Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 02 February 2004

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For info click here
www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports Dutch police have arrested 52 people suspected of defrauding gullible Internet users, in several countries, in one of the largest busts of the infamous "Nigerian e−mail" scam. (See item 5)
- The New York Times reports foreign and domestic airlines canceled six flights from Europe to the United States after American officials raised concerns about the possibility of terrorist attacks, including hijackings. (See item 8)
- The Associated Press reports the storage units with chemicals and a huge arsenal, found in Noonday, Texas, have led to one of the most extensive domestic−terrorism investigations since the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. (See item 31)

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: Energy; Chemical; Defense Industrial Base
Service Industries: Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping
Sustenance and Health: Agriculture; Food; Water; Public Health
Federal and State: Government; Emergency Services
IT and Cyber: Information and Telecommunications; Internet Alert Dashboard
Other: General; DHS/IAIP Web Information

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES−ISAC) − http://esisac.com]

1. *January 31, Gloucester County Times (NJ)* — **Safety concerns raised at nuclear plant. Federal regulators, citing a history of lax safety at the Salem Nuclear Power Plant in Salem, NJ, gave plant operators 30 days to draft sweeping changes in safety procedures. On Wednesday, January 28, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) told the operator of the plant, PSEG Nuclear, to "address any situations that significantly detract from**

maintenance of a strong safety−conscious work environment" at the company's Artificial Island plant. NRC regional administrator Hubert Miller said his agency doubts the utility's ability to effectively address safety issues at this time. "While to this point, we have not identified any serious safety violations, collectively the information gathered has led to concerns about the station's work environment, particularly as it relates to the handling of emergent equipment issues and associated operational decision−making," the letter reads. The NRC gave PSEG 30 days to conduct and issue a public report on safety procedures at the facility, the second−largest nuclear operation of its kind in the country. Within two weeks of that report, Miller said, NRC regulators want to meet with PSEG Nuclear officials to settle all qualms.
Source: http://www.nj.com/news/gloucester/index.ssf?/base/news−1/107 5540521186380.xml

2. *January 30, Reuters* — **U.S. considers more oil drilling in Alaskan waters.** The U.S. Interior Department on Friday asked energy firms for comment on whether they would be interested in drilling for oil and natural gas in three areas in Alaskan waters. **The department is considering leasing federal tracts for energy exploration in Alaska's Chukchi Sea, Hope Basin and the Norton Basin.** "A decision to offer a nominated area for leasing will depend on a commitment from industry to explore the area leased within a specific time period," the department said. The department said it will decide in May whether to proceed with a lease sale, which would be held in September 2005.
Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2004_01_30_eng−reuters_pma_U−S−CONSIDERS−MORE−OIL−DRILLING−IN−ALASKAN−WATERS&SMContentSet=0

3. *January 29, Reuters* — **Outlook good for U.S. utilities according to ratings agency. The credit quality of U.S. utilities extended its downward spiral in 2003, but overall ratings are likely to remain in the investment−grade range, Standard & Poor's (S&P) said on Thursday, January 29. Because of access to financing in the capital markets, a number of firms avoided what could have been a severe liquidity crunch last year, Standard & Poor's said.** Still, many companies remain pressured by too much debt on their balance sheets relative to equity and weak wholesale power prices, S&P said in a news release. The average rating is not likely to fall below the "BBB" level into the junk range, however, the rating agency said. According to S&P, companies that continue to focus on more traditional regulated businesses should hang onto their current ratings. Last year, a number of companies were able to refinance their bank facilities, heading off a cash crunch. Balance sheet debt also began to level off in 2003 and companies are likely to continue to focus on debt reduction this year, the rating agency said.
Source: http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyI D=4244353

[Return to top]

Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]

Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *January 30, Stars and Stripes* — **Unit is gearing up for troop rotation at port in Kuwait. Cargo ships are lining up around the world to get into Kuwait as 65 ships carrying more than three million tons of U.S. military equipment will make their way to this port over the next two months.** Soldiers from the 598th Transportation Group will be waiting to move the tanks and trucks into the region. Meanwhile, most of the military hardware currently in Iraq will be shipping out. Roughly 140,000 troops will depart Iraq this spring after a one−year combat tour. Replacing them are about 110,000 soldiers from the States and from the 1st Infantry Division in Germany. The transportation group, a conglomerate of 12 Army Reserve detachments, began planning for the upcoming operation in October, said Major Faris Williams, a port operations officer. **From February to April, ships carrying up to 2,000 pieces of equipment each will dock at Shu'aibah, a commercial port 20 miles south of Kuwait City.** The port is running 24−hour operations. From 975,000 to 1.3 million pieces of equipment will arrive at the port, while gear coming from Iraq waits to be shipped home.
   Source: http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=20157

