

Consolidated weekly report

POLICY: Security

Focus article coming soon

Hazard Level

Change Codes
↓ Deteriorated
• Steady
↑ Improved
↗ Alert

week-ended

See daily [list of news items](#)

2007 Jul 01

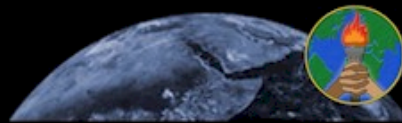
- Whether the \$293M **Aegis** contract for *security intelligence* services in **Iraq** is *better* or *cheaper* than doing it in-house is difficult to calculate.
 Police in the **UK** says that "**red tape**" ties up a fifth of the *police force* -- "As long as the bottom line is *detections* ... the problems are going to continue. How can one murder detection equal one shoplifting detection?"
Predator UAVs have now reached a quarter-million flight hours -- "This historic achievement in the evolution of air and space power underlines the United States Air Force commitment to unmanned aerial systems." [Comment: The **USAF** is intent on becoming the *executive agency* for UAVs.]
Tactical imagery: "This type of imagery could, if properly used, lead to a revolution in intelligence comparable to the one accomplished by the codebreakers of World War 2." -- [TacSat-3: a potential revolution in space-based operational intelligence gathering](#).
CIA Director Michael Hayden says of "dirty secrets:" documents released this week that they are "reminders of some things the CIA should not have done of a very different era and a very different agency". Former CIA officer Robert **Baer** thinks the CIA is saying to the **White House** "*Politicize intelligence and you'll find your name on the front page of the newspaper*".

2007 Jun 24

- To be released in days ... James **Schlesinger** started a collection of documents on any activity that contravened the agency's charter -- [CIA's 'family jewels' on show](#).
[US general laments Google Earth capability](#) -- "It's something that was a closely guarded secret not that long ago and now everybody's got access to it."
 A useful insight; a paper by DNI Mike **McConnell** -- [Overhauling Intelligence](#).
DHS admits it has been attacked by *hackers* -- "How can the Department of Homeland Security be a real advocate for sound *cybersecurity* practices without following some of its own advice?" Ludicrously poor *handling practices* again haunt a **US** agency; the *backup tape*, stolen from an intern's car, contained "myriad crucial data" -- [Interns carried state data home nightly](#).
 A look at the "*diseases of interest*" that could be studied at the new **Bio-Defense / Agro-Defense** Facility in east Columbia, Missouri -- [List of diseases shows possible contents of lab](#).
 "Why has the **U.S. Navy** increased its *Internet defense force* from 200 sailors, to 15,000, in the past three years? Mainly fear." -- [The Secret Cyber War](#).

2007 Jun 17

- One of the sources of the **Nigeria scam** may have been busted; "*Dutch police believe over 2,000 Internet fraudsters are active in the country*" -- [Dutch police arrest 111 over suspected Internet fraud](#).



"The **FBI** is in the process of locating and notifying the users of one million computers controlled by *hackers* ..." -- *Million computers infected by 'botnets'*.

Unconventional candor puts Gen **Pace** at odds with Secretary **Gates**; "he assured *Gates that he was willing to go through even a contentious confirmation process*" -- *Pace says he refused to quit voluntarily*.

FBI Finds It Frequently Overstepped in Collecting Data -- "An internal **FBI** audit has found that the bureau potentially violated the law or agency rules more than 1,000 times ..."

MARFORPAC (*Marine Corps Forces, Pacific*) is getting a new **command center**; "this *COC will be beyond anything in the PACOM and will surpass everything in the Corps*" -- *New technology to improve archaic command center*.

Two "top secret" **National Reconnaissance Office/Navy ocean surveillance** spacecraft to "**track terrorist movements at sea**" were launched 14 Jun 2007.

It's too early to know if the **National Counter Terrorism Center** (NCTC) -- "somewhere in north Virginia" -- will make the US safer but the gift shop is worth the visit -- *Spending a day at the National Counter Terrorism Center*.

There is some reversal [by 10%] to the what many see as the "**privatization of intelligence**", a revolving door that has gutted the **CIA** of its brightest and best -- *CIA Plans Cutbacks, Limits on Contractor Staffing*.

The **US** accounts for almost half of **global military spending**; "the United States spent \$529 billion, slightly less than the entire GDP of the Netherlands, on military operations in 2006, up 5 percent over the previous year" -- *Global military spending hits \$1.2 trillion: study*.

2007 Jun 10

- Recognizing that **Congress** has some authority [and is not amused], Secretary **Gates** elects to avoid a showdown over reappointment of Gen **Pace** as **JCS** -- *Joint Chiefs chair to be replaced*.

Toffler Associates say the **threat to railroads** has been over-rated; "more action is needed to make the system more secure, but the system already is more secure than many believe" -- *Toffler Associates Releases New Assessment of Terrorist Threat to Railroads*.

DHS is canvassing development of **UAVs** ["drones"] that would **surveil** and **protect airports**.

"**Hackers** are motivated by **money** and not **fame** anymore ..." and techniques are constantly evolving -- *Report: New hacking technique shields attackers*.

A Medal of Honor veteran is being helpful, not dismissive, when he says "if a vehicle has become the target of an **IED**, it means that security has been forsaken for expedience." -- *To protect lives from IEDs, follow the rules*.

2007 Jun 03

- Web Security Breach Lets Cat Out Of Baghdad Embassy Plans** -- "The architectural firm ... removed master sketches of the compound from its Web site, but not before details of the **sensitive plan** were exposed online."

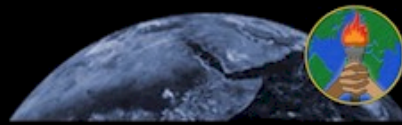
"**Cuba** counts with the best organized program on **natural catastrophes** prevention mechanisms of the hemisphere." -- *Cubans best prepared on natural disasters*.

"He is one of the bad ones. He's one of the longest-running and uses criminal methods all the time." -- *Longtime 'Spam King' Charged With Fraud*.

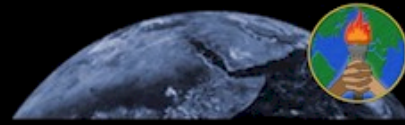
"The **U.S. Defense Department** has named a replacement for the controversial **Christian** general who ran its **intelligence** operations."

NYPD Divers Now Search for Bombs -- "If they can bring in drugs, they can bring in other materials."

Something on the work of the new **Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA)** -- *New US agency aims to help spies with new technology*. [On the model of **DARPA**.]



