Daily Highlights

- USA TODAY reports data thieves and con artists are increasingly targeting military personnel, at risk since the Department of Defense uses Social Security numbers for everything from dog tags to chow-line rosters. (See item 10)

- MyFox Colorado reports Longmont, Colorado, police found a small bomb factory of chemicals, explosives, and compounds in a home and believe they may have solved a year-long investigation into small explosions. (See item 33)

Energy Sector

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

1. June 16, Xinhua (China) — China coal production capacity to exceed 3.1b tons. China's annual coal production capacity is expected to top 3.1 billion tons by 2010, 600 million tons more than demand requires, according to latest statistics from the State Administration of Coal Mine Safety. The country will need about 2.5 billion tons of coal in 2010, according to a previous prediction by the China National Coal Association. Currently, production capacity of the coal mines being built reached 1.1 billion tons and 83 percent of the newly built coal mines are small ones — whose annual output is less than 300,000 tons each — accounting for one third of the national total output but two-thirds of the deaths by coal mine accidents. “The
over-capacity of coal production will affect the healthy development of the coal industry," warned Zhao Tiechui, director of the administration. He urged local governments to take effective measures to stop illegal coal mining. China no longer approves coal mines with an annual production capacity of less than 300,000 tons and vows to close 10,000 small coal mines by the end of 2007.


2. June 16, Associated Press — Federal agency orders one-fourth of LNG tanker crewmembers to be U.S. citizens. The federal maritime agency has ordered one quarter of crewmembers on liquefied natural gas tankers docking at two proposed offshore terminal in Massachusetts Bay to be American citizens, according to a report published Saturday, June 16. U.S. Maritime Administrator Sean T. Connaughton said the rule will ensure that Americans have access to lucrative tanker jobs. The rule will also enhance safety because Americans will be aboard the ships as they unload the highly flammable liquid, the Boston Globe reported. Connaughton said the policy would affect two terminals that are being planned off of Gloucester and Fall River, but would not affect the existing facility in Everett. The two facilities would be New England's first offshore LNG terminals. Both facilities would use underwater pipelines to connect to New England's distribution network. Both projects already received state approval.


3. June 15, International Atomic Energy Agency — Report to IAEA board addresses options for assurance of supply of nuclear fuel. A new International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report on a multilateral framework for nuclear energy presents a range of options that seek to guarantee supplies of nuclear fuel while minimizing proliferation risks. IAEA Director General ElBaredei presented the report this week to the Agency's Board of Governors. The report addresses proposals put forward over the past two years by various States and institutions. Some proposals call for the creation of an actual or virtual reserve fuel bank of last resort, under IAEA auspices, for the assurance of supply of nuclear fuel. Others call for conversion of a national facility into an international enrichment center. Still others call for the construction of a new, multinational enrichment facility under IAEA control. Such a multilateral framework could best be achieved through establishing mechanisms that would: assure the supply of fuel for nuclear power plants; over time, convert enrichment and reprocessing facilities from national to multilateral operations; and limit future enrichment and reprocessing to multilateral operations.

Source: http://www.iaea.or.at/NewsCenter/News/2007/nuclenframework.htm

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. June 15, Houston Chronicle — Lifetime Fitness reopens pool after chlorine leak. The outdoor swimming pool at Lifetime Fitness, 23211 Cinco Ranch Blvd., in Katy, TX, reopened Friday, June 15, after an accidental chlorine gas leak sent 10 people to local hospitals, officials said. Jason Thunstrom, spokesperson for Lifetime Fitness, said staff immediately closed the outdoor pool Thursday after a reported chlorine leak near the pool. Members were allowed to use the indoor pool at the facility, he said, which was not affected by the leak. Willowfork Fire
Department responded to the incident and helped transport 10 adults and children to local hospitals. "The (chlorine) release had already dissipated by the time we arrived on the scene," Willowfork Capt. Les Fulgham said, adding that the victims were in stable condition Thursday afternoon. "We had a system malfunction that controlled the pool pump specific to a valve and this valve controls the flow of chemicals and water," Thunstrom said. "An adjustment was made to the valve that will prevent a similar incident from reoccurring."

Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. June 15, Department of Defense — Army continues working to improve warfighters’ gear, equipment. Today’s soldiers have the best equipment available, and the Army keeps striving to improve it, the general who oversees the equipping effort said. “In the history of warfare, there has never been a ground soldier as well equipped and capable as the U.S. Army is today,” Army Brig. Gen. R. Mark Brown told Pentagon reporters. As commander of the Army’s Program Executive Office Soldier (PEO) program, Brown oversees the production of everything soldiers wear or carry. “The eternal challenge in PEO Soldier is to balance size, weight and power consumption with soldier capabilities,” Brown said. That means giving troops the highest-quality, most dependable, lowest-maintenance gear possible, but with the lowest weight and least bulk. It’s a constant balancing act between lightening equipment without losing capability, while adding new systems as they come on line. Brown’s goal is to limit the maximum fighting load to one-third of a soldier’s body weight. That’s a huge challenge, he acknowledged, when some missions currently require as much as 100 pounds of equipment.

Banking and Finance Sector

6. June 15, Associated Press — Ohio state employee names, personal info lost in theft. A backup computer storage device with the names and Social Security numbers of all 64,000 state employees was stolen from a state worker’s car last Sunday, June 10, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland (D) said Friday, June 15. Strickland said he doesn’t believe worker privacy is in jeopardy because it would take special equipment to access the information. “I don’t mean to alarm people unnecessarily,” he said. “There’s no reason to believe a breach of information has occurred.” Strickland said he was not allowed to specifically describe the computer device, or other details surrounding the theft, under direction from law enforcement investigating the theft. Strickland said the employee, an intern, mistakenly left the device in a vehicle parked outside an apartment when it was supposed to be taken into his home as part of a protocol in place since 2002. A second backup device is given to employees on a rotating basis to take home for safekeeping, officials said. Strickland said it was inappropriate for an intern to be designated that responsibility, and has issued an executive order to end the practice of employees taking the devices home for safekeeping.
7. **June 15, InfoWorld** — **PayPal, eBay offer Security Key to U.S. customers.** PayPal unveiled a new Security Key on Friday that will add an additional layer of security to user accounts and help prevent online criminals from gaining access to them. The PayPal Security Key is a small electronic token that generates a unique code that can be used in addition to a user name and password when users sign in to their PayPal account. The company announced the news as part of eBay's week-long Developer Conference in Boston. It provides PayPal customers with so-called "two factor" authentication that makes it harder for online criminals to raid accounts, even if they do trick users into giving up their user name and password using online "phishing" scams, according to Michael Barrett, chief information security officer at PayPal. "This is something that will help the community to be more secure," Barrett told InfoWorld. PayPal and parent company eBay are top targets for online scam artists, who use dummy Websites in so-called "phishing" attacks that attempt to trick users into revealing their user name and password. Those accounts can then be raided or used to fraudulently purchase goods.


8. **June 15, Department of the Treasury** — **Treasury designates al Qaeda, LIFG operatives.** The U.S. Department of the Treasury Friday, June 15, designated three Libyan individuals who are members of both al Qaeda and the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG). This action was taken pursuant to Executive Order 13224, which is aimed at prohibiting transactions with terrorists and their supporters and freezing their assets. "These terrorists execute roles throughout al Qaeda and LIFG, from recruitment to military training to procurement of explosive components," said Adam J. Szubin, Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). "We are publicly holding them to account for their dangerous actions." Nur al-Din al-Dibiski traveled to Afghanistan in the early 1990s, where he joined al Qaeda and received military training in al Qaeda's camps. Dibiski is believed to be a senior member of the LIFG and a member of that terrorist group's military committee. Dibiski also joined the LIFG while he was in Afghanistan, and as of August 2005 was identified as a member of the LIFG in Iran.


9. **June 15, VNUNet** — **Scammers use FTC to lure victims.** The U.S. Federal Trade Commission has become the latest government agency to be used as a front for e-mail attacks. MX Logic said that it had found multiple instances of fraudulent e-mails claiming to be from the organization. The messages notify users that they have filed a complaint with the agency and include a document with a copy of the alleged complaint. Users who open the document become infected with a key-logger that can be used to steal log-in information and other confidential data. Sam Masiello, director of the MX Logic Threat Center, believes that the attack is related to two prior spam runs in which the senders posed as government agencies. A scam in January used bogus tax refund claims to lure victims, while emails appearing to be from the Better Business Bureau were sent in May to install key-loggers on victims' PCs.

