



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 05 April 2004

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- MSNBC reports a new study claims that more than 40 percent of all credit card fraud suffered by U.S. companies online is committed by overseas crooks. (See item [7](#))
- The Associated Press reports a warning that terrorists might strike trains and buses in major U.S. cities using bombs concealed in bags or luggage has the nation's transit systems ratcheting up security measures. (See item [10](#))
- The Transportation Security Administration has announced plans for conducting background checks on commercial truck drivers who transport hazardous materials including explosives. (See item [25](#))
- Security Focus has raised ThreatCon to Level 2, citing a need for increased vigilance.

### DHS/IAIP 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](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

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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. *April 02, Associated Press* — Lockyer, energy officials search for reasons for gas price spikes. California residents are being urged to drive their cars less to help stem the rapid increase in gas prices throughout the state. Many factors were blamed for California's gas prices, which are about 20 cents higher than the national average and often more than \$2

**a gallon. Attorney General Bill Lockyer and energy officials told an Assembly committee that lack of competition, a stagnant supply and too many cars on the road are contributing to the skyrocketing cost.** As the population of the state grows, its gasoline supply has become stressed, said California Energy Commissioner James Boyd. Another factor contributing to costly gasoline is California's cleaner burning fuel requirements. California should pursue a waiver of the federal government's requirement that gasoline contain an oxygenate like ethanol, a step that would reduce the cost of gasoline 3 cents a gallon, said Rob Oglesby, legislative director for the California Air Resources Board. California officials have sought unsuccessfully for more than two years to get a waiver from the requirement, which is supposed to help reduce pollution. State officials argue that because of California's cleaner-burning fuel, the additives are unnecessary and costly.

Source: <http://www.wilmingtonstar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20040402/APF/404020572&cachetime=5>

2. *April 01, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-457: Nuclear Waste Cleanup: DOE Has Made Some Progress in Cleaning Up the Paducah Site, but Challenges Remain.** In 1988, radioactive contamination was found in the drinking water wells of residences near the federal government's uranium enrichment plant in Paducah, KY. In response, the Department of Energy (DOE) began a cleanup program. In 2000, General Accounting Office (GAO) reported that DOE faced significant challenges in cleaning up the site and that it was doubtful that the cleanup would be completed as scheduled by 2010 and within the \$1.3 billion cost projection. **GAO was asked to determine (1) the amount of money DOE has spent on the site, the purposes for which it was spent, and the estimated total costs for the site; (2) the status of DOE cleanup efforts; and (3) the challenges GAO previously identified that continue to be issues for DOE.** GAO recommends that DOE (1) involve Commonwealth of Kentucky and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) early in the development of both overall cleanup plans and specific projects to resolve concerns and reach more timely consensus on cleanup decisions and (2) in conjunction with Kentucky and EPA, identify external technical peer review groups with environmental cleanup expertise to facilitate timely resolution of any future differences. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04457high.pdf>  
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04457.pdf>

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## **Chemical Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

3. *April 02, United States Marine Corps* — **Marines on the ground will have an eye in the sky. With the introduction of the Dragoneye Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), officially called the Small Unit Remote Scouting System (SURSS), company commanders will have a new asset that will aid them in detecting, identifying and engaging or avoiding enemy units without risk to personnel.** "This small unmanned air vehicle will provide information that

here-to-fore could only be provided (within the battalion's organic capabilities) via patrolling or outpost activities," said Lt Col. Don Bruce, program manager for the SURSS. Dragoneye is a five-pound, hand-launched, reusable vehicle with a wingspan of 45 inches. The air vehicle flies at an altitude of 300-500 feet above ground at a speed of approximately 35 miles per hour. The system has a mission duration of 30-60 minutes. The UAV's interchangeable payloads, autopilot and propulsion system are commercial-off-the-shelf subsystems. The ground control station uses a rugged COTS laptop computer. Each Dragoneye system will include three air vehicles and one ground control station. The vehicle can be launched by two Marines and then will fly a preprogrammed route using GPS waypoints to navigate.

