Top Stories

- According to the Wall Street Journal, militants in Iraq have used $26 off-the-shelf software to intercept live video feeds from U.S. Predator drones, potentially providing them with information they need to evade or monitor U.S. military operations. (See item 26)
- The Thibodaux Daily Comet reports that inflatable levees went up, sandbags were filled, bayous spilled over their banks, and emergency workers used boats to rescue people from flooded homes Tuesday in parts of Terrebonne and Lafourche, Louisiana, where the parish president declared a state of emergency in response to the flooding. (See item 48)

Fast Jump Menu

PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES
• Energy
• Chemical
• Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste
• Critical Manufacturing
• Defense Industrial Base
• Dams

SERVICE INDUSTRIES
• Banking and Finance
• Transportation
• Postal and Shipping
• Information Technology
• Communications
• Commercial Facilities

SUSTENANCE and HEALTH
• Agriculture and Food
• Water
• Public Health and Healthcare

FEDERAL and STATE
• Government Facilities
• Emergency Services
• National Monuments and Icons

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - [http://www.esisac.com]]

1. **December 17, Fayetteville Observer** – (North Carolina) **Gasoline tank explosion in Vass injures 2 workers.** In Vass, two workers for a Charlotte-based company suffered minor injuries the evening of December 15 when an underground gasoline tank they were inspecting exploded. The explosion happened shortly before 7 p.m. at the Exxon Short Shop at 4936 U.S. 1 in the Lakeview community, according to fire officials. The
Circle V fire chief said the men were using a power grinder while inspecting an underground tank when gasoline vapors apparently ignited. The explosion created a 25-foot fireball, he said. It caused slabs of concrete to buckle and cave in near the gas pumps, authorities said. The injured men, employees of Law Petroleum of Charlotte, were inside a hole standing on top of the tank when the explosion happened, he said. The men were taken to FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst and have been released. The explosion also damaged a canopy over the gas tanks and the car of a state Highway Patrol trooper. Two other Law Petroleum employees were not injured. The station remained closed Wednesday while the Moore County fire marshal and the state Department of Labor investigate.

Source: http://www.fayobserver.com/Articles/2009/12/17/961180

2. **December 15, KAPS 660 Mount Vernon** – (Washington) **Derailed tanker cars.** Six tanker cars full of liquefied petroleum gas derailed on March Point near Anacortes the evening of December 14. There were no injuries or fuel leaks. BNSF crews were working to right the cars, which were tipping, fallen over, or on their tops. The neighborhood around the derailed cars was evacuated. The rail line was expected to reopen Tuesday.


---

**Chemical Industry Sector**

3. **December 17, West Central Tribune** – (Minnesota) **Flat tire causes semi to tip and rollover.** Law enforcement officials started reopening traffic lanes along state Highway 23 north of Willmar at 7:45 p.m. Wednesday, following a detour lasting more than four hours. Kandiyohi County Sheriff’s Department officers had de-toured traffic due to a tipped semi truck carrying ammonia nitrate and other explosive materials. The mishap occurred at approximately 2:30 p.m. Wednesday. According to a Sheriff’s Department news release, the truck had a flat tire which caused it to go into the ditch and roll over. The driver is not believed to be seriously injured. Cleanup of spilled fertilizer in the ditch continued after the truck removal. Crews will continue with cleanup work at the site; however, traffic will not be impacted. Residents who live in the area were evacuated from their homes. A news release from the Kandiyohi County Sheriff’s office stated those residents had been notified by law enforcement that it was safe for them to return to their homes.

Source: http://www.wctrib.com/event/article/id/61108/

---

**Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector**

4. **December 17, Associated Press** – (Vermont) **Vt. nuke plant expected to reveal extension offer.** The owner of Vermont’s only nuclear power plant is expected to
release an offer on what it will charge the state’s utilities for power if the plant is allowed to continue operating after 2012. Entergy Corp. has said it will file information on its offer Friday with the Vermont Public Service Board on what it would charge for electricity generated by the Vermont Yankee plant in Vernon. The Burlington Free Press says Vermont’s two largest electric utilities, Green Mountain Power Corp. and Central Vermont Public Service Corp., have been negotiating with Entergy. Vermont Yankee’s operating license is set to expire in 2012, but Entergy would like to extend the license for 20 years.


5. **December 16, Salt Lake City Deseret News – (Utah) Uranium to arrive in Utah this month for disposal at EnergySolutions facility.** Despite the Utah governor’s 11th-hour plea to stop it, the first shipment of depleted uranium is expected to arrive in Utah before the end of December. The Department of Energy acknowledged it has received a letter from the governor in which he wrote it is “prudent that there be further study” before the radioactive material comes to Utah. The governor wrote the letter Tuesday. In a statement Wednesday, the DOE said that after careful consultation with the Utah regulators, it has decided to prepare 14,500 drums of depleted uranium at its Savannah River site in South Carolina for shipment and disposal at EnergySolutions facility in Clive, Tooele County. The first of three planned rail shipments has left the site and will reach Utah in the next two weeks. The second and third shipments are slated for 2010, according to a DOE spokesman. The spokesman said the DOE is reviewing the governor’s letter and will respond to it later.


