



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 April 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is
ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS
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<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- Saudi police have arrested 172 Islamic militants, some of whom were being trained abroad as pilots so they could fly suicide attacks against public figures, oil facilities, refineries, and military zones — some of which were outside the kingdom. (See item [1](#))
- The Department of Health and Human Services has announced the establishment the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority that will manage the procurement and advanced development of medical countermeasures for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear agents. (See item [26](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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

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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://www.esisac.com>]

1. *April 27, Associated Press* — **Saudis arrest 172 in terror plot involving planes.** Police have arrested 172 Islamic militants, some of whom were being trained abroad as pilots so they could fly aircraft in attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil fields, the Interior Ministry said Friday, April 27. The ministry said the detainees were planning to carry out suicide attacks against "public figures, oil facilities, refineries ... and military zones" — some of which were outside the kingdom. "They had reached an advance stage of readiness and what remained only was to set the zero hour for their attacks," Interior Ministry spokesperson Brig. Mansour al-Turki said.

The ministry did not say the militants would fly aircraft into oil refineries, as the September 11, 2001 hijackers flew planes into buildings in New York and Washington, but it said that some detainees had been "sent to other countries to study flying in preparation for using them to carry out terrorist attacks inside the kingdom." The ministry did not name the terrorist group that the militants allegedly belonged to. The al Qaeda terror group, whose leader Osama bin Laden is a Saudi, has called for attacks on the kingdom's oil facilities as a means of crippling both the kingdom's economy and the hurting the West.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/meast/04/27/Saudi.arrests.ap/index.html>

- 2. *April 26, Department of Energy* — DOE issues two draft National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Designations.** Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Samuel W. Bodman Thursday, April 26, announced the issuance of two draft National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (National Corridor) designations. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 authorizes the Secretary to designate National Corridors. "These draft designations set us on the path to modernize our constrained and congested electric power infrastructure. They are a crucial step toward realizing President Bush's goal of a modern, more efficient electric power delivery system," Secretary Bodman said. "I am confident the Department's actions will help facilitate the infrastructure growth necessary to meet the demands of our growing economy." These draft National Corridors are comprised of two geographic areas where consumers are currently adversely affected by transmission capacity constraints or congestion. The proposed Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor includes counties in Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Virginia, and all of New Jersey, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. The proposed Southwest Area National Corridor includes counties in California, Arizona, and Nevada. Within a National Corridor, transmission proposals could potentially be reviewed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which would have siting authority supplementing existing state authority.

National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors and Congestion Study: <http://nietc.anl.gov/>

Source: <http://www.energy.gov/news/4997.htm>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

- 3. *April 28, Associated Press* — Lightning starts fire at Oklahoma refinery.** Flames and smoke poured into the sky Saturday, April 28, over an oil refinery where lightning set off a fire and an explosion that was felt miles away, authorities said. No injuries were reported and there were no immediate evacuation orders in the south-central Oklahoma town, said Mike Hancock, a spokesperson for Wynnewood Refinery Co. Flames and smoke boiled hundreds of feet into the air from two 80,000-gallon tanks in the Wynnewood Refinery complex, officials said. Firefighters doused the area surrounding the tanks Saturday. The fire started Friday when lightning hit a tank containing naphtha, an unrefined form of gasoline, fire Chief Ken Moore said. City and company fire crews sprayed foam on the blaze and transferred naphtha out of the tank, but hours later the explosion — felt by residents of communities several miles away — spread the flames to a second tank, authorities said. One tank contained about 50,000 barrels of highly flammable naphtha and the second tank contained about 30,000 barrels of diesel fuel. Nearby highways were closed as a precaution. The nearest homes were a quarter-mile from the refinery.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *April 27, Aviation Week* — Appropriators fund current combat aircraft needs.

