



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 16 February 2007

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

- The Associated Press reports that Jet Blue Airlines passengers were left waiting on planes at a New York airport for as long as nine hours during a snow and ice storm, Wednesday, February 14. (See item [12](#))
- The Associated Press reports another 100 National Guardsmen will soon be stationed along New Mexico's southern border with Mexico bringing Guard numbers close to 900 for the region, according to a commander with Operation Jump Start. (See item [18](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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

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

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

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

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

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://www.esisac.com>]

1. *February 15, AFX News Limited* — **OPEC keeps 2007 oil demand growth forecast unchanged.** The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) kept its oil demand growth forecast broadly unchanged for this year, but warned if warmer weather returns over the coming weeks, it might have to reduce its demand forecast going forward. OPEC said while it sees 2007 oil demand growth at 1.2 mln bpd or 1.5 pct – broadly unchanged from its prior 1.25 mln bpd forecast – it has revised down its first-quarter demand growth forecast for Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries by 0.1 mln bpd. It added should warm weather return to the northern hemisphere over the next couple of weeks,

it may have to reduce its forecast for world oil demand growth by a further 0.2 mln bpd. For 2007, the cartel sees non-OPEC supply averaging 50.7 mln bpd, an increase of 1.2 mln bpd over the previous year but a downward revision of 173,000 bpd from the prior forecast. 'The revisions are principally due to lower expectations for Mexico, Canada, USA and Kazakhstan,' said the cartel.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2007/02/15/afx342955_8.html

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

2. *February 14, WCNC (NC)* — **Hotel evacuated for carbon monoxide.** The Charlotte, NC, Marriott SouthPark Hotel was temporarily evacuated for about 90 minutes Wednesday afternoon, February 14, when high carbon monoxide levels were discovered in parts of the building. A contractor doing construction work in the basement was using a gas-powered saw that caused the high carbon monoxide levels. No employees or guests were injured.

Source: <http://www.wcnc.com/news/local/stories/wcnc-021407-krq-hotel-evac.829812d4.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *February 15, Aviation Week* — **General: Prolonged war will require better satcom.** Assuming that U.S. forces likely will be engaged in the Iraq region for at least another decade, one of the major acquisition needs for the Army will be the procurement of battle command and other communication equipment, said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson, deputy for acquisition, logistics and technology. Of special concern will be satellite communication capability, Sorenson said Wednesday, February 14. The key to many proposed Army satellite network needs will be the Air Force's Transformational Satellite (TSAT) program. But TSAT's first launch has been slipped another year to 2016, the Air Force recently confirmed. The service also has decided the first TSAT spacecraft will have less routing capability and fewer laser terminals. The TSAT slippage and program changes have caught the attention of Army acquisition officials, whose programs will rely on TSAT capabilities. That could be especially true in places like Iraq, where overhead systems are especially needed, should combat drag on there for another decade. "It's a concern for us," Sorenson said. He said other systems — such as tactical unmanned aerial vehicles — could help fill in the gaps.

Source: http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/SAT_02157.xml

4. *February 15, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-144: Defense Logistics: Improved Oversight and Increased Coordination Needed to Ensure Viability of the Army's Prepositioning Strategy (Report).** Prepositioned military equipment and supplies on ships and overseas on land have become an integral part of the U.S. defense strategy. However, the Army's program has faced long-standing management challenges, including equipment excesses and shortfalls, invalid or poorly defined requirements, and maintenance problems. In Public Law 109-163, Congress required the Army to conduct an assessment of its

repositioning programs and required the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to assess (1) whether the Army's report addressed the areas required by Congress, and (2) the major challenges the Army continues to face in its repositioning program. GAO analyzed the Army's report and other information it obtained from the Joint Staff, the Army, and its subordinate commands to identify the issues affecting the Army's repositioning program. GAO also visited prepositioned equipment sites in South Carolina, Europe, South Korea, and Kuwait. GAO is making recommendations to synchronize the Army's repositioning strategy with overall department efforts and address issues including requirements determination, readiness reporting, need for a comprehensive facilities plan, and maintenance oversight. The Department of Defense generally concurred with GAO's recommendations but felt that further actions are unneeded. GAO disagrees and continues to believe that its recommended actions are warranted. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07144high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-144>

