



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 01 March 2004

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- CNN reports the Coast Guard is searching for survivors of a chemical tanker that exploded and sank off Virginia's Chincoteague Island, Saturday, killing at least three crew members. (See item [6](#))
- Agence France Presse reports a UN conference estimates that controlling bird flu in Asia, potentially a global crisis, could cost more than \$100 million and international help is needed. (See item [11](#))
- Boston.com reports Boston fire officials have told a state panel that they are unprepared to deal with the potential disaster stemming from an explosion aboard one of the giant tankers that carries liquefied natural gas through Boston Harbor. (See item [18](#))

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](#)

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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. *February 28, San Diego Union-Tribune (CA)* — U.S. must tap foreign LNG supply according to Energy Secretary Abraham. Department of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said Friday, February 27, the United States needs to buy foreign supplies of liquefied natural gas (LNG) until other energy sources are available to fuel the nation's electric power plants. Abraham said the government's strategy "is to go for the imported gas

over the next 20 years....After 20 years, we believe there will be new ways to generate electricity." At least three LNG projects are proposed for Mexico, and another three or four are proposed for California. **At this point the country needs LNG, Abraham said, because traditional U.S. supplies of natural gas are becoming scarce while demand is skyrocketing. "We are projecting a 40 percent increase in natural gas demand over the next 20 years," he said.** "Even if we can get Alaska gas down (to California), we're going to be facing a gap." Abraham said the U.S. can ensure adequate supplies of LNG by buying it from numerous countries. The Department of Energy is reviewing its LNG regulations, partly because of an accident this year at an Algerian LNG complex that killed 30 people and injured scores more. It has commissioned a safety study that should be available this spring.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/business/20040228-9999-1b 28lng.html>

2. *February 27, CBS News* — **Nuclear weapons plant behind schedule.** The restart of bomb-grade uranium processing at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant in Oak Ridge, TN, is five years overdue and about \$300 million over budget, according to an internal audit. **Because Y-12 is the only facility in the United States capable of recovering and purifying highly enriched uranium for warheads, the delay has significance. "As a result, the enriched uranium operations necessary for national security are not available to meet future mission needs,"** said the Department of Energy's inspector general's office. Y-12's uranium processing operation was shuttered in 1994 after an accidental release of hydrogen fluoride raised safety concerns. Some processes within the program have been restored, but the inspector general's report said full operation may be at least three years away. According to the audit, while some processes are fully up and running, key capabilities remain lacking: the salvaging of material that contains uranium, the "wet chemistry" that recovers uranium from that material, and the "oxide conversion" that processes the extracted uranium into a form that can be reduced into weapons material. The U.S. needs new uranium to maintain its existing nuclear warheads.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/02/27/national/main60264 6.shtml>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *February 27, Aerospace Daily* — **DoD launches broad review of U.S. Air Force tanker needs.** The Department of Defense (DoD) has launched a broad, 18-month study to assess options for modernizing or replacing the Air Force's fleet of about 500 aging KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refuelers. **The analysis of alternatives (AOA) is expected to examine the pros and cons of a host of options, including modifying the existing tankers and acquiring new or used aircraft.** In a February 24 memorandum, Acting Pentagon acquisition chief Michael Wynne directed Air Force Secretary James Roche to conduct the AOA, which also will be overseen by a panel of senior military leaders. The study was mandated by the

fiscal 2004 defense authorization act. The Air Force wants to replace its KC-135s with Boeing KC-767s, starting with the lease of 20 aircraft and the purchase of 80 more.

Source: http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_aerospacedaily_story.jsp?id=news/tan02274.xml

4. *February 26, Associated Press* — **First carrier group heading for gulf under new Navy training plan. An aircraft carrier strike group will exercise in the Gulf of Mexico for the first time next week as part of a plan for replacing a closed Navy bombing and gunnery range in Puerto Rico with facilities in the southeastern United States.** The eight-vessel strike group led by the carrier USS John F. Kennedy, based at Mayport Naval Station near Jacksonville, FL, began the exercise Saturday, February 21, in the Atlantic Ocean and will enter the gulf March 6 for 10 more days of simulated and live-fire training. "This is the first time under our new Training Resource Strategy that we've used the Gulf of Mexico operation as you are going to see it unfold in March," Rear Admiral Richard K. Gallagher said. The training strategy, using ranges and bases in Florida, Georgia, Virginia and North Carolina, was developed to replace the facilities on Puerto Rico's Vieques Island.

