



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 February 2007

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

Daily Highlights

- Stop & Shop said Saturday, February 17, that thieves stole account and personal identification numbers from customers' credit and debit cards at several Rhode Island locations by tampering with checkout-lane keypads. (See item [12](#))
- The Associated Press reports Dole is recalling more than six-thousand cartons of imported cantaloupes grown in Costa Rica; this is yet another product being recalled after testing positive for salmonella. (See item [21](#))

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](#)

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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://www.esisac.com>]

1. *February 19, Government Accountability Report* — **GAO-07-315: Crude Oil: California Crude Oil Price Fluctuations Are Consistent with Broader Market Trends (Report)**. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to examine (1) the extent to which crude oil price differentials in California have fluctuated over the past 20 years and (2) the factors that may explain the recent changes in the price differential between California's crude oil and others. GAO analyzed historical data on California and benchmark crude oil prices and discussed market trends with state and federal government officials and crude oil experts. GAO found that California crude oil price differentials have experienced numerous and large

fluctuations over the past 20 years. Recent trends in California crude oil price differentials are consistent with a number of changing market conditions such as Middle East producers increasing the supply of heavy crude oils in the world marketplace. Finally, manipulation of crude oil prices could also affect price differentials, but experts and officials GAO interviewed generally believed that this was not a factor during this recent period.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07315high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-315>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

2. **February 20, Associated Press — Body recovered from truck following train–tanker crash, fire.** A body has been recovered from the burned wreckage of a propane delivery truck that collided with a train, igniting a huge fireball and blaze that burned much of the day in Falkville, AL. State troopers spokesperson Martha Earnhardt said Tuesday, February 20, the fire was extinguished overnight and the rescue workers were able to remove the body from the wreckage. The driver of the Amerigas truck was Eric Vinson. Air space around the scene was restricted Monday because of the potential for an explosion. Alabama state troopers were called to the scene on Wilhite Road, near exit 318 on Interstate 65, shortly before 11:30 a.m. EST Monday. The truck, which is the kind that delivers liquid propane to houses and businesses, was carrying at least 2,000 gallons of propane. Witnesses and rescue workers said only the front end of the truck was burning immediately after the accident, but later the truck burst into flames and the fire spread into the woods east of the tracks. The CSX freight train was traveling from Indianapolis to Birmingham when the accident occurred.

Source: <http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/mld/ledgerenquirer/news/local /16735766.htm>

3. **February 20, WKRC–TV (OH) — Pipeline ruptures, leaking diesel fuel.** A pipeline broke in southeastern Indiana on Tuesday, February 20. Crews from the Indiana Department of Environmental management rushed to the scene to help clean up the diesel spill in New Trenton, IN. Texas Eastern Pipeline officials say the leak was contained and there was no danger to the public or environment. Officials said there was an odor in the area, but it did not pose any health threat. U.S. 52 is expected to be closed until at least Wednesday evening.

Source: http://www.local12.com/content/breaking_news/story.aspx?content_id=d7405205-2bd4-44c7-88c4-ce774d28de3a

4. **February 20, WSFA TV (AL) — Gas leak delays classes at high school.** An apparent gas leak delayed the start of classes at Selma, AL, High School Tuesday morning, February 20. Teachers and administrators reported smelling gas in the school. It appears that the gas leak may have originated in a science lab. Students waited outside for about 20 minutes until the building was cleared for re–entry.

