



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 March 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports California National Guard units likely will be deployed at Los Angeles International Airport amid concerns by officials that security at the state's top terrorism target remains inadequate. (See item [12](#))
- Yahoo News reports Detroit police arrested and then released four men, found with a laptop computer and binoculars, near the Detroit Water and Sewerage Plant around 3 a.m. Tuesday morning. (See item [18](#))
- The Associated Press reports U.S. health officials said Monday the mysterious and deadly flu-like illness from Asia, that has stymied health officials around the world, appears to be caused by a new variety of a common cold virus. (See item [23](#))
- CNET News.com reports a Venezuelan security consultant has released a small program designed to exploit a flaw in Microsoft Windows 2000 servers that haven't had a recently announced security hole patched. (See item [33](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: High, Cyber: High

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *March 25, Platts Global Energy News* — **Russia warns OPEC to remain independent over Iraq. OPEC should retain its independence from the war in Iraq or risk self-destruction,**

Russian deputy prime minister Viktor Khristyenko warned Tuesday, the Prime Tass news agency reported. If OPEC becomes entangled in the political conflict around Iraq "it will be the beginning of the end for the organization," Khristyenko said. **He advised OPEC to "preserve its role as an organization of oil exporting countries that regulates prices on international markets, takes measures to maintain a fair oil price and minimizes speculative business."** Iraq is a founder member of OPEC but has remained outside the cartel's output quota agreements since 1990, with its oil exports in recent years controlled by the United Nations oil-for-food program.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/oil2.html>

2. *March 25, Platts Global Energy News* — **Oil prices rise on stiff Iraqi resistance. World oil prices rose on Tuesday as U.S. and British troops appeared to encounter stiff military resistance in Iraq.** Iraq has urged oil-producing nations not to increase crude output. **Elsewhere, a 38% cut in oil production in Nigeria due to fighting in the country further boosted crude prices.** Twelve days of bloody clashes between armed Ijaw youths and soldiers have forced three oil multinationals to shut in production and to evacuate wells and tank farms in the western Niger Delta. "We are monitoring the situation but nothing has changed from yesterday. We have shut in 320,000 b/d and declared force majeure on Forcados liftings." A Shell spokesman said Tuesday.
Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/home3.html>

3. *March 24, Reuters* — **California officials eye gasoline bank in energy plan. With California drivers paying the steepest pump prices in the United States, state officials are considering proposals, including a state-run gasoline bank, aimed at easing future fuel price spikes and reducing the state's dependence on petroleum.** The California Energy Commission and state Air Resources Board will present final recommendations in June to Gov. Gray Davis and the legislature on how to deal with heavy demand that will likely surge more as the state's population booms. **One of the proposals drawing attention is a plan that would set up a gasoline bank in the state to reserve fuel for times when supplies are tight and prices rising.** Officials also are considering extending a pipeline from Arizona to bring in more fuel to the nation's most populous state. Other ideas include getting people to use less fuel by levying higher gasoline taxes or providing financial incentives or rebates for driving fuel-efficient vehicles. California is more vulnerable to gasoline shortages than most states since its strict pollution laws require motorists to tank up on clean-burning gasolines not made elsewhere in the country – a factor that adds to their higher cost. **Establishing a gasoline bank, however, could solve this problem and save the state hundreds of millions of dollars by keeping a lid on volatile price swings.** The reserve plan would work with the state purchasing gasoline and then setting up a bank where customers could withdraw fuel when needed.
Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_national.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_03_24_eng-reuters_pma_CALIF-OFFICIALS-EYE-GASOLINE-BANK-IN-ENERGY-PLANa

