



National Infrastructure Protection Center

NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 11 March 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- According to a Time magazine report, Iran has a nuclear program that is far more advanced than has been previously disclosed, to the point that it violates the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. (See item [2](#))
- The General Accounting Office has published report GAO-03-526T, titled "Weapons of Mass Destruction: Observations on U.S. Threat Reduction and Nonproliferation Programs in Russia." (See item [26](#))
- IDG News Service reports that according to an alert posted by anti-virus company F-Secure, a new worm, W32/Deloder-A, which is believed to have originated in China, appeared on Sunday but is considered a low risk for infection. (See item [27](#))
- Time Magazine reports federal investigators are examining the links between Islamic fundamentalists and the Internet, with militant websites promoting violence against U.S. interests. (See item [28](#))

NIPC Update *Fast Jump*

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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 10, Platts Global Energy News* — OPEC countries currently producing close to their full output. Most OPEC countries are currently producing close to their full crude output capacity and the organization would find it difficult to maintain adequate supplies in the event of a war disrupting output from both Iraq and northern Kuwait, UAE oil minister

Obaid al-Nasseri said Monday. "I think it is very difficult," Nasseri told reporters when asked if OPEC could cope with a twin outage from Iraq and Kuwait's northern oil fields. "I think everyone is producing almost fully," he said. Nasseri was speaking in Vienna a day ahead of OPEC's formal ministerial conference. Asked if ministers might consider suspending formal output quotas, he said: "We have to consider the fundamentals of the market."

Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/home2.html>

2. *March 10, CNN* — **Iran has 'extremely advanced' nuclear program.** According to a Time magazine report, Iran has a nuclear program that is far more advanced than has been previously disclosed. **Citing unnamed diplomatic sources, Time says U.N. weapons inspectors have discovered that Iran's uranium-enrichment facility is "extremely advanced," to the point that it violates the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).** On a visit last month to Iran, Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), visited the facility designed to enrich uranium that Iran is building near Natanz. But diplomatic sources quoted by Time say he found the plant much further advanced than previously believed. The sources say work on the plant is "extremely advanced," involves hundreds of gas centrifuges ready to produce enriched uranium and "the parts for a thousand others ready to be assembled." Iran has confirmed that two facilities, the one in Natanz and another near Arak, are indeed nuclear plants, but it says the country's nuclear program is aimed at building nuclear power plants. **Sources told Time that the IAEA, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, found that Iran has added uranium to some centrifuges as a test -- in "blatant violation" of the NPT, to which Iran is a signatory.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/meast/03/09/iran.nuclear/index.html>

3. *March 09, The Record (Hackensack, NJ)* — **Closing Indian Point nuclear facility may spur activity at other plants.** If critics concerned about safety and terrorism succeed in closing the Indian Point nuclear plants in New York, they might not relish the result: more business for other nuclear plants in the region. **"It would be a market opportunity," says Dave Simon, a spokesman for Exelon, which operates 17 reactors nationwide, including New Jersey's Oyster Creek plant, near Forked River. Oyster Creek, Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, and three other Exelon nuclear facilities in the region would help replace Indian Point's 2,000 megawatts -- enough to supply 2 million homes -- if the embattled plant in Westchester County closes.** The two Indian Point reactors supply power to New York State, New York City, and 13,000 Orange & Rockland Electric customers in Passaic and Sussex counties. The plants' opponents say the nuclear reactors provide terrorists with a tempting target: Seventeen million people -- 6 percent of the U.S. population -- live within 50 miles of Indian Point. In January, a report prepared by a consulting firm headed by former Federal Emergency Management Agency chief James Lee Witt assailed the plants' emergency preparations. Based on those findings, New York Gov. George Pataki took the unprecedented step of refusing to certify the evacuation plans. An adequate emergency plan is a condition of a nuclear plant's license. **Still, only two entities have the authority to close Indian Point, and neither is likely to do so. The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission has never ordered a nuclear plant to close, and Entergy, Indian Point's New Orleans-based owner, has waged a fierce campaign to protect its investments.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3696726

4.