	<p>The FBI's latest report will show that <i>violent crime</i> is still increasing -- "<i>the FBI's focus on counterterror investigations since the 2001 attacks have inevitably resulted in fewer agents devoted to traditional crime fighting.</i>" [Comment: Almost certainly the <i>crystal meth</i> trend is also partly involved.]</p> <p>Many are questioning the "<i>war-time</i>" <i>powers</i> proposed for UK police -- UK government assailed over 'stop and quiz' anti-terror proposal.</p>
<p>2007 May 27</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As one of his final initiatives, UK prime minister Blair hopes to give new "<i>anti-terrorist</i>" <i>powers</i> for <i>police</i> -- "<i>Tony Blair plans to push through a new anti-terrorism law before he steps down next month giving 'war-time' powers to police to stop and question people.</i>" <p>Controversially, German police have taken <u>scent</u> samples from G8 protesters -- "<i>metal rods placed on the hands of suspects after a series of raids ... are meant to help identify future violators in a similar way to a fingerprint ...</i>" [German police have used <u>scent</u> for some time – in the absence of <i>fingerprints</i> or <i>DNA</i>, dogs can readily match a suspect to the smallest scent sample.]</p> <p>"<i>It is alleged that the CIA flew their planes to 29 different countries and that there were 300 CIA landings in Europe alone, 80 in Britain</i>" -- Shedding light on CIA mystery flights.</p> <p>New York City is "super-sizing" the <i>electricity grid</i> -- "<i>the pilot project ... will tie together two midtown Manhattan substations, so that one can handle the load of the other in the event that individual circuits are disrupted.</i>"</p> <p>DHS sets road map to secure infrastructure [The DHS framework to protect the 17 sectors of <i>critical infrastructure</i> is <u>advisory</u> rather than <u>regulatory</u>, a true test of whether <i>public interest</i> plays a role in the free market.]</p>
<p>2007 May 20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The US Senate has requested access to the CIA 9/11 internal report -- "<i>the agency is the only federal office involved in counterterrorism operations that has not made at least a version of its internal 9/11 investigation public.</i>" <p>A <i>net-centric</i> real-time <i>battlespace</i> is a neat idea but still just an idea; present <i>interoperability</i> problems in Iraq sometimes forces "<i>soldiers and Marines to use personal cell phones provided by family members or chat rooms as makeshift information-sharing tools</i>"-- DOD study finds roadblocks on path to net-centricity.</p> <p>The Pentagon has blocked access to several websites such as <i>YouTube</i> and <i>MySpace</i> over <i>military computer networks</i> because of a paucity of <i>bandwidth</i>. The US Army is facing a shortage of <i>junior officers</i> -- the number of senior captains stands at just <u>51%</u> of the Army's requirements. "... <i>the Army National Guard has only half the equipment it needs to respond to crises at home, from terrorist attacks to natural disasters.</i>"</p> <p>Google claims that 10% of web-sites are "<i>dangerous</i>" -- "<i>an average of 8,000 new URLs containing malicious software emerged each week during April [2007] ...</i>"</p> <p>The Australian military is preparing for a future of <i>come-as-you-are</i> exigencies where <i>skills</i> and <i>stealth</i> will supplant <i>force</i> -- ADF future in precision and stealth.</p>
<p>2007 May 13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A retired general joins those who warn that Iraq has stretched the National Guard beyond breaking point -- "<i>crucial equipment used by the Guard for disaster relief is now in Iraq instead of standing ready to respond to crises here at home.</i>" A USAF general says the <i>air fleet</i> is wearing down -- "<i>The average Air Force warplane is <u>23.5 years old</u> compared with <u>8.5 years</u> in 1967.</i>" <p>The Pentagon has established a <i>civilian foreign language corps</i>; "<i>a cadre of some <u>1,000 foreign-language speakers</u> who can help the government in times of war and national emergencies.</i>" The US is finding it difficult to meet goals of <i>recruiting</i> officers of some <i>ethnic backgrounds</i> -- "<i>America has a need for their skill sets. But a lot of them are mistrustful of the government's intentions (and) how their skills would</i></p>



be used" -- [U.S. spies face uphill battle in ethnic recruitment](#).

In what seems to be an unending series of such initiatives, DoD has outlined a new strategy for **Information Sharing** -- "Delivering the power of information to ensure mission success through an agile enterprise with freedom of maneuverability across the information environment." [A plan, or a prayer?]

Hackers, using IP addresses from **China** and **Australia**, stole over 22,000 **social security numbers** from a US university.

DHS has awarded \$445M in **grants** for projects to secure **critical infrastructure** -- "These grants will help to protect our nation's critical infrastructure from threats and hazards that could cause major loss of life, economic impact, and disruption of services."

The director of the **National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency** says the US will always retain "some control" over **satellite imagery** -- "I could certainly foresee circumstances in which we would not want imagery to be openly disseminated of a **sensitive site** of any type, whether it is here or overseas."

DHS will now use **biometric checks** to track departures of foreign visitors.

A new **continuity plan** to be used in event of a **decapitation attack** has been promulgated -- [Bush Changes Continuity Plan](#).

2007 May 06

↓ If a "**War Czar**" is now needed "it begs the question of who has been coordinating **US involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan the past four years**".

More discussion of the fact that arms is an art, not a machine -- [Military Matters: General incompetence](#).

"Army researchers 'looked under every rock, and what they found was not always easy to look at'" -- [Troops at Odds With Ethics Standards](#).

The **TSA** joins the ranks of agencies with unacceptable **data handling** practices, losing a **hard-disk** with **personnel details** of 100,000 employees -- if stolen purposefully it may be a serious problem.

The **USAF** has stood up the first **unmanned aircraft** wing -- "The new wing is an evolution in the Air Force's UAS program and provides the next step forward in medium- and high-altitude unmanned air systems."

A *Novosti* view on the US **anti-missile shield** venture in **Europe**, dangerously like the *Pershing* crisis of the 1970s -- [ABM: uncooperative Russia or scheming America?](#). Rep. **Wexler**, chair of the **House Subcommittee on Europe**, now thinks some adult supervision is needed on the increasingly divisive missile defense plan.

Better than any terrorist, **human error** led to a **dangerous overdose** of caustic soda in a town **water supply** -- "a system that should have alerted other operators was apparently not working.... About 100 people sought medical treatment with minor burns or rashes."

2007 Apr 29

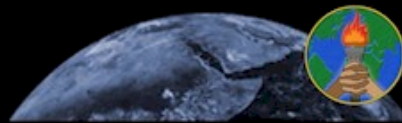
• General **Casey** says the planned increase of 65,000 **active-duty soldiers** is needed "now" to relieve the strain of long and repeated deployments to **Iraq**.

"**Star Wars**" passed another benchmark -- "a sub-sonic cruise missile in the atmosphere and a ballistic missile in space with a ship-based interceptor."

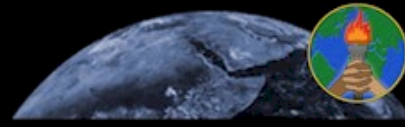
The **V-22** aircraft has already cost \$22B and may be useless in the modern real-world when ready -- "putting together the pieces of a **broken budget process** in a new way will be a necessary step in repairing a **broken foreign policy**." [see also **Economy**]

More on the coming **cyber-wars**: "a fundamental role for government is to ensure the continuity of society in times of crisis." -- [Al-Qa'eda's electronic 'ammunition'](#). Also ... "easy access to **drone technology**" poses obvious available means for **CBRN** delivery -- [Radio controlled toys serious threat to security - NATO official](#).

New types of "social" sites -- such as **MySpace**, which has over 100 million pages, -- are a new target for **malware** and **identity theft**.



	<p>An even-handed look at <i>outsourcing</i> in the US <i>intelligence community</i> -- Contractors playing major role in U.S. intelligence. An audit shows that the FBI has made strides in recruiting <i>intelligence analysts</i> but several traditional obstacles remain such as a wall between <i>field agents</i> and <i>analysts</i>, and inadequate <i>training</i>. New undersecretary of defense for intelligence Clapper has terminated the only known Pentagon program that collects intelligence on US citizens, TALON, which stored information on persons demonstrating at <i>US bases</i>. Long overdue, a House Homeland Security subcommittee has ordered the TSA to improve <i>security screening</i> of employees in <i>secure areas</i> of <i>airports</i>. The Transportation Security Administration is putting new emphasis on <i>risk-based behavioral recognition</i> systems and training [cf the Israeli approach].</p> <p>Three US towns were <i>evacuated</i> due to a nearby <i>ammonia</i> leak -- "<i>workers had been transferring anhydrous ammonia from a 9,000-gallon storage tank ... when the hose burst.</i>"</p> <p>US bases in <i>Europe</i> will conduct <i>security exercises</i> following threat alerts -- "<i>the military tests are aimed at randomly testing and evaluating force protection procedures at American military facilities to ensure the readiness of security personnel and base residents ...</i>"</p> <p>Under criteria of new rules governing the security of <i>chemical plants</i>, about 100 plants nationwide have a million or more people living in a "<i>vulnerability zone</i>" and 7,000 plants are in the "<i>high-risk</i>" category.</p>
<p>2007 Apr 22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a continuing effort to defuse Russian objection to the proposed <i>missile defense systems</i> in Europe, the US is offering some degree of "<i>integration</i>" with Russian systems. <p><i>Outsourcing</i> key government functions, including those of the CIA, seems to have gone too far; "<i>today in Baghdad a private contracting company ... decides where CIA officers can go and who they can see.</i>" -- Outsourcing the CIA.</p> <p>The BlackBerry outage was felt across North America, all the way to the White House -- "<i>we're 14 hours into no BlackBerry, so you can imagine how things are. We've already started a 12-step group.</i>"</p> <p>More details emerged on lax security at Los Alamos.</p> <p>Hackers last year used <i>e-mail</i> to break into State Department computers -- "<i>a department employee in Asia opened a mysterious e-mail that quietly allowed hackers inside the US government's network.</i>" Hackers have been invited to <i>tempest-test</i> the new Philippines electronic voting system.</p> <p>98% of <i>food imported</i> by the US is not inspected for <i>food safety</i> -- "<i>the 1.3% that is inspected reveal contaminations of some form or the other.</i>" [Comment: This item may be misleading – no mention is made of <i>statistics</i>-based testing.]</p> <p>A retired US General says a <i>stressed army</i> is a <i>vulnerable army</i> -- "<i>the disastrous state of the U.S. military is putting the country in strategic peril ...</i>"</p> <p>Another report similar to many previous shows the great gulf between <i>intimation</i> and <i>actionable intelligence</i> -- France Warned CIA of 2001 Hijack Plot.</p> <p>A research student at Texas A&M University was afflicted by the <i>brucella</i> pathogen during a <i>bioweapons</i> experiment -- "<i>under Federal law, such incidents are supposed to be reported within seven days to the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention.</i>"</p>
<p>2007 Apr 15</p>	<p>↓ It is still obvious there is no <i>long-term strategy</i> behind Katrina reconstruction -- "<i>over the coming years, perhaps decades, significant and complex challenges lie ahead...</i>".</p> <p>A Congressional committee has recommended legislation requiring agencies to report <i>data mining</i> activities; classified, sensitive details would be put into a separate</p>



non-public annex.