4. *March 24, The Colorado Springs Business Journal* — **Coloradoans willing to pay more for clean energy. Even if it cost more to burn a light, 82 percent of Colorado residents queried in a major study want more of their electricity generated through renewable resources, primarily wind and solar.** Wells Fargo Public Opinion Research Program at the University of Colorado at Denver, conducted the survey. The responses were "striking," said Peggy Cuciti,

director of the program. No matter how the data is cut, Cuciti said, the results are the same – overwhelming in support of using more renewable energy and continued renewable energy research. **Electricity generated by wind turbines typically costs around five cents per kilowatt hour (kWh). Proponents say this is competitive with traditional sources of electrical generation and is the cheapest renewable energy source.** Considering factors such as the rising cost of fossil fuels, the cost of pollution including greenhouse gasses, and the cost of site rehabilitation when a power plant closes, the cost of wind power is competitive with, and may actually be less than, fossil fuels, supporters believe. **And, once a wind turbine is installed, the operating costs are minimal and the fuel is–free. Colorado is ranked 11th in the country for wind energy potential, but the state's primary sources of electricity come from burning coal and natural gas.** With greenhouse gases increasingly damaging the earth's atmosphere, **proponents of renewable energy want the Colorado legislature to require about 8 percent of the state's energy needs to come from renewable energy by 2010.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3729933

5. *March 24, Platts Global Energy News* — **NRC grants relief to Turkey Point on reactor head inspections. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approved a request by Turkey Point–3 (south of Miami, FL) for relaxation of one of the requirements of the agency's recently issued order on vessel head inspections.** In a March 20 letter to operator Florida Power & Light Co. (FP&L), NRC said that, for nine vessel head penetration nozzles, the company did not have to conduct ultrasonic testing all the way to the bottom of the nozzle. The exemption was warranted, the NRC said, because "the areas on each nozzle with less than full coverage are located in a non–pressure boundary portion of the nozzle that is greater than 1 inch below the J–groove weld to the bottom of the nozzle." **The Turkey Point request for relief from the Feb. 11 order is the first one the NRC has approved. The agency said its approval was contingent on an evaluation of a formula for crack growth rate that FP&L used in its supporting analysis.** A number of other plants have submitted exemption requests or indicated their intention to do so.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/nuclear1.html>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *March 31, U.S. News & World Report* — **Going after Saddam's cash.** American law enforcement officials have launched a global search for Saddam Hussein's illicit fortune,

estimated by some to exceed \$10 billion. The effort is part of a broad American strategy to win the peace by taking Saddam's ill-gotten gains and giving them back to the Iraqi people. Says a top American official: "We are closer to learning the truth." **Authorities say the holdings of Saddam and his sons, Qusay and Uday, are hidden in bank accounts in Western Europe, the Middle East, and perhaps elsewhere. Some accounts are almost certainly in Switzerland and Beirut. Saddam's billions were used to pay for all manner of vice, both personal and political.** "It is like the big common kitty," says a senior Treasury Department official. "A guy goes out and buys precursor chemicals [for making chemical weapons], or he buys a case of wine. It's all the same deal." The new campaign to go after the money is already paying off. **David Aufhauser, Treasury's general counsel, says that "several hundred million dollars of illicit proceeds," concealed overseas, were identified in recent days.** "Actions are being taken to freeze those assets," he told U.S. News.

Source: <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/issue/030331/usnews/31saddam.b.htm>

7. *March 25, Los Angeles Times* — **Immigrant jailed for sending money to Iraq.** An Iraqi immigrant was sentenced to four months in prison for operating an unlicensed money-transmitting business that illegally wired nearly \$2 million to Iraq. **Kareem Abdalhasan Albasam, 42, who became a U.S. citizen in 1999, insisted that the money was intended to go to relatives of immigrants for housing, medical care and other basic needs. Federal law prohibits sending money to Iraq.** Investigators found no evidence the money was used to finance terrorism, but U.S. District Judge Tena Campbell said Albasam didn't know for certain how the money was spent in Iraq or how it was earned in the U.S.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-war-briefs2.5.2mar25.1.1310927.story?coll=la%2Dheadlines%2Dworld>

