



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 October 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to the Associated Press, federal safety officials have found several passenger aircraft engines with damaged and missing parts and urged the Federal Aviation Administration on Thursday to order inspections of all similar engines. The engines are a commonly used model made by Pratt & Whitney and are on a large number of Boeing 757 planes. (See item [15](#))
- The Associated Press reports that a packaged “incendiary device” exploded in a suburban St. Louis, Missouri, parking garage on Thursday, injuring the man who picked it up, rocking an office high-rise, and forcing hundreds of people to evacuate. (See item [41](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

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

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

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://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 17, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Cause of fire near power plant under investigation.** Authorities are assessing the damage from a fire in a building near the Leland Olds power plant in Stanton, North Dakota. No one was hurt. A Basin Electric Power Cooperative spokesman said a driver noticed smoke coming from a contractor building on the plant site Tuesday night and called to report it. He said he is not sure of the amount of damage to the building but it looks to be a total loss. He said the building was being used to build fiberglass liners for a new smokestack. He said hazardous material was in the building but not close to the fire. Basin Electric Power Cooperative,

which owns the plant, is in the midst of a \$410 million project to build a new scrubber and emission stack to clean up sulfur dioxide and other pollutants. The spokesman said workers were at the site Wednesday, working on the scrubber building and pouring concrete and the plant's two generating units were being brought back on line after a normal fall outage.

Source: <http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2008/10/17/news/state/167092.txt>

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Chemical Industry Sector

2. *October 17, Greenville News* – (South Carolina) **Chemical leak scare has passed; odor lingers.** A chemical leak at a plant Friday morning led to the closure of three Spartanburg County, South Carolina, schools, but health officials say the area is safe. Students at the schools were sent home and residents were asked to stay inside as a precaution after vapors were released from a storage tank containing liquid chemicals used to make plastics, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control spokesman said. The release of the chemical Styrene at Hexion Specialty Chemicals plant at about 6 a.m. was contained within a few hours but created an odor strong enough to be smelled throughout the nearby community, he said. Nothing was spilled, he said, and the area was deemed to be safe a few hours later.

Source:

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081017/NEWS01/81017013/1001/NEWS>

3. *October 16, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (California) **3M Company corrects gaps in chemical inventory reporting at 12 facilities nationwide / Company audits 90 facilities nationwide, avoids penalties.** The 3M Company audited 90 facilities nationwide and found chemical inventory information gaps in chemical inventory forms from 2003 through 2005 at twelve facilities nationwide, including three southern California locations in Irvine, Northridge and Monrovia. Upon discovering the violations, 3M completed and submitted all required documents, correcting the violations. The company failed to include sulfuric acid and/or lead in forklift batteries in their annual inventories. Under the agency's audit policy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency may reduce penalties for violations that are voluntarily discovered, promptly disclosed to the agency and quickly corrected. The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act requires annual reports to the state and local emergency planning agencies from facilities that use, store or manufacture certain toxic chemicals over a specified amount.

Source: <http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/1947435/>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *October 16, Greenville News* – (National) **DOE releases study on recycling nuclear fuel.** A federal government study examining the nation's use of nuclear power has

concluded that recycling nuclear fuel is preferable but left undetermined the method to be used and the site where it would be recycled. South Carolina's Savannah River Site, currently the location of a controversial program to convert weapons-grade plutonium into commercial nuclear reactor fuel, remains a focus of the government's recycling efforts, an environmental group said Thursday. The 960-page study by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) looked at various types of recycling methods as well as different types of nuclear power that would involve using fuel just once and then storing it in a geological repository, such as Yucca Mountain. The study concluded that under any alternative fuel scheme, the nation has insufficient designated storage for future spent nuclear fuel or radioactive waste. DOE concluded in the study that it prefers a recycling option, which the study's authors believe will save on storage needs for spent nuclear fuel, though it may require additional storage of some types of radioactive waste. Any reprocessing plan would cost hundreds of billions of dollars and take many years to implement, said an official with the environmental group, Friends of the Earth. Source: <http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200881016011>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *October 17, Navy Times* – (National) **Coast Guard gets \$30M to overhaul icebreaker.** The Coast Guard is one step closer to having all three of its polar icebreakers in operational status for the first time since 2006, but the service may not have enough money to bring one of the aging cutters out of drydock. The 32-year-old Seattle-based Polar Star is the Coast Guard's oldest heavy icebreaking cutter and has been laid up since July 1, 2006. Coast Guard officials could not say for certain if the \$30.3 million included in the fiscal 2009 Homeland Security Department budget would be enough to get the aging cutter back into operational status. According to Coast Guard sources, it would take 12 to 18 months' lead time and an estimated \$60 million for a "significant overhaul" of the Polar Star, which had an expected 30-year lifecycle. A recently updated report from the Congressional Research Service (CRS) said it would cost between \$800 million and \$925 million for a new icebreaker, roughly \$400 million per ship to keep the Polar Sea and Polar Star operational for another 25 years, or \$56.6 million to provide the proper maintenance and repair work to reactivate the Polar Star and extend its service life by seven to 10 years. With only two aging, operational icebreakers in service, the U.S. is falling behind other nations vying for the same territory. Russia already has a fleet of 20 icebreakers and is building a new fleet of nuclear-powered icebreakers. At this point there is no funding for a new heavy icebreaker. The CRS report said it would take at least eight to 10 years for the first replacement polar icebreaker to enter service. Source: http://www.navytimes.com/news/2008/10/cg_polarstar_101608w/
6. *October 17, Army Times* – (National) **Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter canceled.** The Defense Department has scrapped the \$6.2 billion program to replace the aging OH-58D Kiowa Warrior with the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, citing cost overruns. The Army announced in July that the contract with Bell-Textron was then more than 40 percent over cost, triggering a program review under legislation known as the Nunn-