An **army** already "stretched thin by four years of war" extended **Iraq** tours to 15 months. The **US Army** is now paying around \$1B to **recruit and retain soldiers** -- the amount spent on bonuses in 2006 is roughly equal to what the **Pentagon** spent on **electronic jamming devices** to disable **roadside bombs**. *Overseas wars* have brought a boom in armaments -- the price of **ammunition** in the US risen four-fold in two years, and **police** are experiencing supply shortages.

A summary of **EU terrorism-related police work**, as well as **EUROPOL's** bid to have its powers widened -- [700 arrests for terror-related offenses in EU last year, Europol says](#).

The **US** plans to broaden foreign **intelligence cooperation**-- "*an environment to enhance collaboration between our national agencies while providing a venue to share more information with our coalition partners.*" The **DNI** is changing the way spies will be *hired, assigned, evaluated and paid* and is seeking to establish *community-wide standards*; for instance, *clarity in intelligence reports and assessment of source reliability*. The **Department of Defense** will establish a training center at *Fort Huachuca* (Arizona) for *human intelligence (HUMINT)*. The **DNI** is seeking *expanded powers* under the *Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA)*.

The *Federal Information Security Management Act 2006* report says the government receives "*an overall grade of C-minus when it comes to safekeeping information on government computer systems*". A "disk" with **private identifying data** on 2.9 million Georgians was lost by a *private contractor*.

The *Miami Herald* suggests the assessment of Fidel **Castro's** imminent death is an indictment of **US** on-ground **intelligence in Cuba**.

2007 Apr 08

↓ A plethora of documentation now shows that there was no rational basis for linking **Iraq** to **9/11** or **al-Qaeda** -- [Hussein's Prewar Ties To Al-Qaeda Discounted](#). [Now everybody on the planet -- except Douglas **Feith** and Dick **Cheney** - agrees on the facts.]

The *New York Times* says the **911 [emergency]** system is incapable of tracking **cellphone** calls, and is dangerously outdated in other ways. [A vast and increasing proportion of 911 calls come from cellphones.]

It is fortunate the **US** has no real and present security threats -- six refused candidates down the list, the post of **deputy to DNI** still sits **vacant** after eleven months. The office of **DNI** warns that "**espionage** did not go away with the end of the Cold War" -- competitive **trade secrets** are now a major target.

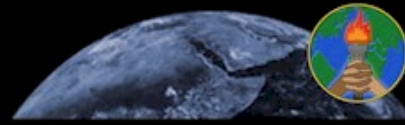
A **solar flare** in December 2006 disrupted **GPS** and other **satellite** services including **military** -- "... *this was an unexpectedly serious new effect.*" [Most "smart" bombs and missiles depend on GPS.]

The **US** is again undertaking a study to look at shortening the "*commander's cycle of tasking sensors to collect intelligence, analyzing the information and disseminating it to the warfighters*".

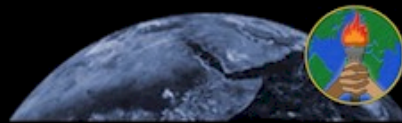
Blast-related injury experts from eight countries have met to share expertise -- "*Learning from nations that have experienced conventional weapon attacks on their civilian population is critical to improving preparedness worldwide.*"

The military have taken to the use of **UAVs** ["drones"] in all shapes, sizes, applications, and prices but they are losing many due to mishap and are faced with a shortage in supply of some types -- "*some of the losses have been the result of collisions with smaller army UAVs.*" [The subtext is a **turf battle** -- the **Air Force** wants control of anything flying over 3,500 ft.]

Chlorine is being constantly shipped to **water treatment plants** throughout the **US** [and other countries]; some suggest "*how water utilities can get chlorine gas off the*



	<p>rails and out of American communities" -- Toxic Trains and the Terrorist Threat.</p> <p>The Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) in Greater Manchester [UK] has been enlarged and given wider powers; other CTUs in West Yorkshire, West Midlands and London will follow. In the UK, <i>security cameras</i> that allow monitoring centers to <i>speak</i> to the scene are shades of big brother but have proven effective in countering street crime.</p> <p>The National Nuclear Security Agency continues to attract the scorn of the world for its dismal incompetence – now, 20 computers are missing.</p>
2007 Apr 01	<p>↓ The "Information Sharing Environment" that isn't. – the Pentagon has still not posted one of its own at the US National Counter-Terrorism Center.</p> <p>Hackers stole 45 million <i>credit card</i> numbers from a US retailer -- "the intrusions may have dated back as far as July 2005."</p> <p>The UK Home Office has handed <i>prisons and criminal justice</i> to a new justice ministry and has gained a new office for Security and Counter-terrorism.</p> <p>DHS has established a <i>TechSolutions</i> program "to collect technological requirements and provide solutions for first responders."</p> <p>There is shortage in supply of UAVs ["drones"] -- "the Air Force has lost about 40% of its Predator unmanned aircraft and lacks enough trained crews to meet the demand for battlefield surveillance ..."</p>
2007 Mar 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security holes have been found in <i>software</i> used to control much vital infrastructure [power switching, pumping stations, ...] -- "they are horribly insecure because few people in the SCADA industry know what a 'buffer-overflow' is." The US is under daily attack in <i>cyberspace</i> and STRATCOM announces it is now going to take a more proactive stance and take <i>cyberwar</i> to the enemy. [Nobody said China.]• France's space agency has put three decades of research of material on uncorrelated targets on the web. [28% are Class-D (inexplicable).]• The Thai military is actively recruiting women in the hope of curbing an insurgency in the south -- "140 female rangers recruited by the military in a search for nonlethal ways to curb the three-year insurgency that has claimed more than 2,000 lives." Separately, a unit of a 100 Indian policewomen has been deployed as peace-keepers in Liberia -- "an increase in female peacekeepers will help limit abuses perpetrated by the very people sent to safeguard the rights of those already traumatized by conflict."• "Today, the so-called ready brigade [82nd Airborne Division] is no longer so ready. Its soldiers are not fully trained, much of its equipment is elsewhere". Also, 88% of the National Guard is not "ready" -- "the chairman of the US Commission on the National Guard and Reserves said Friday [23 Mar 2007] reserve readiness was worse than realized." The USAF has suddenly reached a gap in upgrade cycles for aging aircraft -- "delays in getting the expensive and ambitious new aircraft operational were likely to last for at least half a decade more."• Some think that UAVs ["drones"] could soon defend airports – they would circuit above local traffic outfitted with missile-warning systems (and possibly anti-missile lasers).• "The often overlooked subplot of the wars of the post-9/11 period is their unprecedented scale of outsourcing and privatization." -- Four Years On, Bush's Shadow Army Is A Reality.• An item covering Texas taking delivery of communications upgrades, includes review of the Presidential Directive on Continuity of Operations Planning doctrine -- New equipment helps ensure communications.• The House Judiciary Committee say they will curtail the FBI's record-gathering powers if measures are not taken to correct recent "mistakes, carelessness,



confusion, sloppiness, lack of adequate training, guidance, and oversight."

Israel held a "massive" **chemical attack** exercise -- "*Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh said the exercise was meant in part to defend against a possible Iranian missile attack.*" Hinting at how difficult it is to detect a **radioactive** "dirty weapon" amid everyday applications, **DHS** and **DOE** are gathering an inventory of **benign sources** of radiation in various cities. **Bees** have been found to be a reliable detector of various **toxins** and may have application in chemical attack **early warning systems** -- "*we found bees respond within 30 seconds or less to the presence of a toxic chemical.*"

The US "**Terror Database**", *Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment (TIDE)*, has quadrupled in four years -- "*the bar for inclusion is low, and once someone is on the list, it is virtually impossible to get off it.*"

DHS is moving into a new **headquarters**, in an old lunatic asylum.

