



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 05 October 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports a federal grand jury on Tuesday, October 3, indicted Michael Curtis Reynolds on charges of offering to help al Qaeda blow up pipelines and refineries in at least three states. (See item [2](#))
- The IDG News Service reports that according to a Government Accountability Office report, the communications network used to transmit medical data for Medicare and Medicaid programs has security vulnerabilities that could expose patients' medical data and other personal information. (See item [8](#))
- President George Bush on Wednesday, October 4, signed a homeland security bill that includes an overhaul of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and \$1.2 billion for fencing along the U.S.–Mexico border to stem illegal immigration. (See item [29](#))

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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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 03, Reuters* — **U.S., world reserves can offset Iran oil for 18 months.** U.S. and world emergency crude oil reserves could replace a complete shut-off of Iranian oil exports for 18 months, avoiding an estimated \$201 billion in damage to the American economy, the

Government Accountability Office (GAO) said on Tuesday, October 3. Iran is the world's fourth biggest oil exporter, selling about 2.7 million barrels a day. Such a disruption would remove close to 1.5 billion barrels of crude from the market over an 18-month period, according to the GAO. To avoid a huge price spike and ensure adequate supplies, the U.S. could coordinate with its fellow member countries in the International Energy Agency to jointly release their emergency oil reserves to offset a disruption in Iranian crude shipments for 18 months, the GAO said. The U.S. does not directly import oil from Iran, but a shut-off of Iranian oil exports would force countries that do buy Iranian oil to compete with the United States for crude supplies from other producing nations. "At their current capacities, the SPR (Strategic Petroleum Reserve) and international reserves can replace the oil lost...doing so protects the economy from significant damage," the agency said. The U.S. holds about 688 million barrels of oil in the SPR.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N03243800.htm>

2. *October 03, Associated Press* — **Pennsylvania man charged with trying to help al Qaeda blow up refineries.** A federal grand jury Tuesday, October 3, indicted a man on charges of offering to help al Qaeda blow up fuel facilities in at least three states. The FBI arrested Michael Curtis Reynolds in December after authorities said he tried to meet a purported al Qaeda contact about 25 miles from a motel in Pocatello, Idaho. Authorities said he expected to receive \$40,000 to finance an alleged plot to blow up pipelines and refineries. The purported contact turned out to be a Montana judge who was working for the FBI. Reynolds wanted to help al Qaeda units attack fuel facilities "to reduce energy reserves, create environmental hazards, increase anxiety, and require substantial expenditure of funds and government personnel, including the military, to protect those locations," the indictment alleges. At a December detention hearing, Reynolds was said to have tried to work with al Qaeda to target the Williams natural gas refinery in Opal, WY; the Transcontinental Pipeline, a natural-gas pipeline that runs from the Gulf Coast to New York and New Jersey; and a Standard Oil refinery in New Jersey that no longer exists.

Source: <http://www.centredaily.com/mld/centredaily/news/politics/15671206.htm>

3. *October 03, Reuters* — **ComEd works to restore power in Chicago after storm.** Commonwealth Edison Co. was working to restore electricity to 157,000 customers still without power in and around Chicago, IL, following severe thunderstorms Monday night, October 2, a spokesperson for the company said Tuesday. At its peak, the storm left about 320,000 powerless at about midnight. This was the worst storm in the company's history since July 2003 when a storm knocked out power to 488,000 customers.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyID=2006-10-03T151817Z_01_N03216153_RTRUKOC_0_US-UTILITIES-EXELON-OUTAGES.xml&WTmodLoc=USNewsHome_C2_domesticNews-5

4. *October 03, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-872: Strategic Petroleum Reserve: Available Oil Can Provide Significant Benefits, but Many Factors Should Influence Future Decisions about Fill, Use, and Expansion (Report).** Congress authorized the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), operated by the Department of Energy (DOE), to release oil to the market during supply disruptions and protect the U.S. economy from damage. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) answered the following questions: What factors do experts recommend be considered when filling and using the SPR? To what extent can the

