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North Dakota Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism Summary



The North Dakota Open Source Anti-Terrorism Summary is a product of the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC). It provides open source news articles and information on terrorism, crime, and potential destructive or damaging acts of nature or unintentional acts. Articles are placed in the Anti-Terrorism Summary to provide situational awareness for local law enforcement, first responders, government officials, and private/public infrastructure owners. If you have any comments to improve this summary or local information you would like to see in the summary please send the information to; kihagel@nd.gov

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QUICK LINKS

North Dakota

Regional

National

International

Banking and Finance Industry

**Chemical and Hazardous
Materials Sector**

Commercial Facilities

Communications Sector

Critical Manufacturing

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Emergency Services

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Food and Agriculture

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Schools and Universities)**

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Telecommunications**

National Monuments and Icons

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NORTH DAKOTA

(North Dakota; Minnesota) Sandbags in place as Red River rises. The Red River kept rising to dangerous levels Friday as those in the area hoped they had done enough to protect themselves. Though the river is in a major flood stage, folks in Fargo, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota, said they were optimistic after filling more than a million sandbags and stacking most of them. “We’re in good shape, and we have a lot of things in place in case there are any problems,” the Fargo mayor said. He said the river is expected to crest in the next day or two at a level close to 3 feet below last year’s record flood level. In 2009, the Red River set a record 40.8 feet at Fargo. As of 12:15 a.m. ET Friday, the river was at 34.61 feet, more than 16 feet above the flood stage of 18 feet. Last week, warm weather and rain melted snow south of Fargo and Moorhead, causing the Red River to swell. Upstream, snow and ice have yet to melt, pushing water back toward the two cities. In Fargo,

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more than 700,000 sandbags had been placed around the city. But still, parts of Fargo were flooding Friday, city officials said. “The river is definitely well over its banks and has gone into adjacent city parks, different areas that are noncritical, not people’s backyards or businesses or anything like that,” a Fargo spokeswoman said. But in the rural town of Hickson, about 15 miles south of Fargo, the flooding was well under way Thursday. Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/weather/03/19/north.dakota.flooding/index.html?hpt=T2>

(North Dakota) Hospitals, care centers make evacuation plans. Hospitals and nursing homes in Fargo-Moorhead, North Dakota, are well along in drafting contingency plans in the event major flooding strikes again this spring. Administrators said they are better prepared than last year in the event river levels force evacuations, as happened last year. In fact, because of the longer lead time and experience gained from last year, some administrators believe it is less likely that evacuations would become necessary this year. Protection against floodwaters is not the only concern at health centers, which need water, sanitation and electrical services to serve patients and residents. “I think there’s greater confidence we aren’t going anywhere,” said a vice president at Innovis Health, which last year did not have to evacuate. “We have the added benefit of time and experience.” Source:

<http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/271834/>

(North Dakota) ND oil refinery plans maintenance shutdown. North Dakota’s only oil refinery is planning a month-long shutdown for maintenance and upgrades beginning next month. Officials say the planned \$125 million project at Tesoro Petroleum Corp.’s Mandan refinery is the most extensive overhaul at the facility since 2003. The refinery was built in 1954 and produces gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, propane, butane, and residual fuel. It also has an ethanol blending facility. Tesoro acquired the refinery from BP in 2001. The company says the planned overhaul will bring to \$250 million the amount it has spent on environmental and production upgrades at the refinery. Source:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D9ED4MG02.html>

REGIONAL

(Minnesota) Stillwater scrambles after new river forecast. The latest forecast for the rise of the St. Croix (Saynt Croy) River during the spring floods could make for tense week in Stillwater, Minnesota. The Thursday afternoon update from the National Weather put the river at 83 feet, but also predicts a steady rise to flood stage of 87 feet by Tuesday and nearly 88 feet by Thursday. The city’s public works director says that is a foot higher than the previous forecast and triggers an overhaul of the city’s flood fighting plan. The city had already lined up 2,000 feet of concrete barriers to protect downtown, but he says now they will need to be covered with gravel to hold back more water. If the river reaches 88 feet, the Stillwater lift bridge will be closed, cutting off a well-traveled route to western Wisconsin. Source: http://www.twincities.com/politics/ci_14699339?nclick_check=1

(Montana) TSA official criticized over passenger treatment at Gallatin Field. The top Transportation Security Administration official in Montana is being criticized for how passengers at Gallatin Field near Bozeman were treated after a man inadvertently got a gun through security late last year. The official attended a regular meeting of the Airport Authority Board on Thursday to answer accusations that passengers had been treated poorly since the Dec. 13 security breach. A board member told the official that the “heavy-headed” demeanor of screeners “leaves a bad taste in your mouth.” Other

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board members said TSA employees at the airport are less courteous than at other airports. The official said he takes customer service seriously and was “very pleased to get the feedback.” The TSA said in January that screeners accidentally allowed a passenger with a firearm in his carryon luggage through security about a month before. The unidentified man realized he had the gun when he was in the boarding area and turned himself in. Source: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/article_f3d3a194-2dd5-11df-8f90-001cc4c03286.html

(Montana) Vandals damage transformers at Frazer substation. The Valley County, Montana, Sheriff’s Office is searching for vandals who shot at a Frazer electric substation, damaging three transformers that will cost \$105,000 to replace. As part of routine maintenance, employees discovered the damaged transformers March 1. Valley County’s sheriff said Thursday that the department has not received one tip or clue to pursue. The NorVal Electric Co-operative transformers were leaking oil. Each costs \$35,000 to replace, plus the cost of labor. Maintenance crews spotted the damage before the transformers shorted out, which would have wiped out power for a large area of eastern Montana. The co-op is looking for replacement parts. Meanwhile, the company will try to reroute electricity, which strains other parts of the electrical system, or bring in portable transformers. Source: <http://www.greatfallsribune.com/article/20100312/NEWS01/3120309/Vandals-damage-transformers-at-Frazer-substation>

NATIONAL

Midwest braces for floods. A massive snowpack in the Upper Midwest and along parts of the East Coast have set the stage for potential record floods in the coming weeks, possibly pushing back the planting season in the Farm Belt and prompting intense preparations to reinforce levees and draw down reservoirs. The outlook is most dire in the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Iowa, which together endured four times the average amount of precipitation in December. The Red River, which runs north between Fargo, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota, crested about 23 feet above its “flood stage,” breaking a century-old record. The river is expected to crest 20 feet above flood stage on Saturday. The forecast is creating anxiety across the Farm Belt as growers try to recover from last year’s unusually wet growing season. Although farmers managed to harvest bumper corn and soybean crops despite spring planting delays and a rainy fall harvest, hundreds of thousands of acres of cropland went unpicked, and the quality of the corn and sugar beet crops suffered. On Tuesday in Fargo, trucks with police escorts delivered hundreds of thousands of sandbags to vulnerable neighborhoods as neighbors built dikes around homes. Schools are expected to dismiss students from classes this week so they can help, said the Fargo City Administrator. In Iowa, ice dams caused the Des Moines River to flood several roads. Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703734504575125670672385714.html>

New standards for federal building security coming. An interagency committee is developing new physical security standards for all non-Defense agencies, totaling about 300,000 facilities. But the 45-member agency group, known as the ISC, is coming under fire for its lack of authority. Some House lawmakers are calling for new legislation to mandate minimum federal building security standards. And employee unions are requesting a major change to who protects federal buildings. All of this came to a head Tuesday during a House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, the Postal Service and the District of Columbia hearing. A Congressional delegate

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from the District of Columbia says the inconsistencies in applying physical security rules across the government is why the Interagency Security Committee needs to be replaced. Source:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=35&sid=1914142>

INTERNATIONAL

Canada, U.S. set new avalanche danger warning system. Canada unveiled the new warning system just days after a big snow slide slammed into a snowmobile rally near Revelstoke, British Columbia, killing two people, although officials said the timing was only a coincidence. The danger scale, to be implemented next winter, modifies current systems advising people whether it is safe to be in mountain regions, by incorporating both the likelihood and consequences of an avalanche in an area. The current systems used in Canada and the U.S. warns people about the likelihood of a snow slide, but does not communicate other important information, said a mountain risk specialist with Parks Canada. “(The new system) considers factors such as both the likelihood of triggering an avalanche and how big it will be,” the specialist said. “Its job is to make it easier to understand.” He said the danger of several small slides being triggered may be considered less than the likelihood of one very large slide. Parks Canada, the Canadian Avalanche Center, U.S. Forest Service and Colorado Avalanche Center were among the agencies that spent five years developing and testing the new warning system. “It’s a significant accomplishment,” said the director of the U.S. Forest Service’s avalanche center in Ketchum, Idaho. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62G53S20100317>

Pakistani court charges five Americans with terrorism. A Pakistani court charged five young Americans on Wednesday with planning terrorist attacks in the South Asian country and conspiring to wage war against nations allied with Pakistan, their defense lawyer said. The men — all Muslims from the Washington, D.C., area — pleaded not guilty to a total of five charges, the most severe of which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison, defense lawyer told The Associated Press. “My clients were in good shape and high spirits,” the defense lawyer said. The men, ages 19 to 25, were charged by an anti-terrorism court inside a prison in Sargodha, the city in Punjab province where they were arrested in December. They were reported missing by their families in November after one left behind a farewell video showing scenes of war and casualties and saying Muslims must be defended. Their lawyer has said they were heading to Afghanistan and had no plans to stage attacks inside Pakistan. The court also charged the men with planning attacks on Afghan and U.S. territory, said the defense lawyer. The charges did not specify what was meant by U.S. territory but could be a reference to American bases or diplomatic outposts in Afghanistan. Source:

http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2010-03-17-pakistan-americans-terrorism_N.htm