March 08, Associated Press — **Rebels in India kill three, ignite refinery . In a series of pre-dawn raids Saturday, separatist rebels in northeastern Assam state shot and killed three laborers, ignited a huge fire by launching mortars at an oil refinery and used explosives to damage a pipeline.** Members of the separatist United Liberation Front of Asom claimed responsibility for the attacks in the oil-rich region as a show of strength to mark the group's upcoming annual "Soldier's Day," on March 16. Hours before the attack on the village, the separatists allegedly fired mortar rounds at the state-run Digboi refinery, sparking a massive fire in an area surrounded by homes. Officials said they heard at least two loud blasts around midnight, after which oil started gushing out of a tank and caught fire. No casualties were reported and 100 workers were evacuated. **Emergency crews worked to extinguish the fire at the refinery, which is run by the state-run Indian Oil Corporation – a previous rebel target.**

Source: <http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?BRD=1078 ewsid=7304484>>

- March 07, Omaha World – Herald* — **Senators pause on nuclear plant legislation.** Nebraska lawmakers hesitated Thursday on a bill that would allow the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) to hire a private company to manage the Cooper Nuclear Station near Brownville, south of Nebraska City. **In a report released Wednesday, federal regulators concluded that Cooper continues to have management problems. The regulators gave the plant the lowest grade it can get and still remain open.** State Sen. Floyd Vrtiska of Table Rock, whose district includes Cooper, said NPPD is considering contracting with an out-of-state firm, Nuclear Management Co., which has successfully managed six plants in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan. But a change in state law may be needed to allow NPPD to protect Nuclear Management from liability for negligent acts. "This company has lots of expertise in running nuclear power plants," Vrtiska said. "But NPPD still is responsible for what's going to happen to this power plant." **Nebraska's entry into a waste compact ultimately led to a \$151 million federal court judgment against the state after Nebraska officials denied a license for the facility. The state is appealing that ruling.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3697936

- March 07, The News & Observer (Raleigh, NC)* — **Officials call Wake County nuclear plant drill successful. The first emergency preparedness drill at Shearon Harris nuclear power plant, near Raleigh, NC, since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks received superior reviews from federal officials Thursday.** At a public meeting in the plant's visitor center, officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said the plant and local and state emergency management agencies passed a mock disaster drill earlier this week without a hitch. **"It was a successful exercise and met all the federal requirements," FEMA regional assistant chairman Larry Robertson said. To keep its operating license with the NRC, every two years Shearon Harris in southern Wake County must stage a daylong mock disaster to test employees' and emergency agencies' responses. "Like any exercise, we've learned some things we can work on," he told those at Thursday's meeting. Among them, he said: quicker distribution of messages within the emergency operations center.** He said evacuation plans, which have been criticized as outdated and impractical by some local environmental activists and officials, are updated regularly to account for population changes. The evacuation plan for the 10-mile area surrounding the plant was last updated in April 2001, he said.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3697207

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Chemical Sector

7. *March 09, Associated Press* — **Russia to speed up construction of its second chemical weapons destruction facility.** Russia's state commission on chemical disarmament ordered authorities to speed up construction of a second weapons destruction facility to eliminate the country's huge Soviet-era arsenal, an official said Sunday, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency. The facility would be built on the site of a former chemical weapons plant near Kambarka in the Udmurtia region of central Russia. It would be tasked with destroying about 6,360 metric tons (5678.59 tons) of lewisite, an arsenic based fluid, still stored on the site. "The task was set to destroy supplies of lewisite there by April 29, 2007," Nikolai Bezborodov, deputy chairman of the commission and deputy chief of the parliamentary defense committee, was quoted as telling ITAR-Tass. "The date is predetermined." Bezborodov said the construction would be financed in part by German aid of approximately 30 million euros (US\$33 million), ITAR-Tass said. The report did not have any details about when the facility would be constructed or how soon it could begin operating. Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&p_w_o_e_n_g_e/eu_gen_russia_chemical_weapons_1

