



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 31 October 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to Tri-State Media, two people are dead and five injured after an explosion at an oil well site a mile west of Crossville, Illinois, Wednesday morning. (See item [1](#))
- Guardian.co.uk reports that hundreds of Syrian riot police surrounded the U.S. embassy in Damascus Thursday as tens of thousands of protesters gathered nearby to denounce a U.S. raid that killed eight people near the Iraqi border. (See item [23](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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

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

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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 29, Tri-State Media* – (Illinois) **2 killed, 5 injured in oilfield explosion.** Two people are dead and five injured after an explosion at an oil well site a mile west of Crossville, Illinois, Wednesday morning. The White County sheriff said Wednesday afternoon that five of the seven people working at the site owned by French Creek Oil Co. of Grayville, Illinois, were taken to various hospitals. Crews were capping the oil well when an apparent explosion occurred, followed by a huge flare of burning gas that engulfed the site. The sheriff said that area emergency agencies brought fire equipment and staff from surrounding communities in Indiana and Illinois and that an Illinois Office of Mines and Minerals representative from that agency's Carmi, Illinois, office was on scene. Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Illinois Emergency Management Agency will also be involved in the investigation into the incident.

Source: <http://www.tristate-media.com/articles/2008/10/30/pdclarion/news/news1.txt>

2. *October 29, Gannett News Service* – (Louisiana) **Equipment malfunction cited in accident that cost CenterPoint worker his arm.** An equipment malfunction, not an explosion, cost a CenterPoint worker his arm in an accident Tuesday afternoon, officials said. The worker was trying to redirect gas from one pipeline to another at CenterPoint Energy's Dixie Interconnect about 1:30 p.m. No natural gas was released when the worker, an operations and maintenance technician for the energy company, was injured at the gas transmission station. "We do not know exactly why or what failed, but it was not a natural gas combustion," a spokesperson for CenterPoint Energy said. She called it a rare incident and said the investigation is ongoing.

Source:

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081029/NEWS01/81029041/1060>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *October 30, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Large fire at La. refinery, no injuries reported.** A fire at the Calumet Lubricants plant in Shreveport, Louisiana, was reported at 7:50 a.m. Thursday. A Shreveport Fire Department spokesman said the fire appeared to be in a single storage tank. Plant officials said the tank held waste water and oil sludge from the refining process. The fire was expected to burn itself out by midday. No evacuations were ordered. The isolated tank, which is surrounded by a protective moat, exploded when a coating of oil caught fire. The tank burned and collapsed. A refinery spokeswoman reported that they do not know what caused the fire to start.

Source: <http://www.ihl.com/articles/ap/2008/10/30/america/Plant-Fire.php>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *October 30, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Small fire quickly put out at Mass. nuclear plant.** Firefighters have extinguished a fire at the Pilgrim Nuclear Station that apparently started in a cabinet in an area that calibrates safety equipment. A spokesman for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission says there were no injuries and no release of radioactivity in the Wednesday night fire in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The fire was detected just after 8 p.m. in a maintenance building, not in the reactor building. The Plymouth Fire Department as well as on-site firefighters responded. The sprinkler system also activated. Because it took more than 10 minutes to extinguish and because an off-site response was needed, it was classified as an "unusual event." The fire remains under investigation.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/wires/2008Oct30/0,4670,NuclearPlantFire,00.html>

5. *October 30, Richmond Times-Dispatch* – (Virginia) **North Anna nuclear reactor shut down.** Dominion Virginia Power has shut down its North Anna 2 reactor in Louisa

County because of what the utility described as a faulty transformer. Unit 2 was taken offline September 13 for what was called a routine refueling, and the reactor was being brought back up to full power this week when the problem was discovered, a Virginia Power spokesman said Thursday morning. “We’re going to have to replace that main transformer,” he said. “There are three, and one of them went bad.” Unit 2 was operating at between 6 percent and 7 percent of capacity, well short of the 18-20 percent required to generate power, when the problem was discovered at 4:40 p.m. Wednesday, he said. Virginia Power, which has a spare transformer on site, should have the part replaced soon, he said.