McCurdy statute. The embattled ARH program has been beset by delays and cost escalation since the program's baseline price tag was established in July 2005. The Army's chief of operations promised a quick return to the drawing board and sought to reassure Kiowa aviators that their aircraft would be outfitted for their missions. The Army has 339 Kiowa helicopters dispersed among 10 squadrons, almost half of which are deployed. Most of those are in Iraq.

Source:

http://www.armytimes.com/news/2008/10/army_arhprogram_cancelled_101608w/

7. *October 17, Air Force Times* – (National) **Guam building booms to support new aircraft.** Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, is in the early stages of an eight-year, \$1.8 billion buildup that will bring a permanent presence of unmanned aerial vehicles, bombers, fighters and tankers to the Pacific island. Andersen has hosted a continuous bomber presence since 2004, with bombers rotating through from various stateside units, but the Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Strike (ISR/Strike) concept seeks to augment that with a broader range of air assets. By the time the concept is fully implemented early in the next decade, Andersen will host four permanently based Global Hawk drones, as well as 12 tankers, 48 fighters and six bombers on a rotational basis. Most of the \$1.8 billion in projects to support ISR/Strike are scheduled to be built between 2010 and 2014. The first, a \$53 million Global Hawk hangar, began construction during summer 2007 and will be completed in May 2009, with the aircraft arriving later in 2009. Projects to be completed between 2010 and 2014 include maintenance facilities, composite repair shops, covered facilities for aircraft ground equipment, infrastructure such as roads and utilities, a fire station and dormitories for personnel rotating through the island with the aircraft.
Source: http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/10/airforce_guam_buildup_101608/
8. *October 17, Kansas City Business Journal* – (National) **Kansas City Council approves plans for nuclear weapons parts plant.** The Kansas City Council voted 11-1 Thursday to approve a development plan and blight declaration for the 186-acre site of a new \$500 million nuclear weapons parts plant proposed in south Kansas City, Missouri. The proposal calls for the General Services Administration (GSA) to select a private developer in January to build a 1.5 million-square-foot plant for the assembly of non-nuclear components of nuclear weapons on vacant ground. The project would replace an aging 3.1 million-square-foot plant that Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies operates for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) at the Bannister Federal Complex. The proposal still faces a couple of hurdles, however. A short list of developers bidding for the project must come under a \$38 a foot lease cap established by Congress, and the GSA and NNSA must prevail in a lawsuit filed against them by a coalition of environmental and peace groups seeking to block the new plant.
Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/stories/2008/10/13/daily38.html>
9. *October 16, Reuters* – (National) **New Lockheed warship is 4 percent overweight – sources.** A new shore-hugging warship built by Lockheed Martin Corp and delivered to the U.S. Navy last month weighs four percent more than it should, which could make it vulnerable to sinking if severely damaged, two sources familiar with the issue told

Reuters on Thursday. The Navy and Lockheed already have a plan to remove nearly all the additional weight from the ship over a period of about six months once the new ship, which is named Freedom, gets to Norfolk, Virginia, in December, said the sources.

They said the weight-loss effort would not add to the cost of the first Littoral Combat Ship, and that no sailors would be at risk during the ship's journey from the Great Lakes, where it was built, to Virginia.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSWEN920720081016>

10. *October 16, Defense News* – (National) **R4 opens 3rd facility.** Logistics and support company R4 Inc. opened a third facility October 15, this one outside Aberdeen Proving Ground in Edgewood, Maryland, to expand its integration capabilities. Founded in 2005 by two veterans of past combat operations in the Middle East, the firm focuses on repairing counter-IED equipment in the field, training and integration. R4 has facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan and is planning to move its headquarters from Eatontown, New Jersey, to Aberdeen in 2009.

