



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

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports a con artist who faked famous art and sold it on eBay has pleaded guilty to federal money laundering charges. (See item [9](#))
- USAgNet reports the federal government has begun a criminal investigation into whether records may have been falsified in the nation's first and only case of mad cow disease. (See item [16](#))
- The Washington Times reports Washington, DC's mayor is calling for more water testing of city residences after lead was detected in the tap water of nearby Virginia homes that do not have lead service lines. (See item [23](#))

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 04, Honolulu Advertiser (HI)* — **Failed transmission line cuts power to parts of Hawaii.** Thousands of people in ten Honolulu, HI, communities lost electrical power Wednesday, March 4, when one of Oahu's major transmission lines failed. **About 40,000 customers in Manoa, McCully, Kaimuki, Waikiki, Palolo, St. Louis Heights, Moiliili, Diamond Head, Kapahulu and parts of Kahala lost power at 7:42 a.m., said Hawaiian Electric Co. spokesperson Peter Rosegg.** Service was restored to some of those customers by

8:42 a.m., with the rest restored by 9:13 a.m., Rosegg said. The cause of the failure was not known yet. The line that failed — a 138 kilovolt transmission line from Kaneohe to Palolo Valley — is one of two that cross the Ko'olau Mountains, Rosegg said. **Rosegg added that an inspection team flew over the line but could not find an obvious source of the failure.** Tests were being done on the line, he said.

Source: http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2004/Mar/04/ln/ln3_9a.html

- 2. *March 04, Reuters* — Experts strive for new definition of oil reserves.** Accounting experts are leading a drive to craft a new industry-wide definition of oil and gas reserves. The London-based International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) said international teams were expected to present a progress report next month. Energy reserve definitions leapt into the stock market spotlight after Shell's announcement in January that 20 percent of the reserves on its books as "proved" were not so certain of commercial viability after all. **The IASB is also working with the Securities and Exchange Commission in the effort to come up with an industry-wide standard. "It is unlikely that we and they would end up with conflicting definitions, although national regulators in U.S., Europe and elsewhere obviously have the right to impose their own requirements, in addition to the general provisions of financial reporting standards," IASB board member Robert Garnett said.** The IASB is also working with the United Nations, which in turn is working together with other international bodies, including the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The aim is to extend its classification of mineral resources to oil, natural gas and uranium.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/040304/energy_reserves_1.html

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Chemical Sector

- 3. *March 04, Federal Computer Week* — Byrd asks GAO to check out chemical plant protection. Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) has asked the General Accounting Office (GAO) to see how much the private sector has spent on improving physical protection of various critical infrastructures nationwide since September 11, 2001.** "Although the administration has stated that many businesses have increased their investments in security, an independent assessment of this claim has not been made," Byrd wrote in a March 2 letter to David Walker, GAO's comptroller general. **He singled out the chemical industry in his letter, saying a "60 Minutes" news team last year breached several plants.** "The lack of security at our chemical plants leads to the broader question of whether the private sector is making the necessary investments to secure our critical infrastructure and key assets across all sectors," he wrote.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0301/web-byrd-03-02-04.asp>

- 4. *March 04, Reuters* — Dozens treated after chemicals leak in Antwerp. More than 100 people suffered breathing difficulties after a truck loaded with toxic chemicals overturned and leaked near the port of Antwerp, Belgium, on Thursday, March 4, an official statement said. A police spokesperson said the truck carrying bromine flipped over on a main road leading to the port. The chemical irritates the eyes and causes breathing problems.** Police cordoned off the area and firefighters used water and foam to contain the spill. Photographer Marc de Rouck said he saw a yellow cloud billowing from the accident site and watched about 70 people receive treatment at a medical post for breathing troubles and

