



Department of Homeland Security IAIP Directorate Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 13 May 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

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

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports an Air France flight from Paris to Boston was diverted to an airport in Maine because U.S. authorities wanted to check a passenger aboard the flight who had the same name as someone on the government's no-fly list. (See item [6](#))
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Heart of America Joint Terrorism Task Force recently sponsored an International Symposium on Agroterrorism in Kansas City, attended by over 400 U.S. and international experts. (See item [13](#))
- The Boston Globe reports a Massachusetts state Superior Court judge has issued an emergency order to shut down dozens of Websites, as investigators working with Microsoft Corp. moved against a Boston-based ring of Internet spammers responsible for one of the world's most prolific spam operations. (See item [25](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *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](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *May 12, Nuclear Regulatory Commission* — **Nuclear Regulatory Commission toughens export–import requirements for certain radioactive materials.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Thursday, May 12, approved new regulations to require specific licenses for the export or import of radioactive materials that could be used in so-called dirty

bombs or other terrorist weapons, making the United States the first country to implement international export controls on these materials. The regulations, contained in a final rule to be published next month in the Federal Register and to be effective by December 31, are based on export–import provisions of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources adopted in September 2003 by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The new regulations require specific licenses for all exports and imports of radioactive materials as defined in the rule. The rule’s lists of nuclear materials and radioactivity levels of concern are essentially identical to those in Category 1 and Category 2 of the Code of Conduct. Anyone in the United States wishing to export or import these materials would be required to apply for NRC approval. Under current NRC regulations, these radioactive materials may be exported or imported under a general license, which does not require filing an application to the NRC or the issuance of licensing documents.

Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources:

http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/Code-2004_web.pdf

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2005/05-080.html>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

2. *May 11, Rocky Mountain News (CO)* — Explosion and fire at concrete factory in Denver.

Twenty Denver firefighters were decontaminated after responding to a chemical explosion and fire at a concrete blending and packaging company Tuesday, May 10. No one was injured in the blast, fire officials said. The explosion happened about 1 p.m. local time inside a mixing room at the US Mix Products Co. Denver fire spokesperson Lt. Phil Champagne attributed the explosion to three chemicals that US Mix uses to cure concrete. Investigators were still trying to determine what triggered the explosion, he said.

Source: http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0,1299,D_RMN_15_3767472,00.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *May 12, Washington Post* — Pentagon contracts vulnerable to abuse, report says. The Pentagon acquisition system is still vulnerable to the abuses committed by Darleen A. Druyun, the Air Force procurement official who pleaded guilty to criminal charges after showing Boeing Co. preference for years before taking a job with the company, a defense advisory report has found. The likelihood of a similar situation is remote, the Defense Science Board concluded, but there "is nothing in the current general acquisition structure or policies of the Department to prevent it from happening again." Michael W. Wynne, the acting Pentagon acquisition chief, requested the report last year after Druyun admitted to swaying contracts worth billions in favor of Boeing, the Pentagon's second–largest contractor. The board recommended a wide range of managerial changes, including requiring written justifications for contract decisions and more monitoring of senior acquisition personnel. The department should "undertake a top–down internal assessment to simplify and streamline the system and better align the workforce as a

result," the report said.

Report of the Defense Science Board Task Force on Management Oversight in Acquisition

Organizations: http://www.acq.osd.mil/dsb/reports/2005-03-MOAO_Report_Final.pdf

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05/11/AR2005051101905.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

4. *May 12, Vnunet.com (UK)* — **Network effect can cut identity theft.** Providers of identity technologies need to work together more efficiently to beat the onslaught of phishing attacks and identity theft, according to security firm Verisign. Nico Popp, chief technology officer and vice president for authentication services at Verisign, told delegates at the Digital Identity World conference in San Francisco that "networks are the answer." When banks and Websites start sharing information about online attacks, a "network effect" is created which could prevent victims falling prey to the same attack. This network effect, better known as Metcalfe's Law, states that the value or power of a network increases in proportion to the square of the number of nodes on the network. A single fax machine is worthless, for example, but with every additional machine the network gains more value. "[In a network] every protected site creates a better protection for all," said Popp. There is a clear economic incentive to deal more effectively with online authentication, according to Popp. If consumers lose trust in online services, they will use other ways to contact institutions like their bank. Lastly there is the threat of government regulation if the industry fails to solve the authentication issue, said Popp. Digital Identity World conference: <http://conference.digitalidworld.com/2005/>
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/news/1162993>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