Source: <http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/news.apx.-content-articles-RTD-2008-10-30-0177.html>

6. *October 30, Rutland Herald* – (Vermont) **Entergy: Yankee dismantling in 2067.** Even if Vermont Yankee nuclear plant shuts down in 2012 when its original federal license expires, Entergy Nuclear would not start cleaning up and dismantling the reactor for close to 60 years, according to a plan filed with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Entergy Nuclear has agreed to add \$60 million to its shrinking decommissioning fund for the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant — but not until 2026. In its filing with the NRC, Entergy Nuclear said it planned on decommissioning the reactor in 2067, and completing the job by 2072, at a total cost of \$875 million. The filing, however, is based on the decommissioning fund having a value of \$440 million, which is no longer accurate due to losses in the stock market. Decommissioning Vermont Yankee is estimated to cost somewhere between \$800 million and \$1 billion, depending on when the plant finally shuts down and is dismantled. Entergy Nuclear has said it plans on mothballing the plant after 2032, assuming it gets its 20 year license extension, and letting the decommissioning trust fund grow for many years before starting to dismantle it. That plan, which has been generally approved by the NRC, is called SAFSTORE. The company plans on building another high-level waste storage facility by 2015 to handle the waste. According to the Entergy Nuclear scenario, the federal government would remove all the high-level waste from Vermont by 2042.

Source:

<http://www.timesargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081030/NEWS02/810300369/1003/NEWS02>

7. *October 30, Lower Hudson Valley Journal News* – (New York) **Indian Point fights DEC in court over cooling towers.** Indian Point is taking its case on cooling towers to court. The nuclear plant’s owners are battling the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to determine whether they must construct special towers to cool Hudson River water used to produce electricity. The cost to build the concrete towers has been estimated as high as \$1.5 billion. Company officials say studies on fish in the river that they have done for more than two decades — under the supervision of the state agency — do not make the environmental case for such a large-scale change.

Source:

<http://lohud.com/article/20081030/NEWS01/810300459/-1/newsfront>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *October 29, U.S. Marine Corps* – (National) **Marines to get more power from heavy lifting engines.** Planned upgrades to the CH-53D Sea Stallion and CH-53E Super Stallion engines will give pilots more power on hot temperature and high altitude flights, and Marine Heavy Lift squadrons the ability to carry more equipment, weapons, supplies and personnel further. With a few engine upgrades already in test at Patuxent River Naval Air Station’s Helicopter Test and Evaluation Squadron 21, fleet operators will soon have an increased payload capability due to increased power on the CH-53D and CH-53E engines. The Navy’s MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter, a CH-53E derivative, already operates with the updated engines for its primary mine countermeasures missions.

Source:

http://www.defencetalk.com/news/publish/army/Marines_to_Get_More_Power_from_Heavy_Lifting_Engines110016652.php

9. *October 28, Defense Industry Daily* – (National) **USS Theodore Roosevelt headed into mid-life overhaul.** The USS Theodore Roosevelt is expected to remain in service until 2036. As it approaches its mid-life stage, however, the U.S. government has begun preparing instead for the refueling and complex overhaul (RCOH) of CVN 71 and its reactor plants. The USS Theodore Roosevelt is scheduled to arrive at the Newport News shipyard in 2009 to begin its RCOH, and Northrop Grumman has valued the planning phase alone at \$558 million. After 25 years of service, U.S. nuclear aircraft carriers undergo a three-year maintenance period to refuel their nuclear reactors, upgrade and modernize combat and communication systems, and overhaul the ship’s hull, mechanical and electrical systems. Costs vary from ship to ship, but the RCOH is the most significant overhaul the ship receives during its 50-year life span. The nearly-completed RCOH of the USS Carl Vinson is expected to cost a total of \$3.1 billion, of which about \$1.94 billion went to Northrop Grumman for planning and execution.

Source: <http://www.defenseindustrydaily.com/uss-theodore-roosevelt-headed-into-midlife-overhaul-02810/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *October 29, Bloomberg* – (National) **Bank of America sues Bear Stearns, Cioffi, Tannin.** Bear Stearns Cos. and two high profile hedge-fund managers allegedly lied to Bank of America Corp. in a “desperate” bid for capital to prop up failing funds, according to a suit seeking more than \$2 billion. Bank of America Wednesday sued JPMorgan Chase & Co.’s Bear Stearns Asset Management and the two indicted hedge-fund managers in Manhattan federal court over what it claimed was “egregious conduct” relating to a “CDO-squared” transaction. JPMorgan, which Bank of America did not name as a defendant, acquired Bear Stearns in April after customers and lenders deserted the firm because of concerns that it was running out of cash. JPMorgan, the largest U.S. bank by market value, said when it bought Bear that it expected \$6 billion

in costs related to litigation, consolidation, and other expenses.