Source: <http://www.usmc.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/main5/130C2D0242464FC885256E6A004DF16A?opendocument>

4. *April 02, Associated Press* — **Navy transfers control of base in Puerto Rico. The Navy has closed its last base in Puerto Rico, a complex that served as a staging ground for U.S. interventions from Grenada to Haiti but fell into disuse after the military gave up a prized training area on the island of Vieques.** While 200 sailors and civilians will remain at Roosevelt Roads Naval Station to help in the transition, the base was transferred Wednesday, March 31, to a special naval agency that will coordinate the closing process, spokesperson Oscar Seara said. Navy security guards are among those staying. In recent months, the Navy moved out thousands of troops and employees, along with bombs, torpedoes and other supplies. Officials said about 2,000 troops and civilian personnel were being moved or offered jobs elsewhere, while some 1,000 contractors were losing their base jobs. **With the closure, Guantanamo Bay in Cuba will be the only U.S. naval base left in the Caribbean.**

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/caribbean/sfl-arico02apr02.0.717730.story?coll=sfla-news-caribbean>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

5. *April 02, BBC News* — **Nigerian jailed for e-mail scam. A Nigerian has been jailed for his part in a huge international e-mail fraud. Peter Okoeguale was jailed for 20 months in Wales, UK, for his part in the e-mail fraud, also known as the Nigerian 419 scam.** Caernarfon Crown Court heard victims are promised a share of cash if they help with the movement of millions of dollars out of Africa. However, they are then duped into handing over cash themselves to overcome an unforeseen difficulty. The prosecution said he had fake documents on him when he was arrested, one of which was headed 'Nigerian Police Force Contract Investigation Section' and urged the recipient to forward the details of any contact by corrupt government officials. **North Wales Police said that discs found on Okoeguale contained thousands of e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of companies and individuals from Scotland, the USA, the Middle East, and the Far East.** Using the documents officers traced 11 victims, including one in Scotland who lost over US\$36,000, and a retired 72-year-old American businessman who lost US\$46,500.

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/wales/north\\_west/3594043.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/north_west/3594043.stm)

6. *April 01, IDG News Service* — **'Buffalo Spammer' convicted.** A man accused of using EarthLink Inc. e-mail accounts to release a flood of spam on the Internet has been convicted on

charges of identity theft and falsifying business records, according to a statement from New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. **Howard Carmack of Buffalo, NY, also known as the "Buffalo Spammer," was found guilty by a jury in Erie County, NY, on 14 counts, including charges that he stole the identities of two Buffalo–area residents, which he then used to send more than 800 million spam messages,** the attorney general's office said. The New York state case against Carmack was the first to use a new state identity–theft law that makes identity theft a misdemeanor, said Brad Maione, a spokesperson for the attorney general's office. Previously, identity theft wasn't a crime, he said. The charges of falsifying business records stem from Carmack's changing of e–mail header information to create forged sender addresses for the spam messages, the attorney general's office said.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/softwaretopics/software/groupware/story/0,10801,91823,00.html>

7. *April 01, MSNBC* — **Foreign fraud hits U.S. e–commerce firms hard. A study released Thursday, April 1, claims that more than 40 percent of all credit card fraud suffered by U.S. companies online is committed by overseas crooks.** Yugoslavia ranked first among high–risk countries, the study found. About 13 percent of purchases initiated from that country were fraudulent. The study, by the Merchants Risk Council, a consortium of 1,500 companies that do business on the Web, ignored the billing and shipping addresses used during the transaction. Instead, researchers determined the Internet address of the computer which placed the order, which generally provides a rough geographic location for that computer. However, there is no sure–fire way to establish an Internet users' country of origin, says Dan Clements, who operates credit card fraud watch Website CardCops.com. Clever criminals can hijack computers from other countries, or mask the Internet address, he said. **"Many don't even bother trying to order from Eastern block nations like Belarus [that] they know they are blacklisted. They just find a proxy in another country, and it looks like they are coming from that location,"** he said.

