



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 February 2007

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 Department of Transportation's Inspector General will review two recent cases of airlines leaving passengers stranded on board aircraft for hours, and then provide specific recommendations for what airlines, airports, and the government can do to prevent future similar events. (See item [10](#))
- The Associated Press reports nearly two–dozen people were being decontaminated Tuesday, February 27, after a white, powdery substance was found on an international student who claimed to have a bomb and threatened "terrorist–type" actions at the University of Missouri–Rolla. (See item [26](#))

### 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](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

**IT and Cyber:** [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

**Other:** [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

## 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 27, Associated Press* — **Nuclear lab operator cited for safety.** The National Nuclear Security Administration proposed a \$1.1 million civil penalty against the former manager of a nuclear weapons lab for safety violations that included a researcher spreading radiological contamination to two other states and workers inhaling radioactive substances. The agency announced the notice of violation Monday, February 26, against the University of California (UC) for infractions that occurred in 2005, when UC was the sole manager of Los

Alamos National Laboratory. The notice spells out 15 separate incidents that violated the Department of Energy's nuclear safety rules. Since federal law exempted the non-profit university from financial liability at the time of the violations, the UC will not have to pay the fine. But the agency warned the lab's new management team — installed less than a year ago, in part to reverse years of security and safety problems — that those days are over. The lab is now managed by Los Alamos National Security LLC, which includes the university, Bechtel Corp., BWX Technologies Inc. and Washington Group International.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Los-Alamos-Violations.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Los-Alamos-Violations.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

2. *February 27, CBC News (Canada)* — **Gasoline shortage spreads to Quebec.** A gasoline shortage that has left many Ontario filling stations out of fuel has spread to Quebec, sending pump prices higher. At least 10 Montreal area Esso gas stations and one in Sherbrooke reported shortages on Monday, February 26. With shortages in supply now cropping up in Quebec, some fuel companies are taking advantage of the situation by hiking prices. The shortages began in Ontario following a February 15 fire at Imperial Oil's Nanticoke refinery. A strike by 2,800 conductors and yard-service workers at CN Rail exacerbated the problem. The workers recently returned to their jobs after a tentative deal was reached. Robert Théberge, a spokesperson with Imperial Oil, did not offer a date on when the supply situation might be rectified. "We hope that by the time the weekend comes, we will have seen a major improvement," he told CBC News.

Source: [http://www.cbc.ca/canada/toronto/story/2007/02/27/gasshortag\\_equebec.html](http://www.cbc.ca/canada/toronto/story/2007/02/27/gasshortag_equebec.html)

3. *February 27, RenewableEnergyAccess* — **Maui, Hawaii, welcomes plans for \$61 million biodiesel plant.** A new biodiesel plant scheduled to come online on the island of Maui, HI, in 2009 may one day run on Hawaii-grown feed stock such as local palm oil, jatropha, kukui nut, coconut or other oil rich crops. The plant, which is being developed by Texas and Arizona developer BlueEarth Biofuels, is expected to produce 40 million gallons per year of biodiesel in a continuous flow refining facility. The proposed plant, which will initially use palm oil imported from around the Pacific Rim and South America from suppliers that practice sustainable palm production, will supply biodiesel for Maui Electric Company's (MECO) diesel generators. "This plant will be a first step toward allowing Maalaea Power Plant, by far the largest electric plant on Maui, to generate all its electricity without fossil fuels. We are now examining our ability to convert all our generators at Maalaea that currently use oil-based diesel to biodiesel, ideally from locally grown crops," said Ed Reinhardt, MECO President.

Source: <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story:jsessionid=A7AF01243A51874E52E3E8FB1800E11D?id=47573>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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

4. *February 27, Desert Sun (CA)* — **Bleach spill sickens nine people.** Nine people were transported to the hospital for evaluation after chemical fumes at the Hilton Garden Inn left them with nausea, headaches and difficulty breathing, according to the Riverside County, CA, Fire Department. The Rancho Mirage hotel, 71-700 Highway 111, was evacuated for more than two hours as a hazardous materials team responded. The fumes came from a bleach spill in

a laundry room. It is not known if the spill was caused by a mechanical error. As many as 20 people were checked by medical staff at the scene. One hotel guest and nine employees were sent to the hospital as a precaution.

