



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 06 January 2004

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports three U.S. shipping terminals could be ready to receive liquefied natural gas tankers by 2007 — but some fear the fuel-bearing ships are a safety hazard, because of the potential for an accident or a terrorist attack. (See item [1](#))
- Department of Homeland Security launches US-VISIT program nationwide, on January 5. (See item [8](#))
- The Star Telegram reports health officials urge a greater public awareness of a possible smallpox attack, which is still considered a credible bioterrorist threat. (See item [22](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

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

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

1. *January 05, Associated Press* — **Proposed gas terminals spark safety concerns. A Providence, RI, site and two in Massachusetts could be ready to receive liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers by 2007, but some fear the fuel-bearing ships are a safety hazard, because of the potential for an accident or a terrorist attack.** Three different energy companies have proposed to spend more than a half-billion dollars on terminals for the reception of LNG tankers at Fields Point in Providence, at Brayton Point Power Station in Somerset, MA, and in Fall River, MA. Developers cite a 44-year history of casualty-free LNG

transport as evidence of the fuel's safety, but safety concerns, exacerbated by the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, linger. For that reason, **Captain Mary Landry, commanding officer of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office in Providence said the proposals involving LNG tankers will be put through a "very, very rigorous security evaluation."** The three proposed shipping terminals could be up and running by 2007, if they gain approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and a host of state and local agencies.

Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/2740402/detail.html>

2. *December 31, Reuters* — **Midwest ISO and PJM file operating agreement with FERC.** The operators of the U.S. Midwest and Mid-Atlantic power grids filed a joint operating agreement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Wednesday, December 31, which had been put on hold following the August 14 blackout. **The Midwest ISO, the Midwest grid operator, and PJM Interconnection, the Mid-Atlantic grid operator, said in a joint statement they expect the agreement will allow the reliable flow of more power between the regions,** covering 22 states from Montana to the East Coast and part of Canada. Under the agreement, the operators will exchange more information about the movement of power, improve communications, and enhance joint emergency plans.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_12_31_eng-reuters_pma_MIDWEST-ISO-PJM-FILE-OPERATING-AGREEMENT-WITH-FERC&SMContentSet=0

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Chemical Sector

3. *January 05, Associated Press* — **More work needed before Grand Bayou residents return home.** Crews continued Monday trying to plug an underground natural gas leak that forced out about 30 Grand Bayou, LA, residents on Christmas, but more work will have to be done before the evacuees can return home, an emergency official said. **The gas is coming from a crack in the casing of an underground storage well, about 1,450 below the surface.** Well control specialists hoped to have the leak fixed by Tuesday, said John Boudreaux, emergency preparedness director for Assumption Parish. Gulf South Pipeline Co., which leases the well from Dow Chemical, was drilling four other wells in the area to vent gas that has been bubbling up. After the leak is plugged and the vent wells are in place, officials will have to monitor the area to be sure it is safe, Boudreaux said. He would not estimate when residents in the sparsely populated area would be allowed to return. **The well that leaked was drilled to store natural gas in deep, naturally occurring caverns in underground salt domes.** Authorities said those who were evacuated were either staying with relatives, or at hotels in Donaldsonville and Thibodaux, with expenses paid by Gulf South.

Source: http://www.heraldtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2004_0105/APN/401050795

4. *January 05, Associated Press* — **Ammonia leak forces Bayou La Batre residents indoors.** An ammonia leak at a fisherman's marina in Bayou La Batre, AL, forced nearby residents indoors for about two hours Monday, January 5, emergency management officials said. **Authorities ordered a shelter-in-place for a large portion of Bayou La Batre after about 600 gallons of ammonia were released into the atmosphere,** said Ronnie Adair of the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency. There were no immediate reports of injuries. The

leak was reported at 10:20 a.m. The cause was not immediately clear, but Adair said a piece of structure or equipment apparently fell onto a valve to a tank containing the gas and broke the valve off. **The type of tank was not immediately known, but it was believed to be a refrigerant for the fish and shrimp brought into the marina.** The Bayou La Batre police and fire departments and the Mobile County hazardous materials unit were on the scene, Adair said. A company that specializes in air conditioning and refrigerants also was called to assist. During the shelter-in-place order, everyone in the area — which extended 200 feet in all directions from the leak and a half-mile downwind, including two schools — was advised to go inside a building and close all doors and windows, Adair said.