SPR protect the U.S. economy from damage during oil supply disruptions? Under what circumstances would an SPR larger than its current size be warranted? As part of this study, GAO developed oil supply disruption scenarios, used models to estimate potential economic harm, and convened 13 experts in conjunction with the National Academy of Sciences. GAO is recommending that the DOE assess the effectiveness of experts' proposals to use dollar cost averaging when filling the SPR and allow delays in SPR fill; to better serve users, store some heavy sour oil in the SPR; clarify the difference in assumptions and purposes of two models DOE uses to estimate the impact of using the SPR; and periodically reassess the ideal size of the SPR in light of changing oil market conditions.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06872high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/repandtest.html>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *October 04, Houston Chronicle* — **Sulfuric acid leak prompts evacuation at East Houston refinery.** Authorities were on the scene of a sulfuric acid leak from the Valero refinery in East Houston, early Wednesday afternoon, October 4. The Valero site was evacuated following the release. Mary Rose Brown, Valero's senior vice president for corporate communications, said the chemical spill has been contained. Employees administered first aid to seven people who may have been exposed to vapors, Brown said, and transported them to a hospital for observation as a precaution. The company also advised people living near the plant to "shelter in place," Brown said, meaning they should stay inside until further notice. That shelter in place was lifted shortly before noon. Authorities also told two schools in the Houston Independent School District — ALTA Academy and J.R. Harris Elementary School — to shelter in place. The district also put Davila Elementary, which neighbors J.R. Harris, under the same precautions.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/4235587.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *October 03, Federal Computer Week* — **Defense Logistics Agency centers ready for identification tagging.** The Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) network of 19 distribution sites can now track supplies with radio frequency identification technology (RFID), the agency announced Tuesday, October 3. RFID tagging will give the Department of Defense (DoD) global awareness of all military assets by using a unique identification to track each parcel as it moves through the military supply chain. DLA's Defense Distribution Center (DDC), based in New Cumberland, PA, led the effort to augment the existing infrastructure by installing more than 200 additional RFID portals at DoD distribution centers nationwide. DLA operates one of the largest warehouses in the world, supplying nearly every consumable item to the military services and several civilian agencies. The Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, issued a policy in 2004 that requires suppliers to put passive RFID tags on all packaging, excluding bulk commodities, by 2005. That process is still

ongoing.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article96315-10-03-06-Web>

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *October 04, Websense Security Labs* — Websense releases Security Trend Report.

Websense Security Labs has announced the release of the first half of the 2006 Semi-Annual Web Security Trends Report. The report reveals an increase in malicious sites, using code from easy-to-use toolkits designed for criminals with no hacking experience. There has been a 100 percent increase in Websites designed to install keyloggers, screen scrapers, and other forms of crimeware. Report: http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/docs/WebsenseSecurityLabs20061H_Report.pdf

Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=647>

8. *October 03, IDG News Service* — Report: Medicare data network is vulnerable. The communications network used to transmit medical data for the U.S. government's Medicare and Medicaid programs has security vulnerabilities that could expose patients' medical data and other personal information, according to a report released Tuesday, October 3. The report, released by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), identified 47 weaknesses in the way the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) used a WAN, or wide-area network, operated by contractor AT&T Inc. CMS uses the network to transmit claims data — including patient names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, addresses and medical information — to health-care facilities, contractors, financial institutions, and state Medicaid offices. "A security breach in this communication network could lead to interruptions in the processing of medical claims or to unauthorized access to personally identifiable medical data, seriously diminishing the public's trust in CMS's ability to protect the sensitive beneficiary data it is entrusted with," the GAO said in the report. "We are taking further steps to assure that none result in actual security breaches," Mark McClellan, CMS administrator, added.

GAO report: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06750high.pdf>

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9003839&intsrc=news_ts_head

9. *October 03, Associated Press* — Disks with personal data missing from Seattle airport. Six computer disks containing personal data on more than 6,900 people who applied for new or replacement identity badges are missing from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, airport officials say. Mark Reis, the airport's managing director, said officials do not know whether the disks were misplaced or taken off airport property, but they do not believe any information has been used improperly. Information on the CDs includes names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, addresses, and phone numbers of current and former workers at airlines, airport concessions, the Port of Seattle, and other employers at the airport, as well as some people who applied for badges but may not have received them, Reis said. The airport's director of security learned about the situation two weeks ago, and officials decided last week they needed to inform people about the missing disks, Reis said.