Source: <http://www.thedesertsun.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070227/NEWS08/702270328/1015/news08>

5. *February 26, CBS 4 (FL)* — **Tanker crash spills fuel, closes interstate.** Traffic was a nightmare for people heading north on I-95 in Palm Beach County, FL, Monday night, after a fuel tanker crashed and leaked fuel all over the highway. The northbound lanes of the highway were shut down as crews worked to clean up the mess. The 400-gallon fuel leak shut down all northbound lanes of Interstate 95 just north of Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard. Florida Highway Patrol says the leak happened around 7:00 p.m. EST when a car carrier semi trailer truck slammed into the center barrier wall. The southbound lanes remained open.

Source: [http://cbs4.com/local/local\\_story\\_057211022.html](http://cbs4.com/local/local_story_057211022.html)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

6. *March 01, National Defense* — **Little known legislation takes federal contractors by surprise.** Last May, during negotiations between the House and Senate on the Tax Reconciliation Act of 2006, a provision was “slipped in” the final legislation that was not part of the original House or Senate bill, nor was it ever debated in either chamber. The provision, Section 511 of Public Law 109-222, mandates that federal, state and local governments withhold three percent from all payments for goods and services beginning in 2011. This provision will affect payments for government contracts as well as those to any person for a service or product provided to a government entity. This far-reaching new requirement was inserted as a last-minute \$7 billion revenue-raiser in the bill that was signed into law by President Bush last May. There have been no committee hearings held on this idea and its appearance in the final bill surprised many on Capitol Hill. Unless repealed sooner, section 511 will not be effective until January 1, 2011. If implemented, the requirement of Section 511 will have a significant impact on the defense industry, especially small businesses.

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2007/March/GovernmentPolicy.htm>

7. *February 27, Washington Post* — **As military contracts grow, so do protests.** After losing a competition last year to build helicopters for the Air Force, Lockheed Martin and Sikorsky Aircraft chose to do what hundreds of companies do when lucrative contracts don't go their way. They protested the decision. And Monday, February 26, they won. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) ruled the Air Force was "inconsistent" when judging the competition and said the losing bidders should be allowed to vie for the work once again. Lockheed Martin and Sikorsky thus became the latest companies to prevail in appeals, a strategy that is increasingly paying off for government contractors. Contractors filed 1,327 protests with the GAO in 2006 — 10 percent more than in 2002 — and the number of firms taking their cases to court has risen 50 percent. Companies' chances of winning such appeals have doubled, to nearly 30 percent, according to the GAO, the highest in two decades. As the government increasingly outsources its work to private companies, experts say the rise in successful protests, while not huge, suggests problems with the procurement process.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/26/AR2007022601395.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

8. *February 28, Websense* — **Phishing Alert: Hang Seng Bank.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a phishing attack that targets customers of Hang Seng Bank. Users who visit the site will be asked for personal as well as account information, such as ATM pin number, account number, and details. This phishing site is hosted in the United States and was down at the time of this alert.

Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=748>

9. *February 27, Associated Press* — **Former Treasury employee gets nine months in prison.** A former Treasury Department employee was sentenced to nine months in federal prison for stealing more than \$67,000 in uncut sheets of \$100 bills that he tried to launder through casino slot machines. David C. Faison, 56, was also ordered Monday to pay back the government \$37,200 — the amount he fed to slot machines in Atlantic City, West Virginia and Delaware between May and August last year. The rest of the money — nine sheets of partially printed \$100 bills — was recovered at Faison's house in Largo, MD. Prosecutors with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington said Faison hand-cut at least 360 bills, then drove to the casinos. There, he laundered the bills through slot machines that issued tickets redeemable for cash. Surveillance video showed him feeding bills into slot machines, playing for a while, then cashing out for new bills.

Source: [http://www.boston.com/business/technology/biotechnology/articles/2007/02/27/c\\_note\\_thief\\_gets\\_9\\_months\\_in\\_prison/](http://www.boston.com/business/technology/biotechnology/articles/2007/02/27/c_note_thief_gets_9_months_in_prison/)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