A UK-specific banking malware is hitting users and proving difficult to detect for anti-virus vendors. Warnings have been made about a piece of banking malware that specifically targets UK banks. The CEO of Trusteer claimed that Silon works as a ‘man-in-the-middle’ attack and specifically targets the login page, and to date only one out of 41 anti-virus detections have been made. He said that it was able to target web pages ‘on the fly’ and collects logon information, including one-time passwords. He said: “As an .exe file it looks different on each computer so it is hard for anti-virus to detect it. The bottom line is we are facing a very sophisticated piece of malware that is flying under the radar of anti-virus vendors and it is distributed to large customers and bypassing rules put in place. It is the ultimate piece of malware.” Commenting on it specifically targeting UK banks, the CEO said that it will target two or three banks where it needs to recruit mule accounts, and once it is mastered its

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controller can commit a lot of fraud. Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/a-uk-specific-banking-malware-is-hitting-users-and-proving-difficult-to-detect-for-anti-virus-vendors/article/165947/>

750,000-sq.-ft. data center opens in Wales. One of the world's largest data centers has opened for business in the U.K., protected by bomb-proof glass and powered by enough electricity to run a small city. The NGD Europe data center, just outside Newport in south Wales, has 750,000 square feet (70,000 square meters) of floor space, or enough to house about 19,000 server racks. It officially opened on March 15, and its operator hopes to sign up big customers that need to run busy Web sites and other computing services. The owner, Next Generation Data, invested about Â£200 million (\$301 million) to convert a former chip manufacturing plant on the site that never opened for business. The first two tenants, BT and Logica, started moving equipment in last month and have signed long-term contracts worth a combined Â£20 million, Next Generation Data said. The site has its own substation providing 90 megavolt-amperes of electrical power, or enough to supply a city of 400,000 people, the company said. To guard against terrorism and other attacks it has "triple-skinned walls, bomb-proof glass, prison-grade perimeter fencing, infra-red detection, biometric recognition and ex-special forces security guards." Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9171239/750_000_sq._ft._data_center_opens_in_Wales

BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

Blackstone considers \$1bn fund for failed banks. Blackstone Group, the largest private equity firm in the industry, has initiated talks over raising a \$1bn fund to buy up failed banks, according to reports. The firm is talking to a former president of Bluebonnet Savings Bank about the proposal. Regulators are said to have seized at around 160 lenders since the start of 2009, with the FDIC's list of "problem" banks standing at just over 700 with more than \$400bn in assets. In May last year, Blackstone and Carlyle invested \$900m in BankUnited after winning an auction for the troubled Florida lender. Investors, which also included funds managed by Centerbridge Partners and WL Ross & Co, bought BankUnited's operations, deposits, and assets from its receiver, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). The struggling bank had assets of around \$13bn. Source:

<http://www.altassets.com/private-equity-news/by-region/north-america/unitedstates/article/nz18170.html>

(Colorado) 'Suspicious package' at Wells Fargo blown up by bomb squad. The Pueblo Police Department's bomb squad blew up a suspicious package that prompted the evacuation of a Wells Fargo Bank and several local businesses on March 16. Employees of the Wells Fargo Bank on the 500 block of Main Street noticed a suspicious package in the front foyer and called the police department around 9:52 a.m. The Pueblo Police Department bomb squad created a small explosion to blow open the package after x-rays gave inconclusive results. Inside was literature for the Medical Marijuana Dispensary that is adjacent to the bank. Local businesses were closed for one and a half hours due to the police investigation. Source: <http://www.krdo.com/Global/story.asp?S=12151033>

Crooks plant fake payment card terminals at multiple stores. Crooks planted bogus payment card processing terminals at multiple locations operated by the Hancock Fabrics chain store that allowed for the theft of sensitive financial data from customers, the company warned. The personal identification number pads were stolen in August and September and "replaced with visually identical, but fraudulent PIN pad units," Hancock Fabrics warned in a letter to customers. "As a result,

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certain account information and PIN numbers used at these locations may have been unlawfully acquired by third parties.” Intercepted information may have included the name printed on the payment card, the card number, the expiration date, and the PIN if it was entered into one of the fraudulent terminals. The company recommended that customers review their account statements and credit reports. Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/15/fraudulent_payment_card_processors/

(New Jersey) Robber threatened to use grenade at Manasquan bank. Police are asking for the public’s help in locating an armed man who threatened to blow up a bank branch earlier today and made off with an undisclosed amount of money, putting one area school into lockdown and forcing two others to take emergency precautions, authorities said. The robber, who used a southern accent, is described as an overweight, white man between 50 and 60 years old and about 5 feet 7 inches tall. The man entered the Two River Community Bank at 240 Parker Ave., near Route 71, around 2:20p.m., the administrative assistant Monmouth County prosecutor said. He brandished what appeared to be a small caliber revolver. He also showed two other items which appeared to be hand grenades, one of which was around his neck, the assistant prosecutor said. The man told the teller that one of the items was hooked up to a timer and would blow up in a number of minutes if he was not given all the money in the bank, the assistant prosecutor said. The man was given an undisclosed amount of money. The incident caused the lockdown of the nearby Sea Girt elementary school. Manasquan Elementary School, while not on lockdown, did retain pupils until they could be picked up by parents. Manasquan High School canceled all ongoing after school activities and also held children until parents arrived. Source: <http://www.app.com/article/20100311/NEWS/100311081/Robber-threatened-to-use-grenade-at-Manasquan-bank>

CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

(California) Shoppers evacuated as police search Torrance Sears after bomb threat. Police searched the Sears store Tuesday at Del Amo Fashion Center in Torrance following a telephoned bomb threat. Nothing was found. Shoppers and employees were forced to evacuate shortly after 4 p.m. No other stores at the mall were affected. Torrance police searched the store with dogs. People were allowed to return about 5:30 p.m. The Torrance Fire Department, along with police from Santa Monica and Los Angeles International Airport, assisted in the search. Source:

http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_14687971

(Virginia) Bomb squad called to Redskins Park. A suspicious man delivered an unknown, unexpected package to Redskins park in Loudoun County on March 12. Authorities at Redskins Park responded by issuing a call to the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office. Officials employed a bomb-detecting robot to assist in the detection, but they found the contents of the package to be safe. An administrative assistant at Redskins Park was immediately suspicious of the package. “The person who delivered the package didn’t appear to be with a delivery company,” a public information officer (PIO) for the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office, said. “Someone just brought it in and left it with the administrative assistant.” He said that they receive sporadic calls based on the different levels of threats. According to the PIO, this particular threat was large enough to prompt officials to bring a robot along to avoid

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risk of bomb-related injury. The package was determined to be harmless. Source: <http://www.loudouni.com/news/2010-03-15/bomb-squad-called-redskins-park>

(California) White powder brings out bomb squad in North Chico. A hazmat team was investigating a potentially explosive powder on Three Sevens Lane in North Chico, California, Monday night. They fear it could be the same substance that left two children injured in an explosion at a Chico mobile home park on February 15th. A worker called 911 after noticing smoke and finding several small piles of white crystal powder on the ground in this industrial area Monday night. An initial inspection by members of the Butte Interagency Hazmat Team determined that the powder could be an explosive, shock-sensitive material so they called out the bomb squad. Investigators say, while it could have been a harmless spill, there were reasons to believe it might not be. “The fact that there was a situation where someone was trying to set some type of material on fire increased the suspicion level up a little bit,” said a Captain with the Chico Fire Department, “so we’re going to take the necessary precautions to go in there, have the bomb squad go in there take a sample.” Once that sample was collected the hazmat team planned to determine if the material was indeed explosive, and if so, safely remove it. Source: <http://www.khsltv.com/content/localnews/story/White-Powder-Brings-Out-Bomb-Squad-in-North-Chico/q7EnJ0eWpkKg54kUd23E3A.csp>

COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

Broadband plan gives FCC wider cybersecurity role. The National Broadband Plan released by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently contains several recommendations that are designed to boost the preparedness of communications networks to deal with cyberthreats. The plan gives the FCC a greatly enhanced role in developing and promoting cybersecurity measures and calls for closer cooperation between the FCC and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on security matters. The 360-page broadband plan is a blueprint for modernizing the country’s aging communications networks and for delivering broadband services to a majority of U.S. homes over the next decade. It contains six long-term policy goals and other recommendations for ensuring the availability of affordable 100Mbit/sec. service to 100 million U.S. homes, and 1Gbit/sec. service to institutions such as hospitals and schools, by 2020. While a vast majority of the recommendations deal with building out the communications infrastructure, several touch on cybersecurity and communications networks’ ability to survive a cyberattack. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9172258/Broadband_plan_gives_FCC_wider_cybersecurity_role

FCC wants 120MHz of spectrum from TV stations. The U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will seek to take back 120MHz of spectrum from U.S. television stations in the next five years and reallocate it to wireless broadband providers in a voluntary program that would allow the stations to share or keep spectrum auction revenues, under a national broadband plan that will be officially released on March 16. The FCC would seek approval from Congress to conduct “incentive auctions” of unused spectrum, including TV spectrum, and the agency could either act as a third-party auctioneer of the spectrum or share the auction proceeds with the sellers, according to the broadband plan, which the FCC released to reporters on March 15. The TV spectrum auctions are part of a goal to free up 500MHz of spectrum for wireless broadband over the next decade, one of the major goals of the 400-page broadband plan. If, however, the FCC doesn’t get enough volunteers to free up spectrum, it will look for other ways to take back the spectrum, but FCC officials said on

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March 15 they expect to get enough TV stations to give up their extra spectrum in exchange for auction proceeds. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9171058/FCC_wants_120MHz_of_spectrum_from_TV_stations