Source: http://www.heraldtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2004_0226/APN/402261015

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *February 28, The Daily Star (Lebanon)* — **Bahrain steps up laws against money-laundering. Bahrain, the Gulf's financial and banking hub, is developing anti-money laundering (AML) laws for the insurance sector and capital market players as part of its drive to tighten its grip on the industry and remove any threat that might jeopardize its monetary and banking policies,** according to Executive Director for Banking Supervision Khalid Abdullah Ateeql. **The Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) is also upgrading regulations for the banking sector to incorporate changes made to the 40 Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which sets international standards to combat money laundering and terror financing.** Bahrain and other Gulf Arab states have tightened their banking policies, especially after the September 11, 2001 attacks in the U.S. Last month, Bahrain hosted a meeting of officials from Arab central banks, G10 countries, including the U.S. and UK, and international organizations and discussed the possibility of creating a regional FATF-style body for the Middle East and North Africa to coordinate the monitoring of money laundering and other illegal activities.

Source: http://www.dailystar.com.lb/business/28_02_04_c.asp

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Transportation Sector

6. *February 29, CNN* — **At least three dead in tanker explosion off Virginia.** The U.S. Coast Guard was searching early Sunday, February 29, for survivors of a chemical tanker that exploded and sank off Virginia's Chincoteague Island, killing at least three crew members, officials said. Six other crew members have been hospitalized and 18 of the crew were missing,

according to the Coast Guard. **The Singapore–flagged Bow Mariner — carrying 3.5 million gallons of industrial ethanol — blew up and sank late Saturday, February 28, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) off Chincoteague.** "The water temperature is around 44 degrees, so the longer the search goes on, the less likely we find survivors," USCG spokesman Lt. Buddy Dye said early Sunday. Several aircraft and lifeboats searched the debris–littered waters, looking for any survivors that may have surfaced. **The cause of the blast is under investigation. The Coast Guard in Washington contacted Singapore, which will also take part in the investigation, Dye said.** Lt. Chris Shaffer of Emergency Services based in Ocean City, Maryland, told The Associated Press that the explosion occurred after a fire started on the ship's deck. The 570–foot vessel — in transit from New York to Houston with 24 Filipino and three Greek crew — called in a mayday to the Coast Guard after 6 p.m. Saturday, February 28, to report the blast. It sank about an hour and a half later in international waters.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/South/02/29/tanker.explosion/index.html>

7. *February 27, The Washington Times* — **Amtrak claims to have solved its problems, touts Acela as ridership lure.** Amtrak says it has resolved mechanical problems that plagued the early days of its Acela Express service and now hopes to use the high–speed trains as a selling point for another year of record ridership. The passenger railroad is offering promotions to customers in hopes of reaching lofty goals of profitability promised but never achieved since Acela Express started service in December 2000. Ridership throughout the national passenger railroad system set a record last year of 24 million passengers and continues to climb. "If we continue with current trends, we should surpass 25 million in this current fiscal year," said Cliff Black, Amtrak spokesman. **Acela Express was supposed to be Amtrak's best hope for reaching financial self–sufficiency. If ever there was a time Acela Express could be successful, it is now, Amtrak officials said.** "Now that they've become reliable, ridership is starting to go up," Black said. "In the first four months of this fiscal year, Acela ridership is up 6.7 percent." **Last year, the high–speed trains carried more than 2.4 million passengers, producing 22 percent of the railroad's revenue.**

Source: http://cnni.wyellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=47622333&ID=cnniw&scategory=Transportation:Rail&

8. *February 27, CNN* — **Manila ferry fire: 110 missing. At least 110 people were missing as darkness fell on Friday, February 27, after explosions and fire tore through a Philippine ferry, killing one person and sending many into the sea to escape the flames.** "We have not given up hope of finding more survivors but there's also the possibility that some of them were trapped inside the boat," coastguard spokesperson Lieutenant Armand Balilo told reporters after at least 766 people were rescued. Rescuers said they would have to wait for up to two days to let the vessel cool down before they could begin searching for bodies. The 155–metre (510–foot) long ship listed onto its right side after being towed from the mouth of Manila Bay to Bataan island. **The owners disputed the coastguard assessment that the fire started in the engine room, saying it began on an upper deck. Gina Virtusio, a spokesperson for the WG&A consortium of three shipping lines that owns the vessel, replied to questions about the likelihood of sabotage by saying the owners were "leaning towards that issue."** Maritime accidents are relatively common in the Philippines, a country of more than 7,100 islands linked by networks of passenger ferries and cargo ships. In the world's worst peacetime shipping disaster, more than 4,300 people died in a collision between the ferry Dona Paz and an oil tanker in Philippine waters just before Christmas in 1987.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/asiapcf/02/27/philippines.ferr.y.reut/index.html>

