NORTH DAKOTA

HOMELAND SECURITY

ANTI-TERRORISM SUMMARY

The North Dakota Open Source Anti-Terrorism Summary is a product of the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC). It provides open source news articles and information on terrorism, crime, and potential destructive or damaging acts of nature or unintentional acts. Articles are placed in the Anti-Terrorism Summary to provide situational awareness for local law enforcement, first responders, government officials, and private/public infrastructure owners.

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North Dakota

Nothing Significant to Report

Regional

(Minnesota) **Moving melee causes chaos at packed Mall of America.** A fight that started in a food court quickly spread through the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, December 26. Several witnesses said the melee had elements of a —smash and grab flash mob, including heavy use of cellphones. They said those creating the disturbance numbered in the hundreds, some knocked down shoppers and grabbed items from kiosks and other shoppers. Although Bloomington police verified that some groups were as large as 100 people and that more than 200 people total may have been involved, they received no reports of stolen merchandise. Several stores, including Nordstrom, closed internal gates to the mall court, and a few stayed closed for the evening. More than 30 Bloomington Police, as well as Metro Transit and Richfield officers, responded. Bloomington Police and mall security arrested at least 10 juveniles and young adults on suspicion of disorderly conduct. Mall officials said it took more than an hour to quell the disturbance. However, many witnesses reported that fights continued to flare in the mall well after. Metro Transit Police said they broke up several fights outside the mall later in the evening. That agency's officers also monitored bus routes from the mall to Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Brooklyn Center. At a downtown St. Paul stop, four juveniles and an adult were arrested on suspicion of disorderly conduct. Source: http://www.startribune.com/local/west/136237398.html?page=all&prepage=1&c=y#continue

(Montana) **DEQ: Riverside sewer lagoon leaking wastewater into ground.** The Riverside sewage lagoon in Gallatin County, Montana, was found to be leaking as much as 7 million gallons of wastewater into the ground every year due to potential troubles with the holding cell, a Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) engineer said in early December. Belgrade News reported December 27 that during a routine inspection September 7, the DEQ engineer said the wastewater treatment facility is —in need of some major attention. The facility is made up of an aerated lagoon and a storage cell, according to DEQ records. The inspection found the storage cell void of wastewater and determined the facility is leaking wastewater, according to a December 16 DEQ letter sent to the Riverside Water and Sewer District president. Engineers calculated the holding cell should have 7 million gallons of wastewater per year passing through the system based on a daily flow of 20,000 gallons. The leakage is likely taking place at the aeration cell, the holding cell, or the space between the two, officials said. The East Gallatin River is one-quarter mile downstream of the lagoons and flows along the west side of the facility. Ground water in the area flows to the northwest, according to a U.S. Geological Service study. The original plans showed five aerators are used in the first cell, but during the inspection, only one was working. Source: http://www.belgrade-news.com/news/article_b0962a2e-302a-11e1-9567-0019bb2963f4.html

(Montana) **Mining resumes at Signal Peak; gas levels lower.** Mining has resumed at a Montana coal mine where high levels of dangerous carbon monoxide gas prompted a shutdown of most underground operations that lasted three weeks. A Signal Peak Energy spokesman said December 23 that nitrogen pumped into a portion of the Bull Mountain mine had lowered

concentrations of the gas to safe levels. He said mining resumed late December. Federal safety inspectors cleared the company to resume some underground maintenance work earlier this week. Prior to that, work was restricted to the mine's surface while the gas problem was addressed. The high carbon monoxide levels were found December 1 in an area away from active mining. Source: http://www.theledger.com/article/20111223/APF/1112231135?tc=ar

National

Nothing Significant to Report

International

Consulate issues emergency warning after deadly bus attack. A deadly attack on three passenger buses in Veracruz, Mexico has prompted the American Consulate in Matamoros to issue an emergency warning. According to reports, gunmen attacked several vehicles along Highway 105 between Panuco and Tempoal, Veracruz December 23. The attacks left seven people dead, but the gunmen continued to El Higo, Veracruz where another four people were killed. Officials report that five of the gunmen were killed in a shootout with authorities. The consulate is now asking Americans living or traveling along the borders of Tamaulipas, Veracruz, and San Luis Potosi to maintain a heightened sense of alertness. Americans are asked to monitor media outlets and other information sources to keep informed about security issues. The consulate is asking that American citizens avoid traveling on highways between cities in those areas at night. Source:
http://www.valleycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=700273#.TvSUIVZ7erg

