



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 8 April 2008

Current Nationwide



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- The Associated Press reports two men attempting to board a plane to Beijing with nearly a dozen sensitive infrared cameras in their luggage were arrested on Saturday at Los Angeles International Airport for investigation of trying to take the cameras with potential military use to China without the proper export licenses. (See item [10](#))
- According to the Wall Street Journal, start-up carrier Skybus Airlines shut down over the weekend, becoming the third U.S. airline in a week to cease operations in an industry being pummeled by high fuel prices and the weak economy. (See item [13](#))

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#); [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

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

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

## **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 7, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Big Spring refinery reopens.** The west Texas Big Spring oil refinery, which was closed by an explosion in February, has partially reopened. Alon USA Energy said Monday that the refinery is producing gasoline, diesel, and asphalt. The company says it is ahead of schedule in repairing and restarting part of the refinery, and it is aiming to have another key unit back running by mid-July. Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/5680379.html>
2. *April 7, Hess Corporation* – (National) **U.S. seeks to boost emergency stocks.** The Department of Energy on Friday sought bids for royalty-in-kind oil in order to boost the

level of stocks in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in the U.S. It is hoped that total reserves will increase by up to 13 million barrels in the period between August and December, with the stockpile increasing at a rate of 76,000 barrels per day (bpd) during the period. Bids from firms looking to transport oil through the royalty-in-kind program are due by May 13 this year. The move has, however, been met with criticism from some circles, with some senators – as well as energy experts – arguing that the government should not be aiming to increase the level of emergency stocks while crude prices are close to record highs. Currently, there are some 701 million barrels of oil in the strategic petroleum reserve. Reuters reports that the Department of Energy is looking to increase the size stocks to one billion barrels.

Source: <http://www.hessenergy.com/common/NewsItem.aspx?ArticleId=18539552>

3. *April 7, Reuters* – (International) **Oil climbs toward \$107; OPEC blames dollar, refiners.** Oil prices rose half a dollar to a one-week high near \$107 a barrel on Monday as traders feared more losses for the dollar and the secretary general of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) suggested the group saw little need to pump more oil. U.S. light, sweet crude for May delivery rose 38 cents or 0.4 percent to \$106.61 a barrel by Monday after leaping \$2.40 a barrel on Friday. As oil prices resume climbing toward their March 17 record high of \$111.80, OPEC officials have stuck to their familiar refrain over the well-supplied state of the market. “Oil supply to the market is enough and high oil prices are not due to a shortage of crude,” said the OPEC secretary general. OPEC is concerned about the potential impact of an economic slowdown in the U.S. on oil demand. Data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration showed average implied oil demand in the U.S. over the first 13 weeks of the year down more than 479,000 barrels per day from a year ago.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080407/bs\\_nm/markets\\_oil\\_dc\\_3](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080407/bs_nm/markets_oil_dc_3)

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

## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *April 6, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **EPA to look at chemical containers at Mace Security.** Investigators from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are due in Bennington on Monday to see if chemicals from the Mace Security International facility leaked. An EPA spokesperson said that during a February inspection, officials found containers that held chemicals used to make tear gas type substances produced by Mace apparently stored in the ground. He said the condition of the containers will be assessed and they will look at the condition of the ground water as well.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2008/04/06/epa\\_to\\_look\\_at\\_chemical\\_containers\\_at\\_mace\\_security/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2008/04/06/epa_to_look_at_chemical_containers_at_mace_security/)

5. *April 6, Tri-City Herald* – (Oregon) **Depot plans quarterly preparedness drill.** The Umatilla Chemical Depot will have a quarterly emergency preparedness drill Wednesday. The depot’s siren will go off but not the community sirens. The exercise is a coordinated effort between the depot, the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, and off-post communities.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/901/story/148580.html>

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

## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

6. *April 7, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **NRC wants nuclear plant's water nozzles rechecked.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) last week asked the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant to re-analyze whether the five water recirculation nozzles on the reactor vessel will undergo too much metal fatigue over the years. If a nozzle breaks, "it could lead to a severe accident," said the NRC spokesperson. "It would be a challenging situation for the control room operators." "We have decided to have AmerGen and other companies do this re-analysis out of an abundance of caution," according to his e-mail. "The initial analysis done on these nozzles was performed using proven methods and the results showed" they met a metal fatigue factor. An Oyster Creek spokesperson said "we believe that the analysis will come out similar" to the original one, which showed the nozzles would meet code requirements. It will take about four weeks to do the new analysis, she said.