June 14, USA TODAY — Military personnel prime targets for ID theft. The Department of Defense since the late '60s has used Social Security numbers for everything from dog tags to chow-line rosters. Now, data thieves and con artists have begun to increasingly target military personnel, data security experts say. Data thieves in the past year have grabbed computers containing sensitive data for nearly 30 million active and retired service members from four Veterans Affairs offices. That's a big portion of the more than 100 million personal records reported lost or stolen in the U.S. since 2006, based on a USA TODAY analysis of data compiled by the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. Statistics on financial fraud as a result of these breaches are hard to pin down, but defense officials acknowledge the rising risk. The Defense Department has made it a priority to tighten data-handling policies and has increased training on theft prevention, department spokesperson Maj. Stewart Upton said. ID cards are being upgraded as they expire, using bar codes, magnetic stripes and other electronic authentication tools. No cost estimate is available; a complete overhaul will take years.


Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. June 17, New York News — Airport delays will increase. The massive delays last week at John F. Kennedy International Airport are just the beginning. Flights to and from the airport have surged 27 percent in the first quarter of this year and are on track to continue to increase. The soaring volume has pushed Kennedy to a record 104,500 flights through March 31 — up from 82,000 over the same period last year — and authorities warn that the peak travel season starting in July could swamp them even more. Already 33 percent of all flights at the airport were held up during the first quarter of 2007, federal transportation statistics show. "There are more people flying than ever before," said Pasquale DiFulco, a spokesperson for the Port Authority, which runs the airport. The authority has put together a special task force to deal with what they expect to be a congestion nightmare. Federal Aviation Administration rules had allowed only a set number of flights per hour at airports nationwide after Congress passed new regulations in 2000. Some were later removed to increase competition among airlines. The Kennedy limits came off five months ago following millions of dollars of improvements at the airport.


12. June 17, Associated Press — Rabbits overrun Milan, Italy's airport. Milan's Linate airport was closed early Sunday, June 17, while 200 hunters tried to outfox scores of rabbits infesting its runways. The operation was ordered after hares became tangled in aircraft landing gear twice in recent weeks. Officials say at least 80 hares are living on the airport grounds, confusing radar equipment and endangering flights taking off and landing. The province of Milan has to routinely catch the hares because they interfere with takeoffs and landings. They can also cause false alarms with the airport's radar system, said Nicoletta Angioni, spokesperson for SEA, the company that operates Milan's airports. "We have in the airport a security system which is activated by hares running past. Other risks could be hares being hit by aircraft or vehicles moving in the airport," Director of Operations at Linate Airport, Captain
Marco Alberti, told AP Television. Fifty−seven hares and four wild rabbits were caught, part of a twice annual capture to keep the airport hare population under control.


13. **June 15, Newsday (NY) — House votes to restore funding for dirty bomb detectors.** An amendment by New York Rep. Peter King (R−Seaford) to restore full funding to install a ring of radiological detectors on highways, bridges, tunnels and waterways leading into New York City passed the House early Friday, June 15, as part of a $36.3 billion homeland security measure. The pilot, called Securing the Cities, is designed to stop a nuclear bomb or dirty nuclear device from being detonated in a densely populated area. If successful in New York, it will be expanded to other cities. A Senate Appropriations Committee bill contains the full $30 million funding for the program, but has yet to be taken up by the full Senate. Beyond Securing the Cities, the homeland security spending bill also provides money to hire 3,000 new border guards and to double the amount of air cargo screened before being loaded onto passenger planes. It increases funding for mass transit and port security, and prohibits the federal government from preempting tougher state chemical security laws.