Source: <http://www.theolympian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061003/NEWS06/61003002>

Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *October 04, Star-Ledger (NJ)* — Untimely tree work jams up the rails. Routine tree-trimming by an Amtrak maintenance crew set in motion a chain of events that ended with a power failure at the peak of Tuesday, October 3's morning rush hour, stalling 100 New Jersey Transit trains carrying about 70,000 commuters. The mishap left New Jersey transportation officials befuddled by Amtrak's decision to cut tree branches during the morning peak, putting at risk the power system that feeds the busiest stretch of railroad in the country. The problems stemmed from Amtrak's decision on Tuesday to shut down two of the four power lines on the Northeast Corridor to allow crews to cut branches hanging near the rails in Pennsylvania. But then there was a break in the third power line somewhere in New Jersey -- an accident unrelated to the tree trimming -- that left only one electric line in service, according to Amtrak. "The fourth line was unable to handle the power of the two lines, tripping circuit breakers at approximately 7:20 a.m. [EDT]," said an Amtrak statement. The system returned to full power by 8:24 a.m. The shutdown marked the fourth time in the past five months that Amtrak's power systems broke down.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1159938331298970.xml&coll=1>

11. *October 04, Boston Globe* — More funds needed for repairs and maintenance of Massachusetts roads and bridges. The Massachusetts transportation system is in deep distress, with nearly every agency facing operating deficits and unable to properly maintain or expand roads, bridges, or transit systems, a problem that cannot be solved without new revenues, Michael J. Widmer, president of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation and a prominent budget analyst, warned city and state officials on Tuesday, October 3. As the state has focused on the Big Dig tunnel problems, local highways and bridges have suffered. A recent report said that on the Massachusetts Turnpike, 12 of the 489 bridges are rated as structurally deficient. Though not dangerous to motorists now, roads and bridges could eventually become hazardous if not maintained, state transportation officials said. The Massachusetts Highway Department has a backlog of crucial highway and bridge projects, partly because of money spent on the Big Dig. Other states are also having financial problems in transportation, and 16 are considering toll increases and seven are considering implementing tolls for the first time, transportation specialists said. A less common and more controversial approach is privatization: Leasing existing roadways or bridges to private companies in exchange for huge lump-sum payments up front.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2006/10/04/analyst_warns_of_cash_shortfall_for_mass_roads/

12. *October 04, Associated Press* — U.S. pilots' passports seized as Brazil crash probed. Two American executive jet pilots were ordered by a judge to stay in Brazil while authorities investigate whether they caused a midair collision with an airliner that crashed into the Amazon, killing all 155 people aboard. A Brazilian newspaper reported that the pilots' Legacy jet, which was carrying seven Americans, disobeyed an order by the control tower to descend to a lower altitude just before coming into contact with Gol airlines Flight 1907. A judge in Mato

Grosso state ordered federal police to seize the passports of pilot Joseph Lepore and co-pilot Jan Palladino "as a result of the doubts surrounding the case and the emergence of indications that the accident was caused by the Legacy," Mato Grosso Justice Department press spokesperson Maria Barbant said by telephone Tuesday. The daily O Globo paper said the Legacy flew at 37,000 feet to the capital, Brasilia, but then ignored an order to descend to 36,000 feet to continue its flight to the Amazon city of Manaus. The Gol jetliner was flying at 37,000 feet from Manaus to Brasilia en route to Rio de Janeiro. The damaged executive jet safely landed at a nearby air force base after the incident.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/americas/10/04/brazil.crash.ap/index.html>

13. *October 04, Associated Press* — **Nighttime curfew for Teterboro Airport.** Air carriers have agreed to a nighttime curfew and a ban on the noisiest planes at New Jersey's Teterboro Airport in hopes of alleviating complaints from residents, officials announced Wednesday, October 4. The new restrictions are voluntary, but Rep. Steven Rothman (D-Fair Lawn), said he expects 90 percent of operators to comply with the rules by the end of next year. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the airport near New York City, has attempted to keep noise complaints at a minimum by keeping a lid on the airport's growth. While it does not have scheduled commercial passenger service, Teterboro handles a steady stream of corporate jets and many small package cargo shipments, as well as couriers for the nation's network of Federal Reserve banks.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--teterboro-noise1004oct04.0.6633088.story?coll=ny-region-apnewjersey>

