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North Dakota Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism Summary



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

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QUICK LINKS

North Dakota

Regional

National

International

Banking and Finance Industry

**Chemical and Hazardous
Materials Sector**

Commercial Facilities

Communications Sector

Critical Manufacturing

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Emergency Services

Energy

Food and Agriculture

**Government Sector (including
Schools and Universities)**

**Information Technology and
Telecommunications**

National Monuments and Icons

Postal and Shipping

Public Health

Transportation

Water and Dams

**North Dakota Homeland Security
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NORTH DAKOTA

Flood control vendors flock to Fargo. There is a possibility of record Red River flooding for a second straight year. Fargo, North Dakota, city officials say they have been deluged with requests from people who want to sell them flood-control products such as the Aqua Fence, Tiger Dam, Big Bags, Table Bagger, and Sandbagging Buddy. Those systems and more will be on display February 24 in a downtown Fargo auditorium. The National Weather Service said in its most recent flood outlook that the Red River in Fargo has a 25 percent chance of reaching record levels again this spring. There is a 70 percent chance it will go over 37 feet, which would lead to diking and sandbagging in some areas. The floods are expected by early April this year. A metro flood committee believes the best option for flood control would be a diversion, which is being studied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “I think the public decided early that diversion seems to be the most permanent option,” said the marketing director of EKO, one of the companies offering alternative flood control devices. “All we

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are saying is that Fargo ought to have a backup plan.” Source:
<http://www.wday.com/event/article/id/30304/group/home/>

Fargo declares state of emergency. The mayor of Fargo, North Dakota, has declared a state of emergency in anticipation of spring flooding. The City administrator says it is standard procedure, and paves the way for federal assistance if the Red River floods again. Fargo also is asking governor to request help from the Corps of Engineers in building a clay dike near City Hall and at several other spots. The river reached a record level in Fargo last spring and is expected to flood again this year. Source: http://www.twincities.com/ci_14461094

REGIONAL

(Minnesota) U of Minn. awarded \$20 million food-security grant. The University of Minnesota’s National Center for Food Protection and Defense has been awarded a \$20 million grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The center is a multi-disciplinary group that works on addressing potentially catastrophic threats of intentional contamination of the nation’s food supply. The university says in a news release that it expects the center to receive the money over six years. It has been funded by Homeland Security in the past. The center was launched in 2004 and has found ways to close vulnerabilities within the agriculture system and devised methods to recover from widespread contamination. Source: <http://www.wxow.com/Global/story.asp?S=12048977>

(Minnesota) Oakport Township planning temporary levees. Oakport Township, Minnesota, north of Moorhead used about 1.3 million sandbags in the 2009 flood. Township officials hope plans for three large temporary dikes will greatly reduce the need for sandbags this spring. The chairman of the township board said Oakport has half a million empty sandbags ready for filling, but he expects they will not need more than 400,000 if residents OK the levee plan. Two of the three temporary dikes would be built roughly where permanent levees are planned. When they are constructed, the permanent levees are expected to be about six miles long. Oakport officials are working with Clay County officials to receive assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build the temporary dikes, but if that does not happen the township plans to have the dikes built and seek reimbursement later, he said. Homeowners would be responsible for any costs not reimbursed, but a project would not move forward unless 90 percent of homeowners in an area agree to be assessed. While the proposed temporary ring dikes would protect approximately 436 homes, dozens of other houses would remain outside of the protected areas. The fight to protect those homes will be made easier by the temporary dikes. Construction on the permanent dikes is expected to resume in 2010, though another \$3.5 million is needed from the Legislature to complete them. Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/270036/>

NATIONAL

1 million lose power as storm slams Northeast. A windy winter storm knocked out power to more than 1 million homes and businesses in the Northeast on Friday, fanned a hotel fire in coastal New Hampshire, and disrupted travel. High winds combined with heavy snow were helping bring down power lines. About 330,000 homes and business have lost power in New Hampshire alone. Even the state Emergency Operations Center in New Hampshire was operating on a generator. A total of nearly 800,000 more customers were in the dark in states from Maine to Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Officials were also blaming the wind for fanning a hotel fire in Hampton, New Hampshire, and destroying an entire block of businesses. Farther south, snow is clogging roads and airport runways.

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Thousands of flights have been canceled, including more than 900 which were due to leave New York airports. In upstate New York, the storm left some 150,000 homes and businesses without power. Vermont had more than 10,000 outages. Nearly 4,900 utility customers in New Jersey were without electricity, and there were about 2,000 customers without power throughout Pennsylvania. National Guard forces rescued about 70 people on a ski trip in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania when their buses got stuck on Route 374. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation banned motorcycles, recreation vehicles, and commercial traffic on interstates 380 and 84 — with the exceptions of school buses and tow trucks responding to accidents. There was also a tractor-trailer ban on the Pennsylvania Turnpike's Northeast Extension. Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35557603/ns/weather>

National plan aims to increase water supply in West. A new Department of Interior initiative announced Monday aims to boost the water supply in the thirsty West through an infusion of dollars and strategies aimed at patching infrastructure and boosting conservation efforts. The Secretary of the Interior signed an order establishing a new water sustainability strategy for the country, unveiling the agency's "WaterSMART Initiative" at a press conference. "The federal government's existing water policies and programs simply aren't built for 21st century pressures on water supplies," he said. To fund the initiative, the 2011 budget includes an additional \$36.4 million for water programs. The Secretary, as part of his order, wants his department to increase the available water supply in the West for agricultural, municipal, industrial and environmental uses by 350,000 acre feet by 2012. In addition to the proposed extra funding and increase in water supplies, he announced a "water footprint reduction program" to achieve decreases in the overall consumption of potable water by 26 percent in 2020. A 20 percent reduction goal has been set for the same year for industrial and agricultural use of water. Source: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/700011300/National-plan-aims-to-increase-water-supply-in-West.html?linkTrack=rss-5>