Source: <http://defensenews.com/story.php?i=3773610&c=LAN&s=TOP>

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *October 17, VUNet.com* – (International) **FBI smashes online credit card ring.** The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) has concluded a two-year investigation into an online market for stolen credit card data behind millions of dollars worth of fraud. The Dark Market forum was buying and selling stolen financial information, including credit card data, log-in credentials (user names and passwords), as well as equipment used in carrying out certain financial crimes. The FBI operation, carried out in conjunction with the U.K.'s Serious Organized Crime Agency and other law enforcement agencies around the globe, has resulted in 56 arrests. However, the FBI believes that there may have been as many as 2,500 regular forum members. "In today's world of rapidly expanding technology where cyber-crimes are perpetrated instantly from anywhere in the world, law enforcement needs to be flexible and creative in its efforts to target these criminals," said FBI cyber division assistant director. "By joining forces with our international law enforcement counterparts we have been, and will continue to be, successful in arresting those individuals and dismantling these forums." The FBI estimates that it has protected bank accounts and credit lines worth \$70 million by shutting down the forum, and that the investigation has spawned new leads and investigations that will also be followed up.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2228489/fbi-wipes-online-credit-card>

12. *October 17, Reuters* – (National) **Lehman executives including Fuld subpoenaed.** Prosecutors have subpoenaed a dozen executives of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. including its chief executive in connection with three grand jury probes investigating the fall of the investment bank, the New York Post reported.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/ousiv/idUSTRE49G2X920081017>

Transportation Sector

13. *October 17, Newsday* – (New York) **Man charged with trying to bring pipe bomb on airplane.** A Las Vegas man attempted to bring a pipe bomb on board a jet at Long Island MacArthur Airport Thursday morning, federal officials said in court documents. The suspected pipe bomb that was found in a carry-on baggage “could have functioned. It could have detonated,” a federal prosecutor said at the man’s arraignment in U.S. District Court in Central Islip late Thursday afternoon. But the airplane passenger’s attorney said he had not intended to harm anyone and inadvertently placed the device in his luggage as he was returning to visit his mother after a year of working on Long Island. Sources familiar with the investigation said that at this point federal prosecutors and FBI agents do not believe the passenger was bent on terrorism, but at the very least displayed poor judgment. A spokesman for the Eastern District U.S. Attorney said it was not clear whether the bomb could have gone off accidentally. FBI agents and Suffolk police were still analyzing the device. According to a complaint filed by an FBI agent, the passenger was stopped at 7:28 a.m. by U.S. Transportation Security Administration officers during a routine search when they noticed a 7-inch-long knife in his carry-on bag. He was preparing to board Southwest Flight 384 to Las Vegas. After searching his bag, the officers then noticed the bomb. Suffolk police and the FBI were called, and part of the airport was temporarily evacuated. A search of the man’s checked luggage found “explosive fireworks, electrical circuit boards, a battery with electrical tape, and 14 .22-caliber rounds used in a nail gun to drive nails into concrete,” according to the FBI. The passenger said he “built the pipe bomb using a metal pipe, fuses and gunpowder from M-80 fireworks, smoke bombs, and other fireworks,” the FBI said.
Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/crime/ny-limac175886742oct17,0,5617714.story>
14. *October 17, Associated Press* – (Maine; New Hampshire) **Portsmouth bridge project cost stuns NH officials.** Major repairs on the Memorial Bridge between New Hampshire and Maine are up in the air after bids exceeded the amount set aside for the project by more than \$15 million. The states budgeted \$44 million for repairs, but bids came in at \$59.5 million and \$70.1 million. The cost of the project is being split by Maine and New Hampshire. New Hampshire’s project manager says officials in both states are weighing their options, which include accepting the low bid or delaying the project altogether.
Source: <http://www.fox44.net/Global/story.asp?S=9193993>
15. *October 16, Associated Press* – (National) **Jet engines found with damaged, missing parts.** Federal safety officials have found several passenger aircraft engines with damaged and missing parts and urged the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Thursday to order inspections of all similar engines. The engines are a commonly used model made by Pratt & Whitney and are on a large number of Boeing 757 planes. The problems were cited by the National Transportation Safety Board in a letter urging the FAA to order inspections of the engines. “Information gathered to date has raised

serious concerns that warrant immediate action by the FAA,” the safety board wrote to the FAA’s acting administrator. The safety board began examining the Pratt & Whitney engines after a Delta Air Lines flight experienced a loss of power early in a takeoff attempt from Las Vegas, Nevada, in early August. The pilot slowed the aircraft and returned to the parking area. There were no reported injuries.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27228418/>