14. *October 03, USA TODAY* — **Comair says stymied labor talks may lead to layoff of hundreds.** Stalled labor talks could force regional airline Comair, which flies small jets for Delta Air Lines, to lay off hundreds of workers, the company said. The warning came as Comair submitted a bid to Delta aimed at retaining the right to fly a big chunk of its current routes. But airlines spokesperson Tressie Long said Monday, October 2, that Comair may well be underbid by competitors because of "little progress" in concession talks with Comair's pilots. Delta is expected to announce a decision next month. Delta, in a bid to cut its costs while in Chapter 11, requested outside bids for much of its regional jet flying. Though Delta owns Comair, it, too, was required to bid. Comair has pushed unions for concessions that would make its bid more competitive. Comair, which employs 6,500 and is based in Erlanger, KY, is seeking a total of \$42 million a year in pay cuts from unionized pilots, mechanics and flight attendants, as well as from non-union employees. Comair, which also is operating in Chapter 11, has won permission from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court to unilaterally impose lower pay rates on its flight attendants if necessary.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-10-03-comair-usa_t_x.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *October 04, KOTV (OK)* — **Suspicious powder found in a letter at a Tulsa business.** Officials are investigating a white powder found in an envelope sent to Cox Communications in Tulsa, OK. A Cox employee opened the letter Wednesday, October 4, and alerted officials. The powder so far it does not appear hazardous. The employee who opened the envelope has not

become ill or reported any problems. There was no return address on the envelope.

Source: <http://www.kotv.com/news/local/story/?id=112141>

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Agriculture Sector

- 16. *October 04, Desoto Sun-Herald (FL)* — Canker accelerates its spread.** Canker accelerated its march through Florida citrus groves in September. "We're finding positives just about every day," said Denise Feiber of the State Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Canker is a bacterial disease of citrus that decreases fruit yield per tree and creates blemishes on fresh fruit. On September 5, discoveries of new canker at Emerald Groves and Sunny South Groves in DeSoto and Packers Gulf Coast groves in Charlotte. On September 6, canker again was found at Emerald Groves in DeSoto. Pomelo oranges were the affected fruit. Yet another find was made in Pomeloes at Emerald Groves on September 8. On September 12, Murcotts in the Seminole Citrus Grove in Charlotte were discovered to be infected. That same day, Early Golds in Tiffany Groves in DeSoto were found. On September 20, Tri County Groves in DeSoto found canker in Early Golds during a self-survey. On September 22, Emerald Groves was hit again, this time with canker found in Pomelos by the Division of Plant Industry (DPI) inspectors. That same day, the DPI found canker on grapefruit trees being grown in EdenBelle Groves east of Punta Gorda.

Source: <http://www.sun-herald.com/NewsArchive4/100406/tp6de6.htm?date=100406&story=tp6de6.htm>

- 17. *October 04, Stop Soybean Rust News* — Eighteen counties positive for soybean rust in six states in seven days.** The total number of U.S. counties with Asian soybean rust in 2006 grew to 88 in the past seven days — 18 new positive counties were reported in six states, with new rust also found in counties already reporting soybean rust. At the end of the day October 4 last year, there were 64 counties with soybean rust in only five states — Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina, with only three new U.S. finds in the week prior to that date. While soybeans have matured past the point of using fungicides in many of the states with soybean rust, monitoring continues so that spread of the disease can be documented. Last year, soybean rust was discovered in 74 additional counties before the calendar year ended with a total of 138 positive counties in 2005.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=968>

- 18. *October 03, KSBW (CA)* — Wild pigs to be tested for E. coli.** Investigators trying to get to the source of the spinach E. coli problem will turn their attention to wild pigs. At a news conference in Salinas, CA, on Tuesday, October 3, Rep. Sam Farr, D-Carmel, said federal investigators will try to capture wild pigs and test them for the E. coli strain that killed one person and sickened dozens of others across the country. State officials said several farms implicated in the E. coli outbreak do have cows on them and that E. coli samples taken from the fields have been connected to the cattle. But it's unknown if it's the same strain that's responsible for the outbreak.