Banking and Finance Industry

Treasury targets key Panama-based money laundering operation linked to Mexican and Colombian drug cartels. The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) December 29 designated two Lebanese-Colombian nationals as Specially Designated Narcotics Traffickers (SDNTs) due to their significant role in international money laundering activities involving drug trafficking proceeds. OFAC also designated nine other individuals and 28 entities in Colombia, Panama, Lebanon, and Hong Kong with ties to the men. The December 29 action, taken pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act, prohibits U.S. persons from conducting financial or commercial transactions with these entities and individuals and freezes any assets the designees may have under U.S. jurisdiction. "By designating these individuals and companies we are exposing a significant international money laundering network, forcing them out of the international financial system, and undermining their ability to launder drug money through a global support network for the Mexican and Colombian drug cartels," the director of OFAC said. Treasury took the actions in close coordination with investigations by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the New York City Police Department. Source:
http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1390.aspx

SEC charges securities trader with cross-border fraudulent interpositioning scheme. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) December 23 charged a former securities trader at a San Diego-based brokerage firm with orchestrating an illegal trading scheme. The SEC alleges that the former trader acted in concert with a Mexican investment adviser, InvesTrust, and unnecessarily inserted a separate broker-dealer as a middleman into securities transactions in order to generate millions of dollars in additional fees. The trader agreed to pay $1 million to settle the SEC's charges. The SEC also charged his former firm Investment Placement Group (IPG) and its chief executive officer (CEO) with failing to properly supervise the trader. IPG agreed to pay more than $4 million to settle the charges. In an interpositioning scheme, an extra broker-dealer is illegally added as a principal on trades even though no real services are being provided. The SEC alleges that the trader colluded with InvesTrust and needlessly inserted a broker-dealer based in Mexico into securities transactions between IPG and InvesTrust's pension fund clients, causing the pension funds to pay approximately $65 million more than they would have without the middleman. According to the SEC's order, the scheme occurred from January to November 2008. The trader in coordination with InvesTrust acquired 10 different credit-linked notes in an IPG proprietary account. The SEC alleges that IPG, through the trader, added a markup of roughly 1.5 to 4.5 percent to the purchase price and then sold the notes to the middleman Mexican brokerage firm. IPG, through the trader, then repurchased the notes from the Mexican brokerage firm within a day or so at a slightly higher price. IPG added another markup and then sold the securities to InvesTrust's pension fund clients. According to the SEC's order, in some instances the trader repeated the buy-sell pattern with the middleman Mexican brokerage firm multiple times, driving up the price with each successive trade before finally selling the notes to the pension funds at artificially inflated prices. He received millions of dollars in additional markups generated from the interpositioned transactions. Source: http://www.sec.gov/news/press/2011/2011-277.htm

Chemical and Hazardous Materials Sector

(California) **Calif. pipeline company charged in 2010 oil spill.** A California pipeline company and several executives have been charged in connection with an oil spill last year in the Port of Los Angeles, prosecutors said December 29. The 61-count complaint accuses Crimson Pipeline Management Inc. and its operators of unlawfully causing and allowing the spill, as well as failing to report the accident to authorities. Among those facing charges are the company president and operations manager. If convicted, the executives could each face up to 36 years in jail and the company could be fined hundreds of thousands of dollars, prosecutors said. Investigators said they became aware of a pipeline breach when oil seeped into a channel during a storm late last year. They gathered samples of the oil and were able to identify a hydrocarbon fingerprint that determined the product came from Crimson. A gash in the pipeline's casing was found and was wrapped before the carrier pipe was pulled out of the ground in October. More than 1,000 gallons of crude oil and 290,000 gallons of contaminated wastewater have been recovered, authorities said. Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505245_162-57349871/calif-pipeline-company-charged-in-2010-oil-spill/