2007 Mar 19

- Russian's **FSB** says "targeted and integrated **hacker** attacks using data encryption algorithms to block information systems are becoming more widespread over the **Internet** now." [These are system "hostage" for ransom schemes.] The latest annual report for the **FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center** refers to over 200,000 complaints and a reported loss of almost \$200M. **DHS** is planning a **computer forensic institute** -- "the US **Secret Service** will develop the institute, and the **National Cyber Security Division** of Homeland Security will provide some funding." **DHS** has boosted the authority of its **Chief Information Officer**. [Finally, **DHS** realize **Information** is the beginning, middle, and end of what it should be doing.] **DHS** wants **broadband** universally available to **first responders** -- **communications** is the yet-unsolved requirement that directly cost lives on 9/11. **DHS** will soon start a test at **Staten Island** container terminal which will scan 10,000 containers for **radioactivity** during a four-week pilot. **GAO** has ordered a **DOE** report on the risk from **LNG** tankers in ports and waterways. [LNG is moved in purpose-built large **spherical tanks**.]

Sometime **CIA** officer **Valerie Plame** gets her day on record -- "*I feel passionately as an intelligence professional about the creeping insidious politicizing of our intelligence process.*"

In the spirit of an Iraq surge, and possibly spurred by recent airport security breaches, **TSA** is launching a "**security surge**" featuring "*random, unpredictable screening of employees in secure areas*".

A new director was appointed to the **FBI Terrorist Screening Center** -- "*the TSC serves as the single point of accountability for ensuring the merging and appropriate sharing of terrorist information ...*". The **FBI** is training its **threat response team** in **Afghanistan** "*in order to get real-life experience in environments where roadside bombs and improvised devices are common and very real.*"

Head of the **Marine Corps** says building a larger force will be tough -- "*It is going to be a challenge*"; also the **Navy** will need almost 1,000 additional sailors to support an enlarged Marine Corps. A \$600M **Coast Guard** contract has unexpectedly hit the rocks.

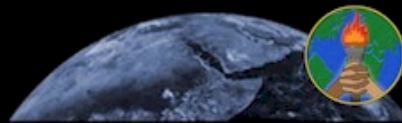
A far-ranging review of "**Future Combat Systems**": [*Pentagon contemplating futuristic war plans.*](#)

2007 Mar 12

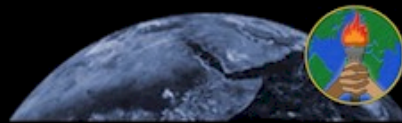
- ↓ Five years after 9/11, no-one can account for any benefits brought by **\$5B** funding to harden the US against **bio-terrorism** or **pandemics** -- "we're not able to demonstrate accountability" says the **CDC**.

DHS is reported to have resumed **data-mining**.

Brookings and **Stanford** have launched a project on **global insecurity** -- "*new security challenges are more complex than our institutions are capable of*



	<p><i>managing</i>". The US Defense Science Board [rather belatedly] says Cold War technologies are useless in detecting an <i>enemy of irregular forces that hide in plain sight</i>.</p> <p>1,000 <i>journalists</i> have been killed in the last 10 Years -- many of these on the front line of <i>open source intelligence</i> have been <i>murdered</i>.</p> <p>China's intelligence services are said to be actively targeting US <i>advanced technology</i> -- "<i>These services are eating our lunch</i>."</p> <p>Indicative of a faster pace in the evolution of <i>cyber-threats</i>, the top three threats to computer users in February 2007 were all <i>new</i> to the top ten.</p> <p>The European US missile shield controversy with Russia is solved ... a Russian general says "<i>Russia's strategic aviation has sufficient potential to suppress elements of a US missile defense shield</i>".</p>
2007 Mar 05	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DHS has issued proposed regulations that set standards for state <i>driver's licenses</i> to meet the requirements of the <i>REAL ID Act</i>. DHS has increased funding for <i>emergency management programs</i> that address the priorities set out in the <i>DHS Interim National Preparedness Goal</i>. <p>Observers note that an SOCOM [<i>US Special Operations Command</i>] better answers the modern array of non-conventional threats but "<i>direct and indirect activities must be carefully synchronized to be most effective</i>". The US admits it lacks <i>intelligence</i> on the Horn of Africa -- "<i>this is an area that ... has the fewest analysts, the most junior analysts, and the ones with ... the least experience on the ground</i>." DNI has relieved Norman Bailey of his post as Cuba 'mission manager' -- reports differ on whether the post itself has been dissolved. The Defense Intelligence Agency is seeing a 'mushrooming' use of various <i>web 2.0 technologies</i>.</p> <p>The National Nuclear Security Administration has given the management of Los Alamos National Laboratory its final warning for <i>safety violations</i>.</p> <p>Although some say there is a "<i>food safety crisis on the horizon</i>", FDA food safety inspections have dropped to almost half of the 2003 figure.</p> <p>As <i>peacekeeping forces</i> hit a new record of 100,000, the UN continues moves to restructure peacekeeping into two departments -- <i>Operations</i> and <i>Field Support</i>.</p>
2007 Feb 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Before departure as DNI John D. Negroponte issued a directive reminding agencies of basic intelligence principles. <p>The security scanner that can "see through clothes" has started public trials -- the <i>backscatter scanner</i> is a compromise between <i>prudishness</i>, <i>prurience</i>, and <i>effective detection of weapons</i>. U.S. <i>airline security</i> programs are said to be 5 years behind schedule -- even the "<i>no fly</i>" list system [which is unlikely to be highly effective] is five years behind target. The states say implementation of the Real ID Act may not happen -- "<i>without adequate assistance from the federal government ... state driver's license security is at a stand still</i>." About three UK passports go <i>missing</i> in the post each day.</p> <p>The FBI has made progress in <i>translation</i> capability and is now translating over 1,000 wiretap conversations each day, but of most concern are 3,240 hours of audio from "<i>very obscure languages and dialects</i>". The FBI is still seeking extra capability in Arabic and other <i>Eastern languages</i>.</p> <p>Death by incompetence: The Army is sticking to acquisition of the [problematic] M4/M16, an excellent choice providing life doesn't depend on it in a <i>dusty</i> environment. The unrelenting pressures on the National Guard is concerning state <i>governors</i> -- "<i>how much equipment have we sent abroad, how much has returned, how much is usable?</i>"</p> <p>Sweden has criminalized <i>Denial-of-Service</i> attacks. In the UK a Bank has be fined [\$1.9M] for losing a <i>laptop computer</i> -- the fine was levied for "<i>failing to have</i></p>



2007 Feb 19

effective systems and controls" in connection with theft of a computer holding *personal customer information*.

The expert opinion is that the **US** is not prepared for the *next "big one"*, be it *terrorist* or *natural disaster* -- "*the key is being willing to invest in things that are not particularly sexy, such as **public health, emergency planning and community preparedness.***" New federal rules for *chemical plants* have been criticized -- "*The regulations are seriously flawed and could have a very harmful impact.*" The **White House** ran an *exercise* testing readiness for "*Iraq-Style*" attacks [truck bombs, etc] -- "[the] *scenario envisioned requests pouring in from state and local authorities, and assumed many local abilities would be diminished by the large scale of the disaster.*"

↓ The **US** security community is aware that *agro-terrorism* is one of the big vulnerabilities -- from "farm to fork" the *food system* is a wide-open soft target.

The **White House** is anxious to clear a backlog over 350,000 high-level *security clearances* but this may mean some dangerous compromises.

