



# Department of Homeland Security IAIP Directorate Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 March 2005

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is  
**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS  
[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- KOIN News reports drug addicts are reportedly stealing power lines to sell for scrap in order to feed their methamphetamine habits. (See item [2](#))
- The Arizona Republic reports the U.S. government is testing ground-based radar to detect intruders crossing the U.S.–Mexican border onto the Barry Goldwater bombing range, an increasingly popular illegal–immigration corridor. (See item [8](#))

### DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

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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 16, Associated Press* — **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries agrees to boost daily output quota.** Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on Wednesday, March 16, authorized the pumping of an extra half-million barrels of oil a day and held out prospects of a similar boost later if needed. OPEC's move reflected concerns about the next cold season. Trying to ease worries, OPEC's president, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheik Ahmed Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah, told reporters that at full capacity the oil–producer group could pump some 31 million barrels a day. That would represent a daily increase of about 1.5 million barrels from present levels. The decision will officially raise the group's ceiling to an all–time high of 27.5 million barrels a day. OPEC officials conceded the group's decision was driven by concern of potential shortfalls come next winter, when demand for oil and refined products is

traditionally high. Also, with western economies generally expanding, demand soon could outstrip supply. The economic boom in China is already sucking up more than a third of the world's crude supplies. India's hunger for oil is also on the rise. At some point the market would price oil so high that economies would begin to contract and demand would fall.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A40126-2005Mar\\_16.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A40126-2005Mar_16.html)

2. **March 16, KOIN News 6 (OR) — Addicts steal power lines to feed drug habits.** Drug addicts are reportedly stealing power lines to feed their methamphetamine habits, and Portland General Electric (PGE) says it could drive up Northwest power costs. At the A Quality motel on Powell Boulevard, police arrested four people with 600–800 pounds of stolen power lines. Detectives say the suspects took it from a PGE substation and planned to sell it for scrap and use the money for meth. "We're seeing it all over Portland. It's an epidemic," said Portland police Sgt. Brian Schmutz. PGE says the value of the copper used to make power lines has recently skyrocketed, so thieves are desperate to steal it. Some even risk their lives by trying to swipe live lines. It's illegal for scrap yards to knowingly accept stolen metal. However, there is no law requiring yards to ask where the seller got the metal.

Source: [http://www.koin.com/news.asp?RECORD\\_KEY%5Bnews%5D=ID&ID%5Bnews%5D=1692](http://www.koin.com/news.asp?RECORD_KEY%5Bnews%5D=ID&ID%5Bnews%5D=1692)

3. **March 16, NBC4 TV (CA) — Los Angeles residents experience power outages.** Power outages affected about 76,000 customers Wednesday, March 16, in the downtown areas of Los Angeles and Glendale, CA, authorities said. The outages both began about 8 a.m., Los Angeles and Glendale officials said. In Los Angeles, an outage initially affected about 60,000 customers, said Carol Tucker of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The problem involved equipment failure at a substation that handles high-voltage lines, Tucker said. In Glendale, about 16,000 customers were without power after problems developed at three electrical substations, said Rich Wells of the city of Glendale.

Source: <http://www.nbc4.tv/news/4290504/detail.html>

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

4. **March 15, Government Accountability Office — GAO-05-271: Tactical Aircraft: Opportunity to Reduce Risks in the Joint Strike Fighter Program with Different Acquisition Strategy (Report).** The Department of Defense's (DoD) Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program aims to develop and field more than 2,400 stealthy fighter planes with greater capabilities than DoD's aging tactical aircraft. JSF is DoD's most costly aircraft program, with estimated life-cycle costs approaching \$600 billion. Since the program began, in 1996, JSF has experienced significant cost and schedule overruns. While the program has worked to prepare more accurate cost and delivery estimates, upcoming investment decisions will indicate the

level of risk DoD is willing to accept as the program moves forward and annual outlays significantly increase. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is required by law to review the JSF program annually for the next five years. This first report analyzes JSF's business case for delivering new capabilities to the warfighter and determines whether JSF's current acquisition strategy follows best practices. GAO recommends that DoD establish an executable program consistent with best practices and DoD policy regarding knowledgebased, evolutionary acquisitions. If DoD moves the program forward without capturing adequate knowledge, it should not make investments to increase production capability until it has. DoD partially concurred but believes its current practices achieve the recommendations' objectives. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05271high.pdf>  
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05271.pdf>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