stinging eyes. The city of Antwerp said in a statement more than 120 people suffered breathing difficulties and 12 were kept in hospital. The driver of the truck was hurt in the accident, it said, but there was never any danger of explosion or fire. A residential area of Ekeren, north of Antwerp, was evacuated after some of the liquid spilled into a nearby river. A number of nearby factories were also evacuated.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L0499994.htm>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *March 04, Aerospace Daily* — **USAF increases pursuit of new bomber.** The U.S. Air Force is ramping up its pursuit of a new long-range bomber, forming two offices to study the matter and accelerating the planned fielding of a next-generation system by as much as a dozen years. A Long Range Strike (LRS) office and an LRS integrated planning team (IPT) were formed in February to conduct initial work, including an analysis of alternatives, said General T. Michael Moseley, Air Force vice chief of staff. **The Air Force has identified a host of technologies it would like to have for its next deep-strike platform, including a "robust" system for transmitting target information among strike forces, command-and-control aircraft and sensor platforms, the general said.** Other key technologies deemed to require future investment include platform propulsion, weapons data links and seekers, penetrating and kinetic energy warheads, submunition deployment, defensive countermeasures, stealth characteristics and secure, beyond line-of-sight voice communication. **The Air Force Research Laboratory has been charged with defining the specific technology investments that will be needed for a new bomber.**

Source: http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_aerospacedaily_story.jsp?id=news/bombr03044.xml

6. *March 04, Govexec.com* — **Military explores greater role in maritime security.** The commander of the North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD) Command said recently that the difference between military and civilian responsibilities for maritime security is a "gray area" that might require more military involvement. NORAD is exploring options to provide additional support to the U.S. Coast Guard for handling maritime security operations, said Air Force General Ralph Eberhart, who also is in charge of Northern Command. "My intuition is that we need to take NORAD to the next level, that we in fact need to include some sort of maritime piece to this and probably some civil support," Eberhart said. Eberhart said the possibility of expanding NORAD's role in maritime security was raised last year in discussions between the United States and Canada. He said a planning group is exploring the possibility of creating a "naval NORAD."

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0304/030304c1.htm>

7. *March 04, Reuters* — **Pac-3 missile test successful.** The prime contractor on Thursday, March 4, said its PAC-3 missile successfully intercepted and destroyed an incoming tactical ballistic missile in a test at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. The test of the system, which has already been used in Iraq, fired two company missiles at a single incoming target. **The method, called "ripple firing" brought down a missile that was programmed to simulate the flight patterns of a Scud target.** Early data indicated that all new components, including

improved software, worked according to plan, the company said.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/040304/arms_lockheed_missile_1.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *March 04, Anchorage Daily News* — **Latest phone scam poses as ACS service.** The Anchorage Police Department (APD) is investigating a recent rash of what are believed to be fraudulent phone calls targeted at Alaska Communications Systems (ACS) customers. Mary Ann Pease, a spokesperson for the Anchorage-based telecom company, said **hundreds of customers over the past two weeks have reported receiving phone calls from someone claiming to be an ACS representative and asking them for personal information such as credit card numbers, Social Security numbers and birth dates.** The callers, most of whom have heavy foreign accents, tell the customers they need the information so that they can save them money on their monthly phone bills, Pease said. APD spokesperson Ron McGee said officers in the department's fraud division began an investigation Tuesday, March 2, and determined that the calls are coming from out of state, possibly from New York.

Source: <http://www.adn.com/alaska/story/4811826p-4752871c.html>

9. *March 03, Associated Press* — **Art scam artist guilty of laundering money on eBay.** A con artist who faked famous art and sold it on eBay pleaded guilty Wednesday, March 3, to federal money laundering charges. Kenneth Fetterman led a ring that bid in hundreds of eBay art auctions to drive up prices on the paintings. **Fetterman and his accomplices created more than 40 separate user identifications on eBay, the online auction house, then made fake bids to drive up the prices of hundreds of paintings sold** between November 1998 and June 2000, prosecutors said. Members of the ring pled guilty to various charges, including money laundering, wire fraud, and mail fraud.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2004/03/03/state2134EST0573.DTL>

