



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 April 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 Associated Press reports a fierce storm drenched the Northeast with record rainfall and wind causing hundreds of thousands to lose electricity; the National Guard was sent to help with rescue and evacuation efforts in the suburbs north of New York City. (See item [2](#))
- The Richmond Times Dispatch reports Virginia Tech in Blacksburg became the scene of the deadliest campus shooting in U.S. history when at least 33 people were killed Monday, April 16; at least 28 more were being treated at area hospitals. (See item [29](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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

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

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

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Energy Sector

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

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

1. *April 16, Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)* — **Oil and gas still needed: ExxonMobil.** Oil and gas will remain the world's biggest sources of energy over the next two decades, ExxonMobil Australia chairman Mark Nolan says. Nolan told the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) conference in Adelaide, Australia, that while growth of liquid-based products would lessen, gas and oil would account for 60 percent of overall energy demand in 2030. He said the company's annual energy outlook predicted gas production would be driven largely by the demand for power in developing nations. Wind and solar would become the fastest growing energy sources in the same period, at rate of 10.5

percent, but renewables would only account for about one per cent of total need.

Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/Business/Oil-and-gas-still-needed-ExxonMobil/2007/04/16/1176696748876.html>

2. *April 16, Associated Press* — **Storm pummels East Coast with rain, wind.** People were evacuated from flooded homes Monday, April 16, and hundreds of thousands had no electricity as a fierce nor'easter drenched the Northeast with record rainfall. Rain was still falling Monday morning in the New York area and New England after it began early Sunday along the East Coast from Florida to New England. The National Guard was sent to help with rescue and evacuation efforts in the suburbs north of New York City. Nearly 300,000 homes and businesses had lost power from Maryland to Maine. Power outages affected more than 10,000 households and businesses in the New York area and more than 55,000 customers elsewhere in the state, more than 30,000 in Maryland, 50,000 in Pennsylvania, more than 43,000 across Connecticut, at least 46,000 in New Hampshire, 17,000 in Maine, 25,000 in Vermont and 12,000 in Massachusetts, utility officials said.

Source: <http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2007/04/16/ap/headlines/d8oh ofp01.txt>

3. *April 15, My FOX 13 (FL)* — **Explosion rocks Florida power plant.** An explosion at a power plant in Hardee County, FL, sent debris flying and ignited a blaze that engaged fire crews in a difficult, hours-long fight. The reported explosion took place around 9 p.m. EDT Saturday night, April 14, at the Seminole Power Plant near Bowling Green. Firefighters found one of the three turbines in the power plant heavily involved in the fire. They said debris was found hundreds of feet away, some pieces weighing thousands of pounds. The blaze was under control around 2 a.m. No injuries were reported. An investigation of the incident is underway.

Source: <http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=2933522&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *April 16, Associated Press* — **North Dakota town alerted after ammonia leak.** Thieves likely trying to steal liquid fertilizer to make methamphetamine broke a storage tank valve, releasing a dangerous plume of ammonia gas in Lisbon, ND, police said. The cloud hovered for several hours Sunday, April 15, before dissipating. The leak of about 300 gallons of anhydrous ammonia was reported early Sunday by a man driving to work who saw the white plume of gas hugging the ground. An alert was broadcast on local radio telling residents of the southeastern North Dakota town to seal their doors and windows to prevent exposure to the gas. A newspaper carrier was treated at a hospital and released. No other injuries were reported.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/04/16/ap3616694.html>

5. *April 16, KREM (WA)* — **Toxic fumes hospitalize people in Oregon.** Over a dozen people, mostly children, were hospitalized after they inhaled fumes from a dangerous combination of chemicals at a hotel swimming pool Saturday night, April 14, in Portland, OR. Hazmat crews responded to the Embassy Suites Saturday night after fumes from a mixture of chemicals made 15 people sick. Firefighters arrived to find several people complaining of nausea, vomiting and

breathing trouble. Centers said there were 15 people showing symptoms. They were all in the pool area of the hotel at the time. Of those people, 13 were children. All but one were taken to area hospitals. A Hazmat team investigated the pool area and took samples of chemicals monitored in the air. Tests showed a combination of muratic acid and sodium hypochlorite caused a vapor to form in the pool area. Apparently a small amount of the two chemicals mixed during some routine pool maintenance.