---

**Critical Manufacturing Sector**

Nothing to report

---

**Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report

---

**Banking and Finance Sector**

6. **December 17, Associated Press – (National) Citigroup to suspend foreclosures for 30 days.** Citigroup Inc. will suspend foreclosures and evictions for 30 days in a temporary break for about 4,000 borrowers during the holiday season. The New York-based bank
said on December 17 the suspension will run from December 18 through January 17. It applies only to borrowers whose loans are owned by Citi. Borrowers who make payments to Citi but whose loans are owned by other investors are out of luck. “We want our borrowers to have a much less stressful time, to spend their time with their families during the holidays as opposed to worrying about their homes,” the head of the company’s mortgage division said in an interview. The suspension means Citi will halt foreclosure sales and stop evicting homeowners from properties it has already seized. The company projects it will help 2,000 homeowners with scheduled foreclosure sales and another 2,000 that were due to receive foreclosure notices. The head of the mortgage division also said the company is working on “some long-term fundamental alternatives” to foreclosure, but declined to be specific. “We know that moratoriums are not permanent solutions,” he said.
Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34460803/ns/business-real_estate

7. December 17, Washington Post – (National) SEC tightens rules on investment advisers, corporate transparency. The Securities and Exchange Commission on December 16 put in place two new policies aimed at avoiding a repeat of the largest Ponzi scheme in history and addressing concerns that excessive compensation and ineffective oversight by corporate boards fueled the financial crisis. The first measure, passed unanimously by the commission, requires new oversight, including outside audits, of financial advisers. Some advise clients about where to invest their assets and also control those assets. The rules seek to ensure that clients’ assets are where advisers say they are. The second measure, which passed over the objection of one of the agency’s five commissioners, requires that companies disclose more information about how they pay employees — in particular, in ways that could create incentives for risk-taking — and the qualifications of people who sit on corporate boards. The measure is a response to criticism that boards, particularly at Wall Street firms, allowed executives to make unseemly bets, netting short-term profit but putting the firms at risk in the long run. The new policies, which were proposed earlier this year, are the first to be made official under the SEC chairman. A bevy of other high-profile proposals — including new restrictions on short selling and new powers for shareholders to nominate directors — have been long delayed. SEC officials expect to finalize a rush of proposals early next year.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/16/AR2009121604148.html

8. December 16, KOSA 7 Odessa – (Texas) Bomb threat at Big Spring Bank. State National Bank in Big Spring, Texas was evacuated around 9 am after someone phoned in a bomb threat. Bank employees and construction workers outside were moved across the street as a precaution. Neighboring streets were also blocked off. Police swept the building for about an hour. No bomb was found and everything returned to normal a little after 10 am.

9. December 16, Central Valley Business Times – (California) FDIC warns of counterfeit checks. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation says counterfeit
expense checks bearing the name GBC International Bank, Los Angeles are in circulation. The counterfeit items display the routing number 122235902, which is assigned to GBC International Bank. The fake checks have ornate borders on all sides with a security feature statement embedded within the top border, the FDIC says. The words “PAY TO THE ORDER OF” are in the lower-left corner. Authentic checks, however, have blue top and side borders and the word “PAYEE” is displayed on the left side.

Source: http://www.centralvalleybusinesstimes.com/stories/001/?ID=13891

10. December 16, Associated Press – (Colorado) **3 indicted in Colo. affordable housing investment scheme involving $31 million.** A federal grand jury has indicted three people on charges of conspiracy and fraud over an alleged investment scheme involving millions of dollars. The U.S. Attorney’s Office said on December 16 that the owners and operators of Valley Investments in Grand Junction did not deliver on a promise of returns as high as 18 percent for investing in their business of developing subdivisions with manufactured and mobile homes. Indicted were the company owners and an employee. Prosecutors say the three solicited about $31 million from as many as 400 investors, knowing their business was not generating enough profits. Prosecutors say the suspects used money from new investors to pay existing investors.

Source: http://www.kdvr.com/news/sns-ap-co--coloradoinvestmentfraud,0,1602062.story

11. December 16, The Hill – (National) **Accounting rule impact delayed.** Financial and real estate interests won a small delay in the regulatory impact of a new accounting rule that takes effect at the beginning of next year. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) said recently that banks would have up to one year to implement new capital requirements resulting from the accounting rule change. The move is only a partial victory for banks and other financial interests that have sought to delay the regulatory impact for up to several years. At issue is a rule banning financial entities that banks used to shift risk away from their bottom lines. The special financial vehicles were off-balance-sheet and helped fuel the boom in securities based on residential, student, commercial and other types of loans. As the housing market foundered under the weight of bad loans, those securities became troubled assets. Banks benefited before the crisis by not having to maintain more capital to offset the risk. Private estimates have suggested that as much as $1 trillion in assets would need to be moved onto bank balance sheets, requiring banks to raise tens of billions of dollars in new capital.


[Return to top]

**Transportation Sector**

12. December 17, Los Angeles Times – (California) **Metrolink got a waiver to not post simple safety signs.** More than a decade ago, Metrolink and other commuter rail services throughout California sought and received permission to bypass a federal
requirement to install simple safety signs intended to help avoid accidents like last year’s Chatsworth, California disaster. The action was disclosed this week in a technical and financial analysis of high-tech train collision avoidance systems prepared by the staff of the state Public Utilities Commission, which shares some oversight responsibilities for commuter rail systems. Known in railroad parlance as “delay in block” warnings, the signs are designed to remind locomotive engineers of speed restrictions required after they stop at passenger depots located within a series, or “block,” of signals. The signs may not have prevented the Chatsworth crash, PUC regulators acknowledged in their report. But the safety value of such signs clearly outweighs any potential for confusion, they said. The commission report also notes that the signs were specifically intended to address one of the safety violations that evidently occurred in Chatsworth, when a Metrolink engineer sped away from the station, reaching 54 mph as he approached an apparent red light. The PUC analysis concludes that a computerized safety system, known as positive train control, is the most effective means of avoiding passenger rail accidents. Investments in other interim crash prevention technologies should not be required by the commission and priority should be given to deploying positive train control rapidly, the report recommends. In the meantime, other passenger rail services should consider following Metrolink’s lead by installing video cameras on trains to monitor engineers’ activities, the report states. Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-metrolink-signs17-2009dec17,0,5114265.story

