



National Infrastructure Protection Center

NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 07 March 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The News Tribune reports the Northwest's only nuclear power plant has been shut down for repairs which could harm the region's hydroelectric capacity and the power administration's shaky budget. (See item [2](#))
- Reuters reports industry experts said on Wednesday that the U.S. energy network could be vulnerable to a hacker attack through its interlinked computer systems. (See item [3](#))
- The American Trucking Associations, through their Highway Watch program, issued a nationwide alert to truck drivers on Wednesday asking them to continue taking steps to ensure their safety and the security of their vehicles. (See item [15](#))
- The American Statesman reports computer hackers have obtained the names, Social Security numbers, and e-mail addresses of about 59,000 current and former students, faculty members and staff at the University of Texas at Austin, in one of the largest cases of potential identity theft ever reported. (See item [26](#))

NIPC Update *Fast Jump*

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

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Energy Sector

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

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

1. *March 06, Reuters* — OPEC spare capacity squeeze as war looms. As war clouds darken over Iraq oil markets are obsessing over whether or not OPEC is able to cover a supply crunch and prevent the need for consumer countries to tap emergency strategic reserves. Optimists say the producer group will be able to shoulder the supply burden alone because the

world's thirst for oil will ease during spring. "OPEC will have more than enough capacity to cover a loss in Iraqi exports plus a small outage in Kuwaiti supplies," said Gary Ross of New York consultancy PIRA Energy. "That's because the excess capacity of Saudi Arabia and the UAE will combine with a seasonal decline in oil demand of 2–2.5 million barrels per day in the second quarter." Pessimists, however, say oil markets will remain unconvinced in the stressful early days of battle. **And world consumers have cause for concern if they look only at the spare capacity figures of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. Two output increases this year to cover shortages from strike-hit Venezuela have left the cartel with a cushion of just two million bpd, a Reuters survey estimates. That is just enough to cover a break in Iraqi oil exports.**

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story28306/ts_nm/energy_opec_capacity_dc

2. *March 06, The News Tribune (Tacoma, WA)* — **Shut down of Hanford, Washington, nuclear power plant could hurt bottom line . The Northwest's only nuclear power plant has been shut down for repairs, and that could harm the region's hydroelectric capacity and the Bonneville Power Administration's shaky budget. Columbia Generating Station near Hanford, WA, a 1,300-megawatt nuclear generator, was shut down Friday night under federal regulations because of problems with a diesel backup generator. Since then, Bonneville has been drafting water through Grand Coulee Dam to make up the difference. "It's a terrible time to lose that plant," Bonneville spokesman Ed Mosey said Monday. Power was selling for \$70 a megawatt hour Monday on the Mid-Columbia Exchange. Bonneville's budget is based on selling surplus energy for about \$50. A megawatt hour of electricity would power the average Tacoma home for about a month. The nuclear plant staff has been struggling with its emergency generator for weeks now. The plant must have six sources of backup power if the plant were to be shut down for some nuclear occurrence, said Don McManman, spokesman for Energy Northwest, which owns the plant.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3690657

3. *March 06, Reuters* — **U.S. energy network seen vulnerable to hackers. The U.S. energy network could be vulnerable to a hacker attack through its interlinked computer systems, causing heavy damage to the already weak economy, government and industry experts said on Wednesday.** "The whole energy system is being run on a cyber system," Abbie Layne, project manager at the Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory, told an electricity industry conference in Houston. "You can do a lot of damage just through a quick strong strike to that cyber system," she said. **A successful attack on computer networks that support the electricity system could have devastating economic impact if a "cascading" shutdown hobbled the grid of power lines, possibly shutting off the lights in a region.** "If we lose this infrastructure...we could have a lot of damage to our economy," Layne said.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N05213868>