5. *February 14, Federal Computer Week* — **DoD clarifies RFID requirements.** The Department of Defense (DoD) has issued its final rule for use of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags by its suppliers, extending how long they can use older tags and mandating the use of tags even on low-value shipments from low-volume suppliers. DoD cited efficiencies gained in the supply chain through RFID use. DoD said in a Federal Register notice on Monday, February 12, that it will allow the use of older RFID Generation 1 tags under all new contracts through March 1. The older tags can also be used on all shipments contracts awarded before May 19, 2006, the date of the RFID interim rule. Industry asked DoD if the requirement to add tags to inexpensive items made sense when considering the cost of adding RFID systems to a vendor's supply chain, which one company estimated at \$100,000 per location. DoD said the benefits of applying RFID outweigh the costs.
Final DoD RFID Rule: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocke.t.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-2209.htm>
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article97669-02-14-07-Web>

6. *February 14, Government Computer News* — **Navy changes policy on contractors, encrypted communications.** The Navy issued a new instruction on February 7, revising policy and expanding the procedures to allow authorizing release of communications security material to contractors. Federal policy dictates that government cryptographic operations “will ordinarily be conducted by the government.” This instruction modifies that guidance: [W]hen there is a valid need and it is clearly in the best interest of the Navy and the government, cryptographic equipment keying material, related [communications security] information, and access to classified U.S. government traffic may be provided to U.S. contractors.
OPNAV Instruction 2221.SC: http://www.fas.org/irp/doddir/navy/opnavinst/2221_5c.pdf
Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/43135-1.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *February 15, InformationWeek* — **Smokers open the door for hackers ... literally.** With companies banning smoking inside their offices, smokers are forced outside -- usually to specific smoking areas in the back of the building. The doors leading out to them are a major

security hole, according to a social engineering study undertaken by NTA Monitor Ltd. a UK-based Internet security tester. NTA's tester was able to easily get inside a corporate building through a back door that was left open so smokers could easily and quickly get out and then back in to work, according to the company. Once inside, he reportedly gained access to a meeting room unchallenged and was then able to connect his laptop to the company's VoIP network. "We are experiencing a surge in demand for social engineering tests as hackers are turning to social techniques to infiltrate corporate networks. This latest social engineering test has proved that once inside a corporate building, an attacker can use social methods on employees to gain access to restricted areas and information if a rigid staff pass system is not in place," said Roy Hills, technical director at NTA Monitor.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=WOVTY0JR030QAQSNDLRSKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=197006376&articleID=197006376>

8. *February 15, Reuters* — **U.S. Mint launches first presidential \$1 coin.** The U.S. Mint said it launched a \$1 coin on Thursday, February 15, featuring George Washington, the first in a series honoring former U.S. presidents aimed at collectors and intended for use in vending machines and parking meters. Modeled on the mint's popular 50 State Quarters Program, coins depicting each president will be released in the order in which they served, with John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison scheduled to appear later in 2007. The rest will be released through 2016, ending with Gerald R. Ford. The coins, which are the same size, color and shape as the gold-hued Sacagawea dollars, are also aimed at collectors and are intended to spur interest in U.S. history. They are inscribed on the edge with the inscriptions "E Pluribus Unum" and "In God We Trust," and the date and mint mark, making them unique among circulating coins.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN15397588200_70215

9. *February 15, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-255: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation: Human Capital and Risk Assessment Programs Appear Sound, but Evaluations of Their Effectiveness Should Be Improved (Report).** The Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Conforming Amendments Act of 2005 requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report on the effectiveness of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's (FDIC) organizational structure and internal controls. GAO reviewed (1) mechanisms the board of directors uses to oversee the agency, (2) FDIC's human capital strategies and how its training initiatives are evaluated, and (3) FDIC's process for monitoring and assessing risks to the banking industry and the deposit insurance fund, including its oversight and evaluation. GAO recommends that FDIC (1) develop outcome-based performance measures for key human capital initiatives and make available such performance results to all employees and (2) develop policies and procedures that define how it will systematically and comprehensively evaluate its risk assessment activities. FDIC generally agreed with the report and the recommendations, and has plans underway to improve evaluations of key training programs and risk assessment activities.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07255high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-255>

10. *February 15, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-242: Deposit Insurance: Assessment of Regulators' Use of Prompt Corrective Action Provisions and FDIC's New**