Source: <http://www.theksbwchannel.com/news/9994254/detail.html>

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Food Sector

19. *October 04, Reuters* — **Mexico suspends sale of U.S. carrot juice.** Mexico said on Tuesday, October 3, it had ordered supermarkets to withdraw carrot juice imported from the U.S. after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a warning linking four cases of botulism to the product. Mexico's health ministry told the country's top supermarket Wal-Mart de Mexico, controlled by U.S. retailer Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and members of retailers group ANTAD to withdraw the juice. The ministry mentioned by name Bolthouse Farms 100 percent carrot juice, Earthbound Farm Organic carrot juice and President's Choice Organics 100 percent pure carrot juices. The cases of botulism in the U.S. first appeared in September and one woman in Florida suffered paralysis after drinking the juice.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-10-04T040817Z_01_N03283716_RTRUKOC_0_US-MEXICO-CARROT.xml&WTmodLoc=HealthNewsHome_C2_healthNews-4

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Water Sector

20. *October 04, Baltimore Sun* — **Bacteria detected in prison's water.** The discovery of the bacteria that cause Legionnaires' disease in a Hagerstown prison's water supply has prompted Maryland officials to restrict showers in one housing unit and to limit inmates and staff assigned there to drinking bottled water, prison officials said Tuesday, October 3. Prison and health officials ordered tests of the water at Roxbury Correctional Institution after a former inmate was diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease a few days after his release last month, said George Gregory, a spokesperson for the state prison system. State health officials discovered low levels of Legionella in an air conditioner and in the water supply in one housing unit at the Hagerstown prison when they ran tests.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-md.legionnaires04oct04.0.6889584.story?coll=bal-local-headlines>

21. *October 04, News24 (South Africa)* — **Thieves cut off water to 80,000.** More than 80,000 of Limpopo, South Africa's poorest rural villagers are without water following the theft of six borehole pump engines. Executive mayor of the Capricorn district, Motalane Monakedi, has branded the thefts over the past two months as "barbaric" and warned that it would take weeks to replace the stolen machinery. The hardest hit villages are in Aganang, near the provincial capital Polokwane, where communities are being forced to rely on rivers, farm dams, privately-owned boreholes, and government water tankers for drinking water. Monakedi has called on rural communities to band together to protect their infrastructure, by guarding water pumps and other equipment, and also by helping police trace thieves and vandals.

Source: http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_2_008019,00.html

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Public Health Sector

22. *October 04, Reuters* — **U.S. to stop seizing Canadian drug imports.** U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials have scrapped their 11-month-old policy of seizing prescription drugs imported through the mail from Canada, The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday, October 4. The practice had come under fire from lawmakers for depriving American seniors of their drugs and protecting the prices charged by U.S. pharmaceutical companies, the newspaper said. Citing a Customs spokesperson, The Journal said the seizures would stop on October 9.
Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-10-04T091049Z_01_N04325414_RTRUKOC_0_US-CANADA-DRUGS.xml&WTmodLoc=HealthNewsHome_C1_%5BFeed%5D-1
23. *October 04, Reuters* — **Bird flu vaccine safe in early trial.** Baxter International Inc. said on Wednesday, October 4, preliminary results from an early trial of its vaccine for pandemic bird flu using modern cell-based manufacturing techniques suggest the vaccine is safe and well tolerated. The clinical trial of the experimental H5N1 pandemic vaccine in 270 healthy adults in Austria and Singapore suggest the vaccine has similar side effects to those reported for seasonal flu vaccines, the company said.
Source: http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-10-04T123342Z_01_WEN6384_RTRIDST_0_HEALTH-BIRDFLU-BAXTER-DC.XML&WTmodLoc=SciHealth-C4-Health-4
24. *October 03, Reuters* — **Mystery illness kills at least six in Panama.** Panama's Health Ministry declared a national epidemic alert on Tuesday, October 3, after a mystery illness killed at least six people and left others suffering with fever, diarrhea and partial paralysis. Doctors don't know the cause but say the disease progresses rapidly to the renal system and causes neurological damage.
Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-10-03T222232Z_01_N03219590_RTRUKOC_0_US-PANAMA.xml&WTmodLoc=HealthNewsHome_C2_healthNews-7
25. *October 03, National Institutes of Health* — **NIH launches national consortium to transform clinical research.** National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., announced Tuesday, October 3, the launch of a national consortium that will transform how clinical and translational research is conducted, ultimately enabling researchers to provide new treatments more efficiently and quickly to patients. This new consortium, funded through Clinical and Translational Science Awards, begins with 12 academic health centers (AHCs) located throughout the nation. An additional 52 AHCs are receiving planning grants to help them prepare applications to join the consortium. When fully implemented in 2012, about 60 institutions will be linked together to energize the discipline of clinical and translational science. "The development of this consortium represents the first systematic change in our approach to clinical research in 50 years," said Zerhouni. "Working together, these sites will serve as discovery engines that will improve medical care by applying new scientific advances to real world practice. We expect to see new approaches reach underserved populations, local community organizations, and health care providers to ensure that medical advances are reaching the people who need them."
Source: <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/oct2006/ncrr-03.htm>

26. *October 03, United Press International* — **Mumps outbreak spreads on campuses.** In Illinois, a mumps outbreak has spread from Wheaton College to two other small schools in Chicago's western suburbs. Elmhurst College has confirmed its first case, while Benedictine College in Lisle reported a case last week.