(New York) Terror suspect Zazi cites NYC subway attack plan. A terrorism suspect has told a federal judge that he was trained by al-Qaida for a "martyrdom" plan to attack the New York City subways. The 25-year-old former Denver airport shuttle driver pleaded guilty Monday in New York to conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction. The suspect also pleaded guilty to counts of conspiracy to commit murder in a foreign country and providing material support for a terrorist organization. He faces a life prison sentence without parole. The Afghan native says he agreed to the bomb plot because of the United States' military action in Afghanistan. He says he received training in Pakistan. He was arrested in the fall after arousing authorities' suspicions by driving cross-country from Denver to New York around the anniversary of the September 11 attacks. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/22/AR2010022201916.html?hpid=topnews>

INTERNATIONAL

Security up after Thai bank blasts. Thailand's prime minister ordered stepped-up security in Bangkok on February 28 after four banks were targeted with small explosive devices. The attacks the evening of February 27, in which no one was hurt, came a day after the Supreme Court ordered \$1.4 billion of an exiled former leader's assets seized for corruption. Authorities had voiced concern the verdict could spark violent protests by his supporters but none occurred. The Prime Minister told reporters on

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February 28 that he did not know who was behind the attacks on Bangkok Bank, the country's biggest commercial bank. Police said only minor damage was caused when grenades exploded at two of the bank's branches, and were found unexploded at two others. Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703411304575094101335647946.html?mod=google_news_wsj

Suicide bombers attack central Kabul, killing at least 17. A crew of suicide bombers attacked a central commercial area dotted with guesthouses frequented by foreigners, setting off an hours-long gun battle with Afghan police early Friday and killing at least 17 people. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the dramatic raid, which began around daybreak and wounded at least 32 people. The assault was the latest in a string of attacks to rock the capital city, whose residents generally feel a world away from the raging rural insurgency that U.S.-led forces are seeking to contain in a new push in southern Afghanistan. The attack began with a car bombing that left a swimming pool-sized crater outside a small hotel, where most guests were Indian, said the head of criminal investigations for the city police. Three suicide bombers then entered another nearby guesthouse, the Park Residence, which is often used by Americans. There, two bombers detonated their explosives, while a third holed up as green-uniformed Afghan security forces descended and a firefight ensued. The final bomber was killed by police about four hours after the attack began, authorities said. Among the dead civilians were Italians and several Indians, he said. Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/26/AR2010022601543.html>

'Sabotage' leaves oil slick in Italy's Po River. Environmental campaigners warned of a pending disaster Wednesday as a massive oil slick flowed down Italy's Po River after saboteurs broke into a disused refinery and released the spill. Some 159,000 gallons of oil moved downstream along the Lambro river, passed three barriers that had been placed to block and absorb the slick, and flowed into the Po near the northern city of Piacenza, officials said. Teams were desperately trying to stem the flow by erecting barriers but campaigners feared that their efforts would not be enough to avert an environmental catastrophe. The spill has already killed dozens of birds and animals and a state of alert has been declared on some stretches of the river, one of the longest in Europe. On the banks of the river near the small town of Calendasco, northeast of Piacenza, a small army of firefighters, environmental protection workers and civil protection volunteers battled to stem the tide of oil, as the first sparse traces flowed past them. The spill was triggered in the early hours of Tuesday after the alleged saboteurs broke into the depot of the former Lombardi Petroli refinery in Villasanta and opened the valves, according to the ANSA news agency. "The event was almost certainly the result of a criminal act," the Milan prefecture said in a statement, adding that an inquiry was under way.

Source: <http://www.france24.com/en/20100224-sabotage-leaves-oil-slick-italys-po-river>

BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

(Pennsylvania) Bomb threat briefly forces evacuation of Hanover Township Wachovia bank. A bomb threat on February 27 forced the evacuation of a Hanover Township bank, Colonial Regional police said. Police said the manager of the Wachovia bank called police about 11:25 a.m. to report the threat. The bank is in the 2700 block of Schoenersville Road. The manager told police the threat was received by a teller, police said. The message, which sounded like a recording, said, "This is a bomb threat and you need to evacuate. You are one of three branches," according to police. Colonial Regional police were aware of no similar threats to Wachovia banks in the area. When police

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searched the bank and found nothing suspicious, normal operations resumed, police said. Source: http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/bethlehem/index.ssf/2010/03/bomb_threat_briefly_forces_eva.html

(Wisconsin) Russian cyber-hackers blamed for theft attempt. Eau Claire County says a worker in the treasurer's office and a local bank prevented computer hackers from stealing almost \$800,000. Eau Claire County says the incident happened in late January, and that it has since revised its rules for transferring money electronically. Alliance Bank protected the county against what it says could have been a six-figure loss. It called the county treasurer's office about some suspicious wire transfers. The staff there told the bank it only requested one transfer, and it called off the others. Now it says the FBI thinks Russian cyber-hackers are to blame. A county board member says the FBI took a computer that the county used for wire transfers. Those transactions were suspended. The county later restored them under its new rules. Source: <http://www.weau.com/news/headlines/85432692.html>

Virtualized USB key beats keyloggers. Is this the future of online banking? US company IronKey has come up with a USB drive that can be used to access accounts virtually without involving the operating system or applications that cause so many of today's security problems. Aimed at companies that want to protect corporate bank accounts, Trusted Access for Banking is actually a standard IronKey USB drive that runs a walled or 'hardened' Linux virtual environment inside the PC's OS. It comes complete with its own browser hardwired to access only a particular bank service, and incorporates RSA Secure ID tokens for authentication. According to an IronKey spokesman, the PCs used for corporate bank access were now considered so insecure that companies were being lumbered with impractical remedies such as having to dedicate a specific PC to be used only for bank access. Using IronKey Trusted Access, companies could simply plug the drive into any PC, and without the need for any additional drivers or software, after which the host PC was given a precautionary scan for malware, including specialized banking Trojans such as Zeus. Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/022310-virtualised-usb-key-beats.html?hpg1=bn>