4. *March 05, The Sun (Port Charlotte, FL)* — **Increased fuel costs lead to higher electric rates in Florida.** Based on a spike in fuel costs, the state agency which regulates utilities approved a rate increase for Florida's three largest electric companies Tuesday. The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) will reconsider the mid-year fuel adjustment, at its regular fuel hearings in November. **"You have the largest oil strike ever in Venezuela, unusual cold weather in North America and Canada increasing demand for natural gas and the threat of war in the Middle East,"** PSC spokesperson Kevin Bloom said. "You put all those together, the

rate adjustment was unavoidable." Under the changes, which begin in the April billing period, Florida Power & Light (FPL) residential customers, including those in Charlotte and Sarasota counties, will see a \$4.75 increase from \$76.85 to \$81.60 for every 1,000 kilowatt hours of use. FPL commercial rates will increase 7.3 percent and industrial rates will rise 11.6 percent. Customers with Progress Energy Florida and the Tampa Electric Co. will also see rate increases. Bloom said under state law, utility companies operate under a "straight pass-through" system and cannot make a profit. "If during the year, the cost projections drop back down, than customers will see a refund in November," he said. **But if costs rise higher, the PSC will likely need to raise rates again at the November meeting.** FPL serves 4 million accounts in the state and approximately 8 million people.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3690468

5. *March 04, Platts Global Energy News* — **Two contractors set off radioactive alarms at Susquehanna. Two contractors set off radioactivity alarms at Susquehanna (located near Berwick, PA) on March 3. Joe Scopelliti, a spokesman for plant operator PPL Susquehanna, said today the company did not believe that the radioactive material, which was found on the workers' clothes as they were leaving the plant after their first day of work, had originated there,** since the workers had not entered the plant's radiological controlled area (RCA). PPL said the contractors' previous job was at a plant in Sweden, but Scopelliti did not know which plant it was. **Scopelliti was not able to explain fully how the workers could have passed through at least two international airports without having the radiation detected, although he emphasized that the radiation was only slightly above background levels.** He said PPL had completed its investigation, which involved surveys of the RCA, the contractors' office area, and off-site areas, and found the areas to be free of contamination. A notice in the NRC's daily event notification report identified the radionuclides as cobalt-60 and manganese-54.

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

6. *March 06, Los Angeles Times* — **A market in missiles for terror.** The availability of portable SAMs on world markets is a growing concern to government officials. **In February, the British government deployed about 450 troops at London's Heathrow Airport after intelligence agencies reported a possible al Qaeda plan to use portable SAMs against civilian flights.** Three months earlier, suspected al Qaeda operatives fired two missiles at an Israeli charter flight taking off from Mombasa, Kenya, with 271 people aboard. The missiles, fired just minutes after a suicide car-bomb attack on an Israeli-owned hotel in Mombasa, were 30-year-old Russian Strelas. They missed their target. **In the wake of the Mombasa incident, concern in Washington has heightened. Representatives from the Department of**

Homeland Security, intelligence agencies, the Pentagon's Northern Command and even NORAD, the joint U.S.–Canadian missile–tracking agency, have been meeting several times a month to map out a series of defensive measures. Airport security directors are meeting with their neighbors to explain how to spot suspicious activities, and the task force is weighing the cost and benefits of various countermeasures. On the international front, the U.S. is pressing allies to develop a global plan, akin to efforts to disrupt terrorist financing, for preventing terrorists from obtaining portable SAMs. **Portable SAMs have turned up on black markets from Latin America to the Middle East to the former Soviet bloc.** Sarkis Soghanalian, an Armenian–born Lebanese arms broker who has a long history of covert weapons deals, including some at the request of the CIA, says Ukraine and Yemen are among many places where portable SAMs can be easily purchased. "Buyers can get whatever they want," Soghanalian said in a recent phone call from the Jordanian capital, Amman. "There are many brokers who are hungry for money, and they can arrange those deals."

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-sams6mar06.1.782125.story?coll=la%2Dhome%2Dheadlines>