5. *May 12, Washington Post* — **Acela brake flaws posed big risk.** The brake problem that sidelined the high-speed Acela Express train line could have caused a catastrophic accident had it gone undiscovered, Amtrak's inspector general said on Wednesday, May 11. "We got very lucky that this was found when it was," said Fred E. Weiderhold, Jr. in a hearing before a House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee. "We were getting dangerously close to a very, very serious problem." Amtrak shut down its high-speed service on April 15, after a safety inspector with the Federal Railroad Administration noticed that a brake component appeared to be rusted. A resulting investigation turned up hairline cracks in 300 of 1,440 brake disks in the 20-train Acela fleet. During the hearing, Weiderhold confirmed that one of the brake spokes, when cut from the brake disk rotor, fell apart in an engineer's hands. Robert D. Jamison, acting administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, agreed that discovery of the cracks "quite possibly averted a serious accident." The hearing did not answer the question of what caused the cracks, though it raised the possibility that they had been noticed as far back as three years ago — by employees at ORX Railway Corp., the Pennsylvania company that refurbishes Acela wheel sets under a maintenance subcontract. Weiderhold said it appears that

such reports never made it to Amtrak.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05/11/AR2005051102089.html>

6. *May 12, Associated Press* — **Air France flight to Boston diverted at request of U.S.**

authorities. An Air France flight from Paris to Boston, MA, was diverted to an airport in Maine on Thursday, May 12, because U.S. authorities wanted to check a passenger aboard the flight, the airline said. Flight 332 was diverted because a passenger had the same name as someone on the U.S. government's no-fly list, said Ann Davis, spokesperson for the Transportation Security Administration in Boston. The plane was carrying 169 passengers, according to Air France. Air France and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration were in contact with the flight, "and there are no reports of unusual activity on board," Davis said. Flight 332 had been scheduled to land in Boston at 3:30 p.m. ET, said Phil Orlandella, a spokesperson for Logan International Airport in Boston. Federal agencies including the FBI, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Transportation Security Administration met the flight when it landed at Bangor International Airport in Maine.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-05-12-flight-diverted_x.htm

7. *May 12, Associated Press* — **United Airlines gets approval to abandon pension plans.**

United Airlines gained a significant financial victory with court approval to dump its four pension plans but faces a tough challenge to win back the support of thousands of angry employees. While smoothing the path toward a targeted exit from Chapter 11 bankruptcy later this year, Tuesday's May 10, ruling in U.S. Bankruptcy Court inflamed United's unions, with some hinting at the possibility of strikes or other disruptive actions. It also prompted a renewed warning from some members of Congress that taxpayers may someday have to bail out the deficit-riddled government pension agency, which now will assume an additional \$5 billion in pension obligations from United. The pensions cover 120,000 current and retired United workers, including 62,000 active employees. The agreement approved by Judge Eugene Wedoff would give the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. \$1.5 billion in notes and convertible stock in a reorganized UAL Corp., United's holding company. Wedoff approved the pension plan, calling it "the least bad" of the available choices, since it gives unprofitable United the best chance to keep functioning.

Source: http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=39554

8. *May 12, Washington Post* — **Ban on small aircraft at National likely to remain.** Until Wednesday, May 11, federal officials felt confident enough in new air security procedures to consider lifting a ban on small aircraft flying in and out of Reagan National Airport, possibly by the end of the year. Momentum was building to end the prohibition, but after a single-engine Cessna flew alarmingly close to the White House on Wednesday, administration officials are taking a second look at that plan. The Washington area has the most restricted airspace in the nation, and incursions occur at a rate of about three a day. Black Hawk helicopters patrolling the sky have responded to more than 280 incursions from January to mid-April this year. Private pilots flying into the 2,000-square-mile zone encompassing the region's three largest airports must maintain constant communication with air traffic controllers. Pilots are required to check navigational maps — which clearly outline the restricted area — although some forget and cross into the airspace accidentally.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