NRC approves new nuclear reactor design. Federal regulators have approved a nuclear reactor designed by Westinghouse Electric Co. that could power the first nuclear plants built from scratch in the United States in more than three decades. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) unanimously approved the AP1000 reactor December 22. The certification, to take effect within 2 weeks, will be valid for 15 years. The NRC chairman said the newly approved design would ensure safety through simplified, passive security functions and other features. He said plants using the design could withstand damage from an airplane crash without significant release of radioactive materials — an issue that gained attention after the 2001 terrorist attacks. Approval of the design is a major step forward for utility companies in Georgia, Florida, and the Carolinas that have billions of dollars riding on plans to build AP1000 reactors in the Southeast. Without NRC approval, the utilities could not have received a license to build their plants. Federal officials approved an earlier version of the AP1000 reactor in 2006, but it was never built in the United States. The $14 billion effort is the pilot project for the new reactor and a major test of whether the industry can build nuclear plants without the endemic delays and cost overruns that plagued earlier rounds of building years ago. The U.S. Presidential administration offered the project $8 billion in federal loan guarantees as part of its pledge to expand nuclear power. Source: http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/12/22/nrc-approves-new-nuclear-reactor-design/

Commercial Facilities

Nothing Significant to Report

Communications Sector

Verizon attributes 4G LTE service disruptions to 'growing pains'. Verizon Wireless December 29 attributed recent service disruptions on its 4G LTE network to "growing pains" associated with building out an advanced network. Verizon's network has experienced three separate disruptions this month: on December 7, 21, and 28. During those incidents, Verizon said it "proactively moved" customers from 4G LTE to 3G, though for a brief period December 28, "4GLTE customers could not connect to the 3G Network as quickly as we would have liked," a press release from Verizon said. "Each incident has been different from a technical standpoint," Verizon said. Verizon's statement did not go into full detail, but in an interview with GigaOm, the vice president of network engineering for Verizon Wireless said the problems were associated with something known as the IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS), or Verizon's service delivery core. As GigaOm explained, IMS has been in use for years, but Verizon is the first to use it for a 4G LTE network. That has produced some problems, like the widespread outage that hit the company's network back in April. This time around, there were three separate incidents. "The first outage on Dec[ember] 7 was caused by the failure of a back-up communications database," GigaOm reported. "The second, last week, was the result of an IMS element not responding properly, while [the December 28] outage was caused by two IMS elements not communicating properly." Essentially, some phones just kept trying to sign in to 4G without success until Verizon forced them to drop down to 3G. Verizon said it is taking a number of

steps to prevent similar outages in the future. Source: http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2398203,00.asp

Six Globalstar satellites on track for liftoff Wednesday. The launch of a Soyuz rocket with six Globalstar mobile communications will go forward December 28 despite the failure of a similar booster December 23, according to Globalstar and Russian officials. The satellites will replenish Globalstar's fleet of communications satellites linking customers through voice and data messaging services. Investigators are still studying the December 23 mishap, which caused the Soyuz rocket to fall in Siberia a few minutes after blasting off from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in northern Russia. No injuries were reported, but some Russian news agencies said the crash resulted in property damage. Built by Thales Alenia Space of Italy, the satellites will finish deploying from a specially-built dispenser at about 1:49 p.m. Ground controllers will place each of the 1,543-pound satellites on different trajectories to enter the Globalstar constellation. The process will include raising their orbits to an altitude of 878 miles and carefully piloting the craft into precise positions in the fleet. Globalstar satellites are divided among eight orbital planes to evenly spread the spacecraft across the globe. The Louisiana-based company's subscribers use the satellite network to make mobile phone calls and data transmissions, especially in rural zones where terrestrial coverage is spotty or non-existent. The December 28 launch is the third of four missions to bolster Globalstar's satellite network. Six more satellites are due for liftoff on another Soyuz booster in 2012, following up on successful flights in October 2010 and July 2011. Some of the 12 fresh satellites launched in the last two years have shown signs of trouble with their momentum wheels, which maintain the craft's orientation in space. Globalstar's existing constellation is mostly comprised of spacecraft launched between 1998 and 2000. Built by Space Systems/Loral and designed for a seven-and-a-half year orbital life, the satellites are aging and need to be replaced. The new satellites are gradually restoring voice and duplex data service as they join the network. Source: http://www.spaceflightnow.com/soyuz/st24/111227preview/