AT and T experiences outage. Interruption in telephone service provided by AT&T on March 12 impacted a “couple hundred thousand customers,” according to a worker who did not want to be identified. An AT&T spokeswoman said in an e-mail the company was working on the problem that has impacted “business Voice over IP (Internet protocol) and teleconferencing services” for some customers. As of mid-afternoon on March 12, the problem appeared to be resolved. Source:

<http://mywebtimes.com/archives/ottawa/display.php?id=399665>

FCC launches broadband test site for consumers. The U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has added tools to the Broadband.gov Web site to help users measure their broadband speeds or report that they do not have broadband available. The FCC announced on March 11 that it has added new features called the Consumer Broadband Test and the Broadband Dead Zone Report to Broadband.gov. The Consumer Broadband Test measures broadband quality indicators such as speed and latency and reports that information to consumers and the FCC. A mobile version of the app, the first mobile app released by the FCC, is also available through the Apple and Android app stores. The Consumer Broadband Test uses two popular broadband testing tools: the Ookla Speed Test and the Network Diagnostic Tool, running on the Measurement Lab (M-Lab) platform. The FCC plans to offer additional broadband testing tools in the future, the agency said in a press release. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9169618/FCC_launches_broadband_test_site_for_consumers

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE SECTOR

(Colorado) Colo. company accused of exporting military tech. Federal prosecutors say a Colorado company illegally exported technology used by the U.S. military to South Korea, China, Russia and Turkey. The U.S. attorney’s office in Denver announced the charge Wednesday against Rocky Mountain Instrument Co., and said the company will be forced to forfeit \$1 million if convicted. A spokesman for the U.S. attorney declined to comment on whether the alleged crime compromised national security. Lafayette, Colo.-based RMI says it has been cooperating with the government’s investigation and is working toward a plea agreement with prosecutors. The company manufactures optics components. Prosecutors say it exported prisms and technical data for optics used in military applications to the four countries from April 1, 2005 to Oct. 11, 2007. Source:

http://www.wlos.com/template/inews_wire/wires.national/319ccecce-www.wlos.com.shtml

104 Hornets grounded after cracks discovered. Naval Air Systems Command grounded 104 Navy and Marine F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets Friday after inspectors discovered the airframes were developing cracks much earlier than engineers had thought. The grounding order affects the first four varieties of Hornet — models A through D — and does not apply to aircraft now flying combat missions over Iraq or Afghanistan. The number of Hornets affected makes up 16 percent of the Navy-Marine A through D fleet. There have been no crashes or other mishaps related to the problem, said a Navy spokesman. Of the 104 grounded jets, 77 are in flight status. Of those, 23 are in Navy and Marine Corps fleet squadrons; five are forward-deployed at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan; five belong to the

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Blue Angels flight demonstration team; and 44 are in fleet replacement squadrons. The other 27 Hornets are in a maintenance status. The grounding notice from NavAir covered a “high stress focus area” that engineers already knew about as part of the Hornets’ service-life assessment program, the spokesman said, so NavAir issued a set of instructions for affected aircraft. Squadrons have been ordered to perform a magnetic field inspection on jets included in the grounding. The spokesman said most of the problems had been reported on C and D model Hornets across the Navy and Marine Corps, although there was a potential for cracks on all versions of the jet. He said cracking was taking place at the “aft wing shear attach fitting” — approximately the seam where part of a Hornet’s wing joins to the fuselage. There are a total of 635 A- through D-model jets in the Navy and Marine Corps fleet. Source: http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2010/03/navy_hornets_grounding_031210w/

Robot mini space shuttle is go for April, says US Air Force. Long-delayed plans by the US to deploy a small robot space shuttle appear now to be approaching fruition, according to reports. The US Air Force has now stated that the X-37 unmanned spaceplane will be launched into orbit on April 19. The X-37 began life as a NASA project, intended perhaps to lead to a manned “lifeboat” re-entry craft for the crew of the International Space Station (ISS). In the event NASA did little more than get the ball rolling, and the ISS lifeboat is actually an ordinary Russian Soyuz capsule. But the X-37 project at Boeing carried on, passing from NASA into military hands and becoming a robotic spaceplane able to remain in orbit for substantial periods before re-entering the atmosphere and coming in for a runway landing automatically. It is now run by the US Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, which at one point hoped to make the first space flight as early as 2008. Now, according to written answers supplied by the Air Force to Spaceflight Now, the X-37 has been shipped to Florida where it will be mounted atop an Atlas V launch rocket for dispatch into orbit next month. The air force spokesmen aren’t revealing anything more about the X-37’s mission - not even the date for its return to Earth, far less anything regarding the payload. According to the Rapid Capabilities Office the X-37B has the requirement to be on-orbit up to 270 days. Actual length for the first mission will depend on the meeting the mission objectives, which consists of checkout and performance characteristics of the spacecraft systems. Objectives of the OTV [Orbital Test Vehicle] program include space experimentation, risk reduction and concept of operations development for reusable space vehicle technologies. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/15/x_37_go_for_april/

Aegis weapon system tested during international multiple ship demonstration. Lockheed Martin, in support of the U.S. Navy, successfully completed Combat System Ship Qualification Trials (CSSQT) for Aegis Combat Systems installed aboard U.S. and Spanish navy ships. The last time these two nations participated in a combined CSSQT was in 2007. The latest event was conducted at sea last week in the vicinity of Pt. Mugu, CA and involved U.S. Navy destroyers USS Dewey (DDG 105) and USS Wayne E Meyer (DDG 108) along with the Spanish Navy frigate Alvaro de Bazan (F-101). During the CSSQT, the ships’ Aegis Combat Systems were evaluated for combat-readiness through comprehensive surface, subsurface and anti-air warfare exercises, including manned raids and electronic attack scenarios, as well as thorough testing of the systems’ tactical data link and air defense capabilities. Source: [http://nosint.blogspot.com/2010/03/aegis-weapon-system-tested-during.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+blogspot/fqzx+\(Naval+Open+Source+INTelligence\)](http://nosint.blogspot.com/2010/03/aegis-weapon-system-tested-during.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+blogspot/fqzx+(Naval+Open+Source+INTelligence))

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

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Toyota warns of engine stalling in 1.2M Corollas. Just when Toyota thought it was getting hold of its recall nightmare, it is now trying to figure out how to fix computer flaws in up to 1.2 million Toyota Corolla and Matrix models that can cause engines to stall, the Detroit Free Press is reporting. But Toyota has told federal auto safety regulators it does not think the problem “an unreasonable risk” to safety. Drive On guesses that is because these ones have engines that will not stay running, rather than engines that run out of control, the subject of unwanted-acceleration recalls. So far, the Corolla problem in 2005 to 2007 models is not at the recall stage yet. But this is another tough break for the automaker. In a letter to NHTSA, Toyota said the problem was due to physical faults in the production of the vehicles’ engine control units, which it blamed on mistakes at two suppliers, one of which was identified as Delphi, the Free Press said. “Toyota has been investigating this issue and is now considering how to address our customer concerns,” the automaker said in a March 2 letter to NHTSA obtained by the Free Press. “Based upon its analysis, Toyota does not believe that the alleged defect creates an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety.” Source:

<http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/usworld/news-article.aspx?storyid=153447&catid=6>

Honda recalling 410,000 minivans and trucks. More than 410,000 Honda Odyssey minivans and Element pickups could have a braking problem and are being recalled, the automaker announced Tuesday. The recall includes 2007 and 2008 model vehicles. In a statement, Honda urged motorists who own the affected cars to take them to a dealer for repair, saying failure to do so could lead to problems stopping the vehicles. Officially, the recall is to modify the Vehicle Stability Assist modulator. Honda said it has received customer complaints of brake pedals that feel “soft” or that gradually exhibit a pedal height that gets lower (closer to the floor) before the vehicle stops. In affected vehicles, this condition tends to very slowly increase over time. “Some VSA modulators were assembled in a manner that could allow air intrusion, making it possible for air to enter the modulator during the VSA self-check mode,” Honda said in a statement. “While only a miniscule amount of air can enter the system during each check, over a period of months or years, the air will accumulate and can result in the soft brake pedal or low brake pedal condition symptoms associated with this issue. Although not all vehicles being recalled are affected by this issue, we are recalling all possible units to assure all customers that their vehicles will perform correctly.” Honda said it is announcing this recall to encourage all owners of these vehicles to take their vehicle to an authorized dealer as soon as they receive notification from Honda that their vehicle is affected. Notification to customers will start at the end of April. Source:

http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls04/2010/honda_brake_recall.html

2010 Jeep Commanders, Grand Cherokees recalled. Chrysler Corporation is recalling 2010 model-year Jeep Commanders and Jeep Grand Cherokees. They may have been built with an improperly-manufactured rear track bar, the company said. Reduced vehicle stability could result, increasing the risk of a crash. Dealers will inspect the rear track bar and replace it if defects are found when the recall begins during April 2010. Source:

http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls04/2010/2010_jEEP.html

2010 Toyota Tundra four-wheel-drive trucks recalled. Toyota is recalling 2010 Toyota Tundra vehicles with four-wheel drive. There may be an improper weld at the union of the propeller shaft and yoke, the company said. The joint could separate, causing loss of control. Dealers will replace the defective shaft free of charge when the recall begins during March 2010. Source:

http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls04/2010/toyota_tundra.html