5. *March 16, Asahi.com (Japan)* — **Japanese banks warn clients about phishing threat.** Two large Japanese banks warned customers Tuesday, March 15, about phishing e-mail scams perpetrated by swindlers seeking personal banking data such as cash card PIN codes. No cases of financial losses from the phishes had been reported as of Tuesday morning by the banks targeted — UFJ Bank and Mizuho Bank. According to UFJ, about 100 depositors said they had received unsolicited messages purportedly from the bank since Monday, March 14. Bank officials suspect the messages were sent in bulk to its clients' e-mail addresses. Mizuho Bank officials also said Tuesday that their customers had received phishes, confirming that the scammers are targeting customers of at least two of the nation's four major banks. Phishing scams, a form of identity theft, began surfacing in the United States and elsewhere a few years ago. According to the Japanese National Police Agency, Japan's first case of phishing fraud was confirmed last November, involving the loss of hundreds of thousands of yen.  
Source: <http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200503160154.ht ml>

6. *March 16, Washington Post* — **Data brokers vow to protect personal information.** Two leaders of the information-broker industry told a congressional panel on Tuesday, March 15, that they would support new regulations to better protect sensitive personal data that they collect and sell on virtually every adult American. However, the executives balked at what appears to be a growing bipartisan consensus among key House and Senate members that the sale of Social Security numbers for commercial purposes should be banned unless individuals give their permission. Kurt Sanford, chief executive of LexisNexis Corporate and Federal Markets, endorsed a proposal by the head of the Federal Trade Commission that would extend the same security guidelines to data brokers that financial institutions must follow. Sanford also agreed with calls for a federal law requiring notification of consumers if their personal information has been obtained by thieves. Only California has such a law. Derek V. Smith, chief executive of ChoicePoint, agreed. Both he and Sanford used the hearing as a platform to apologize to consumers whose data have been compromised, and to assure Congress that they have tightened their systems to try to prevent such fraud.  
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38668-2005Mar 15.html>

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## **Transportation Sector**

