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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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NORTH DAKOTA

(North Dakota) Fargo fix takes on water. Some 100,000 volunteers from around the upper Midwest came together in a massive sand-bagging operation last spring to save this city from a record flood of the Red River. Now, that unity is starting to show cracks. Planning is moving ahead for a more than \$1 billion channel-building project that is designed to protect the Fargo and Moorhead, Minnesota, metropolitan area from even the most severe floods. But the huge ditch could worsen the problem for people living downstream and has drawn opposition from those in its proposed path. This month, the Army Corps of Engineers outlined several possible routes for a man-made channel — nearly half a mile wide and at least 25 miles long — that would divert floodwaters around the metro area, which has a total population of about 200,000. The massive public-works project would take more than six years to build and employ thousands of workers. Fargo officials say a permanent solution is essential to protect the region’s cultural and business hub that year after year has fought off major floods,

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including one in 1997 that devastated Grand Forks 80 miles to the north. But downstream, in farming towns like Hendrum, Minnesota, population 300, anxiety and skepticism are high. In a flood, Hendrum, which sits amid snowblown fields in sight of the trees that line the river, could face an extra 10 inches of water because of the diversion — enough to cut off the town completely, even if higher levees are built to protect it. On Monday night, the Minnesota House of Representatives passed a bill that forbids the state from chipping in for a diversion unless it mitigates the impact on downstream towns. Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704479704575061762780789280.html?mod=WSJ_1atestheadlines

REGIONAL

(South Dakota) Officials wary of agricultural terrorism. A U.S. Attorney drew attention to a new focus in the war on terror that hits home for South Dakotans during his keynote address this month at the South Dakota Farmers Union 95th annual state convention in Huron. In the past decade, safeguarding food and agriculture from both foreign and domestic terrorism has become a point of emphasis for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which has dealt with food safety since its establishment in 1862. “Agriculture is the lifeblood of South Dakota. One attack could shut down the economy of this entire state, so we need to be vigilant about this,” he said in his speech. In this era of new thinking about food and terrorism, a South Dakota State Veterinarian said, “I think we are probably as prepared as we have been. Especially in the last five or six years, there has been a lot more attention to details. After 2001, federal money flowed to the states from the USDA and Department of Homeland Security to pay for planning, improve communication, and help link existing agencies focused on food and crop safety and animal health, according to the veterinarian. Source:

<http://www.argusleader.com/article/20100221/NEWS/2210301/1001/news>

(Minnesota) Dam work to drag on. Originally scheduled to be all wrapped up by this spring, work to remove the Des Moines River Dam and restore the river in its place could extend to nearly Labor Day. The Jackson City Council on Tuesday moved the project’s substantial completion date back several months, to August 27. The original construction timeline called for work to be essentially complete by last month with final grading work to be finished this spring. The delay was recommended by the city’s river restoration committee on advice of the project’s engineer. The city’s point person on the project, said the delay is due primarily to the “terrible weather we’ve had” for the duration of the project. Source: <http://www.jacksoncountypilot.com/Stories/Story.cfm?SID=25345>

(Minnesota) Alleged AIDS patient robs bank with syringe. FBI officials said a man claiming to have AIDS and “nothing to live for” used a hypodermic needle to hold up a Minneapolis bank. The FBI said the robber walked into TCF Bank about 3 p.m. on February 12. He allegedly threatened three tellers with a syringe that appeared to contain blood. According to the St. Paul Pioneer Press, authorities said he fled with cash and got into a taxi. Source:

<http://www.grandforksherald.com/event/article/id/151138/group/home/>

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NATIONAL

Highway-borne hazmat a greater target for terrorists. Terrorists are turning more to using highway-borne hazardous materials to carry out their terrorist actions, and the government should focus more on this readily available, least protected hazmat, rather than hazmat that can cause catastrophic losses, according to two new reports released by the Mineta Transportation Institute. “We consider gasoline tankers, and to a lesser extent, propane tankers to be the most attractive options for terrorists seeking to use highway-borne hazmat because they can create intense fires in public assemblies and residential properties,” said the director of MTI’s National Transportation Security Center of Excellence. “We strongly urge that DHS, State governments and the industry take a renewed look at flammable liquids and gases as a weapon of opportunity, and at a strategy to improve security measures and technology.” The new reports include: “Potential Terrorist Uses of Highway-Borne Hazardous Materials,” which evaluates security risks created by truck-borne hazardous materials, particularly gasoline tankers; and “Implementation and Development of Vehicle Tracking and Immobilization Technologies,” which details specific developments in tracking and immobilization technology that can increase security. The peer-reviewed reports came from a review of terrorist objectives, hazardous materials, and potential targets. The reports conclude that terrorists most often seek soft targets that yield significant casualties and prefer attacking public buildings and assemblies. According to the reports, terrorists most often go after simple operations with little consequences, rather than complex and uncertain operations. Terrorists have also discussed substituting fire for harder-to-acquire explosives. Gasoline tankers have greater appeal because they can easily produce intense fires, operate in target-rich environments with predictable routes, and pose few security challenges. The report urges the government to focus more on the most readily available, least protected hazmat. It calls for a clear strategy to increase and sustain security, and for resolving significant jurisdictional issues between federal and state authorities; strengthening hazmat security measures in the field; and implementing vehicle tracking technologies, panic alarms, and immobilization capabilities for vehicles carrying specific hazardous materials, including gasoline. Source: http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news_id=69468&news_category_id=12

INTERNATIONAL

Bomb blast hits J.P. Morgan building in Greece. A medium sized-bomb exploded on February 16 at a building housing offices of financial services firm J.P. Morgan in Athens, Greek police said. A warning was phoned to a Greek newspaper 30 minutes before the explosion, and police evacuated the building, a police spokesman told CNN. No one was hurt. The callers did not identify themselves, he said. The warning call “means they don’t want to have victims,” he said. “They never say who it is when they call. They claim it after.” The call came about 7:15 p.m. (12:15 p.m. ET), he said. The latest attack comes as Greece’s national budget deficit causes major headaches for the European Union currency, the euro, and financial markets. The European Union earlier on February 16 ordered Greece to cut its deficit to meet EU regulations. Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/europe/02/16/greece.bomb.jpmorgan/>

Terrorist group issues blunt warning to Australian sports stars. The hockey World Cup is scheduled to begin in India on February 28 and the Indian Premier League starts on March 12. Sporting organizations contacted by The Australian last night said they would rely on security reports before

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traveling to India, while some athletes privately expressed concerns about the latest developments. A group called the 313 Brigade, which is reportedly an operational arm of al-Qa'ida (AQ) and has been linked to a number of incidents including the attacks on Mumbai last year and bombings in Islamabad, is behind the latest threats. "We warn the international community not to send their people to the 2010 Hockey World Cup, the Indian Premier League and Commonwealth Games," said a member of AQ. The head of India's Institute for Conflict Management think tank said he expected Indian intelligence forces would trace back the threat to check its authenticity. "I expect we will see many more of these threats because it makes good propaganda sense to do so at this juncture," he said. "People will be enormously disturbed by these threats and their attention will be directed to issues (such as the Kashmir dispute) that these groups want attention for." A security spokesman for the hockey World Cup said yesterday Australian and Pakistan teams would receive the highest security levels of all visitors and that armed police would travel on the athletes' buses. "We are taking the World Cup as a dry run for the Commonwealth Games," a Delhi Police spokesman said. Source: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/sport/terrorist-group-issues-blunt-warning-to-australian-sports-stars/story-e6frg7mf-1225831116238>

US, UK and Oz issue travel advisories after Pune blast. The United States, United Kingdom, and Australia have issued travel advisories to their citizens in view of the bomb blast at a famous eatery frequented by foreigners in Pune, India, asking them to maintain a "heightened situational awareness and a low profile". "American citizens are advised to be alert to the continued possibility of terrorist attacks in India. The February 13 terrorist bombing in a bakery frequented by Westerners in Pune, Maharashtra, serves as a reminder that terrorists and their sympathizers are capable of attacking targets where U.S. citizens or Westerners are known to congregate or visit," the U.S. travel alert said. In its travel alert, updated after the blast, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of the U.K. government said, "on 13 February a bomb exploded in a bakery/coffee shop in Pune killing nine and injuring up to 53 people. Foreigners were among the casualties." Source: http://www.ptinews.com/news/518210_US--UK-and-Oz-issue-travel-advisories-after-Pune-blast

BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

US Treasury backs listing threats to financial system. The U.S. Treasury Department on February 19 said it endorsed a report from the international body fighting money laundering that blacklisted Iran, Angola, North Korea, Ecuador and Ethiopia for posing risks to the international financial system. "The U.S. Treasury Department welcomes the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) report statements this week identifying countries with strategic deficiencies in the area of anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism," the Treasury said. The task force said on February 18 that Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Sao Tome and Principe were jurisdictions that also continue to have deficiencies in their systems for countering money laundering and terror financing that need to be addressed. The task force said other countries should "advise their financial institutions to give special attention to business relationships and transactions with Iran" and with Iranian institutions to head off any "financing of terrorism risks emanating from Iran." The task force is an intergovernmental organization, based in Paris and set up in 1989 under the auspices of the Group of Seven nations specifically to find ways to thwart terror groups from using the global banking system to launder money. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1918619220100219?type=marketsNews>

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(Missouri) Bomb suspect being held. A 35-year-old Florida man is being held in Branson in connection with a bomb that was located, and later detonated by a professional bomb squad, at Branson Landing. The suspect and a 34-year-old woman from Missouri were arrested on February 18 in relation to the bomb that was discovered near an ATM machine. The woman, whose name has not been made public, was released on February 19, police said. The suspect was in the Branson Jail on drug charges and out-of-state warrants, but charges related to the bomb were expected after press time. The bomb may have been part of an attempt to break into the ATM machine. The couple was allegedly seen at the ATM machine along the Landing's promenade about 12:30 a.m. Thursday by a security guard. Following a brief conversation with the guard, the couple left, police said. Shortly after, the guard found a backpack near the ATM, looked inside, and noticed the homemade bomb and other tools, including a screwdriver. The Springfield Fire Department Bomb Squad was called in and using a robot, the backpack was moved to the south parking lot and detonated. A portion of Branson Landing Boulevard and the parking garage were closed for several hours in the morning. The Landing was open throughout February 18, however several guests of the Hilton Promenade were relocated to other rooms during the night. According to the assistant general manager of the hotel, 12 rooms of guests had to be relocated to other areas of the hotel, and one man even asked to be moved to another hotel across the street. By 8 a.m. on February 18, everyone was back in their assigned guest rooms. Source: <http://www.bransondailynews.com/story.php?storyID=14806>

(Florida) Beware of possible counterfeit cashiers checks. The director of the division of Supervision and Consumer Protection of FDIC's Cyber-Fraud and Financial Crimes Section alerted St. Augustine local news reporters and St. Johns County businesses to the appearance of counterfeit Cashier's Checks; which may be circulated in the area. Urban Trust Bank, Orlando, Florida, has contacted the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to report that counterfeit cashier's checks bearing the institution's name are in circulation. The counterfeit items display the routing number 263184815, which is assigned to Urban Trust Bank. A security feature statement is embedded between two padlock icons along the bottom border. The word "Remitter (s)" appears above the indemnity notice in the lower-left corner. The words "CASHIER'S CHECK" are displayed near the top center. A restrictive feature statement appears above two "AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE" lines. Be aware that the appearance of counterfeit items can be modified and that additional variations may be presented. Source: <http://www.historiccity.com/2010/staugustine/news/florida/beware-of-possible-counterfeit-cashiers-checks-2647>

