



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 03 March 2004

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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## Daily Overview

- USAgNet reports that according to the Department of Agriculture, the amount of beef potentially contaminated by the nation's first mad-cow case was nearly four times higher than initially reported. (See item [18](#))
- Federal Computer Week reports the Department of Homeland Security has adopted its first radiological and nuclear detector standards so first responders, government officials and manufacturers can ensure that equipment meets certain design, performance and test guidelines. (See item [24](#))
- eSecurity Planet reports Internet virus attacks have reached epidemic proportions after the weekend release of another two Bagle variants and one more Netsky variant. (See item [25](#))

### DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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## Energy Sector

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

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

1. *March 02, Cincinnati Post (Ohio)* — **Davis-Besse preparing to restart nuclear plant.** Inside the 285-foot tall concrete building that houses Davis-Besse's nuclear reactor, operators are ready — just waiting for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to give permission to restart the plant that has been shut down for two years because of safety violations and concerns. "We know we're very close," said Gary Leidich, president of FirstEnergy Corp.'s nuclear operating

company. **Federal regulators may decide within the coming weeks whether the nuclear plant along Lake Erie east of Toledo can again begin producing electricity.** It was two years ago when inspectors found extensive corrosion on the reactor vessel. Leaking boric acid nearly ate through a 6-inch-thick steel cap covering the plant's reactor vessel. It was the most extensive corrosion ever at a U.S. nuclear reactor. Since that time, Akron-based FirstEnergy has spent about \$300 million making repairs to its equipment large and small — from replacing the reactor vessel to fortifying its doors inside the plant. The reactor now is at standby mode — 535 degrees. Once the plant gets the OK to start up, it will take about 10–14 days before it's fully operational.

Source: [http://cnniw.yellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story\\_id=47792280&ID=cnniw&scategory=Energy:Nuclear&](http://cnniw.yellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=47792280&ID=cnniw&scategory=Energy:Nuclear&)

2. *March 02, Daily News (Los Angeles, CA)* — **Los Angeles sees record gas prices. Los Angeles gasoline prices hit a record \$2.178 a gallon for regular on Monday, March 1 — up more than 50 cents since January 1 — and some analysts openly talked about it hitting the once-unthinkable mark of \$3 a gallon, possibly by late this year.** The Automobile Club of Southern California reported that the price of gas soared 40 cents in the past month, putting it more than 22 cents above price a year ago and 1.1 cents higher than the previous high of \$2.167 on March 21, 2003. Still, consumption has remained as high as ever, despite the price hikes, and industry experts say only a reduction in gas consumption will have much impact in the months ahead. The recent spike foreshadows what likely will happen in the months ahead, according to Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst for OPIS. **"This isn't the \$3 run; that'll come in August," Kloza said.**

Source: [http://cnniw.yellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story\\_id=47851581&ID=cnniw&scategory=Energy:Oil&](http://cnniw.yellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=47851581&ID=cnniw&scategory=Energy:Oil&)

3. *March 02, Sunday Gazette – Mail (Charleston, WV)* — **Natural gas increases electricity prices.** Dominion Virginia Power, Virginia's largest utility, boosted rates by 3.4 percent at the start of 2004 to recoup higher fuel costs, putting one more energy-related burden on residents already grappling with expensive home heating and gasoline bills. While the average price of electricity remains low on an inflation-adjusted basis, rates are rising in at least a dozen states. **The trend can be traced to an overbuilding of power plant capacity that began in the late 1990s — that's because natural gas became the feedstock of choice for nearly all new power plants because of its reputation as a clean burning and, until recently, inexpensive fuel.** In the past year, utility regulators in Virginia, Wisconsin, Florida, Texas, Montana and Wyoming, to name a few, authorized power providers to raise retail rates as much as 10 percent because of higher natural gas prices. **"Electricity price levels and volatility are tied much more to natural gas prices than they were five years ago,"** said Lawrence Makovich, senior director at Cambridge Energy Research Associates.

