



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 May 2006

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 Maine's two largest electric utilities have been hit by thieves who broke into substations to steal valuable copper grounding wire. (See item [2](#))
- The Washington Post reports thieves recently stole an electronic data file containing the names, birthdates, and Social Security numbers of every living veteran from the home of a Department of Veterans Affairs employee. (See item [8](#))
- The Associated Press reports two Saudi men who boarded a school bus full of children in Tampa, Florida, and gave conflicting reasons why they were there, were arrested and held without bail. (See item [30](#))

## DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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

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

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

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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. *May 21, Channel 5 (OK)* — **Wynnewood Refinery causes second evacuation.** A little more than a week after a major explosion at a Wynnewood refinery, families and workers were again rushed from the area. People who live on the north side of Wynnewood Refining Company were evacuated Saturday, May 20. The Garvin County Sheriff's Department said there was an acid leak at the refinery. The refinery was back online Tuesday, May 16, after a Friday, May

12, explosion. Officials said during the first accident, a fire was contained to a unit where butane is converted to high-octane, low-sulfur gasoline. Investigators have not yet been able to get a damage estimate from that incident.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/koco/20060521/lo\\_koco/9250580](http://news.yahoo.com/s/koco/20060521/lo_koco/9250580)

2. *May 21, Associated Press* — **Thieves target copper wire at Maine utilities.** Maine's two largest electric utilities have been hit by thieves who broke into substations to steal valuable copper grounding wire. The latest break-ins occurred overnight Thursday, May 18, at Central Maine Power Co. substations in Farmington and Strong, cutting power to as many as 2,100 customers for several hours. Thousands of dollars worth of wire was stolen earlier this month from four Bangor Hydro-Electric Co. substations in Chester. The burglary triggered a brief shutdown of a power link to Canada and disrupted service to major customers. State police are investigating those thefts. One or more burglars broke locks at the substations and tampered with wiring that was used as grounding, utility officials and state troopers said.

Source: <http://pressherald.mainetoday.com/news/state/060521copperthefts.shtml>

3. *May 20, Reuters* — **Five killed, one survives in coalmine blast.** A coalmine explosion in southeastern Kentucky early on Saturday killed five people, a U.S. mine safety official said, making this the deadliest year for U.S. coal country since 2001. The explosion happened at a mine operated by Kentucky Darby LLC, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) spokesperson Amy Louviere said. The fatalities from the blast in mountainous Harlan County, near the border with Virginia, raised the death toll in U.S. coalmines to 31 this year, up from 22 last year, according to MSHA. In 2001, 42 were killed in coalmine accidents. Darby Mine No. 1 is a small operation with about 30 employees. A spokesperson for the Harlan Police Department said a possible cause was a methane explosion. Joe Grieshop, judge-executive for Harlan County, said that there were storms in the area at the time of the blast but it was unclear whether the weather was a factor. Investigators have blamed a lightning strike that ignited methane gas for a deadly explosion at the Sago Mine in West Virginia in January. That incident killed 12 miners and left one brain damaged.

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2006-05-20T181512Z\\_01\\_MOL055194\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-MINERAL\\_S-MINE-EXPLOSION.xml&archived=False](http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2006-05-20T181512Z_01_MOL055194_RTRUKOC_0_US-MINERAL_S-MINE-EXPLOSION.xml&archived=False)

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

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

4. *May 18, Associated Press* — **Defense contractor indicted on charges.** A defense contractor, its president and three employees were indicted Thursday, May 18, on charges they conspired to produce thousands of substandard air filters for the Army's main battle tank, putting soldiers and Marines at risk. The filters, for the M-1 Abrams tank, were to protect occupants from

nuclear, biological and chemical contaminants. Lawyers for Parmatic Filter Corp. and the other defendants denied the charges, handed up by a federal grand jury in Newark, NJ.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/investing/wire/sns-ap-defense-fraud.1.6933483.story?coll=sns-ap-investing-headlines>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