9. *February 26, BBC* — **Russian aviation authorities step up anti-terror action.** The Russian Civil Aviation Authority has strengthened measures to protect against acts of terrorism, the Russian first deputy transport minister, Aleksandr Neradko, told a conference today, February 26, of the State Civil Aviation Service of the Russian Transport Ministry (Rosaviatsiya). **"While in the past the main focus of the aviation security service was on preventing explosives being taken aboard aircraft, at present this requirement is beginning to apply to airport terminals, filling facilities, electricity mains and other infrastructure at airports," he explained.** Neradko said that Rosaviatsiya had "drafted a law" on providing aviation security, which pays special attention to the protection of airports against possible terrorist acts. There is an aviation security service at 431 airports and 215 airlines, with more than 12,000 trained staff. In 2003, around 60,000 attempts to carry dangerous objects aboard aircraft were prevented.

Source: http://cnni.wyellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=47616806&ID=cnniw&scategory=Aviation:Regulations&

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Postal and Shipping Sector

10. *February 27, The Commercial Appeal* — **FedEx Express Freight to deliver on Saturdays. For \$100, FedEx is offering Saturday delivery to Express Freight customers in major markets, squeezing extra mileage out of a well-established network.** The service extends to Express's one-day, two-day and international priority shipments, giving shippers time-definite deliveries for palletized shipments exceeding 150 pounds. "Express has always delivered on Saturday," said FedEx spokesperson Kristin Krause. **Its customers might include medical supply firms, apparel businesses and high-tech firms — "anyone with high-volume, urgent freight," Krause said.** For one-day freight, FedEx guarantees shipments by noon for deliveries within 35 miles of an Express Freight ramp. Those up to 50 miles away will arrive by 1:30 p.m. Since FedEx added Postal Service contracts in 2001, the freight side of its flat Express business has taken off. From 2001 to 2002, freight revenues grew 49 percent. In 2003, they were up another 19 percent, exceeding \$1.5 million. On an average day, Express carries 8.6 million pounds of freight between its air and ground networks, Krause said.

Source: http://cnni.wyellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=47646119&ID=cnniw&scategory=Transportation:Cargo&

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Agriculture Sector

11. *February 27, Agence France Presse* — **Cost of controlling bird flu. Controlling bird flu in Asia could cost more than \$100 million and international help is needed to foot the bill, an expert at a UN conference on the crisis said.** World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) chief Bernard Vallat said the disease which has decimated poultry industries in 10 Asian nations could only be brought to heel with a concerted and coordinated global effort. "It could

be more than 100 million dollars for the short-term and medium-term to fight the disease," Vallat said. "But we need to convince policy makers and donors that this is for the international public good," he said. Vallat, whose Paris-based institution is the world's top veterinary health watchdog, said that at the talks he highlighted the importance of investment in proper surveillance, early warning, and detection. The emergency meeting, called by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), is aimed at mapping strategies to contain what Vallat and the World Health Organization describe as an "unprecedented" global crisis. **Experts were behind closed doors Friday addressing issues including veterinary services, surveillance and biosecurity measures, carcass disposal, vaccination, the economic effects of bird flu, and rehabilitation.**

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/afp/20040227/hl_afp/health_flu_fao_040227112619

12. *February 26, Reuters* — **Canada to rule soon on U.S. feeder cattle imports. Canada is set to decide next week whether to change the rules that prevent imports of U.S. feeder cattle to Western Canada for part of the year, a veterinary official said on Thursday, February 26.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is examining about 30 comments on the proposed changes from industry groups, provincial governments, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said Ken Orchard, an official from the agency's trade section. U.S. cattle producers and politicians have long complained about the rules, designed to prevent the spread of anaplasmosis and bluetongue diseases. **The rules restrict imports into western Canadian feedlots to the winter season, and only allow imports from nine states thought to be at low risk for the diseases. Industry sources on both sides of the border have said Canada needs to open up trade to U.S. feeder cattle year-round before the U.S. will consider lifting its ban on young Canadian cattle.** The U.S. ban was put in place nine months ago after Canada found its first homegrown case of mad cow disease.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20040226/wl_canada_nm/canada_trade_cattle_col_1

