



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 April 2004

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

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

## Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports two pieces of a highly radioactive fuel rod are missing from a Vermont nuclear plant, and engineers are planning a search for the nuclear material. (See item [3](#))
- The New York Times reports that according to reports in South Korean news media, hundreds of people were killed and injured when two trains loaded with fuel collided and exploded in a North Korean railroad station. (See item [12](#))
- US-CERT announces exploit code has been publicly released that takes advantage of a buffer overflow vulnerability in the Microsoft Private Communication Technology (PCT) protocol. (See item [27](#))
- Internet Security Systems has raised AlertCon to Level 3, stating that analysts are confirming malicious traffic expanding in regards to the PCT-1 vulnerability. Please refer to the Internet Alert Dashboard.

### ***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](#)

**IT and Cyber:** [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

**Other:** [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

## 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 22, Austin Business Journal (TX)* — **Texas power plant to be sold to UK firm.** Plans are in the works for the sale of a Bastrop power plant for \$143 million. **The Bastrop Energy Center, a 540-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant owned by Bastrop Energy Partners LP, is set to become an asset of London-based Centric PLC.** Houston, TX-based El Paso Corp. owns a 50 interest in the Bastrop power plant and Juno Beach, FL-based FPL Energy LLC owns the remaining stake. FPL has agreed to buy El Paso's interest for \$72 million and then sell the entire plant to Centrica. The transaction is expected to close by the third quarter of 2004. The plant, on 120 acres about 25 miles east of Austin, TX, started operating in May 2002. It is connected to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas's power grid at Austin Energy's Garfield substation.

Source: <http://austin.bizjournals.com/austin/stories/2004/04/19/daily32.html>

- April 22, Associated Press* — **DOE reviewing documents NRC expects on Nevada nuclear dump. The Department of Energy (DOE) has begun a broad review of Yucca Mountain project technical documents after auditors said shortcomings could delay Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensing for the national nuclear waste repository. About 100 workers at the Office of Repository Development in Las Vegas, NV, are checking documents before filing the formal application** to entomb 77,000 tons of the nation's most radioactive waste at the Nevada site beginning in 2010, officials said Wednesday, April 21. The review is expected to take two or three months, delaying some DOE groundwork for filing a license application to the NRC in December, said Timothy C. Gunther, a project manager. The new review comes after an NRC team evaluated a sample of DOE technical documents during visits to Las Vegas in November, December and January. Auditors said in a report made public last week that some documents were unclear or lacked adequate background necessary for the commission to judge the repository. A DOE internal review found similar problems, Gunther said after his presentation to the NRC's Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste. "A light bulb went off that we weren't meeting NRC's expectations" for document preparation, Gunther said. Source: [http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/nevada/2004/apr/22\\_/042210219.html](http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/nevada/2004/apr/22_/042210219.html)

- April 21, Associated Press* — **Vermont nuclear plant searching for missing fuel rods. Two pieces of a highly radioactive fuel rod are missing from a Vermont nuclear plant, and engineers planned to search onsite for the nuclear material, officials said Wednesday, April 21.** The fuel rod was removed in 1979 from the Vermont Yankee reactor, which is currently shut down for refueling and maintenance. Remote-control cameras will be used to search a spent fuel pool on the property, officials said. "We do not think there is a threat to the public at this point. The great probability is this material is still somewhere in the pool," said Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesperson Neil Sheehan. The material would be fatal to anyone who came in contact with it without being properly shielded, Sheehan said. **Spent nuclear fuel also could be used by terrorists to construct so-called dirty bombs that would spread deadly radiation with conventional explosives.** The rod was part of the fuel assembly used to power the reactor. One of the missing pieces is about the size of a pencil. The other piece is about the thickness of a pencil and 17 inches long. Vermont Yankee is located in the southeastern town of Vernon, on the border with Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/news/archive/2004/04/21/national1844EDT0802.DTL>

[[Return to top](#)]