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Transportation Sector

8. *March 25, New York Times* — **Delta plans to cut flights, citing a drop in demand. Delta Air Lines said Monday that it would temporarily cut 12 percent of its capacity because of low passenger demand caused by the war with Iraq. The cuts will be on domestic and trans-Atlantic routes, with service from New York to European cities sharply curtailed.** The company said the pared-down schedule would begin Thursday for domestic flights and April 6 for trans-Atlantic flights. The changes will continue at least through April, Delta said in a statement. **Delta is the latest airline to announce service cutbacks because of the war.** Last Tuesday, Continental Airlines said it was cutting seven international flights a week starting on April 6, from Newark, Cleveland and Houston to London, Paris and Tokyo. Northwest Airlines said on Friday that it would cut its capacity by 12 percent. United said it would cut capacity by 8 percent.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/25/business/businessspecial/2.5AIR.html>

9. *March 25, New York Times* — **Airports balking at security expenses. With security costs mounting under the "code orange" terrorism alert, airport officials said Monday that the federal government should reimburse airports for security-related expenses and warned that added measures under a "code red" threat could disrupt normal airport operations.** Under the orange alert, the second highest on the Department of Homeland Security's scale,

airports have been ordered to increase police presence inside terminals, around runways and on roadways and to conduct random inspections of vehicles driving to terminals. **But the new initiatives, directed by the Transportation Security Administration, have resulted in huge costs for airports, mostly from overtime payments to police officers often shared with the state or city the airport is in.** Directors of airports nationwide were in Washington Monday for a quarterly meeting. Gina Marie Lindsey, aviation director at Seattle–Tacoma International Airport, said **she wasn't sure that her airport could operate its regular schedule of flights under the highest alert level, which would probably require even more police patrols and vehicle inspections.** In speaking to the airports group Monday, TSA chief James M. Loy said, "We're all going to share the bill."

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A21364-2003Mar 24.html>

10. *March 25, Mercury News* — **Network will guard bridges.** As the war in Iraq continues, a vast high-tech network of security cameras scouting for terrorists at Bay Area bridges and tunnels is now more than 70 percent complete. The system, funded by Caltrans to the tune of \$20 million, is dubbed the Bay Area Security Enhancement Project. It is already scanning seven bridges and three tunnels. The exception to the near-blanket security network is the jewel of all the bridges ringing the bay — the Golden Gate Bridge. It is covered by its own security system, but officials are considering joining the network, said the prime contractor heading the project. Fifteen months in the making, the initiative is leading the state's security upgrade in the wake of the Al Qaeda attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The Bay Bridge — the largest of the network's seven — has about 100 cameras, many hanging below the roadways, casting an infrared light onto the piers and foundation. In the past, bridge cameras were only on the roadways, to monitor for accidents, stalls and traffic congestion. **These newer cameras are for security, and are monitored by Caltrans workers and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) in Oakland, and in an undisclosed backup location.** The multimillion-dollar initiative comes at a time when the Coast Guard and CHP are stepping up their patrols, worried about terrorist reprisals for the war in Iraq. Sunday, the camera network, a plane and a patrol cruiser all noticed three trespassers on the Bay Bridge near Treasure Island within 60 seconds of one another, CHP Sgt. Wayne Ziese said. The men were cited.

Source: <http://www.bayarea.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/5476179.htm>

11. *March 25, Reuters* — **Frist predicts airline aid from Congress. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said on Tuesday he expected Congress to pass aid for the aviation industry, but said it was still unclear whether this would be part of emergency wartime spending.** "I think it is likely that either in the supplemental or some other form, relief will be given to the aviation industry," the Tennessee Republican told reporters. President Bush on Monday unveiled a \$75 billion emergency spending proposal, known as a supplemental budget request, to cover initial costs of the war in Iraq. The White House included no airline aid in that proposal, but it has not ruled out helping an industry that continues to cut service and jobs. **Frist did not discuss amounts of aid, but said the assistance would be to address the effects of the Iraq war on the struggling aviation industry. He said he expected an aggressive debate in Congress on the subject.**

Source: <http://asia.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=politicsNews&storyID=2445485>