[Return to top]

Banking and Finance Sector

5. *January 30, Associated Press* — **Dutch police arrest 52 in e−mail scam. Dutch police have arrested 52 people suspected of defrauding gullible Internet users in one of the largest busts of the infamous "Nigerian e−mail" scam.** Also known as an "advance fee" or "419" scheme, the scammers sent spam e−mails asking for help in transferring a large sum of money out of a politically or economically troubled country, in exchange for a generous percentage. Robert Meulenbroek, spokesperson for the Amsterdam prosecutor's office, said the ring broken this week had reaped millions of dollars. **Recent victims included people from the United States, Japan, England, Russia, Sweden and Switzerland.** A task force of 80 officers raided 23 apartments, seizing computers, fake passports, and US$62,000 in cash. The detainees were not identified under Dutch privacy rules.
   Source: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,4149,1479182,00.asp

6. *January 30, Channel 3000 (WI)* — **Woman's identity stolen from work personnel file.** An Illinois woman was sentenced Wednesday, January 28, to 50 months in prison for stealing another woman's identity. In this case, the victim didn't do anything to expose herself. An identity thief stole her Social Security number from a place she couldn't protect −− her personnel record. **Christina Allen found out someone in the human resources department of her work had stolen her identity when she applied for a mortgage.** Christine Applegate racked up more than $38,000 in bills and was embarrassed when employers or other creditors would see her ruined credit record, so she decided to steal Allen's identity to solve her financial problems.
   Source: http://www.channel3000.com/money/2803986/detail.html

7. *January 28, Canadian Press* — **New Canadian $100 bill coming soon. Canadians will have a new $100 bill starting March 17. The Bank of Canada is introducing a note that**

contains no fewer than four state−of−the−art, anti−counterfeiting features. More and more retailers have been refusing to accept $100 bills, worried that they could be the product of slick counterfeit rings. Bank governor David Dodge said the new note will include a metallic holographic stripe, a watermarked portrait, a windowed color−shifting thread, and a see−through number. The bill will be followed by new $20s and $50s later this year.
Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/cpress/20040128/ca_pr_on_na/new__100_bill_1

[Return to top]

Transportation Sector

8. *February 01, New York Times* — **Six flights to U.S. held back over terror concerns. Foreign and domestic airlines canceled six flights from Europe to the United States on Saturday after American officials raised concerns about the possibility of terrorist attacks, including hijackings. The concerns prompted the American officials to urge that armed sky marshals be placed on those routes; instead, the British and French airlines canceled the flights.** American intelligence officials said that in recent days they had developed what they considered to be "specific and credible" information about the prospect of al Qaeda or related terrorist groups trying to seize an international airliner.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2004/02/01/national/01FLIG.html?pagewanted=all

9. *January 31, CNN* — **BA, Air France cancel U.S. flights. British Airways (BA) and Air France have canceled five flights from London and Paris to Washington and Miami because of security concerns, the airlines said Saturday.** The three Britiah airways flights are BA Flight 223 from London Heathrow to Dulles Airport Sunday and Monday, and Flight 207 from London Heathrow to Miami on Sunday. The return flights from Washington −− Flight 222 −− will also be canceled on both days, but the return flights from Miami will continue. Air France flights AF026 were canceled Sunday and Monday "for reasons of security," spokesperson Veronique Brachet said. Britain's Department for Transport advised that there "may be some security concerns." **On Friday, January 30, U.S. government officials told CNN that the U.S. had received new intelligence that suggested a threat of possible terrorist attacks against the United States using aircraft.** The intelligence also mentioned Air France and British Airways flights to the United States. British Airways Flight 223 was mentioned specifically. **That flight was canceled twice in early January based on previous intelligence from an informant and other sources.**
Source: http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/europe/01/31/ba.canceled/index.html