5. *May 22, Reuters* — **NYSE unveils \$10 billion plan to buy Euronext.** The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) unveiled a \$10.2 billion share and cash bid for Euronext on Monday, May 22, countering a rival proposal from Deutsche Boerse just a day before a meeting where Euronext shareholders will decide on the future of the bourse operator. The proposed alliance would create a transatlantic exchange giant with a market capitalization of \$21 billion and headquartered in New York, the NYSE Group Inc. said. The proposed merger would also yield cost and revenue synergies of \$375 million. The NYSE's proposal is the latest salvo in a 17-month power struggle for global exchange consolidation, with Euronext talking first to the London Stock Exchange before turning to Deutsche Boerse and later the NYSE as the Nasdaq Stock Market Inc. took 25 percent in the LSE. At stake is a need for exchange operators to consolidate to reach economies of scale, boost volumes, and reduce trading costs for clients. Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/business/business-financial-eronext.html>
6. *May 22, Chicago Sun-Times* — **Scams begin to target users of MySpace.** The Website MySpace.com has rocketed to second place in worldwide popularity, with an estimated 78 million users. But the site also has brought concerns about teens meeting strangers online. And now there's a new worry: a "phishing" scam that experts say could compromise teens' — or their parents' — financial information. As with other phishing scams, the MySpace scam tricks people into going to a copycat page and signing on. Once the user gets on the site, their computer can be infected with software that can later capture keystrokes typed while visiting legitimate banking or shopping sites, said Hiep Dang, director of threat research for Aluria Software. Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-myspace22.html>
7. *May 22, Finextra* — **Europeans willing to switch banks for biometric authentication.** Over half of banking customers across Europe would be willing to switch their accounts to financial institutions that offer biometric authentication services, according to a study conducted by Vanson Bourne and commissioned by LogicaCMG. The study, which spans seven European countries, shows that 57 percent of people would be more likely to change their current account provider if all it took was an identity card and fingerprint to establish and prove identity. In Germany this average increases to 64 percent, says LogicaCMG. LogicaCMG says the research reveals that the introduction of biometrics could lead to much greater consumer confidence in switching between different bank accounts and other financial products. Commenting on the research, Paul Gribbon, of LogicaCMG says as banks have to proliferate across channels such as digital television, the Internet, telephone banking systems, and physical branches, biometrics will be a key method in establishing and verifying the identity of customers. Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15341>

8. *May 22, Washington Post* — **Personal data of 26.5 million veterans stolen.** Every living veteran is at risk of identity theft after thieves stole an electronic data file this month containing the names, birthdates, and Social Security numbers from the home of a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employee, VA Secretary R. James Nicholson said Monday, May 22. The theft of the data, which the employee was not authorized to take home, represents one of the most sweeping government losses of sensitive personal information, experts said. The file did not contain medical records, Nicholson said. The employee, a career civil servant, has been put on administrative leave pending the outcome of investigations by the FBI, local police, and the VA inspector general. Police "believe this was a random burglary and not targeted at this data," Nicholson said. Nicholson said officials have no indication yet that anyone was making use of the pilfered data "or even that they know they have it." The VA plans to send letters to all veteran notifying them that their personal information had been compromised. The department also has established a Website and a toll free number (1-800-333-4636) for veterans to call for information or to report anything suspicious.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/05/22/AR2006052200709.html>

9. *May 21, Associated Press* — **Spain holds 21 in money-laundering scam.** Spanish police have arrested 21 suspected members of a drug-trafficking and money-laundering gang that is believed to have laundered more than \$460 million since 2001, officials said Sunday, May 21. Most of the detainees are Spanish or Colombian, the National Police said. The investigation began in March 2005 when police specializing in economic crimes detected large amounts of cash being deposited in bank accounts in the name of non-existing companies. The money was later transferred to shell companies in China, the United States, South Korea, Germany, and countries in Latin America, according to police.

Source: <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0506/329655.html>

10. *May 19, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: Laredo National Bank.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a new phishing attack that targets customers of Laredo National Bank, which is based in Texas. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message, which claims that their account needs updating due to the delivery of a new credit card. This e-mail message contains a link to a phishing Website that prompts users to enter confidential information.

