# Department of Homeland Security
## IAIP Directorate
## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
## for 07 March 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

For info click here
http://www.dhs.gov/

## Daily Highlights

- The Atlanta Journal−Constitution reports some members of Congress want the Department of Homeland Security to investigate the potential for terrorism posed by security breaches at ChoicePoint and other companies handling sensitive consumer information. (See item 6)

- Government Technology reports that according to a new report by the Center for Digital Government, cities are increasing their use of Web−based and Internet services, with more than three−quarters indicating they provide emergency preparedness information through their Websites. (See item 20)

- The New Britain Herald reports the Amateur Radio Relay League of ham radio operators has created the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, an organization of amateur radio enthusiasts dedicated to providing backup communication services in any case of emergency or disaster. (See item 23)

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### DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

**Production Industries:** **Energy**; **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials**; **Defense Industrial Base**

**Service Industries:** **Banking and Finance**; **Transportation**; **Postal and Shipping**

**Sustenance and Health:** **Agriculture**; **Food**; **Water**; **Public Health**

**Federal and State:** **Government**; **Emergency Services**

**IT and Cyber:** **Information Technology and Telecommunications**; **Internet Alert Dashboard**

**Other:** **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons**; **General**; **DHS/IAIP Products &Contact Information**

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# Energy Sector

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**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: <u>Physical</u>: Elevated, <u>Cyber</u>: Elevated**
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES−ISAC) − http://esisac.com]

1. *March 05, Reuters* — **U.S. urges Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries not to cut oil production.** The Bush administration is urging the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) not to cut oil production when it meets later this month, but has

limited sway with the group, U.S. Energy Secretary Sam Bodman said Friday, March 4. "The capability of any representative of this government to influence the members of OPEC is limited," Bodman told a Senate panel hearing. "I do not control what OPEC does." OPEC will meet in Iran later this month to discuss production targets as U.S. crude prices flirt with record highs above $55 per barrel. "It's (the administration) encouraging them to understand the impact that high prices have on the economy and why we believe it is in their interest to at a minimum maintain current supplies if not increase them," Bodman told reporters later.
Source: http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/bu siness/2005/March/business_March110.xml&section=business

2. *March 04, Houston Chronicle (TX)* — **Mergers possible in the energy industry.** Another wave of mergers may be building in the energy industry as persistent high oil prices, stockpiles of cash and a shortage of inexpensive places to drill are driving companies to eye their competitors. Mergers are a regular part of the energy industry as companies are constantly buying and selling properties and projects in an effort to balance their portfolios. An average of 25 energy companies per year has been taken over in the past eight years, said Art Smith, CEO of research firm John S. Herold. However, while past merger waves were efforts to cut costs during times of low energy prices, it's the large cash reserves companies have built in recent years and the dwindling number of easy−to−reach oil and gas fields, known as reserves, that may trigger the next run of mergers. One might expect high oil prices to discourage mergers, because buyers may be afraid they will pay too much for a company today if oil prices drop tomorrow. However, the demands by Wall Street that companies grow, or at the very least maintain, the size of their reserves from year to year has companies willing to pay higher prices to buy existing operations.
Source: http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/metropolitan/306784 0

3. *March 04, Charlotte Observer (NC)* — **Duke Power can test plutonium fuel mix at Catawba nuclear plant.** Duke Power won government approval Thursday, March 3, to test a plutonium blend of fuel at its Catawba nuclear plant on Lake Wylie, SC, beginning this spring. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission approval, which followed two years of review, is a milestone toward Duke's full use of mixed−oxide fuel (MOX). MOX contains surplus plutonium from the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile. Although about 30 European reactors use a slightly different form of the fuel, Duke would become the first U.S. utility to put it into production use, which is unlikely to happen before about 2011. Duke and the Department of Energy tout MOX as a way to keep unneeded weapons material out of enemy hands. Critics, including anti−nuclear and anti−proliferation groups, insist the fuel will be dangerous to use and to transport. The MOX program is part of a joint U.S.–Russia initiative in which each country pledged to dispose of 34 metric tons of surplus plutonium.
Source: http://www.charlotte.com/mld/observer/news/local/11047654.ht m