Source: [http://cnniw.yellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story\\_id=47828559&ID=cnniw&scategory=Energy:Natural+Gas&](http://cnniw.yellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=47828559&ID=cnniw&scategory=Energy:Natural+Gas&)

4. *March 01, Kyodo News International, Tokyo* — **Kyushu Electric to use controversial MOX fuel as early as FY 2008.** Kyushu Electric Power Co. plans to start using a controversial type of nuclear fuel at its nuclear power plant in the town of Genkai, Saga Prefecture, as early as fiscal 2008, informed sources said Monday. **At stake is plutonium-uranium mixed oxide (MOX) fuel, which environmental groups say has a potential to be dangerous.** Kyushu

Electric has said it will start using the fuel at an early date by 2010. Kyushu Electric said it would take at least about four years before starting to use the fuel in view of necessary procedures to apply for state approval and sign contracts with MOX fuel providers. **MOX fuel combines plutonium and uranium oxide recycled from spent nuclear fuel. It can be used at existing nuclear power stations after modifications.** The fuel is considered desirable by power plant operators because it reduces uranium consumption and is a way to use the plutonium produced by burning other sorts of nuclear fuel. Japan's electric power companies plan to use the fuel at 16–18 plants by fiscal 2010, but a series of nuclear plant accidents forced Tokyo Electric Power Co. and other power companies to delay their plans.

Source: [http://cnniw.yellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story\\_id=47809816&ID=cnniw&scategory=Energy:Nuclear&](http://cnniw.yellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=47809816&ID=cnniw&scategory=Energy:Nuclear&)

5. *February 21, Deutsche Welle* — **Agency: Five German nuclear plants vulnerable to attacks.** "The Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS) has called for the shut-down of five German nuclear energy plants because they lack sufficient protection against terrorist attacks. Of Germany's 18 nuclear power plants, the five plants are most vulnerable in case of a terror attack involving planes such as the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, BfS President Wolfram König said in an interview with Berliner Zeitung. **König's assessment is based on a report by the Society for Reactor Safety (GRS), Germany's central expert institution on nuclear safety.**" The report however does not look at concrete, actual safety risks at particular plants, according to a statement by Germany's federal ministry for the environment, nature conservation and nuclear safety, which oversees the BfS. The plants include Biblis A in the German state of Hesse, which is operated by RWE, Philippsburg 1 and Obrigheim in Baden–Württemberg, which belong to energy company EnBW, Isar 1 in Bavaria that's part of power giant Eon and Brunsbüttel in Schleswig–Holstein, which is operated by Vattenfall Europe and Eon. Environmentalists welcomed König's call to shut down the plants, saying that such a step was long overdue.

Source: [http://www.dw-world.de/english/0,,1432\\_A\\_1120320\\_1\\_A.00.html](http://www.dw-world.de/english/0,,1432_A_1120320_1_A.00.html)

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## **Chemical Sector**

6. *March 02, Contra Costa Times* — **Tesoro refinery release prompts health warning.** People with breathing problems should stay indoors, following a chemical release at Tesoro refinery in Avon, CA, health officials said this morning, March 2. **The chemical released is called mercaptans and is a substance added to natural gas to give it an odor, said Jim Hattum, a spokesman for the Contra Costa County hazardous materials program.** Health officials believe the release began around 10 a.m. and occurred as the refinery was doing some clean-up work. Nearby residents also reported noticing odors Monday between 10 p.m. and midnight, March 1. "We are basically saying if you've been exposed, wash your eyes out or if you have a history of breathing problems, you're better off staying inside," he said. Winds from the north have made the smell noticeable as far south as Danville and San Ramon. "It is more of an irritant than a direct health problem unless you have a history of breathing problems. If you are exposed, you can take a shower or if you are having breathing problems, you can breath through a damp rag. If you have continuing problems you should see your doctor," said Jim Hattum.