Source: http://www.krem.com/news/northwest/stories/krem2_041607_pool_hazmat.1525cb7c.html

6. *April 15, Associated Press* — **Officials investigating mercury spill in Yakima, Washington.**

A hazardous waste cleanup crew was called in Sunday, April 15, after toxic mercury was found spilled in front of a home in a residential area of Yakima, WA. The undetermined amount of mercury was discovered after a 16-year-old boy in the house was diagnosed with mercury poisoning. The source of the mercury was not immediately known. It was found on the sidewalk and in the grassy median between the sidewalk and the street. Officials cordoned off the area until a contract crew could clean up the material.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/tch/local/state/story/8798731p-8699975c.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *May 01, National Defense* — **Department of Defense ‘bundles’ handheld radio**

procurements. The Department of Defense is expected to soon seek industry bids for as many as 89,000 handheld combat radios. To obtain lower prices, the Pentagon will consolidate multiple contracts that currently are managed individually by each military service. The Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Special Operations Command already are buying thousands of radios, and plan to continue to acquire thousands more. But Pentagon procurement officials are moving to centralize all single-channel handheld radios under a new contracting arrangement. The San Diego-based office that currently oversees the Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) also will manage the so-called “consolidated, interim, single-channel handheld radio” program. The presumption is that these radios are stopgaps until the JTRS program begins delivering the next generation of handheld radios in 2012.

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2007/May/DefenseBundles.htm>

8. *April 16, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-451: Business Systems**

Modernization: Strategy for Evolving DoD's Business Enterprise Architecture Offers a Conceptual Approach, but Execution Details Are Needed (Report). In 1995, the

Government Accountability Office (GAO) first designated the Department of Defense's (DoD) business systems modernization program as “high risk,” and GAO continues to designate it as such today. To assist in addressing this high-risk area, Congress passed legislation consistent with prior GAO recommendations for Defense to develop a business enterprise architecture (BEA). In September 2006, DoD released version 4.0 of its BEA, which despite improvements over prior versions, was not aligned with component architectures. Subsequently, Defense issued a strategy for extending its BEA to the component military services and defense agencies. To support GAO's legislative mandate to review DoD's BEA, GAO assessed DoD's progress in defining this strategy by comparing it with prior findings and recommendations

relevant to the strategy's content. To assist DoD in its efforts to evolve and extend its BEA, GAO is augmenting a prior recommendation to the Secretary of Defense for developing an architecture development management plan by recommending that this plan incorporate details needed to execute DoD's Business Mission Area federation strategy. In comments, DoD largely disagreed with GAO's recommendation, noting that elements of it were either unnecessary or not appropriately focused.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07451high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-451>

- 9. *April 14, U.S. Air Force* — Officials discuss executive agency for UAVs.** Air Force officials invited Defense representatives to the Pentagon Friday, April 13, to discuss the Air Force's proposal to assume executive agent responsibilities for medium- and high-altitude unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The proposal was put forward March 5 in a memorandum to senior Defense officials from Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley. The memorandum stated the Air Force's desire for executive agency of the UAVs, and also indicated its desire to discuss the proposal with other service and combatant command representatives, said Col. Charlie Bartlett, the Air Force deputy director for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, (ISR) capabilities. As the executive agency for medium- and high-altitude UAVs, the Air Force would oversee the development, acquisition and procurement of UAVs designed to meet joint requirements as well as their associated equipment and ground control stations, said Lt. Gen. David Deptula, deputy chief of staff for ISR. The Department of Defense has reached the point in the proliferation of UAVs where it is necessary to achieve acquisition efficiencies and eliminate duplication of effort. The Air Force proposal fosters standardization of systems to enhance interoperability. With a single lead agency, costly redundant UAV acquisitions would be reduced.

Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123048908>

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Banking and Finance Sector

- 10. *April 16, Associated Press* — Sallie Mae agrees to \$25 billion takeover.** SLM Corp., the nation's largest student-loan provider also known as Sallie Mae, Monday, April 17, confirmed it agreed to sell the company to a group of investors for about \$25 billion. The buyer is an investor group led by private-equity firm J.C. Flowers & Co, who will pay \$60 per share for the company. Sallie Mae will continue to originate student loans under its internal brands and will remain headquartered in Reston, VA. Last year, the company originated \$23.4 billion of student loans. The transaction requires the approval of Sallie Mae's stockholders, is subject to required regulatory approvals, and is expected to close in late 2007.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/04/16/ap3615349.html>

- 11. *April 13, CTV Toronto (Canada)* — York Region police breakup counterfeit document ring.** Five Chinese nationals in Canada on student visas have been charged in a massive counterfeit ring that was producing fake passports, college and university diplomas and a number of government documents. York region police say the sophisticated operation is one of the largest of its kind in Ontario history. The group running the scheme also had a Website that listed prices for the documents. The most expensive, an immigration-by-marriage application, was

selling for \$18,000. Investigators said some of the "hundreds, if not thousands" of fraudulent documents are near flawless. Police said the group catered mainly to Chinese clientele who wanted to come to Canada or stay in the country.

Source: http://toronto.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20070413/coun-terfeit_documents_070413/20070413?hub=TorontoHome

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

12. *April 16, KCRG (IA)* — Iowa to add more cable barriers on highways as safety measure.

Iowa Department of Transportation officials say an experiment with metal cable barriers on Interstate 35 was so successful during winter storms that they plan to use them elsewhere. The cables were on a three-mile stretch of I-35 near Ankeny. They kept cars and trucks that went out of control from crossing the median and colliding with oncoming traffic. Traffic safety engineer Tom Welch says the posts were all knocked down, but the cable was still effective in stopping the vehicles. The DOT plans to install at least another 61 miles of barriers, mostly on Interstate 80 in eastern Iowa, over the next five to ten years. The cost of installing metal cable median barriers in Iowa is about \$170,000 a mile. An analysis by the Federal Highway Administration estimates the overall benefits of the barriers are \$420,000 a mile — based on reductions in crashes causing deaths or serious injuries.

Source: <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/7046677.html>

13. *April 16, USA TODAY* — FAA bans disputed landing procedure. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has ordered a halt to a controversial practice in Memphis that allowed arriving aircraft to fly directly over planes on another runway. The procedure had nearly led to midair collisions. Starting Monday, April 16, the agency will direct controllers to space out arriving flights at Memphis International Airport so that planes about to land no longer pass directly over flights that have just touched down on a nearby runway, FAA spokesperson Laura Brown said. Pilots and controllers, who had sought for months to end the practice in Memphis, applauded the decision. "It certainly would be an improvement over what we're doing now," said Pete Sufka, president of the Memphis chapter of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association. Brown said safety investigators have visited several airports around the country to assess safety risks and will continue to do so. In Minneapolis, for example, the FAA altered procedures to improve safety, Brown said. The agency has not found another case like Memphis that required an outright end to procedures, she said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-04-15-faa_N.htm

14. *April 16, Associated Press* — Travelers taxed by airline ticket sales. Besides the long security lines, overbooked flights and lost baggage, passengers are paying a laundry list of taxes and charges often invisible even to the most seasoned traveler. The nation's air transit system is financed primarily through federal excise taxes and other special charges that have collectively generated \$117 billion since 1997 — mostly from the pockets of airline passengers. A smaller portion comes from airlines and freight carriers in the form of fuel and cargo taxes, and these costs also are frequently passed along to customers. The taxes and fees currently attached to each ticket purchase include: federal levy tax; a Passenger Flight Segment Tax; an International arrival and departure tax; security fees; and a passenger facility charge.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-04-16-air-travel-taxes_N.htm