16. *October 16, USA Today* – (National) **Industry slow to adopt warning system for helicopters.** A computerized safety system such as Honeywell’s Terrain Awareness and Warning System (TAWS) is one of the best defenses against the epidemic of accidents on air ambulance helicopter flights that have killed 35 people in nine crashes over the past 12 months, say federal accident investigators and safety experts. Besides natural obstacles, the system warns helicopter pilots when they fly too close to towers and other man-made obstructions. The National Transportation Safety Board has urged federal regulators to mandate the safety systems on air ambulance flights. Only a tiny fraction of the industry’s helicopters are equipped, and federal regulators say they will not consider requiring them until studies on the devices are completed next year. TAWS tracks an aircraft’s heading and altitude, and issues alerts if pilots get too close to danger. A computer screen in the cockpit shows approaching obstacles, so pilots can steer clear well in advance. It virtually wiped out such crashes on airliners since becoming mandatory in 2005. Honeywell adapted the system for helicopters in 2000, but the industry has been slower to adopt it than airlines. So far the company has sold about 200 of the helicopter devices, mostly to firms that ferry workers and equipment to off-shore oil rigs, said a sales director for Honeywell’s helicopter division.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-10-16-crashwarning_N.htm

17. *October 16, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority* – (District of Columbia) **Poor track conditions blamed for June derailment.** A Metrorail track inspector, who inspected an area of track the same day that a six-car Orange Line train derailed upon approach to the Court House Metrorail station on June 9 in Washington, D.C., failed to notice and report poor track conditions, according to findings of Metro’s investigation into the accident. There were several conditions that contributed to the derailment, including track alignment, loose track fasteners, and wide gage, which is the space between the rails. None of the 412 passengers on board train 905 that Monday were injured during the 2:42 p.m. incident, in which the front wheels of the third car of the train slid off the tracks and dragged for 2,300 feet before the train stopped. A Metro employee on board the train alerted the train operator that he heard a loud noise and instructed the operator to stop the train because he suspected that the train had derailed. The findings of Metro’s internal investigation determined that the track inspector failed to detect “defects in the track’s geometry” in the area of the derailment and “violated several inspection procedures,” according to Metro’s chief safety officer. The inspector did not inform the Operations Control Center of dangerous track conditions, did not report any dangerous or defective conditions to his supervisor, and failed to properly measure the space between the two tracks.

Source:

http://www.wmata.com/about/MET_NEWS/PressReleaseDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=2315

18. *October 16, San Antonio Express-News* – (Texas) **Streets near bus station reopen after bomb scare.** Emergency responders quelled a bomb scare at the Greyhound Bus Station that caused the temporary closure of a two-block radius in downtown San Antonio, Texas, Thursday afternoon. The San Antonio Fire District chief said hazardous material and Bomb Squad crews responded about noon for a call of a possible bomb device inside a suitcase in the baggage claim area of the bus station in the 500 block of North St. Mary’s Street. Upon investigation, fire officials were able to determine that the bag had an “old military style smoke grenade” and another item that appeared to be a timer inside. “It was not a (bomb) device,” he said. Police reopened the downtown streets near the bus station about 30 minutes after the call came in, he said.

Source: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/31112549.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *October 16, US Agnet* – (International) **Mexico’s delisting of U.S. meat plants a mystery.** MeatPoultry.com reports that Mexican officials have recently barred six U.S. meat processors from exporting products to Mexico, following a recent audit by Mexican officials. But the “whys” behind their move remain a mystery. Two companies on this list — Caviness Beef Packers Ltd. and Walt’s Wholesale Meats — have told reporters they are not even exporting meat products to Mexico. Cargill Meat Solutions officials have been quoted as saying the company has not been given any reasons for its Friona, Texas facility being delisted. Other meat plants cited include: JBS Swift & Co., Cactus, Texas; Tyson Fresh Meats Inc. Waterloo, Iowa; and Washington Beef LLC, Toppenish, Washington. Meanwhile, Tyson Foods confirmed that its Waterloo, Iowa, pork plant has been temporarily suspended from exporting product to Mexico.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2419&yr=2008>

20. *October 16, Stars and Stripes* – (International) **Poultry supplier to U.S. bases in Italy fails latest health inspection.** The poultry plant that supplies fresh chicken to commissaries in Italy failed its most recent health inspection last week, said officials from the U.S. Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA). By press time, officials from the Army’s veterinary command had not provided specific information on what caused the Arena Chicken plant — the sole provider of fresh poultry to U.S. military commissaries in Italy — to fail the Oct. 7 inspection. They only said it was a different problem from what caused a failed inspection in February. That month, inspectors from Europe Regional Veterinary Command in Naples found traces of coliform bacteria in the water used to wash chicken parts that have been plucked and gutted. A second inspection of the Arena plant is scheduled for Nov. 7. For now, DeCA is looking for an alternate

source for fresh poultry in Italy officials said.

Source: <http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=58178>

21. *October 16, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **Hillsborough sewage spill hits organic farm.** About \$6,000 worth of organic vegetables will be destroyed because of Sunday's 1.8-million gallon sewage spill into Sweetwater Creek, the farm's operator says. A private water testing company will examine local well water for the next few months. Four years ago, the idea of destroying \$6,000 worth of produce just weeks before the first harvest would have devastated the organization. However, because of a partnership with two other organic farms, the loss will be minimized. The farm's operator said the Bern's Steak House Farm about three miles from Sweetwater and 400-acre Magnolia Organic Farm in Pasco County will increase production.

