



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 19 July 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
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Daily Highlights

- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued a bulletin to companies licensed to operate commercial nuclear reactors in the United States requesting information on several components of their emergency preparedness programs. (See item [1](#))
- The Atlanta Journal Constitution reports that a nearly completed federal draft plan sets vaccine priority groups for who would receive flu vaccine in an epidemic. (See item [26](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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

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

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

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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 18, Nuclear Regulatory Commission** — **Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff issues bulletin on emergency preparedness.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has issued a bulletin to companies licensed to operate commercial nuclear reactors in the United States requesting information on several components of their emergency preparedness programs. Several NRC studies show the existing emergency planning basis can successfully deal with events, including those dealing with security, at nuclear power plants. The agency recognizes, however, that security-based incidents present issues, such as the need to relay information and protect plant personnel, where enhancements to emergency planning could be made. The bulletin asks reactor operators for information on their emergency preparedness

planning, procedures and training to be cognizant of what enhancements are planned or have been made. Some of the areas covered by the bulletin include emergency classifications, NRC notifications, onsite protective actions and onsite response organization augmentation. For instance, a plant could notify the NRC more quickly of security-related events, allowing the NRC to pass the information to other plants and Federal agencies. Also, a plant's actions for protecting its onsite staff might be revised to address possible hazards during a potential or in-progress security breach.

Bulletin 2005-02, Emergency Preparedness and Response Actions for Security-Based Events:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/bulletins/2005/>

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2005/05-102.html>

2. *July 18, Reuters* — **OPEC sees strong demand next year.** Non-Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) supply is expected to rise strongly next year, almost meeting world oil demand growth and meaning very little need for extra OPEC crude, OPEC headquarters said on Monday, July 18. In a monthly report, OPEC's Vienna secretariat said a balanced world market next year would require 29 million barrels per day (bpd) of the cartel's crude, only 100,000 bpd more than this year and a million barrels a day less than its latest estimate for the group's output. OPEC pumped 30.01 million bpd in June, the report said, up slightly from May. OPEC blames refinery bottlenecks in consuming countries for high oil prices of now at \$58 for U.S. crude, saying that it is pumping more than enough crude to meet world demand. The report projected 2006 world demand growth at 1.54 million barrels a day or 1.9 percent, reaching 85.2 million bpd, from this year's growth of 1.62 million bpd or two percent. The report downgraded OPEC's forecast for demand growth in 2005 by 150,000 bpd and cut the projected call on OPEC crude by 260,000 bpd to 28.9 million. The revisions were a result of lower-than-expected Chinese demand growth of two percent from January-May. OPEC Monthly Oil Report, July 2005:

<http://www.opec.org/home/Monthly%20Oil%20Market%20Reports/2005/pdf/MR072005.pdf>

Source: <http://today.reuters.com/business/newsarticle.aspx?type=tnBusinessNews&storyID=nL18718203&imageid=&cap=>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

3. *July 18, Orlando Sentinel (FL)* — **Restaurant warns of online scam.** Online phishing scams that try to fool computer users into disclosing personal information have been fond of using

e-mail posing as banks. However, one of the latest scams takes a different tack, targeting fans of The Cheesecake Factory Inc., the upscale, California-based restaurant chain. The e-mail purports to be from a Canadian Web service called GiftFox, offering a free gift card to the restaurant if you click on a certain link to confirm your personal information. Officials for Cheesecake Factory and the Canadian company are warning people to beware — the offer has nothing to do with them.

Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/orl-cfbcfbinsider18071805jul18.0.7851808.story?coll=orl-business-headlines&track=rss>

4. *July 18, Asia Pulse* — **Nauru faces crackdown on terror finances.** Nauru is one of the three countries under close scrutiny by European countries in the wake of last week's bombings in London. The call has come from British finance minister, Gordon Brown, who has urged the European Union (EU) to adopt anti-terror plans agreed on after September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S. Brown said warned that some countries outside the EU had more work to do in clamping down on terrorist financing. According to official sources, attention will focus on countries, including Nigeria, Burma and Nauru, which have been slow to act on suspected terrorist assets. Brown also said the EU was "prepared to offer help" to countries without the technical systems in place to combat money laundering. As of last year, Nauru remained on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) black list of counties that have not complied with anti-money laundering policies. "Nauru lacked a basic set of anti-money regulations, including the criminalization of money laundering, customer identification and a suspicious transaction reporting system," according to the latest OECD assessment on Nauru. While Nauru enacted its Ani-Money Laundering Act in 2001, it was not enough to get itself removed from the OECD blacklist.