Source: <http://www.wsfa.com/Global/story.asp?S=6113264&nav=ORdEBuQM>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *February 20, Aviation Week* — **Lawmaker says defense panel to cut overruns.** The Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in the House of Representatives is putting the aerospace/defense industry on notice: it doesn't have a high regard for the job it has been doing, and it intends to "reduce cost overruns and poor performance" in military procurement programs. That's the message subcommittee member Sanford Bishop (D-GA) had for industry and other government officials attending Aviation Week's Defense Technology and Requirements conference. John Douglass, president of the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), said the problem of cost and schedule overruns is tied directly to ill-defined weapon system requirements and a smaller, less experienced acquisition work force. "The requirements are in such flux that they tend to spin out of control," he said. "And Congress has made it so difficult to get experienced, qualified people in acquisition-leadership jobs in the Department of Defense that some of people in those positions are fairly inexperienced." Terry Marlow, AIA's vice president of acquisition policy, added, "The defense industry is made up of hundreds of thousands of programs worth billions of dollars, and the vast majority are well managed." Marlow said the defense industry would welcome more multiyear procurement but believes that's unlikely until Congress adopts fundamental changes in appropriations procedures themselves.
Source: <http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/HADA02207.xml&headline=Lawmaker%20Says%20Defense%20Panel%20To%20Cut%20Overruns%20&channel=defense>
6. *February 16, CongressDaily* — **Navy wants more ships, aircraft than budgeted.** The Navy last week sent a \$5.7 billion list of unfunded priorities to Capitol Hill, asking for three additional ships and several aircraft that did not make the cut for the Pentagon's fiscal 2008 budget request. As has been the case this year with the Army and Marine Corps, the Navy's fiscal 2008 unfunded list is significantly higher than previous years, indicating an up-tick in the services' equipment demands despite near-record defense spending levels. The Navy's fiscal 2006 and fiscal 2007 budgetary wish lists totaled \$3.7 billion and \$4.6 billion, respectively. In a Monday, February 12, letter to House Armed Services ranking member Duncan Hunter (R-CA), Chief of Naval Operations Michael Mullen acknowledged that increases in defense spending requests in the last several years have given "some budgetary relief." But Mullen stressed that significant shortfalls remain in the services' equipment coffers. "Persistent operations related to the global war on terrorism and attaining our shipbuilding and aircraft procurement objectives continue to stretch the Navy's resources," Mullen wrote. "As [the] Navy continues to focus on our new defense strategy and on the emerging challenges of the 21st century, fiscal choices have resulted in some important programs being underfunded."
Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36152&dcn=to%20daysnews
7. *January 19, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-143: Chemical and Biological Defense: Management Actions Are Needed to Close the Gap between Army Chemical Unit Preparedness and Stated National Priorities (Report).** The 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review Report states that the Department of Defense (DoD) must be prepared to respond to and mitigate the effects of weapons of mass destruction attacks at home or overseas. Moreover, the Secretary of Defense directed the military to define the nature and potential requests for military capabilities needed to respond to 15 National Planning Scenarios issued by the Homeland Security Council. The Army's chemical units are key players in this mission. The

Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to evaluate the preparedness of the Army's chemical and biological units, including the extent to which (1) units tasked with providing chemical and biological defense support to combat units and commands are adequately staffed, equipped, and trained and (2) units also tasked with a homeland defense mission are adequately prepared for this mission. During this review, GAO analyzed readiness data and other preparedness indicators for 78 Army chemical units. GAO recommends actions to address long-standing chemical unit personnel and equipment shortages; and better enable Army chemical units to perform wartime and homeland defense missions. DoD generally agreed with two recommendations and disagreed with those to address unit personnel and equipment shortages.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07143high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-143>

8. *January 19, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-113: Chemical and Biological Defense: Updated Intelligence, Clear Guidance, and Consistent Priorities Needed to Guide Investments in Collective Protection (Report)**. For the military to operate in environments contaminated by chemical and biological warfare agents, the Department of Defense (DoD) has developed collective protection equipment to provide a protected environment for group activities. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) previously reported persistent problems in providing collective protection for U.S. forces in high threat areas overseas. In this report, GAO examined (1) current intelligence assessments of chemical and biological threats, (2) the extent to which DoD has provided collective protection at critical overseas facilities and major expeditionary warfighting assets, and (3) DoD's framework for managing installation protection policies and prioritizing critical installations for funding. In conducting this review, GAO developed criteria to identify critical sites in the absence of a DoD priority listing of such sites in overseas high threat areas — areas at high risk of terrorist or missile attack. GAO recommends that the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) update the chemical warfare National Intelligence Estimate and that DoD take actions to provide clearer, more consistent policies that guide the funding and placement of collective protection and other installation preparedness activities. The DNI and DoD generally agreed with all of GAO's recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07113high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-113>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *February 20, Websense* — **Phishing Alert: MoneyBookers**. Websense® Security Labs™ has received reports of a phishing attack that targets users of MoneyBookers. Users receive a spoofed email message, which claims that they must log in to their account in order to collect a payment for an item sold. The email provides a link to a phishing site that attempts to collect personal and account information. This phishing site is hosted in the United States and was up at the time of this alert.

Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=742>

10.

February 19, Birmingham Business Journal (AL) — **New program to help credit unions manage identity theft in Alabama.** The Alabama Credit Union League has launched a new program to help members deal with data security breaches. The organization is offering free breach-management services to league members who belong to the Credit Union Service Center or participate in the league's card services program. Some 81 credit unions will be eligible to take part. Under the terms of the program, participating members will receive consulting services and identity theft resolution assistance as well as secure-communication technology and help in responding to the media after a breach occurs.

Source: <http://birmingham.bizjournals.com/birmingham/stories/2007/02/19/daily2.html>

- 11. February 19, Associated Press** — **Texas hospital patients face identity theft threat.** About 7,800 insured patients who were treated at Seton hospital system facilities in Texas since July 2005 are being warned to watch for signs of identity theft after a laptop containing personal information was stolen last week. The Seton Family of Hospitals said the computer was stolen from an office in the system's information services department in Austin. Greg Hartman, senior vice president of marketing and planning for the Seton system, said the computer doesn't contain patient health information. It might contain names, birthdays and Social Security numbers of uninsured patients who went to Seton-owned emergency rooms, outpatient services and area health clinics since July 1, 2005. Hartman said the theft was caught on camera and the video has been given to Austin police. System officials used the data stored on the computer to try to get payment through Medicaid, Medicare or charity programs, Hartman said. Seton plans to send letters beginning this week to affected patients.

On the Web: <http://www.seton.net/laptoptheft>

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/biz/4565148.htm>

- 12. February 18, Associated Press** — **Stop & Shop reports thefts of customer information.** Stop & Shop said Saturday, February 17, that thieves stole account and personal identification numbers from customers' credit and debit cards at two Rhode Island locations by tampering with checkout-lane keypads. Also, Stop & Shop said it has found evidence of similar tampering in stores in Bristol, Providence, Warwick, and in Seekonk. So far, no illegal transactions relating to debit or credit cards used at these store locations have been reported to Stop & Shop. It wasn't immediately known how many customers had their information stolen from the Coventry and Cranston locations, said company spokesperson Robert Keane. The thefts took place early this month, he said. No arrests have been made. Local police departments and the U.S. Secret Service are investigating. Company officials recommended that customers who used electronic payment cards in the Rhode Island and Seekonk stores monitor their bank or credit card statements and contact the applicable bank or credit card issuer if they spot fraudulent transactions.

Shop & Stop Website: http://www.stopandshop.com/about/security_faq.htm?linkid=2

Source: <http://news.bostonherald.com/national/northeast/view.bg?articleid=183652>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

- 13. February 20, Reuters** — **JetBlue says delays could cost \$30 million.** JetBlue Airways Corp. said on Tuesday, February 20, reimbursing passengers stuck on about 1,000 delayed flights and

updating its operations to prevent further problems could cost the airline \$30 million or more. JetBlue is struggling to make up ground after the worst crisis in its eight-year history, as it canceled more than 1,000 flights following an ice storm in the U.S. Northeast last week, leaving many passengers stranded. It usually operates about 600 flights a day. The low-cost airline, which has won fans in the past for its reluctance to cancel flights because of bad weather, is blaming the problems on its inability to cope with rescheduling so many flight crews. "We had a weakness in our system," said CEO David Neeleman. "We were overwhelmed." Passengers and Wall Street analysts were critical of JetBlue, but hopeful the setback would lead to improvement.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/070220/jetblue_delays.html?v=8