14. **June 15, WABC (NY) — Hazmat scene in New Jersey after woman throws powder at bus driver.** A woman threw a white powdery substance, believed to be baby powder, at a New Jersey Transit bus driver in Irvington Friday, June 15, sparking a large−scale hazardous materials response. Authorities say the woman tossed the powder at the driver during a fare dispute just before 9 a.m. EDT. The two were reportedly arguing over 35 cents of her bus fare. Police say the woman then fled the scene on foot. The driver of the No. 13 bus was treated at the scene. During a large−scale hazardous materials response, numerous tests were conducted on the white powdery substance. Officials say three of four tests on the powder came back negative. Authorities believe the substance was baby powder.


Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

Agriculture Sector

15. **June 15, Associated Press — New Mexico cattle found to have tuberculosis.** Bovine tuberculosis has been detected in dairy cattle in eastern New Mexico, state officials said Thursday, June 14. State Agriculture Secretary Miley Gonzalez confirmed that animals in a herd in Curry County had the disease. The outbreak could threaten New Mexico's status as a bovine tuberculosis−free state. Sen. Pete Domenici, R−NM, said that without TB−free status, livestock producers in the state would be subject to costly animal testing. Because of an outbreak of the disease three years ago, federal restrictions in Curry and Roosevelt counties
prevent dairy cattle from being shipped outside of that area. Cattle can be moved among dairies in the area, however. Milk from dairies in the area is tested and can be marketed outside of those counties, Gonzalez said. The new outbreak of the disease likely will mean the federal restrictions on dairy cattle in the two counties will be extended for several additional years, Gonzalez said.


16. June 15, Associated Press — Researchers probe pesticides, microorganisms in dying bee study. Scientists investigating a mysterious ailment that has killed many honeybees are concentrating on pesticides and micro-organisms as possible causes of the disorder. Scientists from Penn State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are leading the research into the disease, which has killed tens of thousands of bee colonies in at least 35 U.S. states. The die-off has threatened the livelihood of commercial beekeepers and strained fruit growers and other farmers who rely on bees to pollinate more than 90 flowering crops, including apples, nuts and citrus trees. After months of study, researchers cannot tie the ailment to any single factor. But scientists are focused on a new, unnamed pathogen found in dead bees, and on the role of pesticides, said Maryann Frazier, a senior extension associate in the university's entomology department.


17. June 12, U.S. Food and Drug Administration — FDA implementing initiative to reduce tomato-related foodborne illnesses. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will begin a multi-year Tomato Safety Initiative to reduce the incidence of tomato-related foodborne illness in the U.S. The initiative, part of FDA's Produce Safety Action Plan, is a collaborative effort between FDA and state health and agriculture departments in Florida and Virginia. Several universities and members of the produce industry also are part of the effort. It will begin during this year's growing season for Virginia in the summer and for Florida in the fall. During the past decade, the consumption of fresh and fresh-cut tomatoes has been linked to 12 different outbreaks of foodborne illness in the U.S. Those outbreaks include 1,840 confirmed cases of illness. The majority of these outbreaks have been traced to products from Florida and the eastern shore of Virginia. FDA investigators in coordination with their respective state counterparts will visit tomato farms and packing facilities in Florida and Virginia to assess food safety practices and use of Good Agricultural Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices. During their visits, officials will also evaluate a variety of environmental factors including irrigation water, wells, procedures for mixing chemicals, drought and flooding events, and animal proximity to growing fields.


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**Food Sector**

18. June 15, Agence France-Presse — China toothpaste maker pulls suspect ingredient. A Chinese toothpaste manufacturer mixing an industrial chemical found in anti-freeze into its products said Friday, June 15, it had halted the use of the potentially dangerous substance. Shanghai White Cat, makers of Maxam brand toothpaste and one of the financial hub's oldest
companies, said in a statement released to the Shanghai stock exchange, it was longer using diethylene glycol (DEG). The Shanghai–listed firm said the chemical, a thickening agent used in car anti–freeze, was commonly used in toothpaste production and at low levels was not harmful to people. Hong Kong authorities warned the public to stop using three brands of toothpaste containing DEG, including White Cat's Maxam and two other brands called Sanqi and Tianqi. The action was the latest after the U.S., New Zealand, Singapore, Panama and several other Latin American and Caribbean countries issued recalls and warnings linked to Chinese toothpaste.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070615/hl_afp/healthchinatrade_070615181435;_ylt=Au_y58Zm20hb3FREhhmD.U6JOrgF