Source: <http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/8087252.htm>

7. *March 02, KLAS TV (Las Vegas, NV)* — **Special news report: Hidden threats.** Since September 11, 2001, homeland security officials have worried that the next terrorist attack might involve chemical weapons. **But in the view of some, those weapons are already here — in the form of unsecured chemical plants, plants that could be transformed into weapons of mass destruction.** Even without the threat of terrorism, such plants represent a potential danger to citizens. **For example, an ice cream plant might sound benign, but it uses volatile chemicals for refrigeration. At swimming pool companies, in parked rail cars, or in trucks, potentially lethal chemicals are stored in large amounts.** Security experts say that many, if not most, of America's 15,000 chemical plants are also vulnerable to catastrophic accidents or even terrorist attacks. And while most of the chemical plants are considered good neighbors who cooperate with local safety officials, much of what they do for safety is strictly on a volunteer basis.

Source: <http://www.klas-tv.com/Global/story.asp?S=1682367&nav=168XLE Kx>

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## Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *March 02, Associated Press* — **Guardsmen put on alert. About 18,000 National Guard soldiers have been placed on alert for likely deployment to Iraq late this year or in early 2005,** the Pentagon announced on Monday, March 1. The guardsmen will be part of a larger force—which may total about 100,000 active-duty and reserve troops—that is expected to take over for the contingent which is just beginning a one-year tour in Iraq. The Guard units alerted are the 42nd Infantry Division headquarters from the New York National Guard, the 256th Infantry Brigade from Louisiana, the 116th Cavalry Brigade from Idaho and Oregon and the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment from Tennessee. They will be mobilized over the next several months to conduct training before their new assignment, the Pentagon said. **The length of their mobilization depends on how much training they need as well as the requirements of the Central Command commander, General John Abizaid, who manages the Iraq operation.**

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/nation/8082387.htm>

9. *March 02, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-393: Defense Acquisitions: Stronger Management Practices Are Needed to Improve DoD's Software-Intensive Weapon Acquisitions (Report).** The Department of Defense (DoD) has been relying increasingly on computer software to introduce or enhance performance capabilities of major weapon systems. To ensure successful outcomes, software acquisition requires disciplined processes and practices. Without such discipline, weapon programs encounter difficulty in meeting cost and schedule targets. The General Accounting Office (GAO) was asked to identify the practices used by leading companies to acquire software and to analyze the causes of poor outcomes of selected DoD programs. GAO also was asked to evaluate DOD's efforts to develop programs for improving software acquisition processes and to assess how those efforts compare with leading companies' practices. **GAO recommends that the Secretary of Defense direct the military services and agencies to adopt specific controls to improve software acquisition outcomes. These practices should be incorporated into DoD policy, software process**

**improvement plans, and development contracts.** DoD concurred with two revised recommendations and partially concurred with two others. Highlights:

<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04393high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-393>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

**10. *March 03, The Edge (Malaysia)* — RHB Bank warns of bogus e-mails.** RHB Bank Bhd of Malaysia is cautioning its customers against bogus e-mails claiming to come from the bank and is asking customers to validate their personal accounts via hyperlinks. It said the e-mails were made to look real, even advising customers to be careful of Internet fraud and providing tips on how to verify the e-mail sent was genuine. **The bank said it has taken steps to ensure customers' account information was safe.** If customers have clicked on the e-mail hyperlink, they should contact the bank.