14. *February 20, Associated Press* — **Pilots in Amazon crash had communications difficulties with controllers.** Two American pilots involved in Brazil's worst air crash had difficulty communicating with Brazilian air traffic controllers while seeking clarification about the altitude they should fly at just hours before their executive jet collided with a passenger jet last year. And a minute before the September 26 air disaster that killed 154 people, one of the pilots said he had radio trouble, according to a transcript of the pilots' cockpit conversations published by the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper, Brazil's largest. The Brazilian-made Embraer Legacy executive jet and Gol Linhas Aereas Inteligentes SA Boeing 737-800 then clipped each other over Brazil's Amazon rainforest, and the larger jet plummeted into the jungle, killing all aboard. The pilots Joseph Lepore and Jan Paladino, both of Long Island, NY, complained they had no contact with controllers while in the air before the collision. While Brazilian officials have accused the American pilots of failing to descend to 36,000 feet at a predetermined point after their takeoff, the pilots have contended they never received instructions from air traffic controllers to alter their altitude during the flight — and were therefore required to stay at 37,000 feet while heading from Brazil to the United States to deliver the new jet.

Source: <http://www.amtonline.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&i d=3434>

15. *February 20, Austin American-Statesman (TX)* — **Austin ponders putting airport in private hands.** Austin, TX, city officials are considering leasing out its eight-year-old airport, a transaction that potentially could bring the city a windfall of several hundred million dollars but would also put control of a key city service in private hands. City Manager Toby Futrell has been talking to Austin City Council members and has suggested that the council be briefed as a group in executive session in the coming weeks. Such an arrangement, even if a council majority goes for it, would face myriad legal and political hurdles and likely would not occur anytime soon. Mayor Will Wynn, at least, is already convinced that the city should unload Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. The airport's revenue was at least \$12 million more than its expenses last year, according to the city's Website, but federal law prohibits the city from using that money off the airport site. Instead, the money must be put back into airport improvements. Chicago and a handful of other cities have pursued putting airports in private hands under a 1996 federal pilot program allowing up to five U.S. airports to be leased. Overseas, airport privatization has become the rule rather than the exception in recent years.

Source: <http://www.statesman.com/news/content/news/stories/local/02/21/21airport.html>

16. *February 19, Today's Zaman (Turkey)* — **New security system at Istanbul airport relieves passenger traffic.** The installation of a new explosives detection system (EDS) at Istanbul, Turkey's Atatürk International Airport has done away with cumbersome security measures that

caused passengers discomfort. The previous system, which was implemented by a Ministry of Interior mandate dated July 1, 2004, separating passengers at the departure and arrival terminals, was eliminated as of Wednesday night, February 14. The abolished system had been implemented particularly to eliminate any danger that could arrive through planes coming from countries considered questionable. With the former system, passengers had to go through a second security point in order to change terminals, causing the formation of long passenger lines that sparked arguments between passengers and personnel. Security officials stated that they were now more focused on the luggage and the security of planes, and that the security checks on passengers would become even less tighter in the long run.

Source: <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=103348&bolum=101>

17. *February 19, Associated Press* — **Head-on crash of Florida airport buses kills two.** Two people are dead after a pair of shuttle buses crashed head-on at the Fort Lauderdale airport. Authorities say the driver of one bus and a passenger in the other were killed. A total of eight people are hurt, including two critically. The collision happened Sunday night, February 18, on a road that circles the airport. Investigators think the driver who was killed was heading east, when a bus going west crossed into his lane.

