



Department of Homeland Security National Infrastructure Protection Center Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 March 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- Reuters reports the Energy Department has said that the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is ready to release oil to counter a disruption in crude supplies, if necessary. (See item [1](#))
- The Washington Times reports the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is advising that nonessential or elective travel to Southeast Asia be postponed until further notice, due to the mysterious flulike outbreak that has recently killed nine persons and sickened 150 in seven countries. (See item [16](#))
- Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge announced that the national threat level has been raised to High risk of terrorist attack or Level orange and that the Department of Homeland Security has implemented Operation Liberty Shield to increase protective measures at the nation's borders and at critical infrastructure locations. (See item [22](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security has issued Advisory 03-005, "Unchecked buffer in Microsoft Internet Information Server (IIS)". The vulnerability may allow a remote attacker to gain complete control of the system and execute arbitrary code in the Local System security context. (See item [25](#))
- Citing the vulnerability in Microsoft Internet Information Server (IIS) version 5.0, Internet Security Systems has raised its AlertCon to 2.

DHS/NIPC Update *Fast Jump*

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

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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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 17, Reuters* — U.S. prepared to release emergency oil. As the United States prepares to lead a possible attack on Iraq, the chairman of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee said Monday the Energy Department told him the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is ready to release oil to counter a disruption in crude supplies, if necessary.** "Our review with the Department of Energy has convinced me that the SPR is fully operational and capable of releasing crude oil within the parameters required to prevent interruptions in crude oil deliveries to the market," Republican Rep. Billy Tauzin said in a letter to fellow lawmakers. With a possible war with Iraq looming, supply disruptions in Venezuela and skyrocketing oil prices, Tauzin made his comments in a letter to lawmakers urging their support to expand the reserve to 1 billion barrels from its current capacity of 700 million barrels. **If the administration decided to release oil from the SPR, the reserve's crude could be moved into the market between 10 and 15 days after a drawdown order from President Bush.**
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=JSLJ4RK0QSNVGCERBAEKSSFFA?type=politicsNews/a>
- 2. *March 14, Boston Business Journal* — Power rates expected to spike by 20%. Retail electricity prices could jump at least 20 percent in the Boston area this spring and summer as a direct consequence of this winter's wholesale natural gas spike, experts say. Current electricity rates do not cover the utility company's wholesale electricity costs, said Bruce McLeish, who buys and sells power for the Boston office of Constellation NewEnergy Inc., a subsidiary of Baltimore-based Constellation Energy Group. So companies like Boston-based Nstar and Massachusetts Electric Co., the utility division of Westborough-based National Grid USA will be forced to increase electricity bills to bring revenue more in line with costs, McLeish said. "Electricity prices are almost entirely driven by the price of fuel, and the high natural gas prices are going to translate to higher (retail) electricity prices," McLeish said.** Unless companies have long-term contracts with competitive suppliers, their best option in the coming months is reducing their electricity usage, said Angela O'Connor, vice president of energy programs for business trade group Associated Industries of Massachusetts.
Source: <http://boston.bizjournals.com/boston/stories/2003/03/17/story2.html>
- 3. *March 14, The Wisconsin State Journal* — Wisconsin budget won't include power plant money.** Governor Jim Doyle will not include any state money in his forthcoming capital budget for a proposed power plant on the UW-Madison campus, a spokesman confirmed Thursday. **The decision came after state Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, asked the governor to delay action on the proposed 150-megawatt cogeneration facility, citing concerns about the plant's potential environmental impact and the secrecy surrounding a key consultant report.** "The governor agrees with Rep. Black that more public input would be helpful to the process," Doyle spokesman Dan Leistikow said. It was unclear what impact the governor's decision might have on the plant, a joint operation between the university and Madison Gas and Electric Co., since final authority over construction of the power plant rests with the state Public Service Commission and the Department of Natural Resources. But if the construction is to be financed in part with state money, the state Building Commission would have to sign off on it as part of the governor's capital budget. The commission, which Doyle chairs, is due to take up that budget next week. **University officials have called the plant "critical" for**

meeting the needs of campus plans to add biotechnology buildings and update research labs over the next few years. As proposed, the natural gas–fueled plant would provide steam heat and chilled water for air conditioning to serve the UW–Madison campus while generating more electricity for both the university and MGE's customers.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3713420