Source: <http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080407/NEWS/804070368>

7. *April 7, Associated Press* – (Connecticut) **Unusual incident at CT Nuclear Power Plant.** Operators at Millstone 2 Nuclear Power Plant in Waterford say they detected "an unusual event," the lowest of four emergency classifications, during preparations for a shutdown Sunday. The plant is beginning an 18-month outage for refueling and maintenance. In Sunday's incident, about 1,000 gallons of water from the reactor coolant system flowed into a 500,000 gallon refueling water storage tank. Millstone owner Dominion Nuclear Connecticut and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission say the leak was stopped and none of the water had been released into the environment.

Source:

<http://www.wcbs880.com/pages/1956903.php?contentType=4&contentId=1842675>

8. *April 6, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **NRC gives high marks for safety to Fermi 2 nuclear plant.** Federal regulators said DTE Energy Co. operated its Fermi 2 nuclear plant safely in 2007. But the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said it found 14 inspection findings that involved human performance – either a lack of adequate work instructions or failure to follow proper procedures. The director of the NRC's division of reactor projects said the agency will continue to monitor actions DTE is taking to address "human performance deficiencies at Fermi." A public review of the NRC assessment will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Monroe County courthouse.

Source: <http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/15804122/detail.html?rss=det&psp=news>

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

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *April 6, Deseret Morning News* – (National) **Inspectors warned Hill AFB.** The *Deseret Morning News* has obtained a May 30, 2007, Air Force Audit Agency report that found

shortcomings with computer inventories of ballistic missile parts at Hill Air Force Base. The report shows that last year inspectors looked at whether contractors at Hill had recorded all the government assets stored at the facility in a computerized inventory system called G009. That included looking at older but still-sensitive parts for Peacekeeper and Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles stored at Hill awaiting disposal or destruction. Inspectors sampled 21 line items among such missile parts stored by the contractor to see if they were in that inventory. “Specifically, 20 (95 percent) of 21 sampled line items were not properly accounted for within G009 or another accounting system,” the report says. Inspectors wrote that improved controls over such sensitive equipment were needed, which “may prevent inadvertent technology transfers, unintentional use by hostile parties and reduce the risk for fraud, waste and abuse.” Inspectors recommended that Hill and its contractor conduct “a current and complete physical inventory of government-owned material and reconcile the inventory.” It also called for such physical inventories to be conducted at least annually, and for any discrepancies to be investigated. The report said the commander of the 526th Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Systems Wing would ask the contractor to complete an inventory and reconcile it with computer inventories by the end of May last year.

Source: <http://deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,695267943,00.html>

10. *April 5, Associated Press* – (National) **Men with ‘highly sensitive’ cameras arrested at airport.** Two men attempting to board a plane to China with nearly a dozen sensitive infrared cameras in their luggage were arrested on Saturday, a federal official said. Federal agents stopped the pair on the jetway as they were preparing to board the flight to Beijing. The men had been in the U.S. for about a week, said an assistant special agent in charge of the Los Angeles office of the Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security. A Chinese national and a naturalized U.S. citizen were arrested for investigation of trying to take thermal imaging cameras with potential military use to China without the proper export licenses. A supervising agent with the Bureau of Industry and Security said one of the men purchased the cameras, assuring the seller repeatedly that they were only for domestic use. Ten of the cameras, which measure about two inches square and cost about \$5,000 each, were found in the men’s checked luggage. It appeared they split the shipment up between them. The cameras have both commercial and military uses but they are “very expensive, highly sensitive,” the assistant special agent said. “They’re not something you could buy off the shelf.”