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Food Sector

13. *February 27, Dow Jones Newswires* — **Meatpacker plans to test all cattle for mad cow. A Kentucky-based company has become the first U.S. meatpacker to volunteer to test every animal it processes for mad cow disease.** The company's CEO announced he has assurances from his Asian customers that they would accept the company's beef products if they test every carcass. The company exports about 25 percent of its beef products. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has received a request from the company to perform voluntary testing at its Arkansas City slaughter plant, said J.B. Penn, undersecretary for farm and foreign agricultural services. If the department does not approve the testing within 60 days, the company will be forced to lay off 10 to 15 percent of the slaughter plant's 750 workers. **The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is the only agency now authorized to test for mad cow in the United States. The department announced last month it would accept applications from companies who want to conduct rapid tests for the disease that return results in 24 to 36 hours.** But department spokesperson Julie Quick said it could take a year before those companies could begin testing.

Source: http://www.cropdecisions.com/show_story.php?id=23803

14. *February 26, Associated Press* — **Supermarkets, grocery clerks reach deal. Negotiators for grocery clerks and three supermarket chains reached a tentative contract agreement Thursday, February 26, that could bring an end to the longest supermarket strike in U.S. history and send 70,000 employees back to work.** The four and a half month strike has inconvenienced millions of shoppers in Southern California and led to hundreds of millions of dollars in losses for the three grocery chains, which had taken a stand against rising employee health costs. Officials with the union must submit the proposed contract to members for approval. It was not immediately known when they might end pickets and return to work. Voting could begin as early as Friday, February 27.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&cid=509&u=/ap/20040227/ap_on_bi_ge/grocery_strike_1&printer=1

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Water Sector

15. *February 27, American Society of Agronomy* — **Using soils as filters to prevent Cryptosporidium from moving to groundwater.** Groundwater is generally considered a safe source of drinking water because pathogens are presumably filtered out during their transport through unsaturated soils. **Nevertheless, pathogen-contaminated groundwater has been the cause of many disease outbreaks in the last 10 years including cryptosporidiosis caused by the protozoan pathogen Cryptosporidium parvum.** A study funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Research Initiative program and performed at Cornell University examined how *C. parvum* oocysts may be transported via preferential flow to groundwater. A simulation model was developed on the basis of an existing preferential flow model. Column experiments with sandy and undisturbed structured soils were performed. Calf manure with cryptosporidiosis was applied to the columns soil surface, followed by rain. Chloride was also added as a tracer. **"Traditionally, people assume that soils filter out pathogens. This is based upon the premise that water and pathogens move slowly through all of the soil. We found that for sandy soil, where water moved rapidly through, there was indeed very little filtering initially,"** said Tammo Steenhuis, of Cornell University.

Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-02/asoa-usa022704.php

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Public Health Sector

16. *February 27, Food and Drug Administration* — **Canada, Mexico and United States sign charter.** The Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Mark B. McClellan, Assistant Deputy Minister of Canada's Health Products and Food Branch Diane Gorman, and the Federal Commissioner of Mexico's Federal Commission for the Protection from Sanitary Risks Ernesto Enriquez Rubio announced, February 27, the signing of the Trilateral Cooperation Charter. **The purpose and mission of the charter is to increase communication, collaboration, and the exchange of information among the three countries in the areas of**

drugs, biologics, medical devices, food safety, and nutrition. The Trilateral Cooperation establishes Working Groups, headed by three co–chairs representing each country, and the co–chairs are responsible for identifying issues for discussion and for seeking committee support. **One current working group included under the Cooperation is the Canada, U.S., Mexico Compliance Information Group. It's purpose is to increase the exchange of emergency preparedness and response, compliance, and enforcement information between the three countries.** The Laboratory Cooperation Working Group is to establish and maintain cooperation in the area of regulatory laboratory operations.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2004/NEW01028.html>

17. *February 26, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory* — **Researchers decode genome of rabbit fever pathogen. Two teams of researchers, one based in the U.S. and the other in Europe, have decoded the genetic blueprint of the tularemia (rabbit fever) bacterium, a highly infectious human and animal pathogen.** The complete genomes of separate strains of *Francisella tularensis* were sequenced by scientists at the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and at Uppsala University in Sweden. "Comparing the genome sequences of the two strains will help us identify the genes, and their associated proteins, that cause one strain of *F. tularensis* to be more virulent than another," said biologist Emilio Garcia, one of the project leaders for the Laboratory. Knowledge of the microbe's genome sequence can improve scientific understanding of its fundamental physiology and metabolism. **The knowledge could help researchers develop more effective vaccines and better methods for detecting, diagnosing, and treating tularemia.** Tularemia is a rare but serious disease normally spread by insect bites and human contact with rabbits, prairie dogs, and other small and medium–sized animals. As few as 10 organisms entering the body can cause fever, making tularemia one of the most infectious of all human diseases.

Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-02/dlnl-rdg022604.php

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

18. *February 29, Boston.com* — **Fire officials voice concerns on LNG threat.** Boston fire officials have told a state panel they are unprepared to deal with the potential disaster stemming from an explosion aboard one of the giant tankers that carries liquefied natural gas (LNG) through Boston Harbor. Fire and police officials from Boston and Everett said they have received little training in dealing with the LNG tankers, beyond escorting the massive vessels through the harbor and under the Tobin Bridge to the Distrigas facility in Everett. **Part of the problem is a lack of knowledge about what would happen if an LNG tanker was damaged during a terrorist attack. While industry officials believe a fire would be contained and remain around the ship, Fire Commissioner Paul A. Christian expressed concern about the potential for clouds of natural gas to drift and find an ignition source miles inland,**

creating a "back burn" that could devastate sections of Charlestown, Everett, East Boston, and downtown. The cost and risk are high enough that Police Commissioner Kathleen O'Toole suggested that the federal government place Boston Harbor on an "indefinite high alert" to make the state eligible for federal aid for the LNG patrols. **Boston is the only port in North America where LNG tankers travel near highly populated areas.**

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2004/02/27/fire_officials_voice_concerns_on_lng_threat/

19. *February 27, Government Computer News* — **NIST studies survival in wrecked buildings.** The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) researchers recently wired a New Orleans demolition project for sound, looking for ways to help first responders find survivors of building disasters. The work, funded by the Justice Department's Office of Law Enforcement Standards, grew out of communications glitches during the September 11, 2001, collapse of the World Trade Center in New York. "We've learned that communications are not 100 percent reliable" during a structural collapse, said Dennis Friday, chief of NIST's Electromagnetics Division in Boulder, CO. "People often survive in voids of a building. But the chances that somebody on the outside will hear them are slimmer. **Cell phones probably could not reach a base station through wreckage, and radio signals probably would not be strong enough to penetrate rubble.** When the William J. Fischer public-housing complex in the Algiers section of New Orleans was destroyed last month, "We placed 14 transmitters in the building," Friday said. The researchers measured signal strength from positions around the complex. Then they imploded the building. "Of the 14 transmitters, 10 survived," Friday said. "This was the first exploratory research," Friday said. It could help future first responders detect and locate radio and cell phone signals in wreckage.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/25096-1.html

20. *February 27, FEMA* — **Department of Homeland Security issues standards for first responders.** The Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology division today, February 27, adopted its first standards regarding personal protective equipment developed to protect first responders against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents. These standards, which will assist state and local procurement officials and manufacturers, are intended to provide emergency personnel with the best available protective gear. "Secretary Ridge and I are delighted to release the Department's standards for personal protective equipment for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents," said Dr. Charles McQueary, Under Secretary, Science and Technology. Homeland Security is adopting these standards, developed in partnership with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). These guidelines, which have also been adopted by the Interagency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability, include NIOSH standards for CBRN three main categories of respiratory protection equipment and five current NFPA standards for protective suits and clothing to be used in responding to chemical, biological and radiological attacks.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/press/ap/dhs022704.shtm>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

21. *February 27, Knight Ridder Newswire* — **Cell phone security. Computer–security experts say cell phones could be the next carriers for computer–network attacks.**

Computer–security experts in San Francisco this week at the annual RSA Conference swapped stories about attacks and discussed the possible next big threat. Experts generally agree that 2004 will bring more worms and viruses that can spread among computers with increasing speed. **But as computer users grow more savvy about protecting their machines from attack, hackers could turn their focus to the growing number of cell phones and other handheld devices. With more memory and faster processing power than before, these devices are mini–computers, connecting to the Internet and running many of the same programs as desktop machines. But they don't have anywhere near the same levels of protection from cyberattacks.** "They are in growing numbers susceptible to the same types of attacks that we've seen on traditional wired machines," said Carey Nachenberg, chief architect with the research labs of the antivirus company Symantec. "The reason why we probably haven't seen any real worms for these platforms is they are not nearly as pervasive as the other platforms. That will change."

