Daily Highlights

• InformationWeek reports data stolen from TJX has surfaced in Florida, where it's been used by thieves to steal about $8 million in merchandise using the stolen customer data to create dummy credit cards for purchasing Wal−Mart and Sam's Club gift cards. (See item 12)

• The INDYchannel reports an audit of an Indiana state government Website database after someone hacked into the system found that personal information, including Social Security numbers for 71,000 health−care workers, was accessed. (See item 14)

• The Department of Transportation has released a new safety advisory for air travelers to reduce the risk of fires on aircraft from batteries used in many cell phones, laptops, cameras, and other portable electronic devices. (See item 18)

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. March 22, Platts Energy Bulletin — Imports of LNG supplies could reach record levels this summer. Imports of liquefied natural gas into the U.S. could reach record levels this summer as significant new global supplies come online and strong domestic prices pull the supply this way, analysts said. RBC Capital Markets analyst Scott Hanold said a "perfect storm" is brewing
for U.S. LNG imports to reach three billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) and stay there through the end of summer when the Asian winter market pulls these volumes out of the U.S. market. Ron Denhardt of Strategic Energy and Economic Research, said he expects LNG imports to rise 27 percent, or 2.2 Bcf/d, over the last non−heating season as supplies increase from Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, more of Nigerian and Trinidad and Tobago exports are expected to come to the U.S. as world prices adjust to lower demand growth in Asia and Western Europe. Equatorial Guinea LNG, which is expected to go to Spain, also could free up LNG from Trinidad or Egypt when it starts up in the first quarter of 2007. New supplies also are expected in 2008 from Qatargas II, Yemen, and Russia's Sakhalin II, Denhardt noted. Source: http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/6368421.xml?sub=Natural%20Gas&p=Natural%20Gas/News

2. March 21, Portland Business Journal (OR) — Study refutes belief wind can be main power source. Though several wind power projects are being developed throughout the Northwest, wind power alone will be unable to meet the region's future power needs, according to a report released Wednesday, March 21, by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and Bonneville Power Administration. The Northwest Wind Integration Action Plan was created by a group of energy experts who were tasked to study all aspects of how to make wind power fit into the region's existing power system. The group determined the region's existing power system can most likely accommodate the 6,000 megawatts of wind energy anticipated by 2024. However, the group said, there will be costs to incorporate these new wind sources as well as a need for additional investments in high−voltage transmission lines, new regulatory and utility cost recovery policies, and recognition in the Northwest that wind by itself cannot meet the region's future power needs. Plan: http://onlinepressroom.net/bonneville/ Source: http://portland.bizjournals.com/portland/stories/2007/03/19/daily20.html

3. March 19, Associated Press — Propane dealers learn from shortage. A propane shortage that brought the state of Maine precariously close to the tipping point is quickly fading from memory. Propane dealers, however, are hoping to learn from the challenge presented by a perfect storm of events — a rail strike, tanker ship delays and frigid temperatures — that created a crisis for two weeks in February. "Those suppliers who are 100 percent rail will probably diversify their supply," said Jamie Py of the Maine Oil Dealers Association. "Smaller− and medium−sized dealers are looking to put in storage to prevent these situations." Maine propane dealers had to take steps to control their inventory either by making partial deliveries or skipping homes whose tanks were more than half full. In some instances, dealers looked to competitors to provide enough propane to at least make partial deliveries to customers. In Bangor, Robert Cort from Maine Energy said, "You have to put a blend in your basket that involves both rail and bringing propane in by ship." Augusta Fuel Co. plans to double its propane storage capacity this summer, adding an additional 30,000−gallon propane storage tank. Source: http://www.bangordailynews.com/news/t/news.aspx?articleid=147628&zoneid=500