A proposed **US bill** would require *Internet Service Providers* to keep data on users, but many questions arise -- "*Would the data be kept for one year, 20 years or indefinitely?*" Legislation was introduced that would require notification of *data breaches* involving *personal information*. **China** has detained six over the 'panda' *virus* -- "*the worm wreaked havoc among individual and corporate users in China in a late 2006 outbreak ...*"

A press release for compliance software offers a good tutorial on the issues in *international money laundering* -- [Money Laundering Risks in International Wires](#)

The **GAO** has faulted the **US Small Business Administration** lack of disaster planning revealed by *Hurricane Katrina* -- "*It found that federal officials discounted centralized planning, arguing their local field offices could figure it out.*"

The **FBI** has had a run of bad luck with disappearing *laptops* -- "*Of the 160 laptops lost or stolen over a 44-month period, 10 contained sensitive or classified information.*"

Scotland Yard [UK] is obliged to apologize for a mistaken anti-terrorism raid -- "*they were wrong not to have planned better for the intelligence being wrong ...*" says the *Independent Police Complaints Commission*. In the **US**, General **Peter Pace** is on a crusade for a new *precision in intelligence analysis* -- "*we should be careful to point out where what we can prove ends, and what we believe begins ...*"

2007 Feb 12

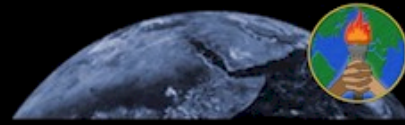
↓ The **Norwegian** a "*global permafrost safety facility*" -- a doomsday seed vault in the Arctic -- will address the loss of *biological diversity* and vulnerability to *climatic changes*.t

The **US** will test certain *anti-nuclear detection devices* in *New York*, thereafter in other cities. The federally funded **Homeland Security Institute** -- which is tasked by **Homeland Security's** undersecretary for *science and technology* -- has a new head.

Hackers hit key Internet traffic [DNS] computers in "*one of the most significant attacks against the Internet since 2002*". An interview with **RSA Security** -- [Cryptography's future](#)

A **US Senate Committee** again examines pre-invasion *intelligence* on **Iraq** -- "*The bottom line is that intelligence relating to the Iraq-al-Qaida relationship was manipulated by high-ranking officials...*" The new **US budget** seeks funds for additional *policy advisors* on *North Korea, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Central Asia* on "*pressing financial issues*" [*terrorism related money-laundering*]. The new **DNI** says review of the rules on *foreign-born US citizens* -- such as *Arab-speaking Americans* -- is one area needing "*the greatest deal of attention and improvement*".

The **Senate** proposes a *National Space Intelligence Center* within the office of **DNI** to meet modern *space threats*.



2007 Feb 05

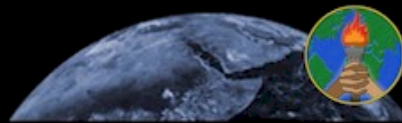
- The US **DOD** issued its *electronic-warfare doctrine* [Joint Publication 3-13.1 - *Electronic Warfare*] on January 25. Incoming **DNI McConnell** says there henceforth will be no '*cherry picking*' of *intelligence*. Members of Congress have condemned *security* at **Los Alamos Security** -- "*There is an absolute inability and unwillingness to address the most routine security issues at this Laboratory.*" In the **US**, the States are revolting against the **Real ID Act** of 2005, partly because they say it's "*a honey pot out there that's going to be irresistible to identity thieves*".
Australian and **Indonesian Special Forces** [Special Air Service Regiment and *Kopassus*] are planning their second *joint exercise*.
Vint Cerf says a quarter of *Internet* PCs are [unknowingly] part of a *webbot* network -- "*Cerf estimates that 100 to 150 million of the 600 million internet PCs worldwide are infected with bots...*". *Shielding jackets* for **RFID ePassports** are appearing on the market. In the **UK**, some proposed *X-ray scanners* could be installed in *street furniture* -- "*The real question is ... how you respond to it when the technology says there's something unusual.*" In the **UK**, the *eavesdrop aircraft* used in **Northern Ireland** are again in the air -- "*a mysterious aircraft has been spotted in the air in recent days at the same time as three "no-fly" zones have been in operation in the West Midlands.*"

2007 Jan 29

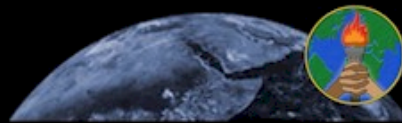
- ↓ With the rising use of *radioisotopes* in medicine and the growing use of more sensitive *radiation detectors* for security there will be more and more false alarms. Only about a quarter of U.S. citizens hold valid *passports* but will now need them to travel to (and return from) neighboring countries such **Mexico** and **Canada**.
"**Gates's Glasnost at the Pentagon?**" -- "*It's not only the media whom Gates is treating as adults. One senior officer said the top brass feel like they can now get a hearing ...*"
Criminal activity on the *web* may simply overwhelm it -- "*It's as bad as you can imagine, it puts the whole internet at risk.*" "*In addition to hosting the largest number of malicious websites, the US continues to top the list of worst spam-relaying nations.*"
Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Collection says US intelligence does not enjoy the same "*global reach*" in intelligence gathering that it had in the past. The **Information-Sharing Environment** (ISE) program is attempting to simplify a "Byzantine terror-alert system" – it must harmonize 108 handling markers such as "*Information Related to a Continuity of Operations Plan*". **New York's emergency headquarters** has been relocated -- "*... having it so close to the Twin Towers ... was a serious mistake.*" Designating one *assistant US attorney* in each of 93 offices throughout the US as **Crisis Management Coordinator** (CMC) is not working; they are lawyers, not crisis professionals.
The US military reports [the well-known issue] that their *bomb-jammers* are knocking out nearby troops' *voice and data radio transmissions*. The **New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority** cannot use their new \$140M *radio system* intended for communication in the *subway* "*the Police Department refuses to use it, saying the new system is hobbled by widespread interference that garbles communication*".

2007 Jan 22

- Contrary to earlier statements, it was revealed a suspect in the **UK 21 July bomb trial** "had come in contact with police three times", indicating inadequate case management. Following a review of **UK critical infrastructure**, armed *police* are now begin patrolling major *gas* plants.
In the face of much derision, the **No-Fly List** is being "checked for accuracy" and edited, but with no standard transliteration of *Arabic*, the **US** refusal to centralize systems, and routine incompetence, failure seems totally guaranteed. The **Justice**



	<p>Department says it no longer needs to bypass FISA for <i>wire-tap</i> warrants because the approval process will now be quicker. The Civil Air Patrol is returning to its war-time homeland-defense roots in assisting with <i>air-space</i> drills. An <i>anti-missile</i> system has been tested on a <i>commercial airliner</i> -- "<i>the problem is making the numbers work in the sense of figuring out who's going to pay for it.</i>"</p> <p>Although the US and other nations have researched "killer satellites" [rather <i>satellite killers</i>], there was widespread concern when China seemed to kill one of its own outdated satellite as a test. Beijing police have launched a new department dedicated to liaising with <i>foreign security forces</i> for the <i>Olympics</i>.</p> <p><i>Cell phone</i> links were suspended in the <i>Moscow metro</i> [subway] following alert of an attack on transport facilities.</p> <p>Israel has introduced a <i>pilot-specific</i> code system to thwart <i>hijacking</i> or <i>coercion</i> -- "planes without the '<i>Code Positive</i>' system ... will be turned back from Israeli airspace on pain of being shot down."</p>
<p>2007 Jan 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deletion of the words "<i>issued under the authority of section 102(a) of the Act</i>" in the latest version of the US Army manual has some concerned about aspects of <i>wiretapping</i>. Separately, it was not previously known that the Pentagon and the CIA have been using their own "noncompulsory" versions of <i>national security letters</i>. <i>The Economist</i> [UK] said that constant restructuring of US intelligence arrangements could cause <i>chronic instability</i>. <p>Defense workers and contractors were warned about being planted with fake Canadian <i>coins</i> that concealed RFID "<i>tracking devices</i>" -- "Top suspects, according to intelligence and technology experts: China, Russia or even France...."</p> <p>NORTHCOM's Joint Task Force Civil Support has helped coordinate federal efforts to help <i>civil authorities</i> prepare for and manage the effects of possible CBRN terrorist attacks. The source of a <i>gas plume</i> (probably hydrogen sulphide H₂S) across New York is still a mystery [but gives good data on how a CBRN plume might distribute]. The US has completed an operations guide to dealing with <i>pandemics</i>. People will now be able to register on the MIS [UK] website to receive <i>SMS</i> updates when the threat level changes."</p> <p>FBI and DHS have urged public facilities to "review" their arrangements to avoid "open observation of security measures" on <i>webcams</i> over the <i>internet</i>.</p>
<p>2007 Jan 08</p>	<p>↓ The federal government has revised the <i>anti-terror city grants</i> -- "<i>four U.S. cities will get a fresh infusion of federal anti-terrorism grant money, and four others will be cut off from such grants.</i>"</p> <p>Many observed Negroponte's still curious departure as DNI creates uncertainty for that new position -- "...another blow to an intelligence community that has seen little continuity at the top since the departure of George J. Tenet in 2004". Elsewhere, some observed that the US is still torn between throwing resources behind SIGINT (or HUMINT). [The US labors under the delusion that there is actually a <i>choice</i>.] <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> observed that <i>national security</i> needs more "<i>dreamers</i>" -- "<i>Even in Darwin's time, it was OK to be a scientist and an artist... The fact is, both require a lot of dreaming and conjecture.</i>" The <i>steam kettle</i> joins the <i>War on Terror</i>; the Administration assured everyone there is nothing unlawful with current <i>mail-opening</i> arrangements; but "<i>If they are not claiming new powers, then why did they need to issue a signing statement?</i>"</p> <p>A review revealed big gaps in <i>emergency communications</i> arrangements; in <i>Oklahoma City</i> (19 April 1995) authorities had difficulty communicating; in <i>New York City</i> (11 Sept. 2001) it happens again -- how long does "urgent" take? But DHS says "... <i>basic interoperability at the command level is achievable.... we'll continue to push for closing these gaps by the end of 2008.</i>"</p>