FinCEN sees spike in possible foreclosure and mortgage modification scams. Nearly a year after issuing a red flag advisory to servicers in April 2009 to beware of foreclosure scams, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), an overseer of financial activities for the US Treasury, says it received hundreds of suspicious activity reports (SARs) regarding the fraud. In data released on February 18, FinCEN also gave information on the more popular forms of mortgage modification fraud. In the third quarter of 2009, depository institution filers submitted 15,697 mortgage loan fraud SARs, a 7.5 percent increase over the same period in 2008. The primary suspicious activity surrounding loan modifications deal with occupancy misrepresentation, social security number discrepancies, and altered or forged documentation, the government agency said. The two most common form of borrower scams involve conning homeowners into signing quit-claim deeds to their properties. Scammers would then sell homes from under the former owners to straw borrowers and the homeowners subsequently received eviction notices. In other instances, scammers falsely claim

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affiliations with lenders to convince distressed home-owners to pay large advance fees for modification services, but then do nothing to keep the borrowers in their homes. Source: <http://www.housingwire.com/2010/02/18/fincen-sees-spike-in-possible-foreclosure-scams/>

(Oregon) Suspicious bag deemed safe at Woodburn bank. A state police bomb squad was called to investigate a suspicious bag on February 17 outside a Woodburn bank where a bomb blast killed two officers in 2008. Police used a robot to determine the bag did not hold any dangerous material. A school bus driver spotted the bag on the sidewalk outside the West Coast Bank on early on February 17, a police spokesman said. The driver called police and Woodburn officers asked for the Oregon State Police Bomb Squad to investigate. Police temporarily closed the highway in both directions at Oregon Way just east of Interstate 5. Source: <http://www.kptv.com/news/22589920/detail.html>

(Utah) Criminals 'skimming' account information at gas pumps. Police in Sandy say criminals have been using an electronic device attached to gas pumps that allows them access to credit and debit accounts. Two of these devices were recently discovered at gas stations in Sandy, but police say it's been happening all over the valley. People were also being ripped off by a fraud technique they call at another 7-Eleven convenience store near 1300 East and 8600 South. Police say they were led to the store after an agency in California informed them about its connection between several fraud victims. When police checked the pumps, they found that one of the panel doors had been completely replaced, and the device was inside transmitting credit card and debit card information to another location via Bluetooth. "Somebody might sit in a parking lot with a laptop for a while, or a BlackBerry, something that would collect via Bluetooth — would download occasionally as people would come though and buy gasoline, collect their information," said a Sandy police sergeant. Police say between the device at the 7-Eleven on 1300 East and the device found at the 7-Eleven on 9400 South, consumers lost more than \$11,000 from criminals skimming their credit and debit cards. Source: <http://www.ksl.com/index.php?nid=148&sid=9706022>

(New Jersey) Authorities investigate suspicious powder sent to Cedar Grove bank. An envelope containing white powder that arrived at a Cedar Grove bank Tuesday was a false alarm, township police said. Nutley's hazardous materials response team determined the powder was nontoxic, said a Cedar Grove police captain. Employees at Citibank called police about the envelope after it came in the mail. Police responded about 8:45 a.m. The Essex County Prosecutor's Office, the New Jersey State Police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are investigating the incident, the captain said. The captain would not say what was written on the envelope or whether it contained anything else. Source: http://www.nj.com/news/local/index.ssf/2010/02/authorities_investigate_suspic.html

CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

18 tons of explosives stolen in Mexico. A trailer carrying 18 tons of industrial explosives was stolen Friday in northern Mexico, authorities said. The robbery took place on the Monterrey-Salttillo highway, the Nuevo Leon state public safety secretary told a press conference. Mexican troops and federal police are searching for the stolen cargo and an alert has been declared throughout the Mexico-U.S. border region, he said. The attorney general of the neighboring state of Coahuila said the metal container in which the explosives were being transported was found empty at the 50-kilometer mark on the road linking Saltillo, Coahuila's capital, and Monterrey. The truck carrying the explosives left Thursday from Durango state bound for the northeastern border state of Tamaulipas. Thefts from

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cargo trucks on Mexico's highways increased 40 percent last year, according to figures from the Canacar industry association. Source:

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=352624&CategoryId=14091>

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

OSHA backs off proposed regulation of ski areas' explosives. The ski industry has fought off a new round of regulations governing its use of explosives to control avalanches. With a near-perfect safety record, ski areas were resistant to a new set of rules proposed by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The federal agency withdrew the proposed rules this month after receiving opposition from the ski industry and other businesses that use explosives. "The OSHA explosives regulation was problematic on a number of levels," said the director of public policy for the Lakewood-based National Ski Areas Association. "The proposed regulations were not practical for a mountain setting and for the unique circumstances under which we use explosives. We have an excellent track record when it comes to explosives use." OSHA said in a federal filing that it withdrew the proposed rules because after receiving public and industry comment, the agency determined that the changes "would not result in a major safety or health improvement for workers." Ski areas were especially opposed to provisions that would have added regulations to the transportation of explosives. Source: http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_14422748

(Texas) ATF charges 2 men in east Texas church fire. Federal authorities say two men have been charged with setting an east Texas church on fire and are suspected in a string of similar blazes this year. A Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives spokesman says the 19-year-old and 21-year-old suspects were charged Sunday with felony arson in connection with a fire last month at a church in Smith County in east Texas. The ATF spokesman says the men are suspected of intentionally setting other fires in east Texas, where 10 churches have burned since January 1. Authorities suspect a fire at a church in the central Texas town of Temple was also arson. Bond for each suspect was set at \$10 million. Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/02/21/general-us-texas-church-fires_7373860.html

(New York) Envelope found in U.N. cafeteria prompts evacuation | Reuters. The U.N. cafeteria was evacuated on Thursday when a suspicious envelope was found, officials said, amid increased security precautions ahead of a session on Haiti with a former U.S. President. "A suspicious envelope was found in the cafeteria. In response they have closed the cafeteria and that area has been contained," said U.N. spokesman. "The (U.N.) Department of Safety and Security is working with the host country to investigate the matter." A New York City police spokesman said a call had been made to the police about a suspicious white powder in the ground-floor cafeteria. U.N. officials, however, did not mention powder. A scheduled appearance at the United Nations by a former U.S. President was pushed back from 4 p.m. to around 5 p.m., U.N. officials said, because of security precautions surrounding the cafeteria evacuation. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61H6FG20100218>

(Pennsylvania) Police promise crackdown on violent "flash mobs." Police continue their investigation into a "flash mob" that gathered at a Philadelphia mall and went on a rampage. The police say high school kids, linked by social media and cell phones, came from all over the city. At just before 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, upwards of 150 kids were ejected from The Gallery Mall by security. Police

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say they then went on a rampage down Market Street toward City Hall. Some went into the Macy's department store and vandalized display cases. "Our business community is going through a very trying time because of the weather, and the last thing we need is for these kids to come down here and create an environment where no one feels safe and comfortable to shop," said an official with the Philadelphia Police. The police held a flurry of meetings with the business community and school officials on Wednesday, determined to head off further trouble. Police arrested 16 teenagers. The school district says it is working with the police and already has truancy patrols in The Gallery. Security is tight in the Gallery and on the streets. The police have deployed extra plain clothes and uniformed officers and they are keeping an eye on various social media sites for signs of trouble. Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/crime&id=7282973>

(California) Grenade found in parking lot of Oxnard Costco, store evacuated. A hand grenade that prompted officials to evacuate a Costco in Oxnard Wednesday morning was recovered without incident and shoppers were allowed to return within a couple hours. Oxnard Police and the Ventura County sheriff's department bomb squad responded to the Costco parking lot on Ventura Boulevard about 10:07 a.m. The bomb squad took the grenade and left the scene about 11:30 a.m., allowing the cleared store to reopen. Authorities said the grenade was brought to the store by a construction worker who had found it a day earlier at a job site in the Los Angeles area and put it in the bed of his truck. "For whatever reason, he decided to take it home with him," an Oxnard police spokesman said. The unidentified construction worker brought it to Costco Wednesday morning, where he had work, and a co-worker said they should call the police, according to the spokesman. It was unknown whether the grenade was live or inert, and the bomb squad was called out as a precaution, he said. He did confirm that it had a pin in it. Source: <http://www.vcstar.com/news/2010/feb/17/grenade-found-in-parking-lot-of-oxnard-costco/>

(Colorado) Bomb threat disrupts El Jebel City Market. The Basalt City Market and several surrounding businesses at Orchard Plaza were evacuated for three and half hours Tuesday because of a bomb threat. A Basalt Police sergeant, the incident commander, said an unknown person called the store at about 10:30 a.m. and said a bomb would explode at 5 p.m. After 5 o'clock came and went without incident, businesses were allowed to reopen at about 5:30 p.m. By 6 p.m., it was business as usual for the supermarket, buzzing with commuter traffic. But the damage was done by that point. Authorities said there were probably tens of thousands of dollars in lost revenues. Business owners were scrambling to reopen Tuesday night and those polled said they did not have an accurate estimate of lost revenues. Law enforcement officials slowly cleared out the Orchard Plaza businesses starting at 2 p.m. O'Connor said there was no need to undertake a hasty evacuation and cause people to panic. Assistant managers for City Market stopped allowing customers to enter starting at 2 p.m., simply telling them the store would be closed for a couple of hours. Shoppers in the store were allowed to go about their business. Nothing was found. The bomb squad arrived at 3:30 p.m. and the supermarket was cleared until about 5:30 p.m., when employees were allowed to re-enter and eager shoppers were allowed to park. Source: <http://www.postindependent.com/article/20100217/VALLEYNEWS/100219902/1083&ParentProfile=1074>

(Georgia) Bomb scare interrupts Wal-Mart shoppers. For the second time in just over three months, the Covington, Georgia, Wal-Mart store was evacuated due to a bomb threat. Sunday afternoon around 3 p.m., shoppers at the store were told to vacate the premises after a phone threat was

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received at the store, according to the Covington Police Department (CPD). Wal-Mart management searched the store for any suspicious items and nothing was found. The store was reopened by Wal-Mart personnel. "We leave it up to the store on what they want to do on something like this and how they want to proceed," said a CPD spokesman. "They walked around with officers and checked to see if everything was OK, and it was." The store was reopened after about an hour. Police said detectives are in the process of tracing the phone number to where the call originated, but have no other leads at present. Source: <http://www.rockdalecitizen.com/newtonnews/headlines/84425677.html>

(California) Watchers hurt by rogue waves at CA surfing contest. Two huge waves swept away spectators watching a Northern California surfing contest Saturday morning, causing broken bones and other injuries to people standing on a seawall. Thirteen people were injured, with two immediately transported to area hospitals. Eleven others were being treated at the beach for injuries including "a couple broken legs and broken hands and so forth," according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Battalion Chief. He estimated "a couple hundred" people were on the seawall when the waves struck. Witnesses said the wave knocked out a large scaffold holding speakers broadcasting the Mavericks Surf Contest, held in Half Moon Bay, a tiny harbor town 25 miles south of San Francisco along Highway 1. Authorities moved bystanders from the sea wall and about 100 yards back from the water, but spectators were still able to watch the surf contest, he said. "Nobody was swept away into the water. They were just swept onto the beach area pretty hard," he said. "It's pretty rocky. We've cleared the beach area so this does not happen again." Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j3pJDnHrNexDZVBsqURne0I8t_7gD9DRF3KG0

COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

FCC outlines US broadband overhaul plans. The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has released new information on its planned broadband internet overhaul. The FCC said that it will focus on government, infrastructure and educational projects, in an attempt to shore up a number of areas in need of increased web access and bandwidth. Among the projects being considered are a nationwide emergency broadband and alert network, the installation of smart energy grids and new citizen feedback programs. Other projects include grant programs for small businesses, expanded access and improved web speeds for schools, and an overhaul of online education and tutoring initiatives. The proposals are part of the \$6 billion broadband infrastructure plan introduced by the U.S. President's administration. Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2258207/fcc-gives-dirt-broadband-plans>

(Nebraska) Yahoo opens new Nebraska data center. Yahoo has opened its new data center in La Vista, Nebraska. The 180,000 square foot facility near Omaha will hold about 100,000 servers, employ around 50 people and will become the largest Yahoo data center when expansions are completed. Yahoo began the 17-state location process that led them to Nebraska in early 2008. Similar to other Midwest deals that were negotiated earlier with Google in Council Bluffs, Iowa and Microsoft in West Des Moines, Yahoo selected Nebraska for state tax incentives, low energy costs and a quality workforce. The announced \$100 million deal included the La Vista data center and a customer care center in Omaha, with a combined 200 jobs created. Source: <http://www.datacenterknowledge.com/archives/2010/02/18/yahoo-opens-new-nebraska-data-center/>

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DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE SECTOR

(Tennessee) Nashville defense contractor involved in illegal gun sale investigation. Agents with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are investigating claims that employees of a Nashville defense contractor have been illegally selling guns. In a statement, Sabre Defence Industries said it was cooperating with the federal investigation into the possible criminal violation. At its plant on Allied Drive in Nashville, the company manufactures firearms and weapons systems. Its products include components of M2 Browning machine guns and M-16 rifles. The company said it had learned that some of its employees involved in inventory control “may have obtained and re-sold some items without appropriate licenses.” The company did not say which firearms were involved. Sabre sells to law enforcement agencies and commercial markets, but its biggest customer is the U.S. military. The company has more than 120 employees in Nashville. Source:

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100218/NEWS03/100218009/2066>

DoD to issue stronger security guidelines to defense vendors. The Department of Defense has signaled its intention to develop new policies requiring its vendors to meet increased standards for cybersecurity for unclassified military information residing on or being carried over private sector systems and networks. In a memo issued in late January, the Department of Defense chief information officer laid out a number of leadership responsibilities and strategic guidance on the development of stronger cybersecurity plans. “It is DoD policy to establish a comprehensive approach for protecting unclassified DoD information transiting or residing on unclassified [Defense industrial base] systems and networks and create a timely, coordinated, and effective partnership with the [Defense industrial base],” she wrote. Hackers have increasingly been targeting and probing the Defense industrial base, sometimes successfully. The Department of Defense has in recent years been increasing the amount of work it does to secure its cyber supply chain, including taking such extreme measures as procuring chips for sensitive systems only from a limited number of “trusted foundries” in the United States. This effort may put a bit more DoD-wide rigor into similar exercises. The DoD CIO will chair a Defense industrial board cybersecurity executive committee and coordinate oversight of industry cybersecurity activities with the DoD’s inspector general. The directors of the National Security Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency will provide support and cyber intrusion damage assessment analysis in the case of attack. In addition the under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology, and logistics is tasked with developing and injecting new cybersecurity policies into DoD’s acquisition processes; the DoD’s CFO will be required to monitor budgets related to these activities to make sure they’re adequately resourced; and the director of the DoD’s Cyber Crime Center will “serve as the focal point for threat information sharing.” Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/government/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=222900557&subSection=Vulnerabilities+and+threats>

Canadian firm and U.S. subsidiary to pay \$4 million to settle lawsuit in connection with sale of defective bullet-proof vests. Lincoln Fabrics Ltd., a Canadian weaver of ballistic fabrics, and its American subsidiary, have agreed to pay the United States \$4 million to settle the United States’ lawsuit against Lincoln for violations of the False Claims Act in connection with their role in the weaving of Zylon fabric used in the manufacture and sale of defective Zylon bullet-proof vests, the Justice Department announced Friday. Lincoln’s woven Zylon fabric was used in the manufacture of Zylon bullet-proof vests sold by several companies, including Second Chance Body Armor Inc., First

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Choice Armor Inc., and Point Blank Body Armor Inc. These vests were purchased by the United States, and by various state, local, and/or tribal law enforcement agencies. The United States alleged that the Zylon in these vests lost its ballistic capability quickly, especially when exposed to heat and humidity. The United States further alleged that Lincoln was aware of the defective nature of the Zylon by at least December 2001, but continued to sell Zylon for use in ballistic armor until August 2005, when the National Institute of Justice issued a report that Zylon degraded quickly in ballistic applications. The United States has pending lawsuits against Toyobo Co., Honeywell Inc., Second Chance Body Armor, Inc., and First Choice Armor Inc. Authorities involved in the investigation included the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigative Command, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and the Defense Contracting Audit Agency. Source: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/February/10-civ-136.html>

Corps to use more lethal ammo in Afghanistan. The Marine Corps is dropping its conventional 5.56mm ammunition in Afghanistan in favor of new deadlier, more accurate rifle rounds, and could field them at any time. The open-tipped rounds until now have been available only to Special Operations Command troops. The first 200,000 5.56mm Special Operations Science and Technology rounds are already downrange with Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, said the commander of Marine Corps Systems Command. Commonly known as "SOST" rounds, they were legally cleared for Marine use by the Pentagon in late January, according to Navy Department documents. SOCom developed the new rounds for use with the Special Operations Force Combat Assault Rifle, or SCAR, which needed a more accurate bullet because its short barrel, at 13.8 inches, is less than an inch shorter than the M4 carbine's. Compared to the M855, SOST rounds also stay on target longer in open air and have increased stopping power through "consistent, rapid fragmentation which shortens the time required to cause incapacitation of enemy combatants," according to Navy Department documents. "This round was really intended to be used in a weapon with a shorter barrel, their SCAR carbines," the Marine Corps Systems Commander said. "But because of its blind-to-barrier performance, its accuracy improvements and its reduced muzzle flash, those are attractive things that make it also useful to general purpose forces like the Marine Corps and Army." Source: http://militarytimes.com/news/2010/02/marine_SOST_ammo_021510w/

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

Aircraft-seat manufacturer admits to fake safety data. Japan's largest aircraft-seat manufacturer apologized early last week after admitting it had been falsifying safety test data for seats for several years. According to AFP, Koito Industries had been faking strength test data for more than 150,000 seats used in over 1000 Boeing and Airbus aircraft. "I deeply apologize" said the Koito President at a press conference last week. "The whole section in charge was systematically involved in it," he said. "We did wrongdoing on concerns that we would delay our delivery if we failed in tests." Japan's transport ministry said the data falsification may have been occurring since the 1990s, but said that the fabricated data did not put the airplanes immediately at risk. The Japanese manufacturer has now been ordered by the ministry to retest the seats and give a truthful update on their safety by late February. Boeing said in a statement it was now "completing dynamic, static and flammability testing on all classes of seats to verify compliance with FAA regulations." "This will have implications for both production airplanes, as well as the fleet" the U.S. manufacturer said. Airbus said only a small number of its customers were affected by the Koito seats, with those affected already working with the manufacturer to find alternative seat suppliers. Companies that have bought planes with Koito

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Industries seats include Japan Airlines, All Nippon Airways, Air Canada, KLM, Scandinavian Airlines and Singapore Airlines. Source: <http://www.etravelblackboard.us/showarticle.asp?id=93688>

(California) **Calleguas Municipal Water District sues pipe manufacturer.** The Calleguas Municipal Water District, in California, is one of more than 40 agencies across the nation suing a pipe manufacturer after a former employee said the company knowingly sold water pipes that would burst. The lawsuit contends that JM Eagle cost states, counties and water districts millions of dollars in damages when the pipes broke and had to be replaced at ratepayers' expense. The Calleguas general manager said his district had five major breaks of JM Eagle pipes along Kanan Road from 1999 to 2008, resulting in repairs that cost the district several million dollars. "We eventually replaced the entire reach of pipeline because of the uncertainty of when the next break would occur, since they were happening on a more frequent basis," he said. The suit started after a former employee of JM Eagle — one of the largest suppliers of pipe in the world — said it knowingly was using inferior materials in pipes that could cause them to rupture and lead to explosions or other hazards. Officials of the company have disputed the allegations. The former employee was fired after he raised concerns with the company and subsequently filed a whistle-blower lawsuit against it in 2006. The suit was recently unsealed. States, counties and water agencies have now joined his suit. Source: <http://www.vcstar.com/news/2010/feb/16/calleguas-municipal-water-district-sues-pipe/>

EMERGENCY SERVICES

(Alaska) **Alaska test helps next-gen EAS.** A test of the Emergency Alert System that included the first planned activation of the Emergency Action Notification event code was likely just the first of several exercises the Federal Emergency Management Agency will take, seeking data to help plug coverage gaps in the planned next-gen EAS. The EAN is the activation code that would allow the president of the United States to address the nation directly via broadcast radio stations, TV stations and cable outlets during a national emergency. The Alaskan test in January was observed by a large contingent of FEMA and Federal Communications Commission personnel and was deemed a success by most involved despite a few glitches. The Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Alaska Broadcasters Association, the Federal Communications Commission and FEMA officials coordinated the event. Source: <http://www.rwonline.com/article/94818>

Homeland Security fails to secure its guns. U.S. Homeland Security officers are getting extra training following a report that nearly 200 guns have been lost due to negligence, an official says. The department's inspector general says at least 15 of the guns lost in bowling alleys, public restrooms, unlocked cars and other unsecure areas ended up in the hands of felons, USA Today reported on February 18. The general inspector documented 289 incidents of missing firearms from fiscal 2006 through 2008. Not all were lost because of negligence, his report says. Some disappeared in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and others were stolen from safes. Homeland Security says employees who lost firearms have been fired or suspended. The report does not say if any of the lost firearms were used in crimes. Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/02/18/Homeland-Security-fails-to-secure-its-guns/UPI-79151266507934/

(Florida) **Home-made poisons pose risks for first responders.** A 23-year old St. Petersburg, Florida resident committed suicide by filling his car with gas which was a custom-made combination of pesticides and cleaning products; he learned about the deadly concoction from the Internet. As St.