10. *January 31, BBC* — **Third airline grounds U.S. flight. Continental Airlines has cancelled Sunday's 1215 GMT flight 17 from Glasgow to Los Angeles via New York. This comes after British Airways (BA) and Air France called off eight U.S.−bound flights on Sunday and Monday, amid fears al Qaeda may be targeting them.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said it remained "concerned about al Qaeda's desire to target aviation, especially international aviation". Flights BA 223 from London Heathrow to Washington on Sunday and Monday are hit as well as return flights BA 222. A BA flight to Miami on Sunday was also grounded on security advice, as were four Air France flights. "The US intelligence community continues to gather specific credible threat information on international flights," it

added. U.S. officials said they had received reports of "al Qaeda's desire to target" five or six specific flights from Europe, Reuters news agency reported.
Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/3448597.stm

11. *January 30, Reuters* — **American Airlines opens in Vietnam. American Airlines, the world's largest carrier, is opening its first office in Vietnam and expanding code−share flights to five U.S. cities to capitalize on a boom in business and tourism between the two former foes.** The unit of AMR Corp. has appointed Huong Giang Tourist Company as its sales agent in the communist country, a statement from the carrier said. United Airlines, the number two U.S. airline, already has an office in Vietnam. "We are celebrating the beginning of a new partnership which will help to grow the amount of business and leisure travel between the USA and Vietnam," Theo Panagiotoulias, American Airlines' Asia Pacific managing director said in remarks to be delivered on February 4 at a launch of the Hanoi office. American Airlines' move comes after a landmark aviation agreement, signed in December, that allows direct air service for the first time since the war ended nearly 30 years ago. It also permits unlimited codesharing, under which carriers sell seats on each others' flights. Aided by a bilateral trade pact, America has become Vietnam's biggest market for a variety of products including shrimp and clothing. Tourism has also blossomed.
Source: http://www.cnn.com/2004/TRAVEL/01/30/biz.trav.aa.vietnam.reu t/index.html

[Return to top]

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]

Agriculture Sector

12. *January 31, Associated Press* — **Another cow found from Canadian herd. Federal officials have so far found 29 of the 80 head of Canadian cattle that entered the U.S. in 2001 with a Holstein infected with mad cow disease. The latest animal, which was located Thursday, would be euthanized after being tested, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Friday.** Investigators have been working to locate the cattle since the announcement December 23 that a cow at a Mabton, WA, dairy farm had tested positive for mad cow disease. The animal found Thursday also was found in Mabton, but at a different farm, authorites said. More than 700 cows have been slaughtered since December as part of the mad cow investigation.
Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20040131_1124.html

13. *January 31, Reuters* — **China says two new areas suspected of bird flu. China has named two new areas in the provinces of Hubei and Guangdong as sites of suspected cases of bird flu, the official Xinhua news agency said on Saturday.** The two new areas on the list are Ezhou city in the central province of Hubei and Chao'an county in the southern province of Guangdong. **China named four other places on Friday, two in Anhui province, one in Guangdong, and one in the city of Shanghai, where outbreaks were suspected.** It also confirmed that outbreaks in parts of Hubei and Hunan were the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu.

Earlier this week it said an outbreak of bird flu in the region of Guangxi, bordering Vietnam, was also H5N1.
Source: http://www.forbes.com/business/newswire/2004/01/31/rtr123704 8.html

14. *January 30, Reuters* — **Argentina detects fungus in soybean plants. Argentina, the world's third−biggest soybean producer, has detected Asian rust in the province of Misiones, but said the outbreak of the fungus did not threaten the 2003/2004 soybean crop.** "It is a minimal outbreak, in the same area as was found last year," a spokesperson at the federal agricultural department said. Misiones borders other soy−growing countries Paraguay and Brazil. Asian rust, which has swept across Brazil in recent years and caused losses for the industry, withers the leaves on plants and saps their ability to produce beans. A spokesman for Argentina's national food and animal health inspection service, Senasa, also said that the rust had been detected but added, "it is not a critical situation, it is an isolated situation."
Source: http://www.agriculture.com/worldwide/IDS/2004−01−30T134702Z_01_N30207927_RTRIDST_0_FOOD−ARGENTINA−RUST−UPDATE−1.html

[Return to top]