Congressional appropriators have opted not to provide funds for the Army's troubled Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter program under the fiscal 2007 supplemental appropriations measure hammered out for the White House. The lawmakers and staff did not explicitly explain why in their summary of the House and Senate conferees' agreement, but they said they deleted requested Department of Defense funding for procurement items better suited to receive funding through the normal budget process. "The department is reminded that supplemental funding should not be requested for items that cannot be executed in a timely fashion," according to the conference agreement, published Tuesday, April 24. The House passed the compromise spending bill April 25 by a vote of 218 to 208, while their Senate colleagues passed the measure 51 to 46 the following day.

Source: <http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/APP/R042707.xml&headline=Appropriators%20fund%20current%20combat%20aircraft%20needs&channel=defense>

5. *April 27, GovExec* — Watchdog: Projects in Iraq at risk for fraud, waste and abuse. The U.S. position in Iraq is ripe for fraud, waste and abuse, in part because of a heavy reliance on defense contractors despite poor visibility into their numbers and ineffective management, according to the top congressional auditor. In January testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, released this week in an unclassified form, Government Accountability Office chief David M. Walker told lawmakers that in the midst of a deteriorating security situation, the Department of Defense (DoD) is vulnerable to misspending. "DoD's heavy reliance on contractors in Iraq, its long-standing contract and contract management problems, and poor security conditions provide opportunities for fraud, waste and abuse," Walker testified. The government is vulnerable in part because DoD leaders do not have an accurate accounting of the number of people employed under U.S. contracts in Iraq. In his report to lawmakers, Walker said DoD also lacks clear guidance on the use of support contractors. He said problems with defining contract requirements shift additional risk to the government, and that a dearth of contract oversight personnel prevents the department from ensuring that work stays on track.

Testimony: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07525t.pdf>

Source: [http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36757&dcn=to daysnews](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36757&dcn=to%20daysnews)

6. *April 27, Government Accountability Office* — GAO-07-232: Defense Inventory: Opportunities Exist to Save Billions by Reducing Air Force's Unneeded Spare Parts Inventory (Report). At a time when U.S. military forces and their equipment are in high demand, effective management of the Department of Defense's (DoD) inventory is critical to ensure that the warfighter has the right items at the right time. The Air Force is the largest contributor to DoD's total on-hand inventory on the basis of inventory value. Under the statutory authority of the Comptroller General to conduct evaluations on his own initiative, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) determined the extent to which (1) the Air Force's

on-order and on-hand inventory reflect the amount of inventory needed to support required inventory levels from fiscal years 2002 through 2005, and (2) the Air Force had shortages in its inventory needed to support required levels during this period. To address these objectives GAO analyzed Air Force secondary inventory data (spare parts such as engines and guided missiles) from fiscal years 2002 through 2005. GAO recommends that the Air Force take four specific actions to strengthen the accountability and improve the management of its secondary inventory. DoD generally concurred with GAO's recommendations. However, GAO does not believe DoD's planned actions fully respond to two of the recommendations in our report.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07232high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-232>

7. *April 26, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-662R: Defense Logistics: Army and Marine Corps's Individual Body Armor System Issues (Correspondence)**. Congress has expressed strong interest in assuring that body armor protects ground forces. Additionally, as part of the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) efforts to monitor the Department of Defense's (DoD) and the services' actions to protect deployed ground forces, GAO reviewed the Army and Marine Corps's actions to address concerns regarding body armor to determine if they had taken actions to address these concerns. Because of broad congressional interest in the adequacy of body armor for the ground forces, GAO prepared this report under the Comptroller General's authority to conduct evaluations on his own initiative. GAO's objectives for this review were to determine to what extent the Army and Marine Corps (1) are meeting the theater requirements for body armor, (2) have the controls in place to assure that the manufacturing and fielding of body armor meet requirements, and (3) are sharing information regarding their efforts on body armor ballistic requirements and testing.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-662R>