(Texas) **Feds untangle $20 million scheme in DFW against telecom companies.** For years, a dozen or more conspirators ran a scheme in North Texas to rip off some of the nation's telecommunication giants, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported December 23. The $20 million cybercrime spree crumbled because of evidence painstakingly gathered from businesses and seized from the homes of conspirators. The week of December 19, two conspirators were convicted by a federal jury of one count each of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and mail fraud, federal officials said. One of the men was also convicted on three other counts. Twelve others charged in the case have pleaded guilty to their various roles, including the scheme's mastermind and his wife. The fraud went on for years as the conspirators played shell games and ripped off telecommunication giants for services they seldom paid for, court records say. The scheme included using homeless people, fake tax documents, bogus financial statements, and ever-changing addresses. To prosecute the case, the government gathered invoices, contracts, and financials. There were e-mails discussing subjects such as avoiding detection, due process, —burning cash, —flaming ferrets, and hiding spam. Federal agents seized tax reports, passports, computers, memory sticks, hard drives, and power supplies. The government presented evidence that, as part of a conspiracy, the men lied to obtain goods,

such as computers and telecommunication equipment. They also created and bought shell companies to hide the identities of the owners or operators of the companies. —The conspirators paid ... homeless persons for the use of their identities to _act' as the officers, directors or managers of the shell companies, a news release from a U.S. attorney said. The conspirators defrauded companies including AT&T, Verizon, XO Communications, Excel Communications, Waymark Communications, Bandwidth.com, and CommPartners, the government said. Landlords were stiffed. Leasing companies and creditors, including Wells Fargo and AT&T Capital Services, were not paid. Credit-reporting agencies, power companies, insurance and air-conditioning companies, and Web site developers were among those deceived. Source: http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/12/23/3616495/feds-untangle-20-million-scheme.html

(Florida) **Copper theft disrupts Port Charlotte phone service.** 300 Port Charlotte, Florida residents were without phone service after a copper theft from Century Link telephone equipment the week of December 19. The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office said this is the fifth copper theft from phone equipment boxes in Charlotte County in the past several days. The service disruption affected customers within a square mile area. CenturyLink officials said the repairs were completed by 7 p.m. December 24. Source: http://www.abc-7.com/story/16389238/2011/12/24/copper-theft-disrupts-port-charlotte-phone-service

Critical Manufacturing

Navien recalls tankless water heaters due to risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Navien America Inc., December 27 announced a voluntary recall of about 13,000 Navien Instantaneous or Tankless Water Heaters. An unstable connection can cause the water heater's vent collar to separate or detach if pressure is applied. A detached vent collar poses a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning to the consumer. The units were sold from wholesale distributors to in-home installers nationwide from February 2008 through March 2009. Consumers should immediately stop using them, and check the model and manufacture year information on their water heater. Consumers with recalled water heaters should immediately contact Navien to schedule a free repair. Navien will replace all Nylon 66 vent collars with PVC collars. Consumers who continue use of the water heaters while awaiting repair should have a working carbon monoxide alarm installed outside of sleeping areas in the home. Source: http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml12/12074.html

Defense/ Industry Base Sector

Nothing Significant to Report

Emergency Services

(Nevada) **Police: Police station shooting, post office arson & other crimes linked.** Reno, Nevada police are connecting a string of violent crimes to one man, including a fire that

happened at the Verdi Post Office, a shooting at the Sparks Police Department, and shootings and threats made at strip clubs. Reno police officers told News 4 December 26 that they arrested the man and charged him with arson, assault with a deadly weapon, shooting at an occupied building, and burglary. Police said he was the man behind a December 25 crime spree which started with a drive-by shooting at the Sparks Police Department. Those crimes allegedly continued with threats, shots fired, and fires set. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives was called in to investigate and shortly after, there was another report of shots fired with a similar description of the suspect. Police said they were able to track down the suspect after that shooting. They said he was armed but cooperative when arrested. So far, police have not said what the motive might be and more charges could be filed. He is being held in the Washoe County Jail on $50,000 cash-only bail. Source: http://www.mynews4.com/mostpopular/story/sparks-police-verdi-post-office-shooting-arson/yKQ4ZLBP1EuhLp8wdNJncg.cspx