Food Sector

15. *January 30, AScribe Newswire* — **Lock to food−borne pathogen pathway may be key to vaccine. A previously unidentified protein on the surface of intestinal cells is giving Purdue University researchers clues on how to prevent disease. The scientists believe their results eventually could lead to a way to prevent food−borne Listeria monocytogenes infection,** which has a 20 percent fatality rate, as well as other diseases. "This research reveals a detailed mechanism that allows interaction of Listeria with a cell−surface protein, or receptor, on intestinal cells," said Arun Bhunia, a Department of Food Science microbiologist. "Knowing the entryway into the cell will allow us in the future to develop a method to prevent that interaction." Jennifer Wampler, lead author of the study, said, "Listeria often is implicated in patients with weakened immune systems, so we think that this research could also give us clues as to how other diseases work. This receptor is not unique for Listeria, so it also could be used by other organisms to take advantage and get inside a host cell to cause disease."
Source: http://www.ascribe.org/cgi−bin/spew4th.pl?ascribeid=20040130.070957&time=09%2027%20PST&year=2004&public=1

[Return to top]

Water Sector

16. *January 30, Richmond Times Dispatch* — **Piedmont aquifers more susceptible to contamination.** Water moves more quickly under Virginia's ground than experts thought, a new study says, raising the question of whether the state needs to reconsider how it protects its drinking−water aquifers. **The research by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) found that many Virginia drinking−water wells hold young water, which is susceptible to contamination.** Young water is moisture that only recently, on the scale of geologic time, seeped underground. "We were surprised by the results, which indicate that we need to rethink

basic concepts about Virginia's regional aquifers, especially the fractured rock and karst terrains west of the fall line," said David Nelms, principal USGS researcher. Above the fall line, the ground is underlain with fractured rocks and, in some places, karst that hold water used by the public. West of Interstate 95, the study found that most of the aquifers serving as public water supplies contain relatively young water: less than 50 years old. Water in the deep aquifers of the coastal plain is 10,000 to 40,000 years old. The age of the water got the scientists' attention because young water is more susceptible to contamination by sources near the land surface, the USGS said.
Source: http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD%2FMGArticle%2FRTD_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1031773386240&path=!news&s=1045855934842

17. *January 29, New Mexico Business Weekly* — **Albuquerque to save water. The city of Albuquerque, NM, will save one billion gallons of water a year by equipping its water mains with acoustic listening devices that can detect leaks, Mayor Martin Chavez said Thursday.** The battery−powered devices cost $250 each and are fitted with small radio transmitters that send signals to hand−held receivers. Based on those signals, city water department workers will be able to tell if the underground water mains have small leaks. **The devices, which are called loggers, will help the city reduce what is called unaccounted for water, water that is lost through unseen water leaks. It's estimated that 11 percent of the 34 billion gallons that the city pumps from its underground aquifer each year is unaccounted for water.** The loggers will reduce that figure to eight percent of the total water pumped, Chavez said. That number will drop to five or six percent in several years when the city finishes installing 7,000 new water meters to replace old meters, Chavez added.
Source: http://albuquerque.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/stories/2004/ 01/26/daily17.html

[Return to top]

Public Health Sector

18. *February 01, China Daily* — **New SARS case. China's Ministry of Health announced on Saturday a new confirmed case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in Guangdong Province, and the World Health Organization (WHO) urged China to undertake an urgent investigation into the sources of infection for the recent Guangdong cases.** The latest case or the fourth in the Chinese mainland, a 40−year−old doctor, has emerged in Guangzhou, capital city of Guangdong. **"The case raises a number of concerns about the manner in which the man's infection was detected, treated, and reported," the WHO said.** The statement reads: "Early detection, swift isolation and prompt reporting of cases are vital in the control of any infectious disease." WHO said it was informed about the case only on January 31. In the most recent case, the doctor fell ill on January 7. The doctor has denied having any contact with animals or SARS patients. WHO said it was important for health authorities to trace how the patients became sick as soon as possible. "Now we have four cases without a concrete source of infection," Roy Wadia, a WHO spokesman said. "It's something we're very concerned about."
Source: http://www1.chinadaily.com.cn/en/doc/2004−02/01/content_3019 48.htm

19.