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Toyota, U.S. can't replicate Prius acceleration. Tests by Toyota Motor Corp. and U.S. regulators on a Prius hybrid whose driver said it sped out of control could not replicate his account, according to a report prepared for U.S. lawmakers. Officials from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Toyota sought to recreate the acceleration that a Prius owner reported to the California Highway Patrol in a 911 call as he drove on an interstate highway outside San Diego last week. The man said pressing on the brake pedal did not work. "It does not appear to be feasibly possible, both electronically and mechanically, that his gas pedal was stuck to the floor and he was slamming on the brake at the same time," according to a draft of the memo written by aides to Republicans on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. "These findings certainly raise new questions surrounding the veracity of the sequence of events that has been reported by [the man]," a spokesman for a Representative from California, the top Republican on the House oversight committee, said Saturday. The panel is one of three that has held hearings on Toyota's recalls and auto safety regulators' response. The man's Prius has brake override software, which cuts engine power "if the brakes are applied with moderate to heavy force," said a spokesman for Toyota's U.S. sales unit. Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-03-14/toyota-u-s-can-t-replicate-prius-acceleration-correct.html>

American Prospector SUV tires recalled. American Car Care Center has notified federal regulators about a noncompliance in certain American Prospector SUV tires, size 245/70R17, produced between November 15 and November 21, 2009. These tires fail to conform to the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 139, "New Pneumatic Radial Tires for Light Vehicles." At various mileages, the subject tires may develop and exhibit tread chunking or cracking in the tread shoulder area. Tread chunks may separate from the tire casing resulting in body damage to the vehicle or the driver may lose control resulting in a crash. ACCC will notify owners and replace the tires free of charge. The safety recall is expected to begin on or about March 11, 2010. Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls04/2010/american_prospector_tires.html

EMERGENCY SERVICES

FBI faces new setback in computer overhaul. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has suspended work on parts of its huge computer overhaul, dealing the agency the latest costly setback in a decade-long effort to develop a modernized information system to combat crime and terrorism. The overhaul was supposed to be completed this fall, but now will not be done until next year at the earliest. The delay could mean at least \$30 million in cost overruns on a project considered vital to national security, congressional officials said. FBI officials said that design changes and "minor" technical problems prompted the suspension of parts of the third and fourth phases of the work, which is intended to allow agents to better navigate investigative files, search databases, and communicate with one another. Beyond the financial costs are concerns about the FBI's ability to handle its law enforcement and national security responsibilities with an information system still regarded as sub-par in some crucial areas. In a paper-driven culture, the agency's computers were so inadequate that many agents until several years ago could not send or receive e-mail messages, and had difficulty getting case histories and linking to other databases. In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, agents in Florida had to send photographs of the hijackers by overnight mail to Washington because they could not send e-mail attachments. The current project, known as Sentinel, has fixed some longstanding problems, including difficulties with e-mail and database searching, auditors have

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found. But in examining recent work, officials realized that mundane problems — like slow response times, awkward display pages, and screen print that was too small — were cropping up. Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/19/us/19fbi.html>

ENERGY

(Texas) Man threatened to fly plane into Reliant Plaza. An upset customer pled guilty to threatening a utility company employee in a building in downtown Houston. It is similar to what happened in Austin last month. It is the second threat of its kind against a Houston call taker and the threat specifically is flying a plane into the Reliant building in downtown Houston. The district attorney's office prosecuted and their message was that even words are taken seriously. With 36 stories, Reliant Energy Plaza is by no means the tallest skyscraper in downtown. That title belongs to Chase Tower, but it is one of newest and the focus of a recent threat that landed the man in jail. According to Houston police, the man was on the phone with a Reliant Energy call center agent. He was angry that the electricity at his home on Capitol was about to be shut off because he had not paid his bill, and he told the female agent he was going to take a plane and fly it into the building. That building was the 1000 Main Street location. Though prosecutors decided he did not have the means to carry out the threat, he was arrested, was charged, and pleaded guilty to harassment for his words. "That would not be protected speech," said an attorney. Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7338909>

'Extreme' hurricane forecast – Energy at risk. The private forecasting firm AccuWeather predicts an "extreme" Atlantic hurricane season in 2010, and if true, that could have a significant impact on energy prices this summer. In fact, AccuWeather says 2010 will be look a lot like 2008 in terms of hurricane activity. In 2008, there were 17 storms big enough to get a name — the biggest was Hurricane Ike, which killed nearly 200 people and did more than \$6 billion in damage as it tore through Haiti and flattened Galveston Island, Texas. By comparison, last year was the mellowest hurricane season since the late 1990s — only two storms reached land along the Gulf Coast. The Gulf Coast is an important energy region; it accounts for a quarter of U.S. oil production, 15 percent of domestic natural gas, and 40 percent of the nation's refining capacity. In 2008, dozens of offshore natural gas platforms were destroyed and production fell 98 percent during Ike — it took months to bring production back up. Many gas pipelines and processing plants were shut down altogether and others operated well below capacity. Oil prices spiked more than 15 percent and gasoline inventories slid to 40-year lows after refineries were halted due to lack of electricity. The prospect of a major hurricane season adds to other pressures on energy prices heading into the busy summer driving season. Gasoline prices in the U.S. are predicted to top \$3 a gallon this summer, and that number came out before the hurricane forecast. Source: <http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewarticle/articleid/3940624>

Al Qaeda suspect worked at U.S. nuclear plants. An American charged in Yemen with being a member of Al Qaeda had worked at nuclear power plants in the U.S., a spokesman for a group of plants in New Jersey said Thursday. But a state official said the man did not breach security there. The 26-year-old natural-born U.S. citizen was arrested in Yemen earlier this month and is accused of killing a guard in an attempt to break out of a hospital. The FBI, the State Department, and other authorities said they were trying to gather information about the suspect. But the allegations appeared to illustrate a phenomenon U.S. intelligence officials have warned about: American

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Muslims becoming radicalized and joining terrorist movements overseas. The suspect was identified by Yemeni officials as a Somali-American. The suspect moved to Yemen about two years ago, supposedly to learn Arabic and study Islam, a former neighbor said. Before that, the suspect worked for several contractors at three nuclear power plants in New Jersey from 2002 to 2008, a PSE&G Nuclear spokesman said. The suspect carried supplies and did maintenance work at the plants on Artificial Island in Lower Alloways Creek, and worked at other plants in the region as well. Source:

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,589022,00.html>

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Animal ID charts new course. USDA officials and animal agriculture representatives set priorities and discussed new strategies for animal identification and traceability at the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's annual meeting held Wednesday in Kansas City, Missouri. USDA announced in February that it was going to scrap the National Animal Identification System in favor of a new state-based system. Representatives from the beef, dairy, horse, sheep and pork industries expressed concerns and suggested priorities as a replacement for the defunct NAIS is shaped. In addition, representatives from American Meat Institute and a livestock marketing agency stated their views. Input from Wednesday's meeting will be key to reshaping and defining USDA's role in developing new national animal identification efforts. According to the industry representatives, priorities for a new state-led animal identification system include development of uniform ID standards that apply across all states, ability for the system to move at 'speed-of-commerce', as well as availability of USDA funding for the effort. Minimizing producer costs and confidentiality also are important, according to some. Source:

http://www.porkmag.com/directories.asp?pgID=675&ed_id=9034

FDA targets processing of spices in bid to make supply safer. The Food and Drug Administration is reexamining the safety of a culinary staple found in every restaurant, food manufacturing plant and home kitchen pantry: spices. In the middle of a nationwide outbreak of salmonella illness linked to black and red pepper — and after 16 U.S. recalls since 2001 of tainted spices — federal regulators met last week with the spice industry to figure out ways to make the supply safer. The FDA's associate commissioner for food safety, said the government wants the spice industry to do more to prevent contamination. That would include using one of three methods to rid spices of bacteria: irradiation, steam heating or fumigation with ethylene oxide, a pesticide. Recent spice recalls have involved contamination with salmonella, a group of bacteria that live in the intestinal tracts of humans and other animals, including birds. Most healthy people infected with salmonella recover within days, but the illness can be serious and even fatal for small children, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. Consumers often associate salmonella with poultry, meat and other moist foods. But microbiologists say that the bacterium can survive in dried spices for years and that it is tougher to kill in a dry environment. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/13/AR2010031301111.html>

Canadian cow tests positive for BSE. A Canadian agency has reported that another case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy has been found, this time in a 72-month-old cow. It is the 18th such case in Canada, according to the United Stockgrowers of America's Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund. The U.S. Department of Agriculture later verified the Canadian report. The group said Canadian officials had not notified the World Organization for Animal Health about the case as of last Wednesday. The 6-year-old infected animal would have been born in 2003 or 2004, making it the

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18th Canadian-born case and the 11th animal diagnosed with the disease eligible to be exported to the United States. Also, the discovery of an animal born several years after Canada imposed a ban on high-risk animal parts from cattle feed indicates that the ban is not working or is not being enforced, said the president of the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association. Canada banned such high-risk cattle parts from feed in 1997, the same year the U.S. feed ban went into effect. In November 2007, USDA implemented a rule that allows Canadian cattle over 30 months to be imported into the U.S. as long as they were born after March 1, 1999. Source:

http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/news/article_2300a8c0-30b2-11df-808b-001cc4c03286.html

USDA to spend \$300 million to curb farm runoff. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says it will spend more than \$300 million to improve water quality along the Mississippi River. The plan targets farm land in a dozen states including Missouri. The agency is trying to keep fertilizer and animal waste from draining into the river and its tributaries. The nutrients eventually wind up in the Gulf of Mexico, causing algae to flourish and reducing oxygen levels for fish. A USDA conservationist says the new funding should encourage farmers to adopt more sustainable practices. “We know that there have been some water quality problems over the years, in the Mississippi River, particularly, and so we’re excited about providing this opportunity and moving forward so we can show that these tax payer dollars are benefiting the environment,” he said. The initiative encourages applicants to include water monitoring as a part of their conservation plans. Source:

[http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/kwmu/news.newsmain/article/1/0/1623657/St..Louis.Public.Radio.News/USDA.to.spend.\\$300.million.to.curb.farm.runoff](http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/kwmu/news.newsmain/article/1/0/1623657/St..Louis.Public.Radio.News/USDA.to.spend.$300.million.to.curb.farm.runoff)

(California) California company recalls 9,400 pounds of enchilada products. Fernando’s Food Corporation, a Compton, California, establishment, is recalling approximately 9,400 pounds of enchilada products because they were inadvertently mislabeled and contain an undeclared allergen, milk, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today. Milk is a known potential allergen, which is not declared on the label. The recall includes 9.84-pound cases of “CASA SOLANA BEEF CHICKEN AND TEXTURED VEGETABLE PROTEIN PRODUCT ENCHILADA.” Each case contains 90 enchiladas and bears case code numbers “2103745” and “24947,” as well as the establishment number “EST. 6492” inside the USDA mark of inspection. The enchilada products were produced on January 28, 2010, February 16, 2010, and February 28, 2010 and were sent to distributors in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Tennessee, and Texas. The problem was discovered by the company in a review of its inventory. Source:

http://eatdrinkandbe.org/article/index.0313_or_fernandos

Soy rust: waiting can be costly. “This thing can move at lightning speed, given the right environmental conditions — and could make you gasp at how rapidly it can spread across a soybean field. It scared the heck out of folks from Iowa when I showed them photos and data on what it can do.” A weed control mentality “is not the approach to take” in dealing with Asian soybean rust, says an assistant professor at the Delta Research and Extension Center at Mississippi State University. “If you find ASR in a soybean field and think, ‘Well, I’ll wait until I find more and then take care of it,’ you’re just asking for trouble,” he said at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Agricultural Consultants Association. “We need to respect this disease much more than we have in the past and not become complacent about its presence.” Had it not been for all the late-season rains last year and subsequent seed rot, he says, “I think we would have had more extensive losses from ASR.” In 2009, he notes, Mississippi had 2.2 million acres of soybeans, and all 82 counties in the state had ASR-

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infected plant material, whether on kudzu or soybeans. Statewide, in Mississippi he says, estimates of losses to ASR ranged from much less than 1 percent to 25 percent of total production in at least one field. Research has previously been conducted on the differential response of kudzu to infection by the ASR fungus. Source: <http://deltafarmpress.com/soybeans/soy-rust-waiting-costly-0315/>

U.S. forcing more meat inspections in Canada. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is scrambling to maintain an increased presence at dozens of large meat-processing plants after auditors from the United States Department of Agriculture found inspections were too infrequent to meet U.S. food-safety standards. News of ongoing resource problems at CFIA comes as public-health authorities are carrying out a high-profile listeriosis investigation involving tainted meat at a federally inspected Toronto processing plant. The ramped-up inspection cycle of at least one visit for every 12 hours of production was instituted last November so operators in Canada, including Siena Foods, could continue to export their products to the United States. Siena Foods has now been blamed for producing tainted salami and prosciutto dating back to last December that put two people in the hospital. Since then, Siena Foods Ltd. and CFIA has announced the recall of three additional Siena meat products for possible listeria-monocytogenes contamination. The company also stopped production at its facility this weekend and is working with CFIA inspectors to sanitize the plant. This is the first time a facility has shut down since Canada was rocked in the summer of 2008 with a deadly listeriosis outbreak linked to Maple Leaf Foods deli meats. "The USDA stepped in, and said, 'What's going on, it's always been a requirement, why aren't you doing it?'" Siena's president said of a 12-hour inspection cycle. Source:

<http://www.globaltvbc.com/entertainment/forcing+more+meat+inspections+Canada/2684445/story.html>

GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)

Judiciary asks for \$22 million for terrorism trials. The federal judiciary is requesting \$22 million in fiscal 2011 to cover expected costs associated with "high-threat" trials of suspected terrorists. The request, the first of its kind, acknowledges "certain security and logistical challenges" unique to terrorism trials but steers clear of the raging debate over whether suspected terrorists should be prosecuted in federal court or by military tribunal. Still, opponents of civilian trials could use the request to bolster arguments that prosecuting suspected terrorists in federal court is too pricey and endangers surrounding communities. The \$22 million is part of the federal judiciary's \$7.3 billion budget request, which was presented to a House Appropriations subcommittee on Thursday. A Judge, who chairs the budget committee of the Judicial Conference, the federal judiciary's policymaking body, said the trial of a September 11 co-conspirator in Fairfax, Virginia, underscored the need for additional resources. During the 2006 death penalty trial of the convicted September conspirator, the city bogged down with armed guards, rooftop snipers, bomb-sniffing dogs, blocked streets and identification checks. Source: <http://www.mainjustice.com/2010/03/18/federal-judiciary-asks-for-more-funding-for-terrorism-trials/>

(Virginia) Online postings warn of another Va. Tech attack. Virginia Tech is urging calm as e-mails and Internet postings originating in Italy threaten another attack on campus. Though police do not believe the threats are credible, the school president said in an e-mail to faculty and students

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Wednesday that classes will be held Thursday with additional security on campus. Authorities investigated similar threats earlier this month and in October and believe the new posts are from the same person. Virginia Tech was the scene of the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history in April 2007. Virginia State Police and the FBI are assisting in the investigation. Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hbPZ5kOxWcJud57pc0M8DyKE-SFgD9EH0I9O3>

(Maryland) Courthouse receives another suspicious package. There were tense moments at the Mitchell Courthouse in downtown Baltimore Wednesday morning. There, employees found another suspicious package. That package, apparently quite similar to the ones sent to judges there on Monday, contained a bullet and powdery substance. Hazmat teams raced to the second floor of the Baltimore Circuit Courthouse where an employee called 911 after identifying a suspicious package. "The fire engines pulled up and said no one could come inside," said a witness. A large envelope containing a bullet and a powdery substance was found in one of the judge's chambers, though a spokesperson told WJZ the envelope was not addressed to any particular judge. Authorities did not evacuate the building. Instead they isolated the one room where the package was found while police secured courthouse entrances. The US Postal Inspection Service is investigating and the FBI stated that it is not involved in the case. Source:

<http://wiz.com/local/Baltimore.police.investigate.2.1568548.html>

Are cartels now targeting U.S. officials? Three adults with connections to the U.S. consulate were killed, and two children were wounded. Mexico said U.S. intelligence pointed toward the Aztecas street gang, which is aligned with the murderous Juarez drug cartel. Authorities raised the possibility that only one of the families was targeted, while the other was chased because they both drove white SUVs. They offered no details of this theory. Authorities in both countries said they don't know yet why the families were attacked. "There is a concern at the possibility of attacks specifically aimed at diplomats stationed in the country, and that would be very serious," the Ciudad Juarez Mayor told a local radio station. The FBI joined the investigation Monday, working with U.S. State Department agents and Mexican authorities. After the slayings, the U.S. Embassy warned Americans to "delay unnecessary travel to parts of Durango, Coahuila and Chihuahua states." "As to whether this was a particular incident directed at U.S. diplomats, I think we're not prepared to draw that conclusion yet," a State Department spokesman said in Washington. Source:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/03/15/world/main6301852.shtml>

(Wisconsin) Social Security warns about phone scam. The Social Security Administration says it's receiving an unusually high number of complaints from Wisconsin about suspicious phone calls. According to the complaints, a caller claims to work for the SSA and asks the person on the other end to "confirm" their Social Security number in order to reissue a Medicare card. Social Security officials says the department does not need to ask for that information. You are advised not to give personal information over a phone call you did not initiate. Source:

<http://www.wbay.com/Global/story.asp?S=12145384>

(Wisconsin) Second bomb threat at BRFS puts school in lockdown. A second bomb threat in two months at Black River Falls, Wisconsin, High School prompted another lockdown and more law enforcement presence Monday. The school was in lockdown mode the entire day after a bomb threat

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was discovered written on a bathroom wall Sunday — similar to a threat that put the school in lockdown January 18. This also is the second time in less than a week where a bomb scare put a Jackson County school on alert. Lincoln High School was in lockdown and searches were conducted March 10 when a note was found a week earlier warning of a bomb in the ventilation system. The Jackson County Sheriff's Department brought in additional personnel and a bomb search dog on Monday to conduct interior and exterior searches of BRFHS, and deputies monitored vehicles and pedestrians on the school campus. No evidence of a bomb was found but the threat remains under investigation. Entrance was limited to one location, and all students and visitors had to go through a security checkpoint. The sheriff's department made random checks at the school throughout the day. The sheriff said the threat was written in large letters and stated a bomb would go off on Monday in the school's red hallway. It is unknown how long the message had been there. Source:

<http://www.jacksoncountychronicle.com/articles/2010/03/16/thisjustin/05bomb.txt>

(California) Suspicious package shuts down Naval Postgraduate School. A package found on the campus of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey late Sunday prompted a call for help to the Monterey County Sheriff's bomb squad. The package was removed and "rendered safe," said a NPS spokesman. The spokesman would not specify whether an explosive or incendiary device was found, saying the incident is under investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. A Sheriff's commander referred questions about the incident to naval authorities. Neither the Navy nor the Sheriff's Office would provide further details. The bomb squad was called immediately after the package was found, the spokesman said. Sheriff's deputies finished disarming the device at 11:15 p.m., he said, and the NPS campus was locked down until 9:15 a.m. Monday. Portions of the NPS campus remain closed as the investigation continues. Source:

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/localnews/ci_14683130

(Maryland) Suspicious package clears building. Baltimore City Hall was evacuated just after noon Monday when a suspicious package was discovered in the mailroom. A mail clerk found the package at 11:55 a.m. and reported it to a police officer at City Hall, who then summoned the Baltimore City Fire Department's HazMat team. A fire department spokesman told Investigative Voice. "The HazMat team is performing assessments to determine" if the package poses a threat, the spokesman said just after the building was evacuated. He had no details about the package. Some City Hall staffers described the suspicions about the package as possibly involving anthrax, but no officials would confirm that. People were allowed back inside the building at about 12:30 p.m. Later in the day it was learned that at least four threatening letters were sent to the Mitchell Courthouse on Friday, according to an email sent by a Judge at week's end. The email said the letters contained a bullet. The judge was allegedly upset and critical of the mail screening process because the letter had been opened by her clerk. Source:

http://investigativevoice.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3192:city-hall-scare-suspicious-package-clears-building&catid=25:the-project&Itemid=44

U.S. falters in screening border patrol near Mexico. Federal anticorruption investigators continue to struggle to keep up with the screening of newly hired United States law enforcement officers working on the Mexican border and have fallen far behind in checking current employees as well, federal officials testified on Thursday. The testimony came during a hearing in Washington before a subcommittee of the Senate Homeland Security Committee on rising corruption among the ranks of

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federal law enforcement officers who patrol the border and guard ports of entry. Representatives from the F.B.I. and the Department of Homeland Security painted a grave picture of drug trafficking organizations trying to recruit federal officers to work for them and infiltrate the ranks. Although the vast majority of officers do not betray their jobs, the corruption problem, said an F.B.I. agent who helps supervise corruption investigations, “is significantly pervasive.” Internal affairs officials from the Department of Homeland Security said that the rapid post-9/11 growth of Customs and Border Protection — the agency has swelled in recent years to more than 41,000 frontline border agents and officers — has meant that not all new hires are thoroughly vetted. Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/12/us/12border.html>

(Massachusetts) Bomb squad called to high school. The state police bomb squad yesterday disposed of a suspicious cylinder found in the hallway at Assabet Valley Regional Vocational High School in Marlborough. Authorities discovered what they described as a suspicious object about 3:31 p.m., after most students had already gone for the day. Police evacuated any remaining staff and students. Joining state police were agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Bomb squad members X-rayed the pipe-like object and then fired a charge at it to break it open, police said. Crews from the Fire Department determined that the object did not contain any hazardous material, police said. Police, with the help of scent-tracking dogs, searched the building and found no other suspicious objects, police said. The school reopened at 7 p.m. Source: <http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/features/x90197956/Bomb-squad-called-to-high-school>

(New Jersey) Princeton University bomb scare unfounded, officials confirm. After completing a sweep of the area at about 4:40 p.m. Friday afternoon authorities determined conclusively that a bomb threat to a construction site on the Princeton University campus was unfounded. Nonetheless, several buildings near the site were evacuated as a precaution while authorities investigated the incident. According to a university spokeswoman, construction workers at the site of the school’s new chemistry building received a written threat between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Friday morning. Citing that the school’s investigation into the incident is ongoing, the spokeswoman would not confirm the nature of the written threat, whether it was found at the site, or whether it was delivered there. After notifying the school’s department Public Safety, the 250 workers at the construction site were evacuated and officers began a sweep of the site with assistance from the Princeton Township Police Department, the Mercer County Sheriff’s Office, and the New Jersey State Police. Source: http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2010/03/update_princeton_university_bo.html

Pentagon trains workers to hack Defense computers. The Pentagon is training people to hack into its own computer networks. “To beat a hacker, you need to think like one,” said the co-founder and president of the International Council of Electronic Commerce Consultants, or EC-Council. His company was chosen by the Pentagon to oversee training of Department of Defense employees who work in computer security-related jobs and certify them when the training is complete. The Department of Defense does not consider this hacking. “DoD personnel are not learning to hack. They are learning to defend the network against hackers,” said spokesman. But the EC-Council calls the program “Certified Ethical Hacker certification.” The purpose of the training is to teach Defense Department employees to defend their computer network. Almost 45,000 attacks on Defense Department computers were reported in the first half of 2009, according to a government report. The report estimated that for all of 2009, the number of attacks would be up 60 percent from the

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previous year. Fending off the attacks costs the Pentagon about \$100 million. Source:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/TECH/03/10/pentagon.hacking/>

(Texas) Homemade bomb explodes at Goliad ball field; no one hurt. No one was injured Friday night after a homemade bomb exploded outside of the Goliad High School baseball field. The Head Coach was in the press box when he heard a loud boom. "I was told to evacuate, so I don't know any of the things behind it," he said. Five local juveniles confessed to detonating the bomb - a liter-sized plastic bottle containing explosive ingredients - outside the outfield fence, according to a Goliad County Sheriff's Department press release. The juveniles were released to their parents. The principal said at least three of the juveniles attend Goliad High School. High school administrators, as well as Goliad County Sheriff's Department officials, were still gathering information Saturday. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives field office in Corpus Christi also responded to the call, but because it was a chemical bomb, not classified as an explosive under federal law, the sheriff's department is handling the investigation. Source:

http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2010/mar/13/jv_goliad_basebomb_031410_88845/?news&goliad-county

3 with ties to U.S. Consulate killed in Mexico. Gunmen believed to be linked to drug traffickers shot an American Consulate worker and her husband to death in the violence-racked border town of Ciudad Juarez over the weekend, leaving their newborn baby wailing in the back seat of their car, the authorities said Sunday. They also killed the husband of another consular employee and wounded his two young children. The shootings appeared to be the first deadly attacks on U.S. officials and their families by Mexico's powerful drug organizations. They came during a particularly bloody weekend when nearly 50 people were killed around the country in drug-gang violence. Even before the shootings, the State Department had quietly made the decision to allow workers at consular offices along the Mexican border to evacuate their families to the United States. In Washington, the U.S. President expressed outrage at the "brutal murders." The President of Mexico also expressed his condolences and said he would press forward with "all available resources" to control the lawlessness. The coordinated nature of the attacks, the weapons used and the location in a city where drug cartels control virtually all illicit activity point toward traffickers as the likely suspects, said Mexican and U.S. officials. Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2010/03/15/MNLM1CFNF4.DTL>

(Wisconsin) Student arrested following bomb threat at STRIVE school. A Sheboygan, Wisconsin, high school was evacuated and a 16-year-old student arrested March 11 after a phoned-in bomb threat, according to the Sheboygan Police Department. A police spokesman said police were notified at 2:22 p.m. that a bomb threat was made at STRIVE, the Sheboygan Area School District's alternative high school that is housed with the district's central offices on Virginia Avenue. A police official said the threat was phoned in by an unknown caller. School officials evacuated the building. A search of the building by school staff revealed no bomb. Sheboygan police tracked the call and arrested a 16-year-old boy believed to have made it. He was taken into custody in the 1500 block of Indiana Avenue by the department's Street Crimes Unit, which deals primarily with gang-related crimes. Source: <http://www.sheboyganpress.com/article/20100312/SHE0101/3120420/1973/SHE0201/Student-arrested-following-bomb-threat-at-STRIVE-school>

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

New password-stealing virus targets Facebook users. Hackers have flooded the Internet with virus-tainted spam that targets Facebook's estimated 400 million users in an effort to steal banking passwords and gather other sensitive information. The emails tell recipients that the passwords on their Facebook accounts have been reset, urging them to click on an attachment to obtain new login credentials, according to anti-virus software maker McAfee Inc. If the attachment is opened, it downloads several types of malicious software, including a program that steals passwords, McAfee said on March 17. Hackers have long targeted Facebook users, sending them tainted messages via the social networking company's own internal email system. With this new attack, they are using regular Internet email to spread their malicious software. McAfee estimates that hackers sent out tens of millions of spam across Europe, the United States and Asia since the campaign began on March 16. Source:

[http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62G5A420100317?feedType=RSS&feedName=internetNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+Reuters/InternetNews+\(News+/-US+/-Internet+News\)](http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62G5A420100317?feedType=RSS&feedName=internetNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+Reuters/InternetNews+(News+/-US+/-Internet+News))

One in four children has attempted hacking with one fifth believing that they could generate an income from the activity. A survey has found that one in four schoolchildren have attempted some level of hacking. Despite 78 percent agreeing that it is wrong, a quarter have tried to surreptitiously use a victims' password, with almost half saying that they were doing it 'for fun'. However 21 percent aimed to cause disruption and 20 percent thought they could generate an income from the activity. Five percent said that they would consider it as a career move. Of those who had tried hacking, a quarter had targeted Facebook accounts, 18 percent went for a friend's email, seven per cent for online shopping sites, six per cent for their parent's email and five per cent breached the school website. A bold three percent had honed their skills enough to aim much higher with corporate websites under their belts. Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/one-in-four-children-has-attempted-hacking-with-one-fifth-believing-that-they-could-generate-an-income-from-the-activity/article/166025/>

20 critical Apple vulnerabilities to be revealed. The security researcher renowned for hacking Apple products during many a hacking competition will be making public (at the CanSecWest security conference later in March) his latest research through which - he claims - he was able to find some 30 critical flaws in commonly used software. Having hacked in the past the MacBook Air and the Safari browser, he might seem bent of making Apple look bad, but his research encompassed testing of software from different vendors: Adobe Reader, Apple Preview, Microsoft PowerPoint and Oracle's OpenOffice. Using a simple Python script in order to fuzz test the applications, he discovered more than a 1000 ways to crash them. Of that number, 30 bugs allowed him to hijack the programs. And of those 30, 20 were found in Apple's Preview. Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=9035>

Measure would force White House, private sector to collaborate in cyber-crisis. Key members of Congress are pushing legislation that would require the White House to collaborate with the private sector in any response to a crisis affecting the nation's critical computer networks. The Cybersecurity Act, drafted by the Senate commerce committee chairman and a committee member, is an attempt to prod the the U.S. President's administration and Congress to be more aggressive in crafting a