12. *March 24, Associated Press* — **National Guard units to boost Los Angeles International Airport security. California National Guard units likely will be deployed at Los Angeles**

International Airport (LAX) amid concerns by officials that security at the state's top terrorism target remains inadequate, state authorities said Saturday. City and state officials began discussions early Saturday on the number of troops that would be deployed and for how long, said Steve Maviglio, a spokesman for Gov. Gray Davis. Mayor James Hahn formally asked Davis Saturday that troops be deployed at the airport, which tops a list of 624 potential terrorism targets recently identified by the state attorney general's office. **In a letter to Davis, Hahn asked Guardsmen be deployed at checkpoints, terminals and around the airport perimeter.** Hahn cited an assessment by Adm. David Stone, the Transportation Security Administration's federal security director for the airport, that **security level at the facility remain inadequate, despite the increased numbers of police deployed since the onset of the Iraqi war.**

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2003/2003-03-24-lax-guards.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *March 25, Washington Times* — **Iraqi nationals taken off oil tanker near Philadelphia.** The U.S. Coast Guard removed two Iraqi-national crew members from an oil tanker it boarded in the Delaware Bay and are holding them in an undisclosed location. The Qatar-flagged, 880-foot tanker is anchored at the Coastal Eagle Point Facility, a refinery across the Delaware River from Philadelphia, and remains under armed control of the Coast Guard, which boarded the ship last week. The location of the Iraqis cannot be disclosed because "it is still an ongoing operation. We're still on board and still have command of the vessel," Barry said. **The Coast Guard captain of the Philadelphia Port ordered the Aldawha to remain at anchor Wednesday after he was notified through an advanced-screening process that the two crew members were on board.** The Coast Guard press release on this topic can be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/d5/news/2003/r022-03.html>
Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/national/20030325-30266928.htm>

14. *March 25, Jefferson Evening News* — **Port security in focus at Clark Maritime.** Things are quiet along the docks at the Clark Maritime Center and by implementing a new "eyes and ears" program, they hope to keep it that way. **The Ports of Indiana is taking steps to increase security measures at all three of its public ports, especially after the events of September 11, 2001.** Burns Harbor, Southwind and the Clark Maritime Center are adopting enhanced security measures and continue to coordinate with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies as part of their security and emergency response plans. "We completed an internal vulnerability assessment of our three ports last year," said Jody Peacock, public affairs director of the Ports of Indiana. "This involved intensive surveys of tenant companies as well as meeting with U.S. Coast Guard representatives and local law enforcement officials to identify the ports' most critical security issues. We are now addressing those issues and updating our Emergency Response Procedures." **One result of those efforts was the new Port Watch Program launched on August 28, 2002.** Participants in the Port Watch are asked to be the "eyes and ears" of the ports and their communities. **"All members of Port Watch will carry identification cards that list emergency contact numbers including the National Terrorist Incident Reporting System,"** Peacock said. "Because of their familiarity with local operations they are uniquely able to monitor activities within the ports and be prepared to report

any suspicious incidents or security risks they encounter." **The Ports of Indiana was one of the only ports on the Great Lakes or Inland Waterway System to apply for a Transportation Security Administration Grant.**

Source: http://www.news-tribune.net/display/inn_news/The_Evening_News/news04.txt

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Agriculture Sector

15. *March 25, New Scientist* — **Foot and mouth infected meat still entering UK. Almost 100 kilograms of smuggled meat infected with the foot and mouth virus enters Britain every year, government epidemiologists have estimated. Smuggled meat was a prime suspect for the catastrophic 2001 foot and mouth disease (FMD) epidemic.** That led to the slaughter of over six million animals in the UK. **Partly prompted by the new survey, the government has announced a £5 million plan to tighten up security at airports and ports. In particular, Customs and Excise officials will have sole responsibility for intercepting illegal meat imports.** The estimates were drawn up by a team at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Weybridge, Surrey. They are based on data from seizures of smuggled meat and from official records of FMD outbreaks in countries where the smuggled meat comes from.