Source: <http://tampabay.com/news/business/agriculture/article856858.ece>

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Water Sector

22. *October 17, Courier-Journal* – (Kentucky) **Louisville Water Co.'s riverbank-filtration system is 60 percent completed, officials say.** The Louisville Water Co. yesterday showed off a major part of its new riverbank-filtration system under development at the Payne Treatment Plant. Work on the \$50 million project that features a tunnel and four deep wells has passed the halfway mark and is headed for completion in spring 2010, said the company President. When it is finished, "we will have a much more efficient system" and will be using fewer chemicals to treat Louisville drinking water, he said. The Payne Treatment Plant, which dates to the early 1970s, supplies about 35 million gallons a day. In addition to producing a higher-quality source of water and reducing costs for chemical treatment, officials said riverbank filtration will help stabilize the temperature of drinking water, protect against use of water spoiled by river barge chemical spills, and reduce health risks posed by fertilizers, pesticides and pharmaceuticals.

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20081017/NEWS01/810170427>

23. *October 16, Wisconsin State Journal* – (Wisconsin) **Sewage treatment districts cited by DNR for flood-related problems.** Five sewage treatment districts in south-central Wisconsin have been warned by the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that their poorly maintained or inadequate sewage systems may violate state standards. Sewage treatment plants in those communities pumped millions of gallons of raw sewage into area streams and lakes during flooding last summer. A DNR review of those bypasses resulted in the notices of noncompliance. All told, nearly 70 plants in south-central Wisconsin were forced to bypass their treatment systems during the flooding and pump raw sewage into area waters — an act that automatically puts plants in violation of their operating permits. Water volumes increased so dramatically that plants had to either shut down or divert raw sewage into nearby waterways to keep plants from being flooded and residential basements from being filled with backed-up sewage.

Source: <http://www.madison.com/wsj/home/local/309899>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *October 17, Newsday* – (New Jersey) **New Jersey mandates flu shots for children.** While New York strongly recommends that children get an annual flu shot, New Jersey is the first state to mandate it, sparking protests from parents Thursday. Hundreds of parents and other activists rallied outside the New Jersey Statehouse yesterday to protest the state’s requirement that children from 6 months to 5 years old who attend day care or preschool get the flu vaccine, along with a pneumococcal vaccine, by December 31. Instead, many voiced support for a bill that would allow parents to opt out of the mandatory vaccinations. Flu kills about 36,000 Americans a year; last year 83 children died from flu, according to the Center for Disease Control.
Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/printedition/longisland/ny-liflu175886739oct17,0,3059680.story>
25. *October 16, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **New antibiotics offer hope in fight against drug-resistant TB: study.** A new class of antibiotics shows great promise in treating drug-resistant tuberculosis and other diseases caused by bacteria, scientists said in a potentially groundbreaking study released Thursday. Researchers in the October 17th issue of the medical journal “Cell” said they discovered three naturally-occurring antibiotic compounds that can be used to create new medications, which can be administered to unleash “a kind of chemical warfare against other bacteria.” The breakthrough holds special promise for the treatment of tuberculosis (TB), a disease that is carried by one in three people in the world and which is proving increasingly resistant to today’s antibiotics, scientists said. The new antibiotic class not also promises treatment that could be significantly shorter than existing antibiotic regimens, which can last as long as a half-year. The breakthrough comes at a time when roughly a quarter of all deaths worldwide result from bacteria-borne diseases but with such pathogens increasingly resistant to available antibiotics.
Source: <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5i5ludADN1rUs-yLoyn9bfvCSDewQ>
26. *October 15, Albany Times Union* – (New York) **Albany scientist receives \$1.6M to fight bioterrorism.** A professor in the Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease at Albany Medical College has received a \$1.6 million federal grant to fight bioterrorism. The professor will use the grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease to study whether changing the immune response to tularemia, a deadly form of bacteria, could prevent death. Tularemia is a naturally occurring bacteria that has been weaponized in the past by the U.S. and former Soviet Union.
Source:
<http://timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=729394&category=REGION>

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Government Facilities Sector