19. **June 15, U.S. Food and Drug Administration — FDA releases new software tool to help keep food facilities safe from attack.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Friday, June 15, released a new tool to help growers, packers, processors, manufacturers, warehousers, transporters, and retailers in the food industry determine the vulnerability of individual food facilities to biological, chemical, or radiological attack. The software program is called the CARVER + Shock Software Tool. "The relative risk–ranking methodology used by the CARVER + Shock software tool has been designed to assist facility operators in identifying potential vulnerabilities and assist in providing preventive measures to increase the defense of products and operations," said FDA Assistant Commissioner for Food Protection David Acheson. The acronym CARVER refers to six attributes used to evaluate targets for attack. Criticality: What impact would an attack have on public health and the economy? Accessibility: How easily can a terrorist access a target? Recuperability: How well could a system recover from an attack? Vulnerability: How easily could an attack be accomplished? Effect: What would be the direct loss from an attack, as measured by loss in production? Recognizability: How easily could a terrorist identify a target? The CARVER tool also evaluates a seventh attribute — the psychological impacts of an attack or "shock" attributes of a target.


20. **June 14, U.S. Food and Drug Administration — Counterfeit Colgate toothpaste found.** The Colgate–Palmolive Company Thursday, July 14, warned that counterfeit toothpaste falsely packaged as "Colgate" has been found in several dollar–type discount stores in four states: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. There are indications that this product does not contain fluoride and may contain Diethylene Glycol. The Company stated that it does not use, nor has ever used, Diethylene Glycol as an ingredient in Colgate toothpaste anywhere in the world. The counterfeit toothpaste can be easily recognized because it is labelled as "Manufactured in South Africa." Colgate does not import toothpaste into the U.S. from South Africa. In addition, the counterfeit packages examined so far have several misspellings including: "isclinically" "SOUTH AFRLCA" "South African Dental Assoxiation."

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/colgate06_07.html

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**Water Sector**

21. **June 15, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — California refinery fined for breaking drinking water laws.** A California refinery was sentenced to three years probation and ordered
to pay a criminal penalty for violating the Safe Drinking Water Act. The company must apply $500,000 of the $1 million penalty towards the Los Padres National Forest Restoration Project. The company pleaded guilty on April 12 and was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Central District of California on Monday, June 11. Investigators from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Justice determined that Santa Maria Refining Co., located in Santa Maria, CA, and a subsidiary of Greka Energy Corp., disposed of contaminated wastewater into wells that were not permitted for that use, posing a risk to groundwater supplies. The wastewater contained benzene, which can cause anemia, excessive bleeding and cancer, as well as affect the immune system. The company was also sentenced for making false statements to the EPA. In addition to the penalty and probation, the company must pay the EPA $15,500 in restitution, and must implement an independently audited environmental compliance program. Three individual defendants have also pleaded guilty to making false statements to EPA in connection with this case. They each face statutory maximum sentences of five years in federal prison. Sentencing is pending.

Source: http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/bb1285e857b49ac4852572a00065683f/c09529af707a63e0852572fb004cbfb1!OpenDocument

22. June 15, Associated Press — Sonoma County demands fifteen percent reduction in water consumption. The Sonoma, CA, Water Agency, which supplies water to six San Francisco Bay Area cities and three water districts, on Thursday, June 14, became the first water provider in California to institute mandatory rationing. The agency is demanding a 15 percent reduction in water consumption. The county imposed the restriction after the State Water Resources Control Board on Wednesday, June 13, demanded water diversions from the Russian River to protect the fall spawning of salmon. The agency, which supplies water to cities including Santa Rosa and Petaluma and to districts including the Marin Water District, has not mandated conservation techniques or imposed rules. Each city will impose rules to reduce consumption by 15 percent, said agency spokesperson Brad Sherwood. The cutback could affect 750,000 customers, he said.