OECD: http://www.oecd.org/home/0,2987,en_2649_201185_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

Source: <http://au.news.yahoo.com/050718/3/v4w4.html>

5. *July 17, WJZ 13 (DE)* — **Identity theft concern at University of Delaware.** New anti-identity theft guidelines are in place at the University of Delaware, in the wake of the theft of several computers. The names and Social Security numbers of 343 students were stored on one of three computers stolen from the University's communications department last December. University officials didn't find out about the loss of the personal information until June. The university's new guidelines, designed to guard against identity theft, include not storing information locally and protecting personal information when working on a computer outside the university.

Source: http://wjz.com/localstories/local_story_198080407.html

6. *July 15, TechWeb News* — **Phishers up ante with large increase in Trojans.** A massive run-up in the number of Trojan horses and Trojan horse downloaders, as well as a corresponding jump in the number of malicious sites, over the last three weeks means that a new, large-scale, coordinated phishing campaign is being waged by criminals, a security vendor said Friday, July 15. Websense, a San Diego-based security company, has detected a four- to five-fold increase in the number of Trojans during the last week of June and especially the first two weeks of July, said Dan Hubbard, Websense's senior director of security. The Trojan horses are either planting keyloggers on compromised systems, or retrieving downloaders that in turn install a keylogger, said Hubbard. All have the same goal: steal usernames and passwords to specific online banking sites so that the criminals can empty accounts. The keyloggers are going after a specific list of banks, and don't invoke themselves

until or unless the user accesses the banks Website, said Hubbard. That list of banks, he noted, is hard-coded into the keylogger. The Trojan horses (and thus the keyloggers) are installed after a user naively surfs to a malicious site linked in an e-mail or instant message, said Hubbard.

Source: [http://www.securitypipeline.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleId= 166400034](http://www.securitypipeline.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleId=166400034)

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

7. *July 18, Greenwich Time (CT)* — **Flexible rules allow different airport security levels.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) sets flexible guidelines — rather than hard and fast rules — for security at general aviation airports. Although largely supported by the general aviation community, this security strategy has come under fire from Connecticut and Westchester politicians since authorities said a young Bethel man went joyriding in a plane stolen from Danbury Airport last month. The approach means that decisions about security measures are based on how threatened the agency determines the airport is. In Danbury, CT, a small, city-run airport nestled in a 60-acre valley containing approximately 300 aircraft and five flight-based operators, the TSA-calculated risk is low. Security consists of a high fence topped by three strands of barbed wire, with five-digit keypads on the gates. But because Westchester County Airport in White Plains, NY, has both commercial and general aviation traffic, it has much tighter security measures for its private pilots than purely general aviation airports like Danbury, according to Bill Weaver, president of Westair, one of the operators at the White Plains airport.

Source: <http://www.greenwichtime.com/news/local/scn-gt-airports4jull18.0.277341.story?coll=green-news-local-headlines>

8. *July 18, Associated Press* — **Ferries between Cape Cod and Nantucket halted by security alert.** Ferry service between Cape Cod and Nantucket, MA, returned to normal on Monday, July 18, after a security alert left dozens of passengers stranded on the island overnight. Authorities said a bomb threat was called in Sunday sometime before 11 p.m. (EDT) against HyLines Cruises, which runs ferries between Hyannis and the islands. The threat resulted in one ferry that had just left the dock at Nantucket being called back and evacuated. The Coast Guard said officials boarded the vessel and conducted a search. Nothing suspicious was found on that ferry or two others that were docked in Nantucket.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2005/07/18/ferries_between_nantucket_and_cape_cod_halted_by_security_alert/

9. *July 18, Associated Press* — **Coast Guard increases security for Block Island Ferry.** Following the terror attacks in London, the Coast Guard has been dispatching armed escort vessels to accompany Rhode Island's Block Island ferry trips. The ferry company's security officer said vessels are being inspected more often as a security precaution. The Narragansett Police Department and harbor masters are among the other agencies involved.

Source: <http://www.turnto10.com/news/4735703/detail.html>

10. *July 18, Associated Press* — **Fighting immigration far from the Mexican border.** A

volunteer movement that vows to guard America from a wave of illegal immigration has spread from the U.S.–Mexican border to Appalachia. At least 40 anti–immigration groups have popped up nationally, inspired by the Minuteman Project that rallied hundreds this year to patrol the Mexican border in Arizona. The Minuteman Project has generated chapters in 18 states — from California to states far from Mexico, like Utah, Minnesota and Maine. The groups have no direct affiliation, but share a common goal.