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/04/05/airport.arrests.ap/index.html>

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

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *April 7, New York Times* – (National) **Losses from loan fraud surging, say industry, FBI.** Lenders are experiencing a surge in losses from mortgage fraud, according to recent reports from law enforcement agencies and industry research groups. The ripples are reaching borrowers in new ways, as mortgage banks seek to stanch the flow of dollars to con artists. “It’s looking like a record-breaking year already,” said a FBI spokesman, adding that in the first half of the 2008 fiscal year, which ended last month, the FBI received nearly 30,000 “suspicious activity reports.” The 2007 fiscal

year ended with 46,000 reports and 260 convictions.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2008/04/07/losses\\_from\\_loan\\_fraud\\_surging\\_say\\_industry\\_fbi/](http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2008/04/07/losses_from_loan_fraud_surging_say_industry_fbi/)

12. *April 7, Natchez Democrat* – (Louisiana) **Hay targeted in scam.** The Louisiana Department of Agriculture is warning farmers about a scam in which the scammer sends a payment for more than the asking price of a producer's hay, and the farmer deposits the check or money order and returns the additional funds to the scammer. It is only later that the farmer finds out the original check was no good. The decision to warn the area farmers was made as a preemptive measure, Louisiana's Department of Agriculture and Forestry Press Secretary said. The scammers have used classified advertisements in the Market Bulletin publication in the past, and Louisiana still has an active Market Bulletin. Usually communicating through e-mail, the scammers often refuse phone communication.

Source: <http://www.natchezdemocrat.com/news/2008/apr/07/hay-targeted-scam/>

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

## **Transportation Sector**

13. *April 7, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Skybus closes down, citing fuel costs and economy.** Skybus Airlines, a low-fare start-up carrier, shut down over the weekend, becoming the third U.S. airline in a week to cease operations in an industry being pummeled by high fuel prices and the weak economy. Airbus quit flying Saturday with little warning after completing its Friday flights. A spokesman said that the board decided Friday to pull the plug and the company plans to file for bankruptcy-court protection Monday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Honolulu-based Aloha Airgroup Inc. suspended passenger flights a week ago and ATA Airlines Inc. of Indianapolis, which filed for Chapter 11 last week, shut down Thursday. "Skybus struggled to overcome the combination of rising jet-fuel costs and a slowing economic environment," the company said in a statement. "These two issues proved insurmountable for a new carrier." The entire industry is feeling the pressure of historically high fuel prices, with major carriers cutting their domestic capacity, grounding some aircraft, instituting hiring freezes, and imposing new fees to raise revenue. But the larger airlines still are sitting on big cash cushions, and many serve overseas markets where pricing is holding up better and there are fewer competitors. Smaller companies have less cash and more exposure to the over-served and keenly price-competitive domestic market. Private-equity investors who own controlling stakes in Aloha and ATA apparently declined to put more money in, and those carriers' efforts to find buyers were unsuccessful.

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120740095037892591.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120740095037892591.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

14. *April 7, Associated Press* – (National) **Airlines fare poorly in quality survey.** The annual Air Quality Rating survey released Monday found that overall the industry did a poor job last year. There were more lost bags, more bumped passengers, more consumer complaints, and fewer on-time flights than in the previous year. The rate of consumer

complaints was up 60 percent. The industry posted declines last year in every area of the Airline Quality Rating, amid rising fuel prices, safety problems, and bankruptcy filings that shut down three carriers last week alone. On-time arrivals dropped for the fifth straight year, with more than one-quarter of all flights late, according to the survey. The rates of passengers bumped from overbooked flights and bags lost, stolen, or damaged also jumped in 2007.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080407/ap\\_on\\_bi\\_ge/airline\\_quality;\\_ylt=Ahq7jzVODHeOFX.xlolzzMus0NUE](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080407/ap_on_bi_ge/airline_quality;_ylt=Ahq7jzVODHeOFX.xlolzzMus0NUE)

15. *April 7, Airline Pilots Security Alliance* – (National) **TSA rules to blame in pilot's gun mishap, say pilots and Airline Pilots Security Alliance.** Airline pilots and federal flight deck officers say Transportation Security Administration (TSA) weapons handling rules were to blame for the accidental discharge of a pilot's firearm in the cockpit of a U.S. Airways jet on March 22. The Airline Pilots Security Alliance says it and other pilots groups repeatedly warned TSA officials that a TSA requirement that pilots take off and lock up their guns before leaving the cockpit is unsafe and would result in accidents. "The pilot was trying to lock his gun and remove the holster in an airplane going 300 miles per hour in preparation for landing and the padlock depressed the trigger," said a federal flight deck officer who declined to be identified. "TSA knew this could happen but didn't get rid of the requirement." A special working group within the Federal Air Marshal Service recommended TSA adopt standard federal weapons gun carriage rules for flight officers last year to prevent accidents and thefts. But TSA officials declined to implement the group's recommendation. The president of the Airline Pilots Security Alliance says TSA's unilateral policy that pilots' guns be carried 'off-body' has resulted in numerous guns being lost or stolen, and now in an accident.