Source: <http://www.theedge.com.my/article.cfm?id=28901>

**11. *March 02, Associated Press* — Armored truck guard killed at Los Angeles bank.** About six men armed with assault rifles stole an undisclosed sum of money after they attacked an armored car at a bank, police said. **Investigators were searching for the suspects after the ambush Monday, March 1, at the Bank of America on Western Avenue.** The suspects sped away in a van after firing more than 50 rounds in a shootout with one of the armored truck guards, who died Monday after he was shot numerous times during the robbery, police said. Surveillance video at the bank showed that the gunmen were not wearing masks, said Los Angeles police Captain Al Michelena.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2004/03/02/state0428EST0016.DTL>

**12. *March 02, U.S. Department of State* — Efforts to fight money laundering face challenges, U.S. says.** The pace of work to identify, block and freeze terrorist assets slowed in 2003, according to the Department of State's annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), published Monday, March 1. **The slower pace is attributed to a number of factors, including the possibility that the most vulnerable criminal financial networks were dismantled with relative ease immediately following September 11, 2001, and that terrorist organizations have access to non-bank money channels -- including trade, charities and remittance services -- that are far more difficult for authorities to trace.**

The U.S. is working closely with other countries to promote the adoption and enforcement of anti-money laundering and terrorist financing standards worldwide, including cooperation among the Group of Eight (G-8) countries and the multinational Financial Action Task Force (FATF). **Two new FATF-style regional bodies may be established in the Middle East and Central Asia, and the U.S. is "significantly" enhancing its anti-money laundering programs in East Africa.** Also under consideration is the creation of an international network of Trade Transparency Units, which would focus on detecting anomalies in trade data that could indicate trade-based money laundering. The report is available online:

<http://www.state.gov/g/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2003/vol2/html/index.htm>

Source: <http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/p/tp-20040302-04.html>

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## **Transportation Sector**

**13. *March 02, Pantagraph* — Amtrak considering adding trains.** Illinois transportation officials and Amtrak are considering plans to add more passenger trains to the Chicago–St. Louis corridor. **Acting on a request from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Amtrak is compiling figures to determine the costs of adding trains to the current selection of three that roll through Bloomington–Normal every day.** Efforts to bring more trains to Central Illinois come as the town of Normal is trying to build a transportation hub downtown that would combine a train station, bus station and taxi service into one central facility. IDOT spokesman Matt Vanover said expansion talks are in "very preliminary" stages, and he could not offer a timetable as to when the state would like to add the passenger rail service. Amtrak reports show the number of riders grew 29 percent in the final three months of 2003. That comes after a 13 percent increase in the preceding 12 months. Currently, the state pays Amtrak \$12 million as part of an eight– year agreement to keep passenger trains operating throughout the state. IDOT also has invested millions of dollars upgrading tracks and other technology aimed at one day bringing high–speed rail to the line.

Source: [http://cnni.wyellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story\\_id=47812816&ID=cnniw&scategory=Transportation:Rail&](http://cnni.wyellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=47812816&ID=cnniw&scategory=Transportation:Rail&)

**14. *March 01, Tampa Tribune (Tampa, FL)* — CSX crew uses remote–control technology to move locomotives at rail yard. CSX views remote–control operations as an opportunity to reduce injuries and costs.** It has struggled with safety problems that drew the attention of the Federal Railroad Administration in 2000 and financial issues as recently as last year, when earnings declined as the general economy improved. CSX has trained 2,300 employees at 60 locations to operate remote–locomotive systems without engineers. In Tampa, the railroad has retained eight conventional three–person yard–switching crews alongside its five remote crews. The U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation last year directed the railroad agency to assess its policies on remote control. The agency will issue preliminary findings this spring and a full report by next year. **The most frequent safety problems in rail yards involve slips, trips and falls, said Brad Cooper, trainmaster of the Florida Business Unit for CSX Transportation in Tampa and a former CSX engineer. The critically dangerous moment occurs when a trainman steps between two freight cars to connect or disconnect the couplers.** In a conventional operation involving an engineer in the cab, the trainman on the ground lets the engineer know via radio when it is safe to move.