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Transportation Sector

10. *March 04, Associated Press* — **Injuries common among TSA screeners. Lifting and searching all those bags is taking a toll on airport screeners, resulting in injury and illness that is the highest among federal employees.** Back strains are common. Other injuries include cuts when a screener reaches into a bag to check for sharp objects, or bumps, bruises, and even broken bones after suitcases fall on feet and hands, according to a recently released federal report. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) spokesperson Mark Hatfield said the agency knows there is a problem and is taking steps to address it. The TSA had only a year to recruit and train tens of thousands of people to screen passengers and baggage at 429 commercial airports. Airports couldn't be renovated fast enough to properly install new security equipment, so the large machines that screen luggage for explosives were hastily placed in many airport lobbies, requiring screeners to lift heavy bags from the floor onto conveyor belts.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration said in a recently released report that the injury and illness rate for TSA workers was 19.4 percent during the year ending September 30. The average for federal workers was 5.5 percent.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2004-03-04-screeners-injury_x.htm

- 11. *March 04, Agence France Presse* — Homeless man bypasses airport security and boards plane. Security at Prague's Ruzyně Airport, in the Czech Republic, has been tightened after a homeless man managed to slip past customs officials and boarded a plane, airport spokesperson Anna Kovarikova said on Thursday, March 4.** The man first entered the passengers' arrivals lounge and then passed through the customs area, walking past customs officers. He then passed through a tunnel for baggage and boarded the plane, hiding in the baggage section. He was only discovered by handling staff during final checks just before take-off on February 27. The man was arrested. "The customs officers failed to do their job properly and we have since taken measures to raise the standard of checks. We have now installed two more security barriers," Kovarikova said. The spokesperson insisted that the airport's security levels met international standards. **Kovarikova said that following the incident airport officials had contacted international airport authorities to inform them of the possibility of such a thing happening.**

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2004-03-04-homeless-man_x.htm?POE=TRVISVA

- 12. *March 03, Government Computer News* — TSA seeks weapons imaging devices.** The Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration (TSA) plans to buy hundreds of machines that can detect concealed weapons carried by people entering airports. **Project Falcon is a procurement to "develop and deploy a device to discreetly and safely screen persons at checkpoints," according to a TSA notice. "The government intends to award a contract for the development of a spot field-of-view, concealed-weapons imaging device for routine metal detection resolution of persons entering airport terminals."** TSA plans a 30-day pilot using two prototype systems to be provided by a vendor. TSA plans to buy as many as 750 of the imaging systems if funds become available.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/25151-1.html

- 13. *March 03, Computerworld* — Pittsburgh port seeks software firm to build navigational system. The Port of Pittsburgh Commission is seeking a software company to develop, integrate and install software and related hardware for a navigation system that would make it easier for towboat pilots to enter river locks in bad weather.** A prototype "SmartLock" system, much like a similar system used by airlines at airports, has already been developed for the commission by graduate students from Carnegie Mellon University, according to James McCarville, the commission's executive director. SmartLock is being developed in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Coast Guard and regional and national towing companies. The system could save the towing and shipping industries nearly \$70 million annually by allowing vessels to enter locks more quickly even in foggy weather, according to the commission. The system could also reduce the number of accidents at lock sites. McCarville said **vessels aren't currently able to enter the port on about 11 days a year because of foggy weather.**

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/softwaretopics/software/story/0_10801.90748.00.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *March 03, News Express (TX)* — **Former U.S. Postal Service employee convicted of embezzlement.** A former supervisor for the United States Postal Service in Del Rio, TX, who served as mayor of Pearsall in the 1970s, has been convicted of embezzling more than \$100,000. A federal jury on Monday, March 1, found Ruben Victor Leal guilty on 20 of 21 counts including conspiracy to commit bribery, conspiracy to defraud, submitting false claims and making false and misleading statements, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. He was acquitted of one count of conspiracy to defraud, said his lawyer, Jesus Y. Cavazos. Court records said Leal supervised the section that ensured postal delivery vehicles were properly maintained, and made a verbal contract with Jose Luis Hinojosa, who ran Joe's Auto Service. **Hinojosa, records said, inflated charges for work on vehicles or submitted invoices for payment for work that was not performed. Leal later would receive money back from Hinojosa, officials said.** In a news release last April, the U.S. Attorney's Office said Leal authorized payment of \$230,000 without verifying what, if any, maintenance work had been done on the vehicles. The release said he also approved \$70,000 for inflated labor costs and never checked to make sure that vehicle parts were replaced.