Source: <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/4648378>

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## **Transportation Sector**

8. *April 03, Associated Press* — **Spain bomb matches material from attacks.** A bomb that was found under a high–speed rail line in Spain was made of the same brand of dynamite used in the Madrid commuter train attacks that killed 191 people, a Spanish minister confirmed Saturday, April 3. **Investigators have said the March 11 bombings were carried out with Goma 2 Eco, an explosive widely available in Spain.** A Moroccan extremist group is the focus of the probe of that attack, which also wounded 1,800 people. Interior Minister Angel Acebes said Goma 2 Eco was also used in the failed bombing on the high–speed rail line, but it was still too early to name any suspects. **The bomb failed to detonate because it wasn't properly wired, officials said. "It's the same type of explosive and it's the same brand," Acebes said of the 26–pound bomb found Friday under a track about 40 miles south of Madrid.** The bomb scare stopped six bullet trains using the Madrid–Seville line. The discovery of the bomb rattled a country still traumatized by the March 11 attacks in the Spanish capital, which officials believe may have been carried out by the Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group, which has links to al Qaeda.

Source: [http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/ap/ap\\_story.html/Intl/AP.V0772.AP-Spain-Bombings.html](http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/ap/ap_story.html/Intl/AP.V0772.AP-Spain-Bombings.html)

9. *April 03, The Globe and Mail* — **Canadians exempt from new U.S. security rules.** Canadian citizens are among the few people in the world exempt from new security screenings of visitors to the United States. U.S. officials said yesterday, April 2, that, starting September 30, citizens from some 27 countries that do not require visas, including Britain, Japan and Australia, will be fingerprinted and photographed when they enter the country. **The step is being taken because those countries will not meet an October deadline set by Washington to have counterfeit-proof biometric passports that include identification features. Canadians, diplomats and Mexicans will be exempt from the process if they have precleared border-crossing cards.**

Source: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/20040403/WORLDREPORT03-1/TPInternational/Americas>

10. *April 03, Associated Press* — **U.S. moves to protect trains, buses.** A warning that terrorists might strike trains and buses in major U.S. cities using bombs concealed in bags or luggage has the nation's transit systems ratcheting up security measures. **Greg Hull, security chief for the American Public Transportation Association, said Friday the transit systems are at "code yellow-plus" following the bulletin about a possible terror plot from the FBI and the Homeland Security Department.** Homeland Security spokesman Brian Roehrkasse said information in the bulletin was being shared via the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System to ensure proper security measures are implemented nationwide. Passengers could see changes because of the bulletin. **Federal officials are encouraging local transit authorities to conduct random passenger inspections and security sweeps of stations and to increase public announcements encouraging people to report unattended baggage or suspicious behavior.** Intelligence indicates a plot might involve bombs made of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and diesel fuel, similar to the explosive concealed in a rental truck that blew up the Oklahoma City federal building in 1995. Both items are readily available.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/nationworld/bal-trains0403.0.1121106.story?coll=bal-home-headlines>

11. *April 02, New York Times* — **Warning of possible attacks on big-city buses and trains.** In a bulletin sent to law enforcement officials around the country on Thursday night, April 1, the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security said they had received uncorroborated intelligence information "on an alleged plot against major U.S. cities in the summer of 2004" that could single out commercial transportation systems like trains and buses by using improvised explosives. Thursday's bulletin did not mention specific cities as potential targets, but it urged local police to take extra steps to ensure security on city transportation. **Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Democrat of New York, cited the alert at a news conference she held in Penn Station in New York to call for passage of legislation that would provide \$570 million to upgrade New York's six aging rail tunnels.** "I think it's imperative that we do everything possible to keep travelers on our railways safe," she said. The money in the legislation would be used to upgrade communications systems, improve ventilation and build evacuation routes in the tunnels, which were built in 1910.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/04/03/politics/03TERR.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Agriculture Sector**

12. *April 02, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **Bird flu eradicated in Texas. An outbreak of the H5N2 strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza near Gonzales, Texas, has been eradicated, after tests on more than 352 noncommercial flocks did not detect additional infection, according to Texas animal health officials.** The Texas Animal Health Commission said for more than five weeks, a task force comprised of veterinarians and animal health inspectors combed the area around Gonzales to locate and test noncommercial flocks, to ensure the contagious poultry virus had not spread from a single infected flock that was detected and depopulated in February. Disease surveillance samples submitted by commercial poultry operators in the area also have tested negative for the virus.  
Source: [http://www.agprofessional.com/show\\_story.php?id=24361](http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=24361)