8. *April 24, Washington Technology* — **Army to fund force integration in '08**. The Army will spend as much as \$2.3 billion on its Future Combat Systems initiative in fiscal 2008 and hundreds of millions more on initiatives designed to better integrate its forces, a top Army official said at a government-industry event. In a presentation to the Northern Virginia chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association International, Army Deputy Chief Information Officer Vern Bettencourt outlined the top initiatives for which the Army will be spending most of its money in fiscal 2008. In addition to the Future Combat Systems initiative, the Army will spend: \$518 million for the Army Battle Command System Integration project; \$233 million for the Force XXI Battle Command, Brigade and Below project; \$225 million for tactical radios. Future Combat Systems is the Army's modernization program. It consists of a family of manned and unmanned systems, which will be connected by a common network, that will enable Army units to dominate in complex environments.

Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1_1/30525-1.html?topic=defense

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *April 27, Associated Press* — **Google halts 'hijacked' ads used to steal personal data**. Google yanked paid advertisements that online criminals were using to steal banking and other personal information from Web surfers looking for the Better Business Bureau and other sites.

The ads, linked to 20 popular search terms, directed those who clicked on them to a booby-trapped site where their information could be captured. It was unclear how many people were affected before the breach was discovered this week, but computer security experts said Thursday, April 26, the attack appears to be isolated and only targeting Windows XP users who had not properly updated their machines. Google said it dismantled the offending links and shut down the problem AdWords accounts Tuesday. The company is working with advertisers to identify any other malware-loaded sites that might be on the network, it said. The attack targeted the top sponsored links tied to Google search results, installing a program on victims' computers to capture private information used to access online accounts for 100 different banks.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/business/ci_5762859

10. *April 27, CNNMoney* — **Dollar tumbles to record low versus euro.** The euro surged to a record high versus the dollar Friday, April 27, after a weak reading on economic growth in the United States unnerved currency investors. The euro bought \$1.3682, the highest since the currency was launched eight years ago, up from \$1.3604 in the previous session. The European currency pared some of those gains and was last trading at \$1.3672. A weaker-than-expected reading on economic growth hurt the dollar, as investors bet money would be moving to other places than the United States. Economic growth slowed to the weakest pace in four years in the first quarter, an annual rate of 1.3 percent, down from 2.5 percent in the fourth quarter, according to the Commerce Department.

Source: <http://money.cnn.com/2007/04/27/markets/bondcenter/bonds/index.htm?postversion=2007042709>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *April 29, Associated Press* — **California interchange collapses after fire.** A section of freeway that funnels traffic onto the San Francisco–Oakland Bay Bridge collapsed early Sunday, April 29, after a gasoline tanker truck overturned and caught fire, authorities said. The heat from the fire was intense enough to melt part of the freeway and cause the collapse, but the truck's driver walked away from the scene with second-degree burns. No other injuries were reported, which officials said was only possible because the accident happened so early on a Sunday morning. The truck driver took a taxi to a nearby hospital, Officer Trent Cross of the California Highway Patrol said. The tanker carrying 8,600 gallons of gasoline ignited around 3:45 a.m. PDT after crashing into a pylon on the interchange, which connects westbound lanes of Interstate 80 to southbound I–880. The Bay Bridge consists of two heavily traveled, double-decked bridges about two miles long straddling San Francisco Bay. State transportation officials said 280,000 commuters take the bridge into San Francisco each day. Authorities said the accident on a highway interchange could take months to repair, and that it would cause the worst disruption for Bay Area commuters since a 1989 earthquake damaged a section of the Bay Bridge itself.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-highway-collapse.0,3134799.story?track=mostviewed-homepage>

12.

April 27, Associated Press — **Heavily traveled Houston interchange closed indefinitely following tanker explosion.** Part of a heavily traveled Houston interchange is closed indefinitely because of damage from an early morning tanker truck explosion Friday, April 27, that killed its driver. The diesel-filled rig was heading onto the southbound ramp from U.S. Highway 59 onto Interstate 10 eastbound near downtown Houston when it flipped and exploded. The Texas Department of Transportation closed that ramp, as well as the I-10 eastbound ramp onto U-S 59 north. Investigators say the rig apparently taking the ramp too fast.