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4. March 22, PhillyBurbs (PA) — Chemical leak prompts officials to urge residents to remain indoors. People were warned to stay indoors and a school was evacuated after a pipeline leak Wednesday, March 21, at a Rohm and Haas plant in Bristol Township, PA. The chemicals didn’t catch fire. No one was hurt in the incident that sent the liquid's sweet, cheap perfume–like smell into parts of Croydon. Employees of the plant also evacuated, and production involving that pipeline was shutdown. The chemical is called ethyl acrylate, which is used to make paints and polishes stick better to walls and floors. After being alerted of the mid–morning accident, township fire Marshal Kevin Dippolito sent recorded messages via telephone to about 150 residents warning them to shut their doors and windows. Mary Devine Elementary School in Bristol Township voluntarily evacuated its students.


Under a newly proposed rule, contractors would have to report specific subcontract awards to a public database to assess the quality of the reported information, according to a notice in the Wednesday, March 21, Federal Register. The Civilian Agency Acquisition and Defense Acquisition Regulations councils recommended the rule in the Federal Acquisition Regulation to coincide with requirements in the Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act, which was signed into law in 2006. The Office of Management and Budget is constructing a searchable Website where the public can inspect the information, and the law requires the pilot program for collecting contract and grant award information. The legislation mandates that the program gauge how well agencies collect subcontracting award data. However, the councils said in the notice that the government has no way to verify the submitted data, nor does it guarantee the information. The proposed rule applies to contracts of $500 million or more and requires reports on all first–tier subcontractor awards of more than $1 million. The pilot program will begin as late as July 1 and end no later than January 1, 2009. Comment period on the proposed rule ends May 21, the notice states.

Federal Register notice: [http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/07–1318.htm](http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/07–1318.htm)


6. March 22, Government Accountability Office — GAO–07–444: Operation Iraqi Freedom: DoD Should Apply Lessons Learned Concerning the Need for Security over Conventional Munitions Storage Sites to Future Operations Planning (Report). Following the invasion of Iraq in March 2003 — known as Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) — concerns were raised about how the Department of Defense (DoD) secured Iraqi conventional munitions storage sites during and after major combat operations. Because of the broad interest in this issue, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducted this work under the Comptroller General’s authority to conduct evaluations. This report examines (1) the security provided by U.S. forces over Iraqi conventional munitions storage sites and (2) DoD actions to mitigate risks associated with an adversary’s conventional munitions storage sites for future operations on the basis of OIF lessons learned. To address these objectives, GAO reviewed OIF war plans, joint doctrine and policy, and intelligence reports, and interviewed senior–level DoD officials.
GAO recommends that the Secretary of Defense direct the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to (1) conduct a theaterwide survey and risk assessment on unsecured conventional munitions in Iraq, (2) report related risk mitigation strategies and results to Congress, and (3) incorporate conventional munitions storage site security as a strategic planning factor into all levels of planning policy and guidance. DoD partially concurred with our recommendations.


7. March 22, Government Accountability Office — GAO−07−639T: Operation Iraqi Freedom: DoD Should Apply Lessons Learned Concerning the Need for Security over Conventional Munitions Storage Sites to Future Operations Planning (Testimony). The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on lessons learned concerning the need for security over conventional munitions storage sites which provides the basis for this testimony. Following the invasion of Iraq in March 2003 — known as Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) — concerns were raised about how the Department of Defense (DoD) secured Iraqi conventional munitions storage sites during and after major combat operations. This testimony addresses (1) the security provided by U.S. forces over Iraqi conventional munitions storage sites and (2) DoD actions to mitigate risks associated with an adversary’s conventional munitions storage sites for future operations on the basis of OIF lessons learned. To address these objectives, GAO reviewed OIF war plans, joint doctrine and policy, intelligence reports, and interviewed senior-level DoD officials. The report GAO released recommends that the Secretary of Defense direct the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to (1) conduct a theaterwide survey and risk assessment on unsecured conventional munitions in Iraq, (2) report related risk mitigation strategies and results to Congress, and (3) incorporate conventional munitions storage site security as a strategic planning factor into all levels of planning policy and guidance. DoD partially concurred with our recommendations.