## Chemical Sector

4. *April 22, The Sentinel (Maryland)* — **"Dirty bomb" nuclear fuel vanishes from Temple Hills company.** Nuclear material that could be used to detonate a nuclear "dirty bomb" was stolen from a company in Temple Hills, MD, but even under new post-September 11th security regulations, the company was not required to notify federal authorities of the missing material. **The device, a Troxler Moisture Density Gauge made by Professional Inspection and Testing Services, is used to measure the density of soil or concrete at construction sites, and contains uranium used to provide accurate readings. The gauge was found, in tact, in Hyattsville last Thursday but Prince George's County Police are still searching for the employee.** The company referred all inquiries to the police who say they are treating the April 9th incident as a theft because they were unaware of any hazardous material contained in the gauge. Company officials notified the Maryland Department of the Environment who handles regulations of all radioactive material in the state. The department then notified the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), a federal office, which put an event report on their website to let others know the device was missing. NRC spokesman Dave McIntyre says the gauges are stolen quite frequently, but the thefts are receiving more media coverage because of the war on terror.

Source: <http://www.thesentinel.com/300997263680619.php>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## Banking and Finance Sector

5. *April 22, Finextra Research* — **Listening credit card is latest weapon in fight against fraud. A prototype credit card that obeys only its master's voice has been developed for use in online transactions by engineers at Beepcard in California. The battery-operated card uses built-in voice recognition technology to authenticate its owner.** A spoken password command activates the card which then emits an audible ID code for pick-up by PC microphone or via a phone for online verification. Beepcard is currently refining the prototype 'Comdot' card to make it robust enough for everyday use. Voice authentication has already been tried as a safety measure in transactions conducted by mobile phones, but has yet to prove itself when applied directly to the card. Research conducted last year by U.S. financial services firms in association with the Financial Services Technology Consortium and TouchPoint Consulting found that consumers are ready to adopt voice authentication techniques for identity verification in financial transactions, but security and privacy worries remain a barrier to widespread uptake.

Source: <http://www.finextra.com/topstory.asp?id=11677>

6.

*April 21, PRNewswire* — **Verizon warns consumers to beware of online phishing scam. Verizon customers should be aware of a new wave of scams that try to pry personal information from consumers, which can lead to identity theft and other crimes. The newest scam involves an authentic-looking e-mail from someone posing as a Verizon representative.** The e-mail asks Verizon customers to update their personal billing information — such as credit-card or social security numbers — and directs them to a Website that is designed to look like a Verizon Website. The phony Website is actually operated by the scammers. The e-mail falsely warns the consumer that in order to continue receiving Verizon services, he or she must visit the fake Website and avoid paying a "processing" fee by updating personal and account information. Verizon does not do business in this fashion, nor does the company charge consumers to update their information, the company said. "Consumers should be wary of any e-mail or phone call asking that they reveal credit card or other sensitive information," said Jim Trainor, Verizon vice president-security. Source: <http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/2004/Apr/1034083.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Transportation Sector**

7. *April 22, Transport Topics News* — **Supreme Court hears arguments in Mexican truck case.** The U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday, April 21, heard arguments that could clear the way for Mexican trucks to travel on U.S. highways without requiring an environmental study, news services reported. A final ruling is expected by July. **As many as 30,000 Mexican trucks a year would travel on U.S. highways if the border were opened, according to Public Citizen, a consumer and environmental group that is among the organizations challenging the move.** The case before the court dealt with whether the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration had to issue an environmental impact statement when it released the safety rules that Congress required before the border could be opened. Jonathan Weissglass, an attorney representing Public Citizen, the Teamsters Union and other groups, argued that the FMCSA, as the agency is known, realized that Mexican trucks tend to be older than American vehicles and produce more pollution. The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals previously ruled the safety rules would affect the environment and therefore studies of those possible effects were required under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Clean Air Act. Source: <http://www.ttnews.com/members/topnews/0011376.html>
8. *April 22, Associated Press* — **The Queen Mary 2 visits New York. The world's largest passenger liner, the Queen Mary 2, arrived in New York on Thursday, April 22, steaming up the Hudson River and docking for the first time against the backdrop of a hazy Manhattan skyline.** Laden with opulence, the QM2 arrived nearly on schedule just after 8 a.m. after making up time lost to fog and the residual effect of storms during the first 48 hours of its inaugural trans-Atlantic crossing, which began in Southampton, England, last Friday. Onlookers watched from vantage points in Manhattan and New Jersey as the ship's arrival was marked by the customary Gotham greeting — fireboats spouting red, white and blue water, hovering helicopters and an escort of tugs, police and Coast Guard cutters and even a fishing boat. Passengers stepped ashore raving about the trip and the QM2's amenities. **The ship arrived under extra-tight security that has been in effect for all major events in New York since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.** Nearly four football fields long at