Source: http://www.woai.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=7a773990-1564-4d92-a2dc-faa9f202f468

13. *April 27, Associated Press* — **British Airways to increase long haul fuel surcharge.** British Airways said Friday, April 27, it is increasing its long haul fuel surcharge because of higher oil prices. The three-pound (US\$6) increase will come into effect on May 2, raising the one-way surcharge on long-haul flights less than nine hours to 33 pounds (US\$66) and for flights longer than nine hours to 35 pounds (US\$70). The short-haul fuel charge will remain unchanged at eight pounds (US\$16) .

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-04-27-british-air-surcharge_N.htm

14. *April 26, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-754T: Maritime Security: Observations on Selected Aspects of the SAFE Port Act (Testimony).** The United States has a vital national interest in maritime security. The safety and economic security of the United States depend in substantial part upon the secure use of the world's waterways and ports. In an effort to further the progress made through the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act (SAFE Port Act) was passed and became effective in October 2006. This testimony, which is based on past Government Accountability Office (GAO) work, synthesizes the results of this work as it pertains to the following: (1) overall port security, (2) facility security at U.S. ports, (3) the international supply chain and cargo container security, and (4) customs revenue collection efforts. While this testimony makes no recommendations, in the past GAO has made many recommendations on issues covered in this statement. The Department of Homeland Security is in various stages of implementing these recommendations.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-754T>

15. *April 26, USA TODAY* — **NYC 'congestion fee' plan upsets some.** New Yorkers are accustomed to paying when they hop in taxi. Now the mayor wants to charge people who drive their own cars in Manhattan. The \$8 fee proposed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg would apply to the nearly one million cars that enter Manhattan every day, whether driven by a tourist gawking at the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree or a Bronx plumber headed to a job on Fifth Avenue. Trucks would pay \$21. Similar fees, called "congestion charges," are in effect in London, Singapore, Stockholm, Oslo, and Rome, where they have reduced traffic and improved air quality. Congestion charges on highways exist in U.S. cities including San Diego and Minneapolis, where "Lexus lanes" allow solo drivers to pay to drive in high-occupancy vehicle lanes. Opponents of the New York proposal say it's not fair to charge residents to drive in their own city on roads they already pay for with taxes. The congestion charge, which Bloomberg wants to start in 2009, would be levied by E-ZPass, a toll collection system using electronic sensors on vehicles, or by a bill sent after a camera at a traffic light captures a license number.

The revenue, which could be \$400 million yearly, would pay for transportation improvements, including transit.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-04-26-nyc-congestion-fee_N.htm

16. *April 26, Associated Press* — **Long Beach airport gets expansion vote.** Long Beach, CA's airport's terminal would be modernized and nearly doubled in size under a plan approved by the City Council. Under the plan, the overhaul would add space for two more planes to the 10 parking positions and increase the number of aircraft gates from eight to 11. Floor space at the cramped, 1940s-era airport terminal would be boosted from about 56,320 square feet to 89,995 square feet. Backers had originally sought some 133,000 square feet in terminal space, but compromised with opponents who feared it would exacerbate noise, pollution and health problems. Officials said it would help the airport accommodate about 4.2 million passengers annually after its anticipated completion in 2011, up from the three million it handles now.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070426/socal_airport_expansion.html?.v=1