13. December 16, KNXV 15 Phoenix – (Arizona) Airplane catches fire in Deer Valley Airport hangar. Crews responded to Deer Valley Airport in north Phoenix after an airplane reportedly caught fire Wednesday afternoon. Officials with the Phoenix Fire Department said it appeared an airplane caught fire in the Atlantic Aviation Hangar at the airport around 1:15 p.m. The official said the fire was quickly contained; however fire crews took extra precaution because there were chemicals inside the hangar. There is no word on what caused the blaze. No injuries were reported during the incident. Source: http://www.abc15.com/content/news/phoenixmetro/north/story/FD-Airplane-catches-fire-in-Deer-Valley-Airport_/LHq1j9VXUm8GGK7sGZkfg.cspx

14. December 16, Minneapolis and St. Paul News – (Minnesota) Errant Flight 188 cockpit crew mistook Winnipeg for Minneapolis. New information has surface in the case of Northwest Flight 188, which flew past Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport on October 21 by more than 100 miles as air traffic controllers tried in vain to reach its cockpit crew. The National Transportation Safety Board has dumped hundreds of pages of documents on its Web site. Deep in one of the documents, it states that, for at least part of the time during the flight, the flight crew were inadvertently communicating with air traffic controllers in Winnipeg, rather than Minneapolis. According to the report, the pilots stated that their first indication of anything unusual with the flight occurred when they received a call from a F/A inquiring about their arrival. They said they did not see the lights of Minneapolis due to the overcast sky conditions below. The captain then turned changed the settings his navigational display and saw Duluth, Minnesota to his left and Eau Claire, Wisconsin at “the 2 o’clock” position. The first officer said he “immediately” contacted air traffic control, but
neither pilot could remember what frequency they used, and said “someone” gave them a frequency to contact Minneapolis-St. Paul Center. It was determined that the crew inadvertently contacted Winnipeg Center, which gave them a frequency to established contact with Minneapolis. The first officer stated that he noticed several “contact ATC” messages from dispatch, but “inadvertently” pushed the “delete all” button erasing all the dispatch messages.”

For more stories, see items 1, 2, 3, and 5

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

Agriculture and Food Sector

15. December 17, USDA Agricultural Research Service – (National) New vaccines may help thwart E. coli O157:H7. Immunizing calves with either of two forms of a vaccine newly developed by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists might reduce the spread of sometimes deadly Escherichia coli O157:H7 bacteria. The microbe can flourish in the animals’ digestive tracts, yet doesn’t cause them to show clinical symptoms of illness. Preventing E. coli O157:H7 from proliferating inside cattle helps limit contamination of meat at the packinghouse, and reduces shedding of the microbe into the animals’ manure. One form of the vaccine is comprised of cells of a strain of E. coli O157:H7 that is lacking a gene known as hha. A second form of the vaccine contains an E. coli strain lacking both hha and a second gene, sepB. In either vaccine, the E. coli strain produces a large quantity of what are known as immunogenic proteins. These proteins trigger the immune system response that prevents E. coli O157:H7 from successfully colonizing cattle intestines. In preliminary tests, calves were immunized at age 3 months with a placebo or either form of the vaccine. Six weeks later, the animals were given a dose of E. coli O157:H7, and, for the next 18 days, their manure was tested for evidence of the microbe. Calves that received either vaccine had reduced or non-detectable levels of E. coli in their manure within only a few days after being inoculated with the bacteria, researchers found.

16. December 15, Los Angeles Times – (International) Report of citrus greening disease in western Mexico worries California orange growers. California orange growers say they see ominous news in a report out of Mexico last week that agriculture officials discovered 51 trees infected with the feared citrus greening disease in the western Mexico coastal states of Nayarit and Jalisco. The discovery shows that the tree-killing disease is working its way toward California’s $1.6-billion citrus industry. It has
already ravaged the citrus industries in Florida, Brazil and other prime orange-growing regions and poses a major threat to California growers, according to agriculture officials. What’s especially worrisome is that the infected trees were discovered by visual inspection and symptoms such as irregular blotching on leaves were obvious. Citrus trees can be infected for several years before displaying symptoms. And that means citrus greening could be more widespread, said the president of the California Citrus Quality Council in Auburn. The disease was already detected far to the east in the Yucatan, but these latest discoveries are only about 1,000 miles south of California, the president said. There is no cure for the tree disease and no known way to prevent a tree from becoming infected once a tainted psyllid feeds on it.


Water Sector

17. December 17, Philadelphia Inquirer – (New Jersey) Audit finds much of Camden’s water supply missing. Much of Camden’s water supply cannot be accounted for by the company that runs the system, a New Jersey state audit has found. The company also has collected millions in unapproved tax dollars and failed to protect the water from contamination, the state comptroller said. The loss of 45 percent of the supply provided by Camden’s largest water operator — due to leakage, overflow, meter inaccuracies, and billing errors — is more typical of systems in developing nations, according to the audit released Wednesday by the independent Office of the State Comptroller. It exceeds the 10 percent allowed in the 1999 contract with Camden, and results in a loss to the city of $1.7 million annually. Camden residents have long complained of brown tap water. Although state environmental inspectors found that water quality meets minimum standards, they said the potential for contamination was grave. The operator, United Water, based in Bergen County, could not provide paperwork to prove that it had done mandated inspections, and failed to maintain vents that prevent insects and animals from entering the water supply, according to the audit. The city and its state overseers, meanwhile, did not enforce the contract because officials knew little about its provisions, the audit said. United Water said it disputed many of the findings, and said the Comptroller’s Office lacked trained water technicians to review its operations. It said water quality has never been at risk.