Deposit Insurance System (Report). The Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Conforming Amendments Act of 2005 required the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report on the federal banking regulators' administration of the prompt corrective action (PCA) program under section 38 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (FDIA). The 2005 act also required GAO to report on changes to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's (FDIC) deposit insurance system. For the banks and thrifts GAO reviewed, regulators generally implemented PCA in accordance with section 38. Also, regulators generally have made limited use of noncapital supervisory actions, in part because they have chosen other informal and formal actions to address problems at troubled institutions. Recent changes to FDIC's deposit insurance system tie the premiums a bank or thrift pays into the insurance fund more directly to the estimated risk the institution poses to the fund. Most organizations generally supported making the system more risk based, but also had some concerns about unintended effects. FDIC and the other federal banking regulators intend to monitor the new system for any adverse impacts.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07242high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-242>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *February 15, Associated Press* — Skittering squirrel forces plane to land. An American Airlines flight made an unscheduled landing in Honolulu after pilots heard something skittering about in the wire-laden space over the cockpit. The airline blamed the emergency landing of the Tokyo-Dallas flight with 202 passengers on a stowaway squirrel. "You do not want a varmint up in the wiring areas and what-have-you on an airplane. You don't want anything up there," said John Hotard, spokesperson for the Ft. Worth, TX-based airline. He said pilots feared the animal would chew through wiring or cause other problems. Once on the ground late Friday, the Boeing 777's human passengers were put up in hotel rooms and later rebooked on other flights. Officers with the state and federal agriculture and wildlife officials boarded the plane, set traps, and captured the eastern gray squirrel. The species is native to parts of North America, and has been introduced to other areas, including South Africa, England, and Italy. It isn't known where or how the squirrel boarded the plane, said Janelle Saneishi, spokesperson for the state Agriculture Department.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-02-15-skittering-squirrel-forces-plane-landing_x.htm

12. *February 15, Associated Press* — NYC fliers stranded on planes for hours. JetBlue Airways Corp. tried to calm a maelstrom of criticism Thursday, February 15, after passengers were left waiting on planes at a New York airport for as long as nine hours during a snow and ice storm. The airline said 10 incoming and outbound flights at John F. Kennedy International Airport were "significantly delayed" with customers on board during Wednesday's storm. Reasons included congestion, frozen equipment, and an effort to keep planes ready to go in case the weather broke, said JetBlue spokesperson Bryan Baldwin. More than 250 of JetBlue's roughly 500 flights nationwide were canceled Wednesday, but "fairly normal" service resumed Thursday, he said. Calling Wednesday's delays "unacceptable," the airline planned to offer the affected passengers refunds and free flights. Onboard the planes, snack foods wore out their welcome, bathrooms became unpleasant, and cabins sweltered, passengers said. Baldwin said

the jam arose as the airline sent outbound flights to the runway — so they could leave immediately if the weather let up — while incoming flights filled up the gates. The problem grew as some equipment used to tow planes away from gates froze to the ground, he said.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070215/weather_jetblue.html?v=3

13. February 15, Government Accountability Office — GAO-07-309: Secure Border Initiative: SBInet Expenditure Plan Needs to Better Support Oversight and Accountability (Report).

In November 2005, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established the Secure Border Initiative (SBI) program to secure U.S. borders and reduce illegal immigration. One element of SBI is SBInet, the program responsible for developing a comprehensive border protection system. By legislative mandate, DHS developed a fiscal year 2007 expenditure plan for SBInet to address nine legislative conditions, including a review by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). DHS submitted the plan to the Appropriations Committees on December 4, 2006. To address the mandate, GAO assessed the plan against federal guidelines and industry standards and interviewed appropriate DHS officials. GAO recommends that DHS (1) ensure that future expenditure plans include explicit and measurable commitments relative to the capabilities, schedule, costs, and benefits associated with individual SBInet program activities; (2) modify the SBInet contract to include a maximum quantity or dollar value; and (3) re-examine the level of concurrency and appropriately adjust the acquisition strategy. DHS concurred with the first and third recommendations, but not the second. DHS stated that the contract already contains a maximum quantity. GAO disagrees and believes DHS needs to modify the contract to ensure compliance with regulations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07309high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-309>

14. February 15, Government Accountability Office — GAO-07-446T: Coast Guard: Preliminary Observations on Deepwater Program Assets and Management Challenges (Testimony).

The U.S. Coast Guard's Deepwater program was designed to upgrade or replace its aging legacy aircraft and vessels with assets focusing on the Coast Guard's traditional at-sea roles. After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the Coast Guard took on additional security missions, resulting in revisions to the Deepwater plan. The Government Accountability Office's (GAO) prior work raised concerns about Coast Guard's efforts to upgrade or acquire assets on schedule, and manage and effectively monitor the system integrator. This testimony provides GAO's preliminary observations on (1) events and issues surrounding the Coast Guard's bridging strategy to convert the legacy 110-foot patrol boats to 123-foot patrol boats; (2) the status of the Coast Guard's efforts to acquire new or upgraded Deepwater assets; and (3) the Coast Guard's ability to effectively manage the Deepwater program, hold contractors accountable, and control costs through competition. GAO's preliminary observations are based on audit work performed from August 2006 to February 2007. This testimony contains no recommendations. In 2004, GAO made 11 recommendations on management and oversight, contractor accountability, and cost control through competition, and reported in April 2006 that progress had been made but continued monitoring was warranted.