1,132 feet and 21 stories tall, the massive, black-hulled vessel left England last Friday for the six days and nights of luxury living and sumptuous dining for its 2,600 passengers, attended by a crew of 1,250.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2004-04-22-qm2\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2004-04-22-qm2_x.htm)

9. *April 22, Laughlin Nevada Times* — **Two trespassers intercepted at airport. The fifth trespassing incident within eight days at the Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport (Laughlin, NV), was recorded last week when a 41-year-old man came back to the property after having been arrested the preceding Sunday. He was taken into custody at about 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 13, making him the second man to be arrested twice in the last month for walking onto airport property illegally.** The man was originally charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct after leading police on a foot pursuit on the runway area of the international airport on April 11. He was released and was believed to be parked in a lot across from the airport in a large, yellow van at least throughout the day April 13. On that day, at about 6:45 p.m., airport security reported he was seen walking into a hanger along Highway 95 and getting a drink of water from a cooler before leaving on his bike, according to a police report. He was taken to the Mohave County Jail in Kingman, cited and again released. **Earlier that day, a 48-year-old man was arrested with the charges of criminal trespassing and disorderly conduct after he returned to airport property for the third time.**

Source: [http://news.mywebpal.com/news\\_tool\\_v2.cfm?show=localnews&pnID=431&NewsID=542259&CategoryID=1129&on=0](http://news.mywebpal.com/news_tool_v2.cfm?show=localnews&pnID=431&NewsID=542259&CategoryID=1129&on=0)

10. *April 22, Transportation Security Administration* — **TSA releases performance report on contract screeners at five U.S. airports. Rear Adm. David M. Stone, Acting Administrator for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), today, April 22, released the executive summary of a commissioned report that compares the agency's federal airport screeners with privately contracted screeners working in five test-bed airports.** The PP5, as they are known, include San Francisco International Airport (SFO); Kansas City International Airport (MCI); Greater Rochester International Airport (ROC) in New York; Jackson Hole Airport (JAC), Jackson Hole, WY; and Tupelo (MS) Regional Airport (TUP). While the report was not intended to address the future of either the federal or private screener model, it will provide important data for TSA as the agency develops the program in which individual airports can choose between the two. BearingPoint, the report's author, compared performance of the PP5 private screeners with TSA's federal screeners. For the Summary Report see the website at <http://www.tsa.gov> -- BearingPoint Summary Report (PDF 180 KB). Source: [http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198\\_009d340](http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198_009d340)

11. *April 22, Department of Homeland Security* — **European Community and Department of Homeland Security sign landmark agreement to improve Container Security and expand CSI.** The European Community and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today, April 22, signed an agreement that among other things calls for the prompt expansion of Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Container Security Initiative (CSI) throughout the European Community. **The agreement was signed by Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and Irish Finance Minister Charlie McCreevy at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC. "This agreement sets the stage for enhanced cooperation between the United States and the European Community on CSI and other important security programs of common interest," said Secretary Ridge. "This agreement will lead to enhancements in our mutual**

**efforts to prevent terrorists from exploiting the international trading system."** The agreement will intensify and broaden Customs cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters between the European Community and the United States.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=3500>