9. *May 12, The Seattle Times (WA)* — **Postal Service seeks assurances with anthrax alert system.** The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) will finish installing anthrax-alert systems at six processing facilities across Washington state by year's end, but how local health districts will respond if the devices trigger an alarm is in question. USPS wants assurances from local health districts that they'll send medical teams immediately if one of the Biohazard Detection Systems is triggered at a distribution center in Washington state. It expects the teams to diagnose those exposed and treat them with antibiotics. Local health districts, however, are balking at what they say amounts to unfunded federal directives and increased liability for something they're not mandated by state law to do. The resistance by some local health districts has postal employees wondering whether anyone will come if the alarm sounds. Local and state health officials say they will, but right now they want a clearer—and more participatory—method for determining who's in charge and who will pay a presumably expensive bill. USPS, as part of a nationwide program to protect its employees and the public, is installing more than 280 anthrax-detection systems nationwide.

Source: http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2002271683_anthrax12m.html?syndication=rss

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Agriculture Sector

10. *May 12, USAgNet* — **Growers delegation to travel to China.** Western Growers, an agricultural trade association, will lead a delegation of agriculture leaders on a fact-finding trip to evaluate the impact of the burgeoning Chinese agriculture sector on the American fresh produce industry. "Chinese agriculture is in the midst of a transformation," said Tom Nassif, president of Western Growers and leader of the delegation. "The Chinese fresh produce sector is not just expanding, it is exploding at a fantastic rate. The implications for our industry are enormous. We hope to further develop the lines of communication with our Chinese counterparts, glean important data and return with a very accurate picture of the situation and its impact on our industry."

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.cfm?Id=496&yr=2005>

11. *May 12, Illinois Ag Connection* — **Tyson Foods expanding Canadian beef slaughter.** Tyson Foods announced Wednesday, May 12, that one of its Canadian plants plans to begin increasing its beef slaughter capacity in mid-June. The change is the result of a \$17 million plant expansion project, which has been underway since last fall. The plant at Brooks, Alberta, has been operating at maximum capacity for much of the past year and a half because of record-large Canadian cattle supplies. The plant will increase production capacity to 4,700 head of cattle a day from 3,800, Tyson Foods said in a statement. "Our investment in this project will help address the backlog of cattle caused by the continued closure of the U.S.

border," said John Tyson, chairman and chief executive officer of Tyson Foods.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-regional.cfm?tbl=IL2005&ID=365>

- 12. *May 12, Agence France Presse* — Japan finds 18th case of mad cow disease.** Japan confirmed its 18th case of mad cow disease in an animal amid pressure from the United States to resume imports of its beef suspended over health fears. A panel of experts confirmed the 68-month-old female Holstein had had the brain-wasting disease bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), which decimated Britain's cattle industry in the 1990s, the agriculture ministry said. The cow was in Sunagawa city of the northern island of Hokkaido, the ministry said in a statement. Japan is the only Asian country to have confirmed cases of BSE. Japan halted imports of US beef in December 2003 after a cow infected with BSE was discovered in the Washington state. Before then, it was the top export market for U.S. beef. The United States has applied intense pressure on Japan to resume the efforts, with members of Congress from farm states calling for trade sanctions if imports do not resume quickly. Japan last week took a step towards resuming U.S. beef imports as an official panel decided cows aged 20 months or younger should be exempt from the screening tests.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/afp/20050512/hl_afp/healthjapanmadcowus_050512171215

- 13. *May 11, Federal Bureau of Investigation* — FBI sponsors Symposium on Agroterrorism.** Last week, over 400 U.S. and international professionals and experts met for the first-ever International Symposium on Agroterrorism in Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by the FBI and led by the Heart of America Joint Terrorism Task Force, the group included epidemiologists, veterinarians, academicians, and livestock and food security experts. In his speech at the conference, FBI Director Robert Mueller highlighted some specific initiatives and partnerships. The Agriculture Intelligence Group is a high-level group of government experts who get together regularly to discuss food security and partner their combined skills, technology, and resources. The Scientific Working Groups (Swigs) are FBI scientists who work with their counterparts around the country on specific issues. AgriGard is a secure Web portal that lets the agricultural community share information and suspicious activities with each other and with scientists, state and local law enforcement, and the FBI.