February 01, Reuters — **WHO sees a possible case of human transmission of bird flu. Two sisters in Vietnam have died after contracting the deadly bird flu virus, possibly from their brother, marking the first human−to−human transmissions recorded in the current epidemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Sunday.** While the source of infection for the two sisters cannot be conclusively identified, the WHO said it "considers that limited human−to−human transmission, from the brother to the sisters, is one possible explanation." The WHO can't entirely be sure of how the sisters contracted the disease, because their brother died of respiratory ailments before any tests could be conducted on him. The Vietnamese sisters, aged 23 and 30, both died on January 23, the WHO said. Their brother died before them.
Source: http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&stor yID=4256454

20. *January 31, Reuters* — **Experts check if pigs catching bird flu. Experts in Vietnam are checking rumors that pigs have caught bird flu, which could result in a new, powerful stain of the disease that could be caught and passed on by people, a flu specialist said on Saturday.** Pigs are seen as as an ideal vessel for bird and human viruses to mix and produce new strains that humans can catch. "There are rumours of pigs being infected in Vietnam. World Health Organization (WHO) teams are there to see if pigs are infected," Jacqueline Katz, a flu expert at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told a conference in Hong Kong. The H5N1 bird flu virus has has killed eight people and decimated poultry populations in 10 Asian countries in two months. All of the human victims are believed to have caught the flu from contact with infected chickens, the WHO says. **"If there was a very widespread infection in pigs, then that would be a great concern that a pandemic strain might develop from it," Katz said.** Pigs are often kept next to chickens throughout Asia and medical experts have long feared that such farming methods could allow cross−infection and mutation of viruses.
Source: http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/T278633.htm

21. *January 30, Federal Computer Week* — **Bush to seek $274M for biosurveillance. The Bush administration will request $274 million in fiscal 2005 for an integrated biosurveillance initiative that will, among other things, develop a national data collection and analysis system for identifying possible bioterrorist incidents and other disease outbreaks.** The Health and Human Services Department would allocate $130 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to continue investments in disease surveillance, including better links with public health laboratories and improved capabilities at border health and quarantine stations. The system would be different from the Health Alert Network, which primarily pushes information to public health and other facilities. The federal government and health officials have said for some time that they wanted a better system to analyze data and spot disease outbreaks quickly before they spread. Additionally, $118 million would be used in the Department of Homeland Security's BioWatch program, which has deployed sensors across 30 cities to collect air samples.
Source: http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0126/web−biosurveillanc e−01−29−04.asp

22. *January 30, Reuters* — **Untreatable tuberculosis rampant in Russia. Tuberculosis, long ago subdued by Western doctors, is not only rampant in Russia but increasingly mutating into new forms that even the most powerful new medicines cannot kill.** It is spreading among the country's most vulnerable groups: around one in 10 prisoners in Russia's jails has it, and among

homeless people the rate is similar. And post−Soviet medical mismanagement, many doctors say, has already allowed the contagious, airborne disease to mutate into strains that cannot be killed by the most modern medicines. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that TB in Russia has risen threefold since 1991 and predicts an epidemic among HIV−positive Russians whose immune systems are hit by the virus that causes AIDS. **WHO figures put TB prevalence in Russia at 134 cases per 100,000 people compared with six per 100,000 in Norway, 12 in Britain and five in the United States.** Multi−drug−resistant (MDR) TB can be treated only with expensive modern drugs and is often caused by not ensuring that patients finish a course of treatment. MDR TB drugs need to be used for longer and are less effective than traditional treatment. **WHO figures show MDR−TB running as high as one in 10 new TB cases among the general population in some regions and almost as high as one in five in the prisons.**
Source: http://msnbc.msn.com/id/4106566/

[Return to top]

Government Sector

23. *January 31, U.S. Newswire* — **National League of Cities to Congress: Cities can't absorb federal budget cuts. In anticipation of the President's fiscal year 2005 federal budget submission on Monday, the president of the National League of Cities (NLC) Friday, January 30, advised Congress that any cuts made in funding for cities would translate directly into cuts in programs and services at the local level.** In a letter to all members of Congress, Arlington, MA, First Selectman and NLC President Charles Lyons explained that local fiscal problems have left cities with "virtually no capacity to absorb or compensate for cuts in program budgets." The full text of the letter follows. The National League of Cities is the oldest and largest national organization for American cities. NLC serves as a resource and advocate for 18,000 cities, towns and villages of all sizes, which collectively serve 225 million people
Source: http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=101−0131200 4

24. *January 30, Global Security Newswire* — **States submit homeland security plans.** In a watershed federal effort to obtain a national picture of the terrorist threat, 19 states had submitted homeland security strategies to the federal government by mid−morning Friday ahead of a key deadline Saturday. **The remaining 31 states were expected to meet the Saturday deadline, according to Chris Rizzuto of the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness.** Initiated seven months ago, the federal consolidation of state and local information is an effort to better distribute funds that Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge has said will amount to about $7.5 billion annually over the short term. The Homeland Security Department is required by the 2002 legislation that created it to produce a detailed national assessment of the terrorist threat as a basis for federal spending and to continually update the assessment in the future.
Source: http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0104/013004gsn1.htm