Source: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2008/04/prweb809284.htm>

16. *April 5, Associated Press* – (International) **California-bound British Airways flight makes emergency landing in Ireland.** Officials say that a British Airways plane bound for San Francisco has made an emergency landing at Ireland's Shannon Airport. The Boeing 747 was en route from Heathrow Airport to San Francisco when it landed Saturday evening. An airport spokesman says there was an emergency concerning the hydraulic system. The problem was fixed so the plane could resume its flight. BA described the emergency landing as a precaution, saying in a statement that the aircraft suffered a temporary hydraulic indication defect, but the pilot was able to reset the system.

Source:

[http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/capress/080405/world/ireland\\_emergency\\_landing\\_1](http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/capress/080405/world/ireland_emergency_landing_1)

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

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to Report

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



## Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *April 7, Farm Futures* – (Midwest) **Crop problems keep expanding.** Although the drought in Texas and Oklahoma and the soggy fields in the mid-South and lower Midwest have gotten the most attention about possible problems for this year's crops, the upper Midwest also has a situation that will impact crops. "Parts of the upper Midwest have not seen temperatures out of the 40s yet this spring," says a U.S. Department of Agriculture meteorologist. "As a result soil temperatures remain only in the 30s and some soils are still frozen and still some snow pack across the northern half of the Corn Belt." He says these conditions are very unusual for this time of year and even though farmers may have been able to get into the fields, not much is going to germinate with these soil temperatures. "Between the wetness in the south and cold soil temperatures in the north, it's going to be a very slow start for spring fieldwork throughout the Midwest," he added.

Source:

<http://www.farmfutures.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=CD26BEDECA4A4946A1283CC7786AEB5A&nm=News&type=news&mod=News&mid=9A02E3B96F2A415ABC72CB5F516B4C10&tier=3&nid=D49A7F2DAB5B4173B952F62352A0213E>

18. *April 7, Farm Futures* – (National) **Changed meat inspection procedures.** The recent beef recall that stemmed from rule violations at the Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Company in Chino, California, has prompted the U.S. Department of Agriculture to change how it conducts meat inspections. "We're redirecting our inspectors, we're rotating them differently," the secretary of Agriculture said. "We don't want them getting too cozy with the businesses they're working in and we've tightened up the time that cattle are in pens." He says USDA is looking at other ways of observing operations while not being seen themselves. "We are doing covert operations; we are undercover looking at these plants when they don't know we're there," says the under secretary of food safety.

Source:

<http://www.farmfutures.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=CD26BEDECA4A4946A1283CC7786AEB5A&nm=News&type=news&mod=News&mid=9A02E3B96F2A415ABC72CB5F516B4C10&tier=3&nid=5D65743CF3884A30AECAA3DC3B06C01E>

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

## Water Sector

19. *April 7, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **High ammonia levels found in Iowa water supplies.** Spreading fertilizer on frozen ground had led to record ammonia levels in the state's water supplies, state environmental officials said. Tests by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources have found elevated ammonia levels across the state, prompting environmental groups to push for new restrictions against farmers who use fertilizer. The record levels were caused when fertilizer was spread on frozen ground, and the heavy ice cover acted like a lid, trapping ammonia that otherwise would have floated into the atmosphere, state biologists said. The same thing happened in rivers, where

ammonia from decaying plant life is endangering river life. The interim general manager of Des Moines Water Works said the problem was so bad in early March that the plant had to draw an alternative source to provide water to the city and surrounding area. He said plant operators were worried they could not add chlorine fast enough to keep up with the rising ammonia levels and kill the bacteria and pathogens. The elevated ammonia levels also forced the Des Moines Water Works to quadruple the amount of chlorine used to disinfect water drawn from the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers, which usually provide the area's drinking water. Water plants in other cities, such as Council Bluffs and Panora, have taken similar precautions. The ammonia levels are now falling, but officials are renewing pressure to prohibit the spreading of manure and synthetic fertilizer on ground that is covered in snow and ice. Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Missouri already have similar restrictions in place.