4. *March 14, Omaha World–Herald* — **Nuclear power plant to receive \$350,000 credit for safe operation.** In the nuclear power industry, it pays to do a good job. For Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station (near Omaha, NE), that's literally true. **Omaha Public Power District, owner of Fort Calhoun, will be credited \$350,000 off the cost of its annual insurance premium because of its strong performance, board member Del Weber said Thursday.** The bulk of that, \$250,000, is the result of not filing a claim in the past year. Also, \$100,000 was knocked off the premium because Fort Calhoun has received the industry's highest marks for performance, Weber said. **The industry group, the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, recently awarded Fort Calhoun its highest marks after a rigorous inspection process that is parallel to that done by the federal government.** As a result, OPPD will be paying about 25 percent less on its insurance. The net \$1.1 million paid on the premium will provide \$2.2 billion in coverage.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3712877

5. *March 13, Xinhua News Agency* — **Russia signs accord to shut down nuclear reactors.** **Russia signed an agreement with the United States on Wednesday to shut down its last three nuclear reactors that produce weapons–grade plutonium.** Under the accord, signed by Russian Atomic Energy Minister Alexander Rumyantsev and US Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham during a conference on nuclear safety, Russia will shut down within eight years the three nuclear reactors in Siberia, and the United States will help Russia build replacement fossil–fuel power plants. **The reactors, which also provide electricity to Seversk and Zhelznogorsk, two cities in Siberia, would have some 15 years of remaining life and could generate enough plutonium to make one nuclear weapon a day. "Replacing these reactors with fossil fuel energy is critical in eliminating the production of weapons grade plutonium in Russia and closing these facilities,"** Abraham said at the signing ceremony. The agreement was proof of Russian–US cooperation on disarmament, said Rumyantsev.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3713710

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Chemical Sector

6. *March 15, United States Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board* — **Fire damages chemical plant in New Jersey. A four–alarm fire seriously damaged a chemical plant Saturday, sending four firefighters to the hospital and billowing smoke into the early morning sky.** The blaze at Johnson Matthey Chemical Co. broke out about 12:30 a.m. Firefighters arrived to find heavy smoke and flames through the building's roof, said Rick Conte, assistant chief with the Thorofare Fire Department. The fire was brought under control six hours later, but firefighters were forced to return when it rekindled by 9:30 a.m., Conte said. It was back under control within an hour, and plant officials expected it to be extinguished by noon. **A hazardous materials team also responded to the facility because of the nature of**

the work done there. The blaze caused a partial roof collapse at the 250,000–square–foot building, **which does precious metals processing and recovery.** Plant officials said the blaze started in the fiberglass ducts of a refinery production area. The cause of the blaze was under investigation, he said.

Source: http://www.chemsafety.gov/circ/post.cfm?incident_id=6437

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *March 17, Federal Computer Week* — **DOD, vendors to test secure access.** The Defense Department and the vendors it works with plan to test a system later this year that would give them access to each other's employee credentials as part of an effort to bolster the security of their facilities. The interoperability demonstration pilot project, scheduled for this fall, would test the feasibility of creating a cross–credentialing system between DOD and industry. **As envisioned, the Defense Cross–credentialing Identification System would consist of a collection of shared government and contractor databases, but the control and management of that information would remain with the agency or company that collected it.** A device would read the data stored on a smart identification card, such as a person's photograph and fingerprint, and validate it against information stored in the appropriate database via a Web–based interface. If it's a match, the person would be granted access to the facility.

Source: <http://www.few.com/few/articles/2003/0317/news-secure-03-17-03.asp>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *March 17, Reuters* — **Anti–war protesters raid London oil exchange.** Anti–war protesters broke into London's International Petroleum Exchange on Monday and halted business at Europe's largest oil futures hub, dealers said. **Some 20–25 people evaded guards at the building in London's financial district, and violent confrontations broke out in the trading pit, the dealers said. "Some anti–war protesters broke into the exchange and are making a nuisance of themselves. We have stopped trading," a futures broker said.** "There is a lot of hooting and hollering and there have been a couple of altercations." Another said the trading floor had been evacuated and cleared of protesters by security guards.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38232-2003Mar 17.html>