17. *April 20, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-483: Commercial Aviation: Potential Safety and Capacity Issues Associated with the Introduction of the New A380 Aircraft (Report).** Airbus SAS (Airbus), a European aircraft manufacturer, is introducing a new aircraft designated as the A380, which is expected to enter service in late 2007. The A380 will be the largest passenger aircraft in the world, with a wingspan of about 262 feet, a tail fin reaching 80 feet high, and a maximum takeoff weight of 1.2 million pounds. The A380 has a double deck and could seat up to 853 passengers. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to examine the impact of the A380 on U.S. airports. In May 2006, GAO issued a report that estimated the costs of infrastructure changes at U.S. airports to accommodate the A380. This report discusses (1) the safety issues associated with introducing the A380 at U.S. airports, (2) the potential impact of A380 operations on the capacity of U.S. airports, and (3) how selected foreign airports are preparing to accommodate the A380. To address these issues, GAO reviewed studies on operational and safety issues related to the A380 and conducted site visits to the 18 U.S. airports and 11 Asian, Canadian, and European airports preparing to receive the A380. GAO provided the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Airbus a copy of the draft report for review. Both generally agreed with the report's findings. FAA and Airbus also provided technical clarifications, which were incorporated as appropriate.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07483high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-483>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

18. *April 25, Marshall County Journal (SD)* — **Anthrax flares up in northeast South Dakota.** An anthrax case was diagnosed in a cow herd in northeast South Dakota on Tuesday, April 24. he

case is in a herd that experienced anthrax losses in 2005, and the producer has lost two out of a group of 50 this spring. Marshall County extension educator Tyler Melroe said the flareup is something that producers need to take seriously. "It's kind of a big problem because a flare-up from the herd affected in 2005 shows that conditions are right for it to flare up again," said Melroe. "There's not any way to stop the disease after it's ingested. Anthrax is almost always fatal and death occurs pretty quickly. The best means of protecting yourself is being proactive and trying to prevent it with vaccination."

Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?BRD=1971&dept_id=175429&newsid=18258301&PAG=461&rft=9

19. *April 24, Star-Banner (FL)* — **Marion, FL, records first case of equine encephalitis this year.** A Dunnellon, FL, horse is infected with Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), making it the first infected animal reported in Marion County for the year, county Health Department officials said Monday, April 23. The diseased horse is still alive, said Tom Moore, Marion County Health Department environmental administrator, and so far it is the fourth case of the mosquito-spread disease this year in Florida.

EEE information: <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~insects/heee.htm>

Source: <http://www.ocala.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070424/NEWS/204240325/1368/googlesitemapnews>

20. *April 24, American Society for Microbiology* — **Chronic wasting disease transmissible among rodents.** A new study demonstrates that certain rodents can be directly infected with chronic wasting disease (CWD) and therefore serve as animal models for further study of the disease. CWD is a transmissible prion disease most commonly found in deer and elk. Conversion of the normal host protein to an abnormal disease-associated form is an important part in the tracking of prion diseases and researchers are hopeful that rodent-adapted CWD models could assist in therapeutic development. In the study transgenic and wild-type mice in addition to Syrian, Djungarian, Chinese, Siberian and Armenian hamsters were inoculated with CWD samples retrieved from deer and elk and monitored over various amounts of time. Distinct neuropathological patterns throughout differing incubation periods were observed in Chinese hamsters and transgenic mice offering the highest susceptibility rates. Wild-type mice and Djungarian hamsters were found not to be susceptible to CWD.

Report: <http://www.asm.org/ASM/files/LeftMarginHeaderList/DOWNLOADFILENAME/000000002367/pdf-CWD-mice.pdf>

Source: <http://www.asm.org/Media/index.asp?bid=49917>

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Food Sector

21. *April 26, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **FDA and USDA determine swine fed adulterated product.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Thursday, April 26, notified state authorities that swine fed adulterated product will not be approved to enter the food supply. Based on information currently available, FDA and USDA believe the likelihood of illness after eating pork from swine fed the adulterated product would be very low; however, the agencies believe it is prudent to take this measure. FDA determined that a shipment of rice

protein imported from China was contaminated with melamine and melamine-related compounds. The product was imported during the week of April 2, 2007 by Wilbur-Ellis, an importer and distributor of agricultural products. The rice protein was used in the production of pet food and a byproduct was used to produce animal feed. Eight pork producers in the states of California, Kansas, North Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Utah are known to have purchased the feed. These combined operations involve approximately 6,000 hogs. All of the animals are currently being held under state quarantines in CA, NC, NY and SC. In KS, OK and UT producers agreed to hold the animals until further notice.