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coordinated national strategy for dealing with cyberthreats. It is to be unveiled on March 17. The Cybersecurity Act was introduced last year to jump-start the debate, but it proved so controversial that it was reworked three times. The new version deletes a provision that would have enabled the president to shut down portions of computer networks in an emergency. The so-called “kill switch” was seen by critics as giving the president authority to shut down the Internet. Instead, the bill would require the White House to work with the private sector in designating which industry networks are considered “critical” and to determine how those networks should be protected. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/16/AR2010031603811.html>

Tighten up virtual server security, cautions Gartner. It seems that those IT managers who said that virtualised servers were more insecure than physical ones may have had a point after all. According to a new report from Gartner, 60 percent of virtualized servers will be less secure than the physical ones they’ve replaced, thanks to bad practices by IT departments. The report, Addressing the Most Common Security Risks in Data Center Virtualization Projects, points out some of the pitfalls involved in moving to a virtualized environment. It’s not that virtualized servers are inherently less secure, said the vice president and Gartner fellow, but “most virtualized workloads are being deployed insecurely. The latter is a result of the immaturity of tools and processes and the limited training of staff, resellers and consultants.” In 40 percent of the cases, virtualization projects were rolled out without any reference to an organization’s security team, said Gartner. The company said that while the underlying physical structure hadn’t changed, there was an additional risk through the use of hypervisor software. According to Gartner, enterprises are failing to acknowledge that additional risk and should look to extend their security processes. Source: [http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9171258/Tighten up virtual server security cautions Gartner](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9171258/Tighten_up_virtual_server_security_cautions_Gartner)

IE attacks circulate as Microsoft updates advisory. Ongoing attacks targeting a new zero-day bug in Internet Explorer and the presence of exploit code on the Web prompted Microsoft March 12 to update its advisory. According to Microsoft, the IE vulnerability in question is due to an invalid pointer reference being used within IE. It is only known to affect IE 6 and 7. To address the issue, the company has made a handful of workarounds available and updated the advisory today to add a Microsoft Fix It that automates a workaround for Windows XP and Windows Server 2003 users. Other workarounds include reconfiguring Internet Zone settings to High and modifying the access control list on iepeers.dll. Instructions for how to do both things are contained within the Microsoft advisory. Since Microsoft published the advisory March 9, exploit code for the IE flaw has gone public, triggering some concern that there will be a rise in attacks in the days ahead as users wait for a patch. Source: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Security/IE-Attacks-Circulate-as-Microsoft-Updates-Advisory-766154/>

Apple issues Safari security update. Apple has updated its Safari browser on March 12 with a range of security and stability patches. Safari 4.0.5 fixes 16 security holes mainly in the Webkit rendering engine, which is also used by Google’s Chrome browser. The Windows version of Safari also includes updates for the ColorSync and ImageIO frameworks to stop attacks using maliciously crafted TIFF or BMP images. Apple said that the update is “recommended for all Safari users”. The new software requires Macs running OS X 10.4.11, 10.5.8, or 10.6.1 or higher, or PCs running Windows XP, Vista or Windows 7. Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2259391/apple-updates-safari-browser>

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Hackers not playing games with gaming sites. Cybersecurity is a serious issue for any online business, but for online gaming companies it's doubly so. Beyond issues of data protection, which are similar for any company that handles customer data, Internet gaming companies can be damaged by cyber attacks in a broader variety of ways than other companies. Online retailers for example may suffer financially when they get hacked or hit with a denial of service attack, but damage to physical assets is likely to be insulated from online threats. For operators of online games, however, hackers threaten not only revenue and user trust, but user experience and the intellectual property — game source code — upon which the business is built. The ongoing exploitation of game bugs for fraud and cheating can be compared to altering Amazon.com so that links don't work, pages don't load, and recommendations don't fit users — the result is a poor user experience that can drive customers away and limit both immediate and future revenue. It can also raise support costs as frustrated players call to recover stolen game items or to deal with in-game problems. Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.ihtml?articleID=22380077>

Zeus botnet code keeps getting better; for criminals. New capabilities are strengthening the Zeus botnet, which criminals use to steal financial credentials and execute unauthorized transactions in online banking, automated clearing house (ACH) networks and payroll systems. The latest version of this cybercrime toolkit, which starts at about \$3,000, offers a \$10,000 module that can let attackers completely take control of a compromised PC. Zeus v.1.3.4.x (code changes are always underway by the author and owner, who is believed to be one individual in Eastern Europe) has integrated a powerful remote-control function into the botnet so that the attacker can now "take complete control of the person's PC," says the director of threat intelligence at SecureWorks, which released an in-depth report on Zeus this week. This new Zeus feature, which was picked up from an older public-domain project from AT&T Bell Labs known as "Virtual Network Computing," gives Zeus the kind of remote-control capability that might be found in a legitimate product like GoToMyPC, the director says. SecureWorks calls this a "total presence proxy," and it's so useful to criminals, just this one VNC module for Zeus costs \$10,000. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9169738/Zeus_botnet_code_keeps_getting_better_8230_for_criminals

SSD tools crack passwords 100 times faster. Password-cracking tools optimised to work with SSDs have achieved speeds up to 100 times quicker than previously possible. After optimizing its rainbow tables of password hashes to make use of SSDs Swiss security firm Objectif Securite was able to crack 14-digit WinXP passwords with special characters in just 5.3 seconds. Objectif Securite spokesman told Heise Security that the result was 100 times faster than possible with their old 8GB Rainbow Tables for XP hashes. The exercise illustrated that the speed of hard discs rather than processor speeds was the main bottleneck in password cracking based on password hash lookups. Objectif's test rig featured an ageing Athlon 64 X2 4400+ with an SSD and optimised tables containing 80GB of password hashes. The system supports a brute force attack of 300 billion passwords per second, and is claimed to be 500 times faster than a password cracker from Russian firm Elcomsoft that takes advantages of the number crunching prowess of a graphics GPU from NVIDIA. Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/12/password_cracking_on_crack/

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

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(Maine) Dry conditions prompt “Red Flag” warning. The Maine Forest Service says dry conditions are creating a wildfire hazard in parts of Maine, including all of Washington County. A “red flag” warning has been issued for parts of Maine as high winds and low humidity combine to create ideal conditions for wildfires. The Maine Forest Service and the National Weather Service say the area near Greenville and Millinocket south, to the coastal areas of Hancock County and all of Washington County are particularly vulnerable right now to wildfires. Several wildfires have broken out over the last few days, including a 6-acre blaze in Orland, which threatened two structures. The Maine Forest Service is urging people to postpone any outdoor burning until after a significant rainfall. Source: <http://www.mpbn.net/News/MaineHeadlineNews/tabid/968/ctl/ViewItem/mid/3479/ItemId/11440/Default.aspx>

(Pennsylvania) Bomb scare closes road in Codorus State Park. Blooming Grove Road in York, Pennsylvania, was closed off for almost three hours March 11 after police and fire officials responded to a report of a suspicious package in a parking lot at Codorus State Park. But after bringing out a robot from the Pennsylvania State Police Hazardous Devices and Explosives Section, the contents of the bag turned out to be security sensors from a store, Penn Township’s Police Chief said. An unidentified man notified staff in the state park’s gift shop after he noticed a plastic bag from Target that appeared to be ticking and blinking with a red light in the parking lot near Smith Station Road, the chief said. A park official got close enough to the bag to hear the sound and see the light, retreated and notified Penn Township Police. Route 216 was closed just before 5 p.m. from Smith Station Road to Hoff Road, and an inner perimeter was set up around the bag. The closure left about a dozen parents — who had children at the nearby Sunshine Place Preschool on Blooming Grove Road — waiting to get to the school. After the road was reopened, the investigation was turned over to the Department of Conservation and National Resources, which has a police department in the park. Source: http://www.ydr.com/ci_14659400?source=most_email

POSTAL AND SHIPPING

(Texas) White powder found in Midland neighborhood. Midland Fire Department hazardous materials technicians have further identified the specific chemical compound discovered March 17 on N. Weatherford Ave. The chemical is identified as Monoammonium Phosphate, a compound commonly used in portable fire extinguishers. Basic field analysis of the chemical was limited to identifying the compound according to recognizable trace elements. Adenosine Triphosphate Disodium Salt was the compound identified by this preliminary analysis. A more comprehensive lab analysis was able to specifically identify the chemical compound. Around 12:15pm, on March 17, 2010, dispatch received a call for assistance from a postal worker who had come in contact with the substance. He was transported with respiratory symptoms and has since been released from the hospital. The powder was discovered near a central mailbox area in the 1000 block of Weatherford, just north of Cuthbert. It was also found one block east in the 200 block of West Cowden. The substance had been placed on cars, mailboxes, and the roadway. U.S. Postal officials confirmed they will remove any residual chemical located inside the mail box. Source: <http://www.cbs7kosa.com/news/details.asp?ID=18527>

(Florida) White powder scare evacuates Sebring printing shop. Five employees of The Print Shop in Sebring were evacuated March 15 just before 1 p.m. after receiving a package containing a mysterious white powder that turned out to be meth. The store owner’s wife said March 16 that she