Source: <http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=493>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

11. *May 22, Associated Press* — **Caribbean volcano ash grounds flights.** A huge cloud of ash billowing from an island volcano forced the suspension of some international flights over the Caribbean on Sunday, May 21, airline and airport officials said. The airlines took action after a dome atop a volcano on Montserrat, located about 275 miles southwest of Puerto Rico, collapsed over the weekend, sending volcanic debris cascading down the mountain and shooting ashes 10 miles into the sky. Flights of Venezuelan carrier Aeropostal between Venezuela and Miami were grounded, as well those to and from Aruba, Curacao, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic. A spokesperson for the Simon Bolivar International Airport that serves Caracas said American Airlines had also suspended its flights between Miami and Caracas.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-05-22-volcano-flights\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-05-22-volcano-flights_x.htm)

**12. *May 22, Jacksonville Business Journal (FL)* — Cargo carrier sees Jacksonville as a hub.**

Jacksonville, FL, will become the major East Coast hub for ocean cargo carrier Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd., known as MOL, to connect to a handful of trade lanes, particularly Asia, the company's president, Akimitsu Ashida, said Monday, May 22. Tokyo-based MOL, which signed a 30-year lease with the Jacksonville Port Authority in August 2005, plans to build a 158-acre terminal at Dames Point. The deal is projected to create 1,800 direct jobs, 3,800 indirect jobs and an \$870 million economic impact, according to a port consultant's analysis. The announcement of MOL's terminal at Dames Point "has been very favorably welcomed by customers," Ashida said. Those customers are eager for more alternatives on the East Coast for shipping their goods, he said, because of the increasing congestion at West Coast ports, such as Long Beach, CA.

Source: <http://jacksonville.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/stories/2006/05/22/daily7.html>

**13. *May 22, Triangle Business Journal (NC)* — North Carolina Railroad Co. to study possible line shift.** North Carolina Railroad Co. (NCRR) is looking into rerouting rail lines away from their current route along U.S. 70 in increasingly congested Morehead City, a coastal community favored as a holiday destination by Triangle residents. NCRR officials say the move would alleviate traffic headaches caused by the line's 53 road crossings between Havelock and Morehead City. A new corridor could accommodate larger, faster trains. Raleigh-based NCRR is owned by the state but operated as a private company. The railroad carries more than 60 freight trains operated by Norfolk Southern and eight Amtrak passenger trains daily.

Source: <http://triangle.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2006/05/22/daily6.html>

**14. *May 20, Cherry Hill Courier-Post (NJ)* — Philadelphia airport begins project to ease delays.** Efforts to reduce excessive delays at Philadelphia International Airport are developing. Signs of the most immediate solution will begin this summer as the airport begins to reconfigure Route 291, also known as Industrial Highway, in front of the airport to make way for the construction of a 1,040-foot extension of runway 17-35. The \$60 million expansion is expected to take a year. "The expansion will improve the flow and allow us to get more use out of one runway. We expect it to produce an eight percent delay reduction," said Charles J. Isdell, aviation director for the city-owned airport. However, it won't be enough to accommodate projected growth at the airport and to alter Philadelphia's ranking near the bottom of the nation's top 33 airfields for on-time departures. That will require an estimated \$5 billion to reconfigure its four runways and add a fifth. That goal has been in the pipeline since 2002 and could take until 2020 to complete. The runway projects are separate from the Federal Aviation Administration's proposed redesign of regional airspace, which is also underway to accommodate growth and promote safety.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-05-20-philly-delays\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-05-20-philly-delays_x.htm)

**15. *April 21, Government Accountability Office* — GAO-06-470: Commuter Rail: Commuter Rail Issues Should Be Considered in Debate over Amtrak (Report).** Commuter rail agencies provide mobility to millions of people across the country, often using Amtrak infrastructure and services. Given these interactions, an abrupt Amtrak cessation could have a significant impact on commuter rail operations. Amtrak's chronic financial problems and recent budget proposals make such a cessation a possibility. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked



to examine (1) the extent to which commuter rail agencies rely on Amtrak for access to infrastructure and services, (2) issues that commuter rail agencies would face if Amtrak abruptly ceased to provide them with services and infrastructure access, and (3) the options available to commuter rail agencies should Amtrak abruptly cease to provide them services and infrastructure access. GAO recommends that the Department of Transportation (DOT) further refine cost estimates of commuter rail directed-service scenarios. GAO also recommends that Amtrak improve its accounting practices as well as its financial reports. DOT generally agreed with the report's findings and the intention of the recommendation, but expressed concern about refining the cost estimate at this time because of data and resource limitations. Amtrak generally agreed with the report's findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06470high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-470>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