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *March 10, New York Times* — **Military now often enlists commercial technology.** If the United States invades Iraq, many of the information technologies used by the armed forces would have their origins in commercial rather than military initiatives – a shift from the way the American military traditionally developed the communications used to wage war. **Technology like fiber optic-laced clothing, head-mounted computer displays, global satellite phones, impromptu wireless networks and rugged laptop computers that the military may use in Iraq or future conflicts have largely descended from ideas originally conceived in Silicon Valley and other commercial enclaves.** "The military quit trying to develop anything significant in communications 20 years ago because it took too long and wasn't cheap," said Alan D. Campen, a retired Air Force colonel who has written widely on the use of information technologies in armed conflicts. But marketplace efficiency may or may not translate into a military advantage, Colonel Campen said. **"The greater implications of adapting commercial technologies for the military are still unknown," he said, "because we haven't had much practice putting a lot of information in the hands of low-level troops and then letting higher levels figure out what it means."** Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/10/technology/10GEAR.html>

9. *March 06, Department of Defense* — **Alabama civil support team certified.** The Department of Defense notified Congress today that the Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) from the Alabama National Guard is now certified. This team is fully ready to assist civil authorities respond to a domestic weapon of mass destruction incident and possesses

the requisite skills, training and equipment to be proficient in all mission requirements. **The 46th WMD–CST is stationed in Montgomery, AL The team certified today is part of the five teams authorized in the National Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal 2001. All 27 of the teams authorized in fiscal 1999 and 2000 have already been certified. This brings the total certified teams to 31.**

Source: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2003/b03062003_bt101-03.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *March 11, Washington Post* — **Better records make Alexandria, VA tops in identity theft. The city of Alexandria topped the Federal Trade Commission's list of identity–theft victims in Virginia last year, with 279 people making police reports. The increase in Alexandria reflects better reporting of the problem, which includes crimes more traditionally recorded as credit card fraud or forgery, according to Mary Garrand, the police department's supervisory crime analyst. Identity theft is proving to be a difficult crime to document and crack nationwide, officials said. It is a relatively recent phenomenon that has skyrocketed as the Internet has enabled transmission of personal information worldwide in a matter of seconds and made it accessible to a much wider audience.** Unlike the Alexandria police department, not all law enforcement agencies investigate when a victim reports, for example, that his or her credit card was just used by someone in Barcelona, Spain, well outside their jurisdictions, said Les E. Lauziere, a criminal investigator who works in the computer crimes and technology section of the Virginia Attorney General's Office. **Because not all cases are investigated or are instead classified by traditional labels, the number of documented identity thefts represents the tip of the iceberg,** Lauziere said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A45019-2003Mar 5.html>

11. *March 08, Associated Press* — **Gov't: suspect hid illegal charity role.** An oncologist accused of leading an illegal charity that sent more than \$4 million into Iraq hid his involvement and used some of the money to fund groups that have been tied to terrorism, the government claims in court documents. **The documents were filed this week in support of the Feb. 26 indictment against Dr. Rafil Dhafir, who is among four people charged with conspiring to violate U.S. economic sanctions against Iraq by sending money there through the charity Help The Needy. Sending aid to Iraq, even for charities, is illegal unless the organization has U.S. government approval, which Help The Needy did not, according to federal prosecutors.** The charity lied to donors, too, about being tax–exempt, they said. Federal investigators allege Dhafir, 55, of Fayetteville, directed and controlled the Syracuse–based organization even though he is not named on any of the charity's public documents or bank records.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A63626-2003Mar 8.html>

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Transportation Sector

12. *March 10, Star-Ledger (New Jersey)* — **Airport units to find bombs are sitting idle.** More than two months after most of the nation's 428 other airports met the federal deadline, Newark Liberty International Airport has yet to get all of its huge bomb-detection machines installed and operating. Three of the SUV-sized units, which cost roughly \$1 million apiece, were still draped in plastic coverings last week at Terminal C. Newark was among some two-dozen airports granted a one-year extension from the Dec. 31 deadline set by Congress, officials have confirmed. **The U.S. Transportation Security Administration, which oversees aviation security, says that even though all of the explosive-detection systems are not yet operational at Newark, all bags are being checked for bombs in some ways.** In addition to the explosive-detection systems, bags at Newark are being screened using swabs that detect explosive residue, bomb-dog sniffs and hand searches, as well as the controversial method of electronically matching bags to passengers boarding planes. **Ten months ago, officials acknowledged that the bomb detection machines were so big and heavy that Newark's terminals would have to be reconfigured and floors strengthened to accommodate the units -- at a cost that could exceed \$100 million.**