18. December 16, KATU 2 Portland – (Oregon) Portland Water Bureau: Seagull likely E. coli culprit. Beginning Thursday, Washington Park’s Reservoir No. 3 will begin supplying drinking water to Westsiders for the first time since Thanksgiving weekend. The 16-million-gallon drinking water reservoir was removed from service after two drinking water samples from the reservoir indicated a clear presence of E. coli bacteria. In response, the bureau issued a Boil Water Notice to customers that lasted for approximately 24 hours. Portland Water Bureau said its initial test results, in the first few days following the discovery of the bacteria, determined that it was not E. coli O157:H7. That is the strain most often associated with serious illness in people.
testing from a Seattle lab determined that the bacteria found was not pathogenic or
disease causing. The Seattle lab also determined that the bacteria were most likely
from a bird. While not an exact match, DNA results suggest the most likely match is to
a seagull. In order to bring the reservoir back into service, the Water Bureau began
cleaning and disinfecting the empty reservoir early this week. Once filled to operational
levels, the water will be sampled and the reservoir will be placed back into service
when the sample results come back from the lab on Thursday.

19. December 16, Washington Post – (Maryland) Md. water utility puts technology to
work on aging pipes. Nearly a year after a broken pipe flooded River Road in
Bethesda and stranded motorists, officials from suburban Maryland’s water and sewer
authority on Tuesday showcased technology designed to detect problems in the largest
water mains. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) will be relying
on a black foam sphere slightly larger than a softball to find the hissing of leaking pipes
and a four-wheel cart with electromagnetic equipment to detect which reinforcing steel
wires have snapped. The WSSC began using the “Smart Ball” and electromagnetic
technology in 2007, but officials highlighted their efforts Tuesday as part of a public
relations campaign launched in the fall. The utility is struggling to maintain a network
of aging underground pipes. The WSSC’s new general manager said the Smart Ball and
electromagnetic technology are part of the utility’s stepped-up efforts to inspect and
repair 10.2 miles of the largest concrete mains last fiscal year and another 12.9 miles
this fiscal year. The WSSC plans to have all 77 miles of the largest concrete mains,
four feet in diameter and larger, inspected by fiscal year 2013. After fixing the pipes,
the utility leaves behind fiber-optic wires that detect the sounds of the reinforcing steel
wires as they break, signaling where a pipe is deteriorating.

For another story, see item 43

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

20. December 17, Philadelphia Inquirer – (Pennsylvania) U. Darby man accused of
stealing Penn patient data. An Upper Darby man has been charged in a case of
identity theft that officials say involved patients’ personal information taken from
computers at the University of Pennsylvania Health System. Upper Darby police
announced Wednesday that the man has been charged with theft, receiving stolen
property, identity theft, and related crimes. He was released on bail December 1,
according to court records. Security at the Sears store on 69th Street called police
November 23 to report that the man allegedly made fraudulent purchases totaling
almost $3,000 on two occasions using the Social Security numbers of two other people.
In his car, police said, they found photocopies detailing personal information of 19
people, including the two alleged victims. The information was from the Penn Health
21. **December 17, Associated Press** – (National) **After shortages, H1N1 vaccine now plentiful in half the states.** After weeks of shortages, swine flu vaccine is plentiful enough that nearly half the states now say everyone can get it, not just people in high-risk groups. But the good news comes with a challenge for health officials: how to keep persuading people to get vaccinated when swine flu infections are waning. “We’re worried that people might be thinking out of sight, out of mind,” said a spokesman for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Health authorities say that getting vaccinated could be a lifesaver if a new wave of illnesses materializes this winter. The swine flu vaccine supply started with just a trickle from manufacturers in early October, leading doctors to reserve it for pregnant women, people with asthma, children and young adults and others at high risk of becomingly severely ill. But now 95 million doses are available, and 10 million more are coming out every week. Health officials in 24 states have lifted their recommended restrictions, as have communities in other states, said a spokeswoman for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. The vaccine is so abundant in some places that it is now being given out at drugstores in addition to doctors’ offices and clinics. Some places are seeing pent-up demand. In Minnesota, a Health Department clinic in suburban Minneapolis gave out more than 150 shots in the first 15 minutes on Wednesday afternoon — the first day vaccinations were available to everyone in that state.


22. **December 17, Chicago Daily Herald** – (Illinois) **Hospital employees trained in how to deal with a shooter.** Active-shooter incidents in the post-Columbine era last an average of just eight minutes, and such a narrow window of time means the carnage may be over before police can even get to the scene. Healthcare workers are also among the most likely of any occupation to be assaulted, according to U.S. Department of Labor statistics. That combination puts hospitals at an increased safety risk, officials at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington, Illinois, say, so they have partnered with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Lake County Sheriff’s Office SWAT team to provide training for hostage and shooting situations. Nearly 100 employees from Good Shepherd and the nine other Advocate hospitals attended a seminar Tuesday afternoon to learn about communication, effective tactics and their roles. The biggest development employees learned about is the code silver system Good Shepherd is implementing in the event of a shooting. Just as code blue refers to a medical emergency, some hospitals use silver to denote a person with a weapon. When “code silver shooter” is activated, staff within the building is supposed to close doors to rooms and offices and if possible, lock and barricade them. They should turn off the lights and get down to the floor and against a solid, interior wall.

23. December 16, The Register – (California) **Uni warns patients after doctor gets phished.** Officials at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) have warned 600 patients that their medical information may have been leaked by a doctor who fell for a phishing scam. An email the unnamed physician received in September purported to come from UCSF IT workers performing an upgrade to internal servers. It asked for a user name and password and the doctor complied, according to this advisory. In October, auditors determined that emails in the physician’s account could have exposed clinical and demographic information for about 600 patients. There is no indication the emails were actually accessed. Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/16/ucsf_phishing_attack/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/16/ucsf_phishing_attack/)