7. *March 16, The Trucker* — **Trucking association protests Hazmat ordinance.** The American Trucking Associations (ATA) stated that an ordinance which would make it illegal to transport certain hazardous materials through a restricted area called the "Capitol Exclusion Zone" amounts to an illegal routing requirement. On March 14, ATA petitioned the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration requesting that the Department of Transportation preempt the District of Columbia's ordinance. ATA argued that the ordinance is an illegal routing requirement that was enacted in violation of the federal hazardous materials routing regulations. ATA officials are concerned that other jurisdictions will seek to enact similar restrictions which, it stated, would create an unreasonable burden on interstate commerce and frustrate the safe and efficient transportation of hazardous materials throughout the United States. The federal Surface Transportation Board ruled March 14 that the ordinance is preempted by federal transportation law intended to protect interstate commerce from a patchwork of local regulations. The board stated that it does not have the power to declare the law invalid, that it is merely issuing a legal opinion.  
Source: [http://www.thetrucker.com/stories/03\\_05/0316\\_ata\\_hazmat.html](http://www.thetrucker.com/stories/03_05/0316_ata_hazmat.html)
8. *March 16, Arizona Republic* — **Ground radar may find border crossers.** Inside a control station in the remote Arizona desert, a team of U.S. Marines monitors movement round-the-clock on the flat, cactus-studded military bombing range using a radar system. For the first time, the U.S. government is testing ground-based radar to detect intruders crossing the U.S.-Mexican border onto the Barry M. Goldwater bombing range near Yuma, an increasingly popular illegal-immigration corridor. The military credits the system with helping to locate "unauthorized personnel" on the range before bombing runs, preventing deaths and injuries and reducing lost training time for pilots. After nearly a year of testing, Arizona congressmen and senior Department of Homeland Security officials are lobbying to secure funding to put the radar into the hands of U.S. Border Patrol agents, saying the technology has the potential to transform the way this country polices its porous border with Mexico. The system uses Frequency Modulated Continuous Wave technology, to detect people within a three-mile range and a vehicle up to 10 miles away. The radar sweeps 360 degrees, tracks movement and relays information to a camera, which can zero in to check for an intrusion. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials requested \$53.1 million in the 2006 budget for America's Shield Initiative, which would fund a new wave of border surveillance equipment.  
Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0316radar-border.html>
9. *March 16, Associated Press* — **Effort to increase Amtrak's funding fails to pass Senate.** An effort in the Senate to increase federal subsidies for the beleaguered Amtrak system failed to pass Wednesday, March 16. The amendment, offered by Sen. Robert Byrd, (D-WV), would have added \$1.04 billion to government financial assistance for the system. It failed on a 52-46 vote. In his 2006 budget, President Bush proposed eliminating Amtrak's operating subsidy and setting aside \$360 million to run trains along the Northeast Corridor if the railroad ceased operating. In the current budget year that ends September 30, Amtrak is getting \$1.2 billion in operating subsidies and capital investment. Byrd's amendment to the Senate fiscal year 2006 budget resolution would have brought Amtrak's funding to \$1.4 billion, when added to the \$360 million.

Source: <http://www.pennlive.com/newsflash/pa/index.ssf?/base/news-25/1111001141241780.xml&storylist=penn>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

10. *March 16, Associated Press* — **Tests negative in Pentagon anthrax scare.** An apparent mix-up at a military laboratory is being blamed for the scare that closed three Washington, DC, area facilities that handle Pentagon-bound mail. The two-day scare turned out to be a false alarm after definitive tests at two facilities came back negative Tuesday, March 15, for the spores. Warning signs at the two Pentagon mail facilities on Monday, March 14, led to the comprehensive testing. Nearly 900 workers were given precautionary antibiotics, and officials closed three mail facilities at the Pentagon and in Washington, DC. This week's alarm was set off by two alert systems that independently suggested the presence of the bacteria what officials now believe was a coincidence. First, a filter on a device that screens mail for chemical and biological agents on the Pentagon grounds tested positive for anthrax. Separately, an alert was set off at a nearby satellite mail processing facility. Officials set out to retest the initial filter and gathered additional samples from the facilities for testing.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory?id=584806>

11. *March 16, Connecticut Post* — **Powder found in mail forces office to close.** Concerns about bioterrorism prompted Milford, CT, to temporarily close and quarantine a downtown business Tuesday, March 15, after a worker found a powdery substance while opening office mail. Health inspectors, police, and firefighters flooded Stirling & Stirling Inc. to inspect the building for any noxious substance that could pose a threat to the firm's nearly 40 workers. Two agents from the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and the New Haven Fire Department's hazardous material response unit assisted the investigation. The State Police are testing samples of the powder. The Milford Health Department has ordered that the building be closed until the results are conclusive, said Mayor James L. Richetelli. The investigation unfolded Tuesday morning when an employee of Stirling & Stirling called the Milford Health Department to report that a powdery substance spilled across her desk area while she was opening mail Monday, March 14. The worker thought nothing of the incident at the time. But her feelings changed Monday night when she watched television news accounts of a bioterrorism scare involving mail at two Pentagon facilities.