10. *February 27, Department of Transportation* — **Inspector General to review why passengers were left stranded on airliners for hours.** Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters on Tuesday, February 27, asked that the Department's independent Inspector General review two recent cases of airlines leaving passengers stranded on board aircraft for hours. The Secretary said in her request that she was concerned about a December incident involving American Airlines during which passengers were forced to remain aboard the aircraft for more than six hours. She also noted that scores of passengers were stranded aboard a JetBlue aircraft during a Valentine's Day snow and ice storm at New York's JFK International Airport. "I have serious concerns about airlines, contingency planning that allows passengers to sit on the tarmac for hours on end," said Secretary Peters. "It is imperative that airlines do everything possible to ensure that situations like these do not occur again." The Secretary asked Department of Transportation Inspector General Calvin Scovel to examine the airlines, customer service commitments, contracts of carriage and policies dealing with extended ground delays aboard aircraft and to provide his assessment on why the American and JetBlue

situations occurred. Secretary Peters requested specific recommendations from the Inspector General for what airlines, airports and the government, including the Department of Transportation, can do to prevent future similar events.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot2307.htm>

- 11. *February 27, Department of Transportation* — FRA denies DM&E Powder River Basin loan application.** Federal Railroad Administrator (FRA) Joseph H. Boardman on Tuesday, February 27, denied a \$2.3 billion Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) loan application from the Dakota, Minnesota, & Eastern (DM&E) railroad concluding it posed an unacceptably high risk to federal taxpayers. Boardman found that while the Powder River Basin project met some of the RRIF program's statutory requirements, there remained too high a risk concerning the railroad's ability to repay the loan even with an appropriate combination of credit risk premiums and collateral. He said he was concerned by several factors, including the DM&E's current highly leveraged financial position; the size of the loan relative to the limited scale of existing DM&E operations; and the possibility that the railroad may not be able to ship the projected amounts of coal needed to generate enough revenue to pay back the loan. Boardman reached his final decision after reviewing the DM&E application using the criteria set by Congress for the RRIF loan program and following an environmental review of the proposed project. DM&E had applied for the RRIF loan to finance construction of a new 280-mile rail line to Wyoming's Powder River Basin coal mines and to reconstruct approximately 600 miles of existing track in South Dakota and Minnesota.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fra0807.htm>

- 12. *February 26, Ukrainian Journal* — Russia, Ukraine consider merging aircraft companies.** Russia and Ukraine are in talks to merge aircraft producing assets in order to create a powerful producer of passenger and cargo planes, Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said Monday, February 26. Yanukovich made these comments as Antonov An-148, a new Ukrainian-designed regional jet, had received a flight certificate that allows selling the plane throughout the former Soviet Union. The An-148 plane is supposed to replace an aging fleet of popular Soviet-designed regional aircraft. The aircraft, which is designed to carry 80 passengers, consumes 30 percent less fuel compared with similar planes currently in operation. At a price of between \$16 million and \$18 million apiece it may prove to be a good buy for regional airlines that are concerned with rising costs of jet fuel. Industry specialists estimate the worldwide market for regional jets at about 500 aircraft within the next seven years, including the market of the former Soviet Union at about 170 jets.

Source: <http://www.ukrainianjournal.com/index.php?w=article&id=4074>

- 13. *February 26, Business Journal* — AirTran: Midwest merger would add jobs.** AirTran Holdings Inc. said a merger with Midwest Air Group Inc. would add 1,100 jobs in Wisconsin and create nearly \$1 billion in economic benefit for the state following its planned expansion of service. The Orlando, FL-based AirTran unveiled details of its post-merger expansion in a filing Monday with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. AirTran is seeking a \$345 million unsolicited buyout of Midwest, which has rejected its offer. AirTran said it expects to add 74 more daily departures and 29 new destinations under its expansion plans following a merger, according to documents. AirTran said a merged airline would maintain training facilities, a call center, aircraft maintenance, and a marketing services center in the Milwaukee area. The 1,100 employees that would be added would boost payroll by more than \$30 million.

AirTran said a merged airline would maintain training facilities, a call center, aircraft maintenance, and a marketing services center in the Milwaukee area. The 1,100 employees that would be added would boost payroll by more than \$30 million. Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee, the hub of Midwest Airlines, would also benefit from \$11 million more in annual airport fees, and more than \$10 million more in passenger facility fees a year.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/070226/1423757.html?.v=1>

- 14. February 23, Associated Press — Dependent on freight railroads, Amtrak struggles with late trains.** The main reason for Amtrak's late trains: In most of the country, the national passenger railroad operates on tracks owned by freight railroads, and the tracks are badly congested. With freight traffic soaring in recent years, Amtrak's never-stellar on-time performance declined to an average of 68 percent last year, its worst showing since the 1970s. Alex Kummant, who took over as Amtrak's president in September, has made improving on-time performance a priority. A former executive at Union Pacific Corp. — a freight railroad long considered hostile to Amtrak — he says the relationship between Amtrak and the freight railroads is inherently complicated. Kummant doesn't blame the freight railroads for most delays, saying they need government help to make the capital investments necessary to cope with soaring volumes. But passenger advocates and others accuse the freight railroads of failing to live up to their end of a bargain struck in 1970, when Congress agreed to let the railroads unload the passenger service they said was dragging them down. In exchange, the railroads were required to give priority on their tracks to trains run by a new national passenger railroad. Amtrak pays modest fees for use of the tracks.