Source: [http://cnni.wyellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story\\_id=47849798&ID=cnniw&scategory=Transportation:Rail&](http://cnni.wyellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=47849798&ID=cnniw&scategory=Transportation:Rail&)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## Agriculture Sector

15. *March 02, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **Texas initiates test plan to ensure eradication of bird flu. Texas animal health officials are initiating a targeted disease surveillance plan for poultry flocks in and around Gonzales county to ensure that bird flu is eradicated from the state,** according to an announcement from the state Animal Health Commission (AHC). A flock of nearly 7,000 broiler chickens was destroyed February 21 after the H5N2 strain of bird flu was confirmed in the flock, the AHC said. "Since mid-February, more than 250 noncommercial and commercial flocks have been tested within a 10-mile radius of the affected farm, and to date, no additional bird flu infection has been detected," said Max Coats, deputy director for Animal Health Programs for the AHC. **"The disease surveillance strategy will include testing of commercial and noncommercial poultry and birds within a 30-mile radius around the affected farm so we can assure trading partners that bird flu has been eradicated. This action should help us to re-establish our ability to ship poultry meat and poultry products to more than 30 countries as rapidly as possible,"** Coats said. Source: [http://www.agprofessional.com/show\\_story.php?id=23851](http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=23851)
16. *March 02, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **Brazil soy losses to Asian rust. Brazilian farmers will probably lose more soybeans to the Asian rust fungus in the current 2003-04 season than last year due to heavy rains in the center-west and less than effective fungicides, said a leading government crop pathologist.** In 2002-03, Brazil lost 3.4 million metric tons of soybeans to the fungus, out of a crop of 52 million tons, according to estimates from Embrapa, the Agriculture Ministry's crop research agency. "We will only get a better idea at the end of March, but the losses will likely be more than last year," said Jose Tadashi Yorinori, specialist in the yield-sapping fungus at Embrapa. He said extensive travel through the center-west, Brazil's top-producing soybean region, revealed that farmers have not been able to spray fungicide on their maturing crops because of the heavy rains that have fallen in the past month, allowing the fungus a free reign to destroy foliage. **In addition, he said that certain fungicides being used to combat the fungus have proved inefficient at killing all the spores during heavy rust attacks, leading to damage even in well-sprayed areas.** Source: [http://www.agprofessional.com/show\\_story.php?id=23850](http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=23850)
17. *March 01, KIFI (Idaho)* — **Researchers close to improved brucellosis test. Researchers at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory are finalizing a new field test to determine whether cattle or bison exposed to brucellosis are actually infected.** Molecular biologist Frank Roberto says the test is being validated now and could be available next year. The equipment can be hauled in a backpack, and DNA samples can be processed in 90 minutes in the field. **The test can also be modified to look for bioterrorism agents.** Testing for the disease that makes cows abort their calves has taken on new importance since brucellosis has been found in cattle herds in western Wyoming. Source: <http://www.localnews8.com/home/623241.html>

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## Food Sector

18. *March 02, USAgNet* — **Mad cow beef greater amount than first reported.** The amount of beef potentially contaminated by the nation's first mad-cow case was nearly four times higher than the federal government initially reported, The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has said. **When the USDA launched the recall of affected meat December 23, officials put the total at 10,400 pounds, a figure they repeated for nearly two months. But the actual amount was 38,000 pounds, the agency now acknowledges.** The total swelled because meat from the infected cow was mingled with meat from many other animals when it was ground into hamburger.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=216&yr=2004>

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## **Water Sector**

19. *March 01, Associated Press* — **Clean water permits. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has issued the first of what will soon become a new generation of water permits. The new permit looks at the impact on an entire watershed, rather than on a single waste water facility.** It's the first time in the United States that a regulatory agency has attempted to regulate the larger impact on the ecosystem. The first permit was given to the company, which manages waste water in Washington County. The company provides water to 473,000 Washington County residents. It manages four waster water treatment plants, all of which drain into the Tualatin River. To receive the permit, the company had to show what kind of impact they have on the Tualatin River Watershed. The impact will be mitigated by various measures, including planting trees along the river's banks and augmenting the river's flow with water from a nearby lake.