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/104728032176650.xml>

13. *March 09, Associated Press* — **College shuts foreigners flight program. One of the nation's largest aviation colleges is dismantling its foreign pilot training program, hobbled in the last two years by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and an airline industry slump.** Western Michigan University's College of Aviation will temporarily replace the program, instituted in 1997, with one that trains both American and foreign students. It still will allow students to become certified to fly in either Europe or the United States. **Foreign student enrollment is down this year to 26 students – all of whom will graduate this spring – from a peak of 126 in 1999,** said school spokesman David Thomas.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A1844-2003Mar9.html>

14. *March 09, ITV.com (United Kingdom)* — **Gatwick security lapse reported. An urgent security review is under way at Gatwick Airport after a newspaper reporter claimed he was able to board a jet armed with a replica machine gun and pistol.** Just over a month after Britain's airports were put on high alert because of threats of a major terrorist attack, a tabloid newspaper revealed that a journalist was able to get past guards by hiding in the back of a catering lorry. The reporter, who took pictures of himself holding the realistic-looking metal replica weapons, could have hidden them anywhere aboard the jet, he claimed. **He was smuggled past security in the back of a catering van supplying in-flight meals last Thursday night.** An audit of security by the British Airport Authority and the Department of Transport is now underway after the revelations in the "News of the World." **And as an extra precaution every catering truck is being opened and checked before it is allowed into security sensitive zones of the airport near jets.** The security scare comes just weeks after tanks rolled into Heathrow Airport to shore up security after the government warned of increased threats from terrorists.

Source: <http://www.itv.com/news/621291.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *March 10, Automotive News* — **Threat of war takes toll on industry.** You might call it a "war tax." Automakers and suppliers are taking steps to insulate themselves from uncertainties posed by a shaky economy, rising oil prices and a possible war in Iraq. Slow sales and production cutbacks are two consequences of the "war tax." **There is a third: terrorism. Automakers fear a disruption of supplies across borders or in transportation bottlenecks such as the Suez Canal.** Honda's assembly plant in Swindon, England, has increased its stock of parts from a couple of days to a week and more. "When it comes to war, the risk that the Suez Canal will be closed is too big for us," says Minoru Harada, president of Honda Motor Europe. "If the canal is closed and ships have to detour via Cape Town, we don't have to worry about a shortage of components." In Europe, some GM suppliers are stockpiling 10 days of components shipped from Asia. **In North America, the automaker has asked its suppliers to make contingency plans in case a key factory cannot deliver parts. Even before the Iraq crisis erupted, GM required suppliers to have such contingency plans in place.** In recent months, the automaker has intensified its efforts, spokeswoman Renee Rashid–Merem says. For example, a Tier 1 supplier might ensure that a U.S. factory has the tooling to produce a part made in Mexico. If cross–border deliveries are disrupted by a terrorist incident, the U.S. factory can begin production quickly. **Suppliers are clearly worried about vulnerable border crossings. To avoid border–crossing delays, some North American suppliers are stockpiling parts.** "Stockpiling is expensive," says Gary Wasserlein, vice president of Trimag of Boisbriand, Quebec. But the customer is mindful of chronic delays at the bridge and tunnel that link Detroit to Windsor, Ontario. **Those delays could grow unmanageable in the wake of another terrorist incident. In the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, trucks suffered border delays as long as 18 hours.**

Source: <http://www.autonews.com/news.cms?newsId=4773>

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Agriculture Sector

Nothing to report.