24. December 16, KTTV 11 Los Angeles – (California) **Gunman opens fire outside SFV hospital.** Los Angeles police are investigating whether a shooting in the parking lot of a San Fernando Valley hospital is gang-related. A gunman opened fire at a group of people who were sitting on a bench in the parking lot outside of Valley Presbyterian Hospital in Van Nuys. The victims, who were visiting a patient, said the gunman yelled a gang name before firing. They said they ran into the hospital lobby to escape. Detectives were interviewing the victims to determine their connection to the gunman. No one was injured. Source: [http://www.myfoxla.com/dpp/news/local/police-shooting-inside-sfv-hospital-20091216](http://www.myfoxla.com/dpp/news/local/police-shooting-inside-sfv-hospital-20091216)

25. December 16, Associated Press – (Kansas) **South-central Kansas hospital being evacuated after someone calls in bomb threat.** A south-central Kansas hospital has reopened after a bomb threat forced it to evacuate. Wellington police said hospital staff were beginning to return around 4:30 p.m. Wednesday after no threats were found. The police chief says a clerk at Sumner Regional Medical Center received a threatening phone call around 9 a.m. Wednesday about a device near the emergency room. Staff at the 80-bed hospital called law enforcement, who started a voluntary evacuation. Twenty-four patients were transferred to different facilities. Source: [http://www.fox4kc.com/news/sns-ap-ks--hospitalevacuated,0,4585408.story](http://www.fox4kc.com/news/sns-ap-ks--hospitalevacuated,0,4585408.story)

26. December 17, Wall Street Journal – (National) **Insurgents hack U.S. drones.** Militants in Iraq have used $26 off-the-shelf software to intercept live video feeds from U.S. Predator drones, potentially providing them with information they need to evade or monitor U.S. military operations. Senior defense and intelligence officials said Iranian-backed insurgents intercepted the video feeds by taking advantage of an unprotected communications link in some of the remotely flown planes’ systems. Shiite fighters in Iraq used software programs such as SkyGrabber — available for as little as $25.95 on the Internet — to regularly capture drone video feeds, according to a person familiar with reports on the matter. U.S. officials say there is no evidence that militants were able to take control of the drones or otherwise interfere with their flights. Still, the
intercepts could give America’s enemies battlefield advantages by removing the element of surprise from certain missions and making it easier for insurgents to determine which roads and buildings are under U.S. surveillance.

Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126102247889095011.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_MIDDLETopStories

27. December 16, Daily Dunklin Democrat – (Missouri) Kennett High School student charged with bomb threat. A Kennett High School senior faces felony charges following a report of a bomb threat at the campus earlier this month. According to court documents, on Monday, local prosecutors charged the suspect, 18, with making a terrorist threat, what the suspect called “a senior prank.” According to a spokesman with the Bootheel Drug Task Force, on December 2, the Kennett Police Department visited the school because a threatening note was found on school property indicating an explosive device has been placed somewhere at the school. The police spokesman said members of the KPD, Dunklin County Sheriff’s Office and Missouri State Highway Patrol moved the students to a safe location and conducted a “thorough search” of the school. “Upon completing the search and finding nothing suspicious, officers and school officials deemed the school safe for students to return to normal activities,” the police spokesman said. “An investigation led by the Kennett Police Department’s CID [Criminal Investigation Division] Unit was then conducted in regards to the threat.” Kennett investigators obtained evidence and information of a possible suspect, an adult student at KHS. On December 8, investigators obtained a confession of the incident from the suspect.

Source: http://www.semissourian.com/story/1595109.html

28. December 16, Associated Press – (Ohio) Ohio city hall firebombing suspect: ‘not guilty’. A man accused of firebombing a north-central Ohio city hall said Wednesday that he is “150 percent not guilty” of charges of aggravated arson and manufacturing a dangerous ordnance. The suspect, 40, was arraigned in Shelby Municipal Court on Wednesday on charges that he attacked the building that holds the mayor’s office and municipal court in the early hours of Monday morning. He is being held on a $1 million cash bond, according to the Richland County Jail. The Judge said the court hearing was held in Shelby, about 10 miles from Mansfield, because the Mansfield court suffered water damage when sprinklers were activated. Federal authorities said they received several tips that led them to arrest the suspect during a traffic stop Tuesday in Bucyrus about 25 miles from Mansfield. A search warrant shows investigators found gas cans, funnels and a plastic bottle holding liquid at the suspect’s girlfriend’s home in Mansfield. A Mansfield police spokesman said gasoline-soaked clothing also was found in a washing machine.


29. December 16, KXLH 25 Helena – (District of Columbia) Suspicious package at Baucus office deemed not hazardous. U.S. Capitol Police on Wednesday investigated a suspicious package with a “powdery substance” that was found at the office of
Montana’s senior U.S. Senator. Initial tests came back negative for any hazardous substance, and there are no reports of illness or injuries. There are some reports that a threatening note was found with the package. Staff members in the immediate area were told they could not leave the suite of offices, and nobody was allowed to enter while authorities investigated the incident. The Senator released a statement that read, “My staff are hard working, dedicated public servants and their safety is my number one priority. I’m relieved to hear that everyone is safe at this time, and I have the utmost confidence in the Capitol Police and know that they will continue to do everything they can to keep all of us safe.”

For another story, see item 5

---

**Emergency Services Sector**

30. *December 17, Gainesville Sun* – (Florida) **Levy Sheriff’s Office now using iPhone app to report crime.** The Levy County Sheriff’s Office, along with other area law enforcement agencies, is now reporting its crime information via a free iPhone application. The application will provide iPhone users with local crime mapping and national sex-offender data for areas throughout the country, including Levy and Alachua counties. The new application can be accessed though the CrimeReports iPhone app, which is available at the iTunes App Store at no charge.