US police fatalities up 13 percent in 2011 to 173. The number of fatalities from departments across the country caused by firearms made 2011 one of the deadliest years in recent history for U.S. law enforcement. Across the nation, 173 officers died in the line of duty, up 13 percent from 153 the year before, according to numbers as of December 28, compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. The nonprofit group that tracks police deaths also reported that 68 federal, state, and local officers were killed by gunfire in 2011, a 15 percent jump from last year when 59 were killed. It marks the first time in 14 years that firearms fatalities were higher than traffic-related deaths. The data shows that 64 officers died in traffic accidents, down from the 71 killed in 2010. The police deaths were spread across 41 states and Puerto Rico. The largest number of fatalities was reported in Florida, where 14 officers were killed, followed by Texas (13), New York (11), California (10), and Georgia (10). The New York City Police Department and Puerto Rico Police Department, which both lost four officers, were the law enforcement agencies that reported the most deaths. Source: http://www.thesunnews.com/2011/12/28/2570840/us-police-fatalities-up-13-percent.htm

13 Fire hydrants stolen from volunteer fire department. Volunteer firefighters at Stonebluff Volunteer Fire Department in Wagoner County, Oklahoma, noticed fire hydrants missing the week of December 12. The department's surveillance video captured three men stealing the hydrants. The Wagoner sheriff said they received a tip on Facebook that they are following up on. The volunteer firefighters also say they have seen the hydrants for salon craigslist. Each of the hydrants is reportedly worth $3,000. Source: http://www.fox23.com/news/local/story/13-Fire-hydrants-stolen-from-volunteer-fire/u0mWB_X4dkGjf7FPsb4RoQ.cspx

Energy

(Pennsylvania) **Police: $8K in copper stolen from utility poles in Beaver Co.** Police said two men working for an Ohio cable servicing firm used a bucket truck to steal about $8,000 worth of copper wire from utility poles in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, the Associated Press reported December 26. A witness identified the men as responsible for the thefts from the Duquesne Light poles in Hanover Township on December 18, authorities said. Police said the wire was

stolen from poles along Route 151. —They told me they were subcontractors for Duquesne Light and that when they were done pulling the wire down, my electric bill would be cheaper, the witness said. Overall, the thieves made off with a half mile of copper wiring from seven utility poles in less than one hour. Source: http://www.wpxi.com/news/30075698/detail.html

Food and Agriculture

(Oklahoma) **3rd baby ill with rare bacteria associated with formula.** An Oklahoma baby is the third infant sickened by bacteria sometimes associated with tainted infant formula. The child was infected with Cronobacter sakazakii but fully recovered, health officials said December 28. An Illinois child also rebounded after being sickened by the bacteria. A Missouri infant who was 10 days old died. The Missouri child had consumed Enfamil Newborn powdered infant formula made by Illinois-based Mead Johnson. Powdered formula has been suspected in illnesses caused by the bacteria in years past. But health officials said the Oklahoma child had not consumed Enfamil. And Mead Johnson this week reported that its own testing found no bacteria in the product. U.S. officials are awaiting results from their own testing of powdered formula and distilled water — also known as 'nursery water' — used to prepare it. Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/45806228/ns/health-childrens_health/#.TvyK7VawXFK

(Texas) **Salmonella sprouts recall expands.** Green Valley Food Corp. of Dallas, Texas, said December 24 it has expanded its recall of alfalfa sprouts from 650 cases to 6,723 cases that may be contaminated with Salmonella. There have been no related illnesses confirmed, the company said in its latest news release. Green Valley said the recall is based on a customer's December 12 random sample of sprouts that tested positive for Salmonella. The recalled alfalfa sprouts include the following products with use-by dates ranging from December 22, 2011 to January 1, 2012: —Let's Grow Healthy Together! alfalfa sprouts in 5 ounce containers; —Let's Grow Healthy Together! spicy sprouts in 5 ounce containers; alfalfa sprouts in 4 ounce clamshells; and —100% Natural Onion Sprouts in 4 ounce clamshells. The recalled sprouts were distributed in Texas to retail grocery stores and food distribution centers with scheduled deliveries from December 7, 2011 to January 1, 2102. Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/12/salmonella-sprouts-recall-expands/