Source: http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/metro/stories/MYSA03.03B.post_office_fraud.29b25118.html

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Agriculture Sector

15. *March 04, USAgNet* — **Bird flu in Texas appears contained.** A virulent strain of bird flu found on a Texas chicken farm last month appears to have been successfully contained by state and federal officials, a senior U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) official said. **USDA undersecretary Bill Hawks told reporters surveillance and testing of poultry farms within five miles of the infected flock have not been infected with bird flu.** Texas officials are now testing farms within a 10-mile radius. "It appears to be that we've contained it," Hawks said at a national conference of U.S. soybean and corn producers. Russia, the European Union, and several Asian nations cut off all U.S. poultry exports because the Texas case involves a highly pathogenic form of bird flu to birds. The USDA is holding talks with trading partners to convince them to reduce their poultry sanctions to specific U.S. states or regions, if not remove them entirely.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=225&yr=2004>

16. *March 04, USAgNet* — **Mad cow criminal investigation.** The government has begun a criminal investigation into whether records may have been falsified in the nation's first and only case of mad cow disease, the U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector general said March 3. The investigation is moving alongside a non-criminal review of the department's response to the mad cow case, Phyllis Fong told a House subcommittee. **Fong said the criminal investigation focuses on whether the infected Holstein cow truly was a**

downer animal unable to stand or walk when it was slaughtered December 9 in Washington state. The department initially said the cow was a downer, and that was why it was tested for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease. But men who saw the cow at the slaughterhouse just before it was slaughtered recall it being on its feet. The investigation is only in its first weeks, with officials gathering documents and interviewing witnesses, Fong said.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=226&yr=2004>

17. *March 04, Associated Press* — **Biologists look into elk deaths. Biologists are trying to determine what is causing the biggest elk die-off anyone in Wyoming can remember. The elk started falling nearly a month ago and the death count has topped 280 over a 15-square-mile area in south-central Wyoming.** But that figure is probably low because officials have stopped counting to focus on the cause. It has been a process of elimination, with no solid theories yet. With plenty of forage available and hardly any snow in their way, the elk are relatively fat, suggesting they have at least been willing and able to eat. **Chronic wasting disease has been ruled out. The usual viruses, bacteria, and plant toxins also have been eliminated.** While remote, the area 150 miles northwest of Cheyenne has a railroad running through it and some oil and gas wells. Yet even pollution seems unlikely considering that other animals in the area, including deer and antelope, remain healthy. Elk are usually the last animals to succumb, not the first.

Source: http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/news/810173_2.htm

18. *March 04, Tulsa World (Oklahoma)* — **Oklahoma lifts ban on Texas poultry. Oklahoma agriculture officials lifted the ban on Texas poultry Wednesday, March 3, after tests showed that avian flu apparently had not spread beyond a flock near San Antonio. Restrictions on bird and poultry transportation in Oklahoma also were lifted.** "The incubation period for this disease is approximately seven to eight days, and there have been no new cases found in Texas since the initial discovery February 17," said Burke Healey, state veterinarian in Oklahoma. Noncommercial Texas birds were required to test negative for the disease within 72 hours of entering Oklahoma unless the animals originated from flocks certified free of the bird flu, said the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture. Commercial poultry operators in Texas remain under slightly stricter rules — those birds must have two negative avian influenza tests. Chickens and other birds from Texas were banned from entering Oklahoma early last week after the highly contagious strain of the disease was discovered. Oklahoma poultry shows and other events involving birds were canceled because of the outbreak. A ban on transporting fowl prompted the Oklahoma Avicultural Society to cancel its bird fair, which had been scheduled for this Saturday.