27. *October 18, Stars and Stripes* – (International) **USFK holds mass anti-terror exercise.** A five-base anti-terror exercise took place last week at the U.S. Army Garrison in South Korea. On Thursday, the first terror strikes began at camps Red Cloud, Casey, Hovey, Stanley, and Castle. “In some cases, vehicles self-detonated. In other cases, we’d have a gunfight, with us having to simulate shooting occupants trying to enter the base,” said the director of plans, mobilization, training, and security for the garrison, also known as Area I. The multiple-attack scenario, planned by U.S. Forces Korea’s J-34 anti-terrorism section, is more representative of what a well-organized terrorist network could do than smaller exercises are, he said. Area I renovated its installation operations center to make room for more technical personnel. It also updated emergency equipment and held meetings with 2nd Infantry Division officials on coordination during terror attacks and natural disasters, he said.
Source: <http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=58213>
28. *October 17, Trend News* – (International) **Police detain Iranian citizen taking photo of U.S. Embassy in Baku.** The police arrested an Iranian citizen taking photos of the U.S. Embassy in Azerbaijan. The policemen detained a 49-year old Iranian citizen and took him to the police office at approx 11.00AM on 15 October, the police told Trend News. The police office set the man free after prevention talk and giving explanation. The police office informed the relevant organizations of this case. An investigation is being held on this matter.
Source: <http://news.trendaz.com/index.shtml?show=news&newsid=1322777&lang=EN>
29. *October 16, Times Herald-Record* – (New York) **West Point reports theft of items totaling \$400K; reward offered.** Army investigators are offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to whoever stole more than \$400,000 worth of equipment from a warehouse at West Point. According to the Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID), the crime occurred between 5 p.m. September 16 and 7 a.m. September 17 in a storage facility near Washington Gate. The perimeter fence around the warehouse was cut, CID reports said, and the “door to the building, although secured with lock and key, was easy to open with a strenuous pull.” The stolen goods included 330 Motorola Portable Astro Digital XTS 5000 radios, worth \$1,142 each, and about 600 Ni-Cad batteries worth \$87 each. Investigators publicized the theft and introduced the reward this week.
Source:
<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081016/NEWS/81016005>
30. *October 17, Marine Corps Times* – (California) **Pendleton fire almost contained.** Firefighters at Camp Pendleton, Calif., took the upper hand Wednesday against a wildfire that forced thousands of base residents from their homes while devouring nearly 4,000 acres. The fire, which began at about 3 p.m. Monday and burned a hilly training area along Pendleton’s southern boundary, was about 75 percent contained as of 11 a.m. Wednesday, base officials said. Officials lifted evacuation orders for residents of Serra Mesa, a neighborhood near the base’s main headquarters, while crews continued to monitor for possible flare-ups in an area that burned for several hours Tuesday. Dry Santa Ana winds that have fueled the wildfires throughout Southern California were

expected to lessen later in the day, but warmer daytime temperatures and low humidity levels projected through Thursday continue to raise the threat of more brushfires.

Source:

http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/2008/10/marine_pendletonfire_update_101508w/

31. *October 17, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Feud led to deadly Detroit school shooting.** Officials are trying to find a way to quell violence and reassure frightened parents after a fight involving two Detroit high school students apparently led to a shooting on a primary-school lawn. Police say the shooting killed one and wounded three. Another three young people were in custody. Classes had just let out yesterday when a gunman stepped out of a black Mazda SUV and opened fire at Michigan Technical Academy next door. A sixteen-year-old was pronounced dead at Providence Hospital.
Source: <http://www.fox28.com/Global/story.asp?S=9193822>
32. *October 17, Pantagraph* – (Indiana) **Powder at Social Security office was food substance.** Discovery of a food powder in a restroom prompted a contamination scare Thursday afternoon at the Social Security Administration office. Seventeen employees and about ten clients were evacuated about 2:30 p.m. Bloomington firefighters, including their hazardous-materials response team, police, the FBI, and the Department of Homeland Security responded to the scene, which was cordoned off. The employees were kept in a tent at the scene as a precaution while the material was tested. Officials announced at 6 p.m. that they determined it to be some sort of powdered food product that contained garlic. There will be no further police investigation because there is no evidence of criminal intent, a Bloomington police spokesman said. Homeland Security officials also reviewed the evidence and determined it was benign. The Social Security office is the only occupant of the building.
Source: <http://www.pantagraph.com/articles/2008/10/17/news/doc48f79b6a0616e693319076.txt>
33. *October 16, Reuters* – (International) **U.S. consulate shuts in Mexico as shots fired nearby.** Gunmen fired shots near a U.S. consulate in northern Mexico on Thursday, days after a similar attack on the building, and officials suspended visa services, a U.S. official said. “Shots were fired in the vicinity of the consulate general. We don’t know if shots were fired at the consulate,” said a U.S. consular official who declined to be named. Mexican police swarmed around the building in the city of Monterrey and U.S. federal investigators scoured the area for evidence. Unknown gunmen shot at the building over the weekend and threw a grenade that did not explode. The consulate, which processes immigrant visas for Mexicans and provides services to U.S. citizens in Mexico, was expected to reopen on October 17, the official said.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE49F9K120081016>

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Emergency Services Sector

34. *October 17, Chicago Sun-Times* – (National) **‘We’ve lost too many lives’ in EMS crashes.** Emergency medical services aircraft have been in nine fatal accidents in the last 12 months, killing 35 people — the highest number of fatalities since such flights began in the 1970s. The grim toll has prompted the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which has been critical of EMS flight operations, to step up pressure on the Federal Aviation Administration to adopt safety measures the board wanted two years ago. The NTSB plans a three-day public hearing in February on EMS helicopter safety. At its October 28 meeting, the NTSB will consider adding its EMS recommendations to its “most wanted list” of safety improvements. The need for EMS flights has exploded because complex equipment is not available in every hospital, and emergency rooms are closing down, so there is more need to move patients quickly from one hospital to another, said the executive director of the Association of Air Medical Services.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/transportation/1226994,CST-NWS-safe17.article>