[Return to top]

# Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *March 04, Chicago Tribune* — **Rail collision causes chemical spill in Northern Indiana.** Firefighters and a hazardous material team contained an acid spill Friday, March 4, after a CSX freight train struck a semi trailer truck in south suburban Calumet City, IN. The train ripped

open the trailer portion of the vehicle, spilling barrels containing acrylic acid on the ground. Although the accident site was an isolated industrial area of Calumet City, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency said the spill could have an impact on the environment. No injuries were reported.
Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi−050304hazmat,1, 2518994.story?coll=chi−news−hed

[Return to top]

# Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]

# Banking and Finance Sector

5. *March 05, Department of State* — **Department of State releases new International Narcotics Control Strategy Report.** The 2005 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR) is an annual report by the Department of State to Congress prepared in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act. It describes the efforts of key countries to attack all aspects of the international drug trade in calendar year 2004. Volume I covers drug and chemical control activities. Volume II covers money laundering and financial crimes. The purpose of the INCSR is to measure the progress governments abroad have made over the past year combating drug trafficking and money laundering. According to the report, the number of countries with anti−terrorism financing laws jumped under enormous effort from 87 to 113 over the past year. "It takes political will to make that kind of a number change, and that political will is what's showing up out there. Only three countries remain on the Financial Action Task Force noncooperative list of jurisdictions, down from 23 five years ago −− indicating strong cooperation from those countries on both tracing and tracking money laundering," said Robert B. Charles, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. Report: http://www.state.gov/g/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2005/
Source: http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2005/43018.htm

6. *March 04, The Atlanta Journal−Constitution (GA)* — **Terrorist access to databases feared.** Congressional Democrats want the Department of Homeland Security to investigate the potential for terrorism posed by security breaches at ChoicePoint and other companies handling sensitive consumer information. "There is little to stop al Qaeda from using known vulnerabilities to break into ChoicePoint's databases or to prevent terrorists from stealing critical records off commercial airplanes," said Rep. Bennie Thompson (D−MS), ranking minority member of the House Committee on Homeland Security. "Terrorists could use this information to steal identities to enter the United States illegally or to finance terrorist attacks," Thompson and other members of Congress wrote in a letter Thursday, March 3, to Patrick Hughes, the department's assistant secretary for information analysis. The issue of identity theft jumped into headlines last month when ChoicePoint, an Alpharetta−based data broker, revealed that computerized personal records of 145,000 Americans had been accessed by scammers in California posing as legitimate customers.

Source: [http://www.ajc.com/news/content/business/0305/04choicewash.html?UrAuth=%60NbNUOcNXUbTTUWUXUTUZTZU]UWU_U]UZUbUZUcTYWVVZV](http://www.ajc.com/news/content/business/0305/04choicewash.html?UrAuth=%60NbNUOcNXUbTTUWUXUTUZTZU]UWU_U]UZUbUZUcTYWVVZV)

7. *March 04, Washington Post* — **New industry helping banks fight online fraud.** A bustling new sector of the technology industry is helping companies cope with a surge in online financial fraud known as phishing. However, the fledgling industry as a whole has adopted divergent approaches to combating the problem, and there are signs that federal regulators could soon step in and mandate specific technologies. As a result, many banks have put off adopting the new services until the market matures. Most anti−phishing companies offer a mix of products, such as domain−name monitoring and a "takedown" service that involves contacting the Internet service provider (ISP) responsible and persuading them to shut down the offending site. However, phish busting is a complex endeavor that involves combating online criminal activity on a multitude of fronts, and most companies admittedly excel at just one or two of those areas. In acknowledgement of the fragmented market for the technologies they offer, several leading anti−phishing companies recently formed the "Anti−Fraud Alliance" to appeal to companies looking for a more comprehensive strategy. The group's members have agreed to promote and re−sell each others' products.
Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/articles/A6367−2005Mar4 .html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/articles/A6367−2005Mar4.html)