**16. *May 21, Reuters* — Royal Mail in alliance talks with FedEx and UPS.** Royal Mail, Britain's state-owned postal operator, is in advanced negotiations with U.S. groups FedEx Corp. and UPS to set up a strategic European alliance, according to the Sunday Times. Royal Mail Chairman Allan Leighton was still deciding which of the two U.S. partners to choose for a tie-up with its General Logistics Systems, a European parcel operation and the British group's most profitable business. FedEx is the world's largest air-express carrier while United Parcel Service Inc. (UPS) is the world's largest package delivery company. Both FedEx and UPS have reported strong growth in their international business.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/060521/services\\_royalmail\\_alliance.html?v=2](http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/060521/services_royalmail_alliance.html?v=2)

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## **Agriculture Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Food Sector**

**17. *May 19, Associated Press* — Food and Drug Administration finds too much benzene in five beverages.** A government analysis of more than 100 soft drinks and other beverages turned up five with levels of cancer-causing benzene that exceed federal drinking-water standards, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Friday, May 19. The companies that make the drinks have been alerted and either have reformulated their products or plan to do so, the FDA said. The five drinks are: Safeway Select Diet Orange, Crush Pineapple, AquaCal Strawberry Flavored Water Beverage, Crystal Light Sunrise Classic Orange, and Giant Light Cranberry Juice Cocktail. The high levels of benzene were found in specific production lots of the drinks, the FDA said. Federal rules limit benzene levels in drinking water to five parts per billion. A limited FDA analysis of store-bought drinks found benzene levels as high as 79 parts per

billion in one lot of Safeway Select Diet Orange.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/nation/3876089.html>

18. *May 19, Associated Press* — **Imported tea tests positive for salmonella.** Some samples of a Jamaican specialty tea sold in Georgia have tested positive for salmonella, a sometimes fatal infection, according to the state's agriculture commissioner. Lab technicians at the Georgia Department of Agriculture confirmed Friday, May 19, that packages of Caribbean Dreams Cerasee Tea tested positive for salmonella. The tea was imported from Kingston, Jamaica. It was sold at Ocho Rios, a store in Tucker, GA, and possibly other locations, according to state Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin.

Source: <http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/mld/ledgerenquirer/news/politics/14623231.htm>

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## **Water Sector**

19. *May 22, Associated Press* — **Kinder Morgan sells water unit.** Petroleum products distributor Kinder Morgan Inc. said Monday, May 22, it closed the sale of its water and utility services division to a private group for \$111 million in cash. The division, Terasen Water and Utility Services, provides water, wastewater treatment and utility services mostly in Western Canada. CAI Capital Management Co. led the buyers, which included management at Terasen Water and Utility Services. Kinder Morgan will use the profit from the sale to pay down debt. Kinder Morgan operates pipelines and storage terminals, transporting petroleum products including natural gas and crude oil. It bought Terasen last year and said after a review, found the "water and utility services business was outside" of its core business, said Chairman and Chief Executive Richard D. Kinder in a statement.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/3879570.html>

20. *May 18, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory* — **Nanotube membranes offer possibility of cheaper desalination.** Researchers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory have created a membrane made of carbon nanotubes and silicon that may offer, among many possible applications, a less expensive desalinization. The nanotubes, special molecules made of carbon atoms in a unique arrangement, are hollow and more than 50,000 times thinner than a human hair. Billions of these tubes act as the pores in the membrane. The super smooth inside of the nanotubes allow liquids and gases to rapidly flow through, while the tiny pore size can block larger molecules. This previously unobserved phenomenon opens a vast array of possible applications. The membrane is created by filling the gaps between aligned carbon nanotubes with a ceramic matrix material. The pores are so small that only six water molecules could fit across their diameter. Membranes that have carbon nanotubes as pores could be used in desalination and demineralization. Salt removal from water, commonly performed through reverse osmosis, uses less permeable membranes, requires large amounts of pressure and is quite expensive. However, these more permeable nanotube membranes could reduce the energy costs of desalination by up to 75 percent compared to conventional membranes used in reverse osmosis.

