory committee about the recommendation. Depending on its effect on the blood supply, the guidance could be finished as early as this fall. Already, West Nile is racing through this summer's hot spots, sickening and killing people in Arizona, California, and Colorado. Sensitive tests have tagged 61 potentially infected donors, whose blood donations were removed from shelves, Hira Nakhasi, director of the FDA's Division of Emerging and Transfusion Transmitted Diseases, told the advisory committee. Typically, those donors could not make another blood donation until 28 days after their first symptoms of West Nile. That deferral period was based on 1950s research that indicated West Nile virus could remain in the body for 28 days. The American Red Cross, testing samples from the 2003 West Nile epidemic, found the infectious virus could linger in blood for up to 49 days. Within the FDA, researchers are mulling a change that would postpone potential donations until 56 days after West Nile diagnosis or symptoms consistent with the mosquito-borne ailment.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=534&ncid=534&e=4&u=/ap/20040726/ap_on_he_me/safe_blood

20. *July 25, Associated Press* — Record number of flu shots prepared. July is when the nation's two main vaccine makers begin shipping flu shots to wholesalers, who in turn parcel them out to hospitals, clinics, and doctors' offices nationwide. This year, health officials and shot producers vow not to run out as they did during last year's exceptionally early season start. **So this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention plans for the first time to stockpile four million vaccines for children and the two vaccine makers plan to make a combined 100 million doses. That's about 17 million more than were available last year.** On Friday, vaccine maker Chiron said it shipped one million doses to wholesalers as part of a production run that will ultimately yield 52 million shots this year, the most the company has produced in a single year. Last year, the company made 38 million shots. That supply was quickly exhausted because the flu started in early October and quickly swept across the nation. By December, both makers had exhausted their supplies and many clinics ran out of shots before season's end.

Source: <http://springfield.news-leader.com/business/today/0725-Recordnumb-140669.html>

21. *July 25, Medical News Today* — **Fighting deadly diseases with a distant impact. Although tropical and resurgent infectious diseases are most often associated with Africa, Asia, and Latin America, increased global travel and trade between regions has led to a growing number of cases being catalogued in Europe and the United States.** There has also been a notable resurgence of diseases that were considered to be on the decline in these regions. The scale of modern travel is huge with there being an estimated international cross-border movement of two million people per day. **The danger of these emerging incidents is that as these diseases are not expected to occur in industrialized regions, the symptoms may be confused with other illnesses.** So-called "airport malaria", representing the inadvertent transport of live mosquitoes aboard aircraft arriving from tropical regions, is one example. Physicians generally have little reason to suspect malaria, as the sufferers may never have travelled to a region where the disease is endemic and the symptoms can sometimes be confused with flu. Since 1969, thirteen countries reported a total of 89 cases of malaria in people living near an airport. The re-emergence of tuberculosis in the western world has caused great concern. In the UK, a 2003 report by the London Assembly's Health Committee stated that cases of tuberculosis had increased four-fold over a ten year period.
Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=11194>
22. *July 24, Reuters* — **New malaria-carrying mosquito found in Cameroon. A new form of mosquito carrying the parasite responsible for the most deadly form of malaria has been discovered in a village in southern Cameroon, researchers say.** Discovery of the hitherto-unknown variety, provisionally dubbed "Oveng Form" after the village where it was found, is likely to make the fight against the malaria in Cameroon even more difficult, researchers say, although more research is needed. **It joins four other species already known in the central African country, all of them resistant to common anti-malaria drugs.** A team of French and Cameroonian scientists made the discovery after collecting samples of Anopheles mosquitoes from five localities. Mosquitoes from the Anopheles group transmit malaria -- which kills roughly 3,000 people every day -- to humans along rivers in Africa.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=5762899>
23. *July 24, American Society of Plant Biologists* — **New breed of vaccine-producing plants to fight human diseases.** At his presentation at the annual meeting of the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB), Arizona State University Professor Charles J. Arntzen explained the newest advances in his research on plant-producing vaccines. The development and introduction of new vaccines to improve global public health faces many challenges, Arntzen noted. The vaccines must address the need for lower costs, oral-administration, heat stability, and they must include combination vaccines including those that protect against diseases that occur predominantly in developing countries, he added. **Over the last decade, the team working with Arntzen has shown that a set of genes from human pathogens can be introduced into plant cells, and intact plants regenerated which "bio-manufacture" subunit vaccines consisting of the pathogen gene products. Simple feeding of the plant tissues to animals or humans results in an immune response to the subunit vaccines," Arntzen commented.** Arntzen's research focuses now on producing vaccines in tomatoes to fight human afflictions such as cholera, Norwalk Virus, and hepatitis B. **Ongoing research is focused on development of minimal processing technology, adopted from the food industry, to yield uniform doses of heat-stable vaccine for oral delivery, Arntzen said.**