Highlights – <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07446thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-446T>

15. February 15, Daily Iberian (LA) — Louisiana airport may drop security. The Iberia Parish Airport Authority, in New Iberia, LA, is considering dropping its security contract with the

Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office. The \$69,000-per-year pact with the sheriff's office expired December 16 but has been kept up through monthly payments of \$5,750. Now, the Authority is looking at the possibility of dropping the contract, pending further review by the board and legal counsel. Robert "Bobby" Mouton, airport director, said the facility collects only a little more than \$13,000 a year from airport tenants for security. The remainder is picked up by the airport and Mouton noted that, if it is renewed, the contract would include a Consumer Price Index — allowance for inflation — increase. Wesley pointed out that many of the tenants provide their own security. "Our two agriculture tenants, by far the largest occupants of airport property, have said that they absolutely do not need security," Mouton said, adding he had also been notified by some tenants in the northern area of the airport that they also felt they did not need paid security. However, board member Travis Segura said he believes security is an issue in the expansion of the airport and said that categorically dropping it might be a mistake.

Source: <http://www.iberianet.com/articles/2007/02/15/news/news/news8%20.txt>

16. *February 15, Associated Press* — **Metro orders safety training for bus drivers.** All Washington, DC, Metrobus operators will be required to undergo annual safety training after two Virginia women were struck and killed by a bus while crossing a downtown street on Wednesday, the transit agency announced Thursday, February 15. The fatal accident Wednesday was the third involving a Metrobus and pedestrians in eight months. Four people have been killed. Metro general manager John B. Catoe Jr. said all bus operators will receive one to two days of annual mandatory training. Currently, operators receive safety training based on their record. He also said drivers will be instructed about the importance of pedestrian safety. The two women had the "walk" signal to cross Pennsylvania Avenue on Wednesday night when a bus turned left onto the avenue and struck them, Metro spokesperson Lisa Farbstein said. The driver, Victor Z. Kolako, 53, of Southeast Washington, was charged late Wednesday with two counts of negligent homicide, District of Columbia police said.

Source: http://www.wusa9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=55914

17. *February 15, Reuters* — **Hijacking ends on Spanish island.** The hijacking of an Air Mauritania plane Thursday, February 15, ended in the Canary Islands off the northwest coast of Africa, a Spanish government official told RNE national radio. An Air Mauritania Boeing 737 passenger plane with 71 passengers and eight crewmembers aboard was hijacked after takeoff from the airport in Nouakchott, Mauritania's capital, Mauritanian officials said. A single suspect was arrested, Spanish media said. Emergency services earlier said several people had been wounded by gunfire. No further details were immediately available. Earlier, a police officer at Nouakchott airport said the plane had been hijacked on a flight to the northern Mauritania port town of Nouadhibou and had flown instead to Dakhla in Western Sahara to take on fuel.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/africa/02/15/plane.hijack.reut/index.html>

18. *February 15, Associated Press* — **One hundred more Guardsmen headed to New Mexico border.** Another 100 National Guardsmen will soon be stationed along New Mexico's southern border with Mexico, according to a commander with Operation Jump Start. Col. Richard Puglisi, commanding officer of a joint task force working with the U.S. Border Patrol in Deming, NM, said Wednesday, February 14, that the increase will bring Guard numbers close to 900 for the region. Operation Jump Start began last summer as part of President Bush's plan to address border security. The Guard plans to establish four more Entry Identification Team

sites, and five Blackhawk helicopters are being assigned to help with the operation. The helicopters will be based at Las Cruces' airport. Puglisi also said three ground-based radar units, each with a range of about 12 miles, will be introduced. One is already in the Lordsburg area.

Source: <http://kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=6093980>

- 19. *February 14, Department of Transportation* — **Federal Government to regulate railroad hours of service and increase focus on safety risk reduction.**** The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) will now have authority to regulate railroad worker hours of service and will provide greater focus on risk reduction to improve safety in the railroad industry under a rail safety reauthorization bill submitted to the Congress on Wednesday, February 14, announced FRA Administrator Joseph H. Boardman. Boardman said the FRA proposal will replace railroad hours of service laws, first enacted in 1907, with comprehensive, scientifically based regulations to address the serious issue of worker fatigue. To achieve additional safety improvements, the proposal also will supplement traditional safety efforts with the establishment of risk reduction programs, Boardman explained. FRA will place increased emphasis on developing methods to systematically evaluate safety risks in order to hold railroads more accountable for improving the safety of their own operations, including risk management strategies and implementing plans to eliminate or minimize the opportunity for workers to make errors which can result in accidents. Other provisions in the proposal include requiring states and railroads to update the National Highway–Rail Grade Crossing Inventory on a regular basis to ensure current information is available for hazard analysis in determining where federal safety improvement funding is directed.