Source:

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=a_9KJGpfWCEg&refer=home

11. *October 29, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Scammers claim to be FDIC.** Miami-Dade Consumer Services Department warns consumers about an identity theft scam involving individuals' bank accounts. Scam artists send e-mails purporting to originate from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. In this scam, the bank account owner is told, "Funds wired into your account are stolen from innocent account holders through Identity Theft. Please check your account statement (the statement is attached to this letter) and contact your bank account manager." The e-mail is signed, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/action-line/story/746652.html>

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Transportation Sector

12. *October 30, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia; Maryland; Virginia) **Metro fighting bank's deadline.** Metro and 30 other U.S. mass transit agencies are facing a budget crisis that threatens to strip them of their ability to provide service. Metro officials asked a federal judge yesterday to issue a temporary restraining order against a Belgian bank, KBC group, that is demanding \$43 million from the agency by tomorrow. The bank is demanding the money because of the collapse of American International Group, which had guaranteed Metro's financial deals with the bank. The insurance giant's financial problems have invalidated the company's guarantees, putting the deals in technical default and allowing the bank to ask for all of its money at once.

Meanwhile, members of the Washington region's congressional delegation and transit officials have been in talks with the Treasury Department to seek its help in resolving the issue under the federal agency's authority in the \$700 billion bailout of the financial industry. At least 30 other major transit agencies across the country are also affected. If the court does not grant the temporary restraining order, Metro could find itself in default and be forced to pay KBC. That could result in a shortfall in Metro's capital budget, officials said, and would mean the agency would have less money for much-needed improvements, such as overhauling escalators, fixing tunnel leaks, upgrading train communication equipment, and buying buses. In Metro's case, the regional transit agency could face more than \$400 million in payments if all the deals in question go into default, officials have said. Metro made 16 such deals between 1997 and 2003, involving 600 rail cars worth more than \$1.6 billion and earning \$100 million for Metro.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/29/AR2008102903794.html?hpid=moreheadlineslocal>

13. *October 30, Canadian Pacific Railway* – (National) **Canadian Pacific assumes control of DM&E railroad.** Canadian Pacific Railway Limited today assumed operational control of recently acquired Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation and its subsidiaries: Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad and Cedar American Rail Holdings.

“The two networks belong together, the union of which will open up enhanced opportunities for shippers,” claimed the Canadian Pacific CEO. Congressional officials agreed, noting that the deal would provide needed infrastructure for the American Midwest and open markets for U.S. agribusinesses. The DM&E is the largest regional railroad in the U.S. and the only Class II railroad that connects and interchanges traffic with all seven Class I railroads, connecting with Canadian Pacific at Minneapolis, Winona, Minnesota, and Chicago.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/Canadian-Pacific-assumes-operational-control/story.aspx?guid={31C8934E-2250-41CF-A102-DD228912348A}>

14. *October 29, Market Wire* – (Illinois) **BNSF completes two major infrastructure projects in Illinois.** At the rate of 2,000 railroad ties a day for 74 days, a 45-person BNSF track gang replaced more than 140,000 ties on the Chillicothe subdivision in Illinois. Replacement crews utilized tie cranes, spike pullers and tie insertion/removal machines to conduct work during an eight-hour window each day between Galesburg and Verona, Ill. Ties replaced on the rail line will be reused or recycled in keeping with BNSF’s environmental stewardship policies. Additionally, a second BNSF gang was conducting track undercutting operations on the Chillicothe line between Willow Springs and Niota, Ill. Undercutting involves the removal, cleaning and replacement of ballast (rocks) under the track. Ballast makes up the visible portion of the railway’s roadbed and must be occasionally screened to remove broken rocks, dirt and other debris. Together, the tie replacement and the undercutting projects cost approximately \$12 million. BNSF currently expects to spend more than \$1.8 billion this year to keep the railway’s infrastructure strong by refreshing track, signal systems, structures, freight cars, and upgrading technologies.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/BNSF-Completes-Two-Major-Infrastructure/story.aspx?guid={8B439FA6-1C6E-4FAF-B21E-F468DA058512}>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *October 30, Courier-Journal* – (Indiana and Kentucky) **‘Works bomb’ in mailbox injures woman.** A woman of Harrison County thought the green water bottle that she discovered in her mailbox last week was trash left as a prank – until she grabbed it. The liquid in the bottle exploded in her face, setting off a burning sensation and injuring an eye. She was taken by ambulance to Harrison County Hospital, where she was treated for exposure to caustic chemicals and released. The Harrison County sheriff’s department is investigating what it believes was an intentional act of leaving what is commonly called a “Works bomb” — the name comes from a household cleaner – in the mailbox. The incident Friday appears to have been isolated, an officer said. No other area police agencies — including Corydon police, the Indiana State Police post at Sellersburg, and Kentucky State Police in Campbellsburg — have received similar reports.