15. *April 15, Associated Press* — **Unknown substance found at BWI.** A baggage claim area at Baltimore–Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) was evacuated Sunday, April 15, after a milk jug filled with an unknown reddish liquid was found along the curb outside. The jug was found just before noon outside the Pier D baggage claim area at BWI. Maryland Transportation Authority Police spokesperson Corporal Jonathan Green says authorities cleared the area and brought the fire department in to run some tests. The Maryland Department of the Environment also ran tests and then took possession of the jug. Green says it was not a hazardous substance.

Source: http://www.wusa9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=57568

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *April 13, USPS News Release* — **Postal Service to protect employee personnel records.** The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is implementing a program to convert all paper personnel folders to electronic folders, which will transform the way employee information is stored, retained and retrieved, ultimately enabling postal employees to have 24-hour access to the content of their personnel folder. The Postal Service has awarded a contract to convert the files from paper to electronic as part of the Electronic Official Personnel Folder (eOPF) program. Paper employee records are currently maintained in many postal facilities throughout the country. Once these records are scanned, employee records will be maintained in a secure central database. The eOPF program supports employee self-service, the Human Resources Shared Service Center and disaster recovery. The migration from paper to electronic media is one more successful phase of the PostalPEOPLE project. PostalPEOPLE, the largest project of its kind anywhere, involves the replacement of existing outdated Postal Service human resources technology with a fully-integrated system to streamline, standardize and automate HR processes. The project enables the Postal Service to increase efficiency, reduce costs and provide employees with 24/7 access to their personnel files and other HR-related information.

Source: http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/2007/pr07_028.htm

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Agriculture Sector

17. *April 15, Fayetteville Observer (NC)* — **Respiratory disease found in chickens.** A respiratory disease in chickens has been found on several poultry farms in southeastern North Carolina. As of April 11, at least 57 suspected cases of infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT) have been found on farms in Union, Anson, Montgomery, Randolph, Richmond, Moore, Scotland, Robeson and Bladen counties. So far, 45 cases have been confirmed. The disease is extremely contagious and can spread by contaminated equipment, boots, clothing and litter. Chickens can be infected through the respiratory tract and eyes.

Infectious laryngotracheitis information: <http://www.canadianpoultry.ca/ilt.htm>

Source: <http://www.fayobserver.com/article?id=259593>

18. *April 14, Capital Times (WI)* — **Disease found in Wisconsin pigs.** Pigs from a farm in north central Wisconsin have tested positive for a herpes virus known as pseudorabies, confirmed Jane Larson, spokesperson for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. The blood samples, which were first screened at the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, have been sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, IA, for further testing. The disease most often strikes pigs, but can also affect cattle, horses and other animals. The affected farm has been quarantined so animals can't leave or enter the property. Wisconsin was declared free of pseudorabies by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2000, Larson said. She did not know whether there have since been any reported cases of pseudorabies among the state's commercial herds or feral pigs.

Pseudorabies information: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahps/pseudorabies/>

Source: <http://www.madison.com/tct/mad/topstories/index.php?ntid=129378&ntpid=1>

19. *April 14, Baltimore Sun* — **Officials to trap wild animals near quarantined Maryland farm.** At the request of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Carroll County, MD, Humane Society will trap wild animals living in the vicinity of a quarantined Marston farm beginning Monday, April 16, in order to test them for a potentially deadly parasite, officials said. Raccoons, possums, foxes and skunks, all of which may feed on carcasses, will be captured in box traps, euthanized and tested for "trichinella spiralis" to determine if pigs escaping from the farm infected surrounding wildlife. The 112-acre farm has been quarantined for the past year, after a pig tested positive for trichinosis and died. Feral pigs, which are more susceptible to the infection, moved freely on and off the farm. Those that were trapped in surrounding areas after the quarantine was imposed all tested positive for the parasitic disease, officials said.