Source: http://www.wlos.com/template/inews_wire/wires.national/3ac68b0f-www.wlos.com.shtml

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

18. *February 20, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* — **Use of ethanol promises to shake world agriculture.** President Bush's recent proposal to increase America's use of ethanol fuel to 35 billion gallons a year in less than a decade would send a shock wave through the nation's food supply, industry analysts say. But growing demand for fuels from plants will likely revolutionize agriculture in both rich and poor countries, Michael Yost, the head of the U.S. foreign agriculture service said Monday, February 19. "The advent of renewable energy is global," he said. "I think it could be the biggest paradigm shift we have seen in a long time in agriculture." Farmers who produce grains, sugar and plant oils all stand to benefit from the growing demand for biofuels and the higher prices that will follow, said Yost. Those higher prices worry food industry analysts. "The days of the U.S. meat industry in its current state now appear to be numbered," David Nelson, an agribusiness analyst for Credit Suisse Group, said in an e-mail to clients. Nelson said that if only a little more than one-third of the ethanol fuel in the president's goal comes from corn, roughly half the country's corn crop would end up in gas tanks instead of the troughs that feed chickens, pigs and cattle.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/business/content/business/stories/2007/02/20/0220bizethanol.html>

Food Sector

19. *February 20, Financial Times* — Bird flu outbreak leads to layoffs. Up to 500 United Kingdom Bernard Matthews workers could be laid off after an outbreak of bird flu led to a 40 percent slump in poultry sales. Miles Hubbard, a regional industrial organizer for the Transport and General Workers Union, said the temporary lay-offs from its Norfolk processing site would give the company "some breathing space" to recover lost sales. "We are hopeful that things will turn around in coming weeks," Hubbard said. The decline in sales comes in the wake of an outbreak of the H5N1 virus at Bernard Matthews's Suffolk poultry farm in early February and the culling of 159,000 birds. Some 130 workers at Bernard Matthews's Norfolk site will stop working for 20 days. The company said further lay-offs are possible. Bernard Matthews said: "Dependent upon future sales, further lay-offs of between 400–500 employees [can] not be ruled out."

Source: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/80fcdd1a-c088-11db-995a-000b5df10621.html>

20. *February 20, Houston Chronicle* — Hundreds in Houston turn out for hepatitis A shots. Hundreds of people were lining up Tuesday, February 20, to get vaccinations after health officials warned that anyone who ate at a north Houston Pappasito's Cantina in late January or earlier this month may have been exposed to hepatitis A. As of 9:30 a.m. (CST), 261 people had registered for vaccinations, said health district spokesperson Sandy Kachur. A health advisory was issued Sunday, February 18. Anyone exposed to hepatitis A can be treated with antibodies, but they must receive shots no later than two weeks after exposure.

Source: <http://www.chron.com disp/story.mpl/front/4566509.html>

21. *February 19, Associated Press* — Cantaloupe recalled. Another product is being recalled after testing positive for salmonella. Dole is recalling more than six-thousand cartons of imported cantaloupes. They were distributed to wholesalers in the eastern U.S. and Quebec, Canada, between February 5 and February 8. Dole says there have been no reports of illness due to the contaminated cantaloupes which were grown in Costa Rica.

Source: <http://www.tricities.com/tristate/tri/news.apx.-content-articles-TRI-2007-02-19-0029.html>

22. *February 16, Associated Press* — Japan cites Nebraska plant beef. Japan will suspend beef imports from a Nebraska processing plant after finding meat in a shipment that may violate a regulation imposed over mad cow concerns, the government said Friday, February 16. Plant owner Tyson Foods Inc. acknowledged the problem, saying the boxes of beef were mistakenly included in a shipment destined for export from its Tyson Fresh Meats plant in Lexington, NE. "The boxes contained a total of 95 pounds of boneless short ribs that were from cattle under the age of 30 months but did not meet Japan's requirement for product from beef carcasses under 21 months of age," said Tyson spokesperson Gary Mickelson in Springdale, AR. "The product did not contain any materials considered a possible risk" for mad cow disease. He said Tyson would continue to serve its Japanese beef customers through its six other U.S. beef processing plants and will take further steps to ensure only qualified product is being exported to Japan. The Ministries of Health and Agriculture said inspectors at the port of Yokohama found the two boxes of meat, which were not recorded in the accompanying shipping documents.