---

**Information Technology Sector**

31. *December 17, The Register* – (International) **Conficker jams up developing interwebs.** The infamous Conficker worm has disproportionally affected computer systems in the developing world, according to new research. Despite high profile infection at the United Kingdom’s Ministry of Defence and a series of British hospitals, to cite just a few examples, Conficker has proportionally affected systems in Africa and South America far more. Developing nations have become “malware ghettos”, stats from Shadowserver suggest. Shadowserver is part of the Conficker Working Group, an alliance of security vendors and ISPs that have banded together to fight the malware, which estimates six million Windows PCs are infected. This vast cybercrime resource has remained dormant throughout 2009, after first appearing in October 2008. Some security watchers believe that the hackers who created the malware were successful beyond their wildest dreams and have held off doing anything with the uber-botnet lest it bring unwelcome attention. Trend Micro, however, reckons the botnet established by Conficker has already been used to push rogue security software, an interesting theory
32. **December 17, The Register** – (International) **China cages game Trojan hackers.** Chinese authorities have sentenced 11 members of a malware gang to long stretches behind bars, after the group was convicted of creating and distributing Trojans designed to steal the login credentials of online gamers. The malware distributors were sentenced to up to three years behind bars and fined a total of $120,000. More prosecutions are pending against other alleged gang members, IDG reports. The group are collectively blamed for stealing login information from five million gaming profiles and selling them via the digital underground, making a cool 30 million yuan ($4.4 million) in the process. The group allegedly made their illicit income by selling game artifacts (such as gold coins) associated with compromised accounts.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/17/china_jails_game_trojan_vxers/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/17/china_jails_game_trojan_vxers/)

33. **December 16, DarkReading** – (International) **Botnet operators infecting servers, not just PCs.** Botnet operators have always been able to easily infect and convert PCs into bots, but they also are increasingly going after servers — even building networks of compromised servers. Web servers, FTP servers, and even SSL servers are becoming prime targets for botnet operators, not as command and control servers or as pure zombies, but more as a place to host their malicious code and files, or in some cases to execute high-powered spam runs. “FTP servers are a hot commodity in the underground. They are regularly used by drive-by download malware as well as a downloading component for regular bots,” says the chief research officer at F-Secure. “Another thing we’ve noticed is the use of SSL servers. Sites with a valid SSL certificate get hacked and are used by drive-by-downloads.” Why SSL servers? “If a drive-by download gets the malware file through an HTTPS connection, proxy and gateway scanners won’t be able to scan for the malware in transit, making it easier to sneak in,” he explains. Shadowserver, a nonprofit that tracks botnet activity, has seen botnets building their own networks of compromised servers as sort of sub-botnets for the botnet’s use. “Now we’re starting to see a botnet of servers ... What’s interesting is we’re finding these networks of connected servers are under a certain person’s control,” says the director of Shadowserver.


34. **December 16, CNET News** – (International) **Firefox 3.5.6 patches critical security holes.** Mozilla has updated its Firefox browser to patch three critical security holes. Firefox 3.5.6 and 3.0.16 both suffered from memory corruption issues. “We presume that with enough effort at least some of these could be exploited to run arbitrary code,” the security advisory said. In addition, Firefox 3.5.6 had two critical vulnerabilities in its technology for playing Ogg-format media, one with the liboggplay media library and one with the libtheora video library. The patches are among 62 fixes in the new Firefox, software that’s translated into dozens of languages and runs on multiple operating systems. Users of the OS/2 operating system will be delighted to know that
problems with Firefox’s full-screen mode and with print preview have been resolved. Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-30685_3-10416753-264.html

For another story, see item 40

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: http://www.us-cert.gov

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

[Return to top]

Communications Sector

35. December 17, Now Public News – (International) BlackBerry email service down in North & South America. BlackBerry email service is down in North and South America. According to Research in Motion, the Canadian-based company that operates the BlackBerry network, this outage affects private users, but not corporate users. The outage began around 3:15am EST. Source: http://www.nowpublic.com/tech-biz/blackberry-email-service-down-north-south-america-2540060.html

36. December 17, Anchorage Daily News – (Alaska) AT&T reports widespread cell phone outages. AT&T’s cell phone network went down about midday Wednesday and left customers across the state without service for much of the day. Voice and text services for many Alaska customers had not been restored as of 9 p.m., though customers with the newer 3G service from AT&T reported that their cell phones still worked. It was not known specifically why service went out or even when it would be restored. AT&T officials in Alaska would not comment on the situation, instead directing questions to a public relations firm in California. A local AT&T spokeswoman said the company’s wireless business in Alaska is managed outside. “A commercial power outage caused a hardware issue that is affecting 2G service in parts of Alaska,” said a spokesperson with public-relations firm Fleishman-Hillard in San Francisco, which handles PR for AT&T. “It is unknown whether this was due to the weather conditions.” Source: http://www.adn.com/anchorage/story/1058824.html

37. December 17, KTVU 2 San Francisco – (California) Pacifica cell-phone service outage stretches into fifth day. For the past five days, an AT&T equipment problem has left half of the coastal town of Pacifica without cell phone service. The outage has been affecting the Linda Mar area in the southern end of Pacifica. Cell-phone service has evolved over the past 20 years. The outage has made some local residents wonder what they did before cell phones became commonplace. Many are getting angry with AT&T at the lack of a fix. Out in the neighborhoods, most people have their house
phones. But some have given up their land lines and strictly use their cell service. AT&T said the problem is an antenna at the top of Montara Mountain that has been damaged. The recent storms have made the road too muddy to safely bring in repair crews.