Source: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentonly=true&contentid=2007/04/0117.xml

22. April 26, U.S. Food and Drug Administration — Diamond Pet Food withdraws products.

Because of the canned pet food recall initiated Thursday, April 26, by American Nutrition Inc., Diamond Pet Foods has announced it is withdrawing a limited number of canned products manufactured by American Nutrition. This action is limited to three specific canned products: Diamond Lamb & Rice Formula for Dogs 13 oz. cans, Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul Kitten Formula 5.5 oz. cans, and Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul Puppy Formula 13 oz. cans. Diamond Pet Foods is taking this action after learning the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) confirmed rice protein concentrate used by American Nutrition contained melamine, a substance not approved for use in food. Diamond Pet Foods has not received any indication of quality or safety issues, including pet illness, with the three withdrawn products. However, because American Nutrition informed the company that these three specific products may include rice protein concentrate, Diamond Pet Foods felt this action was necessary.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/diamond04_07.html

23. April 26, U.S. Food and Drug Administration — Chenango Valley Pet Foods issues recall of certain pet foods.

Chenango Valley Pet Foods is working with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and voluntarily recalling pet foods manufactured with a certain shipment of rice protein concentrate. The company was informed by Wilbur-Ellis that the rice protein concentrate shipped to Chenango Valley Pet Foods may be contaminated with melamine, and instructed Chenango Valley Pet Foods to recall any pet foods manufactured with the rice protein concentrate. Melamine is an industrial chemical used to make plastics and fertilizers that may lead to illness or fatalities in animals if consumed. The pet foods were sold to customers in Wisconsin, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, who further sold the products to their customers through catalog mail-orders or retail outlets. No illnesses or injuries have been reported to date.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/chenango04_07.html

24. April 23, News Herald (FL) — Three cases of bacteria infection reported. The Bay County, FL, Health Department received three reports of infection from vibrio vulnificus in April. This bacterium is occurring naturally in saltwater and is most commonly contracted by eating raw shellfish. The three people with cases reported within the last week told officials they ate raw oysters prior to becoming ill.

Source: <http://community.emeraldcoast.com/onset?id=15021&template=article.html>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

25. *April 26, American Society for Microbiology* — **Oral vaccine containing Salmonella may protect against aerosolized anthrax.** Researchers from the U.S. and abroad have developed an orally administered Salmonella-based vaccine that protects mice against aerosolized anthrax and may also have human implications. Currently, there is a vaccine licensed for use in the U.S., and although effective, it requires multiple injections over several months and is expensive to produce. Researchers produced *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium expressing differing levels of the necessary protective antigen to induce anthrax immunity and orally immunized groups of mice. Following immunization the mice were then challenged with aerosolized anthrax spores. Five of the six mice that received the vaccine containing full expression of the antigen were protected against infection, while the vaccine with reduced antigen levels only provided up to 25 percent protection.

Report: <http://www.asm.org/ASM/files/LeftMarginHeaderList/DOWNLOADFILENAME/000000002365/pdf-Salm-Anthrax.pdf>

Source: <http://www.asm.org/Media/index.asp?bid=49907>

26. *April 26, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services* — **HHS establishes office to manage biomedical advanced research and development authority.** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mike Leavitt Thursday, April 26, announced the establishment of the office that will manage the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA). The office will reside under the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and its director will report to the Assistant Secretary. The BARDA office will manage Project BioShield, which includes the procurement and advanced development of medical countermeasures for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear agents, as well as manage the advanced development and procurement of medical countermeasures for pandemic influenza and other emerging infectious diseases that fall outside the auspices of Project BioShield. BARDA will provide an integrated, systematic approach to the development and purchase of the necessary vaccines, drugs, therapies and diagnostic tools for public health medical emergencies. BARDA will incorporate all the programs, mission responsibilities and organizational functions previously housed in the HHS Office of Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures, which will be subsumed in the reorganization process.