7. *March 06, New York Times* — **Two companies pay penalties for improving China rockets.** Two leading American aerospace companies have agreed to pay a record \$32 million in penalties to settle civil charges that they unlawfully transferred rocket and satellite data to China in the 1990's. **The agreement, which was completed on Tuesday and released on Wednesday, comes two months after the State Department accused the companies, Hughes Electronics Corporation, a unit of General Motors, and Boeing Satellite Systems of 123 violations of export laws in connection with the Chinese data transfers.** The companies also said they "acknowledge the nature and seriousness of the offenses charged by the Department of State, including the harm such offenses could cause to the security and foreign policy interests of the United States." **The technology used to launch civilian rockets and satellites is similar to that used to launch missiles so there are tight curbs – mostly administered by the State Department – on the export of satellites, aerospace equipment and related defense services.** The Chinese have always insisted that their rocket and missile programs did not need help from American companies. But a string of Chinese rocket failures in the 1990's ended only after American companies transferred data on guidance systems, telemetry, aerodynamics, and rocket failures.
- Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/06/international/asia/06SPAC.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *March 06, Reuters* — **Visa moves to prevent ID theft.** Visa USA said Thursday it will stop merchants that take Visa payments from displaying all but the last four digits of a card number on receipts in an effort to thwart a surge in financial identity theft. "Identity thieves thrive on discarded receipts and documents containing consumers' information such as payment account numbers, addresses, Social Security numbers, and more. Visa's new policy will protect consumers by limiting the information these thieves can access," Visa USA CEO Carl Pascarella told a press conference. **The credit–card issuer wants all merchants taking Visa card payments to remove the first 12 digits of the card number and its expiration date from receipts by July 2006. New terminals that process payment by Visa cards will be**

outfitted with the information–masking printout set–up beginning in July, the company said.

Source: <http://money.cnn.com/2003/03/06/news/companies/visa.reut/#>

9. *March 06, Associated Press* — **Two men arrested for allegedly stealing \$136,000 from bank using Internet. Two Japanese men were arrested for allegedly hacking into bank accounts through the Internet and stealing \$136,000**, police said Thursday. Police suspect 35–year–old Ko Hakata, a former computer software developer who is now unemployed, and Goro Nakahashi, a 27–year–old businessman, robbed the unidentified bank's accounts from a computer at a Tokyo cafe Sept. 18. **The men allegedly downloaded software from the Internet that detects what keys previous users of the computer punched, police said. They then figured out the passwords that five people had used to access their bank accounts online, and transferred a total of \$141,000 from those accounts to another bank**, police said. Using an alias, Nakahashi allegedly withdrew \$136,000, police said.

Source: <http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/5331143.htm>

10. *February 27, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network* — **FinCEN releases fifth SAR activity review.** The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) continued its examination of terrorist financing methods in the fifth issue of The SAR Activity Review – Trends, Tips and Issues released on Friday, February 27th. **This latest issue of The Review looks at terrorist financing methods through Informal Value Transfer Systems (IVTS) such as hawalas, as well as through non–profit organizations. The Review also contains a preliminary look at money laundering vulnerabilities and indicators of suspicious activity in financial institutions from a broad mix of financial industry sectors.** Anti–money laundering program rules required by Section 352 of the USA PATRIOT Act are in the initial proposal stages for some of these sectors which include insurance companies, travel agencies, automobile and boat dealers and certain segments of the securities industries. Other financial businesses such as pawnbrokers, hedge funds and investment companies are still being studied and may be subject to these rules in the future. SAR: <http://www.fincen.gov/sarreviewissue5.pdf>

Source: http://www.fincen.gov/fifth_sar_review_news_release.pdf

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Transportation Sector

11. *March 07, Washington Post* — **Algerian jet crashes in desert, killing 102. An Algerian passenger jet crashed deep in the Sahara shortly after takeoff Thursday afternoon, killing 102 people aboard, according to airline officials and news reports. There was one survivor.** The plane, a Boeing 737–200 operated by Air Algerie, Algeria's state–run national carrier, had taken off from the town of Tamanrasset at about 3:45 p.m. en route to the capital, Algiers, about 1,000 miles north. An airline spokesman told news agencies that **the plane experienced mechanical difficulties as it was taking off**, but he gave no further details. The spokesman, Hamid Khamdi, said there was **"no element that leads us to think there was a terrorist attack,"** Agence France–Presse reported.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A53560–2003Mar_6.html