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Transportation Sector

9. *March 18, Washington Post* — **Tractor driver in standoff with police on Mall.** The man, identified by law enforcement sources as Dwight W. Watson, 50, of Whitakers, N.C., drove into the pond in Constitution Gardens, between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, about noon. As of early this morning, law enforcement officers continued to keep

watch on the man, whom they described as distraught. Although they had made contact with him by cell phone, it remained unclear why he was there and what he wanted. **About 100 law enforcement officers — from agencies including the U.S. Park Police, the D.C. police and the FBI — cleared the immediate area and closed nearby streets, including Constitution Avenue between 15th and 23rd streets NW, and began efforts to talk to the man. Authorities said Watson claimed to have ammonium nitrate, which can be used in fertilizer and explosives.** Timothy J. McVeigh used a massive bomb made of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil in the 1995 attack in Oklahoma City that killed 168 people. **Yesterday's trouble, coming as the nation prepared for a possible war, prompted discussion about whether security should be tightened further, particularly near federal buildings and monuments.** Several federal government buildings in the area are closed this morning.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A42467-2003Mar 17.html>

10. *March 16, Sun Media (Canada)* — **Border chaos looming.** Confusion is expected at Pearson airport in Toronto and border crossings Monday as dozens of non-citizens stand to be refused entry into the U.S. **Nationals from 54 countries will now require visas to enter the U.S. as part of that country's tough new immigration policy. Cross-border bus and train conductors will be checking the documents of travelers to ensure they'll be allowed into the U.S.** Transportation companies must return those who are refused entry. Non-Canadians who are nationals of Commonwealth countries and Ireland are among those who now require a visa to enter the U.S. **Brian Crow, of the Ontario Motor Coach Association, said he expects some passengers will be refused entry at the border.** He said bus drivers will be examining the travel documents of passengers as they board and explain the changes before taking off. Elly Meister, of the Canadian Trucking Alliance, said her 3,000 members were warned months ago about the visa requirements and are ready.

Source: <http://www.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2003/03/16/44479.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

11. *March 17, Agence France-Presse* — **Singapore begins screening U.S.-bound containers.** Singapore on Monday launched a joint program to screen U.S.-bound containers and inspect suspicious cargo in order to protect maritime trade from being exploited by terrorists, the U.S. embassy in Singapore said. A major global shipping hub, Singapore became the first Asian port to join Washington's Container Security Initiative (CSI) when it signed the agreement last year. With the CSI coming into effect, **port and custom officials from the two countries will pre-screen U.S.-bound cargo containers,** the statement said.

Source: <http://straitstimes.asia1.com.sg/latest/story/0.4390.177572.00.html?>

12. *March 16, The State (South Carolina)* — **Charleston cargo an inviting target.** Of the 6 million shipping containers that arrive in U.S. ports annually, roughly 400,000 — almost 7 percent — come through Charleston, SC. The sealed containers bring the goods — car parts, produce, you name it — that keep the U.S. economy running. But security experts are concerned they also could bring in weapons that could grind that economy to a halt. **South Carolina has several potential high-profile terrorist targets, including the Savannah River Site and a half-dozen nuclear-power plants. But those are closed facilities, built**

with security in mind. In contrast, the sheer quantity of largely unexamined cargo that comes through Charleston's port makes it an inviting target. Sitting in her large office in the old Customs House, Pamela Zaresk, director of U.S. Customs in Charleston, said Sept. 11 changed her agency's priorities. "Our main two missions now are anti-terrorism and facilitating the flow of trade," said Zaresk, also interim port director as part of the consolidation of agencies under the Department of Homeland Security. Security at the Charleston port has been stepped up since Sept. 11, Zaresk said. **"In the last year and a half, we've added 30 new customs inspectors, bringing the total to 54."** The inspectors also rely on new technology such as **the Vehicle and Cargo Inspection System, or VACIS, a drive-through mobile gamma-ray unit that can search the contents of a 40-foot container in about a minute.** Charleston has one of these systems, and another is on its way, Zaresk said.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/news/local/5404901.htm>