Source: <http://www.chron.com disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/4559265.html>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

23. *February 20, PLoS Biology* — Revisiting the basic reproductive number for malaria and its implications for malaria control. Each year, malaria results in more than a million deaths. Controlling this disease involves understanding its transmission. For all infectious disease, the basic reproductive number, R_0 , describes the most important aspects of transmission. This is the expected number of hosts that can trace their infection directly back to a single host after one disease generation. For vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, R_0 is given by a classic formula. Researchers made 121 estimates of R_0 for Plasmodium falciparum malaria in African populations. The estimates range from around one to over 3,000, providing much higher estimates than previously thought. Previous studies showed that transmission is amplified if some humans are bitten more than others. Researchers confirmed that such heterogeneous biting amplifies transmission counting from mosquito to mosquito, but it can also dampen transmission counting from human to human. Humans who are bitten most both infect a large number of mosquitoes and absorb many infectious bites. When R_0 is in the thousands, eliminating malaria may seem impossible. If transmission from the humans who are bitten the most can be targeted, however, local elimination can still be within reach.

Source: <http://biology.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pbio.0050042>

24. *February 20, Agence France–Presse* — Pakistan shuts zoo after bird flu outbreak.

Authorities have shut down a zoo in the Pakistani capital and slaughtered dozens of birds after the H5N1 flu virus was found in peacocks and geese. The outbreak at Islamabad's Marghzar zoo — a popular spot near a children's adventure playground that also houses elephants, monkeys and other animals — is the fourth case of the virus detected in Pakistan this month. Food, Agriculture and Livestock Ministry spokesperson Mohammad Afzal said test results had confirmed H5N1 in four peacocks and one or two geese. The zoo had also reported to authorities that 14 or 15 crows had also died at the zoo, adding that they "might have spread" the virus among the captive birds. Pakistan's first H5N1 cases were detected in March 2006 at two chicken farms in North West Frontier Province. After a nine-month gap the virus resurfaced in early February among chickens in Rawalpindi, adjoining Islamabad, and in peacocks in the northwestern city of Mansehra.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070220/hl_afp/healthflupakistan_070220125146;_ylt=AhvxpUW.BhNTJxnXXg9dReKJOrgF

25. *February 20, Agence France–Presse* — Laos announces bird flu outbreak. A new outbreak of the H5N1 bird flu virus has been detected in Laos in the first such case in nearly seven

months, according to Lao authorities. Presence of the virus was confirmed after 112 birds were found dead in the village of Nonesavang not far from the capital Vientiane, foreign ministry spokesperson Yong Chanthalangsy said. The last outbreak in the communist country was announced in July.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070220/hl_afp/healthflulaos_070220071628;_ylt=AuIcOiKw7SZseMzZCvClpHGJOrgF

26. February 20, Daily Times (Pakistan) — Pakistani health workers boycott polio vaccination.

Health workers in a Pakistani tribal area on Monday, February 19, announced a boycott of a polio vaccination drive to protest the killing of one of their colleagues last week. Abdul Ghani Marwat, who headed the government's vaccination campaign in Bajaur near the Afghan border, was returning after meeting a local religious leader when his vehicle was hit by a bomb, killing him and injuring three others. Some 1,500 health officials, including doctors, nurses and paramedical staff, on Monday wore black armbands and observed a "complete strike" in the region to protest against the killing, said a Health Department spokesperson. "The strike will be observed till Wednesday, February 21, to protest against the lack of security for health workers in the region," the chairman of the doctors' action committee, Daud Jan, told reporters. "The health workers have also decided to boycott the three-day polio vaccination drive beginning from Tuesday, February 20," he said. Local health officials said that some 140,000 children could be affected by the action.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative: <http://www.polioeradication.org/>

Source: http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2007%5C02%5C20%5Cstory_20-2-2007_pg7_29