12. *March 06, Daily Press (Virginia)* — **U.S. Coast Guard plan would beach harbor's pleasure boats.** Local U.S. Coast Guard officials are developing a **plan to ban recreational boating in the heart of Hampton Roads harbor in the event of the highest level terrorist threat.** The restricted area would start at the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay – between the Eastern Shore and the tip of Virginia Beach – and extend to the James River Bridge and the Back River on each side of the Peninsula. **The ban would be triggered by a specific terrorist threat against the port of Hampton Roads or if the Coast Guard nationally moved to Maritime Security Condition 3** – equivalent to "Code Red" or "Severe" in the government's new five–point, color–coded threat scale. **The Coast Guard's strategy is designed to prevent terrorists from using pleasure boats to set off bombs near Navy ships, the area's bridges and tunnels, or other sensitive areas. It's also designed to prevent terrorists from hijacking ships and crashing them into those targets.** The Coast Guard also is developing a system in which **Coast Guard personnel would ride more commercial cargo ships into the harbor in the event of a Code Red.** Lawrence M. Brooks, the Coast Guard's port captain, said that, ideally, he would like to have Coast Guard personnel board and ride all container ships and cargo ships in and out of the harbor in the event of a Code Red. Now, only about 2 percent of container ships are ridden in, Brooks said, although **all ships carrying oil, gas, or other flammable cargo get such treatment. If many more ships must be boarded and searched, there likely would be delays in container and commercial shipping traffic in the port.**

Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/yahoo/dp-63632sy0mar06.story>

13. *March 06, Boston Globe* — **Massport head tries to recoup cost of bag screening system.** As the first major airport in the nation to install electronic explosive detection systems for all checked baggage, Logan International Airport earned the praise of politicians and the envy of other airports. **Now, the airport is facing another first: how to get fully reimbursed for the \$146 million it spent to build the system.** Massachusetts Port Authority executive director Craig P. Coy is scheduled to testify today before a subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to ask for federal assistance. The agency's revenues, like those of the airline industry, have deteriorated with the soft economy and fallout from the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. **Flights are down more than 20 percent at Logan,** and Massport has deferred numerous capital projects, from gates in the expanded international terminal to a new US Customs and Immigration hall in Terminal B. **The Transportation Security Administration is paying for the screening machines, which cost about \$1 million each, and the staff to operate them. There are 44 such van–sized machines at Logan.** Massport has already received \$30 million in federal funds for the system, but needs another \$116 million, Coy said. **Massport paid for 85,000 square feet of new buildings and 55,000 square feet of renovated space used to house the screening systems. In all, Massport built about 2.8 miles of new baggage conveyer belts in 4–foot sections to comply with the baggage screening requirement.** Officials said there are three scenarios in which airports could be compensated for the construction costs: **establish a new ticket tax; increase landing fees at the nation's airports; or reimbursement from the federal government.**

Source: http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/065/nation/Massport_head_tries_to_recoup_cost_of_bag_screening_system+.shtml

14. *March 06, Jersey Journal* — **Reports of suspicious activity can be called in to Port Authority tip line.** The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department is asking citizens to use a new tip line to report any suspicious activity they see while

traveling on the interstate agency's several transportation links. The agency operates the PATH trains and the Lincoln and Holland tunnels, as well as John F. Kennedy International, Newark Liberty International and LaGuardia airports. **Travelers can reach the new tip line by dialing 800-828-PAPD (7273).**

Source: http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/index.ssf?base/news-0/10469_4918953880.xml

15. *March 05, American Trucking Associations* — **Truck drivers get updated alert for possible terrorist activities. The American Trucking Associations issued a nationwide alert to truck drivers on Wednesday asking them to continue taking steps to ensure their safety and the security of their vehicles.** The alert was issued through ATA's Highway Watch program and sent out to all drivers currently enrolled in the program. The text of the alert read: "This is a Highway Watch alert. Information obtained by U.S. intelligence sources following the recent arrest of al Qaeda operative, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind behind the 9-11 attacks, indicates that al Qaeda has actively considered large-scale terrorist operations involving the use of trucks as weapons of mass destruction to attack bridges and other points in the transportation infrastructure. Even though the national threat condition was recently reduced from HIGH (condition ORANGE) to ELEVATED (condition YELLOW), it is important for you to be vigilant in maintaining the safety and security of your load and be sure to report any suspicious activity to the Highway Watch hotline. Remember your training: Observe, Challenge and Report!" **Under ATA's Anti-Terrorism Action Plan, professional truck drivers are being trained to spot and report any suspicious activities that might have terrorism or national security implications. Their goal is to make certain a truck is never used as a weapon.** Initially, truck drivers report security-related sightings to an industry-sponsored "800" number. The information is then screened and assigned immediately to appropriate federal and state authorities for prompt action. **A full-fledged Highway Watch Operations Center is planned for the next phase of the security action plan.**