8. March 22, Government Accountability Office — GAO−07−656T: Defense Acquisitions: Analysis of Costs for the Joint Strike Fighter Engine Program (Testimony). The Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) is the linchpin of future Department of Defense (DoD) tactical aircraft modernization efforts because of the sheer size of the program and its envisioned role as the replacement for hundreds of aircraft that perform a wide variety of missions in the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. DoD implemented the JSF alternate engine development program in 1996 to provide competition between two engine manufacturers in an effort to achieve cost savings, improve performance, and gain other benefits. This testimony focuses on the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) cost analysis performed in response to Section 211 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007. GAO examined the following areas: (1) sole-source and competitive scenarios for development, production, and sustainment of the JSF engine, (2) results of past engine programs and their related strategies, and (3) impact on the industrial base in the event of the complete cancellation of the JSF alternate engine program. DoD did not provide comments on our findings.

9.
March 22, Government Accountability Office — GAO–07–637T: Stabilizing Iraq: Preliminary Observations on Budget and Management Challenges of Iraq's Security Ministries (Testimony). In November 2005, the President issued the National Strategy for Victory in Iraq. According to the strategy, victory will be achieved when Iraq is peaceful, united, stable, secure, well integrated into the international community, and a full partner in the global war on terror. To help Iraq achieve this, the U.S. is, among other efforts, helping strengthen the capabilities of the Iraq Ministries of Defense and Interior (police forces) so they can assume greater responsibility for the country’s security. The United States has provided about $15.4 billion to develop Iraqi security forces and institutions. In this testimony, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) discusses preliminary observations on (1) U.S. and Iraqi funding to develop and sustain the Iraqi security forces, and (2) key challenges the United States and Iraq face in improving the security ministries’ operations and management. This statement is based on prior GAO reports, recent fieldwork in Iraq and Department of Defense, U.S. Treasury and Embassy budget documents. GAO added information to this statement in response to comments from Multinational Security Transition Command–Iraq. GAO completed the work in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.


Banking and Finance Sector

10. *March 22, Bloomberg* — Comptroller says abusive loans fueled subprime crisis. "Abusive" lending and fraud led to a surge in subprime mortgage defaults, a top U.S. bank regulator told senators investigating the subprime mortgage market. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) is working to correct lending standards that have slipped, Emory Rushton the agency's senior deputy comptroller, told the Senate Banking Committee in Washington, DC, Thursday, March 22. “It is clear that some subprime lenders have engaged in abusive practices, and we share the committee's strong concerns about them,” Rushton said in prepared testimony. The OCC and Federal Reserve are among regulators chastised by Congress for enforcement lapses as delinquencies climb and threaten to worsen a housing recession that's weakening the economy. The deteriorating subprime mortgage market — loans to people with poor or limited credit histories — has pushed some lenders out of business and forced firms to tighten standards. More than two−dozen mortgage companies have shut, cut or sold operations since the start of 2006, and rising defaults have prompted calls in Congress for legislation.


11. *March 21, Pacific Business News (HI)* — State of Hawaii sues former title company executive over dumped records. Stephen Marn, who paid a handyman to take boxes of confidential records to the dump, has been formally accused of violating Hawaii consumer protection laws. The Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) sued the Hawaii Kai resident Wednesday, March 21, after its Office of Consumer Protection investigated. The boxes, found by PBN Editor Jim Kelly in a Niu Valley recycling dumpster, contained thousands of documents on hundreds of Hawaii residents, including names, addresses, Social Security numbers and other personal information. Marn was the president of Fidelity Escrow Services Corp., which went out of business in 2004. The DCCA alleges that
Marn broke not one but several state laws, including the new "Dumpster-diving law" that impels companies to dispose of records by burning or shredding them. It calls for fines of up to $2,500 per violation.