Source: [http://www.llnl.gov/pao/news/news\\_releases/2006/NR-06-05-06.html](http://www.llnl.gov/pao/news/news_releases/2006/NR-06-05-06.html)

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## **Public Health Sector**

21. *May 22, Associated Press* — **U.S. shipping antiviral stockpile to Asia.** The U.S. is sending a stockpile of the antiviral drug Tamiflu to Asia as a first defense against a possible flu pandemic, the U.S. health chief said Monday, May 22. Mike Leavitt, U.S. secretary of health and human services, said Washington has shipped treatment courses of Tamiflu to a secure location in an unnamed Asian country. The drug is regarded as the best initial defense against a pandemic resulting from a possible mutation of the H5N1 bird flu virus into a strain easily passed between people. "It is a stockpile that would belong to the United States and we would control its deployment," Leavitt said. The courses sent to Asia will be used to support international containment efforts in the event of a human pandemic, but the U.S. could redirect the stocks for domestic use should it become clear that containment overseas was not feasible.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/05/22/AR2006052200521.html>

22. *May 22, Agence France–Presse* — **New cases of bird flu in Romania.** Agriculture Minister Gheorghe Flutur has said that new cases of bird flu had been found in Romania, as the European reference laboratory confirmed the presence of the potentially deadly virus in the country. "In total, 34 centers (of bird flu), including one in Bucharest, have been counted" since the disease re-emerged in Romania 10 days ago, Flutur told a news conference Monday, May 22. The virus has also been found in 24 other "potential" locations, including one in the capital, the minister said. Tests conducted at the European reference laboratory in Weybridge, England, confirmed the presence of the H5N1 virus in seven samples taken from central Brasov county, including one from an industrial farm that was the source of the latest spread of the disease, Flutur said.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060522/hl\\_afp/healthfluromania\\_060522151744;\\_ylt=AkYvuksdoQfuxRPSIO8ifv2JOrgF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhda--](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060522/hl_afp/healthfluromania_060522151744;_ylt=AkYvuksdoQfuxRPSIO8ifv2JOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhda--)

23. *May 22, Reuters* — **Indonesia struggles to track H5N1 source, two more die.** Health officials in Indonesia are still struggling to track down the source of a worrying family cluster of H5N1 bird flu infections as tests showed that two more people have died of the same disease. One of the latest victims belonged to a Sumatran family, which lost several members earlier this month to bird flu, sparking fears of human-to-human transmission. While H5N1 is still regarded as a bird disease, experts have warned that it might mutate and pass efficiently between humans and cause a global pandemic. "One man from the same Sumatra cluster died this morning. He is the father of the child who died on May 13. He ran away after he received Tamiflu," said I Nyoman Kandun, director-general of communicable disease control at the health ministry. "He was found in the village later but refused treatment," Kandun told reporters at a news conference. Five of his relatives have been confirmed as bird flu deaths by the World Health Organization (WHO) which also says another family member has survived being infected with H5N1. Another death could not be confirmed because no samples were obtained but she is considered the initial case of the cluster. The woman died on May 4.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/SP120843.htm>

24.



*May 22, Pakistan Times* — **U.S. provides avian flu detection equipment to Pakistan.** The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced it will provide polymerase chain reaction (PCR) equipment for the Pakistani National Reference Lab. The new equipment will enable the lab to test samples to determine the strain of avian flu virus within six hours. The existing equipment requires 24–72 hours, said the U.S. Embassy on Saturday, May 20. By streamlining the process for identifying the disease, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock officials will be able to eliminate unnecessary culling and birds and further reduce the risk of spreading the disease to humans. Pakistan has had 28 small-scale poultry farms with confirmed cases of the H5N1 strain, resulting in the culling of more than 120,000 birds.

Source: <http://www.pakistantimes.net/2006/05/22/national3.htm>

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## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

**25. *May 20, CBS2-TV (IL)* — Officials stage disaster drill at O'Hare International Airport.** A disaster drill at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on Saturday, May 20, assured officials that emergency crews would be able to handle a major plane crash, but they said there was always room for improvement. "We saw areas that, although minor, we can certainly address, whether it's positioning of equipment or the number of people responding in one way or the other," Fire Commissioner Cortez Trotter said.