Source: http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/national/80583_18.htm

22. *February 26, Associated Press* — **Companies work on E–mail identity system. With a simple adjustment in your e–mail software, you can pretend to be anyone.** This is known as spoofing. To close that loophole, Microsoft and Yahoo! Inc. are each developing systems aimed at authenticating senders of E–mail. America Online is testing a third. **"Having E–mail come in, and not really being able to identify where it comes from, this is a huge security hole,"** Bill Gates, of Microsoft, said this week in announcing specifications for his proposal. Microsoft's proposal, known as Caller ID for E–mail, calls for Internet service providers to submit lists of unique numeric addresses for their mail servers. On the receiving end, software would check a database to verify that a message said to come from an e–mail provider actually originated at one of its registered machines. In January, AOL began testing a similar system called Sender Policy Framework (SPF), which checks a different part of the message. Yahoo's proposed solution would use encryption to digitally sign messages. If the sender or message content is altered, the signature gets rejected. **Issues to be worked out for all three systems include how to properly send E–mail from cybercafes, hotels, and public Wi–Fi hotspots and how to preserve privacy when using anonymous re–mailers, which are used by whistleblowers and others to intentionally mask the origin of messages.**

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=528&ncid=528&e=2&u=/ap/20040227/ap_on_hi_te/e_mail_origins_2

23. *February 26, NewsFactor* — **FCC makes case for regulating VoIP. "While Internet voice services offer great potential, they are also extremely easy to establish abroad. If we do not create the proper regulatory climate in the U.S., it is quite possible our local calls will be routed through Canada and Mexico at cheaper rates, rather than through Kansas and Montana,"** Michael Powell, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), said. In defending the need for regulation of VoIP, Powell argued, "We must adopt the right policies to foster investment, innovation, and competition." **Policies created by the FCC would fall under two broad categories, said Powell: economic regulation and social/public safety policies.** Regulation can help provide universal service of IP communications, he explained. "We must effectively manage the transition from the analog to an all–digital world to ensure that Americans relying on yesterday's communications tools are not left behind," he

said. Another area that Powell suggests is ripe for regulation is the improvement of the nation's existing 911 system by adding VoIP features, such as the ability to pinpoint specific locations in, say, a building, or to alert a patient's doctor.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=75&ncid=75&e=14&u=/nf/20040226/tc_nf/23248

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 <p>AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net</p>	 <p>Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</p>
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	3127 (mydoom), 80 (www), 445 (microsoft-ds), 135 (epmap), 3128 (squid-http), 1080 (socks), 137 (netbios-ns), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 389 (ldap), 10080 (amanda) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

24. *February 29, CNN* — **Bush orders Marines to join Haiti multinational force.** President Bush said Sunday, February 29, he has ordered U.S. Marines to be the first contingent of a multinational interim force deployed in Haiti, after the resignation and departure of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. "I have ordered deployment of Marines as the leading element of an interim international force to help bring order and stability to Haiti," Bush said Sunday. Before Bush spoke, U.S. administration officials told CNN they were considering sending several hundred Marines to Haiti as soon as Sunday, but only with authorization by the Haitian government. The force's main mission would be to repatriate Haitians trying to come to the United States by sea and to provide support for any possible future international peacekeeping force, the officials said. Early Sunday morning Aristide left Haiti for an unknown destination and Haiti Supreme Court Chief Justice Boniface Alexandre was installed as the nation's president in a transitional government.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/americas/02/29/haiti.revolt/in dex.html>

25. *February 29, Associated Press* — **Police warn of possible San Francisco sniper.** The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is investigating a series of possible sniper shootings on a freeway east of San Francisco over the past week, a spokesman said Saturday, February

28. No serious injuries have been reported but bullet holes were found in some vehicles. The rear window of one motorist's vehicle exploded Friday afternoon as she was driving westbound on Interstate 580 in Castro Valley. The driver, Barbara Price, 47, of Alameda, pulled off the freeway and called for help. She suffered minor cuts and scratches from flying glass, police said. **Five similar incidents occurred within a 90-minute period Monday evening, February 23, on the section of the freeway that connects San Leandro and Dublin, CHP spokesman Wayne Ziese said.** Bullet holes were found in the passenger sides of several vehicles. Authorities planned to inspect all the vehicles and interview the drivers during the weekend, Ziese said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/West/02/28/california.sniper.ap/index.html>

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

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

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