Source: <http://upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20061003-085324-7676r>

27. *October 02, Clemson University* — **Clemson researchers develop nanotechnology to stop anthrax.** Clemson University chemist Ya-Ping Sun and his research team have developed a countermeasure strategy to weaponized anthrax. Anthrax spores are covered with carbohydrates, or simple sugars, that are used to communicate with or attract other biological species. The Clemson team used carbon nanotubes as a platform or scaffolding for displaying sugar molecules that would attract the anthrax spores. Typically one-hundred thousandth the thickness of a single human hair, nanotubes are formed from intensely heated carbon. When sugar coated, the carbon nanotubes bind with the anthrax spores, creating clusters that are too large to be inhaled — stopping their infection and destruction.

Study abstract: <http://pubs.acs.org/cgi-bin/abstract.cgi/jacsat/asap/abs/ja065455o.html>

Source: http://clemsonews.clemson.edu/WWW_releases/2006/October/anthrax.html

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Government Sector

28. *October 04, Boston Globe* — **Shootings prompt Massachusetts schools to reexamine security measures.** If a gunman were ever to enter Lexington High School, teachers would immediately lock their classrooms, turn off the lights, draw the shades, and tell the students to stay quiet. Then they would slip a color-coded card under the door. Green: All students are safe. Yellow: a call for medical help. Red: Some students are missing. But the recent shootings around the nation are making school systems in Massachusetts reexamine just how prepared they are for an attack. No plan is foolproof, officials warn, but now, more than ever, schools — whether urban, suburban, or rural — must be prepared for what was once unimaginable. The shootings prompted Massachusetts' education commissioner, David Driscoll, on Tuesday, October 3, to issue an advisory urging superintendents to review their emergency plans with local police and fire departments. About half of the state's 1,800 schools have security cameras, and roughly 50 schools, mainly facilities in urban areas, use metal detectors, according to a March survey by the Massachusetts School Building Authority. In Boston, school officials say that they keep all doors locked and that visitors must ring a buzzer to enter.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2006/10/04/schools_reexamine_security_measures/

29. *October 04, Associated Press* — **President Bush signs homeland security bill.** President George Bush on Wednesday, October 4, signed a homeland security bill that includes an overhaul of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and \$1.2 billion for fencing along the U.S.–Mexico border to stem illegal immigration. Standing before a mountainous backdrop in Arizona, a state that has been the center of much debate over secure borders, Bush signed into law a \$35 billion homeland security spending bill that could bring hundreds of miles of fencing to the busiest illegal entry point on the U.S.–Mexican border. Bush said enforcement alone will not stop illegal immigration, and urged Congress to pass his guest worker program to legally

bring in new foreign workers and give some of the country's estimated 11 million illegal immigrants a shot at U.S. citizenship. Among other things, Bush said the homeland security funding bill deploys nuclear detection equipment to points of entry, raises safety security standards at chemical plants, provides better tools to enforce immigration laws, and provides vehicle barriers, lighting, and infrared cameras to help catch illegals trying to cross the border. President Bush's remarks: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/10/20061004-2.html>

Source: <http://www.columbian.com/news/APStories/AP10042006news64690.cfm>

30. *October 03, Government Technology* — Public alert radios for all Connecticut school.

Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell announced that public alert radios will be provided to all Connecticut public schools thanks to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). DHS put up \$5 million and is working with NOAA to get radios installed in all 97,000 public schools in the United States. Distribution of the radios is expected to start at the end of October and should take a few months. The All-Hazard NOAA Weather Radios will alert schools of not only weather-related disasters, but also threats such as terrorist attacks, child abductions, hazardous material leaks and toxic spills. The radios will alert school administrators of a variety of hazards by sounding a special tone. The radios will then give a detailed broadcast about the disaster. One of the benefits is that when activated, a signal is broadcast that automatically turns on the radio, alerting school officials to a potentially hazardous situation. Connecticut private schools will receive radios next year as part of Phase II of the distribution.