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

24. *July 26, Ascribe Newswire* — Commanders' Radio Interface allows emergency responders to communicate better. A communication transmission technology, the Incident Commanders' Radio Interface (ICRI), allows emergency personnel from different responding agencies to more effectively talk with each other at the scene, and will be deployed at the Democratic National Convention and the upcoming Republican Convention. The technology was assisted through the development process by the Robert C. Byrd National Technology Transfer Center at Wheeling Jesuit University. **ICRI is a small, highly portable, rapidly deployable, and simple-to-use technology that provides emergency responders with the ability to directly communicate with each other.** With the help of ICRI, a firefighter at a disaster scene can clearly communicate with a police officer, who can talk with an attending emergency medical technician. Said Clifford Lutz, supervisor with the Penn State University Police Department, which recently used the technology for the first time in a live operation, "Ten minutes after it was delivered, we had four radios and a telephone hooked up, with multiple agencies talking to one another." With the ICRI, first responders are able to utilize all telephones (cellular or landline) or radios, even those on different frequencies, by connecting them to the ICRI unit.

Source: http://www.ascribe.org/cgi-bin/spew4th.pl?ascribeid=20040726_064408&time=0730PDT&year=2004&public=1

25. *July 23, The Register (UK)* — Chicago's emergency call center suffers heat exhaustion. Chicago's 911 emergency call center was sent into a state of disarray Thursday, July 22, after a power outage knocked the center offline. **An extremely hot power source is apparently to blame for the 911 shutdown. The faulty power source forced city officials to pull the plug on their communications center and reroute all calls to the 311 number usually reserved for non-emergency problems. During the switch, a number of calls were lost and after the switch too few 311 operators were around to handle the 18,000 emergency calls placed every day.** "There are fewer call takers at 311 than at 911, and for that reason the calls queued up and there was a delay there while the phone was ringing," Ron Huberman, the new director of the 911 center, told the Chicago Sun-Times. "Within an hour window, we fully staffed the 311 center with call takers and dispatchers from the 911 center." Officials claim this was the first major crisis for the 911 call center, which cost close to \$217 million and has been operating since 1995. The problem occurred before an evening thunder storm hit Chicago, so it is not thought to be weather related.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/07/23/chicago_911_down/

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

26. *July 26, Government Computer News* — **NIST wants to phase out DES.** The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has proposed withdrawing the 56-bit Data Encryption Standard (DES) from government use. DES has been around as Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 46-3 for more than 25 years and it has been supplanted by stronger, more efficient algorithms. **DES would remain as a component of the Triple Data Encryption Algorithm (TDEA). TDEA encrypts each block of a message three times with two or three different 56-bit keys, giving an effective key length of 112 or 168 bits.** But Advanced Encryption Standard (AES), adopted as FIPS 197, uses 128, 192 or 256-bit key sizes. "Though TDEA may be used for several more years to encourage widespread interoperability, NIST instead encourages agencies to implement the stronger and more efficient AES when building new systems," NIST said. NIST is accepting comments through September 9: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/06jun20041800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/04-16894.htm>
Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/26721-1.html
27. *July 26, Secunia* — **Dropbear SSH Server DSS Verification Vulnerability.** A vulnerability in Dropbear SSH Server may potentially allowing malicious people to compromise a vulnerable system. The vulnerability is caused due freeing of uninitialized variables in the DSS verification code. **Successful exploitation may allow execution of arbitrary code.** This affects version 0.42 and earlier. Users are advised to update to version 0.43:
<http://matt.ucc.asn.au/dropbear/>
Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/12153/>
28. *July 26, CNET News.com* — **MyDoom variant slams mailboxes, search engines.** A pesky new variant of the MyDoom worm slammed four popular search engines Monday, July 26, and continued to clog e-mail accounts around the world. **Tens of thousands of PCs have been infected by the worm. Google, Lycos and AltaVista have been sporadically out of service all morning, while Yahoo has been slow. Once installed, the virus searches for e-mail addresses on the host computer's hard drive, and then it looks for more by running queries on all four search engines.** "It is kind of an inadvertent (denial of service) attack," said Craig Schmutgar of McAfee Alert said, because the search sites are being knocked out in the quest for more e-mail addresses. The worm uses the search sites to find any published e-mail addresses with the same domain name as the main e-mail address on the infected computer, said Vincent Weafer of Symantec. If you're infected and your main e-mail address ends with @mycompany.com, for example, the worm will mainly attempt to propagate itself to other mycompany.com addresses. The new variants first surfaced in Europe and spread quickly. Messages sent by the variants pose as either a "returned mail" message from a postmaster or an alert from an internal IT administrator.
Source: http://news.com.com/MyDoom+variant+slams+mailboxes,+search+engines/2100-7349_3-5283940.html
29. *July 26, New York Times* — **Wireless sensor networks spread to new territory.** Communications technology has advanced to the point where sensors, machines and computers