Cheese recalled due to possible Listeria contamination. Kradjian Imp Co. of Glendale, California, is recalling 231 cases of cheese distributed in Southern California to Mediterranean specialty markets because the cheese may be contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes. The company was notified by its supplier, Fromagerie Marie Kade of Quebec, Canada, that a specific lot number of the cheese might be contaminated. Fromagerie Marie Kade has recalled the cheese. The recall is of 22 pound cases of 16 ounce Cedar brand Tresse Cheese and 16 ounce Cedar brand Shinglish cheese. Both brands were delivered before November 13, 2011. Both cheeses are vacuum packed and have a green cedar tree on the label. Consumers can return the recalled Cedar brand Shingilish or Tresse cheese to the place of purchase for a full refund. Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/12/cheese-recalled-due-to-possible-listeria-contamination/

(Wisconsin) **Railroad ties, metal stolen from rail yard.** Thieves made off with about $5,000 worth of ties, metal pipe, and other pieces of steel from a Wisconsin and Southern Railroad yard in Madison, Wisconsin police said in a news release. The theft was discovered December 19 when railroad employees showed up at the rail yard. Source: http://host.madison.com/ct/news/local/crime_and_courts/railroad-ties-metal-stolen-from-rail-yard/article_060fae00-2cb9-11e1-ac60-001871e3ce6c.html

Government Sector (including Schools and Universities)

(New Jersey) **Bayonne City Hall calls in investigators when suspicious-looking letter arrives in mail.** A suspicious letter at Bayonne City Hall in Bayonne, New Jersey, December 28 prompted officials to briefly cordon off a small area and isolate a handful of employees while authorities ultimately determined it to be safe. Officials said mail room employees were alarmed by the letter because it did not have a return address, it had an out-of-town postmark, and it had markings on the back. Agencies that responded to City Hall included the Bayonne Police Department's anti-terror unit, the Bayonne Fire Department, and the Newark Joint Terror Task Force. A U.S. postal inspector was also called in to assist in inspecting the package. The letter, which police said was addressed to a City Hall official, was first processed in the building's first-floor mail room. Because of its unusual condition, the letter was rerouted to the deputy chief's office for evaluation. The office was then sealed off and all people in and around the area were isolated while authorities conducted tests and determined that the envelope was safe. Source: http://www.nj.com/jjournal-news/index.ssf/2011/12/bayonne_city_hall_calls_in_inv.html

(Wisconsin) **Man arrested after threatening to blow up Milwaukee County Courthouse.** Milwaukee County Sheriff deputies arrested a man December 21 after he threatened to blow up the county courthouse, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The deputies responded to the call, but the man left the building before the deputies could find him. They caught up to him about 3 hours later. The man has a criminal history with multiple arrests for disorderly conduct and bomb scares. Source: http://www.fox6now.com/news/witi-20111222-blow-up-courthouse-threat,0,5411072.story

Information Technology and Telecommunications

Your smartphone from Amazon has shipped, malware-spreading spam. Softpedia reported December 30 a malware scam involving an e-mail allegedly sent by Amazon to confirm that an electronic device such as a smartphone has already been paid for with the recipient's credit card. Users who click on the links contained in the message are taken to a Web site that serves a variant of Cridex, especially designed to steal personal and financial information from the computer it lands on, according to Hoax Slayer. Win32/Cridex is usually delivered via spammed malware such as variants of Exploit:JS/Blacole and is programmed to spread to removable drives. Besides banking credentials, it also targets local certificates and it is able to execute files. Once executed, the malicious element drops a copy of the worm as a randomly named file and

modifies the registry to make sure it is executed each time the operating system boots. After the dropper is deleted, Cridex injects itself into every running process, even ones that are later created. Source: http://news.softpedia.com/news/Your-Smarthpone-from-Amazon-Has-Shipped-Malware-Spreading-Spam-243839.shtml

Beware of password-protected documents carrying malware. Symantec researchers have recently spotted malware masquerading as password-protected document files - Word documents, spreadsheets, Powerpoint presentations, and PDFs - being delivered as e-mail attachments, Help Net Security reported December 29. "Attackers are misusing the password feature to encrypt files, most likely to make it difficult for security products to detect them as malware," said the researchers. "It also makes reverse-engineering the files difficult because they need to be decrypted before analysis can be performed." As the contents of the files in question are encrypted, some antivirus solutions might not recognize them for what they are immediately but only after they are opened with the password. Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1946&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+HelpNetSecurity+(Help+Net+Security)