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Food Sector

16. *March 10, Associated Press* — **Minnesota plant recalls possibly contaminated beef trim. A Minnesota beef plant has voluntarily recalled 1,126 pounds of beef trim that might have been contaminated with E. coli bacteria, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service said.** The recall involves products produced on February 22 by PM Windom. They were sent to wholesalers in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois where the meat was to be processed into ground beef. PM Windom discovered the problem through a third–party laboratory sampling and notified the USDA, which said wholesale distributors in the four states should check to see if they have the recalled product and return it to PM Windom. **There have been no reports of illnesses associated with the beef trim.**

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/stories/462/3744649.html>

17. *March 10, Island Packet* — **Proposal targets tainted foreign shrimp.** The South Carolina

House of Representatives is calling attention to the need to strengthen federal restrictions on chemically tainted foreign shrimp entering the United States. **A resolution introduced Tuesday by Representatives Catherine Ceips and Bill Herbkersman primarily targets Asian shrimp containing the chemical chloramphenicol, found to cause cancer in humans. The resolution passed in the House on Thursday and should head to the state Senate next week. Chloramphenicol is ground into the feed of Chinese farm-raised shrimp to help reduce bacteria and viruses that can destroy the crop.** The chemical already is banned in the United States, as well as Canada and the European Union, but the United States lags far behind these countries in its ability to monitor Asian-grown shrimp, according to critics of current regulation.

Source: http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/story/2304282p-216405_3c.html

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Water Sector

18. *March 10, New York Times* — **Invention tests water safety.** In January, officials at the Super Bowl knew that the game, a symbol of American culture that packed tens of thousands of people into one place, made an ideal target for terrorists. **Officials also knew that terrorists could poison the stadium's water supply with bacteria or chemicals. So outside the stadium stood a portable shed housing a machine. A computer monitor rested on the machine, from which black tubing stretched to a large industrial pipe. It was the lone pipe carrying water into the stadium. The hose drew a stream from that water main and fed it into the machine in the shed, where laser beams scanned it for micro-organisms. The machine was looking for pathogens like E. coli or anthrax, or particles that it could not identify but knew should not be present in ordinary drinking water.** "We have data from every five seconds of water that went into the Super Bowl," said Dr. Gregory Quist, one of two inventors of the system of instantaneously identifying dangerous particles in water. **Water is traditionally tested for purity by taking a sample, isolating organisms and culturing them in a laboratory for a day or more to determine whether they are harmful.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/10/technology/10PATE.html>

19. *March 10, Washington Post* — **Water scarcity prompts scientists to look down. With Earth's inventory of fresh water declining scientists are increasingly looking downward for new sources. What's tempting them is deep underground aquifers, huge rivers, and lakes far beneath the surface.** Recent mapping efforts suggest that some of these aquifers hold enough water to support billions of people for centuries. **Little is known about the ecological impact of deep aquifer pumping, especially since it's still not clear which of these sources are naturally refilled over time and which are fossil aquifers, meaning they exist in sealed spaces much like oil reserves, available for one-time consumption and then lost.**

Moreover, of the hundreds of water treaties and shared-use agreements forged by nations in recent decades, none applies to underground aquifers. With scores of major aquifers crossing international boundaries, the potential is rising for conflict.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A2557-2003Mar9.html>

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Public Health Sector

20. *March 10, Ottawa Citizen* — **Danger of super germs is immediate, doctors say. Half of the most infectious bacteria strain in the United States, Streptococcus pneumonia, will be resistant to antibiotics just over a year from now, creating an urgent need to cut our use of antibiotics, doctors say.** Streptococcus pneumonia isn't satisfied with being resistant just to penicillin or to erythromycin, two major drugs used against it. It is evolving resistance to both drugs at once. **A major analysis in eight U.S. states found the number of this bacteria strain that's resistant to penicillin rose from 21 to 24 per cent in the middle to late 1990s. The number resistant to erythromycin rose from 10.6 to 20 per cent. "We predict that by 1 July, 2004, 41 per cent of pneumococci (these bacteria) will be dually resistant" to both drugs, the study authors write.** Another 10 per cent will be resistant to just one antibiotic, says the team under Marc Lipsitch of the Harvard School of Public Health. They noticed that while strains resistant to only one drug have levelled off in recent years, strains resistant to both drugs are increasing more quickly.