Source: http://www.al.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/newsflash/get_story.ssf?/cgi-free/getstory_ssf.cgi?j7252_BC_AL--AmmoniaLeak&&news&newsflash-al

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *January 05, Associated Press* — **Navy sets to close Puerto Rico base. Navy ships are leaving the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Puerto Rico, ending an era when defense spending boosted the island's economy and the U.S. territory was seen as a strategic asset.** No ships had their home port at Roosevelt Roads, but destroyers, cruisers and aircraft carriers passed through constantly for maneuvers or refueling. It was a support base for U.S. invasions of the Dominican Republic in 1965, Grenada in 1983 and Haiti in 1994. However, its main purpose was to oversee bombing exercises on the island of Vieques, but those exercises have ceased. The Army still has Fort Buchanan near San Juan, and officials say more than 1,000 troops from Puerto Rico are in the Middle East. **When Roosevelt Roads closes, Guantanamo Bay in Cuba will be the only U.S. naval base left in the Caribbean.**

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/world/wire/sns-ap-puerto-rico-departing-navy.0.7564673.story?coll=sns-ap-world-headlines>

6. *January 01, The Maui News (HI)* — **Air Force to begin tests over Maui. Starting on or about January 19, an Air Force Twin Otter plane will make several flights a week over Maui, HI, testing a laser detection system.** Flights will continue for as long as three and a half years on the Standoff Intelligence Detection System, although the first phase will last only six weeks. There will then be a pause to evaluate the results before more flights start, probably in March or April, according to Air Force officials. Rich Garcia, an information officer at the Directed Energy Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico, describes the Standoff Intelligence Detection System as a laser system installed on an aircraft and designed to image objects of interest on the ground. **The laser system would replace or supplement optical cameras or infrared sensors now used on military surveillance aircraft.**

Source: http://www.mauinews.com/news/story/011202004_new02Air%20Force0101.asp

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *January 05, The Daily Yomiuri (Japan)* — **Japanese government to step up war on money laundering.** The Finance Ministry of Japan announced Saturday, January 3, that it intends to revise the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Law to further combat money laundering and monitor the funding of international terrorism. **The revision will make it mandatory for domestic and foreign financial institutions in Japan to confirm a remitter's identity in nearly all overseas remittances.** It also will introduce a double-check system under which the financial institution handling the remittance must provide information on the remitter, including name, address and account number. The ministry is considering penalizing institutions that do not conform to the revised law. **The ministry is planning to revise the foreign exchange law in line with guidelines that the Financial Action Task Force plans to implement early this year.**

Source: <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/newse/20040105wo11.htm>

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Transportation Sector

8. *January 05, Department of Homeland Security* — **Department of Homeland Security launches US-VISIT program nationwide, on January 5.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has launched US-VISIT, a new program to enhance the nation's security while facilitating legitimate travel and trade through our borders. **New entry procedures took effect Monday, January 5, for most foreign visitors with non-immigrant visas at 115 airports and cruise ship terminals at 14 seaports. The system utilizes biometrics, which are physical characteristics unique to each individual, to verify identity.** Biometric technologies are the basis of an extensive array of highly secure identification and personal verification solutions. "Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in our government's commitment to securing our nation while upholding America's ideals about freedom of travel and the spirit of welcoming foreigner visitors," said Tom Ridge, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, while greeting passengers at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. "US-VISIT is an important new element in the global war against terrorism and will serve as a catalyst in the growing international use of biometrics to expedite processing of travelers. We want to show the world that we can keep our borders open and our nation secure."

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>

9. *January 05, Associated Press* — **New resting rules in effect for truck drivers. The new federal regulations are geared toward reducing accidents caused by sleepy truckers. Beginning January 4, truckers must rest for 10 hours after working for 11 straight hours, and they may not drive after being on duty for 60 hours in seven straight days, or 70 hours in eight days.** The work cycle is restarted only after a driver is off for at least 34 straight hours. Previously, drivers would work for 10 hours, then take an eight-hour break. **These are the first major changes for truck drivers in more than 60 years, and they are designed to reduce an estimated 75 deaths and more than 1,300 injuries each year in accidents involving trucks.** The Federal Motor Carriers Safety Association says the longer off-duty time allows driver to have more regular schedules and thereby increase the likelihood for quality sleep time.