13. *April 02, USAgNet* — **Some restrictions on poultry farms to be lifted. Maryland agriculture officials were expected Friday, April 2, to lift some of the restrictions placed on poultry farmers on the lower Eastern Shore, after extensive testing found no new cases of avian influenza.** Since March 7, when state agriculture officials discovered a case of bird flu in a Pocomoke City chicken house, farmers south of U.S. 50 have been banned from spreading manure made from chicken litter. Farmers say lifting the ban on portions of Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester counties would relieve a significant hardship on farmers who are facing the beginning of growing season. The ban would not be lifted inside the quarantine area, a swath of farms within two miles of the infected farm in Pocomoke City, shore farmers said.  
Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=356&yr=2004>

14. *April 02, Associated Press* — **Salmon farm sold to Canadian company. One of Maine's largest aquaculture operations, Atlantic Salmon of Maine, is being sold to a Canadian company.** Norwegian-owned Fjord Seafood USA notified employees at the Machiasport processing plant about the deal Thursday, April 1. Fjord said the 28,000-square-foot plant, its salmon farms and two hatcheries in Oquossoc and Solon were being bought by Cooke Aquaculture. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.  
Source: <http://www.wmtw.com/Global/story.asp?S=1757681>

15. *April 02, Sun-Sentinel (Florida)* — **Florida nurseries find oak disease. A tree disease that has ravaged thousands of oaks in California is now in Florida.** Florida agriculture inspectors worked Thursday, April 1, to map a strategy for rooting out the malignant disease from a nursery in Tallahassee. **Two more nurseries in the Jacksonville area also were confirmed to have the tree-killing organism on at least one plant imported from California, where the**

**disease known as sudden oak death has felled thousands of coastal live oaks and other trees since the mid-1990s.** So far, there is no evidence of the disease in Central Florida nurseries. Experts fear the disease could spread east from California and threaten forests in many states, infecting several varieties of vulnerable eastern oaks.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/florida/orl-asecsod02040204apr02.0.4765816.story?coll=sfla-news-florida>

16. *April 02, Reuters* — **Canada's bird flu cases spreading. The spread of bird flu is worsening in British Columbia, Canada, with more farms under investigation, Premier Gordon Campbell said on Friday, April 1.** "I would be less than straightforward with you if I didn't tell you things are getting, frankly, tougher right now. They're not getting better," Campbell told members of his cabinet in Victoria. Avian flu has been confirmed on seven farms in the Fraser River valley east of Vancouver since February, but more farms are under investigation, Campbell said.

Source: [http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=571&ncid=751&e=1&u=/nm/20040402/hl\\_nm/birdflu\\_canada\\_dc](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=571&ncid=751&e=1&u=/nm/20040402/hl_nm/birdflu_canada_dc)

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## **Food Sector**

17. *April 01, Atlanta Journal Constitution* — **Corn fungus linked to fatal birth defects. A toxin in a fungus that grows on corn could cause fatal birth defects, researchers say, by interfering with folic acid, the vitamin recommended to pregnant women to prevent such birth defects.** The toxin, fumonisin, already is known to cause brain and lung diseases in horses and pigs. Researchers say fumonisin could be a cause of neural tube defects in humans. Those defects include anencephaly, a fatal condition involving an undeveloped brain; and spina bifida, an improperly closed spine that is often not serious but can cause major disability. The five-year survey of 409 Mexican-American women in southern Texas; 184 women whose babies had neural tube defects and 225 women with healthy babies; found that those who ate several tortillas a day early in their pregnancies were significantly more likely to have the birth defects.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/health/content/health/0404/02fungus.html>

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## **Water Sector**

18. *April 02, Water Tech Online* — **Water utilities to be visited by Homeland Security. U.S. water utilities can expect the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to continue site visits by its Protective Security Division.** Issued last December, Presidential Directive 7 gives DHS and other federal agencies the responsibility to identify and set priorities for protecting critical infrastructure, such as water utilities, and key resources. DHS teams will coordinate their visits with the Environmental Protection Agency and targeted utilities, as well as with state homeland security and drinking water officials. Meanwhile, Presidential Directive 9 signed earlier this year includes security provisions dealing with drinking water.