Source: http://cnni.wyellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=47933322&ID=cnniw&scategory=Food&

19. *March 03, Reuters* — **California county bans biotech crops.** Voters approved a measure March 2 to make Mendocino County, CA, the first in the U.S. to ban genetically modified crops and animals. **The measure bans the planting of biotech crops and the raising of livestock that have been genetically altered.** More initiatives are being organized to stop the spread of biotech crops. Drives similar to Mendocino's effort are being planned in other California counties, and a bill is pending in Vermont that would place a two-year moratorium on planting and growing genetically modified crops.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=scienceNews&storyID=4489985§ion=news>

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Food Sector

20. *March 04, Reuters* — **New meat testing cuts food-borne diseases. The number of Americans who become sick from three common food borne bacteria appears to be declining, federal health officials reported this week.** An estimated 76 million people in the United States become sick each year after eating undercooked meat, eggs and shellfish, unpasteurized dairy products and other foods containing bacteria. The positive news is that a U.S. government survey of nine states found that the incidence of laboratory-confirmed cases of *Campylobacter*, *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Yersinia enterocolitica* fell between 1996 and 2002. Jennifer Nelson, one of the study's researchers, said **improved meat testing and other control measures introduced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) had contributed to the reduced number of confirmed infections caused by these bacteria.** "We now have regular microbiological testing of meat and poultry and there are steps the USDA can take to keep tainted meat from entering the food supply," Nelson said. While the CDC found little change in the overall incidence of infections caused by the *Salmonella*, *Shigella* or *E. coli* O157:H7 bacteria, it did note that the number of confirmed *Vibrio* cases jumped 125 percent in the same period.

Source: <http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/24124/story.htm>

21. *March 03, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **Mexico resumes beef trade with United States.** Agriculture Secretary Ann Venneman Wednesday, March 3, announced a resumption of U.S. beef exports to Mexico. "I am very pleased that today (March 3) Secretary Javier Usabiaga of Mexico is announcing that he is reopening the border to U.S. beef products." "We have worked closely with the Mexican officials to inform them of all the actions U.S. Department of Agriculture has taken to further strengthen our food safety and animal health systems since the discovery of a bovine spongiform encephalopathy positive animal last December. We have provided to Mexican officials extensive information as requested, and have hosted their technical teams to illustrate that our beef is indeed safe. "Mexico is our second largest export market for beef and beef products. We are very pleased that today's (March 3) announcement begins the resumption of this trade. "I want to thank Secretary Usabiaga for his strong leadership in resuming trade today and hope that his example will be followed by our other trading partners."

Source: <http://www.usda.gov/Newsroom/0093.04.html>

22. *January 30, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-246: FDA's Imported Seafood Safety Program Shows Some Progress, but Further Improvements Are Needed (Report).** More than 80 percent of the seafood that Americans consume is imported. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for ensuring that imported seafood is safe and produced under sanitation and safety systems comparable to those of the United States. Since the General Accounting Office (GAO) reported in 2001 that FDA's seafood inspection program did not sufficiently protect consumers, additional concerns have arisen about imported seafood containing banned substances, such as certain antibiotics. **In this review, GAO was**

asked to evaluate (1) FDA's progress in implementing the recommendations in the 2001 report and (2) other options to enhance FDA's oversight. GAO recommends that FDA (1) work toward developing a memorandum of understanding with NOAA to use NOAA's resources; (2) make it a priority to establish equivalence or other agreements, starting with countries having high-quality food safety systems; (3) develop a system to track the time involved in processing enforcement actions; (4) give enforcement priority to violations posing the most serious risks; (5) consider accrediting private laboratories; and (6) explore the potential for certifying third-party inspectors. Highlights:

<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04246high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-246>