25. *January 30, Government Executive Magazine* — **U.S., Canada launch talks on sharing citizen data.** The U.S. and Canadian governments have started formal negotiations over whether Canada will provide private information on its citizens for U.S. terrorist watch lists and

aviation security programs, senior officials from both countries said Friday, January 30. **Homeland Security Department Secretary Tom Ridge said an agreement is "by no means automatic" and will require "lengthy" negotiations, given the differences in the laws of both countries.** The U.S. government is seeking access to watch lists from other countries for efforts such as the Terrorist Screening Center, which provides U.S. law enforcement agencies access to integrated databases, and the Computer−Assisted Passenger Pre−Screening II (CAPPS II) program, which screens and rates airline passengers for potential threats. Anne McLellan, Canada's minister of public safety and emergency preparedness, said Canada is evaluating what information it might provide to the U.S. government. **For text of speeches refer to:** http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/pres s_release_0340.xml
Source: http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0104/013004c1.htm

[Return to top]

Emergency Services Sector

26. *January 30, Government Technology* — **First responders seek relief from radio interference.** Thursday, January 29, in Washington, DC, public−safety organizations announced a letter asking President Bush to support a Consensus Plan developed by first−responder organizations and private wireless companies, that would reduce or eliminate 800MHz radio interference. **The radio interference is caused by the intermingling of the 800 MHz spectrum with commercial wireless operators. Interference incidents have reached a critical level with nearly 1,000 cases reported in more than 30 states −− and the problem continues to grow.** The Consensus Plan proposes to realign the 800 MHz spectrum to give public safety its own dedicated portion of bandwidth to operate free from interference. The plan will not impose any cost on public−safety agencies, municipalities or the American taxpayer, according to the announcement.
Source: http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=86682

[Return to top]

Information and Telecommunications Sector

27. *February 02, Federal Trade Commission* — **FTC and international agencies announce "Operation Secure Your Server".** The United States Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and 36 agencies in 26 countries announced "Operation Secure Your Server" on Thursday, January 29, an international effort to reduce the flow of unsolicited commercial e−mail by urging organizations to close "open relays" and "open proxies." As part of the initiative, **the participating agencies have identified tens of thousands of owners or operators of potentially open relay or open proxy servers around the world, and the agencies are sending letters urging the owners and operators to protect themselves from becoming unwitting sources of spam**. Open relays and open proxies are servers that allow any computer in the world to "bounce" or route e−mail through servers of other organizations, thereby disguising the real origin of the e−mail. Spammers often abuse these servers to flood the Internet with unwanted e−mail. Their abuses not only overload servers, but also could damage an unwitting business' reputation if it appears that the business sent the spam. The FTC and

agencies in Albania, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Hungary, Jamaica, Japan, Lithuania, Norway, Panama, Peru, Romania, Serbia, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom are sponsoring this initiative.
Source: http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2004/01/opsecure.htm

28. *January 30, Goverrnment Computer News* — **NIST e−authentication spec out for comment.** The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is seeking public comments on its draft recommendations for electronic authentication. NIST Special Publication 800−63 follows up guidelines from the Office of Management and Budget defining four levels of authentication assurance for federal IT systems. **The levels indicate increasingly serious risks of authentication errors or misuse of electronic credentials**. Making an online reservation for a national park campsite, for example, carries less risk than online filing of financial information. **The guidelines present technical requirements for identity proofing, tokens, remote authentication and assertion mechanisms at each level of assurance**. NIST will accept comments on the proposed recommendations until March 15 at eauth−comments@nist.gov. The draft is available online: http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/drafts.html
Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily−updates/24796−1.html

29. *January 29, eSecurity Planet* — **Top ten most critical Web application security flaws. The second annual list of the top 10 most critical Web application security vulnerabilities, released by the Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) of IT security professionals, adds the category of denial of service vulnerabilities because they have become more prevalent in the past year**. "We predict that this year a major e−commerce site will suffer a denial of service attack because the hacker has resent many of the user passwords," says Mark Curphey, chairman of OWASP. The hack results when an attacker, for example, rents a high volume of email names and runs an attack that can reset the user's password on an e−commerce site. OWASP emerged from efforts by Curphey and his peers to define the major issues around securing Websites. But the developers said they wanted something they could show to the CIO and other executives, so last year the group issues its first Top 10 List of Critical Web Application Security Vulnerabilities. Here is the top 10 list for 2004:
Non−validated input, broken access control, broken authentication and session management, cross site scripting, buffer overflows, injection flaws, improper error handling, insecure storage, denial of service, insecure configuration management.
Source: http://www.esecurityplanet.com/trends/article.php/3305981