Source: [http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AMTRAK\\_LATE\\_TRAINS?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AMTRAK_LATE_TRAINS?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

- 15. February 27, KXLY (WA) — Police detonate suspicious device in Spokane mailbox.** A chemical device was detonated Friday afternoon, February 23, on the South Hill after a homeowner discovered it in the mailbox. The homeowner opened the mailbox to find two bottles filled with a dark liquid, on it's side with wires cap to cap. The Spokane Bomb Squad was called in and evacuated the neighborhood and the device was safely detonated. What's left of the chemical bomb has been taken by the Spokane Police Department for testing.

Source: [http://www.kxly.com/news/?sect\\_rank=2&section\\_id=560&story\\_id=8789](http://www.kxly.com/news/?sect_rank=2&section_id=560&story_id=8789)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Agriculture Sector**

- 16. February 27, Iowa Ag Connection — Power outages taking toll on Iowa's livestock farmers.** Widespread electrical outages were causing havoc for Iowa's livestock producers, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey said Monday, February 26. He noted that five or six counties reported that 80 percent to 90 percent of their rural areas were without electricity. "We don't have good numbers at this point, but we have heard of cattlemen losing calves because

they lacked heat in their barns because they didn't have power," Northey said. Utility companies were concentrating on getting electricity back on in cities.

Source: <http://www.iowaagconnection.com/story-state.php?Id=187&yr=2007>

17. *February 19, University of Arizona* — **New tomato virus identified in Arizona.** A new plant virus identified in fall 2006 in Arizona threatens not only home gardens, but also the commercial tomato industry in the state. Tomato yellow leaf curl virus, also known as TYLCV, was found in two home gardens in the Phoenix area. Tomato plants infected by TYLCV develop severely curled, yellowing leaves, shattered nodes and short stalks. The virus causes many of the flowers to abort, lowering fruit set and reducing yields. TYLCV first infected tomatoes in the western hemisphere in the Caribbean and along the eastern coasts of both the U.S. and Mexico in the early 90s. It seemed to be contained in those areas until it was introduced in Texas last summer. The source of that outbreak was traced to infected commercial transplants that were possibly infected by virus in plants brought in from out of state. TYLCV has also been tracked from the east coast states of Mexico to the Pacific coast production area in the state of Sinaloa, where the virus ravaged commercial tomato crops throughout the state during spring 2005 and again in fall and spring 2006.

Source: <http://uanews.org/cgi-bin/WebObjects/UANews.woa/8/wa/SRStoryDetails?ArticleID=13597>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Food Sector**

18. *February 27, Associated Press* — **Salmonella-tainted peanut butter recalled in 60 countries.** Tainted peanut butter that caused salmonella in 41 U.S. states also was sold in more than 60 other countries, the manufacturer says. It was sold in Iraq, Iceland, India, American Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Netherlands Antilles, South Korea, Singapore, Brazil, Belize, Africa, Europe, and South America. Stephanie Childs, a spokesperson for the manufacturer, ConAgra Foods Inc., said Monday, February 26, that word of the problem with the tainted peanut butter has gone out everywhere peanut butter is sold under the Peter Pan and Great Value labels.

Source: <http://manufacturing.net/article/CA6419774.html>

19. *February 26, Associated Press* — **U.S. food safety inspections languishing.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is conducting just half the food safety inspections it did three years ago. Between 2003 and 2006, FDA food safety inspections dropped 47 percent, according to a database analysis of federal records by The Associated Press. The analysis also showed there are 12 percent fewer FDA employees in field offices who concentrate on food issues, and safety tests for U.S.-produced food have dropped nearly 75 percent. After the September 11 attacks, the FDA, at the urging of Congress, increased the number of food inspectors and inspections amid fears that the nation's food system was vulnerable to terrorists. Inspectors and inspections spiked in 2003, but now both have fallen enough to erase the gains. The FDA says it is concentrating its efforts on areas where the potential threat to the public's health is greatest. "We're applying resources to targeted areas," FDA commissioner Andrew von Eschenbach said. "So in a way, it's not a matter of 'Are you inspecting one out of 100 or 10 out of 100?' The real issue is if you can define risk. Are you applying the 10 inspectors to the 10 areas of concern?"