Source: [http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N\\_ID=46878](http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N_ID=46878)

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## **Public Health Sector**

19. *April 02, Agence France Presse* — **Global shortage of safe blood for transfusions on agenda at meeting.** A worldwide shortage of safe blood for transfusions will top the agenda when experts from around the globe gather in China's capital Saturday for a five-day conference, the Red Cross warned. **The meeting will tackle problems such as a shrinking donor base caused by heightened safety standards,** the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said in a statement Friday.

Source: [http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/afp/20040402/hl\\_afp/health\\_redcross\\_who\\_040402135414&e=4](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/afp/20040402/hl_afp/health_redcross_who_040402135414&e=4)

20. *April 01, Associated Press* — **West Nile found in California. Two birds in Orange County, CA, tested positive for the West Nile virus, marking the first discovery of the mosquito-borne disease in California so far this year, health officials said.** The virus turned up in two adult female house finches captured March 2 at Craig Park in Fullerton. Health officials urge people to take precautions, particularly to avoid attracting mosquitoes. The virus first appeared in the United States in 1999, killing seven people in the New York area. Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Texas were the hardest hit states in 2003. Together, they accounted for more than half of the 231 deaths nationally and two-thirds of 9,566 diagnosed cases, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Source: [http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=534&ncid=534&e=15&u=/ap/20040401/ap\\_on\\_he\\_me/west\\_nile](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=534&ncid=534&e=15&u=/ap/20040401/ap_on_he_me/west_nile)

21. *April 01, Reuters* — **Avian flu prototype virus. A high-security laboratory has created a prototype avian flu, the first step towards making a human vaccine against the potentially deadly new virus, a World Health Organization (WHO) spokesman said on Thursday, April 1.** The WHO will give the prototype virus next week to three drug makers who have expressed interest in producing small sample vaccine batches and carrying out clinical trials, WHO spokesman Dick Thompson said. The clinical trials are expected to take several months, but large-scale vaccine production would only begin if a deadly pandemic broke out, he added. Since bird flu erupted in Asia, the United Nations agency has been racing to develop a vaccine to protect humans against the H5N1 strain. Bird flu has killed 26 people in Vietnam and Thailand and decimated poultry stocks across Asia. **Clinical trials will be conducted in the United States, under the sponsorship of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, according to the WHO spokesman.** This meant that drug makers required a U.S. licence, he added.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L01234058.htm>

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## **Government Sector**

22.

*April 02, Government Executive Magazine* — **Homeland Security likely to get full budget request and more. Congressional staffers said Wednesday, March 31, that they expect the Homeland Security Department's fiscal 2005 budget request to be approved and possibly increased for the second year in a row.** Lawmakers will likely approve the department's \$40.2 billion budget request for next year, two staffers from committees that oversee the department said during a panel discussion at Equity International's Homeland and Global Security Summit in Washington. "I can tell you from an appropriations standpoint ... we will ensure that the president's budget request is met, if not more," said Therese McAuliffe, staff member for the House Appropriations Committee. "I think Congress is in agreement that homeland security is a top priority for the country." McAuliffe said Congress would most likely continue increasing the department's budget for now, although funding for some programs should stabilize once adequate levels are achieved. The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Tom Ridge said Wednesday, the department's budget request is "absolutely" adequate, adding that he believes Congress would approve the full amount.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0304/033104c1.htm>

23. *April 02, Department of Homeland Security* — **Departments of Homeland Security and State request extension for biometric passport requirement.** The Department of Homeland Security and Department of State today, April 2, announced that the Administration has asked Congress to pass legislation that would extend for two years, the October 26, 2004 deadline for Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries to have machine readable passports which include biometric identifiers, and also for DHS to have readers for these biometric passports at all ports of entry. **In the context of this request, Homeland Security announced that it will begin processing visitors traveling under the VWP in US-VISIT beginning by September 30, 2004, at air and sea ports of entry. "In our ongoing collaboration between the Departments of State and Homeland Security, we are making two complementary decisions," said Asa Hutchinson, Under Secretary of Border and Transportation Security of the Department of Homeland Security.** "Since most countries are unable to meet the original October 2004 date to include biometrics in passports due to several technology-related reasons we have asked Congress for a two year extension of that requirement. Also, by September 30, visitors traveling under the Visa Waiver Program who arrive at airports and seaports will be enrolled in US-VISIT."