23. June 15, New York Times — Hepatitis Cases Linked to doctor. New York City’s Health Department said Thursday, June 14, that it was urgently contacting 4,500 patients treated by a Manhattan doctor after the discovery that three of them were found to have hepatitis C, a virus that can damage or destroy the liver. The doctor, an anesthesiologist, administered pain-deadening drugs by needle at 10 Manhattan outpatient centers, including clinics and doctors’ offices, but not at hospitals. The patients were treated between December 1, 2003, and May 1, 2007. The three patients found to have hepatitis C were administered anesthesia at three different times, Marcelle Layton, assistant commissioner of the bureau of communicable diseases, said. “The common risk factor is the doctor, not the medical procedure,” she said. Officials declined to say whether the anesthesiologist has hepatitis C or to disclose his whereabouts, citing confidentiality statutes. “I don’t know where he is now, but he’s not been practicing” since May 1, Layton said. “Both we and state health officials recommended that he not practice.”
24. June 15, Reuters — United Nations rules to contain health emergencies take hold. New rules to help the United Nations contain public health emergencies took effect on Friday, June 15, requiring countries to disclose potential threats from disease, chemical agents, radioactive materials and contaminated food. The World Health Organization (WHO) said its revised International Health Regulations, approved by member states in 2005, would hasten the detection, investigation and control of potentially devastating outbreaks. The regulations build upon 1969 guidelines that required countries to report outbreaks of cholera, plague and yellow fever to the WHO. They were applied a year ago to bird flu and extended on Friday to cover other threats such as polio and smallpox. Under the broadened rules, countries need to set up round-the-clock communication with the WHO and report events that may be a public health emergency of international concern within 24 hours. Countries must also boost their ability to monitor and respond to public health threats within five years.

Source: http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L14226681.htm

25. June 15, McGill University — New drug resistance found in river blindness. A 20-year effort to control the spread of onchocerciasis, or river blindness, in African communities is threatened by the development of drug resistance in the parasite that causes the disease, a study by McGill University researchers has found. “We’ve found the first evidence of resistance, where the adult parasites continue to reproduce and transmit the disease, and in some communities it seems to be getting worse,” said Roger Prichard, James McGill Professor in the University’s Institute of Parasitology. River blindness, which is the second-leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide after trachoma, is caused by the filarial nematode parasite, a worm transmitted by black fly bite. It leads to visual impairment, blindness, and, in some cases, pathological changes in the skin. Adult worms can survive as long as 10 to 15 years in a human host, releasing millions of tiny worms (microfilariae) each year. An estimated 37 million people are infected worldwide, primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa but also in parts of Central and South America and, to a lesser extent, the Middle East.

Source: http://www.mcgill.ca/newsroom/news/?ItemID=25796

26. June 14, Reuters — U.S. gives companies cash to fix up vaccine plants. The U.S. government has given two vaccine makers, MedImmune Inc. and Sanofi-Aventis, $132.5 million to fix up facilities in the U.S. so that production can quickly switch to making a pandemic influenza vaccine. Sanofi said on Thursday, June 14, it had been awarded $77.4 million to redesign a plant in Pennsylvania and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said it had given $55 million to MedImmune to retrofit its facilities in several states. The government has been keen to get vaccine factories established on U.S. soil because most vaccines for the U.S. market are now made in other countries. Experts fear that if a pandemic of influenza begins, countries will nationalize their own vaccine supplies.

Source: http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N14288799.htm

27. June 14, Agence France-Presse — Indonesia confirms 80th bird flu death. A 29-year-old man has died of bird flu in Indonesia, bringing the death toll in the country worst hit by the virus here to 80, a health ministry official said Thursday, June 14. The victim was from Sumatra Island's Riau province and had come into contact with sick birds. Azizman Daan, head
of the bird flu team at the hospital that treated the victim, said he was admitted on June 11 with a fever after being sick for a week.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070614/hl_afp/healthfluindonesia_070614181918;_ylt=AkmRCvDaE0wdF92Eym.FACOJ0rgF

Government Sector

Nothing to report.

Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to report.