Report: Phishing attack targets Apple customers. A —vast phishing attack that attempts to capture the credit card information of Apple customers was launched December 25, according to a report from Mac security-software company Intego. In a posting on its Mac Security blog, Intego said that the attack was an attempt to fool Apple customers into clicking on a link under the guise of updating the billing information of their Apple accounts. Users who click on the link in the phony e-mail will be taken to a realistic looking sign-in page that asks for the user's Apple ID and password. The user is then taken to a page asking them update account profile information, including credit card information. Intego reported that the messages are being sent with the subject —Apple update your Billing Information from a spoofed email address of —appleid@id.apple.com. Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9223023/Report_Phishing_attack_targets_Apple_customers

Siemens promises to patch SCADA flaws after they angered researcher. Siemens has come forward with a statement reporting that they are planning to fix vulnerabilities in SCADA systems next month after a researcher highlighted the issues earlier in 2011, Softpedia reported December 27. The researcher became upset the week of December 19 after he found out from a Reuters reporter that Siemens officially denied knowing of the authentication flaws he had disclosed to them. Siemens later released an official comment stating that their development team had taken action and the vulnerabilities will be fixed by security updates, the first of which is planned to be issued in January 2012. Source: http://news.softpedia.com/news/Siemens-Promises-to-Patch-SCADA-Flaws-After-they-Angered-Researcher-243014.shtml

Phishing has two sisters: vishing and smishing. While most Internet users are familiar with the term phishing and its dangerous effects, security researchers are recording a considerable increase in two related malicious schemes, vishing and smishing. Vishing is a variant of phishing,

its name portmanteau of the words voice and phishing, reports the Windows Club. Vishing attacks involve an unsuspecting user called via phone by someone who pretends to represent an important organization such as a bank or a utility company. In these situations, the crooks request large amounts of personal information allegedly needed for certain operations, financial or otherwise. An alternative to this method implies an e-mail which urges the recipient to call a certain phone number. Usually these e-mails come with threats and they are more advantageous for the cybercriminals since they do not have to pay for the calls they make. Smishing involves SMSs. In these types of schemes, the victim receives an SMS that warns of the fact that he/she has been automatically enrolled in a paid service. In order to terminate the subscription, the recipient has to visit a URL and select a click a certain button, which instead of canceling the phony subscription, downloads a piece of malware infecting the phone. From here on, keyloggers or premium-SMS-sending trojans are free to do as they like. Source: http://news.softpedia.com/news/Phishing-Has-Two-Sisters-Vishing-and-Smishing-242767.shtml

National Monuments and Icons

Nothing Significant to Report

Postal and Shipping

(Nevada) **Fire burns Verdi Post Office.** A fire, apparently caused by vandals, roared through the U.S. Post Office in Verdi, Nevada, December 25, heavily damaging the building and closing down postal operations at the site. A 911 call at around 5 a.m. brought law enforcement to the scene. An alarm in the building was set off, but postal and fire officials did not know if the alarm was triggered by smoke or by bullets. One of the buildings neighbors reported hearing four gunshots behind the post office at about 4:30 a.m. and calling 911. None of the mail in the building sustained fire damage, the inspector said, although there is some water damage from the firefighters' efforts. Verdi mail will most likely be moved December 27 to the Peavine Station in northwest Reno for customer pick up, according to the manager of postal operations in Reno. Source: http://www.rgj.com/article/20111225/NEWS/111225003/Fire-burns-Verdi-Post-Office-

Public Health

(California) **6,000 nurses strike in California.** About 6,000 California nurses staged a one-day strike at several hospitals December 20, protesting what they called an "erosion of quality of care and cuts to patient protections," National Nurses United said. In a dispute with management over RN-to-patient staffing levels and safe patient lift policies to prevent accidents and injuries, about 2,000 nurses staged a one-day strike at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and Miller Children's Hospital, but nurses were later told that they will be locked out of their jobs for four days because replacements had to be hired in a five-day block, nurses told CNN. The nurses are also objecting to hospital demands for increases in health care premiums, which they claimed would cost the nurses about $3,000 more in out-of-pocket premiums, which the hospitals disputed. Officials with Memorial Care Health System, which

owns both Long Beach facilities, said that more than 30 percent of the 2,000 nurses decided not to participate in the strike. In the San Francisco Bay area, about 4,000 nurses were striking at nine facilities that are part of the Sutter Health Corporation. The nurses are protesting what they described as "some 150 demands for major contract concessions in patient protections and health coverage for the RNs and their families," according to the California Nurses Association and National Nurses United. Source: http://edition.cnn.com/2011/12/22/us/california-nurses-strike/index.html?hpt=us_c2