Source: <http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99993541>

16. *March 25, Clarion Ledger* — **Poultry industry to gain from new testing facility. The completion of a 2,000-square-foot poultry diagnostic laboratory in Pearl, MS should yield quicker, more accurate results, researchers said.** The \$500,000 center, which is slated to open this week, will replace a temporary facility that forced researchers to send some samples off premises. "I think we'll be able to do things with a better turnaround time, and that will increase our efficiency. It will improve the turnaround time to get the results back to the client," said Dr. Danny Magee, lab director and clinical professor at the Mississippi State University. **More effective research means better protection of Mississippi's largest single agricultural commodity, state veterinarian Dr. Jim Watson said. Poultry in 2002 was estimated to be a \$1.4 billion industry.** As preparations to move in to the poultry facility are being finalized, construction also is moving forward on an \$18 million, 40,000-square-foot facility to house a diagnostic lab for livestock and other animals.

Source: <http://www.clarionledger.com/news/0303/25/b04.html>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

17. *March 25, Associated Press* — **East Arkansas water source running out.** State water conservation officials say the deeper of two underground water sources widely used by

Arkansas farmers and industry is being depleted at a rate faster than previously predicted. **The Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission said the Sparta aquifer may be irreparably harmed in 30 years if current consumption rates hold or increase. That's about five times sooner than previously thought. Federal scientists say the water source closer to the surface is already considered in jeopardy of going dry by 2015.** It is the primary source for irrigation in the fertile Delta and Grand Prairie region in Arkansas.

Source: http://www.kark.com/karktv/news/story_tmp.asp?cmd=viewid=6186

18. *March 25, Yahoo News* — **Police arrest four men near Detroit water plant. Detroit police reportedly arrested and then released four men near the Detroit Water and Sewerage Plant Tuesday morning.** The men were arrested around 3 a.m. near a plant intake facility near Dearborn and West Jefferson Avenue along the Detroit River in southwest Detroit. **Several manhole covers in the area were reportedly removed and the men were found with a laptop computer and binoculars.** Federal authorities and Detroit police questioned the men. **The suspects were released, but authorities kept their computer to investigate, according to reports.**

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story/5/lo_wdiv/1544950

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Public Health Sector

19. *March 25, Honolulu Advertiser* — **New TB strains worry health officials. State health officials say the number of Hawaii cases of tuberculosis (TB) has stabilized, but expressed concern about an increase in a drug-resistant strain of the infectious disease. The number of drug-resistant cases in Hawaii increased from 12 in 2001 to 22 in 2002.** Twenty of the 22 cases were among people who came from foreign countries. **"This year our TB case rate appears to have stabilized. However, the number of cases with single- and multiple-drug resistance has nearly doubled,"** said Dr. Jessie Wing, chief of the Department of Health's **TB Control Program.** "We are currently investigating this significant increase and plan to launch a new initiative to emphasize new national treatment guidelines for TB and drug-resistant TB throughout Hawaii."

Source: http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2003/Mar/25/ln/ln3_1a.html

20. *March 25, Associated Press* — **Experts: U.S. not ready for toxin attack. Easy to find and easy to produce, botulinum toxin is the most poisonous natural substance on Earth. In the hands of a bioterrorist, a single gram could kill more than 1 million people. Federal officials fear the nation is both vulnerable to such an attack and ill prepared should one occur.** "We are making this the highest priority," said Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health, one of the federal government's top bioterrorism officials. The toxin easily poisons those who eat it, and experts fear terrorists could infect the nation's food supply and sicken thousands. **The government only has enough antitoxin available to treat victims of a small attack, one official put the inventory at more than 1,000 doses.** The issue takes on particular urgency as the United States wages war with Iraq. **In 1995, Iraq told the United Nations that it had made more than 5,000 gallons of botulinum toxin and loaded much of it into bombs and warheads.**