8. *March 03, Silicon.com* — **Identity theft affecting one in four adults in United Kingdom.** A quarter of adults in Great Britain have been a victim identity theft or know someone who has been affected by it, an investigation by a magazine called Which? has found. The research also discovered that awareness of the crime is rising, with two−thirds of individuals now concerned about the crime, which costs the United Kingdom (UK) around US$2.5 billion a year according to government statistics. While the more tech−savvy individual that can spot a phishing e−mail a mile off may think themselves safe from the fraudsters, David Porter, head of security and risk at consultants Detica, warned people are opening themselves up to attacks by posting personal details on seemingly innocuous Websites. "A huge amount of your identity is your biography and your life. I think you shouldn't disclose any information about your life, your loves, your job, your friends to Websites aimed at making you new friends or reuniting you with old ones. People should be careful about submitting CVs to recruitment sites too."
Source: [http://software.silicon.com/security/0,39024655,39128357,00. htm](http://software.silicon.com/security/0,39024655,39128357,00.htm)

[[Return to top](#)]

# Transportation Sector

9. *March 04, Department of Transportation* — **Grants awarded to Missouri airports to reduce noise, increase safety.** Federal grants totaling nearly $68.8 million for Missouri will include funds to reduce the impact of noise from Lambert−St. Louis International Airport on nearby communities, Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta announced on Friday, March 4. Lambert−St. Louis International Airport will receive $24.7 million to soundproof approximately 300 homes near the airport and acquire land in areas around the airport in order to minimize the impact of noise. In addition, a grant of $7 million will complete a 10−year, $191.4 million federal investment in the construction of runway 11/29W, which is scheduled to be completed in April 2006. The airport also will receive $622,500 to buy an aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicle.

**10.** *March 04, Cincinnati Enquirer (OH)* — **Oil spills spark call for action.** The January oil pipeline spill that fouled the Kentucky and Ohio rivers with more than 82,000 gallons of crude oil is not an isolated incident, either for the Hebron, KY–based Mid–Valley Pipeline Co. that operates the pipeline, or for the Bluegrass state which far exceeds the national average for gallons spilled and damage caused by spills. Since 1986, Mid–Valley has allowed more than 1.2 million gallons of crude oil to spill into the environment during 36 accidents. Those spills have caused $7.4 million in property damage along the pipeline's route from Longview, Texas to Toledo, via Northern Kentucky and Southwest Ohio. The Sierra Club wants Governor Ernie Fletcher to create a special Pipeline Safety Advisory Committee, a citizens' panel that would have special powers under federal law to make recommendations and gather information about spills from federal officials who regulate the industry. Carl Weimer is executive director of the Pipeline Safety Trust, a nonprofit environmental organization in Washington state that tracks pipeline accidents and advocates for tougher pipeline safety enforcement. He said the state committees are important because they are more empowered in dealing with the federal Office of Pipeline Safety than a governor or the state's Congressional delegation.
Source: http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050306 /NEWS01/503060426

[Return to top]

# Postal and Shipping Sector

**11.** *March 07, Winnipeg Sun (Canada)* — **Collision involves courier carrying microbes.** A FedEx van carrying small samples of anthrax and other viruses collided with another vehicle in Winnipeg, Canada, Wednesday, March 3. Police and emergency personnel closed off several blocks while a member of the hazardous materials team inspected the cargo. None of the samples was damaged. Transport Canada, which regulates the movement of dangerous goods in the country, has been reviewing the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act since last March. The review is part of a larger overhaul of federal security measures in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks.
Source: http://www.canoe.ca/NewsStand/WinnipegSun/News/2005/03/04/94 9999–sun.html

[Return to top]