Source: [http://www.connpost.com/news/ci\\_2609314](http://www.connpost.com/news/ci_2609314)

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## **Agriculture Sector**

12. *March 16, Agence France Presse* — **Indonesia orders isolation of two provinces over bird flu outbreaks.** Indonesia's agriculture minister, Anton Aprinato, said that trade in chicken from two provinces had been banned to prevent the spread of bird flu which had killed thousands of chickens there. He said laboratory tests confirmed that the disease that had killed 50,000 chickens in South Sulawesi and West Java since the beginning of the year was avian influenza,

commonly known as bird flu. Separately, South Sulawesi governor Amin Syam called for the culling of birds infected by bird flu to prevent the virus from spreading.

Source: <http://health.news.designerz.com/indonesia-orders-isolation-of-two-provinces-over-bird-flu-outbreaks.html?d20050316>

**13. *March 16, Agricultural Research Service* — Remote sensing technique uses agricultural aircraft.** The need for higher resolution images in remote sensing projects has led to a new technique using agricultural airplanes in the Mississippi Delta. Agricultural Research Service agricultural engineer Steven J. Thomson is applying remote sensing technology using agricultural aircraft to projects as diverse as crop water stress management, invasive imported fire ant control, and catfish production. Thomson initially developed the method to collect field images as part of a concept known as precision agriculture. The idea is to determine only those areas in a field that require more attention by growers. This practice helps growers save on their input costs, such as fertilizer and pesticide, and reduces runoff. The new system is being used in studies for several applications with a variety of cameras, such as weed detection in cotton and soybean fields using digital video, and detection of crop nutrient or water stress using thermal imaging.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

**14. *March 16, Associated Press* — Soybean rust detectable with hand lens.** To find soybean rust before it damages their plants this summer, growers will need to crawl through their fields on hands and knees and use an old-fashioned magnifying glass. Scouting fields at least once a week "is the best and only advice we can give" for early detection of a disease that could cripple one of the nation's major cash crops if left unchecked, said Suzanne Bissonnette, a pest management educator for the University of Illinois extension. Fungicides can control soybean rust, but only if they are applied immediately after it is detected, she said. It's a primitive method to find a disease that has demanded the attention of ten agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Agriculture analysts have determined that losses from soybean rust could range from \$240 million to two billion dollars nationwide, depending on the severity of the outbreaks and how well farmers manage them. Fungicides that can control the disease could cost farmers \$20 to \$35 per acre, according to surveys by Illinois state agriculture officials.

Source: <http://www.tallahassee.com/mld/tallahassee/business/11147518.htm>

**15. *March 15, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — USDA launches soybean rust Website.** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Mike Johanns Tuesday, March 15, unveiled USDA's interactive soybean rust Website as part of a national soybean rust plant disease surveillance and monitoring network. The site <http://www.usda.gov/soybeanrust>, provides timely information on the extent and severity of soybean rust outbreaks in the U.S., Caribbean basin, and Central America. It will give users up-to-date forecasts on where soybean rust is likely to appear in the U.S., reports where the disease exists by county, refers growers to county extension agents nationwide, lists the National Plant Diagnostic Networks laboratories and links to other Websites to give producers effective disease management options. This effort is part of a strategic plan that USDA implemented in 2002 in anticipation of a potential soybean rust find in the U.S., which established priorities of protection, detection, response, and recovery.

Source: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB/.cmd/a/d/ar/sa.retrievecontent/c/6.2.1UH/ce/7.2.5JM/p/5.2.4TQ/>

**16. *March 15, San Diego Union Tribune (CA)* — Avocado lace bug discovered in California.**

San Diego, California's agriculture department is recommending a countywide quarantine to help fight an insect threatening North County avocado groves, it was reported Tuesday, March 15. The avocado lace bug, previously unknown in California, was found in the southern part of the county in August and has been detected at about 100 sites from Imperial Beach to Lake Murray and El Cajon. The bug moves slowly, but officials fear it could quickly be carried to North County groves on a truck carrying avocado plant materials. The pest attacks avocado trees by sucking the sap from leaves, causing brown spots and leaves to fall off. The fruit is then exposed to harsh sunlight, which yields damaged or smaller crops. California growers produced \$363 million worth of avocados last year, or 95 percent of the nation's crop. San Diego County growers accounted for 60 percent of that.