12. **March 21, InformationWeek — Stolen data leads to Florida fraud.** Data stolen from TJX has surfaced in Florida, where it's been used to help thieves steal about $8 million in merchandise from Wal-Mart stores. The thieves used the stolen TJX customer data to create dummy credit cards for purchasing Wal-Mart and Sam's Club gift cards, and then used those to hit stores in 50 of Florida's 67 counties. The Gainesville Police Department and Florida Department of Law Enforcement investigation began in November. After analysis of transaction records and video footage of the perpetrators, investigators arrested six suspects and issued warrants for the arrest of four more. Those arrested were charged with organized scheme to defraud, a first-degree felony. The fraud ring was uncovered after Wal-Mart employees became suspicious of certain shoppers who were using multiple gift cards---many of them worth $400---to pay for their purchases. The $400 denomination was used because gift cards valued at $500 or more require the customer to provide some form of identification.


13. **March 21, Reuters — U.S. group sees China getting tougher on piracy.** China is doing a better job fighting piracy and could announce new initiatives early next week when it hosts a global conference on protecting intellectual property rights, a U.S. business leader said on Wednesday, March 21. "I do think the Chinese are going to want to put a strong face forward. ... I wouldn't be surprised by new commitments to achieve their obligations under the WTO," Thomas Donohue, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, told reporters before a trip to China for the meeting. U.S. music, movie and book publishers estimate they lose billions of dollars of sales annually in China because of piracy. Other American companies are also hurt by Chinese sales of counterfeit goods ranging from auto parts to drugs. Many members of Congress have called for the U.S. Trade Representative's Office to file a complaint against China for piracy at the World Trade Organization. Donohue said he opposed that move as long as China was making progress on the issue.

Source: [http://www.reuters.com/article/industryNews/idUSN21444766200 70322](http://www.reuters.com/article/industryNews/idUSN21444766200 70322)

14. **March 21, INDYchannel.com (IN) — Indiana notifies 71,000 workers of Website breach.** An audit of an Indiana state government Website database after someone hacked into the system found that personal information, including Social Security numbers for 71,000 health-care workers, was accessed, officials said Tuesday, March 20. The information was accessed January 3 at the same time the hacker accessed credit card information of about 5,600 people and businesses. There have been no reports of anyone's information being abused, but the state Office of Technology sent letters out to the 71,000 certified nurse aides, qualified medication aides and home health aides last week warning them to review their credit report and seek a fraud alert, said Chris Cotterill, the director of IN.gov, the state's Website.

15. **March 21, Federal Trade Commission** — FTC testifies on identity theft and social security numbers. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) on Wednesday, March 21, told the Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Homeland Security that “the government and the private sector must continue to work together to reduce the opportunities for thieves to obtain consumers’ personal information and make it more difficult for thieves to misuse that information if they obtain it.” Lydia Parnes, Director of the FTC’s Bureau of Consumer Protection, said government and the business community should evaluate whether they need to collect and maintain the data they have about consumers, better—protect the data that they do possess, and develop better ways to authenticate customers to keep identity thieves from using the information they steal. The testimony notes that misuse of consumers’ social security numbers can facilitate identity theft. “To prevent misuse of SSNs, improved methods of authenticating consumers can be promoted so that, even if the SSN falls into the hands of an identity thief, that SSN is less valuable.” The FTC will host an authentication workshop on April 23 and 24, 2007.


**Transportation and Border Security Sector**

16. **March 22, Associated Press** — Flight makes unexpected stop to remove unruly passenger.