12. *April 22, New York Times* — **Reports of massive blast emerge from secretive North Korea. Hundreds of people were killed and injured when two trains loaded with fuel collided and exploded in a North Korean railroad station on Thursday, April 22, only hours after North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Il, had passed by, according to reports in South Korean news media.** The cable television network YTN estimated that up to 3,000 people had been killed or injured in huge explosions that followed the collision of a train carrying gasoline and a second carrying liquefied petroleum gas. "We've obtained the information that there was a large explosion near Ryongchon Station," a South Korean Defense Ministry official who was not identified told the Yonhap news agency. Train wrecks with large numbers of fatalities are rare in North Korea, largely because trains creak slowly along rails that were first laid during the Japanese occupation, more than 60 years ago. The explosion took place on North Korea's busiest rail line, on the route from Pyongyang to China. A lifeline for the impoverished nation, the route brings in food and fuel from China, the North's leading trading partner and a major source of aid. **"The station was destroyed as if hit by a bombardment and debris flew high into the sky," the South Korean news agency reported.** Ryongchon is on flat coastal land, 30 miles south of the North's border with China.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2004/04/22/international/asia/22CND-KORE.html?ex=1083297600&en=bd3b8b1548c61c5a&ei=5062&partner=G\\_OOGLE](http://www.nytimes.com/2004/04/22/international/asia/22CND-KORE.html?ex=1083297600&en=bd3b8b1548c61c5a&ei=5062&partner=G_OOGLE)

13. *April 21, Federal Computer Week* — **Powell, Ridge back extensions of biometric passport deadline. State Department Secretary Colin Powell and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge urged Congressional lawmakers today, April 21, to extend the October deadline for accepting foreign passports embedded with biometrics from visa-waiver countries by another two years.** The extension would give the 27 nations in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) more time to produce passports with biometric identifiers, which the secretaries described as a technologically complex process. VWP countries are not dragging their feet but have found that, after 17 months, they need more time to meet the deadline, Powell and Ridge said. The Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002 set October 26, 2004, as the deadline when travelers from the VWP countries will have to carry a machine readable passport with biometrics when entering the United States. If those countries don't meet the deadline, then citizens from those countries would have to apply for visas. Powell said that could put a strain on the system. Congress has already said it will consider extending that deadline to November 30, 2006.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0419/web-passp-04-21-04 .asp>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

14. *April 22, Congress Daily* — **Postal overhaul bill unlikely to move this year, key aides say. The House member leading the charge for postal overhaul said Wednesday, April 21, the issue is still alive this year, but key House Republican and Democratic aides said postal**

legislation is unlikely to make much progress. Addressing a meeting of the Direct Marketing Association, Brian Gaston, chief of staff for House Majority Whip Roy Blunt, R–MO, and Cory Alexander, chief of staff for Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, D–MD, both agreed Congress is likely to spend the remainder of the congressional session on issues other than postal change. Gaston said postal legislation, which Government Reform Chairman Davis plans to introduce next week, is coming too late to pass in this Congress. "If we were going to do it, we should have started the process last year," Gaston said. Alexander said House leadership has not given the issue the attention it would need to pass. But the chairman of the House Government Reform Committee's special postal panel, Rep. John McHugh, R–NY, said he and Davis are committed to passing a bill this year. Speaking to the same DMA meeting earlier Wednesday, McHugh said Davis is "doing everything he can" to pass legislation this session.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0404/042204cdam2.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Agriculture Sector**

15. *April 21, Associated Press* — **Sudden oak death found in Canadian plant imports from California. Thousands of plants imported from California have been destroyed or quarantined after they were found to be infected with sudden oak death, authorities said. The actions were ordered by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to avert the kind of devastation in British Columbia forests that the fungus has caused in California and parts of Europe and to protect the province's \$592 million–a–year horticulture industry.** "The scope of this disease makes us very nervous," said John Bell, an agency biologist in Burnaby. "It has an incredible broad range of hosts, everything from roses to rhododendrons to Douglas fir. "This is unusual. Usually diseases are specific to certain groups, but sudden oak death is one that crosses all the lines." Sudden oak death was found last month in a shipment of 3,000 camellias from Monrovia Nursery in Southern California, one of the biggest nursery companies in North America. When Monrovia announced the infection, the Canadian agency immediately ordered the camellias destroyed but many had already been sold.