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had been expecting photos from her brother in Ohio. According to authorities, what she found inside the package was not pictures, but a small baggie containing the white powder. The five people inside were evacuated as members of the Sebring Police Department, Sebring Fire Department, and Highlands County EMS came on scene. "They (emergency personnel) didn't seem too concerned because if it was anything really bad, they would have kept us inside the building," she said. The Sebring Fire Department's HazMat team suited up and went inside the building to collect the package, according to the incident report. The Sebring Police commander said the state Fire Marshal's office analyzed the powder and determined it was methamphetamine. Investigators from the SPD have since taken over the case. No arrests have been made. The mail carrier could not give any specific information about the package or where it came from. The store owner's wife said no one in her office sent it, despite the office's return address being in the upper left hand corner. The package had a North Carolina address listed, but was listed "return to sender," she said. Source: <http://www2.highlandstoday.com/content/2010/mar/18/la-white-powder-scare-evacuates-sebring-printing-s/>

(Texas) Authorities: 4 incendiary devices found in mail in eastern Texas; public not threatened. At least four incendiary devices have been found recently in mailboxes or postal processing facilities in eastern Texas, although none posed a danger to the public, authorities said. A U.S. Postal Inspector said on March 12 that one of the devices was discovered the night of March 9 at a processing site in Owentown, a town near Tyler 95 miles east of Dallas. The Postal Inspector declined to describe the device or to comment on reports of similar devices found in two nearby counties, but she said the public was never in danger. "If there was anything that was dangerous, we would certainly warn the public or our employees." Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-us-mailbox-explosives,0,579987.story>

(Pennsylvania) Suspicious, ticking package found at post office. Police closed streets and evacuated homes near a York County post office for more than two hours Saturday after the discovery of a suspicious package. The package was missing the proper labeling, shipping information and postage and was emitting an audible "ticking" sound when employees found it in the drive-up letter box outside the Spring Grove Post Office at around 3:45 p.m., according to Southwestern Regional police. Police and firefighters evacuated approximately 12 residences as well as a church and a VFW until a postal inspector responded and was able to render the item safe. Police said no explosive materials or related devices were found inside. Residents were allowed to return to their homes by 6 p.m. Police said they do not know who placed the package in the letter box or what their intentions were. Source: <http://www.whtm.com/news/stories/0310/715893.html>

(Florida) Teens charged with making mailbox bombs. The Charlotte County, Florida, sheriff's office arrested two teenagers for allegedly putting two homemade bombs in a mailbox. Deputies responded to Fallkirk Avenue when a neighbor reported finding two homemade explosive devices at the base of a neighbor's mailbox. Deputies say a 14 year-old and 15 year-old used chemicals to create the homemade explosive devices in two plastic bottles. Both devices were put in the mailbox, deputies said, but the first did not explode. The second device, which included BBs as shrapnel, exploded in the mailbox, reports said. The mailbox was damaged and BBs were scattered on the street. Source: <http://www.abc-7.com/Global/story.asp?S=12126295>

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(Massachusetts) Envelope with white powder causes evacuation in South Boston. The Boston Fire Department investigated a situation March 11 in South Boston where a mysterious envelope that contained white powder is making people feel ill. According to authorities, at around 11:30 A.M. a woman on the fifth floor of the office building at 27 Wormwood St. received an envelope that contained a suspicious substance. The woman reportedly began to feel ill and itchy. The incident was declared a level 3 Haz-mat situation, which means the substance is considered extremely hazardous. The fourth, fifth and sixth floors of the office building were evacuated as a precaution. Source: <http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/local/envelope-with-white-powder-causes-evacuation-in-south-boston-20100311>

PUBLIC HEALTH

Breaches of patients' data raise questions on security methods. The theft of a document containing the names and Social Security numbers of 554 patients at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center was hardly unusual. Federal health officials say that it was the 47th time since September 2009 that patient records of some sort had been breached from hospitals and health-insurance companies nationally. Such breaches raise questions about the security measures being used by health-care providers on sensitive financial and medical information, as well as the need for records to be removed from secure sites. In the Wake Forest Baptist case, a bag containing documents with the patient information was stolen February 15 from an employee's locked car in the parking deck of an off-campus outpatient clinic. Hospital officials publicly revealed the theft on March 4. The hospital arranged for free credit and financial monitoring for anyone who was listed on the stolen documents, and officials say that so far, no identity thefts have been reported, said a Wake Forest Baptist spokeswoman. Under federal law, Wake Forest Baptist reported the security breach to the Office of Civil Rights within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Of the security breaches at hospitals and health-insurance companies nationwide, 11 have occurred in the Southeast, affecting 914,234 patients. Source: <http://www2.journalnow.com/content/2010/mar/19/breaches-of-patients-data-raise-questions-on-secur/>

(Hawaii) State scrambles to keep man with TB in isolation. A homeless man with a highly contagious form of tuberculosis was out of quarantine in Ala Moana Park in Hawaii last week but is back in isolation at a hospital and is not believed to have infected anyone, according to court papers and interviews. The Attorney General's Office filed paperwork yesterday at Circuit Court seeking authority to quarantine the patient, identified as a 52-year-old man. The Advertiser is withholding his name because he is back in quarantine and the threat to public safety is diminished. The deputy attorney general said she could not discuss the case because of medical confidentiality and added that the quarantine papers were supposed to have been filed under seal, unavailable to the public. The head of the Tuberculosis Control Program in the state Health Department, likewise said he could not discuss details of the case but said no public health risk had been created. However, the seriousness of the case prompted the Health Department at one point to contact the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which contacted Homeland Security to keep the man from traveling by air. Source: <http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/20100318/NEWS15/3180336/State+scrambles+to+keep+man+with+TB+in+isolation>

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TRANSPORTATION

(Delaware) Bomb experts investigate suspicious Del. package. Authorities said a suspicious package caused police to close streets for a few hours Wednesday in Wilmington. The package was found by police Wednesday afternoon under the Washington Street Bridge. Streets in the area were closed while bomb experts investigated the package. Authorities said the package was found to be harmless after police sent a robot to open it. Source:

<http://wiz.com/wireapnewsmd/Suspicious.package.under.2.1571483.html>

(Kentucky) Police: Pair stole copper from railroad switches. Two Brown County men face charges after being accused of damaging more than 100 railroad switches that keep trains on the right track – and keep the trains from hitting each other. Prosecutors say the two men wanted copper coils that are inside railroad relays. Officers say the men sold the coils at recycling centers for cash. Prosecutors say the pair started their crime spree in September. Source:

<http://www.kypost.com/content/wcposhared/story/Police-Pair-Stole-Copper-From-Railroad-Switches/MkttVkaah0yQmL8IRJ3XPw.csp>

Web site lists hazardous train cargo in real time. If a CSX Corporation train derails, first responders have instant, real-time access to railroad manifests to learn whether the cars were hauling hazardous material. When Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific trains derailed recently in Santa Fe, first responders scrambled to find tanker placards and the engineer to learn the same information. The only immediate way to determine whether the BNSF derailment contained hazardous chemicals was to approach the overturned tankers with placards that describe what material was inside. “We did not know the totality of the cargo until we located the engineer and obtained a paper manifest from the train crew,” the responder said. Electronic load manifest technology already exists, with CSX providing real-time tracking of its hazardous cargo transports to Chemtrec, the Chemical Transportation Emergency Center, which was created in 1971 from the American Chemistry Council and designed to assist emergency responders with incidents involving hazardous material and dangerous goods. “It’s a Web-enabled system that’s highly secure, that allows Chemtrec to find a train number, tank car number and identify what’s in those cars,” the Chemtrec director said. “It allows real-time access in seconds on the Web.” First responders call Chemtrec, which disseminates the real-time information about what’s on any CSX train, the director said. BNSF provides Chemtrec manifest information only after a derailment, a company spokesman said. CSX, with the cooperation of state Department of Homeland Security officials, implemented the program in early 2007, and real-time tracking of hazardous cargo is available in seven of the 23 states in which CSX operates, a spokesman for the company said. Source:

<http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=5364d8794f32f252>

FAA directs airlines to check tail flap of 737s. The Federal Aviation Administration has issued an emergency airworthiness directive demanding that airlines check a mechanism that controls tail flaps on about 600 Boeing 737s. The directive was issued Friday and concerns flaps on the horizontal tails of the jets. On March 2, a Ryanair 737-800 en route from the Netherlands to Madrid, Spain, experienced severe vibrations in flight and had to make an unscheduled landing in Belgium. Inspection afterward found “extensive damage” to the left elevator, which is a movable flap on the horizontal tail that controls the pitch of the airplane, up or down. The agency says some of the jets must be inspected within 12 days, and the rest within 30 days. An FAA spokesman said about half the

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affected airplanes are operating in the U.S. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2010-03-15-faa-directive-737s_N.htm

(Oregon) Landslide will force Highway 18 detour. Traffic on Highway 18 will be detoured as early as Monday to help motorists avoid road damage caused by an adjacent landslide. Whether the detour begins Monday will depend on weather conditions, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation. When it does, westbound motorists will be shifted into an eastbound lane and eastbound traffic will be restricted to a single lane of travel through the damage area. Signs will mark the area and roadway stripes will indicate the lane changes. The roadway is damaged as the result of a landslide that begins about 280 feet uphill from the roadway. ODOT has designated funding for a study of the slide and road damage and will develop a long-range plan as soon as the study is complete. "It doesn't make good budget sense to spend money to grind and repave the damaged section when the forces that created the damage go unaddressed," said the ODOT District 4 Manager. "At least by shifting traffic, we're making travel safer for the short term." Source: http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/article_85f1bb86-2db0-11df-a900-001cc4c002e0.html

WATER AND DAMS

NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: **Fusion Center (24/7):** 866-885-8295; email: ndslic@nd.gov; FAX: 701-328-8175

State Radio: 800-472-2121 **Bureau of Criminal Investigation:** 701-328-5500 **Highway Patrol:** 701-328-2455

US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst: 701-297-7400 **Bismarck FBI:** 701-223-4875 **Fargo FBI:** 701-232-7241

To contribute to this summary or if you have questions or comments, please contact:

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