A United Airlines flight made an unexpected stop in Salt Lake City to get rid of a rowdy passenger from Florida who attacked his son, authorities said. Kenneth R. Bullard, who is from the Jacksonville area, was charged with assault and interference with a flight crew after the incident Friday aboard Flight 439 to Oregon from Chicago. Bullard, who had been drinking alcohol before and during the flight, became "belligerent ... and engaged in a physical altercation causing the attendants to physically restrain him," FBI agent Martin Schwarz said in an affidavit to support the charges. The son was moved but Bullard attacked him again about 15 minutes later, Schwarz said. Finally, three other passengers helped flight attendants put Bullard back in his seat, the agent said. The pilot landed the plane in Salt Lake City where officers removed Bullard and arrested him.


17. **March 22, Associated Press** — Knife found on flight from Los Angeles to Portland.

Officials questioned passengers and crew on a Horizon Air flight out of Los Angeles–Ontario International Airport because a passenger reported finding a knife after landing in Portland, OR. Investigators were trying to determine how the knife made it past security and onto the plane, Horizon Air spokesperson Jen Boyer said Tuesday, March 20. Boyer said a passenger on the Monday afternoon flight, who claimed he found the knife between the planes seats, handed it to a crewmember. Transportation Security Administration spokesperson Jennifer Peppin said the knife may have somehow slipped past screeners in Ontario, or an employee working on the plane may have left it behind.


18. **March 22, Department of Transportation** — Safe transportation of batteries and battery–powered devices by airline passengers and crew. Air travelers flying with the kinds of batteries used in many cell phones, laptops, cameras and other portable electronic devices
should take precautions to reduce the risk of fires on aircraft, according to a new safety advisory released by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). Passengers should, according to the advisory, keep spare batteries in their original retail packaging; keep loose batteries covered with insulating tape to protect them from contact with metal objects; place each battery in its own protective case, plastic bag, or package; and pack spare batteries in carry–on baggage, rather than checked baggage. Also, passengers should use only chargers designed for the battery type and take steps to prevent crushing, puncturing or dropping batteries. The agency said it was concerned by two recent incidents on board commercial aircraft. On February 10, a fire broke out in the overhead baggage compartment on a JetBlue flight. Preliminary investigation results indicate one or more loose batteries may have been the source of the fire. On March 18, PHMSA received reports that a battery had overheated or ignited on board an American Airlines aircraft flying from Argentina. In each case, airline employees responded quickly, extinguishing the fire and safely landing the aircraft.
For more information: http://safetravel.dot.gov  
Source: http://www.dot.gov/affairs/phmsa0307.htm

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

Agriculture Sector

19. March 20, United Press International — Probiotic bacteria cuts salmonella in pigs. Irish scientists have found treatment with probiotic bacteria can reduce Salmonella infections in pigs. Probiotics are live microorganisms believed to promote a health benefit in the host when administered in controlled amounts. In the study, researchers divided pigs into two groups, one of which received milk containing five lactic acid bacteria probiotic strains and the other, serving as a control group, received regular milk for 30 days. Following six days of treatment the pigs were exposed orally with Salmonella bacteria and their health was then monitored for 23 days. The pigs receiving probiotic treatment showed reduced incidence, severity, and duration of diarrhea, as well as significantly lower numbers of Salmonella in fecal samples 15 days post–infection.

Food Sector

20. March 22, Associated Press — South Korea, U.S. fail to resolve differences over beef. South Korea and the U.S. failed to bridge gaps during talks on beef and agriculture, an official said Thursday, March 22, pushing off the task to high–level negotiations next week aimed at sealing
a free trade deal. The talks were aimed at narrowing differences in the agricultural component of free trade negotiations between the two countries, as well as over U.S. beef, which has been absent from South Korean markets for more than three years due to fears of mad cow disease. Source: http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/03/22/asia/AS−GEN−SKorea−US−Beef.php

21. March 21, CBC News (Canada) — Ontario man charged in baby formula tampering. A 23-year-old man has been charged after parents found there was something wrong with cans of baby formula they bought in Ontario, Canada. The suspect turned himself in Tuesday, March 20, after police received information that someone bought three cans of Nestle powdered baby formula in February and later returned them partially filled with flour, said Kingston police Det. Const. Steve Koopman. "That formula was used by himself, then it was returned obviously with the flour as a disguise, with the seal still intact on the top, so he would receive financial remuneration for the return," Koopman said. Investigators said even though the person who tampered with the cans was not deliberately trying to poison children, the incident is being treated very seriously.