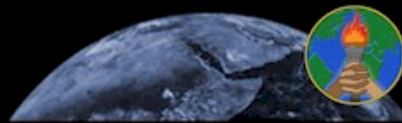
2007 Jan 01

The **US Army** continues to train soldiers for *electronic war* -- "*hundreds of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are training at two new Army schools to become electronic warfare operators.*" Following the frequent embarrassing loss of government computers and data, *Office of Management and Budget (OMB)* have issued a directive [Protection of Sensitive Agency Information](#), embracing many measures including *full disk encryption*.
Foreign spying on US defense technology is seen to be rising -- "the Defense **Security Service Counterintelligence Office** recorded an annual jump of nearly 43% in the number of *suspicious foreign contacts* ..."

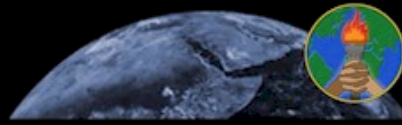
- The **UK** is moving to implement *cellular phone jamming* in *prisons* because it has proven impossible to stop phones (like drugs) getting into prisons -- "if the technology works it will make mobiles in prisons useless."
The 43 regional *Fusion Centers* -- a "network of networks" mark "a new era" of opportunity for law enforcement. Charles **Allen, b** at DHS, is working hard to develop a new niche in the US intelligence community -- "...it can take as long as five years to recruit, mentor, train and develop the talents of a good *intelligence officer*." **DHS** felt obliged to use jesuitical argument to avert charges of *racial profiling* in the "border terror scoring" aspects of its *Automatic Targeting System*.
The style of the new **CIA** director, Gen. Michael **Hayden**, is markedly more hands-on than his predecessor -- "*The Monday meeting is in our Ops Center, just to kind of give the week the right flavor, a stand-up meeting . . . designed to be short and move on.*" [This contrasts with languid Wednesday meetings never attended by the Director.] **DOD** is moving to confront targeted phishing (*spear phishing*) attacks on its personnel -- "*attempts have been made against all ranks in all services in all geographic locations.*" The **US military** is quietly transforming its *global deployment* with new-think notions as "*forward operating sites*" and "*cooperative security locations*". The **Dept. of State** issued the *Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) global threat assessment OSAC's Top 10 Overseas Security Trends for the U.S. Private Sector in 2006*.
The \$54M+ *Integrated Weapons of Mass Destruction Toolset* will move on to the next stage of development – when complete, it will provide access to data on response and assessment in *CBRN* situations to first-responders and others.
The **Unabomber's secret code** – described by the **NSA** as one of the more sophisticated codes it had ever seen – has been cracked.
The **Australian** (approximate) equivalent of *MI5* – **ASIO** -- has created a *Counter-Espionage and Foreign Interference Division*. [No-one said "China".]

2006 Dec 25

- **UK border control** has plans to "lift *veils*" of Muslim women for identification purposes at British ports -- "The order came after it was revealed that suspected killer Mustaf **Jama** flew from London's Heathrow airport to **Somalia** using his sister's passport." **German sky marshals** are angry at *Lufthansa* because they are now being seated at the rear of the aircraft to save money on high-price seats -- "if the price of a seat is more important than a key security task, then the scale has tipped in the wrong direction." The **US** government has released draft rules for securing *chemical plants* -- "*Companies would be required to assess their own vulnerabilities and provide the government with plans for fixing them...*" The *New York Times* said a *bomb* could flood the *New York subway* "within hours" – "*the report was leaked by an official who was anxious that not enough was being done to respond to its findings.*" Under the new **Congress**, the **GAO** will soon "test" US *airport perimeter security* -- Congress wants to know what the **TSA** has done since 9/11. The **UN** issued *radiation emergency guidelines* -- "*responders* generally have no experience with radiation emergencies, as they are very rare." A panel examining US *port security*



	<p>has called for the <u>impossible</u> - 100% inspection. A first-of-its-kind comprehensive census in the US found <i>air</i> teeming with over 1,800 types of <i>bacteria</i> including relatives of those that could be used in <i>bioterrorist</i> attacks. The US Air Force indicated it was up to speed on options for "<i>prompt global strike</i>" in the modern world -- "...an array of prompt global strike weapons are needed to address urgent targets, such as terrorist hideouts or rogue nuclear capabilities..." Another Pentagon computer network has been penetrated – nobody said "China". The Situation Room under the White House has the decorators in. Stories emerged of <i>military</i> and <i>CIA</i> teams "tripping over" each other in foreign places – some asked why military special teams are being deployed in <i>friendly nations</i> - including <i>Europe</i> - when combat units are in short supply in <i>war zones</i>.</p>
2006 Dec 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A former secretary general of NATO says Afghanistan could sound the death knell for NATO – Lord Carrington says "<i>I think we ought to ask ourselves ... what on earth NATO is for?</i>" The US Army chief says US forces will "break" without more troops -- "... some 6,000 to 7,000 soldiers could be added per year." The Defense Intelligence Agency says it has hundreds more staff dedicated to Iraq than the Iraq Study Group reported. [Analysis: Whether that puts DIA in a better light or not is uncertain.] Observers said new Defense Secretary Gates is unlikely to rein in the Pentagon's <i>intelligence</i> industry -- Pentagon intelligence accounts for <u>80% of the overall</u> U.S. intelligence budget. Senator Pelosi has called for a new oversight of intelligence spending -- the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel will comprise members of the House Intelligence and Appropriations committees. When the State Department wanted intelligence on Iran nuclear actors, the CIA information was <u>too good to use</u>, so State had to start with <i>Google</i>. Sixteen Saudis held in Guantanamo are being returned home-- "The returnees will be subject to regulations applied in the kingdom." Authorities have investigated a foreign student training for a commercial HAZMAT truck license -- "But the fact that he only seemed interested in driving <u>forward</u> was the most concerning." [That may be a coloring of the story by <i>Fox News</i>.] Crime surge in <i>internet crime</i> has drawn calls for an "internet Interpol" - - Russian hackers are a growing problem, as well as hackers from China and Latin America. US again mentions a growing threat to its <i>space assets</i>; it says US space infrastructure could be seen as "a highly lucrative target." [Analysis: The frequency of these remarks suggests it is a serious concern, in part at least related to China's reported sportive use of <i>killer lasers</i> against US <i>satellites</i>.]
2006 Dec 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security at Dubai-operated Dominican Republic port has been praised as world standard. The International Telecommunications Union has called for <i>standards</i> in <i>online verification</i> to replace the present multitude of <i>ad hoc</i> password systems that endanger personal electronic security. Congress passes an eleventh-hour bill to increase <i>medical surge capacity</i>, strengthen <i>public health infrastructure</i>, and <i>clarify responsibilities</i> of federal officials. A Los Alamos executive has been nominated (subject to confirmation) to the Pentagon WMD job (<i>Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs</i>). In New York City, the first permanent home for the Office of Emergency Management since 9/11 has opened, replacing the one that was on the 23rd floor of the WTC. Long-foreshadowed <i>X-ray scanners</i> for airports sees through clothes but not skin -- TSA hastens to add that a modification will ensure certain areas of the body are blurred. Waste, glorious waste ... eight 123-foot <i>patrol boats</i> were found to be not seaworthy after an \$88 million refurbishment. The US Air Force's Active Denial System – which causes intolerable non-lethal pain in 3 seconds in a range of 500m – has been certified for use in Iraq. The Iraq Study Group says <i>intelligence agencies</i> "must do better" in acquiring information on the <i>insurgency</i> and <i>militias</i>. A news item on the National Counterterrorism Center said "<i>The data flow here is enormous: more than 6,000 reports come through every day from satellite, electronic and human intelligence sources.</i>" [How many of these reports are <i>analyzed</i> and <i>appreciated</i> each day is not stated.] Next Secretary of Defense Gates says