Trichinosis, caused by eating raw or undercooked pork and wild game products infected with the larvae of the roundworm trichinella spiralis, has all but disappeared from the nation's pig farms in the past 30 to 40 years, officials said.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/carroll/bal-md.ca.wildlife14apr14.0.7219558.story?coll=bal-local-carroll>

20. *April 13, USAgNet* — **U.S. suspends some Mexican cattle imports.** The U.S. Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is to suspend all imports of cattle from the state of Coahuila, Mexico. The move follows problems over non-compliance of cattle movements in the state of Coahuila and a failure in reaching a resolution to the deficiencies.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=828&yr=2007>

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Food Sector

21. *April 13, Food Safety and Inspection Service* — **Sausage products recalled.** Earle of Sausage, a Willernie, MN, establishment, is voluntarily recalling approximately 330 pounds of ready-to-eat sausage products that may contain Staphylococcus aureus enterotoxin, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Friday, April 13. The sausages were produced between Jan. 12 and March 29, 2007 and were distributed through gas stations primarily in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. FSIS has received no reports of illness from consumption of these products. The problem was

discovered by FSIS. Common symptoms of ingesting products with *Staphylococcus aureus* enterotoxin include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal cramping.

Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Recall_017_2007_Release/index.asp

22. *April 13, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Mexico reopens its market to Idaho potatoes.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Friday, April 13, announced that Mexico has reopened its market to Idaho potatoes following the completion of a scientific evaluation. Mexico temporarily suspended imports of Idaho potatoes in April 2006 following the first-time U.S. detection of potato cyst nematode (PCN), *Globodera pallida*, in Idaho. After conducting a detailed scientific evaluation, Mexican officials concluded that the isolated detection presents no risk of introducing PCN in Mexico if the U.S. takes the following actions: The potatoes must be shipped from production fields outside the PCN-regulated area; All Idaho potatoes produced in 2006 must be certified free of PCN based on soil samples taken during the growing season or post-harvest prior to export; Beginning with the 2007 growing season, all Idaho potato fields must be tested before planting and certified free of PCN; and Post-harvest soil samples from Idaho packing sheds must periodically be tested to ensure they are free of PCN. PCN is a major pest of potato crops. It primarily affects plants within the potato family including tomatoes, eggplants and some weeds. If left uncontrolled, nematodes can cause up to 80 percent yield loss.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2007/04/mxpotato.shtml>

23. *April 01, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **FDA urgently warns consumers about health risks of potentially contaminated olives.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is alerting consumers to possible serious health risks from eating olives that may be contaminated with a deadly bacterium, *Clostridium botulinum*. *C. botulinum* can cause botulism, a potentially fatal illness. The olives are made by Charlie Brown di Rutigliano & Figli S.r.l, of Bari, Italy and are being recalled by the manufacturer. No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this recall. The olives are sold under the following brands: Borrelli, Bonta di Puglia, Cento, Corrado's, Dal Raccolto, Flora, Roland and Vantia. Symptoms of botulism include general weakness, dizziness, double vision, trouble with speaking or swallowing, difficulty in breathing, weakness of other muscles, abdominal distension and constipation. People experiencing these symptoms should seek immediate medical attention. Charlie Brown di Rutigliano & Figli S.r.l, initiated a recall of these olives on March 27, 2007. The recalled olives had been distributed to wholesalers, who have marketed them nationally to restaurants and retail stores. FDA concluded that additional warnings are needed because, to date, the company has not contacted importers with specific instructions on the recall.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01608.html>