Source: <http://www.saukvalley.com/news/295758935438439.bsp>

11. *July 18, Associated Press* — **Governors say driver's license costs will soar.** In support of homeland security, motorists are going to see costs skyrocket for driver's licenses and motor vehicle offices forced to operate like local branches of the FBI, the nation's governors warn. The new federal law that was attached onto an \$82 billion spending bill had governors fuming at their summer meeting, and vowing to bring their complaints to the Department of Homeland Security. "It's outrageous to pass this off on the states," said Republican Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, incoming chairman of the National Governors Association. "You're essentially asking the front–line clerks at the DMV to become an INS agent and a law enforcement agent." The law that passed in June goes beyond an earlier law that sought to standardize state driver's licenses, requiring that states verify license applicants are American citizens or legal residents. "This is going to drive the cost of driver's licenses for ordinary folks through the roof," said Democrat Tom Vilsack of Iowa. The law would demand skills of motor vehicle office clerks far beyond what is currently expected, governors said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-07-18-governors-licenses_x.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

12. *July 18, Bloomberg* — **Germany sells Deutsche Post stock.** Germany sold about \$6.04 billion of Deutsche Post AG and Deutsche Telekom AG stock to KfW Group, eliminating the government's stake in the national postal service and raising cash to reduce the budget deficit. KfW, Germany's state–owned development bank, bought 7.3 percent of each of the Bonn–based companies, raising its stake in Deutsche Post, Europe's biggest postal service, to 44.7 percent from 37.4 percent. Finance Minister Hans Eichel, whose budget has exceeded European Union deficit limits for the past three years, has pledged to sell all government holdings in Germany's former postal monopoly by the end of 2006 to help plug the gap. The government transfers shares to KfW in return for cash as a preliminary step before any sale to the market. KfW bought 80.9 million shares of Deutsche Post. After today's transaction, the German government no longer holds any shares in Deutsche Post, said Charis Poethig, a spokesperson for KfW.

Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000100&sid=atJM0X0KTD_w&refer=germany

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Agriculture Sector

13. July 18, Agence France Presse — Vets form front-line against agroterrorism. Veterinarians and animal-health workers from around the world are meeting Minneapolis, MN, for a four-day conference to learn how to spot livestock diseases that terrorists could introduce to touch off human plagues. Heightening the concern is a shortage of laboratory facilities equipped to handle dangerous diseases, as well as a shortage in rural areas of veterinarians, who provide the link between animal health and public health. Animal diseases that could be turned into weapons by terrorists are highly contagious and easily obtained in less-developed countries. Veterinary workers are on the front lines of countering the potential for such terrorism because animals serve as sentinels for the presence of many diseases, said Bernard Vallat, director general of the Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health. Vallat said he fears the intentional spread of diseases such as avian influenza, anthrax or rabies by terrorists intent on harming both animals and the public. Other pathogens that strictly affect livestock can devastate economies. If current trends continue, Vallat said, the world may not have enough new veterinarians in rural areas to ensure early detection of serious diseases. Hence, he said it was crucial that governments support a strong veterinary profession.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050718/ts_alt_afp/usattackshealthanimals_050718081702

14. July 18, USAgNet — Hurricane Dennis ruined Florida cotton crop. Hurricane Dennis destroyed up to 50 percent of the cotton crop in parts of the Florida, making it the second straight year that some farmers will struggle to make a profit after a hurricane, agriculture officials said. Nearly 4,700 Santa Rosa County, FL, farms and 56,000 acres of cropland were affected by Hurricane Dennis, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The county's cotton crop alone was worth \$14 million in 2003, the last year for which statistics are available. Hurricane Dennis also may end up hurting farms far from where it made landfall. Experts feared the hurricane's remnants could bring more than rainfall to the Midwest's parched fields: The storm clouds may have carried spores of a potentially devastating soybean fungus. Hurricane Dennis swept an area of southwestern Alabama where fields are infected with soybean rust. Farmers and agricultural scientists nationwide will be looking for any signs over the next few weeks that the fungus has spread. The rust appears as pustules on the leaves of soybean plants. Heat and high humidity could fuel its development. Fungicides can control soybean rust, but only if they are applied immediately after it is detected.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=718&yr=2005>

15. July 17, ABC Money — Outbreak of Exotic Newcastle disease in United Kingdom.

Potentially difficult times for poultry farms and farmers in the UK are ahead as the government confirmed that Exotic Newcastle disease had been detected in 9,000 pheasants in Surrey, United Kingdom, Saturday, July 16. This disease is usually fatal to birds and is associated with episodes of conjunctivitis in both adults as well as children. This new scare has prompted the United Kingdom to ban all exports of live birds, hatching eggs, meat and eggs to all countries outside the European Union (EU). The exports that have been banned are worth almost \$199 million and were mainly exported to countries in the Far East. As of now, there is no danger of exports to the EU countries being suspended, but officials are keeping a close watch on the situation. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs decided to cull all the infected birds as a precautionary measure against the spread of the disease. The infected birds were imported from France and are only two weeks old. In response to the detection of the disease all French pheasant exports have been halted.