Source: http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/101424

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *October 03, Telegram and Gazette (MA)* — First response system called inefficient. The city of Worcester, MA, often over responds to non-life-threatening medical emergencies with a firetruck, police cruisers and an ambulance, leading to costly inefficiencies, according to a survey of Worcester's first response system. The report by The Research Bureau, which studied first response plans in 35 cities, recommends the city system be restructured, giving the city manager greater authority in emergency medical response and reducing the role of the Fire Department. Last year, 66 percent of the Worcester Fire Department calls were for medical emergencies, slightly more than the national average of 62.3 percent. In 2005, Worcester police medical calls amounted to 5 percent of the department's total calls of 97,645. "At times the arrival of three different vehicles to the scene of a medical emergency," the report concluded, "can result in confusion for the patient involved and in the minds of the general public. Who's in charge? This situation diverts personnel who may be needed for more serious emergencies." Changes recommended by the report include: making the city manager chairman of the Emergency Medical Services Committee; establishing specific criteria and clear protocols for emergency dispatch to prevent over-response; improving dispatcher training and equipping police cruisers with defibrillators.

Source: <http://www.telegram.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061003/NEWS/610030567/1008/NEWS02>

32. *October 03, Associated Press* — **Defective computer hardware blamed for 911 outage.** A computer glitch may have caused about 30 eastern North Carolina counties to lose emergency 911 service Monday, October 2, service provider Embarq said Tuesday. Spokesperson Thomas Matthews said technicians believed the outage was caused by a defective card in a processor in Rocky Mount, where problems began about 4 p.m. EDT Monday. Service had been restored by 8 p.m., and more tests were being done Tuesday, he said. "The plus side is that as far as we know, the backup systems that were in place did what they were suppose to do," Matthews said, adding that residents were able to reach emergency personnel through alternative phone numbers.

Source: http://www.fayettevillenc.com/local/article_ap?id=92249

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

33. *October 04, Security Focus* — **IBM Client Security Password Manager Design Error Vulnerability.** IBM Client Security Password Manager is prone to a design error that degrades the integrity of client-side Web security. The vulnerability stems from the fact that the Password Manager relies on "Window Title" information as part of the authentication routine it performs on behalf of the user. A malicious Website can establish a Web page that spoofs the same window title that the application expects to map. This will allow authentication to proceed with the hostile site and in turn establish a false sense of security on the part of visitors who use the affected software. Exploiting this issue can help attackers steal user credentials. Other attacks are also possible.

Solution: Security Focus is not aware of any vendor-supplied patches for this issue.

More information: IBM Client Security:

<http://www-307.ibm.com/pc/support/site.wss/document.do?sites>

<http://www-307.ibm.com/pc/support/site.wss/document.do?sites=ibm&ln=en&docid=MIGR-46391> Vendor Home Page: <http://www.ibm.com/> Security flaw in IBM Client Security Password Manager: <http://www.securityfocus.com/archive/1/447577>

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/20308/info>

34. *October 04, Reuters* — **Fujitsu to recall 287,000 Sony-made batteries.** Japanese electronics maker Fujitsu Ltd. said on Wednesday, October 4, it would recall 287,000 notebook PC batteries made by Sony Corp., bringing the number of Sony batteries recalled to more than 7.5 million. Fujitsu last week joined a growing list of computer makers recalling Sony batteries, but did not say at the time how many batteries would be affected. Besides Fujitsu, Dell Inc., Apple Computer Inc., Lenovo, IBM, and Toshiba Corp. have recalled the laptop PC batteries, which Sony has said can short-circuit on rare occasions, overheat and catch fire.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2024253.00.asp>