(Florida) Suspect charged in string of South Florida bank robberies. A prolific bank robber — who once served almost 10 years in federal prison for a string of heists — is believed to be behind at least eight recent South Florida bank robberies, an FBI spokeswoman confirmed on February 23. Police arrested the 55 year old suspect about noon on February 23 outside a Miami Springs restaurant, the spokesman said. He has been charged with two counts of bank robbery, but more charges could be filed, she said. The suspect, who decades ago was known as "the Joker" bank robber because he would present a note that said, "This is no joke," was arrested in December 1990. He pleaded guilty in 1991 and served more than eight years in prison, according to the affidavit. By 2010, the suspect's method of robbing a bank had not changed, authorities said, but his nickname did: the Old Man Bandit. He hit banks — some of the biggest names in the industry including Citibank, Wachovia, HSBC and Bank of America — from Palm Beach Gardens to Pinecrest over the past two years, authorities said. Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/02/24/1496563/no-joke-heist-suspect-charged.html>

(Pennsylvania) Man admits robbery, bomb threat. A Warminster man who used bomb threats to rob a bank and terrorize supermarket shoppers, pleaded guilty Monday in Bucks County court in Doylestown. Age 52, the man will be sentenced in about 60 days, following a mental health evaluation. He pleaded guilty to robbery and related charges. The bank robbery occurred November

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18 at the Citizen's Bank branch on East Street Road in Warminster. Witnesses said he walked into the bank carrying two duffel bags. He told a teller there was a bomb in one of the bags, and ordered her to turn over all the cash in her drawer. The teller gave him an undetermined amount of cash and inserted a dye pack into the bag of loot. A police officer saw him running through a parking lot a short time later, carrying a bag that appeared to be smoking. He was arrested, while members of the Philadelphia bomb squad checked out the duffel bag he had left in the bank. No bomb was found. A day before the bank robbery, managers at the Giant Food Store in Warminster learned that a caller had said that there were two bombs planted in the store. The building was evacuated for more than an hour while the store was searched. No explosives were detected, but the store lost approximately \$20,000 in revenue, prosecutors said. The man later admitted to police that he called in the bomb threat. He said his plan was for all the people in the store to rush out, giving him an opportunity to steal money from the cash registers. He will remain in the county prison until he is sentenced, and could face more than five years behind bars. Source:

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/news_details/article/92/2010/february/23/man-admits-robbery-bomb-threat.html

(Pennsylvania) Area law enforcement on alert after 2 bank robberies in 3 days by same man. Area authorities believe the same man is behind two bank robberies in three days — one in Bucks County and one in Philadelphia. The FBI says a Wachovia branch on the 200 block of East Street Road in Feasterville was held up on Monday morning. Surveillance photos from the crime scene show the same man caught on camera during the robbery last Saturday of another Wachovia branch, in the 6400 block of Frankford Avenue in Philadelphia. Officials say that in both holdups the man passed a threatening note to the bank teller and fled on foot after he was given cash. Source:

<http://www.kyw1060.com/FBI--Same-Man-Robbed-2-Area-Banks-in-3-Days/6416467>

Criminals hide payment-card skimmers inside gas station pumps. Criminals hid bank card-skimming devices inside gas pumps — in at least one case, even completely replacing the front panel of a pump — in a recent wave of attacks that demonstrate a more sophisticated, insidious method of stealing money from unsuspecting victims filling up their gas tanks. Some 180 gas stations in Utah, from Salt Lake City to Provo, were reportedly found with these skimming devices sitting inside the gas pumps. The scam was first discovered when a California bank's fraud department discovered that multiple bank card victims reporting problems had all used the same gas pump at a 7-Eleven store in Utah. Card skimming has been on the rise during the past year, with most attackers rigging or replacing merchant card readers with their own sniffer devices or ATM machines. The devices typically include a scanner, transmitter, camera, and, most recently, Bluetooth- or wireless-enabled links that shoot the stolen data back to the bad guys. The CTO for BT Counterpane and author of the Schneier on Security blog, says attackers in Europe are also moving skimming devices inside gas pumps as a way to avoid detection. He says the perpetrators could be insiders, but it's unclear. "The moral is that they are getting better and better at this," he said. Organized criminal gangs might be behind some of these attacks, he adds "Obviously, they are well-funded," he said. Source:

http://www.darkreading.com/database_security/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=223100233

(Florida) 1 arrested, 3 sought in ATM 'skimmer' scheme. Four Bulgarian men put "skimmers" on ATM machines at SunTrust banks in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties last summer and obtained

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identifying information on hundreds of bank accounts, according to a federal complaint. The information was used to withdraw nearly \$200,000 from the compromised accounts. Federal authorities have arrested one of the suspects and are searching for the other three. All four men were arrested by Pinellas County sheriff's deputies in December but were later released when state charges were dropped. The scheme was discovered September 20 when a bank customer using an ATM at the SunTrust at 3705 East Bay Drive in Largo found the skimmer, a device used to covertly capture account data contained on bank card magnetic strips. The device is placed over the ATM slot, mimicking the appearance of the real ATM card reader. The skimmer compromised 192 accounts, resulting in a loss of \$24,608, the complaint states. SunTrust later informed authorities that an ATM at 701 Martin Luther King Blvd. in Seffner had also been compromised with a skimmer on August 28. There, 104 accounts were skimmed, with a loss of \$90,810. Source:

<http://suncoastpinellas.tbo.com/content/2010/feb/22/1-arrested-3-sought-atm-skimmer-scheme/news/>

CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

Nothing Significant to Report

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

(California) Tsunami hits California, no injuries or damage. Tsunami waves from Chile's deadly earthquake hit California shores Saturday, barely eliciting notice from surfers who ignored advice to stay away from beaches. No injuries or significant property damage were reported. The West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center said water surged 2.3 feet in Santa Monica shortly before 12:30 p.m. and 2.9 feet in Santa Barbara shortly after 5 p.m. The tsunami hit with less force in other areas. A tsunami advisory for all of the California coast was canceled at about 8 p.m. The Coast Guard recommended that people in San Diego avoid going near beaches or other low-lying coastal areas, especially jetties and rocky areas. A spokesperson for San Diego Lifeguard Services said there were unusual tidal surges in Mission Bay and La Jolla Cove, two popular tourist spots. The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office closed beaches in Pacifica and Half Moon Bay. A road at the southern end of the Golden Gate Bridge was closed for about a half-hour when high waves came crashing in, said a spokesperson for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. No damage was reported along the 60 miles of coastline the National Park Service manages as part of the recreation area. The tsunami advisory did not deter surfers competing in a qualifying match of a Professional Longboards Association contest at San Diego's Ocean Beach. Organizers monitored the tsunami's progress. Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_us_quake_tsunami_calif.html

(New Mexico) Possible explosive device prompts evacuations. Authorities discovered what appeared to be a possible explosive device at an Alamogordo Quality Inn and evacuated the hotel and a nearby restaurant. Experts from nearby Holloman Air Force Base investigated and determined the device was part of a spent launcher motor from a Stinger missile. Alamogordo Department of Public Safety spokesman says the device posed no danger to the public. It was discovered at the Quality Inn on White Sands Blvd. Thursday morning and the hotel and an Applebee's restaurant were evacuated as a precaution. Authorities do not know how the device got there and are investigating the incident. Source: http://www.lcsun-news.com/dona_ana_news/ci_14475974

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(Virginia) Tank Museum evacuated after man leaves suspicious case. The Tank Museum on U.S. 29 north of Danville was evacuated on February 23 afternoon after a man left a what appeared to be a suspicious case at the museum. The Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office ordered the evacuation of the museum at about 2:15 p.m. and called bomb technicians from the Virginia State Police to examine the item, which turned out to be an old machine gun, said the sheriff. At about 2 p.m., a man who appeared to be in his mid-60s pulled into the parking lot with a female passenger in the vehicle, the sheriff said. As the man exited the car and took the case out of the trunk, the passenger got out and went to the driver's side of the vehicle. The vehicle left the parking lot as the man walked into the museum carrying what looked like a rifle case with a towel between his hand and the handle. The man said he wanted to make a donation to the museum, set the case on the floor, walked out of the building and continued heading south on U.S. 29 on foot. The woman may have parked the car at a church across the street from the museum. Source:

http://www2.godanriver.com/gdr/news/local/danville_news/article/tank_museum_evacuated_after_man_leaves_suspicious_case/18295/

(Pennsylvania) Man allegedly threatens to blow up casino. A Granger, Indiana, man has been charged with making a bomb threat at Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino in Altoona, Pennsylvania. The 23-year-old man was taken into custody on Sunday night. Altoona police said he was asked to provide photo identification to enter the casino, but reportedly had only a Social Security card and other papers with his name but no picture. Told that he would not be admitted, he allegedly said he would "come back and blow this place up." Police said he was taken into custody before offering to apologize in lieu of charges. Source:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100223/NEWS/100222037/-1/ENT06/Man-allegedly-threatens-to-blow-up-casino->

(Oregon) Bomb squad destroys dynamite in Redmond OR. The Deschutes County sheriff's office says the state police bomb squad was called in to destroy a suspicious package in Redmond that turned out to contain 50 to 60 sticks of dynamite. Officials say the explosives unit was summoned Monday after a citizen reported the box about 50 feet off a roadway in the central Oregon city. They say technicians were able to destroy the explosives without endangering people or damaging property. The sheriff's office says it has not been able to determine how the box got there, but it apparently had been at the site for about two weeks. Investigators are checking whether the explosives are connected to any thefts or burglaries. Source:

<http://www.ktvz.com/Global/story.asp?S=12026220>

COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

Glitch hits PlayStation Network users worldwide. Sony's PlayStation Network has been hit by a glitch that has left users on all continents unable to connect to the online service, the company said on March 1. The PlayStation Network is an Internet-based service that connects PlayStation 3 consoles to online stores, software downloads and is used as a platform for some multiplayer online games. It has about 38 million users worldwide. The problem appears to be affecting only the older PlayStation 3 consoles and not the newer so-called "slim" models that were recently launched, according to messages on Twitter. First reports of the problem began appearing online at around 4pm PST (midnight GMT, March 1) on February 28, and acknowledgment came from Sony's U.S. unit in the

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form of a blog and Twitter posting. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9163338/Glitch_hits_PlayStation_Network_users_worldwide

Feds commence huge data center consolidation. The federal government has begun what looms as the largest data center consolidation in history, hoping to dramatically reduce IT operations that are currently distributed among more than 1,100 data centers. On February 26 a Federal CIO outlined details of the ambitious plan in a memo that directs federal agencies to prepare an inventory of the IT assets by April 30 and develop a preliminary data center consolidation plan by June 30. These plans will need to be finalized by December 31, 2010, with implementation beginning in 2011. The government data center consolidation has huge implications for the fortunes of system integrators, data center service providers (especially in northern Virginia), and cloud computing platforms optimized for hosting government apps. The consolidation effort figures to generate significant business for companies providing energy efficiency tools and consulting, as the CIO signaled that reducing energy costs will be a driving force in the effort. He noted that the number of government data centers soared from 432 in 1999 to the current 1,100 plus. Source:

<http://www.datacenterknowledge.com/archives/2010/03/01/feds-commence-huge-data-center-consolidation/>

FCC to ask Congress for \$18B for public safety network. The U.S. Federal Communications Commission will ask Congress for \$16 billion to \$18 billion to pay for building and maintaining a nationwide mobile broadband network for emergency response agencies, including police and fire departments. The FCC will also recommend, in a national broadband plan due to be released next month, that mobile carriers that paid billions of dollars for spectrum in the 700MHz band be required to share their spectrum with public safety agencies, the agency chairman said on February 25. A grant program of up to \$18 billion over 10 years is needed to get a nationwide, interoperable public safety network built, the chairman said in a press briefing. Public safety officials and U.S. lawmakers have been calling for a nationwide mobile broadband network since the September 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S., during which the multiple public safety agencies responding to the attacks couldn't talk to each other. Asked if Congress might balk at spending \$16 billion or more on a public safety network, the chairman said the network is necessary. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9162541/FCC_to_ask_Congress_for_18B_for_public_safety_network