Source: <http://www.abcmoney.co.uk/news/172005467.htm>

16. *July 17, Associated Press* — **South Dakota State veterinarian warns of anthrax.** South Dakota State Officials are recommending that cattle producers watch for signs of anthrax due to current, optimal weather conditions for the disease. South Dakota's State veterinarian Sam Holland said hot, humid weather in addition to heavy rains can cause spores that carry anthrax to spread. He said that long grass from heavy rains will bring the spores to areas typically grazed by cattle. There have been no cases of anthrax in South Dakota this year, although one case was reported in 2004, two cases in 2003, and nine cases 2002. Anthrax is caused by the bacteria, *Bacillus anthracis*, which can form spores that remain viable for many years in the soil. Cattle ingest them when they consume grass and inhale air close to the ground.

Source: [http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2005/07/18/news/sta te/state05.txt](http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2005/07/18/news/sta%20te/state05.txt)

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Food Sector

17. *July 18, Cornell University* — **New technique rapidly detects illness-causing bacteria.**

Cornell University scientists have developed a rapid, less costly and sensitive new technique for detecting group A streptococcus, the bacteria that cause scarlet fever. Details will be announced Monday, July 18, at the Institute of Food Technologists Annual Meeting and Food Exposition in New Orleans, LA. The presentation by Sam Nugen, a graduate student in Cornell's food science department, will focus on detecting the food-borne bacteria *Streptococcus pyogenes* (*S. pyogenes*), but the technique can be applied to a wide variety of bacterial pathogens, including *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*). The new biosensor works in a test tube and a positive result shows up as a red line on a strip, much like a pregnancy test. Newly designed software gives researchers a powerful tool for increasing the sensitivity of the analysis. The method may help researchers and companies that are in the business of tracking food-borne pathogens, allowing technicians to determine a source quickly. It may also help to analyze a throat culture swab, to tell if someone has an illness like strep throat. The entire process takes only 35 minutes, while traditional gene amplification techniques may take many hours.

Source: <http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/July05/Biosensor.kr.html>

18. *July 17, Associated Press* — **Japanese ministry says U.S. testing would have missed nine cases of mad cow.** Japanese food safety regulators were questioning the safety of U.S. beef after a Ministry of Agriculture study showed nearly half of the 20 mad cow cases found in Japan would have passed unnoticed under U.S. testing methods, officials said Friday, July 15. Scientists on a food safety commission panel have called for more details on a second case of confirmed mad cow disease in the U.S., a move that could delay a decision to resume American beef imports, now expected in late August. The ministry report, submitted to the panel Thursday, July 14, showed that nine of the 20 cows found to have mad cow disease in Japan would have been sent to market because they would have looked healthy according to U.S. testing methods. Ministry spokesperson Hiroyuki Kamakawa said the panel wants to calculate the risk of excluding healthy-looking cows from testing. Japan tests all cows before slaughter while the U.S. tests only those that display signs that could be attributed to the disease. The panel's assessment on the safety of resuming U.S. beef imports depends on how soon Tokyo can obtain the requested information from Washington, a Food Safety Commission official

said.

Source: <http://www.journalstar.com/articles/2005/07/17/business/doc42d821f06c2f3869031608.txt>

19. *July 14, Georgia Tech Research News* — **Augmented reality technology may bridge communication gap in poultry processing plants.** Using augmented reality (AR) technology, researchers have designed two systems that project graphical instructions from an automated inspection system onto birds on a processing line. These symbols tell workers how to trim or whether to discard defective products. Right now, inspection is done visually by human screeners, who communicate instructions to trimmers using gestures. But an automated inspection system developed and field tested by the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) is being commercialized, and poultry plant officials are likely to implement the technology in the near term, said J. Craig Wyvill, head of the GTRI Food Technology Processing Division. Two approaches have been created using AR technology. The first approach uses a location-tracked, see-through, head-mounted display worn by a trimmer. It directly overlays graphical instructions on a trimmer's view of the birds. A second solution uses a laser scanner, mounted in a fixed location near the processing line, to project graphical instructions directly onto each bird that requires some action, such as trimming. In this approach, the product, but not the user, must be tracked for the instructions to appear on the product.