are beginning to talk to each other wirelessly. **There are systems under development monitor stresses on aging bridges to help states decide maintenance priorities and warn when oil tanker equipment is in danger of failing.** The grandest visions include concepts like "smart dust"—a term used to describe communicating sensors no bigger than grains of sand that might be strewn by the thousands on fields and forests. **Smart-dust proponents envision such sensors being used to monitor forests for fire, warn soldiers of dangerous substances on the battlefield and alert border guards to activity in remote areas.** No one is yet making components small enough for smart-dust systems, but a concept known as mesh networking has reduced the power requirements, at least theoretically, to the point where researchers expect to produce, within the next few years, networks of sensor nodes the size of postage stamps powered by coin-size lithium batteries. Wireless networks could keep a close eye on situations that are impractical to monitor now because of the high cost of human inspectors or wired systems. **Sensor networks are being designed not only to collect data but also to serve as the nervous system for electronic controls that turn other machines on and off in response to changing conditions.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/07/26/business/26sensor.html>

30. *July 25, SecuriTeam* — **Denial of Service in Microsoft SMS Client (Exploit).** Microsoft Systems Management Server (SMS) provides configuration management solution for Windows platform. It is widely deployed in medium and large network environments. A flaw in SMS Remote Control service makes possible to crash the service remotely leading to the DoS condition. SMS Remote Control Client service is listening on TCP ports 2701 and 2702. The service performs basic signature checks and size tests on received data and assumes the data is correct if those tests pass. It is possible to create a data packet that will go through basic checks and throw an exception by causing the server to read or write to an invalid memory address. It is also possible to specify the memory address value in the data packet. **Initial analysis showed that the problem is not [easily] exploitable because there is no buffer overflow condition and it is not possible to specify the data to be written to the memory.** The exception occurs in multprot.dll library when the service makes an API call with invalid parameters.

Source: <http://www.securiteam.com/windowsntfocus/5WP0N1FDFW.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: The latest variant of MyDoom created the unintended effect of creating a Denial of Service (DoS) condition in several Internet Search Engine Sites. This is due to the fact that the worm attempts to perform internet searches for valid email addresses for domain names it finds on victim computers.	
Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	

135 (epmap), 137 (netbios-ns), 5554 (sasser-ftp), 9898 (dabber), 445 (microsoft-ds), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 4000 (Connect-BackBackdoor), 3127 (mydoom), 1026 (nterm), 1027 (icq)

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.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

31. July 26, KVBC 3 (NV) — Las Vegas office building evacuated after hundreds start getting sick. Hazmat crews were called in to a Las Vegas, NV, office building on Monday, July 26, and an entire office building was cleared out as employees were overwhelmed by a sickening smell inside. **Nearly 200 people were sent home with 20 going to the hospital. There was a range of symptoms, from red, watering eyes to more serious symptoms like chest pains and shortness of breath.** The building has gotten the all clear from firefighters, but not everyone is breathing easy just yet. Apparently someone in the building misused spray lubricant that got into the ventilation system. **The fire department says the person used a kerosene-based spray that should never have been used indoors. The chemicals were quickly spread throughout the building by 90 air conditioning units.**

Source: <http://www.kvbc.com/Global/story.asp?S=2082639&nav=15MVPB3F>

32. July 25, Capital News 9 (NY) — Police search for man who threw bombs at school. Police are searching for a man they think threw two homemade bombs at a school in Lyndon, VT, on the morning of Saturday, July 24. Nobody was injured in the explosions. **Police said two bottles were filled with gas and another flammable liquid were set on fire and thrown at the Lyndon Institute.** The Molotov cocktails burned the side of the building and melted a window. No damage was reported inside. Shortly after, another homemade bomb was ignited in the middle of Lyndon's downtown. Witnesses told police they saw a man leaving the school just after the explosions.

Source: <http://www.capitalnews9.com/content/headlines/?ArID=86074&Se cID=33>

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General Sector

33. July 25, BBC News — Morocco loses track of fighters. Morocco has warned Spain that it has lost track of hundreds of Moroccans who trained in al Qaeda camps, a Spanish newspaper has reported. **Moroccan authorities reportedly told Spanish judge Baltasar Garzon that some 600 Moroccans had trained in camps in Afghanistan, Bosnia, or Chechnya. But they warned the whereabouts of 400 were unknown, El Pais reported.** Most of the 20 people provisionally charged with involvement in the 11 March bombings in Madrid are Moroccan. Morocco suffered attacks on its own soil in May 2003, when co-ordinated bombings in

Casablanca killed 45 people. Papers found in al Qaeda premises had allowed Moroccan authorities to compile lists of suspected nationals training in al Qaeda camps, El Pais said. The report appears to echo warnings given by Garzon to a parliamentary commission investigating the March 11 bombings earlier in July. He said there were dozens of al Qaeda cells in Morocco capable of staging attacks in Europe. The Moroccan authorities have arrested about 2,000 people in cases linked to militant activity since the suicide attacks in Casablanca, and the country has been praised by the U.S. for its efforts to clamp down on terrorism.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3924631.stm>

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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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