# Agriculture Sector

**12.** *March 05, Associated Press* — **Mississippi researchers study crop disease threats.** Mississippi State University researchers are working with the U.S. government on a plan to detect potential threats of biological terrorism against the nation's farms. The Department of Homeland Security wants a study to evaluate preparedness, assess technology, and make recommendations for reducing risks to agriculture. Mississippi State's GeoResources Institute has received a one million dollar grant to work with the Department of Energy on the project. "We are developing systems to defend against the use of bioagents, biotoxins and biopests that are not currently found in this country, but could be easily and maliciously introduced and established in the U.S.," said Chuck Hill, GeoResources' associate director for technology

integration. Hill said the use of space or aircraft−based remote sensing, which can assess and quantify crop injury often not visible by ground observation, figures prominently in the project. Hill said the recent appearance of Asian soybean rust in the South will be used to test theories of early detection and monitoring. "The sensors we use can see a sudden−death syndrome in soybeans two weeks before you can see it with your eyes," Hill said.
Source: http://www.picayuneitem.com/articles/2005/03/05/news/13msu.t xt

13. *March 05, Sun−Sentinel (Florida)* — **Canker spreads into new territory.** For the first time, commercial citrus trees in northwest Palm Beach, FL, have been exposed to canker and must be felled, fueling fear that the disease could spread and nudge the county's dwindling fruit industry closer to extinction. State inspectors will destroy a 35−acre area in Indian Trail Groves, which at 4,400 acres is the county's largest remaining citrus grove. The source of the problem: An Acreage resident, who lives about a quarter−mile from Indian Trail Groves' eastern border, imported 16 trees infected with citrus canker, officials say. Citrus canker, once contained to southeast Florida, is now ravaging the state's $9.1 billion citrus industry. Hurricane winds have spread canker into Florida's fruit belt, the six−county Indian River region.
Source: http://www.sun−sentinel.com/news/local/palmbeach/sfl−palmcan ker05mar05,0,3219637.story?coll=sfla−news−palm

14. *March 04, Agricultural Research Service* — **Research reveals functions of shellfish pathogens.** In the U.S., two pathogenic bacteria from the genus Vibrio are of concern: V. vulnificus and V. parahaemolyticus. These bacteria are naturally found in shellfish and seawater, particularly when water temperatures are warm, and can lead to serious health concerns. Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists are studying these bacteria with the goal of keeping them out of shellfish. Gary P. Richards, a microbiologist and the center's lead scientist, wants to identify Vibrio enzymes that may help the organism enter shellfish −− and, eventually, a human host. Richards, who leads a group of scientists from Delaware State University and the National Institutes of Health, recently discovered in V. vulnificus an enzyme called phosphoglucose isomerase. This enzyme could provide a way for Vibrio to spread more easily. He also detected the enzyme in virtually all species of Vibrio tested, but not in non−Vibrio pathogens. The enzyme is capable of producing what are called vasoactive peptides, which could contribute to rapid spread of V. vulnificus in humans. A study of V. vulnificus in oysters suggests that strains virulent to humans may be more invasive to oysters.
Source: http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261

[Return to top]

# Food Sector

15. *March 04, Associated Press* — **Smuggled chicken feet recalled.** Health officials are putting eleven states on the lookout for boneless chicken feet −− an Asian delicacy the government says was illegally smuggled into the U.S. The U.S. government banned imports of birds and poultry products from Asia last year because of bird flu. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Department says a Connecticut−based importer, Food King, distributed chicken feet to 68 stores in eleven states. The company has cooperated with a voluntary recall. Affected states are Ohio, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7089156/

[Return to top]

# Water Sector

**16.** *March 06, Olympian (WA)* — **Water shortage could be worst on record for Washington.** Water managers in Washington and other northwestern states are hoping winter will make another appearance. Snowpack on Washington's peaks, measured Tuesday, March 1, by the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center, in many cases amounted to as little as 75 percent below average. Washington lawmakers are so concerned they're mulling formation of an eight−member Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought. Spokane saw the driest February since record keeping started in 1881. The Northwest hasn't been this parched in the winter in nearly three decades, raising concerns about early wildfires and low stream flows, which could limit the hydropower supply, reduce water for irrigators and threaten endangered fish. Meteorologists blame a weak El Nino, which brought mild weather to the Northwest in January and February and sent precipitation that usually falls in the region to the north and south.
Source: http://www.theolympian.com/home/news/20050306/southsound/100 655.shtml