27. February 20, New York Times — Growing epidemic of fake drugs. Asia is seeing an "epidemic of counterfeits" of life-saving drugs, experts say, and the problem is spreading. In a recent sampling in Southeast Asia, 53 percent of the antimalarials bought were fakes. Bogus antibiotics, tuberculosis drugs, AIDS drugs and even meningitis vaccines have also been found. Estimates of the deaths caused by fakes run from tens of thousands a year to 200,000 or more. Internationally, a prime target of counterfeiters now is artemisinin, the newest cure for malaria, said Paul Newton of Oxford University's Center for Tropical Medicine. His team, which found that more than half the malaria drugs it bought in Southeast Asia were counterfeit, discovered 12 fakes being sold as artesunate pills made by Guilin Pharma of China. "They're not being produced in somebody's kitchen," Newton said. "They're produced on an industrial scale." China is the source of most of the world's fake drugs, experts say. "The problem is simply so massive that no amount of enforcement is going to stop it," said David Fernyhough, a counterfeiting expert at the Hong Kong offices of Hill & Associates, a risk-management firm hired by Western companies to foil counterfeiters. The distribution networks, mirror the old heroin networks, flowing to Thai distributors with financing and money-laundering arranged in Hong Kong.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/20/science/20coun.html?_r=2&8dpc&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

28. February 18, University of Michigan — Mathematical model predicts cholera outbreaks. A mathematical model of disease cycles developed at the University of Michigan shows promise for predicting cholera outbreaks. In research done over the past seven years, researchers have found evidence that a phenomenon known as the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), a

major source of climate variability from year to year, influences cycles of cholera in Bangladesh. They also showed that the coupling between climate variability and cholera cycles has become stronger in recent decades. Now, researchers are examining the feasibility of using a model developed during that work as an early warning system. "The question we asked was whether, using data from 1966 to 2000, we could have predicted cholera outbreaks over the past five years," said Mercedes Pascual, an associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology. "We also wanted to know whether incorporating ENSO into the model would improve the accuracy of our predictions. Our results showed that for the past five years, we would have done fairly well predicting cholera cases one year ahead, and that the model that uses ENSO makes prediction even more accurate."

Source: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=21954>

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Government Sector

29. *February 16, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-507T: Capitol Visitor Center: Update on Status of Project's Schedule and Cost as of February 16, 2007 (Testimony).**

These remarks are based on the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) review of schedules and financial reports for the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) project and related records maintained by the Architect of the Capitol's (AOC) and its construction management contractor; GAO's observations on the progress of work at the CVC construction site; and discussions with the CVC team (AOC and its major CVC contractors), AOC's Chief Fire Marshal, and representatives from the U.S. Capitol Police. GAO also reviewed AOC's construction management contractor's periodic schedule assessments, potential change order log, and weekly reports on the progress of interior wall and floor stone installation. Since the November 15, 2006, CVC hearing, the CVC team has continued to move the project's construction forward, but because of delays primarily associated with the fire alarm system, AOC's December 2006 schedule shows that the CVC will be available for occupancy in December 2007, almost two months later than previously estimated, and further delays are possible. Based on the estimates reported at the November hearing, GAO believes that, in total, AOC may need about \$15 million more than it has requested to date to complete the project, without provision for risks and uncertainties.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-507T>

30. *February 16, Government Technology* — **Florida Governor Crist participates in statewide school tornado drill.**

Florida Governor Charlie Crist visited Bay Vista Fundamental Elementary School in St. Petersburg to participate in the statewide tornado drill. The drill was part of Hazardous Weather Awareness Week, which educates Floridians and visitors about the importance of being prepared for all weather hazards. Governor Crist was joined by Bay Vista principal Kris Sulte; Ben Nelson, state meteorologist; and a representative from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association "The storms in Central Florida earlier this month and on Christmas Day touched many lives and served as a warning to all Floridians," said Governor Crist. "In schools statewide this morning, students are practicing what to do if a tornado strikes. Knowing how to be safe could save lives."