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Petersburg firefighters and paramedics approached the car in a residential area over the weekend in response to a suicide call, they caught a whiff of some strange-smelling gas and noticed the car was filled with smoke. What really got their attention were the five signs on the windows. "Stay Away." "Contact Haz-Mat." Tampa Bay Online reports that it did not take long for them to figure out this was more than a carbon monoxide poisoning. They backed off and donned full protective clothing and self-contained breathing devices. They pulled a 23-year-old man from inside the car, but were not able to revive him. A police officer who helped drew a lungful of the concoction near the car and felt lightheaded. He was taken to a nearby hospital where he was treated and later released. Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/home-made-poisons-pose-risks-first-responders>

(California) New system helps U.S. Coast Guard pinpoint distress calls. The U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Humboldt Bay on Tuesday officially adopted a new search-and-rescue system meant to pinpoint callers in distress with greater accuracy than ever before. Representatives with the Coast Guard, California Army National Guard, Cal Fire, Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services and other agencies were on hand at the McKinleyville air station for a briefing on the system, called Rescue 21. Group Humboldt Bay covers 288 miles of coast from the Oregon border to southern Mendocino County. Despite its remoteness, the area generates some 480 search and rescue cases and 500 vessel boardings each year, and the group services 55 aids to navigation. The new Rescue 21 system will replace the National Distress Response System that dates back to the 1970s. "Rescue 21 allows us to spend a little less time on the searching part of it and a little more time on the rescue part of it," said the group commander. The system is being deployed throughout the United States, including in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It is expected to be fully in place by 2017. The system has been used in the Humboldt region since September, though it only recently replaced the old system altogether. Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_14416139

(California) Man carries pipe bomb to sheriff's station. An investigation was under way today following the discovery of a pipe bomb, which was later detonated safely, on the campus of Pierce College in Woodland Hills. A man found the device by a pond on the campus around 2:25 p.m. Monday and turned it in at the Pierce College sheriff's Station, a Los Angeles County sheriff's sergeant said. The man apparently did not know the device he was handling was a live bomb. An area of the campus of the two-year community college was evacuated, the sergeant said, adding that no students or faculty members were on campus Monday because it was closed for the Presidents Day holiday. Four deputies in flak vests took charge of the explosive and blew it up around 5 p.m. behind the sheriff's station building, a video crew at the scene reported. Source: http://www.dailybreeze.com/latestnews/ci_14409920

(California) Pipe bomb found in SC, fire station evacuated. It took two hours for a Santa Cruz, California, bomb squad to detonate a pipe bomb that was brought to a Central Fire station on Monday. The device was discovered at about 10 a.m. along the beach near Central Fire Station No. 1 on 17th Avenue and was detonated at about 1 p.m. The people who discovered the explosive immediately took it to the fire department after finding it. When firefighters saw the device they immediately contacted the sheriff's department and evacuated the building. A portion of 17th Avenue was also blocked off to traffic and some nearby homes and businesses were also evacuated. Source: <http://www.ksbw.com/news/22571244/detail.html>

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(Texas) Oranges prompt police department evacuation. Dickinson, Texas, police were searching Monday for the man who dropped off a suspicious package — which turned out to have contained oranges — that led to the evacuation of the department’s headquarters, authorities said. Shortly before 11 a.m. a man was standing inside the Dickinson Police Department when he saw another man enter the lobby and leave a cardboard box wrapped in duct tape with writing on it, the police said. Officials evacuated the building and summoned an FBI bomb squad to investigate. About noon, the box ultimately was found to contain oranges, and no one at the station had ordered fruit. Police were working to identify the man and the truck that he left in. Source: <http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=567a66eefba5ef65>

ENERGY

(Georgia) Copper thieves target power stations. A power substation in McDonough, Georgia has been the target of thieves. Every time one is hit, it costs the power companies up to \$5,000. “As an electric cooperative, we’re a not for profit organization,” said a spokesperson for Central Georgia EMC VP of Engineering. “So the costs that we experience ultimately do get passed on to the customers.” He took CBS Atlanta into the McDonough substation to show exactly what thieves are looking for. The copper ground wires are most often taken, causing a dangerous situation for replacement crews. “They are actually trained to make observations at the sight, to make sure the grounds are in place, before they ever put their hands on the fence,” he said. Each substation has surveillance cameras to deter thieves. Source: <http://www.cbsatlanta.com/news/22583394/detail.html>

(Texas) Copper theft leaves Hawkins in the dark. More than 1,700 homes were without power Tuesday morning after copper thieves broke in to a substation near Hawkins, Texas. A spokesperson for Wood County Electric Cooperative said the company was forced to cut power to hundreds of homes while crews repaired damage to the facility. While the street value of the stolen copper was probably less than \$400, he said the thieves were lucky to still be alive. He said while stealing the copper, the criminals apparently caused severe arcing of the power lines which can severely injure or kill someone. The damage at the substation is estimated to be around \$5,000. The power was off for approximately 20 minutes. Source: <http://www.kmoo.com/20100216946/Crime/copper-theft-leaves-hawkins-in-the-dark.html>

(Illinois) Exelon Nuclear plants not affected by earthquake. Exelon Nuclear plants in Illinois were not affected by the February 10 earthquake in DeKalb County, Illinois, that measured 4.3 on the Richter scale. There was no safety impact to plant employees or equipment. Exelon plant teams conducted plant walk downs and equipment checks to ensure there was no damage. Initial findings confirmed no damage and inspections will continue throughout the day. All plants continued to operate safely through this period. Source: <http://qconline.com/archives/qco/display.php?id=479274>

(West Virginia) POLICE: Mysterious package at Marathon plant likely not dangerous. State Police Dispatchers tell WSAZ.com a suspicious package was found at the Marathon plant outside of Kenova in Wayne County at about 9:00 the evening of February 14. They say the package is not thought to be dangerous. Police say a security guard saw someone dropping the package off at the Marathon plant and called 911. State Police, FBI and National Guard and Kenova Hazmat teams responded to the scene. By 10:15 p.m. most of the emergency crews had left the area. State Police say the package was

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tested by Hazmat crews on the scene and came back negative — meaning it did not appear to be dangerous. The package has been taken from the scene and will undergo more testing. A spokesperson for the FBI says in a post September 11th world, they have to take these things seriously. State Police have not released any other details. Source:

<http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/84320817.html>

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Virus-carrying salmon will not sicken humans, FDA says. The Food and Drug Administration says Chilean salmon is still safe to consume despite a virus that has killed scores of fish. “We have no information that there is any harm that can come from eating Chilean salmon,” said a spokesman for the FDA Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition. The infectious salmon anemia virus, known as ISA or ISAV, causes the illness in the fish, but it’s not harmful to humans. The virus also has been reported in locations outside Chile including Norway, Canada, Scotland and the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Last month the government of Chile took steps to clean up the way it farms salmon, including moving fishing operations to a different area of the Chilean coast. But the virus, which appeared at least two years ago, persisted. Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/HEALTH/02/18/salmon.disease/?hpt=Sbin>

(Washington) Estrella Family expands cheese recall due to Listeria contamination. The Estrella Family Creamery of Montesano, Washington is expanding their recall of various cheeses due to a potential contamination of Listeria monocytogenes. The recall that affects Brewleggio, Domino, and Wynoochee River Blue cheeses. The recalled cheeses were sold to various restaurants and cheese shops in Washington, Oregon and New Jersey. The Domino cheese is described as a one pound, natural rind wheel made from cow’s milk; and the Brewleggio cheese is a soft washed rind cow’s milk wheel at 8” wide by 2” tall that weighs 3 pounds. The Wynoochee River Blue Cheese is a 5-pound wheel with a rustic natural rind, blue veined. None of the recalled cheeses are coded. At this time no illnesses have been reported in connection with the products. The original recall only included Red Darla cheese, but since has been expanded after the Domino Cheese tested positive for Listeria monocytogenes bacterium. Since the Brewleggio and Wynoochee River Blue cheeses were aged in the same room that the Domino cheese was in, they have been included in the recall. While the Washington State Department of Agriculture and the FDA is investigating the products, all production and distribution has been stopped. Source: http://www.justicenewsflash.com/2010/02/22/estrella-family-expands-cheese-recall-due-listeria-contamination_201002223403.html

(Florida) Acid bombs go off along Clearwater Beach. Police are searching for those responsible for planting a series of potentially dangerous acid bombs that detonated inside two separate restaurants along Clearwater Beach. Investigators say the small homemade devices went off at both the Palm Pavilion and Frenchy’s Rockaway Grill between 4:30 and 5:30 Monday afternoon. One of the bombs was placed inside a garbage can just inside the front entrance at Frenchy’s. Surveillance cameras at the restaurant captured at least one person wandering around the garbage can shortly before the explosion. The other device was placed below the wooden deck in the outdoor eating area at the Palm Pavilion located across the parking lot from Frenchy’s. Clearwater Police say customers were in the area, but no one was injured. Investigators are reviewing the video tape and were out Tuesday searching the area for any additional evidence. Source:

<http://www.wtsp.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=125441&catid=8>

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(Washington) Starbucks headquarters gets haz-mat call for white powder. A haz-mat crew was called to Starbucks global headquarters Tuesday night after an employee opened a letter that contained an unknown white substance. The powder was reported about 8 p.m. after the letter reached the company's customer care center on Utah Avenue South. The haz-mat team determined the substance was not hazardous. A statement from Starbucks, received by seattlepi.com news partner KOMO 4: Starbucks can confirm that on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 partners (employees) in our Customer Care Center opened a letter that contained an unknown white substance. We took the appropriate steps to ensure partner safety and local authorities were contacted. The Seattle Police and Fire Departments responded immediately and have determined that the substance is not hazardous. Starbucks is working in full cooperation with the authorities to provide any information that will help in their investigation. Source:

<http://blog.seattlepi.com/seattle911/archives/194803.asp>

(Rhode Island) Salami recall increased due to salmonella risk. A Rhode Island meat company is recalling an additional 115,000 lbs of salami and salami products that may be contaminated with salmonella, the USDA said in a statement. In January, Daniele International Inc of Mapleville, Rhode Island, recalled more than 1.26 million lbs of sausage and salami products following an investigation of a multistate outbreak of salmonella illnesses. It is believed that pepper on the meat may be the source of the contamination. On Wednesday, the company said it had terminated its relationship with the pepper supplier in late January. The latest recall was initiated due to finding salmonella in an unopened salami product tested by USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service and by the company. The products in the latest recall were distributed nationwide, have "Est 459" inside the USDA mark of inspection, and have sell-by dates from February 3, 2010 to May 26, 2010. Further testing will be done to determine if the latest salmonella strain is the same as the one that caused the illnesses. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61G32G20100217>

GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)

(Colorado; Kentucky) Plan to detonate some U.S. chemical weapons finds resistance. A plan by the U.S. Defense Department to eliminate a portion of the chemical weapons stored in two states by detonation faces opposition from environmental activists and some residents, the Associated Press reported on February 19. In December, the Pentagon's Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program announced that it was considering exploding roughly 15 percent of the chemical munitions stockpiled at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado and at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky. A limited number of munitions at the two depots are thought to be leaking chemical agent, making them too dangerous to send through neutralization plants now being built. However, ACWA officials are weighing using detonation technology on 125,000 mustard agent-filled weapons in an effort to demonstrate to the international community U.S. sincerity in meeting treaty obligations to destroy all chemical weapons. The Kentucky and Colorado sites are the only two U.S. chemical depots where disarmament operations have yet to begin. A Former Pueblo depot worker said he does not support detonation out of fear that the chemicals "would get up in the atmosphere or the air, and do some damage." A Kentucky resident expressed similar fears: "It's just scary — just the unknown." Environmental activists who previously helped stymie a federal proposal to incinerate chemical warfare materials at Blue Grass and Pueblo now worry that exploding the weapons would create even greater troubles. Source:

http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20100219_7379.php

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'Snowmageddon' drives call for more telework. When two major snowstorms buried Washington this month, the Office of Personnel Management Director said teleworking kept the government operating. "This is a watershed moment," the director told Federal News Radio February 10. "If there is a silver lining in the storm of 2010, it is that this will be the moment, I predict, for all managers and every agency to recognize the criticality of telework to maintaining their functionality and their operations." the director estimated the amount of lost productivity during the storm at as much as \$450 million — \$100 million per day. But he added that teleworking among federal employees lessened that loss. There were some teleworking success stories. But the government's actual track record appears mixed at best. The Patent and Trademark Office, for example, said about 4,400 of its patent examiners, trademark attorneys and other employees — roughly 46 percent of its Northern Virginia staff — teleworked daily when the government was closed. PTO usually has about 3,300 employees teleworking on an average day. And the director said 30 percent of employees at the General Services Administration and OPM were teleworking during the storms. Source:

<http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20100221/PERSONNEL01/2210308/1001>