Source: <http://www.news4jax.com/employment/2741136/detail.html>

10. *January 05, Associated Press* — **British Airways pilots object to armed marshals on flights to United States.** British Airways met with pilots Monday to discuss their objections to the use of armed sky marshals on flights to the United States. As they met, a BA flight to Washington was delayed for the third straight day because of U.S.-requested security checks. **The British Association of Air Line Pilots said deploying armed officers on aircraft would likely endanger lives, and one British vacation operator, Thomas Cook Airlines, said it would cancel flights if sky marshals were to be on board.** Like the association, "we want to see captains remain in full control of the aircraft at all times," said a spokesman for the Thomas Cook, which operates chartered flights to Florida and crosses U.S. airspace en route to the Caribbean. The pilots association has said it may be willing to accept sky marshals and cockpit restrictions under protest, but it was seeking assurances from airlines, including legal and financial indemnity, in case of shootouts. The association also wanted measures saying that pilots will be in command at all times and will know the identity and seating location of sky marshals. U.S. officials have sought to get armed sky marshals deployed on some flights. Source: http://www.canoe.com/CNEWS/World/WarOnTerrorism/2004/01/05/3_05002-ap.html
11. *January 05, Associated Press* — **Freight train derails, spills fuel into western Pennsylvania River.** Three lead locomotives and 16 freight cars, all carrying grain, derailed about 6 a.m., Monday, January 5, said Norfolk Southern Railroad spokesman Rudy Husband. The train was traveling from Conway to Altoona, PA, when it derailed in Bell Township, Westmoreland County, about a mile up river from Apollo and 35 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. Crews were cleaning up about 3,000 gallons of diesel fuel that spilled from the locomotive into the Kiskiminetas River, authorities said. **The other cars in the 107-car train were carrying hazardous materials and other freight, but none of those cars were overturned or leaking, Husband said.** The train's two-man crew suffered only minor injuries. Norfolk Southern officials have interviewed the crew about what may have caused the accident, but Husband wouldn't comment and said only that the crash was under investigation. Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=10752752&BRD=2212&PAG=461&dept_id=465812&rfi=6
12. *January 05, Associated Press* — **US-VISIT in operation. Citizens from 27 countries can travel to the United States without a visa and are exempt from being fingerprinted and photographed at U.S. airports and seaports under a new anti-terrorism program the Homeland Security Department started Monday.** Those foreigners can enter the United States with passports for business or pleasure for up to 90 days. To travel for other purposes or to stay longer, they must have a visa and would be subject to the checks for other arriving foreigners under the new US-VISIT program. **By October, visitors from the exempt countries must have a machine-readable passport to enter the United States. If not, they will be required to have a visa and will be subject to US-VISIT checks.** The countries are: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Portugal and Singapore. Different rules apply for Canada and Mexico. Canadians are allowed into the country simply by providing proof of citizenship. Mexicans can apply for a permit to travel in the United States for up to three days provided they stay within 25 miles of the border. If they want to stay longer or travel further, they must obtain a visa. Source: http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/ap/ap_story.html/Nation

13. *January 04, The Trucker* — **Short-haul trucker files handwritten suit to stop HOS. A short-haul trucker from Mereaux, LA, has filed a handwritten suit in U.S. District Court to block the new Hours of Service (HOS) rules set to go into effect January 4.** Robert "Bob" R. Fezekas, on his own behalf without a lawyer, filed the suit December 30, 2003, to keep the new rules from taking effect without a trial. Fezekas said under the new HOS, instead of getting home every night at 5 or 6 p.m., he'll have to work later. According to Fezekas, the new HOS will put many truckers out of business, causing problems at home, and in turn will lead to more divorces and more children on welfare. "It delays the goods," he said of the new rules. Fezekas was unaware that Public Citizen has a suit pending challenging the new HOS but said he still feels he has a good case.

Source: http://www.thetrucker.com/stories/01_04/0105_hos_suit.html

14. *January 02, Government Technology* — **CalTrans system provides transportation project cost accounting. The capability to connect to over 15,000 employees makes the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) Transportation Operations and Project Support System stand out.** "This project resulted in many positive benefits for employees," said David Hori, branch chief of Branch Central and Human Resource System, Enterprise Application Division at CalTrans. "It provided more accurate pay for employees and allowed certain transactions and over-time special pay to be processed quicker and more accurately." The system is the department's first Web-based enterprise system that provides timely and accurate labor information by applying online business rules and edits for project cost accounting and federal reimbursement. **In addition, the system tracks employees' job-required certifications and/or licenses and electronically notifies supervisors and employees of impending expiration dates. Now that the application has been fully utilized for one year, economic benefits have been estimated to be \$5.4 million.**