Source: http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/103969

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *February 20, Salem News (OH)* — **Ohio volunteers attended sessions on disaster preparedness.** Over the course of two consecutive Saturdays, members of the Community Emergency Response Team in Columbiana County, OH, attended sessions on disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue operations, CERT organization and documentation, disaster psychology, and terrorism. A culminating event in the course was held Saturday, February 17, when the volunteers' newly acquired knowledge was put to the test in a mock disaster drill that involved implementation of all parts of their training. Making their way through the darkened EMA building, overcoming obstacles as they worked together to locate and rescue "victims" in various states of injury, the volunteers got a small taste of just what they might be called upon to do someday. Since their final session on Saturday, the 16 trainees became the first official CERT members in the county. The training is provided through a grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety.
Source: <http://www.salemnews.net/News/articles.asp?articleID=4700>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *February 19, US-CERT* — **Technical Cyber Security Alert TA07-050A: Sourcefire Snort DCE/RPC Preprocessor Buffer Overflow.** A stack buffer overflow vulnerability in the Sourcefire Snort DCE/RPC preprocessor could allow an unauthenticated, remote attacker to execute arbitrary code with the privileges of the Snort process. Sourcefire Snort is a widely-deployed, open-source network intrusion detection system (IDS). Snort and its components are used in other IDS products, notably Sourcefire, and Snort is included with a number of operating system distributions. The DCE/RPC preprocessor reassembles fragmented SMB and DCE/RPC traffic before passing data to the Snort rules. The vulnerable code does not properly reassemble certain types of SMB and DCE/RPC packets. An attacker could exploit this vulnerability by sending a specially crafted TCP packet to a host or network monitored by Snort. The DCE/RPC preprocessor is enabled by default, and it is not necessary for an attacker to complete a TCP handshake.
Solution – Upgrade to Snort 2.6.1.3:
http://www.snort.org/docs/release_notes/release_notes_2613.txt
Source: <http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA07-050A.html>

33. *February 16, InformationWeek* — **Princeton professor finds no hardware security in e-voting machine.** A Princeton University computer science professor who bought several Sequoia electronic voting machines off the Internet claims he found no hardware security to prevent someone from accessing the technology that controls the vote counting. Andrew Appel said Friday, February 16, there was nothing in the five Sequoia AVC Advantage machines he bought for \$82 that would stop him from reaching the read-only memory (ROM) chips that hold the program instructions for counting votes. The chips were not soldered to the circuit

boards, and could be easily removed with a screwdriver and replaced with other chips. Therefore, a person who had access to a machine chip could reverse engineer the program instructions and then write his own instructions on a ROM chip available from any computer equipment retailer, according to Appel. If that person had access to a machine in a voting station, he could easily open the computer, pop out the original chip from its socket, and press in the new one. Sequoia, which says it has managed thousands of electronic elections for 14 years in 16 states, said the professor's analysis was incorrect because the machines bought off the Internet are not in a voting station, where election officials implement their own security measures to prevent machine tampering.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/shared/printableArticle.jhtml?articleID=197006847>

- 34. February 16, Government Computer News — NIST releases info security documents.** The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has published two new interagency reports designed to help auditors, inspectors general and senior management understand and evaluate information security programs. NISTIR 7359, titled “Information Security Guide for Government Executives,” is an overview of IT security concepts that senior management should grasp. NISTIR 7358, titled “Program Review for Information Security Management Assistance (PRISMA),” lays out a standardized approach for measuring the maturity of an information security program. PRISMA is a methodology developed by NIST for reviewing complex requirements and posture of a federal information security program. It is intended for use by security personnel, as well as internal reviewers, auditors and IGs. Tools laid out in NISTIR 7358 should help identify program deficiencies, establish baselines, validate corrections and provide supporting information for Federal Information Security Management Act scorecards.

NISTIR 7359: <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistir/ir7359/NISTIR-7359.pdf>

NISTIR 7358: <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistir/ir7358/NISTIR-7358.pdf>

Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/43141-1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

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Nothing to report.

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