Water Sector

Nothing to report.

Public Health Sector

22. March 22, Salem News (OH) — School, health officials still looking for cause of rash. Ohio's West Branch School District is still scrambling to find a reason for the itchy, red rash that appeared in a number of their students last week. On Wednesday, March 21, the complex housing Beloit Elementary and West Branch Middle Schools remained closed for the second day in a row to allow state health officials and state Environmental Protection Agency personnel survey and test the building. The district continues to work with various health officials to rule out possible causes for the rash. They are also seeking to prevent further outbreaks of what is being categorized as a non-contagious contact dermatitis that responds well to topical treatments. Health officials are looking at not only the building environment, but individuals in order to seek out any commonalities.
Source: http://www.salemnews.net/news/articles.asp?articleID=5195

23. March 22, Reuters — Tuberculosis is major problem in prisons: Red Cross. Tuberculosis is a major health problem in prisons, where new strains that are hard to treat are spreading rapidly, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Thursday, March 22. The humanitarian group, which provides aid in conflict zones and visits prisoners around the world, said the contagious disease is up to 100 times more prevalent in prisons than in the general public. Prisons in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Africa have been fighting tuberculosis for several years, but an increase in cases of drug-resistant types of the disease has made eradication more difficult, the ICRC said.
24. **March 22, CBS 5 (CA) — Illegal bushmeat trade thriving in Bay area.** The illegal import of African bushmeat is a growing trade. Federal agents are confiscating thousands of pounds of animals including African rats, bats and great ape parts smuggled into the U.S. Tourists bringing in bushmeat in suitcases are being caught at airports at least once a week. And boxloads of illegal cargoes of bushmeat are discovered. "Bushmeat poses a risk to human health," said Jennifer McQuiston, with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Government scientists say bushmeat carry potentially deadly diseases that have already spread from animals to humans. "Some of these things include ebola or monkey pox," McQuiston said. "Or things as mild as food–borne illnesses such as salmonella or E.coli."

25. **March 21, Associated Press — Inmates sickened at Las Vegas jail.** A norovirus outbreak sickened at least 150 inmates and seven guards at the Las Vegas, NV, jail, authorities said Wednesday, March 21, as crews tried to decontaminate the building. Most of those sickened complained of stomach–related distress, said Brian Labus, senior epidemiologist with the Southern Nevada Health District. Many of the sickened inmates were kitchen workers, police said, leading officials to think the virus might have been spread throughout the detention center by contaminated food or trays. Labus said the outbreak may be related to a norovirus wave in the Las Vegas area that he estimated had sickened thousands of people since December.
Source: [http://www.sfgate.com/cgi–bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/03/21/national/a113823D83.DTL&type=politics](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi–bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/03/21/national/a113823D83.DTL&type=politics)

26. **March 19, Scientific American — Germs tricked into absorbing wrong element.** Antibiotics are starting to run out steam. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) estimates that 70 percent of bacteria responsible for infections contracted in–hospital have become immune to the antibiotics once able to kill them. The worry is that these treatments will eventually become impotent against powerful new bacterial superstrains that are emerging. As a result, scientists have been trying to find potential new drugs to replace weakening ones. Researchers have come up with a possible substitute that utilizes the metal gallium to mimic iron needed by bacteria need to survive. Rather than a drug designed to attack the bacteria itself, gallium boosts of the body's own natural defenses by fooling bacteria into thinking they are well–nourished. "This approach might intensify a stress already imposed on a bacteria by host defenses," says study co–author Pradeep Singh, assistant professor of medicine and microbiology at the University of Washington School of Medicine.
Source: [http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?chanID=sa003&articleID=6B3F00F9–E7F2–99DF–30001FE0989D79B5](http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?chanID=sa003&articleID=6B3F00F9–E7F2–99DF–30001FE0989D79B5)