Source: <http://canada.com/national/story.asp?id=%7BD747B100-2801-45D2-9675-25DAC13CA1FE%7D>

21. *March 10, Washington Post* — **Insurance companies urged to allow workers to stockpile needed medications. Insurance companies in the federal employees health care program have been asked to cut through red tape that might keep government workers from obtaining extra supplies of prescription drugs for use during emergencies.** Citing "the uncertain times in which we find ourselves," Kay Coles James, director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), has urged insurance companies to consult with OPM on "a variety of needs and situations" so that government workers "can get additional supplies of medications as backup for emergency situations." **A number of federal agencies in the Washington area have drawn up plans to protect employees in the event of a terrorist attack. At some agencies, the contingency plans include preparations to "shelter in place" rather than evacuate buildings. As part of such planning, the agencies allow employees to bring in medications for storage in refrigerators.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A2892-2003Mar9.html>

22. *March 10, American Society for Microbiology* — **Bacterial viruses make cheap easy vaccines. Genetically altered bacterial viruses appear to be more effective than naked DNA in eliciting an immune response and could be a new strategy for a next generation of vaccines that are easy to produce and store, say researchers from Moredun Research Institute in the United Kingdom.** "In theory, millions of doses can be grown within a matter of days using simple equipment, media, and procedures," says John March, one of the researchers presenting findings at the American Society for Microbiology's Biodefense Research Meeting. **Bacteriophages are viruses that infect bacteria but not humans.** In this particular study, March and his colleagues used a bacteriophage as a vehicle for genes from hepatitis B virus in mice and compared its ability to elicit a protective immune response with a vaccine made of naked DNA. They found that not only could the bacteriophage induce an immune response, the number of bacteriophage they needed was less than 1 percent of the number of pieces of naked DNA required to mount an effective immune response.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2003/03/030310064342.htm>

23. *March 08, Associated Press* — **State discovers bacteria vials missing. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health will put new security safeguards into place at the state lab after 60 vials of DNA from a bacteria deemed a possible bioterrorism agent were discovered missing.** The missing material was DNA from Burkholderia bacteria, which is common in southeast Asia and can cause a tuberculosis-type illness. The DNA was being used to develop a test for two species of the bacteria under a U.S. Centers for Disease Control contract. Burkholderia is considered to be a potential agents for bioterrorism, but having the DNA alone would be virtually useless to terrorists, said lab director Ralph Timperi. **Officials said the genetic material most likely was destroyed at the lab. "There are only two possibilities," Timperi told the Boston Herald. "It was destroyed and not documented, or it's in our lab and we can't find it."**

Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/2027829/detail.html>

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Government Sector

24. *March 10, Department of Defense* — **National Communications System joins Homeland Security Department.** After a nearly 40-year relationship with the Department of Defense, the National Communications System became part of the Department of Homeland Security on March 5, during ceremonies at the Defense Information System Agency's Skyline 7 auditorium in Arlington, VA. The NCS is a consortium of 23 federal member departments and agencies responsible for ensuring the availability of national security and emergency preparedness communications. It was one many federal agencies that officially became part of the new department on March 1. **Lt. Gen. Harry D. Raduege Jr., NCS manager since June 2000, passed the NCS colors and responsibilities to Army Maj. Gen. Bruce M. Lawlor, chief of staff for the Department of Homeland Security, who represented Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge. Raduege remains the Defense Information Systems Agency director.** Pending nomination by the president and confirmation by the Senate, the Homeland Security Department's Undersecretary for information assurance and infrastructure protection will become the NCS manager.

Source: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2003/n03102003_200303103.html

25. *March 09, Associated Press* — **U.S. may require fingerprinting and study of rocket hobbyists.** Hobbyists who build and launch high-powered model rockets could soon be subject to background checks, fingerprinting and storage inspections. **Under new provisions set to go into effect May 24 under the Homeland Security Act, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives would place further restrictions on the fuel that powers the rockets.** Sport rocketry attracts thousands of hobbyists across the country. The rockets can stand taller than an adult, soar miles into the sky and are designed to land intact nearby. **The new rules will require buyers of the rocket fuel ammonium perchlorate composite propellant to submit their fingerprints and photographs to the bureau. The government will check applicants' backgrounds to see if they are among those banned from possessing explosives, felons, for example.** Under the proposed rules, the government will also inspect the areas where permit holders store explosives at least once every three years.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/09/national/09ROCK.html>

