



NEWS RELEASE

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ORANGE THREAT ALERT

Cost, Burden of Raising Level Signals Serious Concern by Administration

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 2003—A CSIS analyst made the following statement today regarding the Bush administration's raising the terrorism threat alert to orange, its second-highest level:

David Heyman, director, CSIS Homeland Security Initiatives (202-775-3293): "The increasing of the threat level is significant. Every time we go to Orange, it costs one billion dollars a week to put in place enhanced protective measures across the country. This places a huge burden on cities like New York and Los Angeles. As a result, after the last threat alert in May, the administration indicated that it would be much more conservative raising the levels in the future. This new warning reflects a real concern on behalf of the administration that the threat to Americans today is more serious than in the past."

[CSIS has posted a follow-up report to its *Silent Vector* terrorist-attack simulation at the following address: www.csis.org, in the "What's New" section. Click on "Silent Vector: Issues of Concern and Policy Recommendations." Silent Vector simulated a terrorist attack on U.S. critical infrastructure. Results indicated that aviation, nuclear power, alerting and warning, and the chemical industry, are the four key areas that need to be strengthened to safeguard against future terrorist attacks.]

*These are the views of the individual cited, not of CSIS, which does not take policy positions.
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