Source:

<http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2008/04/07/news/iowa/9e4e01fb0bebb31586257424000d3da7.txt>

20. *April 7, Coloradoan* – (Colorado) **Water decision vital for many.** Last month a Colorado water court judge ruled Wellington Water Works has a right to take and use water pumped from deep underground as part of an oil operation north of Wellington. The judge also found that a partner in the company may use produced water to augment well water on his 600-acre farm he wants to convert to domestic use. Final decrees on the matters are expected to be released this month. When they come, the partner said, the rulings could help him develop part of his farm and establish a way to sell water to Wellington or other buyers. The ruling could affect how oil companies across the state deal with water generated by their operations, said a Boulder water law attorney who represents the company. The decision establishes production water as “new” water that can be used, traded, or sold. “Oil companies may start seeing water as an asset instead of a liability,” the attorney said.

Source:

<http://www.coloradoan.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080407/NEWS01/804070321/1002/CUSTOMERSERVICE02>

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

## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

21. *April 7, Associated Press* – (National) **Hospital capacity drives costs.** For chronically ill patients in their last two years of life, Medicare spends an average of \$59,379 in New Jersey but only \$32,523 in North Dakota. The difference is primarily a result of patients getting more hospital care, but not necessarily better care, according to the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care, which is published every two years. Researchers at Dartmouth Medical School say that vast differences in spending patterns nationally point to why policymakers need to focus on volume when it comes to restraining costs. The national average for spending on chronically ill patients was \$46,412. A large share of Medicare's expenses is generated by enrollees with chronic conditions in their final two years of life. For this year's version of the Atlas, researchers examined the records of 4.7 million patients who died during 2001-2005. They found that the number of days spent



in the hospital varied greatly geographically. The researchers also compared the cost of treating chronically ill patients at well-respected hospitals. Again, there were huge variations in costs. Total Medicare spending for the population in the study came to about \$289 billion.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080407/ap\\_on\\_he\\_me/medicare\\_spending\\_dying\\_patient\\_s:\\_ylt=AgV\\_Ba8x7Kms2XGpocaO3ces0NUE](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080407/ap_on_he_me/medicare_spending_dying_patient_s:_ylt=AgV_Ba8x7Kms2XGpocaO3ces0NUE)

22. *April 7, BBC* – (International) **Fresh bird flu outbreak in India.** Officials in the Indian state of Tripura have ordered the culling of about 40,000 birds after an outbreak of bird flu was confirmed. They say the virulent H5N1 strain has been detected in poultry in nearly 40 villages bordering Bangladesh. The culling of birds would begin from Tuesday, they said. Earlier this year, West Bengal reported an outbreak of avian influenza. In Bangladesh, the epidemic has spread to more than half the country. The first outbreak of avian flu in India was in the western state of Maharashtra in 2006. So far no cases of human infection have been reported either in India or Bangladesh. Veterinary officials said the Animal Diseases Diagnostic Laboratory in the central Indian city of Bhopal had confirmed the flu strain in samples of dead birds which were sent there earlier this month. The samples were sent after thousands of birds in these villages suffered unnatural deaths. Tripura is the second northeast Indian state to be hit by bird flu. Manipur was affected by bird flu last year. Earlier this year, more than a million birds were culled in the eastern state of West Bengal after an outbreak..