Transportation

(Wisconsin) **Railroad ties, metal stolen from rail yard.** Thieves made off with about $5,000 worth of ties, metal pipe, and other pieces of steel from a Wisconsin and Southern Railroad yard in Madison, Wisconsin police said in a news release. The theft was discovered December 19 when railroad employees showed up at the rail yard. Source: http://host.madison.com/ct/news/local/crime_and_courts/railroad-ties-metal-stolen-from-rail-yard/article_060fae00-2cb9-11e1-ac60-001871e3ce6c.html

Airline faces more than $1 million in penalties after FAA investigation. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has proposed civil penalties of $1,042,500 against Memphis-based Pinnacle Airlines, Inc., for operating aircraft that did not comply with federal regulations. Specific allegations include allowing flight crews to perform maintenance tasks as well as failure to complete inspections to monitor a crack in a turbine assembly. Pinnacle provides 740 daily connecting flights to 120 airports in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Belize. The airline serves various Delta Airlines hubs using two models of Canadair Regional Jets manufactured by Bombardier Aerospace: the 76-passenger CRJ-900 and the 50-passenger CRJ-200 LR. The FAA alleges that two commercial jets operated by Pinnacle were not in compliance with aviation regulations on a total of 63 flights in 2009 and 2010. The first jet was flown 23 times with flight crew members performing maintenance tasks on an inoperative passenger door wheel assembly. FAA inspectors had previously denied the airline's request to avoid using trained maintenance workers to perform the task. The other violation of compliance with federal air safety regulations involved Pinnacle's failure to make timely inspections of a previously detected and growing crack in a turbine case over a 640-hour operating period. The proposed penalty is based on the commuter airline's use of the jet for over 40 passenger flights while it was out of compliance. Source: http://uspolitics.einnews.com/247pr/253950

Water and Dams

China moves ahead with plan for dam. In a ruling made public December 14, the Chinese State Council approved changes to the boundaries of a Yangtze River preserve to clear the way for construction of the Xiaonanhai Dam, a $3.8 billion project that environmental experts say will flood the preserve anyway and most likely wipe out many species. The Communist Party secretary's plans were previously suspended by the central government in 2009 under pressure from environmental critics. The Xiaonanhai Dam cannot be started until the Chinese Environment Ministry approves an assessment of the dam's impact, which critics say should

back experts' predictions. But the State Council's decision to adjust the reserve boundaries strongly suggests that a favorable assessment has been predetermined, some environmental experts said in interviews. Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/30/world/asia/china-moves-ahead-with-plan-for-dam.html?_r=1&ref=world

(Washington) **Millions of gallons of raw sewage dumped into Snohomish River.** Days of heavy rains pushed the City of Everett, Washington's sewage treatment plant to the limit over the weekend of November 25, 97.3 KIRO FM reported December 28. "It was our maximum in terms of the amount of water coming from the city into the sewage treatment plant, which handles our sewage and also our rainfall," the Everett Public Works director told KING 5 Seattle. As the holding lagoons were quickly filling with rainwater, the city was forced to make a decision. It dumped at least 25 million gallons of raw sewage into the Snohomish River. The Public Works director said the city has spent millions updating its sewage system, which may mean they will not be fined for the spill. Source: http://mynorthwest.com/11/600959/Millions-of-gallons-of-sewage-spills-into-Snohomish-River

North Dakota Homeland Security Contacts

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center: 866-885-8295(IN ND ONLY); Email: ndslic@nd.gov; Fax: 701-328-8175 State Radio: 800-472-2121; Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI): 701-328-5500; North Dakota Highway Patrol: 701-328-2455; US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst: 701-297-7400; Bismarck FBI: 701-223-4875; Fargo FBI: 701-232-7241.

To contribute to this summary or if you have questions or comments, please contact:

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