Source: <http://www.katu.com/outdoor/story.asp?ID=65018>

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## **Public Health Sector**

20. *March 03, Medical News Today* — **Whooping cough growing despite vaccinations.** The number of infants getting whooping cough and pertussis related illnesses is growing in the United States. Experts say authorities need to take steps to stop the increase in numbers. **According to Brian Pascual, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public health specialist, whooping cough is the only vaccine-preventable disease that is still spreading and growing in the U.S. This is despite more people being vaccinated today than they were a decade ago.** In 2004, five states have reported pertussis outbreaks. Experts expect more states to be registering cases. Over 9,000 cases were reported in 2002. This is the highest number since 1964. However, these are reported numbers. Experts believe the real numbers are much higher. Only one third of hospital cases of pertussis are reported. Whooping cough caused thousands of deaths in the 1930s and 1940s, but with the advent of a vaccine, the rate of death has declined dramatically.

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/index.php?newsid=6270>

21.

*March 01, Emory University Health Sciences Center* — **Antiviral drugs and pandemic influenza. In a future outbreak of pandemic influenza, such as the three pandemics that sickened millions during the 20th century, supplies of flu vaccine might not be available quickly enough to contain the spread of disease. However, according to research by biostatisticians at Emory University, many thousands of deaths could be prevented if antiviral agents were given to the close contacts of those with suspected cases of flu until adequate supplies of vaccine could be manufactured and distributed.** The Emory scientists used a dynamic stochastic simulation model of an influenza pandemic or bioterrorist attack for an agent similar to influenza A(H2N2), which caused the Asian influenza pandemic of 1957–58 and resulted in approximately 70,000 deaths in the U.S. They determined that if no interventions were used in a similar pandemic, 33 percent of the population would become ill, resulting in a death rate of 0.58 per 1,000 people. If antiviral prophylaxis was given to close contacts of 80 percent of suspected influenza cases, however, in a strategy that the authors call "targeted antiviral prophylaxis" (TAP), the epidemic could be contained. If TAP were begun within one day of identifying suspected flu cases and used for up to eight weeks, only two percent of the population would become ill, and the death rate would be only 0.04 per 1,000 people.

Source: [http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2004-03/euhs-tap030104.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-03/euhs-tap030104.php)

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## **Government Sector**

22. *March 02, Government Executive Magazine* — **Homeland Security officials eye plan for keeping track of immigrants. The Homeland Security Department wants to develop a long-term plan for tracking immigrants that goes beyond congressional mandates and encourages people to pre-register with the U.S. government, officials said Monday, March 1.** Officials with the U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US VISIT) program said they are trying to balance near-term congressional mandates for tracking immigrants with developing a "comprehensive, integrated system" in several years that can be used by multiple federal agencies and departments. Program Director Jim Williams said the lead contractor will be asked to look beyond congressional mandates and develop a plan that addresses program requirements in the areas of technological architecture, policy, workforce and organization. **A central element of a long-term plan might be encouraging people to preregister their biographic and biometric information with the U.S. government,** said Patricia Cogswell, chief strategist for US VISIT. Homeland Security already has preregistration programs for visitors — also known as "trusted travelers" — at the Mexican and Canadian borders.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0304/030104c1.htm>

23. *February 26, Federal Computer Week* — **Understanding could further homeland security cooperation. Common understandings of functions, goals and roles are critical for intergovernmental work on homeland security, according to a report from the National Academy of Public Administration.** The report, "Managing Intergovernmental Relations for Homeland Security," is the result of a December 2003 forum in which 11 academy fellows met with six high-level officials from the Homeland Security Department to advise them about moving forward with the department's mission. Everyone at every level must understand the big

picture, according to the academy report. Officials need to clearly establish roles and responsibilities to set up a regional structure within the department, academy officials said. Most agencies and departments have a headquarters with outreach in field offices. By also placing a regional office into the structure, DHS officials must make sure that those offices only focus on truly cross-jurisdictional issues. NAPA report "Managing Intergovernmental Relations for Homeland Security" (PDF): <http://www.napawash.org/si/HS-WHITE.pdf>  
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2004/0223/web-napa-02-26-04.asp>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