FCC wants TV airwaves for wireless broadband. Federal regulators are hoping to get more wireless spectrum for advanced mobile services by offering to pay television broadcasters — including NBC, CBS, Fox and ABC — to give up their rights to airwaves worth an estimated \$50 billion. As part of a proposal, called the “National Broadband Plan,” existing spectrum holders would be paid to give up their licenses for government auctions, in addition to receiving a portion of the airwave proceeds raised by selling the rights to wireless carriers. The plan would free up 500 megahertz of airwaves, more than doubling the existing spectrum available for wireless carriers, who have demanded more space as their customers increasingly watch videos, check email and update Facebook on high-end smartphones. “The highly valuable spectrum currently allocated for broadcast television is not being used efficiently — indeed, much is not being used at all,” said the Federal Communications Commission’s chairman. Source: <http://www.mobiledia.com/news/71411.html>

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Hordes of new threats ahead for mobile networks. Malware on smartphones is just the first in a series of new security threats for mobile networks ushered in by the embrace of internet technologies, according to mobile phone encryption firms. The chief executive of GSMK CryptoPhone warns that criminal gangs are able to steal private information and undermine fair business trading thanks to advances in technology that have made attacks possible on low-cost kit. Years ago such attacks were only possible for intelligence agencies, but have now become feasible as a means of industrial espionage. The first and most ambitious line of attack involves spoofing femtocells to feign that an individual or organization is the user's mobile network provider, while in fact they are taking over the network traffic. This can be accomplished using cheap hardware and some free open-source software. The second line of attack involves passively intercepting and decrypting mobile network traffic, by exploiting the latest cryptographic advances in breaking GSM's built-in encryption algorithms. A third line of attack involves remote takeover of mobile devices by using tricks such as BlackBerry Service Book updates, Trojans and SIM Toolkit attacks. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/02/24/mobile_network_security_threats/

Top-rated cell phones also rank high in radiation emissions. An environmental activist group has issued its latest list of popular cell phones that emit comparatively high levels of RF radiation, though all are within federal limits. The press release and full report on new 2010 cell phones by the Environmental Working Group (EWG), based in Washington, D.C., are intended in part to highlight the fact that technology writers and product reviewers rarely evaluate radiation emissions when rating cell phones. The press release singles out four recent, well-reviewed cell phones: Motorola Droid, Blackberry Bold 9700, LG Chocolate Touch and HTC Nexus One by Google. "EWG has found that all four phones' emissions are pushing the edge of radiofrequency radiation safety limits set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)," according to the group's press release. A separate document, "Cell Phone Radiation Science Review," charges, among other things, that "Current FCC standards fail to provide an adequate margin of safety for cell phone radiation exposure and lack a meaningful biological basis." Using the FCC's data, EWG finds that the four phones (others are listed in the press release) have SAR levels close to the FCC maximum: Droid, 1.50 W/kg; Nexus One, 1.39; Bold 9700, 1.55, and LG Chocolate Touch, 1.46. Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9161479/Top_rated_cell_phones_also_rank_high_in_radiation_emissions

Comcast (finally) brings security extensions to DNS. Comcast - one of the largest ISPs in the US - has deployed new technology designed to protect the internet against a well-known form of attack that allows attackers to surreptitiously lure end users to impostor websites. For now, Comcast users who want to use the technology, known as DNSSEC, or DNS Security Extensions, must manually configure their preference by changing their DNS server's IP addresses to 75.75.75.75 and 75.75.76.76, Comcast said on February 23. By the end of next year, the ISP plans to make DNSSEC available to all of its customers. The move came as OpenDNS, which operates publicly available domain name system servers for free, criticized DNSSEC and said it was jump starting a competing measure known as DNSCurve. An OpenDNS engineer said it uses much stronger cryptography than DNSSEC and is also much easier to deploy and maintain. A recent survey found that only 20 percent of US government agencies had deployed DNSSEC, despite a December 31 deadline to adopt the standard. The technical imperfections of DNSSEC aside, its uneven adoption is also a major limitation because it is effective only if it is used uniformly across the internet. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/02/24/comcast_dnssec/

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(Hawaii) AT&T phone service restored. A number of Hawaii customers on February 22 reported problems with cellular and land line phone service. Some of the service providers include AT&T and T-Mobile. AT&T said a damaged fiber could be causing issues with “wireline and wireless voice service.” The company said its technicians repaired the damage and restore service by early evening. Hawaiian Telecom on the afternoon of February 22 said some customers may be having issues making long distance calls. Source: <http://www.kitv.com/mostpopular/22639677/detail.html>

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE SECTOR

Army testing new airdrop system for Afghanistan. The supply requirement in Afghanistan will dramatically increase this year according to the Army’s top logistician, and he said the Army is testing a new airdrop system to help meet the demand. The Army Freedrop Packaging Concept Project is currently developing and testing a new airdrop system called the Freedrop Delivery System for Afghanistan. The new system will allow bundles of supplies such as ammunition, small generators and other Class IX repair parts, Meals Ready to Eat, and bottled water of up to 150 pounds to be freedropped (no parachutes) at about 70 knots airspeed from under 75 feet above ground level at the current 19 Afghanistan outposts which can only receive supplies by air. “The idea here was to develop a package that you just kick out the side of a helicopter or airplane when you’re flying very low... 50 feet above ground,” a spokesman said. “You eliminate the problem of packing, rigging the chute and of course doing any kind of recovery operation.” The Army already uses four airdrop systems in Afghanistan. Getting supplies to soldiers there is tough because the country has no seaport and relies on two main land routes so “airdrop has become big business” said the Army’s chief logistician. Back in 2008, the service dropped about 600 short tons of supplies into Afghanistan, he said. Last year that was upped to 15,000 short tons, he said. “Now with the force increase, I expect that will go higher this year, so we’re getting really, really good at airdrop,” he said, noting that the logistics challenge covers an area the size of Texas. Source: <http://www.army.mil/news/2010/02/23/34848-army-testing-new-airdrop-system-for-afghanistan/>