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/7334507.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7334507.stm)

23. *April 6, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* – (International) **Bird flu fears wane.** Since 2003, 373 people have been infected with the avian flu, known as H5N1. More than 60 percent of those people have died. And while researchers are still closely monitoring the disease, many are beginning to question whether it will become the pandemic they predicted a few years ago. In 2006, at the flu's peak, there were 115 human cases. In 2007, that number dropped by 25 percent, to 87 human cases. "The virus has had millions upon millions, if not trillions of opportunities to evolve" into a pathogen that could jump easily between people, said a flu expert at Vanderbilt University. But thus far, it has not. In the meantime, health officials are closely monitoring the disease and keeping a wary eye on two countries: Egypt and Indonesia. According to the World Health Organization, Egypt is the only country where the incidence of the disease in people has been on the rise. In 2006, there were 18 cases in this North African country. In 2007, that number had jumped to 25. Although the virus has not become a human scourge, the disease is now endemic in birds throughout Europe and Asia. Just last week, officials in Switzerland detected the disease in several migrating birds.

Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=735618>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

24. *April 5, Associated Press* – (California) **California prisons rocked by problems.** A stabbing attack this week on four guards at one overcrowded state prison and a racially

sparked brawl at another mark the type of violence that guards, inmates' attorneys, and California's governor have worried about for years. Later this year, a panel of federal judges will consider whether the crowding has become so severe that the state must cap the inmate population or release some prisoners early. At the same time, lawmakers are considering the governor's proposal to save money for the deficit-ridden state by releasing more than 20,000 inmates before their sentences end. In October 2006, the governor declared an emergency to allow 8,000 inmates to be sent to private prisons in other states. It was part of an effort to relieve overcrowding that eventually led to a \$7.8 billion prison and jail building program. At the time, he warned that California's overcrowded prisons could explode into violence. California's 33 prisons have a capacity of roughly 100,000 inmates but hold about 170,000. A commission advised the governor in 2004 that the prisons could safely hold about 135,000. The conditions are blamed for a variety of problems, including poor inmate medical care and mental health services, that have prompted inmates and advocacy groups to file numerous lawsuits.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-04-05-california-prisons\\_N.htm?csp=15](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-04-05-california-prisons_N.htm?csp=15)

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

## **Emergency Services Sector**

### **25. *April 5, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) Agencies test readiness in disaster drill.**

Military and state agencies tested their emergency readiness Saturday, less than three months before the start of hurricane season. It was not the first disaster response drill since hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit in 2005. But it did include technology the agencies did not have at their disposal at that time, including satellite service in case cell and landline service goes down and a mobile unit meant to provide current information to decision-makers on the ground. Use of different frequencies and other communications problems complicated relief efforts among federal, state, and local agencies after Katrina left much of New Orleans under water and virtually wiped out neighboring St. Bernard Parish. Officials said the goal was to test the plan and refine it, if necessary. The hurricane season begins June 1.

Source: <http://www.wdsu.com/news/15802655/detail.html?rss=no&psp=news>

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

## **Information Technology**

### **26. *April 7, Dark Reading* – (National) New massive botnet twice the size of storm.** A new botnet twice the size of Storm has ballooned to an army of over 400,000 bots, including machines in the Fortune 500, according to botnet researchers at Damballa. The so-called Kraken botnet has been spotted in at least 50 Fortune 500 companies and is undetectable in over 80 percent of machines running antivirus software. Kraken appears to be evading detection by a combination of clever obfuscation techniques, including regularly updating its binary code and structuring the code in such a way that hinders any static analysis, said a principal researcher at Damballa. "It's easy to trace but slow to get antivirus coverage. It seems to imply [the creators] have a good understanding of how

AV tools operate and how to evade them,” he said. Kraken’s successful infiltration of major enterprises is a wakeup call that bots are not just a consumer problem. Damballa and other botnet experts have seen an unsettling rise in bot infections in enterprises recently. He said like Storm, Kraken so far is mostly being used for spamming the usual scams – high interest loans, gambling, male enhancement products, pharmacy advertisements, and counterfeit watches, for instance. “But given that it updates its binary, there’s no reason it couldn’t update itself to a binary that does other things.”