35. *October 03, TechWeb* — **Hacker kit use surges, means more malicious sites.** About one in every six sites set up by criminals to steal information is created with hacking-for-dummies-style "toolkits," a security researcher said Tuesday, October 3. "About 15 percent of malicious sites designed to steal information have kit code or a derivation of kit code," said Dan Hubbard of Websense. Although Websense only began counting sites that use code from a toolkit late last year, the ratio is a major uptick, added Hubbard. Near the end of 2005, only 5 percent of the sites in a smaller sampling were using kit code. "They also don't

appear to be selling just kits," he said. "They also sell services. They'll infect Websites for you, collect data for you. I call it a 'managed insecurity service,'" said Hubbard. The most popular hacker toolkits are made and sold by Russian entrepreneurs, and include the well-known "WebAttacker" and the less-familiar "Nuclear Grabber" (aka "Haxdoor"). They range in price from \$25 to over \$2,500.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/security/193101569;jsessionid=UZSOXS0NZ04MCQSNDLRCKHSCJUNN2JVN>

- 36. *October 03, VNUNet* — U.S. Internet 'highly resilient' to terror attack.** The Internet infrastructure in the U.S. would still be able to function even if terrorists were able to knock out key physical network hubs, researchers have claimed. According to academics who have completed a simulation of a major attack on the U.S. Internet infrastructure, it would be "very difficult" to cause major disruptions across the country. However, the research reveals that the destruction of some key elements could "seriously degrade" Internet quality. Morton O'Kelly, co-author of the study, said "There are so many interconnections within the network that it would be difficult to find enough targets, and the right targets, to do serious damage to Internet reliability nationwide." The researchers developed computer simulations in which they studied a simplified nationwide Internet network. They then simulated disruption or failures of parts of the network to see what would happen to Internet connectivity between 946 pairs of cities. For some city pairs, disruptions in nearly a dozen specific nodes would not make much difference in Internet reliability, but a disruption in a single critical node would cause major problems.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/articles/print/2165511>

- 37. *October 03, Government Computer News* — DHS cites progress in IT security.** Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials cited progress in securing IT systems across their sprawling organization as reflected in an Inspector General (IG) Office report issued Tuesday, October 3. They expressed confidence that their department would receive a passing grade for the first time in next year's federal IT security report card. Even as the IG report mentioned significant improvements in IT security, it pointed to specific areas where DHS has much work to do. Some issues and recommendations made in the FY 2005 report have been addressed. The report cited improvements in developing a comprehensive system inventory and increasing the number of systems that have been certified and accredited. The report tagged five major problems with DHS' technology security: Not all DHS systems have been certified and accredited; some of the IT security weaknesses in DHS agencies don't appear in the department's Plan of Action and Milestones; data in the department's enterprise management tool, Trusted Agent FISMA, is not complete or current; system contingency plans have not been tested for all systems and; the department's IT security procedures should be improved.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/42203-1.html?topic=security

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 4672 (eMule), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 65530 (WindowsMite), 113 (auth), 445 (microsoft-ds), 25 (smtp), 21214 (—), 135 (epmap), 6346 (gnutella-svc)
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

38. *October 03, Herald (WA)* — **Police investigate three explosions in Everett.** Police and federal agents are investigating three small explosions that happened Saturday, September 30, in north Everett, WA. Police have been unable to confirm that the explosions are related, Everett police Sgt. Boyd Bryant said. No one was seriously injured and no property was significantly damaged. Investigators with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are assisting. The first explosion happened about 2 p.m. PDT in a parking lot at Rockefeller and Everett avenues. A second explosion was heard about 7:05 p.m. from the parking lot at the Everett Clinic. Again, officers found fragments of a pipe bomb. About 20 minutes later, a person was scratched on the arm by debris from a small explosion outside the National Guard Armory, Bryant said. The bombs were crudely constructed and didn't appear to be aimed at anyone, Bryant said.

Source: http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/10/03/100loc_b2explosion_s001.cfm

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General Sector

39. *October 03, United Press International* — **U.S. 'not watching' jailed terrorists.** The U.S. Bureau of Prisons is not doing enough to ensure that terrorists and other high-risk inmates are not continuing their criminal enterprises in jail. A report Tuesday, October 3, from the Department of Justice Inspector General Glenn Fine, "found significant shortcomings in the (bureau's) efforts," according to a statement from his office. In March 2005, media reports disclosed that three inmates at the federal "supermax" security jail in Florence, CO, convicted for their part in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, had written over 90 letters to other alleged terrorists overseas between 2002 and 2004. The inspector general's review concluded that bureau's monitoring of inmate mail "and other forms of communications" was "deficient." The report also found that the bureau is "unable to effectively monitor high-risk inmates' verbal communications, which include telephone calls, visits with family and friends, and cellblock conversations."

Source: http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=200610_03-051248-4236r

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