A copy of the full legislative proposal can be found at <http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/48>

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fra0707.htm>

- 20. *February 14, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–07–460T: Coast Guard: Coast Guard Efforts to Improve Management and Address Operational Challenges in the Deepwater Program (Testimony).**** The Coast Guard's Deepwater program is a 25-year, \$24 billion plan to replace or modernize its fleet of vessels and aircraft. While there is widespread acknowledgment that many of the Coast Guard's aging assets need replacement or renovation, concerns exist about the acquisition approach the Coast Guard adopted in launching the Deepwater program. From the outset, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has expressed concern about the risks involved with the Coast Guard's acquisition strategy, and continues to review Deepwater program management. This statement discusses (1) the Coast Guard's acquisition approach for the Deepwater program; (2) previous GAO recommendations to the Coast Guard on Deepwater, highlighting the importance of Integrated Product Teams; and (3) operational challenges the Coast Guard is facing because of performance and design problems with Deepwater patrol boats. GAO made 11 recommendations in 2004 in the areas of management and oversight, contractor accountability, and cost control through competition. In April 2006, GAO reported that the Coast Guard had implemented five of the recommendations, had begun to address five other recommendations, and declined to implement one recommendation.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07460thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-460T>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

21. *February 15, Bloomberg* — **Brazil, Bolivia to fight cattle disease.** Brazil and Bolivia signed an agreement to fight foot-and-mouth disease along their shared border in order to protect Brazil's beef export market. Bolivia, which isn't a major beef exporter, agreed to step up efforts to prevent sick cattle from wandering across the border into Brazil. Brazil, which has the largest herd of commercial beef cattle in the world, will donate one million doses of a vaccine to prevent the disease in Bolivian cattle.

Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=a.etFWE2_RUI&refer=latin_america

22. *February 14, Associated Press* — **Washington halts Tennessee plan to import Canadian elk.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has derailed Tennessee's plan to import 160 live elk from Canada, citing concerns about the animals spreading diseases. The Canadian elk would have nearly doubled the size of Tennessee's restored herd of about 200 animals, said state officials, who still expect to add 27 elk this spring from the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area in Kentucky. However, the USDA recently wrote Gov. Phil Bredesen's office that it would not allow elk to be brought into the country from Canada, said USDA spokesperson Andrea McNally. "The Canadian Food Inspection Agency was not able to certify that this herd is free of tuberculosis, which is one of our standard requirements," she said. McNally said the USDA also requires thorough disease-testing records for each animal brought into the country, beginning at the animal's birth. Canadian officials could not provide those records.

Source: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20070214.welk0214/BNStory/International/home>

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Food Sector

23. *February 14, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **FDA warns consumers not to eat certain jars of peanut butter.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning consumers not to eat certain jars of Peter Pan peanut butter or Great Value peanut butter due to risk of contamination with Salmonella Tennessee (a bacterium that causes foodborne illness). Both the Peter Pan and Great Value brands are manufactured in a single facility in Georgia by ConAgra. Great Value peanut butter made by other manufacturers is not affected. If consumers have any of this Peter Pan or Great Value brand peanut butter in their home that has been purchased since May 2006, they should discard it. Symptoms of foodborne illness caused by Salmonella include fever, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. In persons with poor underlying health or weakened immune systems, Salmonella can invade the bloodstream and cause

life-threatening infections. FDA's warning is based on a just-completed epidemiological study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the states and local health agencies, which links 288 cases of foodborne illness in 39 states to consumption of varying types of Peter Pan peanut butter. This report was provided to FDA on February 13. The outbreak appears to be ongoing and the first consumer may have become ill in August 2006. Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01563.html>

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Water Sector

24. *February 15, Water and Wastewater* — Controlling water movement in nanotube

membranes. Researchers at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute have found a way to control the flow of water through carbon nanotube membranes. The research could inspire technologies designed to transform salt water into pure drinking water almost instantly, or to immediately separate a specific strand of DNA from the biological jumble. Nanotube membranes have fascinated researchers with their combination of high flow rates and high selectivity, allowing them to filter out very small impurities and other organic materials like DNA and proteins from materials with high water content. The problem is that nanotube arrays are hydrophobic, strongly repelling water. “We have, at a very fundamental level, discovered that there is a new mechanism to control water transport,” said Nikhil Koratkar, associate professor of mechanical engineering at Rensselaer. “In this century one of the big challenges is how to get clean drinking water,” Koratkar said. “If you can remove salt from water you can solve this problem. Nature does this all the time. The first step to getting to this process is to control the flow of water through nanochannels. The next step would be to capture specific proteins, DNA, or impurities within the water with specifically designed nanotubes.”