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/HEALTH/02/26/food.safety.ap/index.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Water Sector**

**20. February 26, Associated Press — Yangtze drought cuts into water for one million.** Falling water levels in China's Yangtze River have left one million people short of drinking water, state media reported Monday, February 26. Shapingba Waterworks, one of the largest suppliers of drinking water to the industrial southwestern city of Chongqing, said only one of 10 pipes used to pump water from the Yangtze was in operation. The local water bureau said water levels in the Yangtze and Jialing rivers have declined sharply because of a lack of rainfall, which followed a severe drought last summer. The problem is expected to continue until the rainy season begins in May. China suffers from a water shortage in the northern part of the country, but droughts have also hit other areas hard. Last summer's drought in the southwest was the worst in 50 years, causing more than \$1.1 billion in economic losses. It affected parts of Chongqing and neighboring Sichuan province, leaving 18 million people without adequate drinking water.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/26/AR2007022600754.html>

**21. February 26, University of Delaware — Technology removes viruses from drinking water.** University of Delaware researchers have developed a nonchlorine-based technology that can remove harmful microorganisms, including viruses, from drinking water. The technology incorporates highly reactive iron in the filtering process to deliver a chemical “knock-out punch” to a host of pathogens, from E. coli to rotavirus. The new technology could improve the safety of drinking water around the globe, particularly in developing countries. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over a billion people lack access to safe water supplies. Four billion cases of diarrheal disease occur worldwide every year, resulting in 1.8 million deaths. Eighty-eight percent of this disease is attributed to unsafe water supplies, inadequate sanitation and hygiene. In the U.S., viruses are the target pathogenic microorganisms in the new Ground Water Rule under the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Act, which took effect on January 8. Viruses are difficult to eliminate in drinking water using current methods because they are far smaller than bacteria, highly mobile, and resistant to chlorination, which is the dominant disinfection method used in the U.S., according to the researchers.

Source: <http://www.udel.edu/PR/UDaily/2007/feb/viruses022607.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Public Health Sector**

**22. February 27, Agence France–Presse — Laos confirms first human case of bird flu.** A 15-year-old girl from Laos has become the country's first confirmed human case of the H5N1 strain of bird flu, the communist government and World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday, February 27. Medical samples taken from the teenager "tested positive for H5N1 in

two laboratories in Thailand, according to WHO procedures," the Lao health ministry and WHO said in a joint statement. The girl, now reported to be in a stable condition in a Thai hospital, lived in a suburb of the capital, Vientiane, where an outbreak of H5N1 in poultry was confirmed on February 7, the statement said.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070227/hl\\_afp/laoshealthflu\\_070227121720;\\_ylt=Ar2RdrQXNrv4jy7XVgE5c16JOrgF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070227/hl_afp/laoshealthflu_070227121720;_ylt=Ar2RdrQXNrv4jy7XVgE5c16JOrgF)

23. *February 27, Agence France–Presse* — **Kuwait finds new cases of bird flu.** Kuwait has confirmed seven more cases in birds of the H5N1 avian flu strain, bringing the total number to 39, the health ministry said on Tuesday, February 27. "Four chickens, two turkeys and a falcon that were found dead at two locations were found to be infected with the avian flu," ministry spokesperson Ahmed al–Shatti said. He said all the cases detected so far were the H5N1 strain. He added that 58 people who had been in contact with the infected birds had all tested negative for the disease. The authorities have closed the zoo and the capital's bird market, and imposed a ban on all imports or exports of poultry products and live birds, including falcons.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070227/wl\\_mideast\\_afp/healthflukuwait\\_070227150815](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070227/wl_mideast_afp/healthflukuwait_070227150815)

24. *February 27, Associated Press* — **Health experts to weigh bird–flu vaccine.** The U.S. government is weighing approval of a bird flu vaccine that a new analysis found is even less effective than previously thought. Sanofi Aventis SA believes the benefits of the vaccine outweigh its risks. However, in a clinical trial, the two–shot series appears to provide protection to just 45 percent of adults who received the highest dose. An earlier, interim analysis of the same study suggested it prompted a protective immune response in 54 percent of patients, when measured 28 days after getting the second shot. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said the 452–person study showed the vaccine against the bird–flu strain called H5N1 is indeed safe, but it remained unclear whether it would be effective. The FDA is asking a panel whether Sanofi provided enough data to back approval of its bird flu vaccine or if more are needed. The vaccine is the first against the H5N1 strain to seek FDA approval.