Symposium Website: <http://www.fbi-isa.org/>

Source: <http://www.fbi.gov/page2/may05/agroterror051105.htm>

- 14. *May 11, Associated Press* — Officials fear spread of oak disease.** U.S. Forest Service officials say Sudden Oak Death, a fungal disease which shows up with spots on leaves and dead twigs, was carried to the region in ornamentals shipped last year from nurseries in California and Oregon. Twenty-three states, including Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida, received some of the infected plants. Georgia alone received 59,000 of them and officials destroyed 10,000 after 53 plants tested positive. But by then, retailers and nurseries had already sold about 49,000. Those are probably already growing in yards and landscapes, so officials are asking residents to monitor ornamentals for the symptoms and submit samples for testing. If it spreads into the South, it could cause significant damage to region's forest industry. In Georgia alone, forestry is a \$20 billion forest industry. About half of the state's 24 million acres of forest are made up of hardwood trees, including oaks.

California Oak Mortality Task Force: <http://www.suddenoakdeath.org/>

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/index.html>

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/20050512/ap_on_s_c/oak_disease_1

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Food Sector

15. *May 10, Food and Drug Administration* — **Undeclared sulfites in preserved fruit.** New Jersey State Agriculture Commissioner Nathan L. Rudgers alerted consumers on Monday, May 10, that Sino Bestfood, Inc., in Edison, NJ, is recalling 9.88 oz. packages of preserved fruit (apricot) because they may contain undeclared sulfites. People who have severe sensitivity to sulfites may run the risk of serious or life-threatening reactions if they consume this product. The recalled preserved fruit (apricot), a product of China, comes in a 9.88 oz. plastic tray package coded 20-12-2005. It was sold in metropolitan New Jersey and New York. No illnesses have been reported to date to this Department in connection with the problem. Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/sino05_05.html

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Water Sector

16. *May 10, Business Wire* — **Southern California searches for solution to water infrastructure needs.** Offering a novel approach in planning for Southern California's future infrastructure needs, Metropolitan Water District agreed to partner with Orange and Riverside counties in exploring a potential joint tunnel project under the Cleveland National Forest that would connect the counties. "This partnership would offer a common-sense approach to exploring innovative, cooperative solutions to Southern California's infrastructure needs," said Metropolitan board Chairman Wes Bannister. As part of this effort, U.S. Representatives Christopher Cox, Gary Miller and Ken Calvert are securing \$30 million in federal funds to study a multi-use tunnel and corridors that might accommodate individual tunnels. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 18 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other water-management programs. Source: http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20050510006306&newsLang=en

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Public Health Sector

17. *May 12, Associated Press* — **Uncertainties dominate flu vaccine summit.** Uncertainties over vaccine supply and demand dominated a two-day brainstorming session for the upcoming flu season, where public health officials and manufacturers discussed ways to avoid a crisis like last year's shortage. So far, only one manufacturer is licensed to provide shots in the United States for the upcoming season. Two others said Wednesday, May 11, they are making progress at entering the marketplace including Chiron Corp., whose contamination problems last fall at a

factory in Liverpool, England, left the United States with half as much flu vaccine as anticipated. Public health officials worry that having to turn away people who showed up for flu shots last year might have left many discouraged and unlikely to seek shots this year leaving many unprotected against a disease that, in an average year, infects about 82 million people nationwide, hospitalizes 200,000 and kills 36,000. The meeting was organized by the National Influenza Vaccine Summit, a network of flu vaccine makers, distributors and providers sponsored by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Medical Association. The group meets every year to create an agenda for the coming flu season. National Influenza Vaccine Summit: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/13732.html>
Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=749693>