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Water Sector

23. *March 04, Washington Times* — **Tests show Washington, DC, lead spread to Virginia water. Washington, DC's mayor, Anthony Williams is calling for more water testing of city residences after lead was detected in tap water of Arlington, VA, homes that do not have lead service lines.** "We've been told repeatedly by the DC Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) that the universe of concern for the District is limited to roughly 23,000 residents whose homes have lead service lines," Williams said. "Now we're seeing elevated levels in homes in Arlington that don't have lead service lines." Approximately 23,000 of WASA's 130,000 service lines contain lead. **The District and Arlington both get water from the Washington Aqueduct.** Arlington County leaders said preliminary tests of tap water in eight homes without lead service lines indicated five had elevated lead levels.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/metro/20040303-102606-6091r.htm>

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Public Health Sector

24. *March 04, University at Buffalo Reporter* — **Device sterilizes contaminated air. A team of University of Buffalo scientists and engineers has developed a device that in minutes, instead of months, could safely and inexpensively destroy airborne biological agents in buildings as large as the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, DC, which was closed for several months after anthrax was detected there in October 2001.** The device has immediate homeland security applications, with the potential to eradicate a wide range of biological pathogens, such as anthrax, smallpox, influenza, tuberculosis, and other toxic airborne species. **It destroys pathogens by rapidly heating contaminated air.** In addition to homeland security applications, the device could provide a continuous clean air supply in hospitals, as well as military command centers, and other battlefield facilities. In a series of recent tests performed by the scientists the device successfully destroyed more than 99.9 percent of aerosolized spores of a benign anthrax simulant, *Bacillus globicci*.

Source: http://www.buffalo.edu/reporter/vol35/vol35n25/articles/BioB_lower.html

25.

March 04, Fort Detrick Standard — **India, U.S. to resume collaborations on infectious diseases.** Infectious disease researchers from the United States met their Indian counterparts in India, for a week in January to brainstorm future research collaborations that will benefit both nations. **"One of the reasons we are interested is because of the diseases deployed soldiers face, malaria, dengue, hepatitis, scrub typhus, and filariasis. In India, those are endemic diseases, and they need to have some affordable means to protect their own people,"** said Colonel Raj Gupta, who spearheaded organizing the conference for the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command with Lt. Gen. (retired) D. Raghunath at the Sir Dorabji Tata Center for Research in Tropical Diseases, 12,000 miles away. **The symposium addressed several concerns facing both the U.S. and India and sparked discussions for collaborations on malaria therapeutics, insect vector control, bioinformatics, and the Global Emerging Infection System, which facilitates early recognition of disease problems.** About 54 organizations, half from the U.S. and half from India, sent representatives to the conference to learn about the newest biotechnology techniques and their application to developing drugs, vaccines, and other products to combat infectious diseases.

Source: http://www.dcmilitary.com/army/standard/9_05/local_news/27777-1.html

26. *March 04, New York Times* — **Bacteria that defy antibiotics.** A group of common bacteria are rapidly becoming resistant to the antibiotics that have been used to treat them for decades. The bacteria are called *Staphylococcus aureus*, staph for short. They are the most common cause of skin infections like boils and can also cause lung and bloodstream infections and abscesses in the body's internal organs. **In hospitalized patients, infections caused by antibiotic-resistant staph have been common for years. Among healthy people, though, antibiotic resistance in staph has not been a big problem. This is no longer true. Doctors who follow this practice now may find their patients getting sicker instead of better.** Over the last year, John Gullett, an infectious disease specialist in Abilene, TX, has grown accustomed to getting calls for help from local doctors who have used the usual antibiotics to no effect. Resistant staph, Gullett said, are "more invasive and more pervasive" than strains most primary-care doctors are used to treating. "Most doctors are just not aware of this," said Bonnie Bock, an infectious disease specialist in Newport Beach, CA. She estimated that two-thirds of the large staph abscesses she sees now were caused by the resistant bacteria. **The experts say that some infections caused by the new resistant staph are unexpectedly aggressive, and delays in starting the right antibiotics may be life-threatening.**