Source: [http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/02/27/ap/health/mainD8NH\\_UQ581.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/02/27/ap/health/mainD8NH_UQ581.shtml)

25. *February 26, United Press International* — **Resistant tuberculosis spreads in Africa.** A deadly form of tuberculosis — resistant to virtually all drugs — has spread across South Africa and continues to be rapidly fatal to people living with the virus that cause AIDS. The strain had been reported in all nine provinces of South Africa, expanding from an outbreak at one local hospital to a nationwide threat. Last August researchers sent shudders through the World AIDS Conference when they reported an outbreak of extensively drug–resistant TB killed 52 of 53 patients who were co–infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS. Those cases were reported in one rural hospital in KwaZulu province in South Africa. Since then the disease has made its way across the African nation, and it has not lost its virulence. Most of the patients who are co–infected with the extensively drug–resistant TB and HIV die within a month. And when the disease is spread to others it is spread as a virtually untreatable disease. The outbreak of extensively drug–resistant tuberculosis is not limited to South Africa, said Paul Nunn, director of the Stop TB program of the World Health Organization. He estimated that worldwide there are likely 16,000 deaths that are caused by infection with the extensively drug–resistant TB.

Source: [http://news.monstersandcritics.com/health/features/article\\_1](http://news.monstersandcritics.com/health/features/article_1)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Government Sector**

**26. *February 27, Associated Press* — Police: Depressed student said he had bomb, anthrax.**

Nearly two-dozen people were being decontaminated Tuesday, February 27, after a white, powdery substance was found on a student who claimed to have a bomb and threatened "terrorist-type" actions at the University of Missouri-Rolla, officials said. The man, described as a graduate student depressed about his grades, also claimed to have anthrax, according to police. School officials said "possible bomb materials" were found when he was taken into custody. Twenty-three people were sent through a decontamination process Tuesday morning outside the university's civil engineering building, where a police standoff with the student had started around 2:30 a.m. CST. Acting Police Chief Mark Kearsse said that when police arrived the student was holding a knife and that he held up a bag and said: "This is a bomb." He also claimed to have anthrax. Police used a stun gun to subdue him and found a note in which the student threatened to destroy the building, Kearsse said. The man's identity and nationality were not released, though school spokesperson Lance Feyh said he was an international student.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/02/27/missouri.standoff.ap/index.html>

**27. *February 27, Associated Press* — Capitol Hill office building evacuates.** The Longworth House Office Building was evacuated for a short time Tuesday, February 27, after witnesses saw signs of smoke. It reopened about 30 minutes later, said Sgt. Kimberly Schneider, a Capitol Police spokesperson. She said there were initial reports of smoke in the credit union. Fire authorities saw some signs of smoke in a nearby computer room, but the cause was not immediately known, she said.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2007-02-27-longworth\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2007-02-27-longworth_x.htm)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Emergency Services Sector**

**28. *February 26, Federal Computer Week* — Indiana DHS to use software to better track emergency response.** The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (DHS) plans to deploy software to track the training, skills and certifications of emergency response workers statewide. The software will let the department keep tabs on training statewide for fire, Hazmat, emergency management, emergency medical, search and rescue, and other first responders. The various modules of the software suite include automated scheduling, automated testing, in-service tracking of training records, and qualification and certification tracking. The software provides a consolidated recordkeeping system. Organizations lacking such a system may use a mix of spreadsheets and word processing documents to manage training and certification.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article97766-02-26-07-Web&printLayout>

29.