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=83309>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *January 05, Associated Press* — **Letter bomb sent to EU. A letter bomb addressed to a senior German member of the European Parliament burst into flames on Monday. A second suspicious package addressed to another member of the conservative group in the European Union (EU) legislature was being investigated by bomb disposal experts.** The attack against German parliament member Hans-Gert Poettering was the fifth on EU institutions in the past two weeks. Poettering is the head of the conservative European People's Party, the largest faction in the European Parliament. A padded envelope caught fire when a member of Poettering's staff opened it early Monday. The second suspect package was sent to Jose Ignacio Salafranca, head of the Spanish conservatives in the parliament. Party officials said the letter sent to Poettering appeared to contain a book like the incendiary package sent to the Italian home of European Commission President Romano Prodi, on December 27, at the start of the bombing wave. Investigators have zeroed in on an Italian anarchist group as the likely source of bombing wave. A group calling itself the "Informal Anarchic Federation" first took credit for setting two time bombs that exploded outside Prodi's house on December 21,

causing a small fire.

Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20040105/D7VSLVGG0.html>

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Agriculture Sector

16. *January 05, Triangle Tech Journal* — **Scientists discover enzyme degrades Mad Cow disease proteins.** Research by North Carolina State University scientists has shown that, under proper conditions, an enzyme can fully degrade the prion, or protein particle, believed to be responsible for mad cow disease and other related animal and human diseases. These transmissible prions, believed to be the cause of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), the technical name for mad cow disease, as well as the human and sheep versions, called Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease and scrapie, respectively, are highly resistant to degradation, says Jason Shih, professor of biotechnology and poultry science at NC State. **The new research, which tested the effects of a bacterial enzyme keratinase on brain tissues from cows with BSE and sheep with scrapie, showed that, when the tissue was pretreated and in the presence of a detergent, the enzyme fully degraded the prion, rendering it undetectable.** The researchers now plan another study to test the effectiveness of the enzyme on the treated BSE prions in mice. "Our work has been done in vitro, or in test tubes, and we've reduced the prion to undetectable levels," Shih says. **"Our work with mice will show whether these undetectable levels of prion are indeed non–infectious."**

Source: http://www.triangletechjournal.com/news/article.html?item_id=323

17. *January 05, Reuters* — **U.S. delegation goes to Mexico. A U.S. trade delegation is to travel to Mexico Monday to update agriculture officials on the mad cow case as a Japanese farm official expressed doubt about safety measures ordered by the U.S. government to control its spread.** A U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) team last week visited Japan and South Korea. Japan, Mexico, and South Korea had been the top buyers of U.S. beef, and the USDA is focusing its efforts on restoring trade with them as quickly as possible. **More than two dozen countries have banned U.S. beef exports, worth an annual \$3.2 billion.** In Tokyo, a senior Japanese farm ministry official expressed doubts Monday about the effectiveness of safety measures announced by the U.S. after the discovery of mad cow disease, Kyodo news agency said. The Japanese government is due shortly to send experts to the U.S. on a fact–finding mission.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/business/newswire/2004/01/05/rtr119783_2.html

18. *January 05, Reuters* — **USDA to destroy cattle. The U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) said on Monday it will destroy 450 bull calves in Washington state this week, the first cattle to be killed in connection with the discovery of mad cow disease in the United States.** State officials have quarantined three herds in Washington state that are linked to a Holstein dairy cow that was diagnosed with mad cow disease on December 23. The number of quarantined animals total at least 4,400, of which the calves to be killed are a part. "We have made a decision to depopulate those bull calves," USDA Chief Veterinarian Ron DeHaven told reporters. "In total, there are approximately 450 animals that will be sacrificed as part of this overall effort." **The herd targeted for depopulation contains a one–month–old bull that was born from the infected cow before it was slaughtered on December 9.** DeHaven said

there was a "very remote" chance the infected cow spread the brain-wasting disease to its offspring. USDA also said that since they were unable to pinpoint which animal in the herd is that offspring, all the calves in it were being destroyed. The 450 cattle will be sent to a slaughtering plant that is not currently in operation.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=domesticNews&storyID=4075624>