38. December 17, CNET News – (National) **Biden unveils $2 billion in broadband grants.** The Vice President will announce Thursday $2 billion in grants that will be used to build broadband networks in underserved communities. The funding, which is part of the $7.2 billion that was set aside for broadband in the President’s $787 billion economic recovery deal earlier this year, will start with an initial $182 million investment in 18 broadband projects in 17 states. The Vice President is announcing the stimulus grants, which are part of the Administration’s overall plan to stimulate the economy and create jobs. The money is specifically meant to expand affordable broadband access to underserved areas of the U.S. Officials would not name which companies will be getting the grants that were announced on Thursday.
Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-30686_3-10417294-266.html

39. December 16, ChannelWeb – (National) **AT&T faces potential ‘Operation Chokehold’ traffic flood.** iPhone subscribers are planning to flood the carrier’s data network with data traffic this Friday, but solution providers do not expect the effort to have much impact beyond annoying legitimate users. Earlier this week a journalist unveiled “Operation Chokehold”, a mock campaign to overwhelm AT&T’s data network by getting legions of iPhone subscribers to simultaneously switch on bandwidth-eating apps this Friday afternoon. The idea is to publicly shame AT&T for its spotty service coverage and general whininess over iPhone users’ bandwidth consumption. Last week, smoldering subscriber discontent over AT&T’s service quality morphed into full-fledged anger after an executive hinted that AT&T may switch to tiered wireless data pricing or impose bandwidth caps. So while Operation Chokehold was apparently intended to be a joke, it is likely that many frustrated iPhone subscribers will carry out the orders. But wireless experts are not sure if this will actually lead to a denial of service situation on AT&T’s data network. Operation Chokehold will likely be felt most acutely by iPhone users in Manhattan and San Francisco, two areas where AT&T has acknowledged having problems with 3G service due to exceptionally high iPhone ownership. It is unclear if the flooding of AT&T’s 3G network could have a spillover effect on its voice network, but that scenario obviously has serious implications given the large number of people that could be affected.
Source: http://www.crn.com/mobile/222002438;jsessionid=JMKSNSGGQ21XQE1GHOSKH4ATMY32JVN

40. December 15, Information Week – (Virginia) **Amazon IDs cause of data center outage.** Amazon Web Services has attributed a 44-minute outage in part of its Northern Virginia data center last week to the failure of power supply in one “availability zone” in the data center, which was soon followed by a second failure of a component in the redundant system. Users of the Amazon EC2 cloud with workloads in Amazon’s
Northern Virginia data center experienced problems early in the morning of December 9, with some operations in a part of the data center interrupted during a five-hour period. The postings first mentioned a connectivity issue, then acknowledged a power issue. In following up on the postings, InformationWeek asked Amazon whether the power issue was inside the data center or an issue with an external supplier. Amazon spokesmen responded that “a single component of the redundant power distribution system failed in this zone. Prior to completing the repair of this unit, a second component, used to assure redundant power paths, failed as well, resulting in a portion of the servers in that availability zone losing power.”


Commercial Facilities Sector

41. December 16, Midland Daily News – (Michigan) All clear given after bomb threat evacuates Mount Pleasant casino. After an extensive search of the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort following a bomb threat Wednesday afternoon turned up no explosives, Tribal officials gave the all clear at about 8:15 p.m. A bomb threat closed down the Mount Pleasant, Michigan casino at about 3:15 p.m. when law enforcement personnel began evacuating the facility and sending employees home. About 2,000 patrons, 250 hotel guests and 700 employees were evacuated from the complex, according to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe spokesman. Hotel guests were taken to the Tribe’s sister property Soaring Eagle Inn and Conference Center during the massive property search. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe’s police department received what was called a “credible” threat of a bomb at about 1:30 p.m., the Tribe’s spokesman said in a prepared release. Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Chief told the Morning Sun the call was made from a Detroit-area prepaid telephone. The caller gave the casino “three hours to evacuate,” the Chief said. Police officers from around the region responded to the bomb threat including tribal police, Michigan State Police, Isabella County sheriff department, City of Mount Pleasant Police, CMU Police, and personnel from Saginaw County, East Lansing, MMR, Isabella County Emergency Operations, MSU, and BAYANET.


42. December 16, Lower Columbia Daily News – (Washington) Dynamite discovery sends bomb squad to Kelso church. A pastor in Kelso, Washington got more than she bargained for Wednesday while cleaning the Kelso First Presbyterian Church for a Christmas party: a stick of dynamite to be exact. The pastor said their best guess is that the dynamite was among old items donated for a garage sale or cleaned out of home by church members. It was apparently set on bookcase in May during the sorting and forgotten about until she noticed it and picked it up Wednesday afternoon. It took a
couple of calls before emergency crews understood it was a stick of dynamite and not a bottle of nitroglycerin pills, she said. Once they did, though, the church was evacuated — right in the middle of preparations for a 50-child Christmas party. The dynamite was removed by a Portland bomb squad unit and the building declared clear at 6:02, just in time for the party, she said.

National Monuments and Icons Sector

43. December 16, Mount Airy News – (North Carolina) Second sewage spill occurs at state park. Officials of Pilot Mountain State Park have had to deal with a wastewater spill in recent days, the second at the park in less than three weeks due to an ongoing infrastructure problem. The latest spill involved about 39,000 gallons — including 1,656 gallons of sewage, which had been diluted by runoff from heavy rains, according to the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, which oversees the park. Officials said the spill, occurring in an undeveloped area of Pilot Mountain State Park near Grassy Creek and U.S. 52, was contained. The park staff then had to repair a failed portion of the sewer line that serves two ranger residences, a maintenance shop and the park office. The sewer line failed due to an incursion by tree roots, officials say.
Source: http://www.mtairynews.com/pages/full_story/push?article-Second+sewage+spill+occurs+at+state+park &id=5158520-Second+sewage+spill+occurs+at+state+park