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Agriculture Sector

13. *March 17, Planet Ark* — Wisconsin reports new cases of deer disease. Wisconsin wildlife officials confirmed two more cases last week of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in wild deer taken from the same area as most of the state's previous cases, raising the state's case total to 64. Wisconsin is testing brain tissue from nearly 40,000 deer for the fatal illness, which afflicts deer and elk with symptoms similar to mad cow disease. Most of the tissue samples came from deer carcasses hunters submitted in the autumn. All but six of Wisconsin's 64 CWD-positive deer were taken from a 411 square mile eradication zone west of the state capital Madison, where about 2 percent of all deer have been found to be infected with the disease. The other cases were all within a few miles of the zone. **No cases of CWD had been found elsewhere in Wisconsin as of Friday, but Tom Hauge, wildlife director for the state Department of Natural Resources, said results were still pending on about 2,000 of 21,732 deer taken from outside the eradication zone.**

Source: <http://www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/20172/story.htm>

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Food Sector

14. *March 17, Associated Press* — Audit faults USDA's meat import surveillance. The U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) has been lax in guarding the food supply from potentially unsafe imported meat, an internal audit says. **From 1999 to 2001, the USDA allowed in 823,632 pounds of meat from foreign plants that might have been prohibited from trading, said the report by USDA's inspector general released this week. Of that, 66,299 pounds were from processors unapproved for shipping products to the United States, the report said.** Auditors said they were uncertain if the remaining meat was safe and came from approved exporters because the department failed to turn in enough records. Overseas processors can be barred from shipping meat to the United States if they fail to comply with U.S. food safety laws or an animal disease outbreak is under way in the country of origin.

Source: <http://www.seafood.com/news/current/90559.html>

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Water Sector

15. *March 16, Agence France Presse* — **Arsenic crisis in South Asian water reaching "catastrophic" levels. Arsenic contamination of the water supply in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh is afflicting more than 35 million people and if left unchecked, could reach "catastrophic" levels, a UN researcher warned Sunday.** Hoping to attract attention to a crisis he said is on a comparable scale with the global HIV problem, Zafar Adeel of the United Nations University in Japan said the infected populations could not wait the same 20 years for the international community to act. "People need clean water to live," he said before convening a session at the Third World Water Forum here, which will gather some 10,000 delegates from 180 countries to find solutions to the crisis that deprives 1.4 billion people of adequate fresh water.

Source: <http://www.terradaily.com/2003/030316123144.2uve7n9l.html>

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Public Health Sector

16. *March 17, Washington Times* — **Americans warned on travel during flulike outbreak. Americans are urged to avoid travel to Southeast Asia, where a mysterious flulike outbreak has killed nine persons and sickened 150 in seven countries. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is advising that nonessential or elective travel be postponed until further notice.** The World Health Organization has not recommended travel restrictions on the affected countries. Although no cases of the atypical pneumonia have been confirmed in the United States, the CDC issued a health alert during the weekend. The syndrome is called "severe acute respiratory syndrome" and has appeared in China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Several cases also have been reported in Canada.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/national/20030317-80862826.htm>

17. *March 17, Associated Press* — **Mystery outbreak may be a new flu strain. Health experts searching for the cause of an outbreak of a deadly flu-like illness in Asia say the culprit is probably a virus, and they are encouraged that some victims appear to be getting better.** "If it really is the flu, it could be we have a new organism that could cause a pandemic," said Dr. R. Bradley Sack, director of Johns Hopkins' international travel clinic. "People immediately start thinking of 1917," when a worldwide flu epidemic began that killed at least 20 million people. **So far, the disease has killed nine people, seven in Asia and two in North America.** Its rapid spread, and the discovery of two clusters in Canada, caused a rare worldwide health alert to be issued on Saturday. Health officials say it may be several more days before they are able to identify the disease. However, they said several of its features suggest it is caused by a virus, which can often be difficult to pinpoint quickly using standard lab tests. The illness is being called "severe acute respiratory syndrome," or SARS. The incubation period appears to be three to seven days.