(California) Ex-UCSB engineer arrested in alleged bomb threat against school. A former Santa Barbara man has been arrested in Washington for allegedly making a bomb threat against UCSB, his former employer. The 51 year-old suspect, of Kennewick, Washington, is being held in Benton County jail but formal charges have not been filed, the Mid-Columbia Tri-City Herald reported Thursday. The newspaper said the man was arrested Monday on suspicion of making a bomb threat with intent to alarm and a misdemeanor harassment charge. The Herald said the suspect had moved to Kennewick in 2004 after UCSB forced him to resign or be fired. UCSB officials could not be reached for comment Thursday night. UCSB police issued an alert to the campus last week after a Craigslist posting was discovered titled "Does it seem like UCSB is trying to incite [the man] to shoot?" The police alert stated the suspect is a person of interest because of "recent nonspecific threats that may pertain to current UCSB employees." Source: http://www.noozhawk.com/local_news/article/021810_washington_man_accused_of_making_threats_to_ucsb/

(South Carolina) Army investigates alleged attempt by soldiers to poison food at Fort Jackson. The U.S. Army is investigating allegations that soldiers were attempting to poison the food supply at Fort Jackson in South Carolina. The ongoing probe began two months ago a spokesman for the Army's Criminal Investigation Division, told Fox News. The Army is taking the allegations "extremely seriously," the spokesman said, but so far, "there is no credible information to support the allegations." Five suspects, detained in December, were part of an Arabic translation program called "09 Lima" and use Arabic as their first language, two sources told Fox News. Another military source said they were Muslim. It was not clear whether they were still being held. The spokesman would not confirm or deny the sources' information. Source:

http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,586721,00.html?loomia_ow=t0:s0:a4:g4:r3:c0.000000:b0:z5

(Alabama) Defense lawyer: Prof. accused in Ala. campus slayings likely insane, can't recall shootings. An Alabama college professor accused of killing three colleagues during a faculty meeting is likely insane, and she can not remember the shootings, her attorney said. The court-appointed attorney for the defendant told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday that his client has severe mental problems that appear to be paranoid schizophrenia. The attorney discussed the case hours after hundreds of mourners attended the first funeral and memorial services for the defendant's slain co-workers. Authorities said three more people were hurt when the defendant

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pulled out a handgun and started shooting during the routine meeting with colleagues last Friday. Charged with capital murder and attempted murder, she is being held without bond. The attorney said the defendant's failure to obtain tenure at the University of Alabama in Huntsville was likely a key to the shootings. The defendant, who has a doctorate from Harvard University and has taught at the University of Alabama in Huntsville since 2003, apparently was incensed that a lesser-known school rejected her for what amounted to a lifetime job. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/sns-ap-us-ala-university-shooting,0,6826414.story>

(Illinois) Student shot on NIU campus, suspect in custody. Northern Illinois University (NIU) police are investigating a shooting that wounded a student early Friday on the campus in northwestern DeKalb. An NIU student was injured and taken to Kiswaukee Community Hospital in DeKalb, the site said. A condition was not immediately available. The shooting appears to be an "isolated incident between two individuals" and the shooter was taken into custody, the site said. DeKalb police confirmed a person was in custody but would not give further details. The NIU Police and Public Safety office issued the "all clear" and the campus remains open, the site said. Classes will be held as usual. Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/2058404,niu-campus-shooting-021910.article>

(Texas) Man crashes plane into Texas office building. A man upset with the Internal Revenue Service set fire to his home, got into his small plane and crashed it Thursday into a multistory office building that houses federal tax employees, authorities said. At least two people were injured in the crash and a third person who worked in the building was unaccounted for, fire officials said. The crash caused a fire that sent black smoke billowing from the seven-story Echelon Building. Federal law enforcement officials said they were investigating whether the pilot crashed on purpose in an effort to blow up IRS offices. About 190 IRS employees work in the building, and an IRS spokesman the agency was trying to account for all of its workers. The pilot, listed in FAA and property records, apparently had a long-running dispute with the IRS. The IRS, CIA and FBI all have offices in the complex where the building that was struck is located, though it was not clear if they are all in the building that was hit. Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35460268/ns/us_news-life?GT1=43001

(Massachusetts) Investigators say suspicious package sent to Sen. John Kerry's Boston office had no explosives. Fire officials say there is no indication that a suspicious package sent to a Massachusetts Senator office in downtown Boston contained an explosive device. A spokeswoman for the Senator said the package was delivered in the mail Thursday morning. When staffers became concerned about the package they contacted the Boston fire and police departments, who responded to the scene. The spokeswoman said the federal Department of Homeland Security also investigated. Officials from the fire department's special operations unit found no evidence of explosives or biological or chemical agents. The unopened package was being transported to a state lab for further investigation. The spokeswoman said the office was not evacuated. The Senator had been on a trip to Pakistan and was returning home when the package was delivered. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-us-kerry-suspicious-package,0,4024564.story>

(Florida) Lake Trafford Elementary reopens following bomb threat. The Collier County Sheriff's Office has cleared the scene of a morning bomb scare at Lake Trafford Elementary in Immokalee, Florida, according to spokeswoman. The spokeswoman said a call came in to dispatch at 4:56 a.m. on February 17 saying there was a possible bomb at the school. The sheriff's office did not find anything

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in the search. Source: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20100217/NEWS0119/100217012/1075/Lake-Trafford-Elementary-reopens-following-bomb-threat>

(New York) Search for report of North Campus gunman completed with no suspicious person found. Just after 4:00 Tuesday afternoon, University of Buffalo (UB) police received a call that a gunman might be in the Lockwood library. But no one was found and classes resumed Wednesday. An unidentified student reported seeing a male entering the library, carrying what looked like a rifle. The library was evacuated and classes were canceled for the night. Dozens of UB and Amherst police swept the library for more than three hours without locating the suspect. The UB police chief says they had reason to take the report seriously. He says the person caught on camera appeared to be carrying a long object, possibly a rifle, under a navy pea coat. Source: <http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wbfo/news.newsmain/article/0/0/1612984/WBFO.News/Search.for.report.of.North.Campus.gunman.completed.with.no.suspicious.person.found>

(Texas) Arrest made in Port Neches-Groves school bomb threat. The following press release was issued by the chief of the Port Neches Police Department: Shortly after noon on Tuesday, representatives of Port Neches Groves High School received a bomb threat by telephone. The caller was identified as a female and the call originated from a pay phone. The school administration immediately called the Police and began their emergency operations plan. Staff and student body were evacuated for about one and one-half hours so a search of the facility could be conducted. A bomb detection dog from the Port Arthur Fire Dept. assisted in the search. The building was ultimately cleared and students returned to school. Detectives from the Port Neches Police Dept. were able to determine the identity of an 18 year old Port Neches resident and subsequently took her into custody. The suspect was later transported to the Jefferson County detention facility and charged with False Alarm or Report. This is a State Jail Felony when the false report is of an emergency involving a public primary or secondary school. Source: <http://theexaminer.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=61&ArticleID=3735>

(New Mexico) Bomb scare over at Santa Fe Federal Courthouse. Action 7 News has learned that the bomb scare at the federal courthouse in Santa Fe is over. State police said security at the courthouse reported a suspicious package in a car in the court's parking lot Friday morning. Santa Fe police were called out and roped off the area while the state police bomb squad destroyed the package. Investigators said the package contained a battery and campaign literature. They also said it was addressed to a Democratic U.S. Senator from New Mexico. Officials told Action 7 News that the courthouse will be opening soon. Police said no arrests have been made in connection with the incident. Source: <http://www.koat.com/news/22542635/detail.html>

(North Carolina) Man arrested after threatening to blow up the Wilkes County Courthouse. Wilkesboro, North Carolina, police arrested a North Wilkesboro man yesterday on charges related to threatening to blow up the Wilkes County Courthouse and the people working inside including a retired judge. The man was charged with felony communicating threats against a judge, felony possession of weapons of mass destruction and misdemeanor communicating threats. He was being led through the courthouse last Thursday while in custody on a probation violation and he repeatedly made the threats, said he had been planning to do it for 10 years and had the means to do it, a probation officer told police. The Wilkes County Sheriff's Office bomb squad searched his home and

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found blasting caps, which are illegal to possess without a permit. Source:

<http://www2.journalnow.com/content/2010/feb/15/man-arrested-after-threatening-blow-wilkes-county-/>

(Texas) Student arrested for plotting attack against high school. A San Antonio teenager is arrested after plotting an attack at his high school. San Antonio police arrested the 16 year old after he bragged on an online gaming system about his plan to shoot students at Marshall High School. The Marshall High School student was playing XBOX 360 Live, a gaming system that allows players to talk live with other players from across the world. San Antonio police say the teen was telling a stranger in Canada details about how he planned to shoot a pregnant girl at school and shoot his best friend in the face. Police say a Canadian man who was playing the game with the Marshall High School student became so alarmed by what the teenager was saying that he contacted Canadian authorities and reported it to them. Source: http://www.woai.com/mostpopular/story/Student-arrested-for-plotting-attack-against-high/16d_yPrPjUenlu5DnyGrGg.csp

(Washington) Bomb threat lands Hazen senior in jail on his 18th birthday. A Hazen High School senior is spending part of his 18th birthday today in the Renton City, Washington, Jail after he phoned in a bomb threat to the school this morning. The senior called Hazen from a nearby mini-mart at about 10:45 a.m. to say there was a bomb at the school and they had one hour to evacuate the school, said the Renton School District spokesman. Police were called and students were ordered outside, congregating into three large groups on the school fields. Police swept the school for a bomb, but none was found. The bomb scare was a hoax. Students returned inside at about noon. Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/sound/415380_sound84274087.html

(Alabama) Survivor: Ala. prof in slayings shot methodically. A survivor of a university shooting rampage said the professor charged in the fatal attack methodically shot her victims in the head until the gun apparently jammed and she was pushed out of the room. The professor told the Associated Press on Tuesday he was one of 12 people at the biology department meeting Friday at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. He described the details in an e-mail to a colleague at the University of California-Irvine. He said the meeting had been going on for about half an hour when the shooter "got up suddenly, took out a gun and started shooting at each one of us. She started with the one closest to her and went down the row shooting her targets in the head." The woman, a Harvard-educated neurobiologist, was arrested and charged with one count of capital murder and three counts of attempted murder. Three were killed and two wounded. Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hf_Cw1b1x1DmRrdG4hiu4P55yZTgD9DTBONGO

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Cybercriminals exploit Haiti tragedy with malware. There was no let up in spamming and phishing activities last month even as the entire world watched with sympathy the tragedy in Haiti. To add to the sorrow behind the devastating earthquake on January 12, cybercriminals took advantage of the tragedy to launch spamming and phishing attacks. "Both scam and phishing categories doubled in terms of the percentage of all spam in January 2010 compared to December 2009," reported Symantec in its State of the Spam and Phishing Report of February 2010. Similar to other trends in the past, 24 to 48 hours after the earthquake hit, cyber criminals launched their attacks. So-called 419

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spams inviting people to donate proliferated to lure Internet users to donate to bogus entities. Some even went to the extent of pretending to be legitimate organizations, such as the UNICEF, Symantec reported. Malware were also introduced into videos pretending to be footages of the earthquake. Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/article/189861/>