Source: [http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20050315/news\\_1m15la\\_cebug.html](http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20050315/news_1m15la_cebug.html)

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## **Food Sector**

**17. *March 15, Food Safety and Inspection Service* — Chicken salad recalled.** T&L Creative Salads, a Brooklyn, NY, firm, is voluntarily recalling approximately 250 pounds of chicken salad that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Tuesday, March 15. The chicken salad was distributed to retail stores in New York City. The problem was discovered through routine FSIS sampling. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of these products. Consumption of food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease.

Source: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Recall\\_009\\_2005\\_Release/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Recall_009_2005_Release/index.asp)

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## **Water Sector**

**18. *March 16, North County Times (CA)* — California officials call for removal of radioactive waste near the Colorado River.** Southern California water officials, in Washington, DC, Tuesday, March 15, for a congressional briefing, called for the removal of a 12 million-ton pile of radioactive waste located along the banks of the Colorado River in Moab, UT, that they say threatens Southern California's water supply. Some water officials say, however, that the pile isn't an immediate threat to local drinking water because the river's massive volume dilutes the contaminants down to harmless levels. Thus far, federal officials who will decide the pile's fate have refused to endorse the idea of moving it. The radioactive pile is left over from a uranium and heavy-metal mine that operated at the site for 28 years but closed in 1984. The site is filled with uranium, radium and radon, as well as ammonia and sulfuric acid salts, and the 130-acre, 94-foot-tall heap sits just 750 feet from the Colorado River.

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## **Public Health Sector**

19. *March 16, Associated Press* — **Experts recommend whooping cough boosters.** Hoping to halt the rising number of whooping cough cases in the U.S., a federal advisory panel on Tuesday, March 15, recommended approval of two new booster vaccines. The Food and Drug Administration committee unanimously recommended approval for Boostrix, a single-dose vaccine against whooping cough, tetanus, and diphtheria designed for people age 10 to 16. The committee also unanimously recommended approval for Adacel — intended to protect both adolescents and adults from the same three diseases. Children have been vaccinated against whooping cough since the 1940s, but doctors have begun to realize that the protection fades over time. "In 1976 there were 1,000 cases of whooping cough in the U.S., now there are 20,000," Dr. Colin Marchant of Boston University said. The last dose of the vaccine for infants is given before age seven and over the next 10 to 15 years it wears off, Marchant said. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention received 18,957 reports of whooping cough in 2004, up from 11,647 in 2003, and just 1,707 in 1980. The new vaccines are made in a combination with tetanus and diphtheria because public health authorities already recommend an adolescent booster for those illnesses.

Source: <http://www.kansas.com/mld/kansas/11144191.htm>

20. *March 16, Associated Press* — **Three die from mystery illness in Angola.** Three people died from an unidentified illness Wednesday, March 16, at a hospital in northeastern Angola, bringing the death toll from a mystery ailment there to 64 in the past three months, officials said. The deaths have all been recorded at the main hospital in Uige, the capital of a province of the same name which lies about 180 miles northeast of Luanda, the nation's capital, provincial health director Henrique Benji told Catholic radio station Ecclesia. The province lies along Angola's border with Congo. Tens of thousands of refugees who fled Angola's two-decade civil war have returned home from Congo in recent months, crossing the border in Uige. Benji described the illness as a hemorrhagic fever but said the symptoms were not comparable to those of the Ebola virus, which is found in Congo.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=586089>

21. *March 15, Max Plank Society (Germany)* — **Defensins neutralize anthrax toxin.** Researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology in Berlin, Germany, have developed a new therapeutic strategy against anthrax using defensins, well known bacteriocidal defence molecules of our body. These investigations also revealed a novel biological function of defensins. In preclinical studies, researchers showed that defensins neutralize the lethal toxin of anthrax bacilli and thus can prevent its deadly effect. While defensins are well known to kill bacteria, toxin neutralization represents a novel function of defensins. Defensins are capable of perforating the bacterial cell wall thus killing bacterial pathogens. Accordingly, their antibiotic potential is currently exploited although it is not clear when new chemotherapeutic agents on the basis of defensins will be available.