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=3425>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

24. *April 04, The Weekend Australian* — **Nitrate trucks a terror target.** Terrorists could steal trucks laden with a common fertilizer from Australian ports and turn them into drive-away bombs, shipping officials fear. There are concerns the 20-ton truckloads of ammonium nitrate could be driven to heavily populated areas such as Sydney's central business district and detonated, to devastating effect. **Ammonium nitrate is favored by terrorist bomb-makers because it can be easily obtained and converted into an explosive by the addition of diesel oil. Earlier this year, The Sunday Telegraph revealed that the potentially deadly substance was widely available from garden centers and agricultural suppliers.** The Federal Government has announced plans to tighten controls over the sale of ammonium

nitrate, but industry experts are worried there are gaping holes in the security of its transportation by sea and road. "There needs to be much better control overall of the handling and transportation of dangerous goods in Australia," Globe Star Shipping national operations manager Dewar Twist said.

Source: [http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,574,4,9186058%5E421,00.html](http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,574,4,9186058%5E421,00.html)

25. *April 02, Transportation Security Administration* — **TSA to conduct background checks on Hazmat drivers.** The Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced today, April 2, plans for conducting background checks on commercial truck drivers who transport hazardous materials (Hazmat), including explosives. **The plan requires conducting name-based terrorist focused background checks on all 3.5 million Hazmat drivers this year to determine whether any present a potential terrorist threat. Drivers will also undergo an FBI fingerprint-based criminal history check to begin no later than January 31, 2005.** TSA developed this plan to protect against the threat posed by terrorists transporting Hazmat, and to maximize flexibility for the states so the issuance of Hazmat endorsements is not impeded by security requirements. Drivers must renew a Hazmat endorsement every five years, although a state may require more frequent renewals. Source: [http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=8&content=0900051980\\_09720c](http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=8&content=0900051980_09720c)

26. *April 02, CNW Telbec (Ottawa, Canada)* — **Fire fighters confirm that Canada unprepared to defend itself.** A damning report released March 31 by the Senate Committee on National Security and Defense confirms what the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) has been telling the federal government for years: **that Canada is woefully unprepared to defend itself against the aftermath of a terrorist attack or other major disaster.** And until fire fighters and other first responders receive the specialized training they need to respond to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) incidents or other major disasters, the majority of Canadians will remain at risk, says Jim Lee, the IAFF's Assistant to the General President for Canadian Operations. "In the event of a major disaster such as a terrorist attack, fire fighters will be on the scene in minutes. Fire fighters are Canada's first line of defense against the aftermath of an attack. But if fire fighters aren't properly trained, they can't provide that protection during the critical first hours of emergency response. And that means that citizens are not protected." Source: <http://www.cnw.ca/fr/releases/archive/April2004/02/c7577.htm>

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## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

27. *April 02, ZDNet (UK)* — **Open-source flaw database launched.** The Open Source Vulnerability Database (OSVDB) has launched a free Website that catalogues security flaws in Internet-related software. The database will, say its creators, promote more open collaboration between companies and individuals "and reduce expenses inherent with the development and maintenance of in-house vulnerability databases". **There are various specialist mailing lists that inform administrators and developers about newly discovered security vulnerabilities, but the OSVDB, which was launched in 2002, claims to be the first site to aggregate all this content onto a single searchable resource and make it freely available on**

**the Web.** An OSVDB spokesperson said in a statement that the number of computer security vulnerabilities have increased more than 2,000 percent since 1995: "Tracking these vulnerabilities and their cures is critical for those who protect networked systems against accidental misuse and deliberate attack, from home users and small businesses to globe-spanning enterprises," he said.