Source: http://www.waterandwastewater.com/www_services/news_center/publish/article_001194.shtml

25. *February 15, Buffalo News (NY)* — Old pipes corroded water-sharing effort. When the October snowstorm sapped water service to Erie, NY's sprawling suburbs, officials asked two water utilities that were still working — Buffalo and the Town of Tonawanda — to help the have-nots in nearby communities. The Town of Tonawanda took a pass for reasons that illustrate how vulnerable the suburbs remain during a massive and prolonged loss of electrical power. Long-dormant pipes run between Buffalo and the Town of Tonawanda and the suburbs served by the Erie County Water Authority network that was crippled by the storm. But the plan to open those connections never got out of the starting gate in October. Nor would they be opened today if another destructive storm hit. Those old pipes and valves have not been fully tested for years, so some officials fear they will break, doing more harm than good. As it stands now, the haves would still be unable to help the have-nots.

Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/editorial/20070215/1047402.asp>

26. *February 14, Bloomberg* — Water shortages may affect two-thirds of world by 2025, United Nations says. Two-thirds of the world's population may be living in areas where there are water shortages by 2025, the United Nations' (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said. At present, 1.1 billion people don't have access to adequate clean water to meet basic daily needs, the FAO said Thursday, February 15. By 2025, 1.8 billion will be living in

areas with "absolute water scarcity," and two-thirds of the population may face "water stress conditions," it said. The UN estimates the current population, of about 6.5 billion people, will increase to almost eight billion by 2025. Two thirds of that would be about 5.3 billion people. Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601085&sid=am1686TSjV1s&refer=europe>

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Public Health Sector

27. February 15, *New York Times* — Scientists warn that bird-flu virus remains a threat. Last winter, as the H5N1 bird-flu virus marched out of Asia, across Europe and down into Africa, public health experts warned of the potential for a catastrophic pandemic like the Spanish flu of 1918. This year, by contrast, bird flu seems all but forgotten, mentioned occasionally when it claims another life or when it causes a major outbreak in, say, a British turkey farm. With flu season reaching its peak, the question for many Americans now is whether the threat they are facing is not Spanish flu but swine flu. But that is premature, scientists say, cautioning that the virus is as dangerous and unpredictable as ever. It killed more people in 2006 than it did in 2005 or 2004, they point out, and its fatality rate is rising -- 61 percent now, up from 43 percent in 2005. More worrisome, they say, is that the disease is out of control in birds in more places than ever, including the Nile delta in Egypt and Nigeria, where public health mechanisms are weak.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/15/health/15avian.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

28. February 15, *Boston Globe* — Spray flu vaccine may be better for children than shot. A new version of the nasal spray vaccine FluMist is better at preventing influenza than traditional flu shots in older babies and children, according to a study sponsored by its maker. The spray also dramatically reduced the risk of flu-related ear and lower respiratory tract infections, said the report being published in today's *New England Journal of Medicine*. But for infants ages six to 12 months or older children who sometimes wheeze, shots are safer, the researchers found. Results of the worldwide test on 8,400 preschoolers, conducted during the 2004-2005 flu season, are being released as health officials encourage flu vaccinations for those six months to 5-years-old to prevent the spread of the virus. Researchers of the Saint Louis University School of Medicine found that both the spray, which uses live but weakened viruses, and the shots, which contain killed viruses, reduced children's flu rate. But about half as many of those who got nasal spray became ill as those who received flu shots. While 8.6 percent of children getting injections developed flu, the rate was 3.9 percent for those given the spray.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2007/02/15/study_says_spray_flu_vaccine_better_for_children_than_shot/

29. February 14, *Georgia Institute of Technology* — Researchers create dual-modality microbeads. Analyzing human blood for a very low virus concentration or a sample of water for a bioterrorism agent has always been a time-consuming and difficult process. Researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University have developed an easier and faster method to detect these types of target molecules in liquid samples using micron-sized, silica beads. Adding magnetic nanoparticles allows the use of a magnetic field to attract and easily remove the beads from a liquid sample. The beads are mixed in a liquid such as urine.

Viruses, proteins or other biomarkers are captured on the bead surface. After the beads are removed from the liquid, optical imaging is used to determine the concentration of a specific protein or virus in the liquid sample based on the number of proteins or viruses attached to the surface of the beads. The technology involves embedding fluorescent quantum dots and magnetic iron oxide nanoparticles inside the beads to create dual-modality magneto-optical beads. Researchers synthesize the quantum dots in different colors by varying their size, giving the beads a unique optical signature. Having different color beads allows the researchers to detect several target molecules at the same time in the same liquid sample.