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20081030/NEWS02/810300472>

16. *October 29, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **FBI arrests Sacramento man in**

anthrax scare. The FBI on Wednesday arrested a 66-year-old man in Sacramento on suspicion of mailing 120 hoax anthrax packets, including one to the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. The man was arrested without incident. No alleged motive was announced. A packet marked as anthrax arrived at the San Diego newspaper along with a CD with the name Colin Powell scrawled on it. The FBI and San Diego Fire Department shut down the employee entrance to the newspaper. A field test determined the contents were not anthrax, authorities said. Other packets were sent to media organizations, a congressional office and at least two restaurants, authorities said. According to the FBI, each of the packages contained a CD titled “Anthrax: Shock & Awe Terror.” Attached to the CD was a sugar packet containing a white powdery substance and a label depicting an orange biohazard symbol and the words “Anthrax Sample.” Several of the packages were collected and sent to the FBI laboratory in Quantico, Va., for processing. So far, none of the contents have tested positive for biohazardous material, the FBI said. Authorities said it was likely that many other mailings will be received over the next few days.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/politics/cal/la-me-anthrax30-2008oct30,0,4316298.story>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *October 30, Farm Futures* – (National) **Alternative to antibiotics use in poultry found.** Currently, poultry producers use sub-therapeutic amounts of antibiotics in poultry feed as growth promoters and to control bacterial pathogens or parasites. However, bacteria can become resistant to the antibiotics. What U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists have found is that a hop plant contains bitter acids known to be potent antimicrobials. And it is feasible to use one of these acids called lupulone as an alternative to antibiotics in poultry rearing. ARS scientists examined the effect of feeding different concentrations of lupulone to broiler chickens to determine the compound’s impact on clostridium populations in the intestinal tracts of birds inoculated with *C. perfringens*. The research revealed that after 22 days — the timeframe associated with the disease — counts were significantly reduced in the lupulone-treated group compared to another group of chickens that did not receive the lupulone treatment. Further, they found that lupulone controlled from 30 to 50 percent of certain bacteria in the intestines of chickens. Those bacteria not only can cause contamination of meat during processing, but also may pose major production losses by causing disease in the broiler chicken.

Source:

<http://www.farmfutures.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=CD26BEDECA4A4946A1283CC7786AEB5A&nm=News&type=news&mod=News&mid=9A02E3B96F2A415ABC72CB5F516B4C10&tier=3&nid=458770BE6984455D9A4ED79AA0BFED94>

18. *October 29, Associated Press* – (National) **Feds delay rules to contain Great Lakes fish virus.** Federal officials are taking another look at proposed rules designed to contain a fish-killing virus in the Great Lakes region after critics said they were

unreasonable. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the rules last month. They require testing and inspections of 28 farm-raised and live bait species susceptible to viral hemorrhagic septicemia, or VHS. The regulations were scheduled to take effect November 10. But the agency said October 28 it is pushing back the date until January 9 so it can consider public comments and possibly make changes. Some fish farmers and wholesalers say the rules would make demands and impose costs that could drive them out of business.