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A24024-2003Mar_25.html

21. *March 25, Government Computer News* — **Federal government issues data-sharing standards for medical information. The government has issued government-wide standards for coding and sharing medical records.** The standards, released last week and mandatory for all federal agencies, are the work of the Defense, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs departments. The coding standards are the first of a series of standards that will make up a National Health Information Infrastructure envisioned by the Office of Management and Budget's e-government team. **"Benefits from using common health care standards include improved patient safety and a reduction in the cost of health care," Dr. William Kenwerder, assistant secretary of Defense for health affairs, said in a statement. Ultimately, the goal is to promote use of the standards across the health care industry, not just within the government.**
Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21493-1.html
22. *March 25, Associated Press* — **Federal agencies begin bioterrorism test.** A crop-duster sprayed a harmless substance above a field of cattle and oil pumps Monday in a test to see if weather radar could detect a bioterrorist attack. **It was the first spray of a three-week Army test over central Oklahoma. The plane will make 261 runs, dropping grain alcohol, clay dust and a mix of water and polyethylene glycol – a common ingredient in lotions and mascara. The harmless materials were chosen to produce a mist resembling the airborne particles that might be produced by a bioterrorism attack. The test, taking place in Oklahoma because of the state's advanced weather radar system, will help Army and Environmental Protection Agency scientists determine how well radar can detect such materials.** The new system would keep track of small planes and tiny puffs of particles that typical radars ignore. It will take weeks to analyze the data and determine how successful the test was, Army officials said. **The goal is to develop computer technology for a nationwide bioterrorism detection system, said Robert Lyons, with the Army's nuclear, biological and chemical detection program. The government hopes to install high-tech software in about 150 radar stations across the country.**
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A20714-2003Mar 24.html>
23. *March 24, Associated Press* — **Cold-causing bug suspected in mystery flu. The mysterious and deadly flu-like illness from Asia that has stymied health officials around the world appears to be caused by a new variety of a common cold virus, U.S. health officials said Monday.** The head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said a number of tests had revealed traces of a form of microbe known as a coronavirus in the tissue of people infected with the unidentified disease. "There's very strong evidence to support coronavirus" as the cause, said CDC director Dr. Julie Gerberding at a news conference. However, she cautioned that more testing is needed before experts can be certain. Many different viruses can cause colds, including three different varieties of the coronavirus. Until now, in fact, the cold is the only human ailment known to be caused by coronaviruses, but the CDC said the culprit in the Asian outbreak appears to be genetically different and probably represents a fourth type. **Just what that means for treating severe acute respiratory syndrome, SARS, which has sickened 456 and killed 17 since February 1, is unclear. There are no certain treatments for colds caused by this or any other virus. Nevertheless, Gerberding said the Defense Department will test the virus against all known antiviral drugs to see if any work.**

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Living/ap20030324_1854.html

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Government Sector

24. *March 25, New York Times* — Bush asks for nearly \$75 billion for war costs. President Bush said on Tuesday he would ask Congress for \$74.7 billion to pay for the war in Iraq "and our global war against terror." "My request to Congress will pay for the massive task of transporting a fully equipped military force, both active-duty and Reserve, to a region halfway around the world," President Bush said at the Pentagon, where he was briefed on the course of the war. "This money will cover the current cost of fueling our ships and aircraft and tanks, and of airlifting tons of supplies into the theater of operations," President Bush said. "The supplemental will also allow us to replace the high-tech munitions we are now directing against Saddam Hussein's regime." **The \$74.7 billion request includes about \$63 billion for fighting the war, including replenishing used munitions and other matériel to prewar levels; about \$8 billion for relief efforts and immediate reconstruction; and about \$4 billion to better protect the United States against what the administration says is the increased likelihood of terrorist attacks.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/25/international/worldspecial/25CND-PREX.html>