Source: <http://www.gatech.edu/news-room/release.php?id=1273>

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Government Sector

30. *February 14, USA TODAY* — White House looks for faster top-secret clearances. The White House is considering making it easier for people to obtain top-secret security clearances by eliminating some time-consuming background checks, says the Bush administration's point man on clearances. The goal, says Clay Johnson III, deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget, is to speed up a process that, according to a series of government reports, wastes millions of dollars and endangers public safety by leaving thousands of defense, homeland security, and intelligence jobs unfilled for more than a year. Johnson reported to Congress on Wednesday, February 14, that the executive branch is making "significant progress" toward clearing a backlog of uncompleted clearance applications that government contractors and others say exceeds 350,000. Johnson's report is required by a December 2004 intelligence-reform law that said 80 percent of clearance applications should be investigated, granted or rejected within 120 days. Clearances are "long overdue" for an overhaul, says Rep. Tom Davis, of Virginia, the top Republican on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Davis' district in the Washington suburbs includes thousands of government workers and contractors.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2007-02-14-top-secret-clearances_x.htm

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *February 14, Government Accountability Office* — GAO-07-484T: Small Business Administration: Response to the Gulf Coast Hurricanes Highlights Need for Enhanced Disaster Preparedness (Testimony). The Small Business Administration (SBA) helps individuals and businesses recover from disasters such as hurricanes through its Disaster Loan Program. SBA faced an unprecedented demand for disaster loan assistance following the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes (Katrina, Rita, and Wilma), which resulted in extensive property damage and loss of life. In the aftermath of these disasters, concerns were expressed regarding the timeliness of SBA's disaster assistance. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) initiated work and completed two reports under the Comptroller General's authority to conduct evaluations and determine how well SBA provided victims of the Gulf Coast hurricanes with

timely assistance. This testimony, which is based on these two reports, discusses (1) challenges SBA experienced in providing victims of the Gulf Coast hurricanes with timely assistance, (2) factors that contributed to these challenges, and (3) steps SBA has taken since the Gulf Coast hurricanes to enhance its disaster preparedness. GAO visited the Gulf Coast region, reviewed SBA planning documents, and interviewed SBA officials. GAO recommends that SBA take several steps to improve its disaster preparedness, and SBA agreed with these recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07484thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-484T>

- 32. *February 14, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **President declares major disaster for Washington State.**** The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Wednesday, February 14, announced that federal disaster aid has been made available for Washington to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm, landslides, and mudslides during the period of December 14–15, 2006. FEMA Director David Paulison said federal funding is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe winter storm, landslides, and mudslides in Chelan, Clark, Clallam, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, King, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, and Wahkiakum Counties.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=34148>

- 33. *February 14, Associated Press* — **New device will allow first responders to quickly scale a wall.**** A 23-year-old inventor has come up with a tool to zoom up a rope as fast as 10 feet per second and scale the side of a building. The battery-powered, handheld gadget known as the Powered Rope Ascender is envisioned as a tool for firefighters and soldiers, and helped earn Nate Ball of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology a Lemelson–MIT Student Prize. Using high-density, lithium-ion batteries, the device, including its harness, weighs 20 pounds and can propel a person up an anchored rope at 10 feet per second, Ball said. It also can be used to climb down. The device wraps rope in much the same way that a ship raises or lowers its anchor, using a capstan and tightly wound rope. Specially configured rollers and a spindle continuously pull rope through the device. A tighter grip is produced each time the rope is wrapped around a cylinder and more weight is applied to the line. The tool has potential applications for soldiers, firefighters, police, and others to make rescues or complete other missions on high-rises or in canyons.

Source: http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=sci_tech&id=5034354

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

- 34. *February 15, IDG News Service* — **Attackers seize on new zero-day in Word.**** Microsoft's Word and Office programs have been targeted again, with the company warning that hackers may already exploiting a new vulnerability found in the applications. The warning comes just after the company issued fixes for 20 other bugs in its products on Tuesday, February 13, including six for Word. The latest problem affects Office 2000 and Office XP, Microsoft said in

a security advisory on Wednesday. An attacker could create a specially-crafted Word document that, if opened, could allow them to control a victim's computer remotely. As usual it advised great caution when opening unsolicited attachments. Microsoft said it had received reports of "very limited, targeted" attacks. Danish security vendor Secunia ranked the problem as "extremely critical." The emergence of a security bug so soon after Microsoft's scheduled patch release follows a familiar pattern by hackers, who want to maximize the amount of time they have to take advantage of a vulnerability, said Thomas Kristensen, Secunia's chief technical officer.