Source: <http://gtresearchnews.gatech.edu/newsrelease/augmented.htm>

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Water Sector

20. *July 18, Bozeman Daily Chronicle (MT)* — **World supply of clean water at risk.** The lack of clean drinking water throughout the world and resulting disease could kill millions of people in coming decades, a Montana State University (MSU) professor said Friday, July 15. "Unless we're extremely careful, at least half the world is going to be facing a water shortage by the year 2050," Tim Ford, head of MSU's microbiology department, told more than 50 government officials, environmental advocates, and journalists from around the world who gathered in Bozeman. Drinking water polluted by human waste, heavy industry and other sources is the cause of 80 percent of infectious diseases, Ford said. And contaminated water causes three million deaths a year and four billion cases of intestinal diseases. But, Ford noted, the shortage of clean drinking water isn't a problem only in underdeveloped countries. Throughout the world, including in the U.S., aging municipal water systems are crumbling. Ford showed pictures of a century-old Boston water pipe caked with residue, which makes it a perfect host for disease-carrying bacteria. To tackle the problem, communities throughout the world need better training for water system operators, improved public health monitoring and stronger enforcement of water standards. Communities also need adequate wastewater treatment, Ford said.

Source: <http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/articles/2005/07/16/news/conference.txt>

21. *July 16, United Press International* — **Drought woes intensify in Midwest.** The remnants of Hurricane Dennis disappointed Midwest residents, providing no widespread substantial relief from a moderate-to-severe drought. Although the storm produced some thunderstorms, they did little for parched lands across the Midwest. Illinois, southern Wisconsin, and most of

Missouri are considered to be in a moderate-to-severe drought, but drier than normal conditions were also reported across a large portion of the Midwest. Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle declared a statewide drought emergency Friday, July 15. Since April 1, only 7.79 inches of rainfall has been recorded in Milwaukee, according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. That's 4.36 inches below normal. The Waukesha, WI, area has received only 5.07 inches of rain — more than seven inches below normal.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/upi/?feed=TopNews&article=UPI-1-20050716-10331900-bc-us-drought.xml>

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Public Health Sector

22. July 18, *Times (United Kingdom)* — Virologists calling for international effort to defend against virus terrorism. The prospect of bioterrorism is so alarming to some virologists that they are calling for an urgent international effort to catalog all known human viruses and develop antivirals quickly. Norman Anderson, the founder of the non-profit organization Viral Defense Foundation, believes that viruses as weapons could attract mass killers because there are no broad-spectrum antivirals available. He argues that a single federal agency should take over responsibility for biodefense, which is currently being handled by 12 U.S. agencies. The effort would be modeled on the Manhattan Project, which developed the first nuclear weapons. Its objectives would be to produce the human “virome,” a complete list of all human viruses; to identify new viruses within days; to produce and test vaccines continually against every known vaccine; and to produce large amounts of vaccines quickly. Such a project, Anderson says, “could provide the only defence available in a true pandemic or viroterrorist attack, reducing the detection and response times to weeks, instead of years.”

Source: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,20909-1698322,00.htm>

23. July 18, *St. Petersburg Times (FL)* — Lyme disease look-alike baffles CDC. John Sinnott, director of the Florida Infectious Disease Institute at the University of South Florida, was vacationing in Key West when a man asked him to take a look at a strange rash. The man's rash looked like the red "bull's eye" rash found in Lyme disease. But why would a disease most common in the Northeast turn up in a man who hadn't left Key West in months and couldn't remember getting bitten by a tick? Sinnott decided the man probably had another disease, one doctors know less about: Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness (STARI). Doctors think that, like Lyme disease, STARI is caused by a bacterium spread by tick bites. The bacterium, *Borrelia lonestari*, has been found in lone star ticks. It's related to *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which causes Lyme disease and is found in deer ticks. But they have been unable to grow the bacterium in a lab, aren't positive it causes STARI, and still have many questions about the disease. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) wants to learn more about STARI, and is asking doctors across the Southeast to provide specimens for study. "I don't think anyone knows how much STARI there is and how much Lyme," said Sinnott.

STARI information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/stari/index.htm>

Source: http://www.sptimes.com/2005/07/18/Tampabay/Lyme_disease_look_alik.shtml

24. July 18, *Associated Press* — Officials not sure why West Nile cases dropping. Health officials are puzzled about why the West Nile virus, which killed 31 Ohioans just three years

ago, has been drastically reduced as a summer threat. Some say changes in the weather and wider immunity might be the reason the number of cases in humans has dropped more than 97 percent during the last two summers, but they have no definitive answer. More than 400 cases were reported in Ohio in 2002. That number dropped to 108 in 2003, and then to 12 last year. Eight people died in 2003, and two in 2004. This year, one case has been reported in the state. Nationwide, the number of cases dropped for the first time last year, plunging from 9,862 in 2003 to 2,539. Deaths fell from 264 to 100. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 25 cases and one death across the country this summer.

Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/localnews/content/localnews/daily/0718ohwestnile.html>

25. *July 18, Science Daily* — **University looks to past in fight against disease.** A review of the history of infectious diseases commissioned by the United Kingdom government is to be carried out by The University of Manchester. The report aims to produce a long-term perspective on the detection and identification of infectious diseases and inform policy at a national and international level. The study by the University's Center for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (CHSTM) will reflect on the experience of dealing with human and animal disease problems to inform future research and management policies. Professor Michael Worboys, who heads CHSTM, said the Office of Science and Technology (OST) commission was the first of its kind for British historians of science. "OST wanted a research centre that could write a review of the experience of the management of infectious diseases in the 20th Century in both industrialized and third world countries. "Our study will review the evolving risk of diseases, changing requirements for detection and identification, and input cutting-edge science." Abigail Woods, will head the project, said: "One aspect we will be looking at is the globalization of the disease environment and what technologies we should be investing in to tackle future disease outbreaks.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/07/050718010308.htm>

26. *July 18, Atlanta Journal Constitution (GA)* — **Proposal sets priorities for who would receive flu vaccine in an epidemic.** Front-line health care workers and vaccine and drug plant employees would get scarce vaccine first if a worldwide flu outbreak struck the U.S., under a nearly completed draft federal plan. Patients at highest risk for flu, including those over age 65 with chronic medical conditions such as diabetes or heart disease, would be immunized next, followed by pregnant women and other groups. The proposed vaccine priority groups, in order, and the number of people in each group: Health care workers directly caring for patients: 9 million. Flu vaccine and drug plant employee, 40,000. High-risk patients over age 65 with a chronic condition that increases the risk of flu; patients ages 6 months to 64 years with two such chronic conditions; people hospitalized in the past year with flu, pneumonia or a chronic condition, 26 million. Pregnant women and people in a household with infants or severely immune-compromised patients, 11 million. Key government leaders and critical public health personnel, 150,000. Other patients at risk: all seniors, anyone with a chronic condition and children six to 23 months of age, 59 million. Other public health workers and public safety personnel, including utility and some transportation workers, 8.5 million. Key government health decision-makers and funeral home workers, 500,000.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/news/content/health/0705/18cdcfllu.html>

27.

July 17, San Francisco Examiner (CA) — **Bioterror isolation units planned for city hospital.**

State-of-the-art isolation units to treat victims of bioterror attacks and serious cases of tuberculosis would be set up at San Francisco, CA's General Hospital under a plan being reviewed by city officials. A nearly one million dollar grant for a "Regional Tertiary Bioterrorism Event Response Facility," awarded through the state in cooperation with the National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program, would fund 18 airborne infection isolation rooms at the hospital's acute and nursing-care units. In addition to tuberculosis, the units would allow for treatment of contagious diseases like smallpox or plague that could result from a bioterrorist incident. They would also allow for confinement of people whose illness could spread to others in confined spaces. The grant comes complete with security provisions so that patients don't leave the facility until they're harmless to others. A civil detention program has been in operation for about a decade, when California began addressing growing tuberculosis rates, though the rates in San Francisco have alternately risen and then dropped in recent years.

Source: http://www.sfexaminer.com/articles/2005/07/18/news/20050718_ne03_bioterror.txt

28. *July 15, Associated Press* — **Research explains lack of monkeypox deaths.** Monkeypox, a less deadly relative of smallpox, kills up to 10 percent of its victims in Africa. Yet a monkeypox outbreak two years ago in the U.S. killed no one, and scientists have wondered why. New research finds that there are two distinct strains of the virus, and that the U.S. outbreak involved the weaker West African one rather than the more deadly Congolese one. The illness was spread by prairie dogs after they were infected by imported African rodents at a pet distribution center. The monkeypox outbreak two summers ago was the first in the Western Hemisphere. An estimated 72 people throughout the Midwest were sickened by the virus, which causes blisters and a rash that resemble smallpox. Cases were reported in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Ohio, and Missouri. Sixteen people were hospitalized, though not all were sick. Two children required intensive care and recovered. Doctors thought better U.S. medical care and generally better health than in Africa were the reasons no one died. But genetic analysis suggests the germ itself made the difference.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/07/15/AR2005071501224.html>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *July 17, Orlando Sentinel (FL)* — **Practicing how to keep a cool head.** Polk County, FL, law-enforcement and rescue workers put their emergency skills to work Thursday, July 14, during Team Play 2005. The annual mass casualty field exercise tests response units as people from throughout the area volunteer to play 'victims' during the staged disaster in Mulberry, south of Lakeland. The exercise included employees from the Emergency Medical Services,

Fire Services, the Emergency Operations Center, the Health Department and the county Communications Office.

Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/southwest/orl-sws/copyblock17071705jul17.0.4164671.story?coll=orl-news-headlines-swest>

- 30. July 16, *East Hartford Gazette (CT)* — Town readies for emergency drill.** On the afternoon of Wednesday, July 27, the Health Department in East Hartford, CT, working with area agencies and local volunteers, will mobilize to practice an emergency preparedness drill in response to a suspected biological agent, anthrax. The drill is designed to point out areas where the town's emergency response to a crisis may be lacking. With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, under statutory authority of Homeland Security legislation, local health departments have been tasked with filling a vital emergency responder role. Retired town health sanitarian William Warmester said the drill was designed to simulate inoculating the entire town in 48 hours with 200 patients being treated per hour. "Smarties" and small bottles of wax candy drinks will be used to substitute for Cipro and doxycycline which would be used in a real anthrax release. The University of Connecticut's School of Pharmacy is sending 15 students to help with the drill, and the town will get two new radio channels added to the town's emergency frequency as a result.

Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=14872702&BRD=1642&PAG=461&dept_id=10299&rfi=6

- 31. July 15, *Daily Democrat (CA)* — California county health department recognized for excellence.** The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) honored the Health Department in Yolo County, CA, Wednesday, July 13, for implementing a program that demonstrates exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a local public health need. The Health Department submitted the report "Lessons Learned from an Avian Flu Outbreak and Vaccination Drill," which was one of 39 local public health programs selected from across the nation to receive NACCHO's Model Practice Award. For the report, the Yolo County Health Department conducted an Avian Flu disease outbreak exercise at University of California, Davis (UCD) on June 10, 2004. The objectives of the drill were to investigate, and isolate "patients ill or exposed" to disease, provide mock vaccinations to hundreds of volunteers within a short timeframe, transport "ill patients" to local medical centers for isolation and treatment and test the UCD emergency operations and communications. This was the first large-scale test of a community's ability to respond to the possibility of a highly contagious disease such as avian flu according to NACCHO.

National Association of County and City Health Officials: <http://www.naccho.org/>

Source: http://www.dailydemocrat.com/news/ci_2862827

- 32. July 15, *USS Nimitz, at sea* — USS Nimitz improves readiness with mass casualty drill.** Crewmembers from all over the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz raced into action as they reacted to a simulated mass casualty drill on the mess deck June 24. The drill began with a fire in an aft berthing space. Damage Control (DC) Central responded to the fire and casualties were moved to a safe area to be triaged, which in this case was several hundred feet away on the aft mess deck. Security personnel kept crewmembers out of hazardous areas and the "walking blood bank" was mobilized to the scene to give blood if needed. Personnel casualties were then treated and evacuated to the main battle dressing station in the Medical Department. After the drill, the Medical Training Team reviewed the results of the drill to evaluate how effective DC

Central, medical and other personnel were in dealing with the situation. According to Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Boganey, ship's surgeon, the purpose of the drill was to test the crew's response to an emergency scenario involving a large number of casualties. "On a large ship like this, you've got a lot of aircraft, hazardous materials and dangerous machinery where problems could arise," Boganey said. "While you're on deployment, it's not easy to medically evacuate injured crewmembers, so you have to learn to deal with what you have."

Source: <http://www.navycompass.com/news/newsview.asp?c=163938>

33. July 15, Valley City Times–Record (ND) — Disaster strikes, emergency crews respond.

Terrorists blew up the Hi–Line Bridge in Valley City, ND, and derailed a train. Hoping for a double whammy to take out first responders, they opened the valve on an anhydrous tank in Chautauqua Park. When the wind shifted, the anhydrous fumes attacked ordinary folk in the park. Victims littered the ground. The terrorist scenario and subsequent arrival of rescue workers were part of a drill to test response to new warning and communication systems in Barnes County. "We added something new to our drill," Barnes County Emergency Manager Norma Duppler said. "Because of the anhydrous, we established a decontamination area." Duppler's plan was to let the emergency run for an hour, allowing time for rescue, decontamination, triage, and transport to Mercy Hospital. Barnes County Ambulance, Barnes County Sheriff's Department, Valley City police and fire departments, Valley City Public Works, and Barnes County Emergency Management personnel all participated in the exercise. Assessment followed, with rescue workers evaluating the exercise.