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

28. June 15, eWeek — Botnet battle a game of Whack–a–Mole. Officials at Sunnyvale, CA–based Mi5 Networks reported seeing bots that connect to multiple command and control servers as well as bots that scan internal networks for different vulnerabilities and then only deliver the exploit payload for which the specific machine is vulnerable. Battling botnets, said Mi5 CEO Doug Campoljohn, has officially turned into a "game of Whack–a–mole." "Our findings show that we've entered the second phase of botnet evolution in that there's no longer just a single C&C [command and control] head to cut off," he said. "Even if you do cut off all the C&C heads, bots keep collecting data and distributing it via peer–to–peer networks." Finjan Chief Technology Officer Yuval Ben–Itzhak said botnet operators are utilizing a new technique he called "evasive attack" to infect users while keeping their profiles low. "Basically, the hacker stores the IP address of search engine crawlers and URL filtering crawlers in their databases, so when they visit the hacker's site for classification, the hacker server presents legitimate content," he said. As a result, malicious sites are misclassified as normal, Ben–Itzhak explained. But when users visit the site, malicious code is served.
Source: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2146554,00.asp

29. June 14, IDG News Service — After hacker dissection, Safari beta is patched. Three days after releasing Safari 3.0, Apple has issued its first patch of the beta software. The 3.0.1 update, released early Thursday morning, June 14, fixes three flaws in the browser including bugs that were discovered earlier last week by researchers Thor LARholm and Aviv Raff. Apple released the 3.0 beta on Monday, and hackers started digging up bugs within hours. In fact, some researchers suggested that Apple should have done a better job of checking the browser for vulnerabilities before releasing the beta code. But even Apple's critics give the company credit for pushing out a quick update to its browser.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/06/14/After−hacker−dissection−Safari−beta−is−patched_1.html
30. *June 14, Information Week* — **Global co–op feeds FBI's botnet fight.** Officials with the FBI claim that global law enforcement partnerships are playing a significant role in its ongoing efforts to stomp out botnets and other computer–borne crimes. Security researchers have long maintained that one of the most significant obstacles to shutting down botnets is the distributed global nature of the individuals responsible for operating the networks of zombie PCs. The conventional wisdom has been that U.S. law enforcement officials have struggled to find the budget and manpower necessary to track down cyber–criminals operating on their own turf, let alone find a way to identify and arrest people distributing malware code or operating botnets who are based in foreign nations. However, FBI officials said that international cooperation is playing an increasingly important role in helping it stomp out cyber–crime. "We've been successful in building relationships with foreign law enforcement officials and have agents in 60 countries around the globe working full time on cyber–crime along with police departments and other agencies," said Shawn Henry, deputy assistant director of the Cyber Division at the FBI.


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

31. *June 15, WSB–TV Atlanta* — **Gas station fire investigated.** A witness told police and firefighters that a fire at a gas station in Sandy Springs, GA, was started with a firebomb. A passerby told investigators he saw someone running towards the Shell station at Roswell Road and Northridge Parkway Friday morning, June 15, and throw a burning object into the building. The fire caused heavy damage to the station. Police are investigating the possibility the object could have been a molotov cocktail — a bottle of gas with a burning rag stuck in the top. Fire investigators say it appears the fire started inside the station, but raised doubts an object could have been thrown through the front door. The station was closed at the time and the pumps were turned off.


32. *June 15, WNBC (NY)* — **Anthrax letter sets off scare at 'Good Morning America' office.** A letter mentioning anthrax arrived Friday, June 15, at the Manhattan offices of "Good Morning America," forcing ABC television officials to close down a portion of their Columbus Avenue location, the network said. In an e–mail distributed to employees, the network said it immediately notified police and an investigation was launched into the source of the letter. "Out of an abundance of caution we closed down the area around the office, and are awaiting additional information from authorities," the e–mail said. No powder accompanied the letter.
which was addressed to an ABC employee, said Cathie Levine, a network spokesperson.

33. June 15, MyFox Colorado — Longmont police find small bomb factory in home. Longmont, CO, police believe they may have solved a year–long investigation into small explosions. Police assisted by the ATF executed a search warrant on a home in the 2400 block of Sunset Drive Friday night, June 15. Inside the home they found a large amount of chemicals, explosives and compounds. A man and woman living in the home have been detained, but not arrested.

General Sector

Nothing to report.

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information


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