35. *October 16, Associated Press* – (California) **Guard planes not yet equipped to fight wildfires.** Despite pressure from elected officials and the military, the U.S. presidential administration has yet to equip some California National Guard planes for firefighting — a delay that could have grave implications during the worst of the wildfire season. After last year’s devastating blazes killed 10 people, charred 800 square miles, and destroyed nearly 2,200 homes in the state, the head of the military’s Northern Command said he would push to get the C-130 aircraft into the sky. California’s governor warned in April that it “would be reckless” to face another fire season without the planes, which are among the state’s most powerful aerial firefighting weapons. Of eight C-130s based at the Channel Islands Air National Guard Station on the Pacific Coast northwest of Los Angeles, none is equipped yet to fight fires.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jOrdQF-sblftqdfPNlwWSHXmvjMgD93R93M80>

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Information Technology

36. *October 17, VUNet.com* – (International) **Expert warns of new Mac malware.** A new rogue security application for the Mac could be on the way, according to one industry executive. Sunbelt Software chief executive revealed that researchers at his company had uncovered a web site advertising a product known as ‘MacGuard’. The product claims to offer spyware and antivirus protection, as well as the ability to remove adware and block phishing attacks on OS X systems. No downloadable software has been found on the site, but the Sunbelt executive is urging users to remain vigilant. The group believed to be behind the site also distributes ‘Antivirus XP 2008’ and ‘XP Antivirus’, a pair of rogue Windows security applications. If the MacGuard application does turn out to be a rogue security attack, it will mark another incident in a small but growing crop of Mac malware releases.

Source: <http://www.vnuset.com/vnuset/news/2228488/early-alarms-mac-malware>

37. *October 17, VUNet.com* – (International) **Fresh Facebook malware attack spotted.**

Security experts are warning users and administrators of a new crop of Facebook malware. F-Secure said in a recent blog posting that the company has tracked down a number of pages on the social networking site which attempt to infect users by promising free videos. The new attacks propagate by way of a malicious worm which hijacks Facebook information. The user is sent a message from an infected friend which promises a link to a YouTube video. On clicking the link, the victim is directed to a third-party site which scans the user's operating system. Once landing on the attack page, users are prompted to download what purports to be an updated version of Flash which is needed to view the file. The would-be installer, however, simply delivers the malware payload in what is known as a 'fake codec' attack. The malware package installs and launches a new copy of the worm which then scans the user's system for Facebook cookies and uses the information to send new attack messages to the victim's friend list. Security on Facebook has become a growing concern of late. In addition to its use as a means for spreading malware, researchers have suggested that the site could also be used as a platform for denial-of-service attacks on third-party sites.

Source: <http://www.vninet.com/vninet/news/2228485/fresh-facebook-malware-attack>

38. *October 16, eWEEK.com* – (International) **Warezov Botnet is back in the spam game.**

SecureWorks is reporting that the Warezov botnet is back spewing spam — this time using compromised Hotmail accounts. Whoever is behind the spam campaign has defeated Microsoft Hotmail's CAPTCHA system and is part of a trend security researchers call "reputation hijacking." The activity highlights a disturbing trend among spammers known as "reputation hijacking." In its recent "E-mail Trends Security Report," security vendor Commtouch noted spammers are increasingly capitalizing on the good reputations of established sites and senders to bypass reputation-based e-mail defenses. It's unclear just how CAPTCHA was defeated in this case, but it is commonly known the system has been beaten by spammers via optical character recognition or human "account farming" operations, director of malware research at SecureWorks, wrote in a posting on the company's Web site. In light of how spammers are defeating CAPTCHA, the best defense for Webmail providers is a multipronged approach such as limiting how many messages per hour a particular account can send or how fast one IP address can register accounts.

Source:

<http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Security/Warezov-Botnet-is-Back-in-the-Spam-Game/>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://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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Communications Sector

39. *October 16, Internet News* – (National) **Jeers, cheers over FCC white space report.** The Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Office of Engineering Technology released a 149-page technical report Wednesday detailing its tests for the use of unlicensed white space within the broadcast spectrum and said it found no major interference problems. The expected approval of the spectrum’s use by the FCC at its next meeting in November could help usher in a new generation of gadgets and connected devices using faster networks. The vacant spectrum will be created as broadband analog spectrum is converted to digital next year. Technology companies such as Google and Microsoft have lobbied for using the “white spaces” for wireless devices. While the Wireless Innovation Alliance said it is delighted that the report indicates no interference issues related to white space use, the National Association of Broadcasters questioned whether support for white space devices is contradicted by key findings in the FCC’s report.