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Water Sector

24. *April 16, China Daily* — **Pollution takes heavy toll on Yangtze.** Billions of tons of waste dumped into China's longest waterway are taking a massive toll on its aquatic life, according to the first annual health report on the Yangtze River. The river, the world's third longest, is hit by natural disasters, deterioration of water quality and loss of biodiversity, said the Yangtze River Conservation and Development Report 2007. The nation's first comprehensive study of the

river said that about one tenth of the main stream is in critical condition. Almost 30 percent of its major tributaries, including the Minjiang, Tuojiang, Xiangjiang and Huangpu rivers, are heavily polluted by excessive ammonia, nitrogen, phosphorous and other pollutants, according to the report released at a forum. The river's annual harvest of aquatic products dropped from 500,000 tons in the 1950s to about 100,000 tons in the 1990s. Last year, more than 26 billion tons of wastewater was pumped into the river, which runs through 11 provinces and municipalities.

Source: http://english.people.com.cn/200704/16/eng20070416_366795.html

25. *April 16, Associated Press* — **Drug traces found in Grand Rapids drinking water.** Trace amounts of pharmaceutical drugs, including Prozac and birth-control hormones, are leaving the Grand Rapids, MI's wastewater treatment plant for the Grand River. Some of the drugs, which also include codeine, anti-seizure medications and caffeine, are also turning up in Lake Michigan and in Grand Rapids' drinking water. The city in 2005 collected samples of untreated waste going into the wastewater treatment plant, treated waste leaving the plant, "raw" water from Lake Michigan and treated water at the Lake Michigan water filtration plant. Scientists believe the drugs are too diluted to pose an immediate threat to humans.

Source: <http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/michigan/index.ssf?/base/news-43/1176723886146900.xml&storylist=newsmichigan>

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Public Health Sector

26. *April 16, Agence France-Presse* — **Anthrax fears for Indonesia families.** Health officials are monitoring around 90 families in two Indonesian villages for signs of anthrax, which has already killed five people, an official said Monday, April 16. The deaths forced authorities to seal off the villages on Sumba Island on Saturday, April 14, and begin mass vaccination of livestock in the area, veterinary official Maria Geong said. All members of the families had eaten parts of cows and water buffalo believed to have been infected, she said. Geong did not say how many family members in total the emergency action affected. About 2,000 people live in the two villages, which will be sealed off for a month to stop more people from being infected. Apart from killing five residents, the disease has forced 12 others to undergo intensive treatment after showing symptoms, Geong said.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070416/hl_afp/healthindonesiaanthrax_070416060033

27. *April 13, Canadian Press* — **Some students in isolation as Canadian university deals with mumps outbreak.** A number of university students in Nova Scotia, Canada, have come down with the mumps. About 10 students were in voluntary isolation Friday, April 13, in residence rooms at Dalhousie University in Halifax as officials try to contain the spread of the disease. There have been 24 cases of mumps at Dalhousie so far this year, the second year the institution has had to deal with an outbreak. The Dalhousie students are among the 75 total cases reported in Nova Scotia in recent months. The once rare illness has been occurring more often, particularly among Nova Scotia university students since a case was reported in March at a campus residence. The outbreak seemed to start after St. Patrick's Day celebrations at a time when downtown bars and clubs were crowded with revelers. Two downtown Halifax bars have been alerted by health authorities that some of their staff and patrons may also be at risk.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=2b9fdb84-aea0-46f1-9dd4-69084f6d7b40&k=72883>

28. *April 13, Princeton University* — **New laser technique for the detection of bioterrorism agents.** A new laser technique allows for instant detection of bioterrorism agents, permitting tests that previously were cumbersome or impossible. "We do our experiments 'on the fly,' so we can get a [reading] within a tiny fraction of a second," said Marlan Scully, the lead author of the paper. Texas A&M and Princeton University researchers report on using lasers to detect anthrax in less than a tenth of a second. "Our procedure can work for monitoring anthrax in the mail, but it can also scan the whole atmosphere," said Scully. Currently, anthrax tests require that suspicious substances be cultured in a lab, a time-consuming process. Scully said the same laser technique could be deployed in a wide range of applications, from national security to health. The new technique is based on coherent anti-Stokes Raman scattering (CARS), a phenomenon that measures the scattering of light that occurs when a molecule is bombarded by light energy (photons). Molecules are composed of two or more atoms, and the subatomic particles that make up these atoms are in constant motion, producing vibration patterns unique to each substance. When a molecule is hit by an appropriate sequence of three laser pulses, it gives off light in a specific "fingerprint" pattern.