Source: http://www.truckline.com/insideata/press/030603_hwalert.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *March 06, Bloomberg* — **Antwerp port joins U.S. pre-screening of boxes plan. Five U.S. Customs officers have started working in Antwerp, the world's third-largest container port, to prevent terrorist arms or explosives from being shipped to the U.S.** Belgian Finance Minister Didier Reynders said the Container Security Initiative program, which eight European Union countries have joined since June, will speed up international container shipments. About 115,000 sea cargo containers entered the U.S. from Antwerp last year, according to U.S. customs.

Source: http://business-times.asia1.com.sg/sub/shippingtimes/story/0_4574,74526,00.html?

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Agriculture Sector

17.

March 06, Daily Press — **Newcastle Disease hits High Desert. Exotic Newcastle Disease, a deadly avian virus, that has so far caused 3 million bird deaths in California has hit the High Desert, officials from a combined state and federal task force confirmed Wednesday. In numbers that fluctuated throughout the day, Adrian Woodfork, spokesman for the Exotic Newcastle Disease Task Force, said late Wednesday there were a "few" cases found in backyard coops in Hesperia.** Officials from the task force asked feed stores in the High Desert to stop buying or selling any type of poultry over the weekend, because the highly infectious disease, which started in a backyard coop in Compton, has grown tremendously in California and has hit Nevada and Arizona. Already, several hundred thousand chickens have been "de-populated," or killed, in San Bernardino County by order of agriculture officials. However, until Wednesday's notice, the High Desert had been spared the ravages of the virus. Source: <http://www.vvdailypress.com/cgi-bin/newspro/viewnews.cgi?newsid1046970281.38624>.

18. *March 06, Associated Press* — **More bison sent to slaughter. Dozens more bison from Yellowstone National Park were loaded onto trucks Wednesday at a capture facility in Montana and sent to slaughter, the National Park Service said. That brings to 133 the number of bison slaughtered this winter after wandering into Montana, where they are unwanted because many are infected with the contagious disease brucellosis. It causes domestic cattle to abort and can cause undulant fever in humans. The park service said 86 more bison remain in the Stephens Creek capture facility awaiting slaughter, and hazing and capture operations may continue in coming days.** Source: http://www.helenair.com/articles/2003/03/06/montana/a0503060_3_02.txt

19. *March 05, Associated Press* — **FDA warns against use of arthritis drug in farm animals. Residue found in dairy cattle carcasses from an arthritis drug that can cause anemia and other blood disorders has led federal regulators to warn against using it on farm animals. Gloria Dunnavan, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) compliance official, said Monday that regulators have issued an order prohibiting the use of phenylbutazone, an arthritis drug, on livestock. The order emphasizes regulations on the books since 1996. Officials have not heard of anyone getting sick from eating meat containing traces of the drug, Dunnavan said. Meat samples taken by the Agriculture Department in 2000 and 2001 tested positive. "I think it was enough for us to feel that this was not an isolated incident," Dunnavan said. "We needed to take the steps to make sure it didn't happen again."** Source: http://newtribune.com/stories/030503/bus_0305030909.asp

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

Public Health Sector

20. *March 06, Washington Post* — **Smallpox compensation proposed. The Bush administration has agreed to a limited compensation package for medical personnel and emergency responders who are made ill by the smallpox vaccine, health officials said Wednesday.** The proposal, drafted by the Department of Health and Human Services and the White House, follows a 1968 law that compensates police officers injured in the line of duty. **Individuals who die or suffer a permanent disability would be eligible for \$262,100 in benefits. Lost wages as a result of temporary or minor illness would be capped at \$50,000 and would be paid only after an individual had missed five days of work.** The same benefits would be available to a hospital patient or family member who becomes ill after contact with an inoculated health care worker.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A48304-2003Mar 5.html>

21. *March 05, New Scientist* — **Superbug strain hits the healthy. A drug-resistant superbug that spreads by skin contact is infecting thousands of people across the U.S. and may now have reached Europe.** Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), can be resistant to many antibiotics. It has long been a serious problem in hospitals and nursing homes, where it infects the wounds of patients weakened by disease or injury. But it now appears that a new strain is emerging that spreads through skin contact and can even infect healthy people. **"We are greatly concerned that MRSA has emerged in the community in people with no ties to healthcare,"** says Scott Fridkin, a medical epidemiologist at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, which has begun investigating the outbreaks. The strain has been spreading in crowded jails but there have also been numerous smaller outbreaks in towns and cities across the U.S. in recent months.