Source: [http://cbs2chicago.com/local/local\\_story\\_140192752.html](http://cbs2chicago.com/local/local_story_140192752.html)

**26. *May 20, Bayou Buzz (LA)* — Louisiana Governor announces hurricane exercise.** Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the 2005 hurricane season, the State of Louisiana's homeland security responsibilities were integrated into the duties and responsibilities of the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP). The Louisiana GOHSEP has a lead role in coordinating the State's multi-hazard, pre-incident and trans-incident plans and capabilities. The State of Louisiana is committed to supporting and coordinating a Functional Exercise/Full-Scale Exercise in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season and validation of the Emergency Operations Plans and communications plans for the State of Louisiana, City of New Orleans, and East Baton Rouge Parish. The exercise will test these plans and capabilities in preparation for the 2006 hurricane season. Over the course of two days, May 23 and May 24, the exercise will establish a learning environment for federal, state, local, and private entities to exercise their protocols for preparing for and responding to a hurricane incident. The exercise will focus on the pre-landfall and post-landfall initial response to a Category 3 hurricane hitting Louisiana's gulf coast. Each morning, players will be briefed on the scenario prior to the start of the exercise in order to ensure a common operating picture.

Source: <http://www.bayoubuzz.com/articles.aspx?aid=7118>

## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

**27. May 22, Associated Press — Microsoft makes way to pay for PC hourly.** Microsoft Corp. has developed technology for people to pay by the hour to use a computer in their own homes, similar to the way many people use pre-paid cards for cell phones. The technology, called FlexGo, will be used as part of efforts to sell computers to lower-income consumers in developing countries. Microsoft plans to launch a second trial of the FlexGo plan in Brazil beginning Monday, May 22. In the next 90 days, it will launch in Mexico, China, Russia and India. The program will generally work like this: a user will pay for about half the cost of the computer upfront, and then will purchase pre-paid cards to get hourly access to the computer at home.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/technology/AP-Microsoft-Pre-Paid-PC-Use.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/technology/AP-Microsoft-Pre-Paid-PC-Use.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

**28. May 22, IDG News Service — Yahoo messaging worm installs bogus browser.** Malware writers have created a new worm that installs a new browser, plays screeching music and dumps a graphic on the victim's desktop. It starts with a link to a so-called "Safety Browser" apparently sent by a friend in Yahoo Inc.'s instant messaging program. Instant messaging security company FaceTime Communications Inc. described the malware, which it called "yhoo32.explr", as "insidious" in a security advisory Friday, May 19. The bug also hijacks Internet Explorer's homepage, directing users to the Safety Browser's Website.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9000660>

**29. May 17, ZDNet Asia — Malaysia, Singapore put up cyber defenses.** A spokesperson for the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) told ZDNet Asia that the National Cyberthreat Monitoring Center (NCMC) will be launched in early 2007. The center is part of a \$23.9 million initiative to protect Singapore businesses and Internet users against online threats. Neighboring Malaysia also announced recently a major initiative to provide a platform for international governments and the IT industry to share ideas and technologies in combating cyber threats, expected to commence operations by the end of this year.

Source: <http://www.zdnetasia.com/news/security/0,39044215,39360320,0,0.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:** US-CERT is aware of increased activity attempting to exploit a vulnerability in Microsoft Word.

For more information, please see

[http://www.us-cert.gov/current/current\\_activity.html#mdropper](http://www.us-cert.gov/current/current_activity.html#mdropper)

US-CERT has published the following Security Alerts:

1. Technical Cyber Security Alert: Microsoft Word Vulnerability

<http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA06-139A.html>

2. Cyber Security Alert: Microsoft Word Vulnerability

<http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/alerts/SA06-139A.html>

US-CERT reports that Apple has released Apple QuickTime 7.1 to correct several vulnerabilities. Apple QuickTime 7.1 resolves multiple vulnerabilities in the way different types of image and media files are handled. An error in the AppKit framework allows an application to read characters entered into secure text field in the same window session. An attacker could exploit these vulnerabilities by convincing a user to access a specially crafted image or media file with a vulnerable version of QuickTime. Since QuickTime configures most web browsers to handle QuickTime media files, an attacker could exploit these vulnerabilities using a web page.

US-CERT recommends that Apple QuickTime users:

Upgrade their software to Apple QuickTime 7.1:

<http://www.apple.com/support/downloads/quicktime71.html>

Disable QuickTime in your web browser to prevent attackers from exploiting this vulnerability by persuading a user to access a specially crafted file with a web browser.