Source: <http://www.michigansthum.com/site/news.cfm?BRD=2292=476800AG=461>

18. *March 16, BBC News* — **Bioterror spray could save lives. A spray of disinfectants and antitoxins designed to cling to the body could be a way to help people after a bioterror attack.** The decontamination unit could process hundreds of "casualties" in the aftermath of a chemical or biological attack. The fine mist droplets sprayed on the skin are given an identical electrostatic charge, which helps ensure that the liquid forms a thin and even coating across the entire body. This is because droplets with the same charge will repel each other, meaning that an even film will settle out across the surface onto which it is being sprayed. The principle that opposite charges attract means that they will also stick to the skin. **The scientists behind the spray system say that the charge provides sufficient impetus for the liquid to spread into every crevice.**

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/2848069.stm>

19. *March 15, Associated Press* — **Civilian hospitals prepare for military casualties. North Carolina hospitals are preparing to treat war injuries as part of a nationwide mobilization of civilian medical centers.** There are 78 hospitals in North Carolina that are mobilizing among the 2,000 civilian hospitals across the country. "We were asked to be ready," said Scott White, a spokesman for Charlotte's largest hospital, Carolinas Medical Center. The arrangement is not new. **The National Disaster Medical System, as it is called, dates back to the early 1980s and is meant to help handle catastrophic casualties from war, earthquakes, or other disasters. The civilian network was in place during the 1991 Gulf War, but government hospitals were able to accommodate the roughly 500 U.S. combat injuries.**

Source: http://newsobserver.com/nc24hour/ncnews/story/2326832p-21822_03c.html

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Government Sector

20. *March 17, Washington Post* — **FBI has war plans to mobilize agents against terrorists.** U.S. intelligence and counterterrorism experts are in broad agreement that a war in Iraq will dramatically increase the chances of terrorist attacks against U.S. targets. Attorney General John D. Ashcroft told a House subcommittee earlier this month that "the FBI is prepared to act to defend America, including the possibility of a war against Iraq. Thousands of FBI agents, here and abroad, are working day and night." During the Persian Gulf War, Iraqi agents in Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines failed in amateurish attempts to bomb U.S. facilities, leading to the widespread view within Western intelligence circles that Hussein's regime is not adept at overseas terror operations. **Yet U.S. officials say they are alarmed by a case last month in the Philippines, where a high-ranking Iraqi diplomat was expelled after allegedly having contact with members of the Abu Sayyaf terror group. The Iraqi government dismissed the allegations as U.S. propaganda.** Bruce Hoffman, a Rand Corp. terrorism expert, said, "It's only prudent to think about a spectrum of adversaries" during a new conflict. **"Twelve years ago, we were mostly thinking of a terrorist threat in terms of an overseas or foreign threat, and mainly by Iraqi agents," Hoffman said. "The world has changed a great deal since then, and there are more threats than ever to worry about."**

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A35147-2003Mar_16.html

21. *March 17*, — **U.S. orders personnel out of Mideast.** The State Department ordered family members of **U.S. government employees and all nonessential personnel to immediately depart Israel, Syria and Kuwait.** Spokesman Lou Finton said the decision to issue the order Sunday evening was reached after consultations with the mission chiefs in each of the areas. "We do not have threat information specific to these areas," he said. "We believe that a move to ordered departure status at this time represents a prudent measure as we prepare for various contingencies in the region, including the possibility of commercial air service disruptions should military action against Iraq become necessary." **He added that the decision "results from an overall assessment of the security situation in the region at this time, a rise in anti-American sentiment in the region and the potential for violence and terrorist action against American targets, especially as the international community continues to discuss the possibility of military action against Iraq."**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A37477-2003Mar 17.html>

22. *March 17, Department of Homeland Security* — **Operation Liberty Shield: Statement by Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.** The Department of Homeland Security in consultation with the Homeland Security Council, has made the decision to raise the national threat level from an Elevated to High risk of terrorist attack or Level Orange. The Intelligence Community believes that terrorists will attempt multiple attacks against U.S. and Coalition targets worldwide in the event of a U.S. – led military campaign against Saddam Hussein. **A large volume of reporting across a range of sources, some of which are highly reliable, indicates that Al-Qaida probably would attempt to launch terrorist attacks against U.S. interests claiming they were defending Muslims or the "Iraqi people" rather than Saddam Hussein's regime.** Intelligence reporting also indicates that while Al-Qaida and those sympathetic to their cause are a principal threat, **Iraqi state agents, Iraqi surrogate groups, other regional extremist organizations, and ad hoc groups or disgruntled individuals not connected to existing organizations or state agencies, may use this time period to conduct terrorist attacks against the U.S., or our interests abroad.** In recent months, there have been reports of suspicious activity in and around military facilities, ports, waterways, general infrastructure (bridges, dams, power generating facilities), and targets that are considered symbolic to U.S. power and influence. **The Department of Homeland Security, in conjunction with numerous departments of the federal government has begun implementing increased protective measures under a comprehensive national plan to protect the Homeland: "Operation Liberty Shield."** Operation Liberty Shield will increase security at our borders, strengthen transportation sector protections, enhance security at our critical infrastructure, increase public health preparedness and make sure all federal response assets can be deployed quickly. Secretary Ridge has asked the nation's Governors to deploy the National Guard or additional police forces to improve security at critical locations throughout their states. Other state, local and private sector leaders are also being contacted to engage their support to increase the nation's security.