*February 26, Washington Technology* — **First responders at Dallas Love Field find software well-suited to their interoperable communications needs.** Like many other entities trying to upgrade security after the 2001 terrorist attacks, officials at Dallas Love Field Airport in Dallas, TX, faced a daunting problem: Various agencies used communications equipment that could not let them talk to one another. Several agencies work at the airport, including the city's police, fire and aviation departments, in addition to the Transportation Security Administration and the Homeland Security Department. In all, nine Dallas-area agencies are participating in a communications interoperability project. Because so many agencies are involved, and the program is still growing, a solution that allowed the various departments to continue using their existing radios, personal digital assistants and other devices was a major requirement. To make that happen, Dallas officials selected a software-based system that creates a central network that incompatible technologies can connect to so they can interoperate.

Source: [http://www.washingtontechnology.com/print/22\\_03/30176-1.html](http://www.washingtontechnology.com/print/22_03/30176-1.html)

**30. *February 26, Associated Press* — Five states preparing for summer disaster drill.**

Emergency officials across West Tennessee are preparing for a multi-state emergency drill this summer. The exercise, scheduled for June, will test their response in the event of a serious disaster like an earthquake along the New Madrid fault. The seismic area is a series of faults that run along border between Arkansas and Tennessee. Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and officials in 21 West Tennessee counties, as well as their counterparts in Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky and Illinois, will be involved. Obion County emergency management director Mike George said communicating without the use of telephones and cell phones could be the biggest difficulty. The county has purchased satellite phones and a new radio system to get ready for the drill and a real emergency.

Source: <http://www.newschannel5.com/Global/story.asp?S=6142126>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

**31. *February 27, CNET News.com* — Storm Worm variant targets blogs, bulletin boards.** A variant of the Trojan horse attacks known as Storm Worm emerged Monday, February 26, targeting people who post blogs and notices to bulletin boards. Storm Worm emerged in January and raged across the globe in the form of e-mails with attachments that, when opened, loaded malicious software onto victims' PCs, commandeering the machines so they could be used for further attacks. The new Storm Worm variant attacks the machines of unsuspecting users when they open an e-mail attachment, click on a malicious e-mail link or visit a malicious site, said Dmitri Alperovitch, principal research scientist at Secure Computing. But the twist comes when these people later post blogs or bulletin board notices. The software will insert into each of their postings a link to a malicious Website, said Alperovitch, who rates the threat as "high." The danger in this most recent case, he added, is that the user is actually posting a legitimate blog or bulletin board notice, unaware that a malicious link has been slipped into the text of the posting.

Source: [http://news.com.com/Storm+Worm+variant+targets+blogs%2C+bulletin+boards/2100-7349\\_3-6162623.html?tag=cd.lede](http://news.com.com/Storm+Worm+variant+targets+blogs%2C+bulletin+boards/2100-7349_3-6162623.html?tag=cd.lede)

**32.**

*February 26, Federal Computer Week* — **Security, consolidation top CIOs' agendas.** Despite progress on information technology security, agency chief information officers' top priorities and concerns are still meeting statutory and regulatory requirements, ensuring data is secure while also available to meet mission needs, and facilitating overall network defense. A survey of 47 CIOs at 33 organizations in the executive, legislative and judiciary branches issued today by the IT Association of America (ITAA) found cybersecurity policies, management and training have improved in the past year, but the execution of cybersecurity remains a major challenge. ITAA found that many CIOs focus on accomplishing what they have started and not on new projects. Besides IT security and information sharing, CIOs continue to work on the consolidation of back-office and mission-critical systems, enterprise IT management, and the Office of Management and Budget's line of business initiatives. Those are among the CIOs' top challenges, the survey found.

Survey: <http://www.ita.org/newsroom/release.cfm?ID=2424>

Source: <http://fcw.com/article97779-02-26-07-Web>

## Internet Alert Dashboard

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/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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

**33. February 27, Reuters** — **Wal-Mart signs China retail acquisition.** Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's biggest retailer, struck a \$1 billion deal to take over a Chinese rival by 2010, challenging Carrefour as the largest operator of super-centers in booming China. Bentonville, AR-based Wal-Mart said it bought 35 percent of Bounteous Co. Ltd., a deal that could trigger consolidation in China's ferociously competitive \$1 trillion retail market. Under terms of the deal, Wal-Mart said it would buy control of the Taiwan-based chain by 2010 if conditions were met. Bounteous operates 101 hypermarkets in 34 Chinese cities under the Trust-Mart brand. Sources said that while Trust-Mart is loss-making, Wal-Mart was attracted to its large-scale, well-located sites, which are hard to come by in crowded Chinese cities. Wal-Mart already operates 73 stores in China and employs more than 37,000 people there. Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=2907265&Business=true>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## General Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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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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