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/508608.htm>

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Government Sector

27. *March 04, Associated Press* — **Some Mexicans won't be fingerprinted.** The Bush administration backed off plans to require that millions of visa-carrying Mexicans who make short visits to America and stay close to the border be fingerprinted and photographed to get into the country. The move, a concession to Mexican President Vicente Fox, comes on the eve of his visit to President Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas. **Mexicans who have so-called laser visas currently are allowed to stay in the country three days provided they stay close to the border. Such visas are issued to people who have undergone background checks and consulate interviews where they are fingerprinted and photographed. The visas generally**

are held by workers and people who need to make frequent quick trips across the border. But as part of the new US–VISIT program, before the end of the year those people were to be fingerprinted and photographed before crossing the border.

Source: http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/news/breaking_news/81_05661.htm

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Emergency Services Sector

28. *March 04, Collegiate Times (Blacksburg, VA)* — **Ammonia spill requires Hazmat.** An ammonia spill last night, March 3, at the Federal Mogul plant on South Main Street had far-reaching consequences, even forcing Blacksburg Transit to stop its evening service. The incident occurred in the plant located in the Blacksburg Industrial Park in Blacksburg, VA. The two roads leading into the complex — Prosperity and Professional Park roads — were blocked off by police vehicles. Lieutenant Bruce Bradberry of the Blacksburg Police Department said they were notified of the chemical leak at approximately 7:30 p.m. and at 10:30 p.m. the leak had not been contained. **"It was a 1,000 gallon tank, and it was about 80 percent full when the leak started,"** he said. **"I don,t know how much is left in the tank at this point, but it's still leaking."** Employees of Federal Mogul were even unaware of the incident. **One of the plant,s process engineers, Darren Keith, learned of the spill when he came for his shift late last night. Federal Mogul makes engine bearings, and has ammonia tanks for the purpose of bonding bi-metal material.** Bradberry said the fire department believed the leak resulted from a weld that came loose on a pipe that runs underneath the tank. Bradberry said both the Blacksburg Fire Department and a Hazmat team were working to contain the leak. As a result of the leak, the surrounding buildings in the business park were evacuated.

Source: <http://www.collegiatetimes.com/index.php?ID=3289>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

29. *March 03, Macworld.co.uk* — **QuickTime flaw identified.** Apple Computer Inc.'s QuickTime Player has an unspecified flaw that permits remote code execution. According to SecurityGlobal.net LLC's SecurityTracker service, **a remote user can cause arbitrary code to be executed on a target user's system.** This follows a notice issued by eEye Digital Security Inc. It states that Apple's QuickTime media player reportedly contains a vulnerability that allows a remote user to cause arbitrary code to be executed "with little user interaction." This apparently affects all QuickTime platforms.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/virus/story/0,10801,90765,00.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_NETSKY.C 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), 445 (microsoft-ds), 135 (epmap), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 80 (www), 137 (netbios-ns), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 1080 (socks), 139 (netbios-ssn), 3128 (squid-http) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

30. *March 04, San Diego Union Tribune* — **Men accused in plot to sell missiles. Two of three men accused of plotting to sell shoulder-launched missiles to al Qaeda pleaded guilty March 3 to drug and terrorism charges in San Diego, CA.** Ilyas Ali, 56, and Muhammed Abid Afridi, 30, admitted to a judge in their plea agreement that they conspired to supply terrorists with four Stinger missiles through the sale of 5 metric tons of hashish and 600 kilograms of heroin. Ali is a naturalized U.S. citizen born in India who lived in St. Paul, MN, and Afridi lived in Peshawar, Pakistan. **The missile case drew international attention when the indictment was unsealed in November because authorities have been concerned that al Qaeda might try to shoot down civilian airliners.** The Stinger is a shoulder-launched guided missile designed for attacking aircraft at low altitude, possibly during takeoff or landing. Source: http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20040304-9999-7m4mi_ssile.html

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