Source: <http://www.mpg.de/english/illustrationsDocumentation/documentation/pressReleases/2005/pressRelease20050314/index.html>

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## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

22. *March 16, LaVista Sun (NE)* — **Weekend drill was beneficial to participants.** Anthrax exposure, chlorine gas explosions and terrorists all provided real-life drama in a weekend drill involving more than 200 first responders. The responders from Nebraska's Sarpy and Douglas counties tested the radio system and law enforcement and fire/rescue responses to the unfolding events. Among those players from Sarpy County were representatives from the Papillion and La Vista fire departments, the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office and the La Vista Police Department. Fictional terrorists exploded a tanker containing chlorine gas and had taken a police officer hostage. The terrorists escaped from the scene and hid away in an Omaha hotel, which enabled the Omaha Police Department to work out a hostage scenario at the same time the recovery phase was occurring at the park, said Joe Mastandrea, deputy director of the Sarpy County Emergency Management Agency. La Vista Fire Chief Kirk Schuster said the communication between the different agencies on scene worked seamlessly once each participant knew which channel to use. The most beneficial aspect of the drill for his officers, Schuster said, was the practice they received in critical thinking skills — making decisions in a mass casualty environment when lives weren't at stake.

Source: [http://www.lavistasun.com/index.php?u\\_pg=814&u\\_sid=1361585](http://www.lavistasun.com/index.php?u_pg=814&u_sid=1361585)

23. *March 16, Associated Press* — **A computer program provides detailed images of every house, building and road to help emergency responders.** Beginning next month, Pictometry, based in Rochester, NY, will begin taking aerial photographs of the county's 310,000 acres. The county awarded the company a \$210,000, two-year contract last week. Tom Sullivan, Department of Public Safety director, said Homeland Security funds will pay for the project. The images will be joined to form a three-dimensional map to help police, firefighters and 911 operators. "First responders would automatically know the size, shape and location of every building and every square mile of the county," Sullivan said. "We're visualizing every police car being able to bring up a picture of the building they are responding to and look at every side of it." The system also will allow planners to measure lot sizes and distances to fire hydrants and intersections, Sullivan said.

Source: [http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=14155605&BRD=2212&PAG=461&dept\\_id=465812&rfti=6](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=14155605&BRD=2212&PAG=461&dept_id=465812&rfti=6)

24. *March 16, Government Technology* — **Hand-held information system for emergency responders.** The National Library of Medicine (NLM), a component of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD, has announced the release of a PDA software tool designed to help first responders when they arrive at a hazardous materials (Hazmat) incident, such as a chemical spill. WISER (Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders) provides the

emergency responder with critical information on hazardous substances, including physical characteristics, human health data, and containment and suppression information. Snyder observed that WISER will be an indispensable tool for first responders in their efforts to combat the growing incidence of hazardous material incidents in the United States. Based on statistics collected by the U.S. Coast Guard's National Response Center on all hazardous substances and waste released into the U.S. environment, Hazmat incidents have been increasing yearly since 1991, with approximately 34,000 incidents reported in 2004. NLM is collaborating with regional and local emergency response organizations and using their feedback as input for future enhancements to WISER.