**17.** *March 06, Columbus Telegram (NE)* — **Nebraska water association panel to address water security.** Water system security will be a key topic of a panel discussion including Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy, Nebraska's Director of Homeland Security, and state and local water and health officials, at the 27th Nebraska Rural Water Association's (NERWA) Annual Conference March 14−16 in Columbus, NE. Since the September 11, 2001, terror attacks, the federal government has required that all water systems that serve more than 3,300 people conduct a security vulnerability assessment of the facilities and submit that to the Environmental Protection Agency. However, according to Fred Baumert, Nebraska Rural Water Association Training Specialist, there are still some security issues that affect smaller water systems and things that system operators need to be aware of. The panel discussion is free and open to the public. The rest of the three−day seminar is by registration only and will include training sessions for water and wastewater operators, board members, council people and others who are in charge of operating and overseeing the state's water systems. NERWA Website: http://www.nerwa.org/index.htm
Source: http://www.columbustelegram.com/articles/2005/03/04/news/new s1.txt

[Return to top]

# Public Health Sector

**18.** *March 04, Government Executive* — **Senators try to strengthen public health workforce.** A group of senators are pushing for legislation that will promote public health students to enter the civil service. On Thursday, March 3, Senators Chuck Hagel, R−NE, and Richard Durbin, D−IL, introduced the 2005 Public Health Preparedness Workforce Development Act. In his year−end report to constituents, Hagel identified public health staffing as a key area of concern. He said Nebraska is facing the largest wave of public health retirements in the country. "This

legislation aims to increase the pipeline of qualified public health workers ... by offering scholarships to students going into the public health field," Hagel said in a statement. "It also encourages current employees to stay in the public health field by providing loan repayments." Hagel said there are "critical public health workforce shortages" that must be addressed "before it becomes a crisis." The bill would authorize $35 million each year for public health scholarships and $195 million annually for loan repayments.
Source: http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0305/030405d1.htm

19. *March 04, Associated Press* — **Flu season less severe than last year.** This year's flu season is turning out to be milder than last year's severe bout, but it may not have peaked yet, the government said Thursday, March 3. "It doesn't look like it's as severe as last year, but it's too early to tell," said Lynnette Brammer of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) influenza branch. Last year, flu cases started early and rapidly hit a high point in December, clogging emergency rooms with flu sufferers. By the end of that season, 153 children had died from the flu. So far this season, nine children have died from the flu. Flu cases this season did not really start to increase until the end of December. As of February 19, the latest data available, all 50 states have had at least one lab−confirmed flu case and 33 states have had widespread flu activity. The outbreak could peak within the next two weeks, which would be somewhat later than usual, the CDC said. The season most often hits its peak in February.
Source: http://www.tallahassee.com/mld/tallahassee/news/11044325.htm

[Return to top]

# Government Sector

20. *March 03, Government Technology* — **More cities using digital technology to advance constituent services.** Cities are increasing their use of Web−based and Internet services to enhance citizen involvement and increase response times for a variety of constituent services, according to a new report by the Center for Digital Government. The final report −− released earlier this week −− is an analysis of the 2004 Digital Cities Survey. The survey queried 183 city mayors, managers, and chief information officers and found that the growing use of information technology is chiefly focused on "service−oriented, business−driven and cost−effective" outcomes. City leaders, however, are facing increasing challenges to expand and maintain the use of information technology due to escalating budget pressures. Building permits and procurement lead the list of services provided by cities and towns. Overall, three out of four cities surveyed not only had a Website, they also had a Web portal with links to all agencies and departments that can be accessed by the public for online services and transactions. More than three−quarters indicate they provide emergency preparedness information through their Websites. In addition, 95 percent used some combination of Webcasts (video and audio streaming on the Internet), television (public cable access), and the online posting of agendas and minutes to promote increased public awareness of city government activities. Survey: http://www.centerdigitalgov.com/center/fileReg.php?file=2004 DigCitiesReport.pdf&name=Digital%20Cities%20Survey%20Report
Source: http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=93241

[Return to top]