Source: [http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2004/04/22/business/news/19\\_15\\_594\\_21\\_04.txt](http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2004/04/22/business/news/19_15_594_21_04.txt)

16. *April 02, Associated Press* — **Michigan makes progress eradicating bovine TB. Michigan has made enough progress controlling its bovine tuberculosis problem to earn an improved classification from the federal government, state officials said Tuesday, April 20.** The state is now split into two classifications for bovine tuberculosis, the disease that has concerned the state's cattle industry since the late 1990s. **All or part of 13 counties in the northern Lower Peninsula still fall under strict cattle testing regulations and movement restrictions. The rest of the state has moved one step closer toward bovine TB–free designation.** In these areas, individual cattle, but not the entire herd, must be tested for the deadly lung ailment if they move out of the zone. The changed designation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture took effect Monday, April 19. Nearly all livestock in Michigan have been tested for bovine tuberculosis in the past three years. The disease has not been found outside an area of the northern Lower Peninsula. State government had spent an estimated \$47 million fighting bovine TB, including \$15 million on livestock testing, as of late last year. The state in 2000 ordered testing for all herds of cattle, goats, bison and privately owned deer.

Source: [http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/michigan/index.ssf?/newsflash/get\\_story.ssf?/cgi-free/getstory\\_ssf.cgi?g6374\\_BC\\_MI--BovineTuberculosis&&news&newsflash-michigan](http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/michigan/index.ssf?/newsflash/get_story.ssf?/cgi-free/getstory_ssf.cgi?g6374_BC_MI--BovineTuberculosis&&news&newsflash-michigan)

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Food Sector**

17. *April 21, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **China's poultry ban. China is still not ready to ease the ban on U.S. poultry that it implemented in reaction to outbreaks of avian influenza here, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Ann Veneman said Wednesday, April 21.** China has requested further "scientific exchanges" with the U.S. before it begins to allow in any U.S. poultry, Veneman said in a briefing during talks held by the U.S. and China's Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade. Currently China and Hong Kong maintain nationwide bans rather than prohibiting imports from only areas that have reported outbreaks of avian influenza. China, together with Hong Kong, imported about \$190 million of U.S. poultry in 2003, according to USDA data.

Source: [http://www.agprofessional.com/show\\_story.php?id=24655](http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=24655)

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Water Sector**

18. *April 22, Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs* — **Drinking water alliance launched at the UN. A strategic public-private collaboration devoted to ensuring safe drinking water was officially launched Thursday, April 22, at the United Nations' Commission on Sustainable Development meeting. The Safe Drinking Water Alliance will receive \$1.4 million over the next 18 months from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).** The Alliance is designed to develop innovative approaches for ensuring the safety of drinking water. USAID, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Center for Communication Programs, CARE, Population Services International, and Procter & Gamble joined forces to leverage their respective expertise and resources to better understand the behaviors and motivations for choosing particular technologies for treating household water, to share the knowledge gained, and identify opportunities for scaling up successful efforts to ensure safe drinking water.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/040422/phth024\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/040422/phth024_1.html)

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Public Health Sector**

19. *April 22, Agence France Presse* — **Asia faces more epidemics.** Asia faces the threat of more deadly epidemics such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which could have cost regional economies up to \$50 billion, Southeast Asian health ministers were told on Thursday, April 22. "New diseases like the bird flu and SARS have been emerging at the rate of one per year and the trend is certain to continue," said Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister

**Najib Razak.** He was opening a conference of health ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which aims to forge a common action plan against epidemics. Bird flu affected some 10 Asian nations, killed at least 23 people and led to the culling of millions of chickens. **Najib said the epidemics had shown that pathogens jumped species barriers and that the high mobility of people in the region meant no country could insulate itself.** A rapid and effective regional response mechanism would contribute to the ability to combat future outbreaks, Najib said. The health ministers plan to adopt a blueprint on coordinating their efforts over surveillance and emergency responses to health crises. On Friday, April 23, the 10 ASEAN members will be joined by their counterparts from China, Japan, and South Korea in a first cooperative effort to tackle the region's health problems. Source: [http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailatestnews.asp?fileid=20\\_040422164414&irec=0](http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailatestnews.asp?fileid=20_040422164414&irec=0)