(New Mexico) NLOS missile not very precise. One of the few technologies to survive cancellation of the Army’s multi-billion dollar contracting fiasco known as FCS is the Non Line-of-Sight Launch System’s (NLOS-LS) Precision Attack Missile. Only it turns out the NLOS missile isn’t so precise. In recent tests out at White Sands, New Mexico, the missile failed to hit its target four out of six times, Defense News reports. Not only did it miss, but it missed by a lot: “Test missiles failed to hit a moving tank 20 kilometers away, a moving infantry vehicle 10 kilometers away, a stationary tank 30 kilometers away, and a stationary truck 35 kilometers away. It missed the infantry vehicle by 20 meters, and the truck by 25 kilometers.” The only two hits came when the missile used its laser designator instead of the errant infrared seeker. The story says the Army is looking at scaling back its buy of the NLOS missiles that cost \$466,000 apiece in favor of a cheaper alternative. Source: <http://defensetech.org/2010/02/23/nlos-missile-not-very-precise/>

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

Mines struggle back to life in quake-ravaged Chile. Chile’s mines and seaports were struggling to get up and running early Monday, two days after a massive earthquake disrupted commodity production in the world’s top copper supplier, as damage to the power grid hindered a return to normal

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operations. The price of copper initially jumped more than 5 percent when markets opened on Monday, after Saturday's 8.8 magnitude quake, one of the largest on record, closed up to a fifth of copper mine capacity in Chile. The mines most affected were south of Santiago, near where the quake was centered off the coast of Chile. State-owned Codelco, the world's No. 1 copper producer, reported Monday that its Andina mine was still shut. But its massive El Teniente underground mine, which accounts for more than 7 percent of Chile's copper, restarted on Sunday. U.S.-based Freeport McMoRan said its Candelaria mine, northeast of Santiago, was restoring operations to normal levels, although the power supply was still unsettled. Antofagasta PLC said Monday power was restored at the Los Pelambres mine and that the mine was coming back on line as of Sunday. Anglo American PLC said on Monday production was affected at the Los Bronces, El Soldado, and Mantoverde mines and the Chagres copper smelter. Iron ore producer CAP said Monday it was forced to close its southern Huachipato steel unit and that repairing the damage will take at least 3 months to get output back to normal. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0125243320100301?type=marketsNews>

Recalls may not solve gas-pedal glitches, Toyota tells Congress. The president of Toyota's U.S. operations acknowledged to skeptical lawmakers Tuesday that the company's recalls of millions of its cars may "not totally" solve the problem of sudden and dangerous acceleration. "We are vigilant, and we continue to look for potential causes," the president told a congressional panel. However, he repeated his company's position that unexpected acceleration in some of the company's most popular cars and trucks was caused by one of two problems — misplaced floor mats and sticking accelerator pedals. He insisted that electronic systems connected to the gas pedal and fuel line did not contribute to the problem, drawing sharp criticism from lawmakers who said such a possibility should be further explored. The president said the company had not completely ruled out an electronics malfunction and was still investigating causes of the sudden acceleration. Still, "We have not found a malfunction" in the electronics of any of the cars at issue, he said. Three congressional panels are investigating Toyota's problems, which affect a huge number of Americans. Toyota has recalled 8.5 million vehicles worldwide — more than 6 million in the United States — since the fall because of unintended acceleration problems in multiple models and braking issues in the Prius hybrid. Source: http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_14457933

(Washington) Boeing probes 787 engine issue. Boeing continues to investigate sensor issues on the 787's Rolls-Royce Trent 1000 engines that caused the first aircraft (ZA001) to remain grounded for two days at Moses Lake, Wash, and have since led to the postponement of vital flutter tests. The problems cropped up on ZA001 during the fifth day of the flutter campaign — a key evaluation that must be passed before the FAA certification program can begin. Commenting on his blog, Boeing's Commercial Marketing VP says during the flight the crew experienced "an uncommanded loss of thrust in one of the engines," and landed at Grant County International Airport. "Teaming with Rolls-Royce, we determined that the issue had to do with a pressure-sensing component within the engine...Later that day, we ran the engines to confirm that the replacement had been done correctly and that there were no anomalous readings." The impact of the engine issue on the rest of the flight test program remains unclear. First flight of the third 787 (ZA004), which was widely expected to take place today following the successful completion of ground tests over the weekend, has been put back to an undetermined date. Tests of the second aircraft(ZA002), which to-date has amassed more than 48 flight hours on 18 sorties, also remain focused temporarily on ground work. Source: http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=comm&id=news/awx/2010/02/22/awx_02_22_2010_p0-206722.xml

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Combating nuclear terrorism: Actions needed to better prepare to recover from possible attacks using radiological or nuclear materials. A terrorist's use of a radiological dispersal device (RDD) or improvised nuclear device (IND) to release radioactive materials into the environment could have devastating consequences. GAO was asked to examine the extent to which the federal government is planning to fulfill its responsibilities to help cities and their states clean up contaminated areas from RDD and IND incidents, what is known about the federal government's capability to effectively clean up these contaminated areas, and for suggestions for improving federal preparedness to help cities and states recover from these incidents. Its report also discusses recovery activities in the United Kingdom. GAO reviewed federal laws and guidance; interviewed officials from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Energy (DOE), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and surveyed emergency management officials from 13 cities at high risk of attack, their 10 states, and FEMA and EPA regional offices. The report found that FEMA, the DHS agency responsible for developing a comprehensive emergency management system, has not developed a national disaster recovery strategy, as required by law, or issued specific guidance to coordinate federal, state, and local government recovery planning for RDD and IND incidents, as directed by executive guidance. To date, most federal attention has been given to developing a response framework, with less attention to recovery. Source:

<http://www.gao.gov/htext/d10204.html>

Emergency preparedness: FEMA faces challenges integrating community preparedness programs into its strategic approach. By law, FEMA is to develop a National Preparedness System (NPS) that includes community preparedness programs. These programs account for less than 0.5 percent of FEMA's budget. They include the Citizen Corps Program (CCP) and partner programs, e.g., Fire Corps, which provide volunteers to assist first responders. FEMA's Ready Campaign promotes preparedness through mass media. GAO was asked to review federal efforts to promote community preparedness. GAO was asked to address challenges, if any, FEMA faces in measuring the performance of CCP, its partner programs, and the Ready Campaign, and actions, if any, FEMA has taken to develop a strategy to encompass how these programs are to operate within the context of the NPS. GAO analyzed documents on preparedness plans and strategies and compared reported performance data with observations during 12 site visits, selected primarily on the basis of major disasters. While not projectable, the results add insight. GAO found that FEMA faces challenges measuring performance for CCP, its partner programs, and the Ready Campaign because it relies on states to verify data for local program units and it is unable to control the distribution of the Ready Campaign messages or measure whether the messages are changing the behavior of individuals. Source:

<http://www.gao.gov/htext/d10193.html>

(California) Gang officers again targeted by booby-trap. The gang enforcement unit in the desert city of Hemet was on high alert Thursday after a bizarre booby trap sent a bullet whizzing past an officer in what authorities said was the second attack in two months at a building used by the task force. The gang officer escaped injury Tuesday from the single shot triggered as he rolled up a booby-trapped security fence at the building, a police spokesman said. "It was obviously designed to kill or injure an officer, had it gone off exactly as intended," he said. He described the device as a modified weapon designed to fire a single handgun-caliber bullet. The shot missed because the officer was standing to

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the side of the fence instead of in front of it as he pulled it open. Hemet, a foreclosure-stricken city located in Riverside County's San Jacinto Valley with a population of about 75,000, has seen an upswing in gang membership in recent years. On December 31, someone drilled a hole in the roof of the gang task force building and diverted a natural gas line from a heater into the facility. The line was discovered before anyone was hurt, even though an electrical spark — even from turning on a light switch — might have ignited the gas. The device in Tuesday's incident was being examined.

There was no video security footage of the building. Source:

<http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/state&id=7298291>

(California) Palo Alto police evacuate station after man brings in pipe bomb for disposal. Palo Alto, California, police evacuated their own headquarters and closed a nearby portion of the downtown Thursday evening after a resident brought in a pipe bomb he wanted police to dispose of. The device, a 6-inch plastic pipe with its ends capped was on the man's property, according to police official. While the exact details are not clear, she said the man's son may have built it several years ago as a teen, and his father was concerned it could be dangerous. Police had the same concern. When the man arrived at the police station, officers told him to leave the device, wrapped in a plastic bag, on a bench near the front door of the police lobby. Police promptly evacuated the Forest Street side of the department and closed the downtown library, located nearby. The bomb squad arrived at about 5:30 and determined the device was in fact a live pipe bomb. Sheriff's deputies safely detonated the device. Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/localnews/ci_14483771?source=rss

Information-sharing still a roadblock. The US President's top counterterrorism adviser told governors Sunday that federal agencies still are not sharing enough critical information with state and local officials, more than eight years after the September 11 attacks. The President's special assistant for homeland security said information-sharing has improved since 2001. But "we still have a long way to go," he said. "We're not there yet, certainly." He made the remarks in response to a question from Maryland's governor at the first meeting of a new National Governors Association committee on homeland security and public safety. The mayor, who chairs the panel, said the continuing lack of information-sharing among federal and state law enforcement and intelligence agencies remains one of the biggest stumbling blocks to improving the nation's ability to respond to terrorist incidents or keep them from happening in the first place. The secretary of Homeland Security Secretary said a "paradigm shift" would be needed to improve communications between federal authorities and the 800,000 people who work in state and law enforcement. She said that information-sharing was one of the top issues she has worked on in the past year and acknowledged its importance in combating terrorism. Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bal-md.omalley22feb22,0,7979465.story>

(Colorado) Narcotics stolen from ambulances at fire stations. Narcotics have been stolen from two ambulances in the last month while the emergency crews were in fire stations in Westminster, Colorado, officials said Tuesday. The second theft happened Tuesday morning, and the deputy chief said it was causing additional concern because fire department uniforms also were stolen. "Now we fear thieves may be impersonating fire personnel to aid in the thefts," he said. Westminster fire officials said at least four neighboring jurisdictions have had similar station break-ins and thefts. Source: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/22648214/detail.html>

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(Oklahoma) German man who infiltrated OKC Police Force indicted. A German man who infiltrated the Oklahoma City police department faces federal charges. According to an indictment, the 27-year-old man lied to police and the FBI when he told them he was part of an elite German police force. Officers allowed him to train with them even though he is in the country illegally. A federal grand jury indicted him for unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition and making false statements to law enforcement agents. If convicted, he could receive up to 10 years in federal prison, a fine of up to \$250,000, and forfeiture of the firearm and ammunition. Source: <http://www.news9.com/Global/story.asp?S=12003307>

ENERGY

(Louisiana) Beauregard Electric investigates copper thefts. Beauregard Electric Cooperative, Inc. says thieves have taken nearly \$10,000 worth of copper wire from power lines along the highway and in distribution substations. It is asking anyone who sees unusual activity in or around substations, towers, utility poles, storage sites and other electric utility property to report it immediately to police or the co-op. A general manager for BECi says that co-op members wind up paying for stolen co-op property, and that the thefts cause power slowdowns during repairs. Source: <http://www.wxvt.com/Global/story.asp?S=12028882>