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_re lease_0117.xml

23. *March 16, Time* — **With war looming in Iraq, U.S. intelligence officials worry about attacks from Hamas in this country.** The heightened concern was sparked by the bellicose declarations of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, Hamas' spiritual leader, who last month denounced the Bush Administration's threats to disarm Iraq by force as "a new crusade against the Muslim nation." **Yassin's call for Muslims worldwide to "strike Western interests ... everywhere"**

marked a sharp departure from his movement's long-held belief that attacks on Americans would undercut Palestinian hopes of keeping U.S. pressure on Israel. FBI agents suspect that there are Hamas sympathizers among the 1,000 Islamic extremists they are monitoring in the U.S. **Worried that a U.S.–Iraq war will radicalize other young Muslims living in the U.S., FBI behavioral scientists are searching for psychological cues that someone could become a suicide bomber.** Additionally, federal and local law-enforcement officers are closely tracking thefts of explosives, such as those used in Hamas backpack bombs, and unusual sales of fertilizer, chemicals and fuel that could be used to make a truck bomb. **In January a delegation of senior bureau officials and big-city police chiefs traveled to Israel to swap intelligence. The talks "impressed on me the absolute necessity for the public's participation in reporting suspicious activity and events," says FBI Assistant Director Van Harp, head of the Washington field office. He and other top bureau hands have been meeting with Arab, Muslim and Sikh leaders to solicit tips about potential suspects in emigre communities—and to promise that hate crimes against their communities will be aggressively pursued.**

Source: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1101030324-433210,00.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

24. *March 17, New York Times* — Mayor believes U.S. will pay to aid police. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said on Sunday that he believed the federal government would give New York City more money to help its Police Department enact a sweeping plan to keep the city safe from terrorism if and when the United States attacks Iraq. The New York Police Department, which has been shrinking because of budget cuts, has come up with a security plan – called Operation Atlas – that calls for more officers at sensitive locations and additional coordination between the department's elite and heavily armed units. Under the plan, the Defense Department would patrol the skies over the city with combat planes. **A police official said that the plan was likely to cost the city an additional \$5 million a week, mostly in overtime, when the city faces a \$3.4 billion budget gap. The Police Department has already lost a few thousand positions to attrition to save money: the force has shrunk from 40,710 officers in 2001 to about 36,500 now.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/17/nyregion/17YORK.html>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

25. *March 17, Department of Homeland Security* — Unchecked buffer in Microsoft Internet Information Server (IIS), Advisory 03–005. A security vulnerability is present in a Windows component used by WebDAV. A buffer overflow vulnerability exists in Microsoft IIS 5.0 running on Microsoft Windows 2000. Microsoft Windows 2000 and IIS Version 5.0 support the World Wide Web Distributed Authoring and Versioning (WebDAV) protocol. IIS 5.0 is installed and running by default on Microsoft Windows 2000 server products. **An attacker could exploit the vulnerability by sending a specially formed HTTP**

request to a machine running Windows 2000 server and IIS Version 5.0. The request could cause the server to fail or to execute code of the attacker's choice. The code would run in the security context of the IIS service which, by default, runs in the LocalSystem context. Although Microsoft has supplied a patch for this vulnerability and recommends customers install the patch immediately, additional tools and preventive measures have been provided that customers can use to block the exploitation of this vulnerability while they are assessing the impact and compatibility of the patch. As an initial workaround Administrators can implement Microsoft's URL Scan tool to limit the lengths of URLs passed to the IIS system. Administrators are urged to update IDS signature files as relevant signatures become available; monitor FW, IDS, and other perimeter security devices for probes against port 80 and/or attempts to exploit this vulnerability; monitor information sources for additional alerts regarding possible attack activity; and report any relevant activity (increased port 80 probing or activity, web server crashes, etc.) to your agency Incident Response Capability and FedCIRC. The patch and additional information about this vulnerability are available on the Microsoft Website in Microsoft Security Bulletin MS03-007: Unchecked Buffer In Windows Component Could Cause Web Server Compromise: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/security/bulletin/MS03-007.asp> See also CERT Advisory CA-2003-09: Buffer Overflow in Microsoft IIS 5.0 available at <http://www.cert.org/advisories/CA-2003-09.html> Source: <http://www.nipc.gov/warnings/advisories/2003/03-005.htm>