Source: <http://zdnet.com/2100-1105-5183853.html>

**28. April 02, Associated Press — FCC mulls appeal in cable access dispute. A federal appeals court is standing by its October ruling that cable TV operators should open their lines to rivals who also want to use them to sell high-speed Internet service.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) asked the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, CA, to revisit the decision, but the court declined to do so late Wednesday, March 31. The commission is mulling an appeal to the Supreme Court. **If upheld, the circuit's decision would likely subject cable operators to the same rules as local phone companies, who are forced to lease their lines to rival providers of phone service and DSL Internet access.** The FCC voted in March 2002 to exempt cable companies from laws that force phone companies to open their lines to competition. At the time, officials said the move was necessary to spur more investment in high-speed Internet services by cable companies, who have spent billions of dollars upgrading their networks. Phone companies have complained that the FCC ruling left them at a disadvantage. They also have spent billions on network equipment to deliver DSL service.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TECH/internet/04/02/internet.access.ruling.ap/index.html>

**29. April 01, internetnews.com — Study: Virus attacks up but infections hold steady.** The 9th Annual ICSA Labs Virus Prevalence Survey, which collected data from more than 300 medium and large businesses and government agencies, shows that the flood of virus attacks on corporate and consumer networks is increasing at a torrential rate. The survey shows that **88 percent of respondents think that malicious code is 'somewhat worse or much worse' than 2002**, with only 12 percent stating the situation was 'the same or better' in 2003. The companies surveyed reported 2.7 million virus encounters in all of 2003. That translates into 201 virus encounters for every 1,000 machines every month. And those encounters brought on 108 infections for every 1,000 machines every month. The survey shows that 92 of more than 300 respondents reported virus disasters in 2003, an increase of 15 percent over 2002. For an event to qualify as a virus disaster, there must be 25 or more PCs or servers infected at the same time with the same virus, or a virus incident causing significant damage or monetary loss to the company. **The report also shows that malicious code is costing organizations lots of money. In 2003, disaster recovery costs increased by 23 percent to almost \$100,000 per organization per event.**

Source: <http://www.internetnews.com/article.php/3334481>

## Internet Alert Dashboard

### Current Alert Levels

 <p>AlertCon: 1 out of 4  <a href="https://gtoc.iss.net">https://gtoc.iss.net</a></p>	 <p>Security Focus ThreatCon: 2 out of 4  <a href="http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/">http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</a></p>
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### Current Virus and Port Attacks

<b>Virus:</b>	#1 Virus in the United States: <b>WORM_NETSKY.P</b> Source: <a href="http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html">http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html</a> , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	135 (epmap), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 3127 (mydoom), 137 (netbios-ns), 445 (microsoft-ds), 80 (www), 4899 (radmin), 1080 (socks), 3128 (squid-http), 2745 (urbisnet) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center

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## General Sector

**30. April 02, Washington Post — Untested Islamic militants emerging, U.S. official says . At least 70 percent of al Qaeda's senior leadership has been detained or killed since the September 11, 2001, attacks triggered a worldwide offensive against the network, and the remaining 30 percent is largely on the run, J. Cofer Black, the senior State Department counterterrorism official, told a House International Relations subcommittee Thursday, April 1. The movement has been "deeply wounded" by the elimination or arrest of more than 3,400 lower-level members and allies, he said. Black said al Qaeda's ideology is spreading beyond traditional strongholds, inspiring scores of Muslim groups. They include Ansar al-Islam in Iraq; the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan; the Salafist Group for Call and Combat in North Africa; and the Salifia Jihadia in Morocco. Beyond the groups is the further problem represented by thousands of militants—from conflicts such as Chechnya, Kashmir and Kosovo—who migrate to other conflicts, Black told the subcommittee. The jihadists are a "ready source of recruits" for al Qaeda and its affiliates.**  
 Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A43330-2004Apr 1.html>

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### DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

[DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive](#) – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

### **DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

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### **Contact DHS/IAIP**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [info@us-cert.gov](mailto:info@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.uscert.gov](http://www.uscert.gov).

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