20. *April 22, Fox News* — **U.S. vulnerable to vaccine shortages. The U.S. government is considering expanding the number and types of vaccines currently held in reserve for emergency use. The goal is to stop unanticipated shortages of frequently used vaccines and prevent disruptions in supplies.** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) already maintains a stockpile of vaccines, but it contains only a small number of doses. Since 1983, the stockpile has been tapped on at least nine occasions, most recently last year to manage a measles outbreak in the Marshall Islands. Approximately 226 million doses of vaccine were distributed in 2002. Two-thirds went for typical childhood vaccinations like polio, diphtheria and tetanus. Of the remaining third used by adults, the majority went to flu prevention. **In recent years, shortages have occurred in most childhood vaccines and in adult vaccines against influenza, tetanus, and pertussis. Now, a shortage of the childhood vaccine, pneumococcal conjugate is forcing officials to reconsider the supply and demand chain needed to protect Americans.** Industry leaders recognize that large upswings in demand are difficult to meet, and acknowledge that any problem with manufacturers can cause a serious delay in the distribution of supplies. **The United States has only four major manufacturers of vaccines, and some of those drugs are produced by just one company.**

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,117802,00.html>

21. *April 22, Associated Press* — **China reports suspected case of SARS. China's government reported a suspected case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in Beijing on Thursday, April 22, the first such report in the capital since the country's initial outbreak of the highly contagious disease subsided in July.** The patient, a nurse, has been quarantined in a hospital and has been examined by experts from the Ministry of Health, the government's Xinhua News Agency said. She reported having a fever, cough, and trembling on April 5 and was hospitalized two days later, but was only confirmed as a suspected SARS case on Thursday, it said. **Five other people who had contact with her have also reported fevers and been isolated in a hospital, Xinhua said. Doctors are also keeping an eye on 171 other people who had contact with the woman, to make sure they don't have symptoms.**

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2004-04-22-sars\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2004-04-22-sars_x.htm)

22. *April 22, Saint Louis University* — **New anthrax vaccine trial. A potentially safer vaccine to protect against anthrax is moving into a larger-scale clinical trial following a successful pilot study conducted at Saint Louis University School of Medicine and three other sites.** Researchers at Saint Louis University's Center for Vaccine Development and its clinical research organization, SoLUtions, are preparing to conduct a phase II human study of a new

investigational anthrax vaccine. **"The goal is to develop an anthrax vaccine with better protection, an improved safety profile, and a simpler dosing schedule,"** said Geoffrey J. Gorse, principal investigator for the study. Gorse said a total of 480 healthy volunteers at twelve sites around the United States, ages 18 to 55 years old, will be recruited for the study. Although the current anthrax vaccine can prevent anthrax, its dosing schedule, six doses over 18 months, and the need for annual boosters are cumbersome. The vaccine candidate being studied at Saint Louis University is designed to require fewer injections.

Source: [http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2004-04/slu-nto042104.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-04/slu-nto042104.php)

23. *April 21, Reuters* — **Airborne droplets spread SARS. The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus spread through a Hong Kong apartment complex last year by hitching a ride on microscopic airborne water droplets, according to a study that could help authorities in future battles with the respiratory disease.** The new research, debunks previous theories about how SARS spread through the private Amoy Gardens apartments. Sewage, roof rats, direct or indirect person-to-person contact were blamed when more than 300 people in the Amoy Gardens complex fell ill. A team led by Ignatius Yu of the Chinese University of Hong Kong said investigators from the World Health Organization were partly right when they concluded that the illness initially spread within the building because an exhaust fan in a bathroom drew the virus up through traps in the floor drain. The fan then sent the virus, riding on invisible aerosol droplets, to other parts of the 36-story building.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=4899269&section=news>

[[Return to top](#)]