Source: <http://www.thecountrytoday.com/story-news.asp?id=BI6HST1SGB5>

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Water Sector

19. *October 30, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Pipe-clogging mussels arrive in Valley water.** The discovery of quagga mussels in a water-diversion channel east of Mesa raises the risk that the invasive mollusk could use the Valley’s network of canals to spread farther into Arizona and possibly damage water-treatment plants. The canals supply water for most Valley communities, at least two power plants, more than a dozen urban lakes and thousands of customers of farm and residential irrigation. Salt River Project workers found 11 quagga mussels earlier this month and four more October 29 on monitoring lines near Granite Reef Dam, where water is diverted into the canals. Just one female quagga can produce 40,000 eggs in a breeding cycle and up to one million eggs in a year. The thumbnail-size mussels pose no health risk to drinking water, but they can clog pipes, jam mechanical equipment, increase maintenance costs on water-distribution systems and alter riparian ecosystems.
Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2008/10/30/20081030quaggas-valley.html>
20. *October 30, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Major sewage spill forces closures along Laguna coast.** In what is being described by Orange County health officials as the worst raw sewage spill in at least nine years, more than 500,000 gallons of effluent spewed into the street and the ocean the morning of October 29 in Laguna Beach, prompting the closure of four miles of coastal waters. Laguna Beach has spent more than \$10 million on sewer system upgrades in recent years to prevent ruptures to its aging infrastructure, a city manager said. “We have one of the oldest sewer systems in the county,” he said. “We have a whole lineup of repairs, including a major renovation of this particular pump station. We just didn’t get there in time.”
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/features/health/medicine/la-me-sewage30-2008oct30,0,2510029.story>
21. *October 29, New Mexico Business Weekly* – (New Mexico) **NMSU gets \$2M to study energy and water.** The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded \$1.2 million to New Mexico State University’s (NMSU) Arrowhead Center for a three-year study of the connections between fossil fuel production, economic development and water in New Mexico. “We want to see how fossil fuels benefit the state and what can be done to improve that relationship,” said a NMSU economist. “The energy-water connection runs

in both directions,” she said. “Water, often contaminated, is produced as a by-product of oil and gas production. At the same time, it takes a lot of energy to get water to where we need it.” Arrowhead will use the data and analysis generated to create a centralized location for information to benefit energy companies, environmental entities, and state agencies.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/stories/2008/10/27/daily30.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *October 29, Health Day News* – (National) **Threat from infectious diseases growing.** At least 170,000 Americans die each year from infectious diseases, a number that could increase dramatically during a major disease outbreak. A report released Wednesday by the Trust for America’s Health entitled “Germs Go Global: Why Emerging Infectious Diseases Are a Threat to America” names globalization, increased drug resistance, and climate change as key factors contributing to the growing threat from infectious diseases. The report listed the most serious disease threats currently facing the United States. These include emerging diseases such as bird flu or another new disease such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS); Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), which is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States; Hepatitis C; and HIV/AIDS, which affects about 1.2 million Americans. The report called the United States’ defenses against emerging infectious diseases inadequate, naming shortcomings in surveillance, vaccines, testing and treatment. These deficiencies could lead to serious consequences for the nation’s health system, economy, and national security.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/29/AR2008102902181.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

23. *October 30, guardian.co.uk* – (International) **Syria puts U.S. embassy under guard as tens of thousands join protest.** On October 30, hundreds of Syrian riot police surrounded the U.S. embassy in Damascus as tens of thousands of protesters gathered nearby to denounce a U.S. raid that killed eight people near the Iraqi border. The crowds converged on Youssef al-Azmi square, about a mile from the embassy – which was closed for the day because of security concerns. Troops wearing helmets and carrying batons and shields took up positions around the embassy and the adjacent U.S. residence building. Two fire engines were parked nearby. There were no signs of violence as protesters formed circles and danced traditional dances. The Syrian government has demanded a U.S. apology for the attack in the eastern border community, which it says left eight civilians dead. It has threatened to cut off cooperation on Iraqi border security if there are more raids on its territory. Syrian security around the embassy is usually tight, and Americans in the country are generally made to feel welcome but when the U.S. invaded Iraq protesters attacked the embassy. The American school has been shut

for the day. The Syrian government has ordered the school to shut down – this is expected within a week – and the immediate closing of the American cultural centre linked to the embassy.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/oct/30/syria-us-embassy-protest>

24. *October 30, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Holloman gets vehicle screening systems.** Holloman Air Force Base has two new tools to help speed up and improve the inspection of vehicles entering the southern New Mexico base. Base officials said two trucks outfitted with an advanced detection system will be used to search for hidden contraband, explosives, weapons, drugs and other items. It will take about 45 seconds for the system to check a tractor-trailer rig. The commander of the 49th Fighter Wing said the Rapiscan Gamma Ray Detection System will save airmen and civilian contractors time and will provide Holloman with the best anti-terrorism detection capabilities. Each truck cost over \$1 million. They were paid for by the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization.