18. *May 12, Associated Press* — **New Hampshire sees large increase in hepatitis cases.** Drug abuse is helping fuel a dramatic increase in Hepatitis A cases in New Hampshire, prompting health officials to recommend that drug users be vaccinated. "This is an important situation for us," said acting state Epidemiologist Dr. Jose Montero. "Historically, we have 16 to 20 case per year. This year, we have had 21," said Montero. About half of the cases involved people who used drugs, or people in close contact with someone who used drugs, Montero said. His comments came Wednesday, May 11, as the state confirmed the latest Hepatitis patient, a Salem restaurant worker. Montero did not say how the worker became ill. The liver disease also is transmitted through unprotected sex or fecal bacteria in food.
Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=749700>

19. *May 12, Associated Press* — **More state scientists available for bioterrorism, other areas lacking, says CDC.** State health agencies have more scientists in place to handle bioterrorism and other disease outbreaks than they did before the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, but fewer are available to help with other basic health programs, the government said Thursday, May 12. As health departments increased their ranks of epidemiologists, scientists who track and contain disease outbreaks, by nearly 27 percent between 2001 and 2004, fewer are working in other areas, including chronic disease programs, injury prevention and environmental health, according to a study released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. State agency programs to handle terrorism substantially grew after a massive infusion of federal funding after the September 11 terrorist attacks that reached \$1 billion in 2002. Despite the increased funding and bioterrorism preparedness, additional problems remain, the CDC said. The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, which conducted the survey, estimated that a total of nearly 3,800 epidemiologists (a 47 percent increase from 2004's 2,580 epidemiologists) are needed "to fully perform the nation's essential public health services," the CDC said. 2004 National Assessment of Epidemiologic Capacity: Findings and Recommendations: <http://www.cste.org//Assessment/ECA/pdf/ECAfinal05.pdf>
Source: <http://www.macon.com/mld/macon/news/local/11629517.htm>

20. *May 12, Newsday (NY)* — **Cooperation resumes over bird flu.** Countries affected by the bird flu outbreak have resumed sharing viral specimens with World Health Organization (WHO) scientists after an eight-month drought, public health experts said on Wednesday, May 11. Sharing is vital in the global effort to understand how the virus may be evolving, changes that could affect ongoing efforts to produce an effective vaccine against a type of flu that experts say could trigger a global pandemic. Public health officials in Southeast Asia had agreed last year to send updated samples to WHO from affected birds, which are the sources of the

outbreak, however, affected countries had failed to send samples to WHO regularly. "We weren't getting samples as frequently as we would have liked — and that's generally the case — but we have been, at least in the last few weeks, getting almost everything we asked for," said Dick Thompson, chief spokesperson in WHO's communicable disease division in Geneva. In recent weeks WHO scientists have received 13 viral isolates. "It's absolutely critical that information about an outbreak be shared with our collaborating centers so we can understand the evolution of an outbreak. Does this happen as completely as we'd like? No," Thompson said.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/health/ny-hsflu124254942may12.0.3843521.story?coll=ny-health-headlines>

21. *May 12, Agence France–Presse* — **Ebola–like virus kills at least eight in Congo.** At least eight people have died along Congo's northwestern border with Gabon due to a disease caused by an Ebola–like virus, according to updated figures released by the health minister. Alphonse Gando said the mysterious disease had claimed the lives since May 4 among 11 cases recorded in the Itoumbi and Mbomo districts. Health officials were trying to find 56 people suspected of close contact with the dead and sick patients, the ministry said Thursday, May 12. According to information collected by health officials, the first cases appeared among Itoumbi villagers who had gone elephant hunting in the bush. "All the victims were great hunters. They touched a monkey they found dead in the forest and then ate it," Gando said. This is one way an Ebola outbreak can start. Northern Gabon and Congo have been hit by several Ebola epidemics which have claimed 361 lives since 1994.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/afp/20050512/hl_afp/congohealthvirus_050512144004

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

22. *May 12, Government Technology* — **West Virginia highway corridor now served by interoperable radio system.** A vital stretch of interstate that runs through West Virginia is now served by a Mission Critical interoperable radio system. This 50–mile stretch of Interstate 79 cuts through West Virginia linking the northeastern U.S. to the southeastern part of the country. It also links three of West Virginia's larger cities — Morgantown, Fairmont and Clarksburg. The new regional system was a joint Homeland Security effort of the State and three counties (Harrison, Marion, Monongalia) that enables public safety agencies in the three–county area to better coordinate mission critical communications on a daily basis and during emergency responses. The UHF trunked wireless communications system also utilizes six Ghz and 18 Ghz microwave technology. Public safety personnel are being equipped with Motorola XTS 5000 portable and XTL 5000 mobile two–way radios. Dispatchers will monitor radio traffic with the use of CENTRACOM Gold Series Elite consoles. The new regional system replaces the

individual systems previously operated in low-band and VHF by each county. The counties and state will now share radio equipment, microwave equipment, towers and building sites.