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**Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *March 22, Martha* — **Hospital agrees on air evacuation protocols.** A memorandum of agreement finalized February 14, among the Coast Guard, Boston MedFlight, Martha's Vineyard Hospital, and Nantucket Cottage Hospital describes the Coast Guard's role in providing medical transfers from the island hospitals to the mainland. The agreement is designed to improve communication and coordination between Boston MedFlight, a private air ambulance service, the Coast Guard, and the hospitals when medical transfers are needed. It places reliance on the Coast Guard only for the most serious incidents and when there are no other alternative services available. Occasionally weather conditions exceed the criteria under which Boston MedFlight may provide services to the islands. However, Federal Aviation Administration regulations are waived for the Coast Guard in emergency cases. The Medevac agreement states that emergency medical service coordinators may request Coast Guard assistance to transport patients needing emergency medical services from one medical facility to another. Both hospitals agree to provide specialized medical equipment and personnel needed for medical care during the transport.


28. *March 21, United Press International* — **Test of Bay Area dispatch network launched.** A pilot program for a cutting-edge emergency dispatch system has been launched in California's Silicon Valley. The test is part of the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Project (SVRIP), which aims to tie together 32 agencies in 18 Santa Clara County jurisdictions in the event of a major emergency. Patching together dispatch and field communications has been considered a pressing need among first responders and government officials since 9/11. SVRIP will allow communications among agencies in the field, allow faster requests for mutual aid, and allow police to share information from counterterrorism and criminal databases.


29. *March 21, Associated Press* — **OnStar, CDC join forces on crash response.** General Motors Corp.'s (GM) OnStar service is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help emergency responders more effectively treat crash victims. On Wednesday, March 21, the automaker announced a partnership with federal health officials to create guidelines, expected in 2008, for the use of real-time crash data to help emergency services provide a more targeted response to those injured in a car accident. GM's OnStar system alerts emergency rescue officials when an air bag deploys or the vehicle is struck in a moderate to severe crash. Subscribers can also receive driving directions, roadside assistance and other services. Emergency responders could benefit from the OnStar system because its sensors transmit real-time data pinpointing where a vehicle was struck, whether it rolled over or if it was hit several times. That type of precision can help emergency officials make the "absolutely critical decision" of whether to send a crash victim to a Level I trauma center, which provides the highest level of trauma care, said Dr. Richard Hunt, who leads the CDC's division of injury response at the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

30. **March 22, Websense — New Warezov spreading via Skype.** Websense has discovered a new set of the Warezov/Stration malicious code. This new code is currently spreading through the Skype network. Although the code itself is not self-propagating, when it runs, a URL is sent to all users within the user's Contacts List. Skype users receive a message that says "Check up this," with a URL containing a hyperlink. When users click on the link, they are redirected to a site that is hosting a file named file_01.exe. Users are prompted to run the file (note: there is no vulnerability within Skype). If the user runs the file, several other files are downloaded and run. This attack appears to be the same as the version mentioned on the FSecure Blog on February 27, but with new URL information and a new version of the malicious code.


31. **March 22, SC Magazine — Debian, Red Hat patch numerous OpenOffice flaws.** Debian released a patch to fix multiple vulnerabilities in OpenOffice that open up the users' systems to compromise, Secunia reported on Wednesday, March 21. The security bugs include several within the software's libwpd library that can be exploited to cause a heap-based buffer overflow and allow the execution of arbitrary code. This flaw requires action by the user, such as by opening a "specially-crafted WordPerfect document," according to a Secunia advisory. Also on the list of bugs was a boundary error that could cause a stack-based buffer overflow through the opening of a similar document. The third type of flaw is associated with shell meta characters that are not correctly escaped. This vulnerability can be exploited to inject and execute arbitrary shell commands through a malicious document or link.