26. *March 17, Computer Weekly* — **U.S. diplomatic site hacked by anti-war protestors. The website of the American Academy of Diplomacy (www.academyofdiplomacy.org) was hacked into Sunday while U.S., U.K. and Spanish leaders met at the Azores summit to discuss the crisis over Iraq.** A message of "No War" was plastered over the site by hacking group "Rooting Sabotage Forced". Other messages on the site included protests over the Israeli-Palestinian situation. **With a war on Iraq thought to be as little as days away digital attacks on American and British business and government targets remain at an all-time high,** according to the British-based digital risk specialist mi2G. For 12 months, the number of independently verifiable digital attacks on the US stand at 48,155 and for the UK they stand at 7,607 according to the mi2g SIPS database. In comparison, the number of attacks recorded over the same period for France was 3,082.
Source: <http://www.cw360.com/articles/article.asp?liArticleID=120176=1>

27. *March 15, Washington Post* — **Student charged with hacking at U-Texas.** Federal prosecutors charged a University of Texas student Friday with breaking into a school database and stealing more than 55,000 student, faculty and staff names and Social Security numbers in one of the nation's biggest cases of data theft involving a university. **Christopher Andrew Phillips, 20, a junior who studies natural sciences, turned himself in at the U.S. Secret Service office in Austin. He was charged with unauthorized access to a protected computer and using false identification with intent to commit a federal offense.** Authorities had announced the cyber-theft last week. **There is no evidence that Phillips disseminated or used the information,** officials said. Phillips was released without bail and will have "limited access to computers," Johnny Sutton, U.S. attorney for western Texas, said at a news conference. If convicted, Phillips faces as many as five years in prison and a \$500,000 fine, Sutton said.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A27370-2003Mar_14.html

28. *March 14, Government Computer News* — Telecom advisory group finishes work on best security practices. The Network Reliability and Interoperability Council (NRIC) completed work Friday on a set of best practices to ensure the security and availability of the nation's communications infrastructure. During its quarterly meeting, industry working groups chartered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) presented 162 recommendations for steps to be taken by network operators, manufacturers and service providers to help with service restoration in the event of man-made or natural disruptions. The recommendations will be voted on by the entire council by March 28. NRIC was created as an industry advisory committee in 1992, and received its most recent charter from FCC chairman Michael Powell in January 2002. **NRIC VI focuses on homeland security** and was charged with coming up with a set of voluntary best practices for network security and survivability. Approval of recommendations made Friday would complete the first phase of the council's current work. The second phase is education and outreach to encourage use of the best practices. **Practices recommended for adoption Friday focus on restoring service after attacks on or damage to physical or cyber links.**

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21401-1.html

29. *March 11, SC Infosecurity News* — Korean government opens anti-hacking and virus hotline. The Korea Information Security Agency (KISA) has teamed up with 13 major ISPs and other internet bodies in Korea to create a national anti-hacking and virus hotline and information service. Their aim is to take rapid action in the event of a cyberattack. KISA, which is affiliated with the Korean government's Ministry of Information and Communication, defines a network emergency as where the volume of Korean internet traffic varies by 20 per cent internationally and 50 per cent nationally, within the space of five minutes. **All Korean ISPs and internet data centers (IDCs) in Korea are expected to report their operational status twice a day to the hotline, as well as keeping the hotline staff informed of their status and countermeasures taken in the event of a network emergency.**

Source: http://www.infosecnews.com/sgold/news/2003/03/11_01.htm

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 2 out of 4 https://etoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 2 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: W97M_SMAC.F 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	80 (www), 137 (netbios-ns), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 113 (ident), 445 (microsoft-ds), 25 (smtp), 139 (netbios-ssn), 53 (domain), 8330 (----),

Ports	0 (---) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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