Source: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2007pres/04/pr20070426b.html>

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Government Sector

27. *April 27, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS announces \$24 million available to nonprofit organizations to strengthen security.** The Department of Homeland Security

(DHS) announced on Friday, April 27, that nonprofit organizations in the 46 designated UASI areas are eligible to apply for funds as part of the fiscal year (FY) 2007 Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). This grant program will provide more than \$24 million to eligible 501(c)(3) organizations who are deemed high-risk for a potential international terrorist attack. The federal grant funds must be used for target-hardening activities, which can be accomplished through training or the purchase or installation of security equipment on real property owned or leased by the nonprofit organization. Grants will be awarded to nonprofit organizations through their eligible State Administrative Agency (SAA) according to set criteria.

For more information on the FY 2007 UASI NSGP and other DHS grant programs, visit

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1177703312988.shtm

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Emergency Services Sector

28. *April 27, Local 6 (FL)* — Coast Guard launches 'floating weather centers' for hurricane season. The U.S. Coast Guard is placing special high-tech buoys in the ocean Friday, April 27, to prepare for what is expected to be an active hurricane season. The giant buoys are "floating weather centers" that will help in detecting hurricanes and determining their severity and in what direction the storms are moving, according to Local 6 meteorologist Larry Mowry. Forecasters are expecting an active hurricane season this year, saying there is a 75 percent chance that a major hurricane will make landfall in the U.S. this season. "That 75 percent is for a major hurricane striking the U.S.," Mowry said. "Those buoys are so crucial for us in terms of forecasting where those monster storms will go."

Source: <http://www.local6.com/weather/13209064/detail.html>

29. *April 26, Federal Computer Week* — Harvard to study government response to crises. Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government has launched a research initiative aimed at helping government leaders better respond to and manage crisis situations. Harvard officials say the program, called Acting in Time, will generate research, discussion, and ideas to overcome the incapacity of governments to react quickly to catastrophic events. The program will not focus on specific solutions to disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina or terrorist acts, but rather will explore why governments are unable or unwilling to act when such events occur, officials said. "It is important to look beyond the crisis of the moment to the fundamental ability of governments and leaders to take action when they need to do so," said Christopher Stone, faculty chairman of Acting in Time and a professor of the practice of criminal justice at Harvard. Solutions are rarely missing when governments face critical challenges, he said. "What's missing is the ability of governments to act on what we know and to act in time to make a difference," he said. "That's the leadership skill set we will be trying to define through this initiative."

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article102563-04-26-07-Web>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

30. *April 27, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-424: Information Technology: DHS Needs to Fully Define and Implement Policies and Procedures for Effectively Managing Investments (Report)**. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) relies extensively on information technology (IT) to carry out its mission. For fiscal year 2008, DHS requested about \$4 billion -- the third largest planned IT expenditure among federal departments. Given the size and significance of DHS's IT investments, the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) objectives were to determine whether DHS (1) has established the management structure and associated policies and procedures needed to effectively manage these investments and (2) is implementing key practices needed to effectively control them. The GAO used its IT Investment Management (ITIM) framework and associated methodology to address these objectives, focusing on the framework's stages related to the investment management provisions of the Clinger-Cohen Act. GAO recommends that DHS fully define the project-level and portfolio-level policies and procedures defined in GAO's ITIM framework and implement the practices needed to effectively control investments. In written comments on this report, DHS agreed with GAO's findings and recommendations and stated it will use the report to improve its investment management process.
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07424high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-424>
31. *April 26, IDG News Service* — **FCC approves plan for auctioning 700MHz spectrum**. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has approved a plan for auctions of wireless spectrum in the 700MHz band, taking the first step toward the multi-billion-dollar sale of spectrum being abandoned by television stations. The FCC late Wednesday, April 25, approved an auction plan that would sell pieces of the spectrum in chunks of varying geographic sizes, including metropolitan areas, larger regional economic zones, and multi-state regions. The FCC also will invite comments on a number of proposals for the spectrum, made available after Congress voted last year to require TV stations to switch to digital broadcasts and abandon channels 51 to 69 by February 2009.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/04/26/HNfccspectrumauction_1.html
32. *April 26, IDG News Service* — **New York teen hacks AOL, infects systems**. A New York teenager broke into AOL networks and databases containing customer information and infected servers with a malicious program to transfer confidential data to his computer, AOL and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office allege. In a complaint filed in Criminal Court of the City of New York, the DA's office alleges that between December 24, 2006 and April 7, 2007, 17-year old Mike Nieves committed offenses like computer tampering, computer trespass, and criminal possession of computer material. Among his alleged exploits: Accessing systems containing customer billing records, addresses, and credit card information; Infecting machines at an AOL customer support call center in New Delhi, India, with a program to funnel information back to his PC; Logging in without permission into 49 AOL instant message accounts of AOL customer support employees; Attempting to break into an AOL customer support system containing sensitive customer information; Engaging in a phishing attack against AOL staffers through which he gained access to more than 60 accounts from AOL employees and subcontractors.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/04/26/HNteenhackaol_1.html