26. *March 04, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-03-526T: Weapons of Mass Destruction: Observations on U.S. Threat Reduction and Nonproliferation Programs in Russia.** In testimony before Congress, Joseph Christoff of the General Accounting Office (GAO) outlined problems the U.S. faces in reducing and monitoring Russia's nuclear stockpile. U.S. threat reduction and nonproliferation programs have consistently faced two critical challenges: **(1) the Russian government has not always paid its agreed-upon share of program costs and (2) Russian ministries have often denied U.S. officials access to key nuclear and biological sites.** Regarding program costs, Russia did not pay, for example, its previous agreed-upon share of \$275 million to design and build a nuclear storage site at Mayak. As of January 2003, the United States plans to spend \$385 million for a scaled-down version of the site. Russia has also failed to pay operational and maintenance costs for security equipment the United States installed at sites with weapons-usable nuclear material. Regarding access, Russia will not allow DoD and DoE the level of access they require to design security improvements, verify their installation, and ensure their proper operation. **As a result, the agencies have been unable to help protect substantial portions of Russia's nuclear warheads and weapons-usable nuclear material. In addition, many Russian biological sites that store dangerous biological pathogens remain off-limits to the United States.** Russia justifies these access restrictions on the grounds that it is protecting its national security interests.
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-526T>

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Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to report.

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

27. *March 10, IDG News Service* — **New worm targets weak Windows passwords. A new worm, W32/Deloder-A (Deloder), appeared on Sunday and is considered a low risk for infection,** according to an alert posted by anti-virus company F-Secure. The worm, which is believed to have originated in China, attempts to connect to other computers on a network through TCP (Transmission Control Protocol) port 445, randomly generating IP addresses to locate vulnerable machines. **If the worm succeeds in breaking the Administrator account password, it places copies of a backdoor (trojan) program known as "inst.exe" in several locations on the infected machine. Machines running Windows 95, 98, NT, 2000, ME and XP are vulnerable to attack by Deloder,** Symantec said. No infections from Deloder have been reported and most firewalls block access to port 445. **Computer users are advised to contact their anti-virus company for further details.**
Source: <http://www.idg.net/go.cgi?id=790456>

28. *March 02, Time Magazine* — **Investigators examine the links between Islamic fundamentalists and the Internet.** On February 26, Sami Omar al-Hussayen, a Ph.D. candidate in computer security at the University of Idaho, was charged with violating conditions of his student visa by registering and maintaining a dozen militant websites

promoting violence against U.S. interests. U.S. officials want to know more about al-Hussayen's work for the sponsor of most of these sites, the radical Islamic Assembly of North America (IANA), a Michigan-based group known as one of the most strident voices of Islam on the Web. **IANA hosted the websites of two radical Saudi sheiks – Salman al-Awdah and Safar al-Hawali – both of whom are closely associated with Osama bin Laden and who provided religious justification for the September 11 attacks,** according to the SITE Institute, a Washington-based terrorist-research group that monitors the Internet. **Al-Hussayen's case also may provide fresh evidence that at least some of these anti-American websites are being supported by funds coming from Saudi Arabia.** Al-Hussayen is accused of covertly receiving \$300,000 from abroad and disbursing much of it to IANA. A Saudi-embassy spokesman in Washington said no government money has gone to IANA.

Source: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1101030310-428043,00.html>

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	137 (netbios-ns), 80 (www), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 445 (microsoft-ds), 113 (ident), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios-ssn), 25 (smtp), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 6346 (gnutella-svc) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

29. *March 09, Associated Press* — **Anti-war activists map their strategy.** Protest sit-ins, especially at **federal buildings, defense recruiting offices and military bases, have been mapped out for dozens of cities in the first day or two of any war, anti-war organizers say. Some also foresee widespread walkouts at schools and workplaces. A smaller number talk of blocking roads and bridges.** "Once war happens, there will be civil disobedience. It's bringing to a higher level what people have been doing," said coordinator Bal Pinguel at the American Friends Service Committee, an arm of the pacifist Quaker church. The peace movement that has taken shape in the United States and around the world uses organizing technology – including the Internet and e-mail – that was not available the last time such

large-scale domestic anti-war activism took place, in the Vietnam War era.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38-2003Mar9.html>

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