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels

AlertCon: 2 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	Security Focus ThreatCon: 2 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/

Current Virus and Port Attacks

Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: **WORM_MYDOOM.A** Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html, Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	135 (epmap), 1434 (ms−sql−m), 137 (netbios−ns), 21 (ftp), 4899 (radmin), 4128 (−−−), 445 (microsoft−ds), 6129 (dameware), 80 (www), 53 (domain) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center

[Return to top]

General Sector

30. *January 31, Associated Press* — **Police threatened with attack in Ohio shootings.** A day after officials announced a 911 caller claimed responsibility for a string of highway shootings, Ohio authorities say a second man has threatened to attack police officers. Investigators say they believe the second man who called is different from the man who repeatedly called 911 on Monday. That caller claimed responsibility for 20 shootings at cars, school buses and homes , on or near a section of Interstate 270 south of Columbus. One person was killed in November. The latest caller said "It's gonna get worse." **He said also intends to start shooting at police. Sheriff's officials said they warned law enforcement officials around the state of the latest caller's threats and that a task force on the shootings is taking both sets of calls seriously.** Source: http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=26565

31. *January 30, Associated Press* — **Cyanide, arsenal stirs domestic terror fear.** William Krar and Judith Bruey assembled a frightening arsenal in three rented storage units in Noonday, TX, and federal authorities are trying to figure out why. **A raid in April found nearly two pounds of a cyanide compound and other chemicals that could create enough poisonous gas to kill everyone inside a space as large as a big−chain bookstore or a small−town civic center. Authorities also discovered nearly half a million rounds of ammunition, more than 60 pipe bombs, machine guns, silencers and remote−controlled bombs disguised as briefcases, plus pamphlets on how to make chemical weapons, and anti−Semitic, anti−black and anti−government books.** The findings have led to one of the most extensive domestic−terrorism investigations since the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. Federal investigators believe conspirators may remain free, and one question lingers: What did the couple intend to do with the weapons? **"There's no other reason for anyone to possess that type of device other than to kill people," said Brit Featherston, a federal prosecutor and the government's anti−terrorism coordinator in Texas' eastern district.** "The arsenal found in those searches had the capability of terrorizing a lot of people." Source: http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/Southwest/01/30/cyanide.probe.ap/ index.html

32. *January 30, Boston Globe* — **Suspect arrested in terror cell case. Authorities in Yemen said Thursday they had arrested a Yemeni−American wanted by the U.S. for alleged links to an al Qaeda cell in New York state whose members trained in an Afghan military−style camp.** Yemen's ruling party quoted an unnamed security official on its website as saying that Jaber Elbaneh was arrested several weeks ago and was being interrogated in a Yemeni jail. Elbaneh has been accused of links to the "Lackawanna Six," members of what prosecutors said

was an al Qaeda cell based in Lackawanna, NY. **In May, U.S. prosecutors charged Elbaneh in absentia with conspiring with six other Yemeni−Americans who admitted they were trained in April 2001 at a camp in Afghanistan run by Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network.** The six men, all U.S. citizens of Yemeni descent, were imprisoned in December for up to 10 years under plea deals.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2004/01/30/suspect_arrested_in_terror_cell_case/

[Return to top]

DHS/IAIP Products &Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web−site (http://www.nipc.gov), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

DHS/IAIP Warnings − DHS/IAIP Assessements, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

DHS/IAIP Publications − DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive − Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at (703)883−3644
Subscription and Distribution Information	Send mail to nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at 703−883−3644 for more information.

Contact DHS/IAIP

To report any incidents or to request information from DHS/IAIP, contact the DHS/IAIP Watch at nipc.watch@fbi.gov or call (202)323−3204.

DHS/IAIP Disclaimer

The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary and assessment of open−source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. This is an internal DHS/IAIP tool intended to serve the informational needs of DHS/IAIP personnel and other interested staff. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions of the content. The IAIP provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or of accuracy in respect of the original source material.