# Emergency Services Sector

**21.** *March 06, Tribune Review (PA)* — **Pennsylvania university offering homeland security curriculum.** Beginning this May, California University of Pennsylvania will offer a master's degree in legal studies with a track in homeland security. The state university, located in California, PA, joins the growing ranks of higher education institutions that have been expanding program offerings to meet the needs of a post−9/11 nation. Charles Nemeth, director of the Graduate Legal Studies Program, said that instead of just training someone to run an anti−terrorism unit, the program will give students a perspective on the bigger legal picture. Students will take legal studies classes with four additional courses in homeland security that will focus on assessing threats and vulnerabilities, identifying weapons of mass destruction and gathering intelligence. In addition to the graduate degree, a certificate in homeland security also will be available to anyone with at least a high school diploma. The faculty will be made up of people working in law enforcement and emergency services. Both programs are available online.
Source: http://pittsburghlive.com/x/tribune−review/trib/regional/s_3_10388.html

**22.** *March 05, The News Journal (DE)* — **Delaware to get funds to fight terror.** Delaware will receive almost $15 million from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to help train and equip emergency workers for possible terrorist attacks. The allocation is earmarked for preparations for possible attacks with chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive weapons, said Senators Joe Biden and Tom Carper and Representative Mike Castle. The federal funds will go to the Delaware Emergency Management Agency, the office responsible for implementing the state's homeland security strategy, the delegation said in a joint announcement this week. The state agency may use the money to buy emergency responder equipment and train first responders. Castle said the Delaware delegation will work with the state to help distribute the money.
Source: http://www.delawareonline.com/newsjournal/local/2005/03/05statetoget$15mi.html

**23.** *March 04, New Britain Herald (CT)* — **Ham operators back up emergency managers.** Ham radio is a hobby with enthusiasts the world over. Through their amateur radios, hobbyists communicate directly with each other across continents. According to Mark Spencer of the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL), all a ham operator really needs is his radio, a battery and a tree branch to throw his antenna around. This reliability has lead the ARRL, based in Newington, CT, to create the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), an organization of amateur radio enthusiasts dedicated to providing backup communication services in any case of emergency or disaster. These first response systems can quickly become overwhelmed in the case of a disaster, according to Spencer, leading to a need for additional options. "When the primary communications systems fail for the emergency managers, the ham radio operators provide a backup when they ask," Spencer said. "In hurricane situations, particularly in Caribbean countries," Spencer said, by way of example, "ham radio is always where the first reports come from." ARES Website: http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pscm/sec1−ch1.html
Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=14080062&BRD=1641&PAG=461&dept_id=10112&rfi=6

**24.**

*March 04, Government Technology* — **Missouri to implement online emergency response registry.** The Missouri State Board of Nursing is leading a national effort to create and implement a state−based, online system of qualified, licensed professionals who are willing to volunteer in the event of a disaster or other emergency situation. This system, funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is called the Licensed−Professionals Emergency and Disaster Registry (LEAD−R). The LEAD−R will serve as an official registry of professionals who are willing to volunteer services whenever the governor or legislature declares a state of emergency. If an emergency situation arises, a query can be run on the new system to identify the appropriate emergency respondents by proximity and credentials. When a licensed professional is activated, he or she will be required to provide a photo ID and a new license card to check into the emergency staging area. The receiving entity will be able to simply swipe the license card to validate information with the LEAD−R system. The system's software will also enable the incident commander to evaluate who is on−site so he or she can make assignments based on each volunteer's area of expertise.
Source: http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=93258

[Return to top]

# Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

25. *March 04, Washington Post* — **Phone company settles in blocking of Internet calls.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced Thursday, March 3, that a North Carolina−based telephone company agreed to pay $15,000 and to stop blocking the ability of consumers to use voice−over−Internet calling services instead of regular phone lines. In the first action of its kind, the FCC settled with Madison River Communications Corp., which operates several rural phone companies throughout the Southeast and Midwest. Calling based on voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) increasingly is being used by businesses and consumers as a substitute for traditional phone service. Vonage Holdings Corp., one of the nation's leading Internet phone companies, had complained that as many as 200 customers had their service blocked by a Madison River subsidiary that provided its phone customers with Internet access. For those customers who had disconnected their traditional phone lines and were relying solely on Vonage, the blocking meant they had no ability to make calls, even to emergency 911 services. "The industry must adhere to certain consumer protection norms if the Internet is to remain an open platform for innovation," FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell said in a statement.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/articles/A5428−2005Mar3 .html