- 33. April 26, IDG News Service — Four plead guilty in auction software piracy scheme.** Four men have pleaded guilty in U.S. court in Wisconsin to selling copyrighted software on eBay.com, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced Thursday, April 26. Pleading guilty in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin were Eric Neil Barber of Manila, AR; Phillip Buchanan of Hampton, GA; Wendell Jay Davis of Las Vegas; and Craig J. Svetska, of West Chicago, IL, the DOJ said. The four sold counterfeit Rockwell Automation software with a retail value of more than \$19.1 million through eBay, the DOJ said.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/04/26/HNfourpleadguilty_1.html
- 34. April 26, Associated Press — Lawsuit targets spam harvesters.** An anti-spam organization filed a federal lawsuit Thursday, April 26, targeting so-called spam harvesters, who facilitate the mass distribution of junk e-mail by trolling the Internet and collecting millions of e-mail addresses. The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, VA, by a Utah company called Unspam Technologies Inc. The company runs a Website called Project Honey Pot dedicated to tracking spam harvesters worldwide. Project Honey Pot has collected thousands of Internet addresses that it has linked to spam harvesters, but it so far has been unable to link those addresses to an actual person. The lawsuit names a variety of John Does as defendants, and the plaintiffs hope that the legal process will allow them to track the actual people who are harvesting the e-mail addresses, said lead attorney Jon Praed with the Arlington-based Internet Law Group.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070426/ap_on_hi_te/spam_harvester_lawsuit;_ylt=AsDo2vfvbSzFQ.Hj3vqhjy8jtBAF
- 35. April 26, VNUNet — Hacking tools top malware threats.** Hacking tools head up the list of malware detected on computers around the world, according to figures released by Microsoft at Infosecurity Europe 2007. "Backdoors, key-loggers, downloads and droppers continue to be the main malware menaces we're seeing in the marketplace," said Nicholas McGrath, head of platform strategies Microsoft. Data collected from Microsoft's security software between July and December 2006 showed that attacks were much more likely to target individual machines. "The exploits are very much targeted at the individual, either by taking their identity to gain from something like their credit card, or taking control of the PC to build their own botnets to be used in organized criminal activities," said McGrath.
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2188652/hacking-tools-top-malware-threats>
- 36. April 26, VNUNet — Mobile phone users oblivious to data threats.** Consumers fail to realize how much sensitive information they carry in their mobile phones, according to a university study. Professor Steve Furnell from Plymouth University, UK, said that focus groups carried out on the campus showed a worrying trend of users not protecting their data on mobile devices because they did not see any threat. The study found that only 66 percent of people used a PIN to protect their device, although 45 percent of those did not bother to change the default number. Furnell said that the technology exists to protect users, but that they simply did not make use of it.
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2188621/mobile-phone-users-oblivious>

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