Source: <http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99993460>

Government Sector

22. *March 06, Washington Times* — **Tight regulations slash number of U.S. visas.** The number of U.S. visas issued in countries that sponsor terrorism has dropped dramatically since Congress passed legislation last year tightening visitation procedures. Face-to-face interviews are now required under the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Reform Act passed last May and lead to the decrease in numbers. Officials also said fewer people from those targeted countries are applying for the visas. **According to figures provided by the State Department to The Washington Times, officials have cut the number of visas issued from nations that sponsor terrorism by more than half. From June 1, 2002, through Feb. 23, 2003, nearly 20,000 visas were issued to residents or natives of Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Sudan, North Korea and Cuba. During the same time period of the year previous, June 1, 2001, to Feb. 23, 2002, more than 46,000 visas were issued in those countries.** "The law is improving our national security by carefully assessing the security threat posed by individuals from countries that sponsor terrorism," said Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr., Wisconsin Republican and

chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/national/20030306-30507073.htm>

23. *March 06, Associated Press* — **Forest Service deficit could reach \$1 billion in bad wildfire season.** The Forest Service could face a deficit of close to \$1 billion if this summer's fire season is anywhere close to last year's outbreak, the agency's chief said on Wednesday. The recently enacted budget allocates the Forest Service about \$420 million to fight fires -- nearly \$1 billion less than officials spent last year during one of the worst fire seasons on record. "borrowed" from other accounts. **In testimony before the House Appropriations interior subcommittee, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth said the agency is struggling to develop a long-term solution to a perennial problem: finding enough money to put out hundreds of wildfires each year. In most cases, the agency transfers money from other accounts to pay for firefighting -- a practice lawmakers from both parties have criticized and the agency has repeatedly promised to fix.** "The worst thing we could do is be back in a situation like last year," Bosworth said. "It's absolutely crazy to continue year after year wondering if we have to transfer money to cover fire costs." **Yet, with another dry summer forecast throughout much of the West, Bosworth acknowledged that a repeat of last year seems likely.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A47867-2003Mar 5.html>

24. *March 06, Northwest Indiana Times* — **Indiana unveils homeland security strategy.** Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan on Wednesday unveiled Indiana's Strategy for Homeland Security. The 51-page document, which mirrors the national strategy for homeland security, is considered a "blueprint" for taking counter-terrorism and domestic security measures to the next level. "It establishes protocols for cooperation between local, state and federal government agencies, recognizing that joint efforts are our best efforts," Kernan said. **The plan, developed over the last 18 months by working groups of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Council, or C-TASC, delves into strategies involving agro-security, transportation, heavy industry and utility, event and facility security, and bioterrorism and hospital preparedness. The objective was to prevent terrorist acts and formulate response plans, should an incident happen in Indiana.**

Source: http://www.nwitimes.com/articles/2003/03/06/news/region_and_state/8c0ac17ed28143fd86256ce100184479.txt

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Emergency Services Sector

25. *March 06, The Daily Mississippian*, — **Counter-terrorism focus of meeting.** Counter-terrorism initiatives are the focal point of an on-campus closed meeting this week in Mississippi. David Crews, who works for the U.S. Department of Justice on an anti-terrorism task force, is one of the seminar's speakers, along with detectives from Scotland Yard of London. **Crews said the seminar is a two-day, counter-terrorism seminar with a lot of in-depth case studies involving terrorist activities and how to combat terrorist forces. The main focus of the seminar is on groups such as Irish Republican Army and Al-Qaida, but other groups would be discussed. Most seminar participants are Mississippi law enforcement officers, but members of other law enforcement departments also attended.**