Source: <http://www.princeton.edu/main/news/archive/S17/64/98E61/index.xml?section=topstories>

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Government Sector

29. *April 16, Richmond Times Dispatch (VA)* — **Thirty-three dead at Virginia Tech.** Virginia Tech became the scene of the deadliest campus shooting in U.S. history when at least 33 people were killed Monday, April 16. At least 28 more were being treated at area hospitals. The 26,000-student campus was closed shortly before noon. One of the camera-phone videos captured what sounded like more than 30 gunshots. Authorities said they had confirmed that the shooter, an unidentified male, was among the dead, and university officials turned their attention to notifying the families of the victims. Authorities said those who lost their lives were victims of planned attacks in two locations. The reasons for the attacks were not immediately clear. Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger defended the decision against sending out a campuswide alert until more than two hours after the first reported shooting. He said the best information police had was that the shooter had left campus. He added that authorities felt the students would be safest by remaining in their classrooms.

The Roanoke Times provides a timeline of the day:

<http://www.roanoke.com/news/nrv/breaking/wb/113294>

Source: http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD/MGArticle/RTD_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1173350761552

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Emergency Services Sector

30. *April 15, South Bend Tribune (IN)* — Responders in Indiana find disaster drill intense.

Forty-five individuals from more than 25 area agencies or organizations and businesses helped manage a train wreck in LaPaz, IN, Saturday morning, April 14. The good news was that the wreck and resulting chaos weren't real, but only a tabletop disaster drill sponsored by the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Utilizing different locations within the building to function as centers for command and control, logistics, operations, intelligence and Hazmat research, and planning, the exercise added realism through the use of radios, telephones and official documentation. A large screen at one end of the room not only set up the scene of the mock train derailment and hazardous materials spill, but kept participants up-to-date with new information as the event unfolded to include evacuations, power outages and severe weather. Jim Cox, Plymouth police chief, was selected to serve as the unified commander for the exercise. The exercise was supposed to bring to the forefront any glitches, and participants found a few on Saturday. Cox and others learned that the ordering of outside resources was being duplicated, although it should have been approved through the incident commander. Source: <http://www.southbendtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070415/News01/704150390/-1/NEWS01>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

31. *April 16, IDG News Service* — New worm targets Skype. A worm targeting Skype Ltd.'s

Voice over Internet Protocol application is harvesting e-mail addresses and directing users to a range of sites hosting other malicious software, security vendors said Monday, April 16. Once a machine is infected, the worm sends a malicious link via instant messages to other users in person's Skype contact list, according to F-Secure's blog. The link leads to an executable file that downloads a Trojan horse capable of downloading other malicious software, F-Secure said. It then shows a photo of a "lightly dressed" woman. The link also directs users to at least eight Websites with information about Africa. It's not clear what type of scam or harm those pages intend, but some of the sites have advertising on them, indicating that it might be a click-fraud scam, said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos. F-Secure calls the worm "IM-Worm:W32/Pykse.A," and Sophos named it "Mal/Pykse-A."