24. *March 02, Federal Computer Week* — **DHS sets detector standards. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has adopted its first radiological and nuclear detector standards so first responders, government officials and manufacturers can ensure that equipment meets certain design, performance and test guidelines.** "The department, through Customs and Border Protection, has already moved forward with deploying state-of-the-art radiation detection technologies at key installations on our nation's borders," said Asa Hutchinson, DHS undersecretary for border and transportation security, in a statement. Standards ensure that equipment, gear and other technologies do what they are intended to do. National standards can also be tied to federal grants to ensure that agencies purchase equipment that adhere to approved guidelines. DHS' Science and Technology division adopted the standards along with the Office of Domestic Preparedness, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Energy Department's national laboratories, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc., and the American National Standards Institute.  
Source: [http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0223/web-nukes-02-27-04 .asp](http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0223/web-nukes-02-27-04.asp)

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## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

25. *March 02, eSecurity Planet* — **Virus attacks reach 'epidemic' proportions.** Just as the industry was reeling Monday, March 1, from the weekend release of a new Netsky variant and five new Bagle variants, another two Bagle variants and one more Netsky variant have hit the Internet. Netsky-D, alone, has caused \$58.5 million in damages worldwide, according to mi2g, a London-based security assessment company. And as that variant continues to wreak havoc across the Internet, **Netsky-E has been discovered. The latest variant spreads via email and network shares**, but so far is not causing as much trouble as its predecessors. "Whoever is behind the Netsky worms is hell bent on causing as much chaos as possible," says Graham Cluley, of Sophos, Inc., an anti-virus and anti-spam company. "They have deliberately released new versions of their virus, tweaked to try and avoid detection by anti-virus software." The Bagle family ushered in Bagle-H and Bagle-I Monday. Bagle-H is an e-mail worm which contains a password-protected Zip file which avoids anti-virus detection. **When the attachment is opened, the worm opens up a backdoor on Port 2745 and waits for commands from the virus author. Bagle-I follows the same pattern but has been tweaked to avoid detection by anti-virus software programmed to stop Bagle-H.**

## Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 <a href="https://gtoc.iss.net">https://gtoc.iss.net</a>	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 <a href="http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/">http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</a>
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
<b>Virus:</b>	#1 Virus in the United States: <b>WORM_LOVGATE.G</b> Source: <a href="http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html">http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html</a> , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	3127 (mydoom), 135 (epmap), 80 (www), 445 (microsoft-ds), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 137 (netbios-ns), 1080 (socks), 3128 (squid-http), 6129 (dameware), 1433 (ms-sql-s) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center

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## General Sector

26. *March 02, Gulf Daily News* — **Al Qaeda blamed for bloodbath in Iraq.** Al Qaeda was blamed Tuesday, March 2, for a wave of suicide bombings and mortar attacks on vast crowds of Shi'ite worshippers that killed at least 182 people in Baghdad and Karbala, Iraq's bloodiest day since Saddam Hussein's fall. **Leaders of the country's 60 percent Shi'ite majority said the bloodbaths were intended to ignite civil war. The Iraqi Governing Council blamed Abu Musab Zarqawi, a Jordanian who Washington says is working for al Qaeda.** The U.S. military said three suicide bombers killed 70 people in Baghdad around the Kadhimiya mosque. In the holy city of Karbala, where more than two million worshippers were marking Ashoora for the first time since the downfall of Saddam Hussein, at least five suicide blasts killed 112 people and injured more than 235. U.S. forces said last month they had intercepted a computer disc with a letter from Zarqawi urging suicide bomb attacks on Shi'ites to inflame sectarian tension in Iraq. "This was a clear and tragically well organized act of terrorism," said Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt, deputy chief of operations for the U.S. Army in Iraq.  
 Source: <http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/Articles.asp?Article=75690&Sn=WORLD>

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