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

26. *March 06, American Statesman* — Hackers steal vital data about university students and staff. Computer hackers have obtained the names, Social Security numbers, and e-mail addresses of about 59,000 current and former students, faculty members and staff at the University of Texas at Austin in one of the largest cases of potential identity theft ever reported. Authorities do not know whether the information has been put to illegal uses such as obtaining credit cards or withdrawing money from financial accounts. Law enforcement officials were expected to obtain and execute search warrants late Wednesday in Austin and Houston at homes where computers are thought to have been used in the cyberspace break-in. **UT officials said the computer breach could easily have been prevented with basic precautions, adding that the incident will prompt them to redouble security measures and to accelerate a plan to phase out most uses of Social Security numbers on campus. The university has set up a Web site – www.utexas.edu/datatheft – where it plans to post information.** A telephone hot line will also be established, possibly staffed round the clock seven days a week, said Don Hale, vice president for public affairs. The university has reported the theft to the FBI, the Austin Police Department, the Travis County district attorney's office and other authorities.

Source: <http://www.austin360.com/aas/metro/030603/0306uthack.html>

27. *March 04, eSecurity Planet.com* — Survey says U.S. firms unprepared for disasters. A large percentage of U.S. companies are unprepared to face business and IT outages caused by a severe calamity, according to the results of a survey released by research firm Gartner Dataquest Tuesday. **The survey found that one third of U.S. businesses face the loss of critical data or operational capability in the wake of a disaster, unless investments toward disaster preparedness planning are made.** Tony Adams, principal analyst for Gartner Dataquest's IT Services group, said "Preparation is the key, and **without adequate investment for protection of critical systems, the repercussions of disasters will be lengthier and more costly.**" But cost is one of the primary reasons many of the companies surveyed cited for not having a disaster preparedness plan. "IT managers are not investing appropriately in disaster plans because they do not have a budget to accomplish their needed readiness," Adams said. Most disaster preparedness experts say that **sophisticated real-time remote backup capabilities are the foundation of disaster recovery plans.** In other words, it's all about redundancy. In the wake of September 11, 2001, Lee Clarke, associate professor of Sociology at Rutgers University — and an expert in organizations, technology and disasters — told Internetnews.com that the **redundancy must be "meaningful."** For instance, Clarke noted that **many of the organizations in the World Trade Center had their disaster facilities in one of the other towers or buildings that were part of the complex.**

Source: <http://www.esecurityplanet.com/trends/article.php/2026551>

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 2 out of 4 https://gtoc.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: 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	137 (netbios-ns), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 80 (www), 113 (ident), 445 (microsoft-ds), 139 (netbios-ssn), 25 (smtp), 135 (epmap), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 65032 (---) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

28. *March 06, New York Times* — **Muslim separatist group is tied to Philippine bombing.**

Investigators in the southern city of Davao said on Thursday that they had evidence that a Muslim separatist group was behind an airport bombing on Tuesday and that the bomber himself was among the 21 people who were killed. **A spokesman for the defense department said he believed that the bomb exploded prematurely, killing the bomber, Muntazer Sudang, 23. He is a member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the Philippines' main separatist group, which is at war with the military now. "What is confirmed here is he is an M. I. L. F. member," the spokesman, Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, said. "The investigators are now theorizing that he was the bomber." Davao is the main city on Mindanao, the largest of the country's southern Islands, where various armed groups have carried out bombings, kidnappings and other attacks. A smaller rebel group, Abu Sayyaf, claimed responsibility for Tuesday's bombing and the Liberation Front denied it. But authorities said they did not believe either one.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/06/international/asia/06CND-F ILI.html>

29. *March 06, New York Times* — **Pakistanis say suspect described recent meeting with bin**

Laden. Osama bin Laden was in Pakistan as recently as last month and met there with his chief operational lieutenant, Pakistani security officials said today. **The officials said material seized on Saturday during the arrest of the lieutenant, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, showed that Mohammed met with bin Laden sometime in February, possibly in Rawalpindi, the city adjacent to Islamabad where Mohammed was discovered on Saturday. "There is now no doubt that he is alive and well," a senior Pakistani government official said of bin Laden in an interview. "We have documents that show he is alive and in this region." Officials in Washington said today that they knew of no specific information that would show the two men had recently met. But they saw a meeting between the terrorist leader and his main lieutenant as plausible and said it would suggest not only that bin**

Laden remained in charge of the terror organization but also that planning was under way for a major attack.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/06/international/asia/06OSAM.html>

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