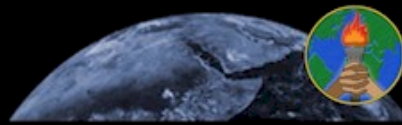
he expects *intelligence analysts* "to call the shots as they see them and not try and shape their answers to meet a policy need." The **Pentagon** is weighing the need for an **Africa Command** -- "The different circumstances and threats have caused us to take a step back and look at the way we're doing business." The **Pentagon** has been an early-adopter of the new (high quality) **Al Jazeera English Service** -- "That makes DOD one of the few places Al-Jazeera English is broadcast on television in the United States." In **Afghanistan**, angry *paras* [**UK Special Forces**] have attacked **MoD** over shipping them *faulty ammunition* -- "At one point a platoon of Paras refused to go on patrol because they said the jamming would endanger their lives. ... *The idiots in the MoD just don't think.*"

2006 Dec 04

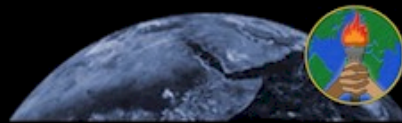
↓ "National Intelligence Director Says He'll Stay On" -- [A baffling item about the DND *not* resigning.] The **DHS Chief of Staff John Wood** resigns for undisclosed reasons, and **FEMA** gets a **Chief Information Officer, Tony Cira** -- [rearrangement of the deck-chairs?] The **Pentagon intelligence** chief is to step down -- "Dr. **Cambone** decided that now is a good time for a change to enable him to spend more time with his family."
 A technical writer asks if it true the **FBI** can activate cell phones remotely for *eavesdropping* -- software, firmware, or an urban legend?
 Revealed that **US** security agencies are "secretly" assigning *travelers* **terror risk ratings** -- another good idea; and another sure battle between the Administration and Congress.
 A *cyber- attack* has disabled the **Naval War College** -- "After the attack, the Defense Department raised its information warfare awareness level to Information Condition 4 (**INFOCON 4**)."
NATO is advised to revive a *Cold War* exercise to counter global energy threats -- "In the coming decades, the most likely source of armed conflict in the European theatre and the surrounding regions will be *energy scarcity* and manipulation."
 The **US** reminds the world it has a national *space* policy and *space arms control* policy -- "Freedom of action in space is as important to the United States as air power and sea power."

2006 Nov 27

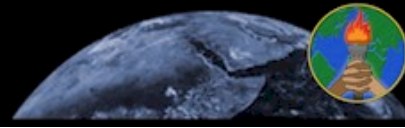
- **NATO** says "continuing transformation" over the next 10 to 15 years will include *counter-terrorism*, prevention of *cyber attacks* and security of *natural resources*. The new commandant of the **Marine Corps** says there is a need to increase numbers to spread the load -- "I would say there is stress on individual Marines that is increasing."
 Due to some kind of typing error, *air marshals* were kept off plane at *Reagan* -- "Even the intervention of higher-ups in the **Homeland Security Department** could not persuade the airline to allow the armed law-enforcement agents aboard."
 The **White House** has brushes aside a **CIA** draft assessment on **Iran** saying there is no evidence of real and present *nuclear* capability. [The White House either has an unknown better source of intelligence ... or should get one.]
Australia has assisted in planning a "*maritime neighborhood watch*" scheme with Pacific nations, including **Russia** and **China** which would provide a regional security system of a "1000-ship Navy".
 Guam is to host *UAVs* -- "A \$53 million hangar and operations complex for the *Global Hawk* is currently under construction."
 **DOD** and the **State Department** are discussing a "**Joint Hub**" for stability operations and irregular war in what may be a revolutionary move to accommodate the necessity for "integrated interagency operations" in the new normal of irregular warfare, support, and state-building operations. Another analyst agrees -- "In the bad old days, security was a military thing, full stop." But it now should be about "*human security*". [*infectious disease, global warming, and poverty*] **Air Force Space Command** and the **National Reconnaissance Office** have agreed to start



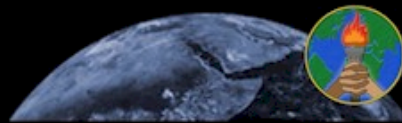
	talking to each other and have mutual <i>secondment</i> of officers.
2006 Nov 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Economist took a down-to-earth look at “spying” -- in spying <i>budgets</i> are more important than <i>gadgets</i> ...Spies know little more than good <i>journalists</i> ... and fast cars and faster women are in short supply. The Senate again expressed concern at <i>data-mining</i> projects -- the system is "capable of data-mining huge amounts of information about everyday events to discern <i>patterns</i> that look like <i>terrorist</i> planning."
2006 Nov 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CARICOM nations have signed an MoU with the US on providing <i>data</i> on people travelling to the US. An [unclassified] Army memo says "Over <i>classification</i> is costly, inefficient and can cause slow downs to development/operation". Of possible relevance elsewhere ... Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) says there are "absolutely realistic" threats against <i>dams</i> in southern Russia.
2006 Nov 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Malaysia 1,500 foreigners on student visas have gone missing; "We have been informed that about 1,500 who came to study have not registered with any institution." - An immigration scam or something more sinister? FBI's NY field office now think the UK "<i>liquid bomb</i> plot" was aimed at maximizing the potential loss of life by detonating over US cities. The <i>Automated Targeting System (ATS)</i> used by US Customs for goods will be (in an undisclosed time-scale) extended to cover all <i>border movements</i> of persons. Medical countermeasures against <i>bioterrorism</i> -- private laboratories are being asked for capability statements regarding <i>Acute Radiation Syndrome (ARS)</i>, for which there are currently no approved therapeutic treatments. The US intelligence community has implemented an online knowledge-base similar to Wikipedia - "Some day it may also be the path intelligence officials take to produce the <i>president's daily intelligence briefing</i>." In the US, 55 <i>police</i> officers were killed last year - "Fifty were shot and 30 were wearing <i>body-armor</i>."
2006 Oct 30	<p>↓ The US has announced achievement of a major milestone in development of an <i>airborne laser</i> -- but an expert says "an enemy would only need to put a reflective coating on the outside of its missiles to bounce off the laser beam, making it harmless." The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) said it was unable to meet deadlines on <i>cargo worker background checks</i> because there are too many of them. Devastating <i>forest fires</i> in California that killed fire-fighters were thought to be the work of <i>arsonists</i>. A <i>methamphetamine</i> (“ice”) police raid turned up <i>classified data</i> from Los Alamos on a computer, worrying counterintelligence agencies. [Likely the computer was stolen in petty crime but the data should almost certainly not have been where it was.]</p>
2006 Oct 23	<p>↓ UK experience highlights the security hazard of the near-zero screening of <i>ramp workers</i>; suspects in the recent liquid bomb scare had associates among <i>air-side</i> workers. The French Interior Ministry has removed <i>clearances</i> for 43 workers with "radical practices" at <i>Charles de Gaulle airport</i>, and has closed seven "clandestine" <i>prayer rooms</i>. A key challenge for the US intelligence community: "<i>Security-clearance</i> restrictions have impeded hiring a diverse workforce, including non-citizens with critical expertise in other countries and cultures." DoD will resume mandatory <i>anthrax vaccinations</i> for more than 200,000 troops and defense contractors within 60 days -- the program had been stalled by a lawsuit since October 2004.</p>