Note: Disabling QuickTime in your web browser will defend against this attack vector.

For more information please review:

Securing Your Web Browser document:

[http://www.us-cert.gov/reading\\_room/securing\\_browser/](http://www.us-cert.gov/reading_room/securing_browser/)

Standalone Apple QuickTime Player:

<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/standalone.html>

Mac OS X: Updating your software:

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=106704>

**VU#570689** Apple QuickTime FlashPix integer overflow:

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/570689>

**VU#289705** Apple Quicktime JPEG integer overflow:

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/289705>

We will continue to update current activity as more information becomes available.

## **PHISHING SCAMS**

US-CERT continues to receive reports of phishing scams that target online users and Federal government web sites. US-CERT encourages users to report phishing incidents based on the following guidelines:

Federal Agencies should report phishing incidents to US-CERT.

[http://www.us-cert.gov/nav/report\\_phishing.html](http://www.us-cert.gov/nav/report_phishing.html)

Non-federal agencies and other users should report phishing incidents to Federal Trade Commissions OnGuard Online. <http://onguardonline.gov/phishing.html>

### **Current Port Attacks**

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 25 (smtp), 38566 (----), 50497 (----), 445 (microsoft-ds), 12106 (----), 113 (auth), 41170 (----), 32779 (sometimes-rpc21)
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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](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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

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

**30. *May 21, Associated Press* — Saudis held after boarding Florida school bus.** Two Saudi men who boarded a school bus full of children on Friday, May 19, in Tampa, FL, and gave conflicting reasons why they were there were arrested and held without bail, authorities said Sunday, May 21. Mana Saleh Almanajam, 23, and Shaker Mohsen Alsidran, 20, were charged with misdemeanor trespassing and were jailed after a judge said on Saturday, May 20, she wanted more background information on them. A hearing was scheduled Tuesday, May 23. The two men arrived in the country six months ago on student visas and are enrolled at the English Language Institute at the University of South Florida (USF). The men were asked why they boarded the bus, and sheriff's spokesperson J.D. Callaway said they gave different answers: They wanted to enroll in an easier English language program than the one at USF; they wanted to see a high school; and they thought it would be fun.

Source: [http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2006/05/21/saudis\\_held\\_after\\_boarding fla\\_school\\_bus/](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2006/05/21/saudis_held_after_boarding fla_school_bus/)

**31. *May 21, New York Times* — New study of levees faults design and construction.** Most of the major breaches in the New Orleans levee system during Hurricane Katrina were caused by flaws in design, construction and maintenance — and parts of the system could still be

dangerous even after the current round of repairs by the Army Corps of Engineers, according to a long-awaited independent report published Monday, May 22. "People didn't die because the storm was bigger than the system could handle, and people didn't die because the levees were overtopped," said Raymond B. Seed, a professor of engineering at the University of California–Berkeley, and the chief author of the report. The message of the Berkeley report, delivered in some 500 pages, is blistering: The design and construction of the New Orleans hurricane protection system, a project spanning more than 40 years that remains incomplete, was inadequate to protect hundreds of thousands of people in an urban setting. The Berkeley study finds fault across the complex web of public and private organizations that should have kept New Orleans safe, from Congress to local levee boards. The group recommended extensive changes for the corps, along with a transformation of the nation's approach to flood protection.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/22/us/22corps.html>

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## **General Sector**

**32. *May 19, Associated Press* — Pilot, enlisted man admit picking up drugs.** A military pilot and an enlisted man pleaded guilty Friday, May 19, to charges they returned from an overseas mission with 300,000 pills of Ecstasy worth millions of dollars. Capt. Franklin Rodriguez, 36, and Master Sgt. John Fong, 37, pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges in federal court, admitting their roles in the April 2005 flight for the Air National Guard. Both face up to 20 years in prison when sentenced August 25. Rodriguez, the pilot, and Fong, a loadmaster, were on a mission to deliver supplies to the Republic of Georgia. On the return flight, they stopped in Germany to load the pills aboard their C-5A "Galaxy" cargo plane.

Source: [http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/1110AP\\_Military\\_Flight\\_Ecstasy.html](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/1110AP_Military_Flight_Ecstasy.html)

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

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

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## **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto: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](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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