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RESEARCH

Is America Under Attack?

INCIDENTS	SECTORS HIT	DAYS
5	3	5

PERSPECTIVE AUTHOR'S VIEW

The US could quietly be under attack by a foreign nation. In just five days, communications, transportation and commerce were all disrupted, and hackers have been breaking into US water systems since July. The classic war books describe exactly this:

> "Supreme excellence consists in breaking the enemy's resistance without fighting."
> Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*, III.2 (Lionel Giles translation)

Two Chinese colonels' *Unrestricted Warfare* (1999) argued for striking networks and banks, not just armies (paraphrased), and US agencies warned in 2024 that Chinese state hackers were hiding inside US infrastructure to disrupt it in a crisis. It takes very little: a router upgrade grounded US flights, and one bank's bug slowed payments at other banks. Be ready. Keep some cash at home, carry cards from two banks, store a few days of drinking water, and write key phone numbers on paper. Official causes are listed below.

DATE	PLATFORM	SECTOR	OFFICIAL CAUSE	DETAILS
16 Nov	**Chase & major US banks**	Banking	Software bug in Chase's on-premise hardware. Chase says not cyber-related.	20,000+ Chase reports; branches, apps hit. Other banks, Zelle saw delays.
16 Nov	**United Airlines**	Transport	Tech outage blocked crew apps; flights couldn't get final weights. United: no sign of cyberattack.	Departures held nationwide ~90 min. Flights in the air not affected.
13 Nov	**FAA air traffic network**	Transport	New router at an Arkansas site flooded the FAA telecom network (L3Harris). FAA: no sign of cyberattack.	Ground stop ~4h 45m; 17 of 22 centers unstable. 12,462 canceled that day.
13 Nov	**911 calls (user reports)**	Telecom	No official cause given.	Unconfirmed. Hundreds of reports of failed 911 calls; peak 298, mostly NY.
12–13 Nov	**Microsoft 365 / Outlook**	Telecom	July update bug, a traffic shift and 14% less server capacity. Microsoft: not cyber.	Outlook, Teams, Copilot hit in 70+ countries ~24h; restored Saturday.

Sources: CNBC, Fortune, FAA, Ars Technica, BBC