## Government Sector

24. *April 22, Department of Homeland Security* — **Department of Homeland Security announces Minor League Baseball partnership.** Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge today, April 22, announced that 52 Minor League Baseball teams in communities all across America — more than double the number that participated last year — have committed to featuring Ready public service announcements in their ballparks this spring and summer. The partnership is just one of many strategic relationships secured by DHS and the Ad Council to disseminate messages and materials that will help Americans to prepare for potential terrorist attacks and other emergencies. Secretary Ridge also announced that the Boy Scouts of America will continue its partnership with Homeland Security through its Emergency Preparedness BSA initiative and distributing Ready brochures at the baseball games. **The Ready Campaign is a national public-service advertising campaign designed to educate and empower American citizens to prepare for and respond to potential terrorist attacks and other emergencies.** Citizens interested in receiving a "Get Ready Now" brochure may call 1-800-BE-READY or visit <http://www.ready.gov> for more information. Launched just over a year ago, Sec. Ridge says the campaign already is making a difference.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=3501>

[[Return to top](#)]

## Emergency Services Sector

25. *April 22, KOLD (Tucson, AZ)* — **New tools for Hazmat and rescue.** Today the Northwest Fire Department (in Tucson) unveiled its newest tools for dealing with rescues and hazardous materials. **The Hazmat truck has chemical and radiological detection equipment. It also has a camera which rises up to 20 feet in the air. Plus, a decontamination tent which takes less than a minute to set up and tear down.** As for the new rescue truck, it combines 3 trucks into one, saving firefighters valuable time, both trucks combined cost about half a million dollars. Northwest fire has also just hired 21 new wildland firefighters, while Tucson Fire has hired 19 just in time for the upcoming fire season. Experts predict this upcoming season will be especially severe.

Source: <http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=1805038&nav=14RTMUgx>

26. *April 22, Associated Press* — **North Carolina to get \$54 million for homeland security.**

North Carolina will receive about \$54 million from the Department of Homeland Security, part of which will be used to enhance equipment and training for area public safety personnel. Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson said Wednesday, April 21, **the money will go to emergency first responders, such as police, fire and public health departments. The money comes from the State Homeland Security Grant Program and is used for training, equipment, exercises and planning.** "I emphasize the importance of the first responders," said Hutchinson, the undersecretary for Border and Transportation Security. "It's essential to have the best equipment." North Carolina may not face the same threats as major urban areas such as New York or Washington, but Hutchinson said everywhere in the country has homeland security needs. He pointed to the International Home Furnishings Market, which opened Thursday in High Point and brings 70,000 visitors. The market is something that North Carolina needs to be vigilant about protecting from terrorists, he said.

Source: <http://www.wsocv.com/news/3030679/detail.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

## Information and Telecommunications Sector

27. *April 22, US-CERT* — **Exploit for Microsoft PCT vulnerability released.** Exploit code has been publicly released that takes advantage of a buffer overflow vulnerability in the Microsoft Private Communication Technology (PCT) protocol. **The vulnerability allows a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code with SYSTEM privileges.** US-CERT is aware of network activity that is consistent with scanning and/or exploit attempts against this vulnerability. Reports indicate increased network traffic to ports 443/tcp and 31337/tcp. The PCT protocol runs over SSL (443/tcp) and the known exploit code connects a command shell on 31337/tcp. Note that **the exploit code could be modified to use a different port or to execute different code.** This vulnerability is remedied by the patches described in Microsoft Security Bulletin MS04-011: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/MS04-011.mspx>

Source: [http://www.us-cert.gov/current/current\\_activity.html#pct](http://www.us-cert.gov/current/current_activity.html#pct)

28. *April 21, Reuters* — **Army confronts enemies within in cyber war game.** The mission: to secure an entire computer network for the United States and its allies against a vague enemy

force. Hostile agents aim to wreak havoc on military plans, sabotaging databases, computer terminals and communications. But the cyber warriors planning a best defense aren't analysts hunkered down at the Pentagon. They are cadets at West Point competing against military academies and other schools in a four-day Cyber Defense Exercise this week. And the "enemy" isn't al Qaeda or Iraqi insurgents. It's a team led by none other than the National Security Agency (NSA). **The NSA team, known as the "Red Cell," launches attacks on selected networks at the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine and Naval academies from an operations center somewhere in Maryland. The computer scenario plays out virtually inside the cadets' computers.** Going on the offensive, or using so-called hackback techniques, is against competition rules. Also out-of-bounds are forms of sabotage in which computers can be turned into zombies and used to attack opponent machines with millions of data messages, shutting down communication.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=technologyNews&storyID=4897789&section=news>

### Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 <p>AlertCon: 3 out of 4  <a href="https://gtoc.iss.net">https://gtoc.iss.net</a></p>	 <p>Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4  <a href="http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/">http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</a></p>
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
<b>Virus:</b>	<a href="#">[fetch #1 Virus (manual)]</a>
<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	445 (microsoft-ds), 135 (epmap), 80 (www), 2745 (urbisnet), 3127 (mydoom), 137 (netbios-ns), 6129 (dameware), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 17300 (Kuang2TheVirus), 1025 (blackjack)
	Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## General Sector

29. *April 22, Voice of America* — **Counterfeit trade linked to terrorist networks. A risk assessment agency in Hong Kong says counterfeit goods sold at high margins in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world can be traced to terrorist groups like Jemaah Islamiyah, Islamic extremists linked to the al Qaeda terror network.** Money made selling fake or copied DVD's, designer bags, and brand-name cigarettes can end up in the hands of terrorists. The Hong Kong risk assessment firm Hill and Associates says counterfeit products not only damage corporate sales and tarnish brand names, the illegal trade also threatens regional security. "Terrorist networks need money to function because they do not hold down regular jobs," said David Fernyhough, the company's brand director. "Where the counterfeiting comes in is because it's very high return, very low risk, that money is untraceable and therefore

attractive." **Fernyhough says counterfeit goods make up about five percent of world trade, accounting for hundreds of billions of dollars each year.**

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectID=DB083010-2CA7-42D5-8B089EE61376F5D7>

30. *April 22, Associated Press* — **Eight U.S. allies targeted in new terror threat.** A group that describes itself as "anti-American" is threatening terrorist attacks against eight U.S. allies. A spokesman for the South Korean Embassy in Thailand said a group calling itself the "Yello-Red Overseas Organization" made the threats in a one-page letter to the embassy. **It threatened to attack diplomatic compounds, airlines and public transportation systems in eight countries that support the U.S. or have plans to send troops to Iraq.** The countries are South Korea, Japan, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Australia, Kuwait and Pakistan. The threat said the attacks will occur by the end of the month. **South Korean authorities are investigating the credibility of the threat.** Thai police are increasing security around the South Korean Embassy. South Korea plans to send 3,000 more troops to Iraq, which would make it the biggest coalition partner behind the United States and Britain.

Source: <http://www.local10.com/news/3030588/detail.html>

31. *April 21, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-699T: Critical Infrastructure Protection: Establishing Effective Information Sharing with Infrastructure Sectors (Testimony).** Critical infrastructure protection (CIP) activities that are called for in federal policy and law are intended to enhance the security of the cyber and physical public and private infrastructures that are essential to our nation's security, economic security, and public health and safety. As our reliance on these infrastructures increases, so do the potential threats and attacks that could disrupt critical systems and operations. Effective information-sharing partnerships between industry sectors and government can contribute to CIP efforts. Federal policy has encouraged the voluntary creation of Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISACs) to facilitate the private sector's participation in CIP by serving as mechanisms for gathering and analyzing information and sharing it among the infrastructure sectors and between the private sector and government. **This testimony discusses the management and operational structures used by ISACs, federal efforts to interact with and support the ISACs, and challenges to and successful practices for ISACs' establishment, operation, and partnerships with the federal government.** Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04699thigh.pdf>  
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-699T>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

### 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**

Content and Suggestions: [nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov](mailto:nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov) or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at (703) 883-3644

Subscription and Distribution Information Send mail to [nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov](mailto:nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov) or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at (703) 883-3644 for more information.

### **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).

### **DHS/IAIP Disclaimer**

The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary and assessment of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. This is an internal DHS/IAIP tool intended to serve the informational needs of DHS/IAIP personnel and other interested staff. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions of the content. The IAIP provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or of accuracy in respect of the original source material.