25. *March 25, United Press International* — Arab-Americans urged to help manhunt. Arab-American leaders appealed to the Middle Eastern community in the United States Monday to help the FBI locate a man wanted for questioning in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Agents are looking for Adnan Gulshair Muhammad El'Shukri-jumah, whose last known residence was in Miramar, FL, near Miami. El'Shukri-jumah, 27, was identified last week by Khalid Shaik Mohammed as a member of al Qaeda, the terrorist organization blamed for the attacks in New York and Washington. No charges have been filed. **"Suffice it to say he has been identified by senior members of the al Qaeda organization as a very serious threat to United States' interests both here and abroad," said Hector Pesquera, head of the FBI's Miami operation.** Family members have said he is teaching in Morocco. "Police may want to question him in America but he is not hiding from anybody," said his father, Gulshair El'Shukri-jumah. Nevertheless, federal authorities believe he might still be in the United States. **Arab-Americans said at a news conference in Miami Monday, they want to help. "We join the FBI in imploring the public to come forward and contact FBI officers if they have any information that may be relevant in locating Mohamad El'Shukri-juma," said Parvez Ahmed of the Council on Arab-American operations. Abdullah al-Suabi of the Arab-American Institute said Arabs in America want to help fight terrorism.**

Source: <http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=20030324-014549-6851r>

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *March 25, New York Times* — 24-hour air patrols resume over New York. The United States government has resumed 24-hour air patrols over New York City after law enforcement

and intelligence agencies warned that the city was in special danger from terrorists during the war with Iraq, senior government officials said on Monday. **The patrols, which are being conducted by Black Hawk helicopters and small, specially outfitted surveillance planes from the fleet of the Department of Homeland Security, began today without announcement, the officials said. The helicopters and surveillance jets are not armed but have radar and can call on fighter jets stationed nearby in an emergency, they said.** The 24-hour patrols will be the first over New York City since early last year, when the Defense Department suspended the continuous air patrols over New York and Washington that had begun in the hours after the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Two months ago, round-the-clock air patrols were resumed in Washington, and officials said at the time that more air patrols could be expected in New York if the United States invaded Iraq.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/25/international/worldspecial/25PATR.html>

27. *March 24, Associated Press* — **Rural areas lacking reliable 911 help.** Despite a mandate from Congress that residents of every community have 911 service by last November, more than 400 U.S. counties have minimal emergency calling capability, according to the National Emergency Number Association. That means thousands of Americans do not have quick access to police or paramedics, said Roger Hixson, an official with the organization that promotes improvements to America's 911 system. For smaller counties, the Federal Communications Commission requires telephone companies to ensure that 911 calls are answered by emergency dispatchers, even if those dispatchers are in a neighboring county or beyond. That's an improvement from when dialing 911 resulted in a busy signal or a recording, but far from ideal. **Hixson's organization found the largest number of underserved counties in Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska and South Dakota. All had at least 25 counties with minimal 911 service or no service, according to surveys done last year. "Some localities don't have the financial wherewithal to do it," Hixson said. "Most that don't are rural, don't have a large population and may have trouble covering the expense of a police force, let alone a 911 center."**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A19529-2003Mar 24.html>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

28. *March 25, The Register* — **Malicious impostors sow seeds of disinformation. Security testing outfit NTA Monitor has warned of the increased likelihood of attacks against news sites and corporate Web sites during the current war in Iraq.** News sites are especially at risk, because **attackers could use weaknesses in sites or domain registration tricks to 'rewrite' breaking news to try to create confusion and panic,** according to NTA. The most obvious risk is denial of service attacks, in which sites are deliberately brought down by extreme traffic volumes. However the subtler attacks are of much greater concern. By registering similar domain names or 'typo squatting' – booking domains with common typo errors (e.g., wwwcompany.com) – traffic intended for official news sites could be re-directed. **Attackers can impersonate Internet news sites and make major changes to the news, with potentially disastrous impact.**