	<p>A private group says security at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and other facilities is below standard. [Some of the group's evidence is unconvincing.] Cheyenne Mountain command center ("war room") opened in 1966 is being powered down to save money.</p> <p>EU Information Society Commissioner has restated concerns about the inherit privacy and security dangers from RFID technology.</p>
2006 Oct 16	<p>↓ After the light plane crash in Manhattan, the FAA is considering tightening very loose rules for local flights -- "It's the Wild West when it comes to airspace ... It is wildly counterintuitive that the lower you fly, the less regulation and oversight you encounter."</p> <p>Current security arrangements at airports create crowded halls of people and a prime terrorism threat -- "Threats from mortars, missiles and devices placed in cars near airports were a more realistic danger than on-board bombs"</p> <p>Two arrested in Bangkok [Thailand] after a 9 month investigation were dealing forged US, UK and other passports -- the printer has not been arrested.</p> <p>Only 33 of 12,000 FBI agents have (limited) capability in Arabic -- "American society in general does not put a huge premium or value on multilingualism."</p> <p>The President moderated an hour-long discussion about the rash of school shootings in the past week without once mentioning the word 'guns'.</p>
2006 Oct 09	<p>↓ Warrantless wiretapping will be permitted during the appeal of the decision outlawing them -- "In the three-paragraph ruling, judges said that they balanced the likelihood an appeal would succeed, the potential damage to both sides, and the public interest."</p> <p>President Bush will lead a summit on school gun attacks -- "The conference will focus on possible federal action that could help communities prevent killings and violence and deal with the aftermath."</p> <p>The USAF will establish a Cyberspace Operations Command -- "We understand the physics, the technology, the synergies required to operate in and through cyberspace" -- some think the USAF is vying to take over as the Executive Agent for Cyberspace.</p> <p>A new radar was tested on the Global Hawk drone which flew for two hours at speeds up to 100 knots at an altitude of 22,000 feet.</p> <p>The US Bureau of Prisons does not have enough translators or intelligence analysts to properly screen incoming and outgoing communications, including mail and telephone calls.</p> <p>US government employees will be the first to get smart-card Ids, the first step perhaps towards a national identification card.</p> <p>More than 280 high-resolution, closed-circuit cameras will be placed at nine key stations in Sydney [Australia] to augment lower resolution cameras already in place at stations throughout the city.</p>
2006 Oct 02	<p>↓ 15% science / engineering graduates in the US and 50% in China, and over 600,000 terabytes of data on the internet each day are a gun at the head of present US intelligence processes.</p> <p>The U.S. Strategic Command opened the Joint Functional Component Command for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance in Washington.</p>
2006 Sep 25	<p>↓ Some analysts say the new Homeland Security Bill is more style than substance -- "...several of the measures also run counter to the wishes of Secretary Michael Chertoff, reflecting how politics trumps policy come election time." The CIA's new head is critical of barriers still in the CIA -- "...operations officers who collect intelligence need to work more closely with the analysts who interpret what it means." The National Guard says "We are now in a dangerously low resourcing level for missions back here at home, and that must be seriously addressed."</p>



2006 Sep 18	↑ Democrats said it was inappropriate for the NSA to provide “talking points” on the wire-tapping issue to a Senate Panel. Syria , instrumental in stopping a concerted attack on the US Embassy, said only Syrian nationals were involved.
2006 Sep 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Singapore launched the <i>Cyber-Watchcentre</i> (CWC) which will monitor cyber-threats to government networks round-the-clock — the Dutch tested a cellular local-area broadcast method for use in emergencies. <p>A study of cybercrime 1999-2006 in the US shows the average loss was over \$3M, and in many cases would have been preventable.</p> <p>The American Chemical Council stresses the need for a uniform national standard for secure handling of a range of chemicals throughout the US — Republicans debating the wiretapping issue wrestled with "the balance between congressional oversight and executive-branch latitude" — some observed that counter-terrorism measures are patchy, often misdirected, and not up to meeting known threats, such as shoulder-launched missiles.</p>
2006 Sep 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early research results indicate UK scientists may have found an inhibitor-based, rather than an antibiotic, response to anthrax. The Pentagon's Policy Office will be reorganized "to better partner with colleagues in other agencies and help the DOD focus on developing the capabilities needed for the war on terror"—the Pentagon's Office of Force Transformation will be transformed out of existence. Observers said "To win a counter-insurgency war, the U.S military, its political establishment and its citizenry, would have to turn its fundamental predilections on their head.", and "If nuclear reactor casings were penetrated ... the aftermath has the potential to be the worst disaster in U.S. history". The latest missile interceptor ["Star Wars"] test has succeeded. The White House has asked a Court to suspend its ruling on wire-taps because "there is a substantial likelihood of prevailing on a number of issues" in an appeal. In the Philippines a tiger team smuggled a bomb on two flights and went undiscovered.
2006 Aug 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical issues will be discussed at the upcoming FBI-Joint Terrorism Task Force International Symposium on Agroterrorism (Sept. 25-29 2006). Trade in false identities is an issue for illegal immigration, and for terrorism too – DoD said it is best-equipped to be the lead agency for implementing Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 on uniform federal IDs. The US has contracted for a new-generation UAV ("drone") with a longer-range than the present 125 miles. Rand Corp. says a nuclear detonation in a US port could cause material loss of \$1Trillion — Manila became one of 20 ports worldwide to install US detection equipment. The Air Marshal Service will now adopt a more discretionary dress code [rather than "strictly CIA casual"] – because liquid explosives defy shape, density and most particulate detection, the present annoying ban on liquids in carry-on air luggage may be the only safe measure — the TSA said there has been a 20% increase in checked baggage since the tight limitations on carry-on baggage.
2006 Aug 21	↓ U.S. governors strongly opposed a proposal that the President would to take control of the National Guard during a national emergency — the Head of Space Command says higher grade intelligence is needed on what other nations are putting into space — FBI's Quantico has 114 hours training in shooting ... and now also one hour in Islamic culture — a federal judge declared NSA warrentless wire-taps unconstitutional — FBI's years of work on a new information system has been shelved after “failures of almost every kind” — the DHS Science and Technology Unit is "hobbled by poor leadership and inadequate technology".



2006 Aug 14	<p>↓ "It's <i>yellow</i> on America's streets, <i>orange</i> in New York City and <i>red</i> in the skies ... the nation is painted in a confusing rainbow of colors." — DHS failed to spend allocations of \$200 million in <i>R&D</i> money when security R&D seems to be a top priority — outage of the increasingly crucial <i>cellular</i> network through trivial causes again highlighted the precariousness of the world as we know it — the UK <i>liquid explosives</i> plot revealed "an almost limitless list of compounds can be used to create explosives" — a US sailor who passed <i>national security</i> information to an unspecified foreign government faces a maximum penalty of death — 40,000 US soldiers were reported to have <i>deserted</i> from military since 2000 (the desertion rate "tends to worsen during wartime") — a National Implementation Plan was prepared to bring order and efficacy to the "immense and unwieldy" <i>counter-terrorism</i> establishment — <i>UAVs</i> got some bad press as a blue-on-blue hazard -- Army aviation assets are "reluctant to share airspace" with them — the new UK <i>biometric passport</i> has been "cracked" allowing a false passport to be cloned but no-one has yet been able to <u>change</u> the data.</p>
2006 Aug 07	<p>↓ A dampener on the zealous introduction of <i>RFID</i>-enabled passports is the risk that miscreants could scan the chip from metres away and target individuals or nationalities in a way not now possible — a security audit confirmed undisclosed flaws in the <i>port workers ID</i> system — two-thirds of the Army and the Army National Guard is "not ready" due to a backlog in replacements and repairs.</p>
2006 Jul 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FBI announced a restructuring meeting the "increased the need for special focus on longer-term, strategic efforts." Russia's Chief of Staff said the US NMD ('Star Wars') initiative is a waste of money when international resources could be better pooled against the more likely 9/11 style attacks. DHS announced funding research into the critical areas of <i>knowledge representation, natural language processing, information extraction, and uncertainty quantification</i>.
2006 Jul 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FBI reported that intelligence sharing between countries has improved; DHS reported that US ports will have <i>radiation</i> detection by 2011; someone revealed that some <i>data mining</i> programmes similar to <i>Able Danger</i> are still in progress; the DHS list of last week that showed Idaho as the most target-rich state has been modified to about 600 undisclosed important places.
2006 Jul 17	<p>↓ The DHS <i>National Asset Database</i> -- the basis for anti-terrorism grants – revealed Indiana to be the most target-rich state and included a petting zoo and an Amish popcorn factory as national weak-spots; US agencies lamented that they are behind on positive vetting <i>security clearances</i> for staff.</p>
2006 Jul 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair of the House Intelligence Committee moved the SWIFT controversy into its next chapter.
2006 Jul 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Korea claim to be a threat to US security, but is not: the panoply of US domestic security measures undertaken by a panoply of agencies is said to be on track, but is not.

Commencement of Service

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