32. **March 22, Federal Computer Week — DoD close to e−records software standard.** The Department of Defense (DoD) is in the final stages of revising its records management standard for software. Ron Kelly, who works in DoD’s information policy directorate in the chief information officer’s office, said earlier this week that the new guidance will incorporate more network-centricity functions and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and privacy issues. “We are asking vendors to treat this like a new standard,” Kelly said during a Federal Information Records Managers Council meeting at the FOSE trade show in Washington, DC. Once DoD issues the revised standard, Kelly said Joint Interoperability Test Command, which is the primary user of the guidance, will work with vendors to test products for compliance with the criteria.

Source: [http://www.fcw.com/article98002−03−22−07−Web](http://www.fcw.com/article98002−03−22−07−Web)

**Internet Alert Dashboard**

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Website: [www.us−cert.gov](http://www.us−cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center)
Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

33. *March 22, Washington Post* — **Report says Corps miscalculated on levees.** The design and construction of the New Orleans hurricane levee system was flawed because the Army Corps of Engineers ignored warnings about the power of potential storms and made critical engineering miscalculations, according to a long-awaited investigative report from a team of Louisiana engineers and scientists. The "Team Louisiana" report echoed many of the findings of previous engineering inquiries but offered them in sometimes sterner terms, while highlighting some of the political forces that affected the flood system's formation. Army Corps of Engineers officials appear to have shortchanged the construction of essential flood protection systems to save money, according to the report, while at the same time, under local pressure, expanding the project's reach so that more low-lying land could be developed into new suburbs. "The problem is that hurricane protection has no lobbyists," said Ivor van Heerden, a hurricane researcher at Louisiana State University, who led the team. In response to the Team Louisiana findings, a Corps spokesperson offered a statement saying the agency's own investigative inquiry, completed last year, focused on many of the same engineering issues, and noting that the flood protection system that failed in Hurricane Katrina was shaped by the decisions and actions of many agencies.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/03/21/AR2007032101963.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/03/21/AR2007032101963.html)

34. *March 21, Washington Post* — **Homeowner groups' funds missing in Northern Virginia.** At least $800,000 from homeowner associations in Northern Virginia may be missing and was probably embezzled by an employee of the Fairfax company hired to manage the money, state officials charge in court documents. Koger Management Group Inc., which handles funds for more than 300 homeowner groups with approximately 70,000 members, was placed under a court-ordered monitor February 26 while a forensic accountant appointed by the Virginia Real Estate Board investigates the disappearance of the money. State officials said on Tuesday, March 19, that a criminal investigation, led by Fairfax City police, is also underway. Homeowner and condominium associations play an integral role in suburban life, sometimes serving as surrogate local governments that assess millions of dollars in fees to provide services such as trash pickup, snow removal, street lighting and recreational facilities. Many of the associations employ management companies such as Koger to collect assessments and pay contractors who provide the services. According to court documents, Koger Management has acknowledged that at least $800,000 "and likely more, will probably be shown to have been misallocated." State officials said in the court filings that the company's explanations for the irregularities "have been consistently vague and evasive."


General Sector
March 22, CNN — Three held over London attacks. Three men have been arrested in connection with the July 7, 2005, bomb attacks on the London transport network, British police said in a statement. Two men, aged 23 and 30, were held at Manchester airport in northern England shortly before 1 p.m. GMT on Thursday, March 22, as they were due to catch a flight to Pakistan. A third man, aged 26, was arrested hours later at a house in the nearby city of Leeds. Police were searching five addresses in the Leeds area as well as a flat and business premises in east London, the statement said. Fifty–two people died and more than 700 were injured in the 2005 bombings aboard three London Underground trains and a bus during morning rush hour.