26. *March 03, SecurityTracker* — **CA Unicenter Asset Management input validation vulnerabilities.** A remote authenticated user with access to the administrative console can obtain the SQL administrator password, displayed (in masked form) on the 'Change Credentials for Database' window. A remote authenticated user can create a specially crafted URL that, when loaded by a target user, will cause arbitrary scripting code to be executed by the target user's browser. The code will originate from the site running the Unicenter Asset Management software and will run in the security context of that site. As a result, the code will be able to access the target user's cookies (including authentication cookies), if any, associated with the site, access data recently submitted by the target user via web form to the site, or take actions on the site acting as the target user. Vendor advisory and updates available at:

http://supportconnect.ca.com/sc/solcenter/solresults.jsp?apa rno=QO64323
Source: http://www.securitytracker.com/alerts/2005/Mar/1013360.html

27. *March 03, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−05−361T: Telecommunications: GSA Has Made Progress Planning for a New Governmentwide Program, but Needs to Better Define Its Requirements (Testimony).** In October 2003, the General Services Administration (GSA) issued a request for information describing its plans for a new governmentwide telecommunications program known as Networx, which is to replace expiring contracts. The program acquisitions are to provide a full range of national and international network services across the United States and to provide agencies with mainly Internet−based services. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was requested to provide a progress report on GSA's planning for this program. GAO found that GSA has made progress in addressing the program's challenges and previous GAO recommendations. Critically important to the short−term progress of the Networx program are three issues that could, if unresolved, affect the ultimate success of the program: contract scope (size of acquisitions), unidentified evaluation criteria, and undetermined traffic volumes. Highlights:
http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05361thigh.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi−bin/getrpt?GAO−05−361T

28. *March 02, SecurityTracker* — **CProxy input validation vulnerability.** Several vulnerabilities were reported in CProxy. A remote user can view files on the target system and cause the service to crash. The server does not properly validate user−supplied input. A remote user can submit a specially crafted URL containing '../' directory traversal characters to view arbitrary files on the target system. There is no solution at this time.
Source: http://www.securitytracker.com/alerts/2005/Mar/1013359.html

## Internet Alert Dashboard

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**DHS/US−CERT Watch Synopsis**

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

**US−CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** Multiple variants of the Beagle worm have emerged over the past few days and are becoming a rather sizeable threat in terms of infection rate. Many of these variants are being reported as a mass−mailing worms that uses its own SMTP engine to send out copies of the tooso trojan. The US−CERT suggests ensuring that updated anti−virus signatures have been deployed to machines on your network. For more information on the Beagle worm and the tooso trojan, please see the following link:
http://securityresponse.symantec.com

**Current Port Attacks**

| Top 10 Target Ports | 445 (microsoft−ds), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios−ssn), 1025 (−−−), 1026 (−−−), 1027 (icq), 80 (www), 53 (domain), 137 (netbios−ns), 25 (smtp) |
| --- | --- |

Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center

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[Return to top]

# Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]

# General Sector

**29.** *March 03, Reuters* — **Central American officials vow force to fight gangs, terror.** Five Central American nations vowed on Thursday, March 3, to create a joint "rapid force" to confront terrorist threats, drug traffickers and violent youth gangs. The group will include troops, police, prosecutors and judges from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica in a bid to clamp down on crime across the region and to imprison criminals quickly. "We agreed to form this 'rapid force' to confront narcoterrorism and other emerging threats, like the youth gangs that operate in almost all the countries of the region, including Mexico," said Honduran Defense Minister Federico Breve. U.S. security officials are concerned terrorists could try to cut deals with the drug traffickers or street gangs that operate in Central America as part of a planned attack on the United States.
Source: http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N03392640.htm

[Return to top]

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