Botnets' long half-life extends malware's threat. Information gathered about a newly discovered botnet called Kneber indicates that multiple infections by different malware on the same host could work together as a sophisticated mechanism to give all the malware a better survival rate. The sheer size of the Kneber botnet — 74,000 compromised computers in 2,400 different companies — attracted most of the attention when Kneber was revealed last week. But how it interacts with other malware networks suggests a symbiotic relationship that ultimately makes each botnet more resistant to being dismantled, says the senior consultant in the research department at NetWitness who discovered Kneber. Kneber was built using a well-established toolkit for aggregating botnets called Zeus that has been around for years. Kneber is an example of just one botnet built with the toolkit, but because the consultant captured 75GB of log data from the command-and-control server, he was able to examine detailed characteristics of the computers Zeus took over. What he found is that more than half the 74,000 compromised computers — bots — within Kneber were also found infected with other malware that uses a different command-and-control structure. If one of the criminal networks were disabled, the other could be used to build it up again. In this case, more than half the machines that made up the botnet were infected with both Zeus, which steals user data, and Waledac, a spamming malware that uses peer-to-peer mechanisms to spread more infections, he says. He can't conclude for sure that they're working together in this case, but the presence of both introduces an interesting possibility: If the Zeus command-and-control infrastructure is cut down, the owner of the Zeus botnet could go to the person running the Waledac botnet and pay for it to push a Zeus upgrade that brings the Zeus bots back online reporting to a new server, he says. Source: http://www.pcworld.com/article/189870/botnets_long_halflife_extends_malwares_threat.html

Twitter phish pwned profiles push penis pills. Twitter users were hit by potent phishing attacks recently that have already led to spam runs from compromised accounts. Miscreants posted messages disguised as humorous updates on the Twitter micro-blogging service as part of an ongoing attack that started on February 20. The messages included links to a counterfeit Twitter login page hosted in China, located under the domain BZPharma.net. The micro-blogging site warned of the attack on February 21. It advised anyone that had fallen for the ruse to change their passwords quickly, before hackers had a chance to alter login credentials to hijack compromised accounts. The BZPharma.net domain prospective marks are directed towards is actually designed to harvest Twitter login details for later misuse in spam and identity theft-based attacks. In other social networking insecurity developments, many Facebook users are getting hoodwinked into joining a bogus group in order to enjoy supposed benefits of a non-existent Gold account. The scam started as a prank on the notorious 4chan image board back in 2007, but has now taken on a life of its own. Scammers are using the supposed benefits of the fictitious group to hoodwink users into taking part in a survey that involves subscribing to text messaging services in order to get the results. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/02/22/twitter_phish_and_facebook_scam_warnings/

Adobe working to fix security bug in Download Manager. Adobe Systems is working to fix a glitch in software it uses to speed up downloads of its products that could give hackers a way to push malicious programs onto a victim's PC. According to a security researcher, Download Manager — a

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small program Adobe users to speed up the initial installation of its products — can be misused to force victims to install unwanted software on their computers. Because of an undisclosed flaw in the way Download Manager works, the “attacker can force an automatic download and installation of any executable he desires,” Download Manager wrote in a blog post. “So, if you go to Adobe’s Web site to install a security update for Flash, you really expose yourself to a zero-day attack.” Adobe said on February 18 that it was working with the researcher and the third-party developer of the Download Manager product to fix the issue. However, it would be hard for a user to install unwanted software without realizing it, because “the user has to accept a number of prompts before being taken through the installation process,” said an Adobe spokeswoman in an e-mailed statement.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9159218/Adobe_working_to_fix_security_bug_in_Download_Manager

Rogue PDFs account for 80% of all exploits, says researcher. Just hours before Adobe is slated to deliver the latest patches for its popular PDF viewer, a security firm announced that by its counting, malicious Reader documents made up 80% of all exploits at the end of 2009. According to ScanSafe of San Bruno, California, vulnerabilities in Adobe’s Reader and Acrobat applications were the most frequently targeted of any software during 2009, with hackers’ PDF exploits growing throughout the year. In the first quarter of 2009, malicious PDF files made up 56% of all exploits tracked by ScanSafe. That figure climbed above 60% in the second quarter, over 70% in the third and finished at 80% in the fourth quarter. “PDF exploits are usually the first ones attempted by attackers,” said a ScanSafe senior security researcher, referring to the multi-exploit hammering that hackers typically give visitors to malicious Web sites. “Attackers are choosing PDFs for a reason. It’s not random. They’re establishing a preference for Reader exploits.” Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9157438/Rogue_PDFs_account_for_80_of_all_exploits_says_researcher?taxonomyId=17

Cyberattack drill shows U.S. unprepared. Imagine what would happen if a massive cyberattack hit the U.S., crippling mobile phones and overwhelming both telephone infrastructure and the electricity grid. “Cyber Shockwave,” conceived and executed by the Bipartisan Policy Center along with experts in cybersecurity, simulated such an attack on February 16 — and discovered that the U.S. is ill-prepared to handle a large scale cyberattack. They did not fare especially well, the vice president of communications for the Bipartisan Policy Center said in an interview on February 17. The Bipartisan Policy Center is a nonprofit think tank that reaches across party lines to come up with solutions to policy issues. Cyber Shockwave posed two scenarios. In the first, a March Madness mobile application spread malware from cell phone to cell phone. In the second, the U.S. electricity grid crashed for reasons not immediately known. In the scenario of the power grid collapse, a lack of information about the origin of the event — whether it was the result of a cyberattack or of a technical failure” also hampered officials’ ability to handle the situation. The experience was apparently eye-opening, and officials already may be taking heed. The U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has scheduled a hearing the week of February 22 to discuss the next steps to protect critical infrastructure from attacks like the one simulated. Source:

http://www.informationweek.com/news/government/security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=222900723&cid=RSSfeed_IWK_News

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Public sector targeted by spam emails that contain Bredolab malware. Targeted email attacks against public sector companies have been prevalent this week with Bredolab malware being used as the payload. The malware operations engineer at Symantec Hosted Services, claimed that attacks began on February 16, but what was interesting was the payload rather than the specific attack. The engineer explained that Bredolab is usually spammed out in vast quantities using the Cutwail botnet, and uses many techniques to trick people into running the executable. Once the executable is opened, another file is dropped on to the computer and the local firewall is turned off. Furthermore, other malicious files may also be installed by the controllers of Bredolab, who may also be selling or renting the control of that computer for malicious use by other cyber criminals. As Bredolab is so flexible, it may conceivably be used to perform any task that its controllers wish. What made this attack so significant, said the engineer, were several factors. He said: "Firstly, it is targeted to very specific recipients, and it was not being spammed indiscriminately in large volumes. Secondly, the malicious file in the email is indeed a variant of the Bredolab virus; it has exactly the same characteristics, except that the files it subsequently downloads are not the usual Bredolab fare. They are, in fact, data stealers, and very few anti-virus companies identified the downloaded files at the time of writing." Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/public-sector-targeted-by-spam-emails-that-contain-bredolab-malware/article/163990/>

Hackers update rootkit causing Windows blue screens. Hackers behind the rootkit responsible for crippling Windows machines after users installed a Microsoft security patch have updated their malware so that it no longer crashes systems, researchers confirmed on February 16. The rootkit, known by a variety of names — including TDSS, Tidserv and TDL3 — was blamed by Microsoft on February 12 for causing Windows XP PCs to crash after users applied the MS10-015 security update, one of 13 Microsoft issued a week ago. Within hours of that update's release, users flooded Microsoft's support forum, reporting that their computers had been incapacitated with a Blue Screen of Death (BSOD). Security researchers on February 16 said that the makers of TDSS have updated the rootkit so that it no longer conflicts with MS10-015. "The update day before yesterday prevents PCs from getting stuck in the BSOD loop," said a researcher with Moscow-based antivirus vendor Kaspersky. The rootkit's authors have reason to hustle out an update, said two researchers, who explained that blue-screened PCs are as worthless to the hackers — who want access to the machines — as they are to their owners. Worse, the BSODs have revealed to many Windows users that their systems were infected. Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9157518/Hackers_update_rootkit_causing_Windows_blue_screens

Experts reboot list of 25 most dangerous coding errors. Computer experts from some 30 organizations worldwide have once again compiled a list of the 25 most dangerous programming errors along with a novel way to prevent them: by drafting contracts that hold developers responsible when bugs creep into applications. The list for 2010 bears a striking resemblance to last year's list, which was the first time a broad cross section of the world's computer scientists reached formal agreement on the most common programming pitfalls. The effort is designed to shift attention to the underlying mistakes that allow vulnerabilities to happen in the first place. The updated list was spearheaded by the not-for-profit MITRE Corporation, the Sans Institute, the National Security Agency, and the US Department of Homeland Security's National Cyber Security Division. Topping the vulnerabilities list are XSS (cross-site scripting), SQL injection, and buffer-overflow bugs. The 25 flaws are the cause of almost every major cyber attack in recent history, including the ones that recently

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struck Google and 33 other large companies, as well as breaches suffered by military systems and millions of small business and home users. Its release on February 16 coincided with a renewed push for customers to hold software developers responsible for the security of their products. Security experts say business customers have the means to foster safer products by demanding that vendors follow common-sense safety measures such as verifying that all team members successfully clear a background investigation and be trained in secure programming techniques. Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/02/17/top_25_programming_errors/

Adobe issues emergency PDF patches. As expected, Adobe on February 16 released an emergency update that patched a pair of critical vulnerabilities in its popular PDF viewing and editing software. Adobe ranked both bugs as critical. On February 11 Adobe said it would issue a rush patch for Adobe Reader and Adobe Acrobat on February 16; it made good on the promise by addressing two flaws. One was identical to the cross-domain request vulnerability fixed last week in Flash Player, Adobe's ubiquitous media player, while the second was a vulnerability that attackers could exploit to install malware on a targeted machine. Between February 11, when Adobe updated Flash Player, and February 16, when it patched the same flaw in Reader and Acrobat, the latter programs were theoretically vulnerable to attack if an ambitious hacker had pulled apart the Flash patch and managed to figure out where the vulnerability was within Reader. Source:

<http://www.infoworld.com/d/security-central/adobe-issues-emergency-pdf-patches-784>

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

(Arizona) Vandalism, looting are worries as parks close. Arizona state parks officials are struggling to figure out how they are going to keep closed state parks free of vandals and looters. The first wave of closures forced by state budget cuts is set to begin this week, with the Homolovi Ruins near Winslow and Lyman Lake near St. Johns closing on February 22. Parks officials say they will post signs telling visitors about the closures, and a ranger is expected to be on hand to answer questions. But officials still do not know how to secure the park perimeters and protect their assets. The parks staff is particularly worried about Homolovi, which was a playground for looters and vandals before the parks system acquired it in 1986. Dirt roads from the Navajo Reservation and nearby ranches run through the 4,000-acre site, which contains the remains of four ancestral Hopi villages and a host of cultural treasures. Officials recall finding looters with backhoes digging up the earth in search of valuable clay pots. Source:

http://www.azstarnet.com/news/state-and-regional/article_8676c7f0-2961-5c6b-ba27-556094f5e999.html

(Florida) Loaded guns now allowed in National Parks. A new law now in effect allows registered firearm owners to bring their weapons into national parks and wildlife refuges as long as they are allowed by state law. The new law also does not change prohibitions on the use of firearms in national parks and does not change hunting regulations. Not everyone is thrilled with the new law. Gun control advocates lobbied against the new law fearing it would lead to an increase of gun violence in our national parks. Congress lifted the gun ban because of the differences in state and federal firearm laws which made it difficult for gun owners to travel between state and federal lands. The national park service says the only places guns will not be permitted in the parks under the new law are visitor centers and rangers' offices because firearms are banned in federal buildings. Source:

<http://cbs4.com/local/guns.firearms.national.2.1510091.html>

Obama eyes western land for national monuments, angering some. More than a dozen pristine landscapes, wildlife habitats, and scenic rivers in 11 Western states, some larger than Rhode Island