Microsoft Advisory: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/advisory/933052.mspx>

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/02/15/HNzerodayinword_1.html

- 35. February 15, IDG News Service — Drive-by Web attack could hit home routers.** If you haven't changed the default password on your home router, do so now. That's what researchers at Symantec and Indiana University are saying, after publishing the results of tests that show how attackers could take over your home router using malicious JavaScript code. For the attack to work, the attackers would need a couple of things to go their way. First, the victim would have to visit a malicious Website that served up the JavaScript. Second, the victim's router would have to still use the default password that it's pre-configured with it out of the box. In tests, the researchers were able to do things like change firmware and redirect a D-Link Systems DI-524 wireless router to look up Websites from a Domain Name System server of their choosing. They describe these attacks in a paper, authored by Sid Stamm and Markus Jakobsson of Indiana University, and Symantec's Zulfikar Ramzan. "By visiting a malicious Webpage, a person can inadvertently open up his router for attack," the researchers write. "A Website can attack home routers from the inside and mount sophisticated...attacks that may result in denial-of-service, malware infection, or identity theft."

Research: <http://www.cs.indiana.edu/pub/techreports/TR641.pdf>

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/02/15/HNdrivebywebattack_1.html

- 36. February 15, CNET News — U.S. servers use more power than Mississippi.** It's no secret that the servers behind every Web 2.0 company, bank Internet site and corporate e-mail system are consuming ever larger amounts of power. But now a Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory study has quantified exactly how much. Servers in the United States and their attendant cooling systems consumed 45 billion kilowatt-hours of energy in 2005. That's more than Mississippi and 19 other states, according to study author Jonathan Koomey, a scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and consulting professor at Stanford University. And the computers' electricity appetite is still growing fast. "Over a five-year period from 2000 to 2005, there has been about a doubling," Koomey said. Most of the growth is from the widespread adoption of lower-end servers costing less than \$25,000, he said. Server power demand has moved high up customer priority lists— especially with rising power costs and overstuffed data centers — and hardware makers are responding. Among the touted fixes are energy-efficient processors, power consumption caps, water cooling and consolidation of work from numerous inefficient low-end servers to fewer, more-powerful machines.

Source: http://news.com.com/U.S.+servers+slurp+more+power+than+Mississippi/2100-1010_3-6159583.html?tag=nefd.top

- 37. February 15, VNUNet — Quake-hit Web links restored in Asia.** Asian telecom cables damaged in an earthquake late last year have been fully repaired, restoring Internet links to the

region, Hong Kong authorities announced Wednesday, February 14. Two violent magnitude seven quakes in the space of five minutes either directly severed undersea cables, or triggered undersea landslides that buried and broke the data links on December 26. The links normally carry more than 80 percent of East Asia's voice and data traffic.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2183438/asia-net-links-res-tored>

- 38. *February 14, Sophos* — Chinese police consider releasing hacker's Panda virus fix.** Sophos has advised computer users to think carefully about how they remedy virus infections, following news that the Chinese police are to release a clean-up program written by the author of the Fijacks worm. According to media reports from China, authorities are planning to issue a fix to the Fijacks worm which turns icons into a picture of a panda burning joss-sticks. Controversially, the utility has been written by Li Jun, the suspect author of the virus. "Hackers and virus writers have shown themselves to be irresponsible and untrustworthy and I certainly wouldn't choose to run their code on my computer," said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos. "Additionally, the Fijacks virus left some infected files unable to run. That hardly suggests that the author took quality assurance seriously when he constructed his malware."

Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2007/02/fujacks-fix.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: 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

- 39. *February 15, Courier-Journal (KY)* — Lake Cumberland could be lowered 30 feet more.** Kentucky's Lake Cumberland may have to be lowered 30 feet more than first projected to repair leaky Wolf Creek Dam -- at a possible cost of millions of dollars to surrounding cities, counties and businesses. The Army Corps of Engineers began informing community leaders late last week that lowering the lake further -- to 650 feet above sea level -- is a "real possibility." Among complex ramifications, water companies that serve 200,000 people may need to extend intake pipes thousands of feet in order to continue to operate. Likewise, sewage treatment plants will need to lengthen discharge lines so treated sewage doesn't spill onto dry ground. Measures will also have to be taken to make sure that East Kentucky Power Cooperative's Cooper Station coal-fired plant near Somerset can continue to draw 155,000 gallons a minute from the lake to cool its two generating units. And Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher and various agency heads attending Tuesday, February 13's meeting at Lake Cumberland Area Development District offices in Russell Springs pledged to do everything they can to ease the burden on communities and utilities. The governor will ask the legislature for \$45 million to assist communities.

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20>

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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