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/peworld/20070416/tc_peworld/130757:ylt=Aumu_8.D0MJkq.rkanl4WtYjtBAF

32. *April 16, ComputerWorld* — Exploit goes public for Windows DNS Server bug. A public exploit appeared just two days after Microsoft Corp. acknowledged a critical vulnerability in its server software, a change one security company said "greatly increases" the chances of a broad attack. The zero-day bug in the Domain Name System (DNS) Server Service in Windows 2000 Server (SP4) and Windows Server 2003 (SP1 and SP2) was confirmed by Microsoft late on Thursday. On Friday, the company said the current beta of Longhorn Server, the next-generation server software expected to ship later this year, was also affected. Symantec Corp. warned Saturday, April 14, that the Metasploit Project had released a public exploit for the vulnerability. "The release of this exploit greatly increases the chance of widespread exploitation of this issue before a patch is made available," warned Symantec. Metasploit is a security testing tool largely guided by developer and researcher HD Moore and is frequently first out the gate with exploits of Windows vulnerabilities.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9016686&intsrc=hm_list

33. April 16, ComputerWorld — Clear evidence of a two-phase attack plan, say researchers.

The group behind last week's massive Storm Trojan spam blast set up Windows users with a one-two punch by switching tactics in mid-run, making the second stage's subject headings more believable, researchers said Monday, April 16. "There was a very distinct transition point" between the two stages, said Adam Swidler, senior manager of solutions marketing at Postini Inc. "It was a concerted effort to trick users." The huge wave of worm-infected spam e-mails sent out starting early Thursday had receded by about 2 a.m. Pacific Time Friday. "It petered out around then, and spam went back to its average daily and hourly rates," said Swidler. Although most of the attention was paid to the attack's second phase -- when spammed messages arrived with subject headings such as "Worm Alert!" and "Virus Activity Detected!" -- the assault began with less alarming mail marked "Our Love Nest," "A Token of My Love" and other romantic phrases. The switch, speculated Swidler, was by design.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9016685&intsrc=hm_list

34. April 13, TechWorld (UK) — WiFi bug found in Linux. A bug has been found in a major Linux WiFi driver that can allow an attacker to take control of a laptop -- even when it is not on a WiFi network. There have not been many Linux WiFi device drivers, and this is apparently the first remotely executable WiFi bug. It affects the widely used MadWiFi Linux kernel device driver for Atheros-based WiFi chipsets, according to Laurent Butti, a researcher from France Telecom Orange, who found the flaw and released the information in a presentation at last month's Black Hat conference in Amsterdam. "You may be vulnerable if you do not manually patch your MadWiFi driver," said Butti. Before making it public, he shared the flaw with the MadWiFi development team, who have released a patch. However, not all Linux distributions have yet built the patch into their code, said Butti.

Source: <http://www.techworld.com/mobility/news/index.cfm?newsID=8546&pagtype=samechan>

35. April 12, eWeek — Federal government makes improvements in information security. A House committee gave the federal government a grade of C-minus for 2006 as part of the committee's annual assessment of how well information is protected on government computers. The annual report by the House Government Oversight and Reform Committee is meant to judge compliance with the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA). The committee has given the government overall grades of D, D-plus and D-plus in 2003, 2004 and 2005, respectively. The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) showed the most improvement from 2005 to 2006. The DOJ jumped from a D to an A-minus, while HUD climbed from D-plus to A-plus. HUD, for the first time, developed a full inventory of its information security apparatus, which the committee counted as a major plus in the grading. NASA fell from a B-minus to a D-minus, and the Department of Education dropped from a C-minus to an F, according to the committee. The Department of Homeland Security received a D for 2006, marking the first time it did not receive an F since ratings began in 2003.

FISMA report: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/reports/2006_fisma_rep_ort.pdf

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2113592,00.asp>

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.

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

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

36. *April 14, Santa Cruz Sentinel (CA)* — California creates first system of state parks of the sea. In what its president termed "something historic and extraordinary," the California Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously Friday, April 13, to create the state's first system of coastal marine protected areas. The action effectively launches the state's Marine Life Protection Act program, which has been in the works since legislation requiring creation of the protected areas was passed in 1999. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of its preferred alternative: designating 29 protected areas representing approximately 204 square miles of state waters, with 85 square miles designated as no-take state marine reserves along the Central Coast from Pigeon Point to Point Conception.

Source: http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2007/April/14/local_stories/05local.htm

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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