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and Delaware combined, are under consideration by the Presidential administration to become America's newest National Monuments — a decision the administration can make unilaterally without local input or congressional approval. According to internal Department of Interior documents leaked to a Utah congressman, the mostly public lands include Arizona deserts, California mountains, Montana prairies, New Mexico forests, Washington islands and the Great Basins of Nevada and Colorado — totaling more than 13 million acres. Sources, according to Fox News, say the President is likely to choose two or three sites from the list, depending on their size, conservation value and the development threat to each one's environment. "Many nationally significant landscapes are worthy of inclusion in the NLCS (National Landscape Conservation System)," according to the draft report stamped NOT FOR RELEASE. "The areas listed below may be good candidates for National Monument designation and the Antiquities Act." Presidential use of the Antiquities Act is highly controversial because the White House, with the stroke of a pen, can lock up thousands of square miles of federal lands used for timber, ranching, mining and energy development without local input or congressional approval. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2010/02/18/obama-eyeing-millions-wild-acres-national-monuments/?test=latestnews>

(Maryland) Extent of damage after roof collapse at museum warehouse unknown. Officials with the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum were still unsure Tuesday whether any of the aviation-related artifacts — which may include pieces of early aircrafts or spacecrafts — housed in a Suitland, Maryland warehouse were damaged when the building's roof collapsed February 10. Even if the artifacts were unharmed, a museum spokeswoman said the collapse of the 1960s-era structure from the weight of heavy snow accumulation reaffirmed the museum's decision to move from the Suitland site to a more modern facility near Dulles International Airport in Chantilly, Virginia. "There was a concern ... before this snowstorm that it's time to move the collection and move these offices," she said, adding she did not know when the move would take place. "This situation simply confirms that we need to move in that direction." Built in 1967, the building, known as Warehouse 21, is one of about 30 similar structures within the Paul E. Garber Preservation, Restoration and Storage Facility. At the time of the collapse, Warehouse 21 contained approximately 1,500 artifacts and 800 works of art, most from the 20th century and all related in some way to aviation or space travel, according to the spokeswoman. A museum spokeswoman said she did not know the estimated worth of the artifacts, except that they are "valuable." She said museum officials have good reason to believe the artifacts were untouched, since they were stored in protective crates and boxes and many were in environmentally controlled storage containers. Source: http://www.gazette.net/stories/02182010/uppenew173713_32555.php

POSTAL AND SHIPPING

(New Jersey) Feds arrest newspaper delivery man for sending hoax powder letter to his boss. The Acting Special Agent In Charge in Newark announced on Friday the arrest of a 53 year-old suspect, from Chester, New York in connection with a hoax biological agent mailed to the suspect's supervisor at the Star Ledger newspaper in Newark, New Jersey. FBI agents from Newark and New York's Hudson Valley Resident Agency, U.S. Postal Inspectors, members of the Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTF) in both New Jersey and New York, and troopers from the New York State Police conducted the arrest Friday morning at the suspect's residence without incident. The suspect was transported to Newark where he will face a federal charge of conduct intending to convey false or misleading information involving the illegal transfer of a biological agent or toxin (a hoax "powder letter.") Note:

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This case is completely unrelated to a series of white powder letters throughout New Jersey that has been widely reported in the media. Source:

<http://newark.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel10/nk021910.htm>

(New Jersey) White powder found to be non-toxic. After running tests on an unknown white powder that was delivered via mail to a Westwood Avenue business, the Bergen County Hazardous Materials Emergency Team (Hazmat) has determined it to be “a non-toxic food substance,” the Westwood Police chief said. Borough police responded to Giradi Interiors on Monday, February 15 around 1 p.m. after the business’s owner opened a piece of mail containing an unknown white powder. Westwood Police officers arrived at the scene, evacuated the store, and cordoned off the surrounding area, said the chief. Shortly afterward, Bergen County Hazmat arrived in Westwood to assume control of the incident and administer tests upon the substance. Subsequent testing revealed the powder to be non-toxic, and the area was reopened two hours later. The evidence was turned over to the Westwood Police Detective Bureau, where it was secured. On February 16, the U.S. Postal Inspector took possession of it. Similar incidents have been reported across the state recently, the police chief noted, but “apparently all of the other instances have turned out to be nontoxic substances, as well.” The case has been forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Source:

http://www.northjersey.com/news/84674752_White_powder_found_to_be_non-toxic.html

(Massachusetts) Bomb squad called to post office in Framingham. Framingham and Massachusetts State Police are investigating a suspicious package found at the Rte. 30 post office on Friday, February 19. The box, with words to the effect of “Time is ticking for the post office,” was found near the loading dock at about 4:40 p.m., a police spokesman said. The building has been evacuated and the state police bomb squad has been called in, he said. The area has been cordoned off. Source:

<http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x692837006/Bomb-squad-called-to-post-office-in-Framingham>

(Alabama) Montgomery County Bomb Squad responds to suspicious package. Several emergency agencies responded on Monday, February 15 to a false-alarm bomb scare at the Wilma Rudolph Boulevard U.S. Post Office branch. Clarksville Police and Fire Rescue and the Montgomery County Bomb Squad were called out to investigate an abandoned package Monday at about 5:30 p.m. According to a CPD report, someone in a van placed a small brown box on one of the outside mailboxes, then slowly moved away. The van then waited a few minutes in a nearby parking lot before leaving, a witness told police after he called 911. The box contained salt and pepper shakers. Source:

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100217/NEWS01/2170323/Montgomery+County+Bomb+Squad+responds+to+suspicious+package>

(Tennessee) Montgomery County Bomb Squad responds to suspicious package. Several emergency agencies responded Monday to a false-alarm bomb scare at the Wilma Rudolph Boulevard U.S. Post Office branch. Clarksville Police and Fire Rescue and the Montgomery County Bomb Squad were called out to investigate an abandoned package Monday at about 5:30 p.m. According to a CPD report, someone in a van placed a small brown box on one of the outside mailboxes, then slowly moved away. The van then waited a few minutes in a nearby parking lot before leaving, a witness told police after he called 911. The box contained salt and pepper shakers. Source:

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100217/NEWS01/2170323/Montgomery+County+Bomb+Squad+responds+to+suspicious+package>

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(California) Suspicious suitcase at South San Francisco post office deemed harmless. Police say a suspicious suitcase left outside a post office in San Francisco turned out to be harmless, and they are still looking for a person seen “manipulating” it. The “suspicious person” was seen with the black suitcase on a sidewalk near the 322 Linden Ave. Post Office at 1 p.m. on Friday, South San Francisco police said. The person left the case and entered a waiting black Cadillac Escalade stopped at Miller Avenue. The vehicle was last seen heading west toward Linden Avenue. Suspecting the case may contain explosives, police cordoned off the area and called the San Mateo Bomb Squad and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The bomb squad deemed the case safe and empty. Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_14406231

(Pennsylvania) Pipe bomb used to blow up mailbox in Upper Burrell. Pennsylvania State police at Kiski are investigating an incident during the weekend in which a pipe bomb was used to blow up a mailbox in Upper Burrell. A 71-year-old man told police he heard a loud noise outside his home at 9:30 p.m. Friday. He believed it was snow sliding off the roof, but when he checked Saturday morning, he discovered a homemade steel pipe bomb had been placed in his mailbox and ignited. Police said the explosion destroyed the mailbox, which was made of brick and block. Damage was set at \$350. Source: http://pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/westmoreland/s_667202.html

PUBLIC HEALTH

(Indiana) Portions of Union Hospital evacuated after bomb scare. Police were still searching Saturday evening for a man suspected of issuing a bomb threat at Union Hospital in Terra Haute, Indiana, earlier that day. According to a public relations manager for the hospital, at 12:05 p.m. a male approached the pharmacy in Union East and demanded methadone. Denied the narcotic, he left a red bag at the pharmacy window and said it was a bomb as he left the building, she said. The hospital immediately went on lock-down and the Terre Haute police and fire departments were notified. Portions of the hospital were evacuated and emergency patients were re-routed to other sectors. The Indiana State Police bomb squad arrived at 2:43 p.m. and removed and inspected the bag. Source: http://www.tribstar.com/news/local_story_051222028.html?keyword=topstory

Asthma patients warned on drug. Asthma patients should avoid long-term use of Advair and Symbicort, federal regulators said Thursday, calling for further study of their potential health risks. Use should stop once symptoms are under control, officials from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said. Advair, GlaxoSmithKline’s top-selling product, and AstraZeneca’s Symbicort combine inhaled corticosteroids with medicines from a class known as long-acting beta agonists. Long-acting beta agonists, or LABAs, have been linked to an increased risk of worsening asthma, hospitalizations and deaths, and the agency Thursday advised against using products containing that ingredient alone. An outside panel will meet next month to gather information on how to design studies for the combination drugs, the FDA said in a statement. Patients should switch to just inhaled corticosteroids or other long-term control medications from the combination drugs as soon as asthma symptoms abate, the FDA said. Symptoms range from occasional wheezing to severe shortness of breath. Source: <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20100219/ARTICLE/2191030/-1/NEWSSITEMAP?tc=ar>

(California) Hospital lockdown ends peacefully. A lockdown at two San Diego hospitals was lifted on the evening of February 12 after police questioned a man who had made a bomb threat, authorities

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said. People were prohibited from entering or leaving Sharp Memorial Hospital and neighboring Mary Birch Hospital for Women while officers investigated the threats, police said. A man in the Sharp Memorial cafeteria threatened to kill people about 5:20 p.m., and guests from the cafeteria were evacuated. An individual believed to have made the threats was questioned by police, but was later released, a San Diego police officer said. Officers searched the premises but made no discoveries, he said, and hospital business was allowed to resume Friday night as normal. Source:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/feb/12/sharp-hospitals-lockdown-after-threat/?imw=Y>

TRANSPORTATION

Debate revived over the security threat small planes pose. There are about 200,000 small and medium-size aircraft in the United States, using 19,000 airports, most of them small; last Thursday's suicide attack on an office building in Austin, Texas revives debate over the security threat small planes pose, and how strict the security measures applied to general aviation should be. Some security experts disagree with the latest TSA position on general aviation, pointing to incidents in which small planes were used, or could have been used, as weapons. Security experts say the large gap between security measures applied to commercial aviation and measures applied to general aviation is a source of worry. "It's a big gap," said an aviation security consultant and former staff member of the commission that investigated the September 11th attacks. "It wouldn't take much, even a minor incident involving two simultaneously attacking planes, to inflict enough damage to set off alarm bells and do some serious harm to the economy and national psyche." The Washington Post reports that at small airports pilots are not subject to baggage checks, metal detector scans, or pat-downs. They are typically not even required to file flight plans. "The easy access and lack of security are the result of years of debate over how much threat small aircraft pose as terror weapons and how they could be regulated without stifling commerce and pilot freedom," the Post writes. Source:

<http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/debate-revived-over-security-threat-small-planes-pose>

(Wisconsin) FBI joins investigation after bomb threat forces evacuation of Outagamie County Airport. The FBI has joined the investigation into a Sunday morning bomb threat that evacuated the Outagamie County Regional Airport. Officials said that threat came from the same man who threatened to blow up an Appleton restaurant Saturday evening. The Outagamie County Regional Airport was evacuated just after 8 a.m. and flights were delayed after police received a report of a bomb placed on the property. A 911 call placed at about 8:10 a.m. by an employee at an Appleton restaurant forced about 100 people, including passengers and airline employees, out of the terminal for about 75 minutes. The airport resumed normal operations at about 9:30 a.m., after a search showed no bomb was present. An official with the Outagamie County Sheriff's Department said the 911 report came from a restaurant employee who overheard a conversation suggesting someone was at the airport and "he was going to place a bomb" there. An official with the Appleton Police Department said the threat came from the same cell phone number as one just after 9 p.m. Saturday where a man threatened to blow up a W. College Avenue restaurant, but officials have not identified the cell phone's owner. The Saturday caller apparently said he was upset with food he got from the restaurant, and again said that Sunday, the official said. Source:

<http://www.htrnews.com/article/20100222/MAN0101/302220137/1984/Bomb-threat-clears-Outagamie-County-Regional-Airport>

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TSA: Threatening note prompted Denver flight's emergency landing. An airliner that was diverted mid-flight because of a bomb threat was being scoured by investigators at Salt Lake City International Airport on Thursday. An airport spokeswoman said a flight attendant found a note while the 757 was en route from Denver to San Francisco and turned it over to the pilot. "The note was threatening enough for the pilot to feel like he should divert," the spokeswoman said. She said the passengers and crew were taken to the international terminal, where the FBI planned to interview passengers while trying to figure out the note's origin. A Transportation Safety Administration spokesman said the flight attendant found the note in the plane's galley. He also said the passengers would be rescreened through security as the aircraft was searched on a runway away from the airport terminals, where a German shepherd was sniffing luggage on the tarmac. The North American Aerospace Defense Command says it did not launch fighter jets. Source:

<http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=133028&provider=top&catid=188>

Body of apparent stowaway falls from Miami-bound plane. The body of an apparent stowaway fell from the wheel well of a plane taking off Thursday from the Dominican Republic, a Federal Aviation Administration official said. The 767 aircraft — Amerijet flight 840 — landed about two hours later without incident at Miami International Airport. The flight originated in Santo Domingo. An FAA spokeswoman said the FAA is investigating the incident. According to its Web site, Amerijet is an international cargo carrier. The plane was sent to a secure area of Miami International and was being inspected, according to the Miami-Dade Police Department. It is unclear why the plane continued to Miami after the body fell out, rather than returning to Santo Domingo. An Amerijet spokesperson did not immediately return a call for comment. Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/TRAVEL/02/18/florida.stowaway.plane/>

(District of Columbia) Safer rail cars are 'most wanted' by NTSB. Federal safety investigators on Thursday called for sturdier, federally regulated rail cars that will not crumple in an accident, as a Metro rail car did when it hit another train in June, killing nine. The National Transportation Safety Board, an independent agency that investigates crashes and makes safety recommendations, put improving the design of subway rail cars on its "most wanted" list of federal safety improvements. Those killed in the June accident were riding in a 1000-series car that crumpled to one-third its original size when it hit the other train. The NTSB has been calling for Metro to replace or retrofit the 1000-series cars, the oldest in its fleet, since 2006. Metro, which began placing the 1000-cars in the middle of trains after the June accident, has said it can not afford to replace the older cars. Once ordered, it would take several years before new cars would be ready to replace them. An NTSB Chairwoman said the location of the June accident, where Metro's tracks are separated by a fence from Amtrak and MARC train tracks, provided a stark reminder of the need for stricter standards for subway agencies. "On one side of the fence, you have crashworthiness standards for cars that the people ride in," she said. "On the other side of the fence, there are no standards. That doesn't make any sense." She said she hoped putting the rail car improvements on the "most wanted" list would send a signal to Congress to support increased standards for subway systems. Source:

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/Safer-rail-cars-are-most-wanted-by-NTSB-84740652.html>

(Indiana) Suspect flier pulled from plane, grilled. Authorities at Fort Wayne International Airport pulled a suspicious passenger from a Chautauqua Airlines flight Thursday, forcing everyone else off the plane and delaying the departure. Neither airport officials nor the Transportation Security

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Administration said what prompted police to take the man off the flight, but after he was interviewed and screened again, he was allowed back on the plane, officials said. Passengers were already onboard Chautauqua Airlines Flight 6032 about 4 p.m. when federal officials decided they wanted to question the man, said the director of administration for the Fort Wayne-Allen County Airport Authority. Airport screeners noticed something suspicious about the man that caught their attention, the director said, though he did not know what. Federal officials and airport police ushered everyone off the plane and re-screened them while a bomb-sniffing police dog checked the flight. The screening found nothing dangerous on the man or on the plane, officials said. Source: <http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20100219/LOCAL07/302199993/1043/LOCAL07>

(North Carolina) Theft of steel railroad beams leads to 100K in damages. Someone stole about 800 feet of railroad beams and caused several train cars to derail. An official with Gulf & Ohio Railways Inc. said the culprits probably hope to sell the 22,000 pounds of steel. But a new state law may make the sale of the stolen metal difficult. The state General Assembly passed a law in 2009 prohibiting the sale of scrap metal without proof of ownership. The Gulf and Ohio vice president, estimated that it took the thieves more than eight hours to cut and remove the rails. "Scrap merchants are forbidden from buying railroad property without a letter of authorization," he said. "So they can't even sell the metal. All that work and it probably was for nothing." No one was injured in the incident, which occurred at about 10 a.m., but the damage to the train was estimated at about \$100,000. Source: http://www.laurinburgexchange.com/view/full_story/6402162/article-Theft-of-steel-railroad-beams-leads-to--100K-in-damages?instance=secondary_news_left_column

TSA takes explosives screening to fliers. Airport screeners for the first time will begin roving through airports taking chemical swabs from passengers and their bags to check for explosives, the Transportation Security Administration said on February 16. The program, already tested at five airports after the attempted Christmas Day bomb plot on a U.S.-bound airliner, begins nationwide in a few weeks, a TSA spokeswoman said. Screeners will push carts with bomb-detection machines around airport gates and checkpoint lines to randomly check passengers' hands and carry-on bags for explosive residue. Metal detectors now used at checkpoints can not spot materials such as the powdered explosives that a bombing suspect allegedly hid in his underwear to get through a checkpoint in Amsterdam's airport. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2010-02-16-TSA-swabs_N.htm

(New Jersey) Security breach closes part of Newark airport. Another security breach closed down a section of Newark Liberty International Airport for about an hour on busy Presidents Day. The Transportation Security Administration says the X-ray detected what appeared to be wine bottles in a passenger's carry-on. He was referred to a secondary screening because of the ban on carrying more than 3 ounces of liquids. A TSA spokeswoman says screening was halted in Terminal A around 4:45 p.m. Monday because the man apparently walked away. He was never located and apparently boarded his flight. Source: http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/news_details/article/92/2010/february/18/security-breach-closes-part-of-newark-airport.html

(Utah) Flight diverted to Salt Lake after bomb threat. Airport officials say an airliner en route to San Francisco has been diverted to Salt Lake City following a bomb threat. The Salt Lake City superintendent of airport operations says the FBI and airport police are on scene searching the plane.

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The superintendent says the 193 passengers and six crew remain on board United Flight 741 and that there are buses waiting to transport passengers to the terminal when the all-clear is given. He had no details on the threat. The FBI in Salt Lake City said it could not confirm anything. A United spokesperson says the flight was diverted as a precaution. The flight originated in Denver. Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gNRKbc29H0NVRQES9nDsgb5w923AD9DUNG500>

Terror talk growing louder on the Web. CBS News has learned that U.S. intelligence officials are seeing a marked increase in terror-related Internet chatter: Jihadists bent on finding gaps in airport security — all linked to al Qaeda in Yemen, reports the CBS News chief investigative correspondent. On one radical website, a writer invites fellow members to post information on how to bypass airport screening. Another member asks about explosive detection devices, writing: “We have that system in place in Algiers...does anyone know if it’s capable of detecting [the flammable gas] butane?” On another Jihadist site, a visitor questions security involving 3D scanners at British airports asking: “Can I refuse [to pass through] for religious reasons?” Before long comes this answer: “â_! advise those who wish to avoid the Heathrow scanners to take the train to Paris... and then board a plane from there.” Another is the recent discovery of a confidential TSA document on a Yemeni Web site discussing the rules for searching passengers. Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/02/12/cbsnews_investigates/main6202853.shtml

Al Qaeda in Yemen touts “anti-detectable” bomb. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) described in a new statement how it conducted extensive research and trials into thwarting airport screening in both the U.S. and Europe ahead of the Christmas Day bomb plot against a Detroit-bound jet. The group boasts of the planning that went into developing the “anti-detectable device” carried in the undergarments of a Nigerian suspect in the latest issue of its online magazine, Sada al-Malahem, which was dedicated entirely to the attack. The article claims the group carefully surveyed security checks at various international airports and concluded that they needed a device that could beat airport X-Ray scanners, metal detection systems, and sniffer dogs. It explained that the group took a long time to study the various X-Ray systems operational at airports and detected “weak points” in each one. As for metal detection, the answer was to come up with a non-metal device. The article admitted that sneaking explosives past sniffer dogs presented a greater challenge, but one it also claims to have met by enclosing substances in sealed containers. None of AQAP’s claims are verifiable, but the group’s real intent in publicly trumpeting its research and development efforts is clear: they are telling the West that they continue to adapt to security measures and that they are not giving up. Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2010/02/16/world/worldwatch/entry6212340.shtml>

(Ohio) Interstate 71 still snarled from 50-plus vehicle pile-up Monday. The State Highway Patrol hopes to keep one lane of Interstate 71 open this morning between Ohio 61 and U.S. 36 as work crews continue to remove vehicles damaged in a massive pileup Monday afternoon. More than 50 vehicles, including many tractor trailers, were involved in the afternoon crash on the snow-covered highway. Only minor injuries were reported. The interstate southbound was closed for seven hours after the crash. Source: http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/02/interstate_71_still_snarled_fr.html

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(Florida) Bird strikes plane, forces landing at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. A Spirit Airlines plane made an unscheduled return to Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport on Monday after a bird struck the jet's nose after takeoff, the Federal Aviation Administration said. No one was hurt, officials said. About two-thirds of the passengers from Flight 758 were placed on a smaller jet that left the Fort Lauderdale airport for New York's LaGuardia Airport. The rest of the passengers were placed on other flights to New York, a spokeswoman said. An inspection found no damage to the plane, an Airbus A321. The flight had originally departed at about 11 a.m. from Fort Lauderdale and was in the air when the bird hit the plane's radome, a weatherproof enclosure at the nose of the aircraft, said an FAA spokeswoman. After the bird strike, the plane appeared intact. Still, the pilot returned to Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport as a precaution. Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/broward/fort-lauderdale/fl-bird-strike-plane-20100215,0,5861429.story>

WATER AND DAMS

(California) Suspicious device found in canal wasn't a pipe bomb. Ellis Street in Redding, California, was shut down for a short time this afternoon while the Shasta County Bomb Squad investigated a suspicious device. The object resembled a pipe bomb, but it did not turn out to be an actual destructive device, a Redding police officer said. The device was spotted in the Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District canal near Ellis Street about 3:15 p.m., he said. Source: <http://www.redding.com/news/2010/feb/17/suspicious-device-found-canal-wasnt-pipe-bomb/>

(Ohio) Water-plant break-in undetected. Although they insist that central Ohio's water supply is secure, Columbus Public Utilities officials acknowledged on February 12 that a recent break-in at a North Side treatment plant went undetected for as long as two weeks. Whoever cut holes in two fences at the Hap Cremean Water Plant stole 200 feet of copper wire from an electricity substation, a Power and Water Division spokeswoman said. She said the substation is separated from the area where 67 million gallons of water is treated daily for residents of northern Franklin County and the Ohio State University campus. A Columbus police report indicates the break-in occurred sometime between 6 p.m. January 14 and 1 p.m. January 30. The plant's security cameras were working during the break-in but failed to detect someone cutting holes in two fences, removing wire from electricity transformers and carrying it off the plant grounds. She said there's no indication that drinking-water safety was in jeopardy. Columbus Police said the case is under investigation. Source: http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/02/13/water_plant_breakin.ART_ART_02-13-10_B1_RLGJ2VM.html?sid=101

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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