Source:

<http://www.internetnews.com/mobility/article.php/3778666/Jeers+Cheers+Over+FCC+White+Space+Report.htm>

40. *October 16, Central Penn Business Journal* – (Pennsylvania) **Verizon expands FiOS network in Central Pa.** Verizon Communications Inc. today announced the expansion of its fiber-optic network (FiOS) in Central Pennsylvania. The company will add 11 municipalities in Cumberland, Dauphin, and York counties where the service and bundling packages will be available to businesses and consumers. Verizon Pennsylvania is a division of New York City-based Verizon. The company spent the past several years laying fiber-optic cable around the region. The president and chief executive officer of the Harrisburg-based Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania said Verizon’s presence will increase competition and should help expand infrastructure and technology in the region while lowering prices. Businesses and consumers will benefit from the competition through better service.

Source: <http://www.centralpennbusiness.com/article.asp?aID=68890>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

41. *October 16, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **‘Incendiary device’ disrupts day near St. Louis.** A packaged “incendiary device” exploded in a suburban St. Louis parking garage on Thursday, injuring the man who picked it up, rocking an office high-rise and forcing hundreds of people to evacuate. The parking garage is shared by an office building and a residential building. No damage was apparent from outside the complex. Buildings were evacuated, leaving several hundred people to mingle for hours on a lawn. A nearby Ritz-Carlton hotel was among the emptied buildings in Clayton. The busy, well-to-do suburb is the seat of St. Louis County and home to many of the region’s biggest law firms, financial offices and other white-collar businesses, as well as posh hotels and restaurants. Searches of nearby buildings did not turn up any additional

devices through late afternoon.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j1s-oO4LRE17yv90uXHm62muwRdQD93RUKP82>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

42. *October 17, National Park Service Digest* – (Oregon) **Hazardous fuels reduction at Chickasaw National Recreation Area.** Chickasaw National Recreation Area is continuing with fuel reduction projects throughout the park. Two contractors from the state of Oregon, Eagle Pass Reforestation and Summitt Forests, have begun work to treat 233 acres. The areas of treatment include the boundary along the west side of the Lake of the Arbuckles, Guy Sandy, East Hunting Area, and the Platt historic district. The focus of these projects is to reduce fire fuels around the perimeter of the park. The reduction of fuels will create buffer zones that will lessen the likelihood that a fire will start inside the park and then escape outside the park to damage private property. Fuel breaks alone are not enough to prevent wildfires, but they will allow for more effective fire management and provide an additional measure of security for home owners just outside the park.

Source:

<http://home.nps.gov/applications/digest/headline.cfm?type=Announcements&id=7005&urlarea=npsnews>

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Dams Sector

43. *October 17, Area Wide News* – (Arkansas) **Flood dams neglected.** The Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) announced October 9 that inspections of some flood control dams found that they are “aging and some are in a neglected state.” The flood control dams were built by the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through Public Law 83-566, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954. Though the dams saved many low-lying areas from flooding in the spring floods earlier this year, they are getting old. According to the news release from the AACD, “Most of the flood control dams were built with a design life span of 50 years and many were built in the 1950s and 60s.” The news release states, “Recent inspections highlighted the age of the dams and their need for rehabilitation. Many need updating to provide a higher level of safety due to increases in people living downstream, below the dam where they were not residing before. A few dams, predominately in the northeast part of the state, do not meet the necessary increased safety rating required by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.”

Source: <http://www.areawideneews.com/story/1470695.html>

44. *October 16, WJLA 8 Washington, D.C.* – (District of Columbia) **D.C. levee system**

update plans reviewed. The National Park Service is developing a design plan to update the Potomac Park levee system after the U.S Army Corps of Engineers warned the 70-year-old levee is at risk of failing during a major storm and could flood downtown D.C. with up to 10 feet of water. The National Park Service reviewed the current Potomac Park levee system. It was designed in the 1930's, but FEMA and the Corps of Engineers say the levee needs a face-lift. Currently, city streets cut through the old levee and in the event of a major flood, the current plan calls for re-enforcement. If D.C.'s current levee system failed, many of the nation's museums, archives, and federal office buildings would sit under water. After Hurricane Katrina, the Corps of Engineers determined the system is not reliable.

Source: <http://www.news8.net/news/stories/1008/562061.html>

45. *October 16, Times and Democrat* – (South Carolina) **Santee Cooper tests dam warning sirens.** Santee Cooper will conduct semiannual testing of its 15 Santee Dam warning sirens in Berkeley, Clarendon, and Williamsburg counties on Monday, October 27. To conduct the tests, Santee Cooper employees will set off each siren in test mode, which includes about a one-minute siren, a prerecorded message and a live announcement concluding the test. Santee Cooper maintains ten warning siren locations in Berkeley County, four in Clarendon County, and one in Williamsburg County.

Source:

<http://www.timesanddemocrat.com/articles/2008/10/16/news/doc48f7bd9716e41245110534.txt>

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