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=93973>

23. *May 11, WTOC (GA)* — **Disaster drill conducted in Savannah.** Hundreds of police, firefighters and emergency workers conducted a drill simulating a terrorist attack in Savannah, GA, on Wednesday, May 11. The Department of Homeland Security set up the simulation with a fake chemical leak at one location followed up by a fake hostage situation down the road. One of the main purposes of this exercise is to see if different groups that normally don't have to work together can coordinate effectively. "You not only test your own abilities, you test the abilities of your neighboring areas," explained Mike Hodges, emergency services director for Jasper County. "You know what they will bring to the table." Crews had to show restraint at the beginning of the day, since the local fire department isn't equipped to handle a spill like the one they simulated. Once that was relatively under control, police trained on a hostage situation with the same storyline of terrorists using hydrogen cyanide.

Source: <http://www.wtoctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=3331776&nav=0qq6Zjz V>

24. *May 10, Virginia Commonwealth University* — **Virginia university to offer bachelor's degree in homeland security.** Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA, has received state approval for a Bachelor of Arts degree in homeland security and emergency preparedness, making it the first major research university in the country to offer such a program. The undergraduate degree program was developed by faculty in VCU's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs with assistance from several federal and state agencies, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the FBI, and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. The program is designed to teach students theoretical and practical knowledge and skills in preparing for natural disasters, critical system failures and terrorist attacks. Students with a bachelor of arts degree in homeland security will be able to pursue government jobs at the local, state and federal level in homeland security and emergency preparedness, law enforcement and intelligence. They also will be prepared for employment with for-profit and nonprofit consultants and research organizations, as well as private sector employment with businesses that require emergency planning to protect critical infrastructure. According to DHS, VCU will be the first major research institution to establish a degree program in homeland security and emergency preparedness.

Source: <http://www.vcu.edu/uns/Releases/2005/may/051005.html>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

25. *May 12, Boston Globe* — **Judge orders spammers' Websites shut.** A Massachusetts state Superior Court judge Wednesday, May 11, issued an emergency order to shut down dozens of Websites, as Massachusetts investigators working with Microsoft Corp. moved against what they described as a Boston-based ring of Internet spammers responsible for one of the world's most prolific spam operations. In a civil suit filed with the court Wednesday, state Attorney General Tom Reilly accused Leo Kuvayev and six other defendants with violating state and federal consumer protection laws by masterminding a global network of spammers who have sent hundreds of millions of e-mail messages directing recipients to Websites with names like

oemcd.biz or genericpharmacies.biz. The messages, and the Websites, seek to lure consumers into buying low-interest mortgage loans, pirated software, knockoffs of designer watches, pornography, and counterfeit drugs of prescription brand names. Massachusetts and Microsoft officials said the spammers, whom they dubbed the "Internet Spam Gang," unleashed the largest volume of e-mail they've seen from one group. State officials have not brought criminal charges against the seven defendants.

Source: http://www.boston.com/business/technology/articles/2005/05/12/judge_orders_spammers_websites_shut/