Source: [http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc\\_id=150292](http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc_id=150292)

27. *April 5, Associated Press* – (National) **US cyberwarfare prep includes offense.** U.S. military officials seeking to boost the nation’s cyberwarfare capabilities are looking beyond defending the Internet toward developing ways to launch virtual attacks on enemies. But first the military will have to figure out the proper boundaries. “What do we consider to be an act of war in cyberspace?” asked the Lt. General heading the Air Force’s cyberoperations command. “The military is not going to tend to do that (use virtual strike capabilities) until you cross some line that constitutes an act of war.” He said initial uses likely would be limited to diverting or killing data packets that threaten the nation’s systems, the way the military may intercept a foreign ship carrying arms in international waters. The remarks came late Friday during a New York chapter meeting of the Association For Intelligence Officers, a nonprofit group for current and former intelligence agents and their supporters. In an interview afterward, the cyberoperations chief said that in the future, the military might rely upon network warfare to disrupt an enemy’s communications system, replacing the need for conventional weapons like bombs. In any such scenario, he said the military would be restricted by the same rules of engagement – such as requirements for a formal declaration of war – that apply to conventional attacks. As the military increasingly relies on networks and computer systems to communicate and coordinate conventional operations, the U.S. Air Force is planning to establish by October a Cyber Command for waging a future war that is fought not only by land, sea and air but also in cyberspace

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080406/ap\\_on\\_hi\\_te/cyberwarfare;\\_ylt=ApAopNisLSTMnL6h3knYLwCs0NUE](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080406/ap_on_hi_te/cyberwarfare;_ylt=ApAopNisLSTMnL6h3knYLwCs0NUE)

28. *April 05, IDG News Service* – (National) **Companies struggle as Safari pops up on networks.** Network administrators are complaining that Apple Inc.’s recent decision to offer users its Safari Web browser as part of an iTunes and QuickTime update has made their lives harder, as they struggle to remove the software from PCs on their networks. For a network administrator at Soy Capital Bank and Trust Co. in Decatur, Ill., the trouble began a few weeks ago, when he noticed that Safari had popped up as a download option with his Apple Software Update, the program that is used to update iTunes and QuickTime. He soon found out that many of the users on his network had installed the software without realizing it. “I went into work the next day, and I scanned my network, and my inventory software said I have Safari on 30 PCs,” he said. Because of the way Apple had configured the update, anyone who clicked OK automatically installed the company’s Web browser. Most users thought that Safari was simply a component of the Apple software they had already installed, he said. “This is not good;

this is a security risk,” he said, adding that it has taken him the better part of a week to remove Safari from his network and prevent it from being reinstalled. In an e-mail interview, the chief technology officer at Tamiyasu, Smith, Horn and Braun Accountancy Corp. noted that the updates are creating a problem for administrators and making users’ machines less secure. “It impacts all of us when more potential attack surface is installed in a group of folks that are vulnerable enough as it is,” she said.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9075138&intsrc=hm\\_list](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9075138&intsrc=hm_list)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

## Communications Sector

29. *April 7, Macedonia Online* – (International) **EU clears mobiles on aircraft.** Mobile phone calls will be allowed on planes flying in European airspace under new European Commission rules. The decision means that mobiles could be used once a plane has reached an altitude of 3,000 meters (9,842.5 feet) or more. It follows six months of consultation by the European regulator and the first services could launch next month. The European Union telecoms commissioner has warned operators to keep the cost of calls made on planes at a reasonable level. The European Commission has introduced new rules to harmonize the technical requirements for the safe in-flight use of mobile phones. The commission is also making it possible to enable the national licenses granted to individual airlines by a member state to be recognized throughout the EU. The decision to offer the services now falls to individual airlines. However, there are other regulatory hurdles to overcome before the technology is considered to be fully approved. The European Aviation Safety Agency still needs to approve any potential new hardware to ensure that it does not interfere with other flight systems.

Source: <http://macedoniaonline.eu/content/view/698/2/>

30. *April 6, IDG News Service* – (National) **Wireless auction unlikely to shift carrier balance.** Both Verizon Wireless and AT&T won enough spectrum licenses in the U.S. government’s 700MHz auction concluded last month to roll out services a cut above what they offer today, though how fast they are for subscribers will be up to the carriers. Both service providers will use the frequencies, at least in part, for LTE (Long-Term Evolution), an emerging mobile broadband technology sponsored by the organization that backs GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications). AT&T said the licenses would provide the foundation for rolling out HSPA+, a technology further along in its development, as well as LTE. The carriers released some details of their plans last week after a quiet period imposed by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

ended. Also, Qualcomm said it will use eight new licenses to expand its FLO TV mobile broadcasting service. The 700MHz spectrum, which TV stations are required to give up by mid-February 2009, when they drop analog broadcasts, can reach farther and penetrate walls better than current cellular frequencies. The auction brought in more than US\$19 billion, with Verizon agreeing to pay more than \$9 billion and AT&T about \$6.6 billion. At the urging of Google and other parties, the FCC set requirements for use of some of the frequencies by any application or device. Google did not win any licenses, but it hopes, along with Microsoft and others, to take advantage of “white spaces” between channels.

Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,144175-c,fixedwirelessbroadband/article.html>

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

## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

Nothing to Report

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

## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

31. *April 5, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Federal judge blocks uranium company’s test near Grand Canyon.** A federal judge has blocked a British mining company from exploring for uranium near the Grand Canyon, agreeing with environmental groups which sued the U.S. Forest Service for approving the plan without full environmental reviews. The Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Trust, and Center for Biological Diversity sued the Forest Service last month for allowing VANE Minerals Group to drill at up to 39 locations on seven sites on the Kaibab National Forest. The company is seeking commercial quantities of uranium, which has soared in price in recent years and resulted in a wave of new development. A U.S. district judge in Phoenix issued a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction stopping the drilling late Friday after a hearing, said the conservation outreach director for the Sierra Club’s Arizona chapter. The Forest Service approved the drilling in December, using a so-called categorical exclusion, a decision which required only minimal environmental review. A restraining order does not permanently stop the exploration, but the judge indicated that the groups were likely to prevail after a full hearing. If that happens, the Forest Service could be required to conduct the full assessment the environmental groups are seeking.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/04/05/america/NA-GEN-US-Grand-Canyon-Mining.php>

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

## **Dams Sector**

32. *April 7, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Corps of Engineers ups watch of La. levees.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has increased its surveillance of Louisiana’s

Mississippi River levees as the swollen river continues to rise. The river is not expected to overrun or breach the levees, even though water levels are higher than they have been in a decade, the commander of the Corps' New Orleans district office said Sunday. The Corps could decide by Tuesday whether to open the Bonnet Carre Spillway, a safety valve about 30 miles north of New Orleans, to reduce the river's water volume and ease stress on the levees. The spillway was last opened in 1997, the last time river level forecasts were this high.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23987038/>

33. *April 6, WALA/WBPG 10 Mobile*– (Florida) **Milton Dam burst.** Folks in Milton, Florida, are cleaning up after a dam burst. Saturday's heavy rain caused the dam on the Locklin Lake to give way. Backyards were washed away. One resident, serving on the Locklin Lake committee, says homes on the creek will probably flood every time there is a big storm. He says the dam burst because there was not one there to begin with, as they removed an old wooden dam and were going to replace it, but construction stopped because the old dam had historic timbers. He hopes they can resume work soon. He says right now the only thing holding water back is dirt. His fear is the next time it storms, people will lose their homes. They are waiting for approval to finish building the dam.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxgulfcoast.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=6235842&version=2&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.1.1>

34. *April 7, Erie Times-News* – (Pennsylvania) **Long-term solutions sought for Canadohta Lake dam.** Crawford County, Pennsylvania, officials could not parlay a \$40,000 state grant into a brand new dam for Canadohta Lake. But they are not giving up hope that a more permanent fix can be found and funded for the barrier holding back 170 acres of water, even as they advance plans to spend the money they have on emergency repairs. The \$40,000 grant awarded to Bloomfield Township officials in November 2006 will be used to rehabilitate portions of the 15 by four foot dam on the south end of Canadohta Lake, the county planning director told county commissioners recently. The money will pay for some modest upgrades, such as replacing deteriorating concrete on the dam, the Township supervisor said. "The dam isn't really a problem, other than the fact that the concrete is deteriorating. The gates were in there at least 30 years, and they're not a problem as far as danger. They just need repaired," the supervisor said. Officials had talked at one time about demolishing the existing dam and rebuilding it from scratch, a project they estimated could cost up to \$300,000. Those plans were set aside in favor of the rehab project after the state grant was awarded.

Source:

<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080407/NEWS05/804070359/-1/NEWS02>

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



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