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=93397>

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

**25. *March 16, SecurityFocus* — OpenPGP partial plaintext retrieval vulnerability.** OpenPGP may theoretically allow attackers to retrieve partial plaintexts from encrypted OpenPGP messages. A cipher text attack method has been developed that exploits a flaw in OpenPGP to retrieve partial plaintexts from OpenPGP messages encrypted with symmetric encryption. Apparently when messages are encrypted with the CFB mode, a design flaw in an integrity check feature can be exploited. Consult your vendor for patch information.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/12529/discussion/>

**26. *March 15, Government Computer News* — Federal websites meeting fewer users' needs.** Federal Websites are meeting fewer of the public's needs, according to a new report released today from the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI). ForeSee Results, which co-sponsors the index, found 35 percent of the 59 federal Websites surveyed showed a decline in customer satisfaction, 33 percent remained flat and 31 percent increased their scores in the first quarter of 2005 as compared to the fourth quarter of 2004. Overall, the ACSI declined to 71.9 from 72.1 on a 100-point scale. "The leveling off of satisfaction growth in the e-government sector is reflected in the private-sector Websites as well," said Claes Fornell, director of the National Quality Research Center at Michigan University and founder of the ACSI. Citizens' standards for evaluating their Website experiences rise. MedlinePlus.gov, a site maintained by the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health, received the highest overall score of 87. MedlinePlus in Spanish also scored highly at 83. The Health and Human Services Department's 4woman.gov, the National Cancer Institute and the U.S. Mint Websites all received scores over 80. Users said agencies are doing a good job with privacy, giving it a score of 81. Report: <http://www.foreseeresults.com/>

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/35276-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/35276-1.html)

**27. *March 15, IDG News Service* — Study: European IT managers have false sense of security.** Many European IT managers find their jobs extremely stressful, and even those who feel they have done as much as they can to protect their companies against emerging threats are operating under a false sense of security, according to a study released today. These conclusions were detailed in Websense Inc.'s "Stress in Security" survey of 500 IT managers across Europe. Although 91% of the managers said they believe their companies have good IT security, 70% said they leave gaps open to common Internet threats, according to the study.

Many known Web-based threats are being overlooked, and a majority of respondents said they have no measures in place to protect against internal hackers or phishing attacks. "The biggest problem is that they are being reactive rather than proactive," said Websense spokesperson Rebecca Zarkos, who worked on the report. Eight percent of the European companies surveyed said they have no security measures beyond a basic firewall and an antivirus product in place. A possible reason behind the lax security is that IT managers aren't delegating enough responsibility to end users, and too few security policies are enforced, Websense said. Report Summary: <http://ww2.websense.com/global/en/PressRoom/PressReleases/PressReleaseDetail/?Release=050315863>  
Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/story/0,10801,100397,00.html>

## Internet Alert Dashboard

**DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis**

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** Several vulnerabilities were identified in MySQL, which may be exploited by local attackers to execute arbitrary commands or obtain elevated privileges. For more information, please visit the following link: <http://www.k-otik.com/english/advisories/2005/0252>

**Current Port Attacks**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Top 10 Target Ports</b> | The Top Ten Target Port information is unavailable due to technical difficulties.<br>Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center |
|----------------------------|--|

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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## General Sector

**28. *March 16, Los Angeles Times (CA)* — Six convicted in U.S. embassy plot.** A French court Tuesday, March 15, convicted six Islamic militants of conspiring to bomb the U.S. Embassy in Paris, in a case involving a European terror network linked to key al Qaeda leaders. The three-judge panel sentenced the French Algerian ringleader of the Paris-based cell, Djamel Beghal, to the maximum penalty of 10 years in prison for terrorist conspiracy. His lieutenant, computer expert Kamel Daoudi, received a nine-year sentence. Two suspects were sentenced

to six-year terms and the others received three- and one-year terms. The militants' collective odyssey led from radical mosques in Britain, where they imbibed the teachings of cleric Abu Qatada, to training camps in Afghanistan, where the embassy plot allegedly was blessed by the now-imprisoned Abu Zubeida, an accused al Qaeda operations chief. During the trial last month, prosecutors provided 45,000 pages of wiretap transcripts, surveillance reports and other evidence alleging that the group set up compartmentalized structures in France, Belgium and the Netherlands to attack the embassy.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/la-fg-embassy16mar16.story>

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The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures:

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