Source: <http://www.koat.com/news/17847945/detail.html>

25. *October 29, Air Force Times* – (National) **Air civilians replace guard-duty contractors.** The Air Force is replacing contractor security guards with Air Force civilians. Among the bases already making the change are Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, and Edwards Air Force Base, California, according to Air Force news releases. The new guards wear distinctive badges and large shoulder patches with the Air Force emblem and “GUARD” stitched above. The Air Force hired contractors to fill positions such as gate guards in the wake of the September 11th attacks due to the high deployment demand for military security forces. The transition from contractors to Air Force civilian guards should be complete by 2013.

Source:

http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/10/airforce_civilian_guards_102808w/

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Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to report

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Information Technology

26. *October 30, IDG News Service* – (International) **ICANN delays shutting down spammy Estonian registrar.** The overseer of the Internet’s addressing system said on Wednesday it will delay shutting down a deceitful Estonian domain registrar pending a review. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) sent a letter to EstDomains on October 28 saying it would revoke the company’s accreditation effective November 12 and move the 281,000 domains under its management to another registrar. ICANN’s regulations allow it to revoke a registrar’s accreditation if an executive of the company has been convicted of certain felonies or misdemeanors.

EstDomains' president was convicted of credit card fraud, money laundering and document forgery in an Estonian court on February 6, ICANN said. A study published in August by several security experts found that dozens of domain names registered by EstDomains were hosted by Interage, a California hosting company that has come under fire for allowing scammers to operate on its network. Those experts concluded that as many as 78 percent of the domains and mail servers on Interage's network were hostile. Many of the domain names registered by EstDomains were linked to spam that advertised fake luxury goods or pharmaceuticals.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/153042/icann_delays_shutting_down_spammy_estonian_registrar.html

27. *October 29, VNUnet.com* – (International) **Javascript to be next core malware language.** The demand that the development of web 2.0 has placed on browsers to become more interactive and act as a portal rather than just a viewing platform is opening up new vulnerabilities to unsuspecting users, the team leader of the Security Operation Center at IT security firm Radware, has warned. One such security hole is in Javascript, which would allow a hacker to copy any file from a user's PC with little chance of detection. According to a team leader of the Security Operation Center at IT security firm Radware, this new class of attack will be attractive to cyber-criminals because this approach is cross platform and cross browser, allowing the hackers to access systems previously unavailable to them, such as Linux, Mac and mobile. The problem stems from the fact that internet browsers have quickly moved from being passive text and picture viewers to essentially an operating system in their own right, through interactive services such as user-generated content, hosted applications, web mail and social networks.

Source: <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/16/20081029/ttc-javascript-to-be-next-core-malware-1-6315470.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

28. *October 30, Network World* – (National) **Researchers show off advanced network control technology.** Researchers at Stanford University say they can adjust network infrastructure to boost bandwidth, optimize latency and save power using an experimental technology called OpenFlow. OpenFlow is in the proof-of-concept stage but someday could be used in business networks to engineer traffic, says an associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science at Stanford University. OpenFlow is part of the Clean Slate initiative set up to consider how the Internet might

be optimized. Researchers devised OpenFlow as a way to test out new network protocols on existing networks without disrupting production applications. The only other option is to set up separate infrastructure on which to run experiments, a costly alternative.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=knowledge_center&articleId=9118579&taxonomyId=1&intsrc=kc_top

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

29. *October 29, Daily Courier* – (Arizona) **Firefighters contain blaze south of Prescott.** Firefighters fully contained the 22-acre South Spruce wildfire south of Prescott Wednesday. And while Prescott National Forest officials had considered continuing the nearby Bean Peaks prescribed burn today, they decided to postpone any prescribed burns until next week. Fire managers might work on the Bean Peaks or Ash Creek prescribed burns next week, depending on weather conditions. Fire managers were doing part of the Bean Peaks burn a few miles south of Prescott Monday when they got reports of two nearby wildfires, the South Spruce and the Union. They held the Union blaze to less than an acre Monday. Those wildfires were human-caused and remain under investigation.

Source:

<http://www.dcourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&subsectionID=1&articleID=60706>

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Dams Sector

Nothing to report

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DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

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