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Food Sector

19. *January 05, Associated Press* — **Beef bones recalled. Health officials have announced a voluntary recall of beef bones from a batch of meat connected to the mad cow disease case in Washington state.** The recall involves bones sold at Maxim Market, a San Jose, CA, grocery store, according to the Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health. The products include bones for soup. "It's not that there is a huge public health risk," said Santa Clara County spokesperson Gwendolyn Mitchell. "But we felt it was important to let the public know." Officials believe the bones came from a batch of cows that were slaughtered in Washington on the same day as the animal later diagnosed with mad cow disease. Federal officials have recalled about 10,000 pounds of beef from those animals, although they say the meat is probably safe. **Officials said bones from the same batch also went to six restaurants.**

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-mad-cow-recall-california.0.6926498.story?coll=sns-ap-nation-headlines>

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Water Sector

20. *January 04, San Diego Union Tribune* — **Interest renewed in water recycling. If the city of San Diego, CA, revisits a plan to turn sewage water into drinking water, one of the key issues will be whether the treatment can remove chemicals such as those contained in birth control pills and antibiotics.** A majority of San Diego City Council members, sitting as the Natural Resources and Culture Committee, supports a study of recycling water; the full City Council is expected to take up the issue early this year. Councilwoman Donna Frye wants the study to look at the issue of pharmaceutical chemicals, especially endocrine disrupters, in the reclaimed water. **The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says it is not known how endocrine disrupters may affect humans.** Studies are being conducted. Their presence in wastewater is not routinely measured or regulated. Studies have shown that reverse osmosis is the most effective in removing these chemicals. **There are no projects in the U.S. in which reclaimed water flows directly through customers' faucets.** Four water districts in California do percolate highly treated reclaimed water through soil into groundwater used for drinking.

Source: http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20040104-9999_1m4tr_eated.html

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Public Health Sector

21. *January 04, Associated Press* — **China orders cats killed after SARS tests. China on Monday ordered some 10,000 civet cats in wildlife markets killed in its southern province of Guangdong after genetic tests suggested a link to a suspected Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) case.** All wildlife markets in Guangdong were ordered to close, Feng Liuxiang, deputy director of the province's health department, said. Civets are served in wild game restaurants in Guangdong. The announcement came after researchers at Hong Kong University said they found similarities between a virus found in the cats and in a suspected SARS patient in Guangdong, suggesting the disease might have jumped from animals. **CCTV said there were believed to be about 10,000 civet cats being held for sale in Guangdong wildlife markets.**

Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20040105/D7VSEBU02.html>

22. *January 04, Star Telegram* — **Greater awareness of smallpox threat advocated. The risk of a smallpox attack may have waned in the public's eyes. But some still regard smallpox as a credible bioterrorist threat, and they have criticized the health care community's weak response.** "I don't think we are in good shape," said Ronald Blanck, University of North Texas Health Science Center president and former U.S. Army surgeon general. **"We still need to have more people vaccinated who will actually be able to take care of those who are exposed if there is a smallpox attack."** President Bush called for more than 450,000 emergency workers to receive smallpox vaccinations in December 2002 in Phase I of the vaccination program, but since that time the civilian program has been stuck. As of November 30, fewer than 39,000 civilians nationwide had received the smallpox vaccine, less than 10 percent of the total vaccinations initially called for, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Meanwhile, between December 12, 2002, and December 13, 2003, more than 526,000 military personnel received the vaccine. Phase I of the smallpox vaccination program was to include people who were likely to first come in contact with those exposed to the virus, such as public health workers and bioterrorism response teams.

Source: <http://www.dfw.com/ml/dfw/news/7633186.htm>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

23. *January 05, Associated Press* — **International aid effort winds down as last rescue team leaves. The international response to the most devastating earthquake to hit Iran in a decade wound down Monday, as the final foreign rescue team left and a U.S. field hospital treated its last patient.** A flight took off from Bam airport carrying Turkish rescue workers, one of 24 foreign teams that came here after a temblor of magnitude 6.6 killed more than 30,000 people and injured another 30,000. The U.S. field hospital that treated more than 720 patients in four days closed on Monday morning. There are currently six such hospitals in Bam. Most will be phased out in the weeks ahead as the International Federation of the Red Cross

and Red Crescent opens a larger facility. "Our mission is accomplished. We are going home," said Marty Bahamonde, the spokesman for the 80-member U.S. team. He said U.S. medics conducted eight operations and delivered six babies — the last a girl born early Monday. **The U.S. staff is due to leave Iran by Thursday, he said, although a handful of representatives of U.S. AID are due to remain for a few weeks to help raise funds for the U.N. agencies and charities working in this city.** Bam has tens of thousands of homeless and the quake destroyed its water and sanitation infrastructure.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/press/ap/ap010504.shtm>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