Source: <http://www.times–online.com/articles/2005/07/15/news/01disas ter.txt>

34. July 15, Associated Press — Report: Better communication needed for disaster response. A

report released Friday, July 15, by Aiken County, SC, is the last of three from local agencies that responded to Graniteville when a train slammed into a three–car parked train, rupturing a chlorine tanker that released a toxic, killing nine people and injuring at least 250 on January 6. Reports reviewing the actions by the Aiken County sheriff's office as well as the Graniteville–Vaucluse–Warrenville already have been released, generally giving those responding agencies high marks for response. The new report, focused on a handful of Aiken County agencies involved in the initial response, also highlights many strengths. But it points out areas for improvement. The report said better communication between responding personnel would have resulted in "pertinent information sharing." Hurricane responders are excellent at communicating during a crisis "and may be a good benchmark," the report said. Not all the medical services personnel have pagers, the report notes, and there was only an initial 25 percent response after the derailment. Phillip Clarke, Aiken County Emergency Medical Services coordinator, said the county was trying to get pagers for all personnel so that time is not wasted calling workers. With a pager, a message can be sent out by calling one group number.

Aiken County Emergency Services: <http://www.aikencounty.net/DspOfc.cfm?qOfcID=ESD>

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/news/local/12143982.htm>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

35.

July 16, Microsoft — **Microsoft Security Advisory (904797): Vulnerability in Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) Could Lead to Denial of Service.** Microsoft is investigating new public reports of a vulnerability in Remote Desktop Services. There are no reports of attacks that try to use the reported vulnerability or of customer impact at this time. The initial investigation has revealed that a denial of service vulnerability exists that could allow an attacker to send a specially crafted Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) request to an affected system. The investigation has determined that this is limited to a denial of service, and therefore an attacker could not use this vulnerability to take complete control of a system. Services that utilize the Remote Desktop Protocol are not enabled by default, however if a service were enabled, an attacker could cause this system to restart.

Source: http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/advisory/904797.ms_px

- 36. *July 15, Government Accountability Office* — GAO-05-552: Information Security: Weaknesses Persist at Federal Agencies Despite Progress Made in Implementing Related Statutory Requirements.** Federal agencies rely extensively on computerized information systems and electronic data to carry out their missions. The security of these systems and data is essential to prevent data tampering, disruptions in critical operations, fraud, and inappropriate disclosure of sensitive information. Concerned with accounts of attacks on systems via the Internet and reports of significant weaknesses in federal computer systems that make them vulnerable to attack, Congress passed the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) in 2002. In accordance with FISMA requirements that the Comptroller General report periodically to the Congress, GAO's objectives in this report are to evaluate (1) the adequacy and effectiveness of agencies' information security policies and practices and (2) the federal government's implementation of FISMA requirements. GAO recommends that the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) implement improvements in the annual FISMA reporting guidance. In commenting on a draft of this report, OMB agreed with GAO's overall assessment of information security at agencies but disagreed with aspects of our recommendations to enhance its FISMA reporting guidance.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05552high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05552.pdf>

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: US-CERT noted that a number of new exploits came out this weekend. If you are using applications vulnerable to these exploits, ensure you patch and update your software. A new Sybase vulnerability was reported which could give a remote attacker the capability to execute code with administrator privileges. Microsoft has been aware of and working on fixing a Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) vulnerability since May, but has not released a fix yet. Some scanning of Port 3389, associated with RDP, was noted over the weekend. We recommend you take one or more of the actions recommended by Microsoft (see

below) to mitigate this vulnerability.

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	6881 (bittorrent), 1026 (---), 445 (microsoft-ds), 27015 (halflife), 139 (netbios-ssn), 135 (epmap), 80 (www), 4672 (eMule), 53 (domain), 32775 (sometimes-rpc13)
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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

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

37. July 18, Associated Press — Thai leaders ready emergency rule. Thai authorities prepared a state of emergency for insurgency-hit areas of the country's Muslim south, where violence continued unabated Monday, July 18, with two slayings and a bombing that injured seven security personnel. A raid on a southern city by militants last week prompted the Cabinet to adopt a decree Friday, July 15, giving Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra sweeping new emergency powers that are unparalleled for a democratically elected Thai leader. Thai security officials recommended that the new emergency be imposed on the provinces of Yala, Pattani, and Narithiwat -- where virtually all the attacks in the 18-month-old insurgency have taken place -- and parts of nearby Songkla province, Cabinet Secretary Bowornsak Uwanno said. The Cabinet was expected to approve the recommendation and put the emergency into effect on Tuesday, July 19, he said. The military already has been in the southern provinces in force since early last year. The new decree expands the government's authority to impose curfews, ban public gatherings, censor news and close publications, limit travel, detain suspects without charge, confiscate property, and tap telephones. In Southern Thailand, about 900 people have died in hundreds of drive-by shootings and scores of bombings since Islamic separatists launched their insurgency in January 2004.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/asiapcf/07/18/thailand.southern.violence.ap/>

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To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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