26. *May 11, SecurityTracker* — **Gaim bugs in processing MSN messages and certain URLs let remote users deny service.** Two vulnerabilities were reported in Gaim in the processing of MSN messages and certain URLs. A remote user can cause the application to crash. A remote user can send an instant message containing a specially crafted URL that will cause a buffer overflow. Jabber and SILC protocols are affected. Other protocols may also be affected. A remote user can send a specially crafted MSN message to trigger a pointer error and cause the client to crash. The vendor has issued a fixed version (1.3.0), available at: <http://gaim.sourceforge.net/downloads.php>
Source: <http://www.securitytracker.com/alerts/2005/May/1013942.html>
27. *May 11, SecurityFocus* — **Ethereal DISTCC dissection stack buffer overflow vulnerability.** A remote buffer overflow vulnerability exists in Ethereal due to a failure of the application to securely copy network-derived data into sensitive process buffers. The specific issue exists in the DISTCC protocol dissector. An attacker may exploit this issue to execute arbitrary code with the privileges of the user that activated the vulnerable application. This may facilitate unauthorized access or privilege escalation. The vendor has released Ethereal version 0.10.11 to address this and other vulnerabilities.
Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/13567/info/>
28. *May 11, SecuriTeam* — **Gecko based browsers HTTP authentication prompt vulnerability.** The HTTP authentication prompt appears above the currently open tab regardless of which tab triggered it. A spoofer who could get a user to open a high value target in another tab might be able to capture the user's ID and password. There is no solution at this time.
Source: <http://www.securiteam.com/securitynews/5RP0C0AFPA.html>
29. *May 11, Cisco* — **Cisco Catalyst 6500/7600 Series Firewall Services Module ACL bypass vulnerability.** A new vulnerability was identified in Cisco products, which may be exploited by attackers to bypass the security restrictions. A vulnerability exists in the Cisco Firewall Services Module when URL, FTP, or HTTPS filtering is enabled in which inbound TCP packets can bypass access-list entries intended to explicitly filter them. updates available through Source link below.
Source: <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/707/cisco-sa-20050511-url.s.html>
30. *May 11, USA TODAY* — **U.S. companies' dominance in PC industry slipping.** The days when the U.S. dominated the PC industry appear to be coming to an end. Dell increasingly is standing alone as a U.S. PC powerhouse. And, like almost all PC makers, it's moving some operations abroad as foreign markets gain in importance. "None of the (desktops and notebooks) are manufactured here," says PC analyst Samir Bhavnani with researcher Current

Analysis. Increasingly, they're also being designed in other countries, he says. U.S. clout is slipping because of: turmoil at U.S. PC makers such as leadership changes and layoffs, gains by foreign PC makers such as Taiwanese PC maker Acer and Fujitsu/Fujitsu Siemens, and slowing growth in the U.S. PC makers in the U.S. are shifting focus and resources. In the first quarter, H-P sold 62% of its PCs internationally, while IBM sold 73% in other countries, says analyst Roger Kay with researcher IDC. Last month, Dell opened a new design center --- in Singapore. Tech analysts say the trend is part of an inevitable shift toward globalization. To survive, U.S. PC makers must adapt to the new market, they say.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2005-05-11-pcs-usat_x.htm

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

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

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: A new vulnerability was identified in Cisco products, which may be exploited by attackers to bypass the security restrictions. The flaw resides in the Cisco Firewall Services Module (FWSM) when configured for exceptions in content filtering, which may be exploited by attackers to bypass access-list entries intended to explicitly filter inbound TCP packets.

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	445 (microsoft-ds), 1026 (----), 135 (epmap), 6881 (bittorrent), 139 (netbios-ssn), 1025 (----), 41700 (----), 41170 (----), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 137 (netbios-ns)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

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

31. *May 12, Associated Press* — Freedom Tower will be 1,776 feet tall. The soaring Freedom Tower that is planned where the World Trade Center once stood is being redesigned for safety reasons but will still rise a symbolic 1,776 feet into the air, Governor George Pataki said Thursday, May 12. Pataki, addressing the Association for a Better New York, also said he is appointing his chief of staff to oversee the rebuilding of ground zero and is earmarking \$300 million for the September 11 memorial at the site. The effort to rebuild at the World Trade Center, leveled more than 3 1/2 years ago, has been stalled by police department security concerns and other problems. Pataki said NYPD has signed off on a redesign that will be unveiled by the end of June.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-05-12-freedom-tower_x.htm

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

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

[DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open–source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is available on the Department of Homeland Security Website:

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

[Homeland Security Advisories and Information Bulletins](#) – DHS/IAIP produces two levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that addresses cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact. Homeland Security Advisories and Information Bulletins are available on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=70>

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To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

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

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