24. *January 05, CNET News.com* — **Open-source databases gaining favor. Big companies are warming up to open-source database software, according to a new study.** "Concerns over stability, expense and how well a database plays with others are leading a quickly growing number of...companies to seriously consider and implement an open source database solution," says Evans Data analyst Joe McKendrick. **"We expect this trend to continue as the open source offerings are continually improved upon."** Database companies, also touting speed and the ability to handle very demanding processing tasks, have boosted efforts to make databases more reliable and cheaper to operate.

Source: <http://news.com.com/2100-7344-5134836.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: WORM_LOVGATE.G 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	135 (epmap), 6129 (dameware), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 445 (microsoft-ds), 80 (www), 137 (netbios-ns), 901 (realsecure), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 1524 (ingreslock), 23 (telnet) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

25. *January 05, Voice of America* — **Officials blame Muslim insurgents for Thailand arson attacks. Thailand has declared martial law in three southern Muslim provinces after two days of arson attacks and bombings.** Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is blaming Islamic separatists for the violence. The Thai government moved to restore order by declaring martial law in the mostly Muslim provinces of Narathiwat, Yala, and Pattani. **Attackers have set fire to 21 schools, raided an army depot for weapons, and planted four bombs.** At least six people have been killed since Sunday. Buddhist Thailand experienced a Muslim insurgency in the south, until reconciliation efforts by the government in the 1980s. But violence has erupted in the past two years, with more than 50 police and soldiers perishing in attacks.
Source: <http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectID=6B8F12E6-BEA2-49D2-A55C24BDC0FCF806>
26. *January 05, Associated Press* — **UN office in Afghanistan attacked. Gunmen attacked the office of the United Nations refugee agency in Afghanistan Monday, throwing a grenade and firing shots but causing no injuries, a UN security guard said.** "We were sitting outside the gate when the car pulled up," said Abdul Rehman. "First they threw the grenade and then opened fire." The attackers, seated in a car, sped away when police and UN security staff who had been sitting in nearby tent rushed to the scene and returned fire, Rehman said. The white wall around the United Nations High Commission for Refugees compound was scarred by what appeared to be about 20 bullet holes, and another spot was more seriously damaged.
Source: http://www.canoe.com/CNEWS/World/WarOnTerrorism/2004/01/05/3_04956-ap.html
27. *January 05, Channel News Asia (Singapore)* — **Saudi phone booth bomb.** A new security alert shook the Saudi capital after police discovered a bomb in a telephone call office in a residential area amid a fresh Islamist call to arms against U.S.-occupation in the Gulf. **A security source and witnesses confirmed the bomb had been planted in the private office in the southwest of the city on Sunday night, January 4.** But the security source would give no further details about the device which local residents said had been found next to a petrol station on Sultana Street. Security forces sealed off the area around 10:00 pm (1900 GMT) before removing the bomb, residents told AFP on Monday. Police searched the al-Sueidi area, which has seen several hunts for Islamist radicals over recent months. Ibrahim al-Rayes, a Saudi who figured on a list of 26 terror suspects, was killed in a clash with security forces in al-Sueidi on December 8. The bomb discovery came amid security threats which led British Airways to cancel a flight to the kingdom, as well as several to the United States.
Source: http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_world/view/64896/1.html
28. *January 05, New York Times* — **U.S. says voice on new audiotape is probably bin Laden's.** A voice heard in the Middle East on Sunday urging Muslims to continue a holy war against occupiers was probably that of Osama bin Laden, government officials said today. **Department of Homeland Security Secretary, Tom Ridge said that a "preliminary assessment" indicated that the voice on the audiotape broadcast on the Arab satellite channel Al Jazeera was indeed that of the Qaeda leader. Ridge spoke on CBS's "Good Morning America."** The speaker on the audiotape referred to recent events, including the capture of Saddam Hussein, and asserted that "big powers" were trying to gain control of the Middle East to take over its oil. Al Jazeera has received and broadcast several previous audiotapes and

videotapes believed to have contained the voice and image of bin Laden. Al Jazeera's editor in chief, Ibrahim Hilal, said that he was certain that the latest tape was also genuine.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/01/05/politics/05CND-TAPE.html>

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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:

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