Source: <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/55/29931.html>

29. *March 25, Associated Press* — **Al-Jazeera site experiences hack attack. Hackers attacked the Web site of Arab satellite television network Al-Jazeera on Tuesday, rendering it intermittently unavailable**, the site's host said. The newly launched English-language page, which went live Monday, was hardest hit in a bombardment of data packets known as a denial-of-service attack. Ayman Arrashid, Internet system administrator at the Horizons Media and Information Services, the site's Web host, said the attack began Tuesday morning local time. The Web host is based in the Persian Gulf state of Qatar. The servers that host the Al-Jazeera site are in France and the United States. **Only the U.S. servers were under attack, said Arrashid, so the attackers were likely in the United States.** He said technicians were working to thwart the attack, but could not estimate when the site would be fully available again.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A25491-2003Mar 25.html>
30. *March 25, Associated Press* — **Iraq satellite jamming devices destroyed. Six satellite jamming devices, which Iraq was using to try to thwart American precision guided weapons, were destroyed and have had "no effect" on U.S. military operations**, a U.S. general said Tuesday. President Bush had called Russian President Vladimir Putin to complain about the alleged sales of high-tech equipment, which could pose a threat to American troops. The Kremlin denied the allegations that Moscow had broken UN sanctions to sell such weapons. "We have noticed some attempts by the Iraqis to use a GPS jamming system that they obtained from another nation. **We have destroyed all six of those jammers in the last two nights' airstrikes.** I'm pleased to say they had no effect on us," said Air Force Major General Victor Renuart.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A24012-2003Mar 25.html>
31. *March 25, Associated Press* — **Anti-war hackers alter South Carolina Secretary of State's Web site. Hackers apparently took over the South Carolina Secretary of State's Web site this weekend, posting anti-war slogans and obscenities.** Officials were notified of the altered page Sunday afternoon and took it down. The regular site was restored later the same day. The pirated site was up for about 12 hours, officials said. **"This country has a history of civil disobedience, but this has crossed the line and is a criminal matter," Secretary of State Mark Hammond said Monday.** The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating, spokesman Kathryn Richardson said.
Source: http://www.heraldtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?Date=2003_0325No=303250543>
32. *March 24, eWEEK* — **Security specs in the works. The CEO Cybersecurity Task Force by the end of this year will release a set of network security best practices for enterprises to adopt as a minimum standard.** The task force plans to challenge executives to have their companies meet these base-line requirements by a certain date, which has yet to be determined. **The hope is that peer pressure and a walk-before-you-run approach will entice laggard enterprises into shoring up their security.** The task force, formed last week, is a subset of TechNet—a national organization of technology industry CEOs, somewhat akin to a lobbying group, that works with legislators to help shape policy. In addition to developing the base-line security guidelines, **the task force plans to work with government security officials to develop an efficient, workable plan for public and private information sharing of attack and threat data.** This is a hot topic both in Washington and in Silicon Valley, where corporate IT staffs see little to gain by divulging such sensitive data.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.3959,971893.00.asp>

33. *March 24, CNET News.com* — **Program exploits Windows 2000 flaw. A Venezuelan security consultant has released a small program designed to compromise Microsoft Internet Information Service servers that haven't had a recent security hole patched.** Monday's public release of the program's source code—known in security parlance as an exploit—will allow less technically knowledgeable system administrators to test for the existence of the vulnerability or allow less skillful miscreants to attack servers. **"I released (the code) to enlighten the public and to promote system security for administrators unfamiliar with these exploits," said Rafael Nunez, information security consultant for Scientech de Venezuela and a former hacker.** The flaw, which Microsoft said could be exploited through the World Wide Web Distributed Authoring and Versioning (WebDAV) component of Internet Information Service (IIS) 5.0, allows an attacker to take control of the server. Microsoft declined to comment on the issue, except to say that customers should patch their systems. **Nunez stressed that system administrators need to patch their systems before a virus writer uses the vulnerability as a vector for a computer worm.**

Source: http://news.com.com/2100-1002-993946.html?tag=fd_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: PE_FUNLOVE.4099 Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	80 (www), 137 (netbios-ns), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 445 (microsoft-ds), 25 (smtp), 139 (netbios-ssn), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 0 (----), 113 (ident) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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