Dams Sector

44. December 17, Seattle Post Intelligencer – (Washington) Study: $30 billion in King Co. property threatened by big flood. A severe flood caused by a damaged dam could place up to $30 billion worth of property in south King County, Washington, at risk, according to a study released Thursday. An abutment to the the Howard Hanson Dam, which regulates the flow of water in the Green River Valley, was damaged during January flooding. As a result, the Corps of Engineers says it can not use the structure, built in 1962, to its full flood-storage capacity — a potentially disastrous situation in the event of severe weather conditions. Previously, the Corps put the chance of flooding in the Green River Valley at one in three this winter. But last month the Corps said recent the repairs have changed that calculation. The Corps now says there is a one in 25 chance of flooding. First American studied the area for insurance carriers and determined that a big flood (25,900 cubic feet per second) could threaten $30 billion worth of properties most of them commercial. The area is home to a number of warehouses, industrial sites and other properties like the Boeing Space Center, REI headquarters, a Starbucks roasting plant, the Alaska Airlines reservation, and call center and several Boeing suppliers. A a senior director with First American stressed in
an interview that the study does not mean that there would be $30 billion worth of property damage if there was a huge flood, but rather that about that value of property could be vulnerable. Government officials have estimated that flooding could cause about $3 billion in damage. 
Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/413367_flood17.html

45. December 17, Associated Press – (Kentucky) Rate increase possible to fix Wolf Creek Dam. The Army Corps of Engineers is considering a plan that could raise utility rates to pay for the ongoing repairs to Wolf Creek Dam in Central Kentucky, much to the dismay of officials in the area. The cost of repairing the leak-plagued dam is $584 million. Wolf Creek Dam, which formed Lake Cumberland, has been undergoing emergency repairs since 2007 because of leaks in the structure. Unclear, though, is how much of a rate hike would be sought. The idea of a rate increase has incensed local officials. The Somerset mayor told city council members Monday that a rate increase would affect jobs, tourism and local residents. Any rate hike would be spread over East Kentucky Power Cooperative’s 16 members and 500,000 customers.

46. December 17, Milford Cabinet – (New Hampshire) Wilton dam fails inspection. The dam forming Wilton’s “old reservoir” on Putnam Hill Road did not pass a New Hampshire state inspection on October 25. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) has listed six areas that need attention and the town has to respond to the Letter of Deficiency within 45 days. The Water commissioners met with the Conservation Commission on Monday to discuss the letter, recommendations, and course of action. It is the commissioners’ desire, one said, “to put the question on the warrant for town meeting to allow the townspeople to decide” the course of action — repair or removal of the dam. Removal would also require the removal of the “new reservoir” dam on Sand Hill Road. Although by state charter the Water Commission is autonomous and could make the decisions, the dams and reservoirs belong to the town. The town is responsible for “maintaining, repairing or decommissioning historic structures, including reservoirs, dams, and buildings that become obsolete as progress is made,” according to the commissioner’s prepared statement, which he presented to several town boards. The DES letter notes cracks, several leaks and deterioration of the cement structure in the dam, which was built in 1903 as part of the town’s original water system. The letter also recommends clearing the trees and brush in the area around the dam, planting a ground cover, keeping the pond drained until repairs are made, hiring a consulting engineer to assess the structure and present findings to the state Dam Bureau, and preparing a plan for the repairs. While the commission members generally agreed that the question should go to town meeting, some members were not sure of the procedure to be followed. They will make a decision at their January meeting.

47. December 16, International Water Power and Dam Construction – (Washington) Improvements planned for Roza Diversion Dam, US. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has awarded Triad Mechanical Inc a US$806,496 contract for
improvements to the Roza Diversion Dam in Washington. The improvements, funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), will involve replacing the bottom and side seals of the existing west roller gate at the dam, and adding a new horizontal seal to the bottom of the gate. These improvements will allow water to be controlled instead of being lost to leakage. The recovered water will be used to enhance fish passage and habitat for endangered species and to augment power production. ARRA funds will also be used to attach 23 manually-operated weirs to the top of the west roller gate. The weirs can be raised or lowered to provide continuous flow for steelhead that are listed under the Endangered Species Act.


48. *December 16, Thibodaux Daily Comet* – (Louisiana) **Winter downpour drenches Terrebonne, Lafourche.** Inflatable levees went up, sandbags were filled, bayous spilled over their banks, and emergency workers used boats to rescue people from flooded homes Tuesday in parts of Terrebonne and Lafourche, Louisiana. Sandbags and temporary levees were needed to hold back flooding in Lafourche after heavy rains drenched much of southeast Louisiana during what has already become wettest December on record for the region. According to the National Weather Service, more flooding could be possible. Moderate rain is expected to continue Thursday and Friday, and though flash-flooding is not expected, already-high water levels could pose problems. In the Raceland community of Alidore, where local flooding was most severe, Lafourche sheriff’s deputies used boats and trucks to evacuate more than 60 people from streets where chest-deep water pushed its way into dozens of homes. The Sheriff’s Office estimated that nearly 200 homes in the neighborhood took on water, and some remained flooded today. Alidore was Thursday’s main focus for the Lafourche Office of Emergency Preparedness. The director of that office also said Emergency Preparedness workers are also in north Lafourche’s Sixth Ward and Chackbay areas, where the water was close to overtopping the levees. Raceland received about 11.4 inches of rainfall during the 48 hours between Monday and Tuesday, according to Weather Underground. Raceland’s total rainfall for December stands at just under 11.8 inches. In Terrebonne, as floodwaters drained into a swollen Bayou Terrebonne, water overtopped banks between Schriever and Southland Mall in Houma and flooded yards, streets, and a few low-lying bayouside homes and businesses. Houma received about 5.2 inches of rain Monday and Tuesday. The city’s normal December total is 12 inches. The Lafourche Parish president declared a state of emergency Tuesday in response to the flooding. The emergency declaration allows the parish president to spend money on an emergency basis to fight the flooding without going through time-consuming public bidding and other laws. So far, more than 25,000 sandbags as well as 2,000 feet of inflatable levees have been used to try to stem flooding in Lafourche.

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

About the reports - The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Web site: http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport

Contact Information
Content and Suggestions: Send mail to NICCReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421

Subscribe to the Distribution List: Visit the DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report and follow instructions to Get e-mail updates when this information changes.

Removal from Distribution List: Send mail to support@govdelivery.com.

Contact DHS
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.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer
The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.