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Cargill filing: Ground beef contained E.coli. Cargill Inc. is admitting that its ground beef caused an E.coli infection that paralyzed a Cold Spring, Minnesota, dance instructor who is now seeking more than \$100 million in damages from the Wayzata-based food giant. The St. Cloud Times reported Saturday that Minnetonka-based Cargill filed a document in U.S. District Court in Minnesota that acknowledges a hamburger patty it made contained E.coli and subsequently caused the woman's illness. The hamburger was manufactured by the company's Cargill Meat Solutions Corp. subsidiary, which is based in Wichita, Kansas. The lawsuit has drawn national attention and was the subject of an October 2009 feature story in The New York Times. The Seattle-based attorney representing the woman told the St. Cloud Times that the admission was unprecedented. "While not contesting strict liability in the case, Cargill instead is arguing against charges of negligence." Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/twincities/stories/2010/02/22/daily2.html>

GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)

(Florida) Bomb threat called into Hurlburt Field Friday morning. Someone called in a bomb threat to Hurlburt Field Friday. The threat was received at 10:45 a.m. and the back gate was shut down, according to a base spokesman. No explosives were found, and the gate was reopened at 1:30 p.m., the base spokesman said. No further information about the bomb scare was immediately available. Source: <http://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/hurlburt-26273-bomb-field.html>

(Alabama) Redstone Arsenal officials aren't sure why man crashed truck into Gate 9. Redstone Arsenal officials said this afternoon they're not sure why a man crashed his Chevrolet S10 into a

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concrete bollard at Gate 9 early today. The man, identified as a 39-year-old, died in the crash. No one else was injured in the 4:30 a.m. wreck, said the base commander. The suspect was coming at the gate "at an excessive speed" when he crashed into one of the concrete bollards between the first and second entrance lanes. The truck barreled toward the gate so fast that security did not have time to respond. "He was going at such a rate of speed that they could do nothing to stop him," the base commander said. The base commander said the suspect, who was from Vinemont, was not an employee of the Arsenal. It is also unclear why the suspect was on Rideout Road so early. "We're not entirely sure he was trying to enter the gates," the base commander said. "I can't comment too much except to say it's under investigation." The FBI and Redstone Arsenal police are looking into the accident. Source: http://blog.al.com/breaking/2010/02/redstone_arsenal_officials_are.html

(Kentucky) Bunning's offices checked for bomb after threats received. Two of a U.S. Senator's Kentucky offices have been checked after bomb threats were received, but nothing was found. The Senator's office in Louisville was checked after the threat. In Hazard, a threat was made on the William D. Gorman Educational Center, which includes the offices of Senator and a U.S. Representative. A Louisville FBI spokesman says nothing was found in either case but the matter is under investigation. Source: <http://www.wave3.com/Global/story.asp?S=12056561>

(Utah) Hazmat crews called to Utah IRS building. Hazardous materials crews have been called to an Internal Revenue Service building in Ogden, Utah. Media reports said a suspicious substance was found in the building Monday and that part of it was evacuated while other parts were locked down. Several emergency vehicles were outside the building. Video on the Web site of KSL-TV showed two people being taken out on stretchers. The FBI was involved in the investigation but said it did not have any information to release. The Weber County sheriff's office said it had no information on the incident. The two- or three-story building is in an industrial area and is surrounded by a fence in Ogden, about 35 miles north of Salt Lake City. No signs on the building indicate it is an IRS facility. Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h-jWmAd7lmAzNcxUE9gDXq9c3BCwD9E639S80>

Police say Bakersfield man threatened President. A Bakersfield, California man filled his Facebook page with threats to kill the U.S. President, police say. That led to the evacuation of two dozen homes, criminal charges, and a mental examination. The 24 year-old suspect was arrested Saturday for allegedly attempting to make an explosive device. The incident evacuated 25 homes in Southwest Bakersfield. "Tell the ATF, NSA, CIA, FBI, and DHS they can consider me a threat to homeland security," said a message on the suspect's Facebook page. It surprised a neighbor. "He didn't seem like he would be sitting in his bedroom making bombs at night," she said. Instead of being booked in jail, the suspect was sent to the Memorial Center for mental competency evaluations. However, his attorney says the suspect fled the facility after being left alone in the waiting room. The suspect was found by police on Monday. No bail is set while the suspect is undergoing mental evaluations. The suspect will be back in court for that evaluation hearing on March 24. 17 News also spoke with the Secret Service, which is working with the Bakersfield Police Department on this case. Secret Service investigators say they take every threat seriously and even if the suspect meant this as a joke, it is not a laughing matter. Source: <http://www.kget.com/news/local/story/Police-say-Bakersfield-man-threatened-President/0c5Npkm4TUerHWrE-wwH8Q.csp>

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(West Virginia) Parent arrested after school threat. A Charleston, West Virginia, man faces charges after he allegedly made violent threats against the staff of a Kanawha County school. The 33 year-old suspect was arrested Wednesday morning at Anne Bailey Elementary School in St. Albans. A Kanawha County Sheriff's department spokesman says the suspect called the school Wednesday morning enraged over his child being placed on the wrong bus Tuesday afternoon. "He was yelling and screaming at the school personnel," said the spokesman. "He also made a comment along the lines that if he had known what happened yesterday, he would have made it to school and shot some of the personnel there." The threatening call prompted school officials to notify law enforcement. Deputies arrived at the school and a short time later, the suspect showed up. "He was still irate and was arrested for disrupting school process." The spokesman stresses no weapons were found in the suspect's possession when he was taken into custody. It is unclear if the suspect will face additional charges related to the alleged verbal threat over the phone. Source:

<http://www.wvmetronews.com/index.cfm?func=displayfullstory&storyid=35426>

With violence rising, U.S. Consulate closes office in Reynosa, Mexico. The U.S. Consulate in the border city of Matamoros, Mexico, temporarily closed its Consular Agency in the nearby city of Reynosa because of heightened drug-related violence in recent days. A "Warden Message" was issued by the consulate "to advise U.S. citizens of recent gun battles in Reynosa, Mexico, and cities surrounding Reynosa in the last week." The mayor of Reynosa, located across the border from McAllen, Texas, told a Mexican newspaper that recent shootings have not been between authorities and drug cartels, but between two drug trafficking organizations operating in the region, the Gulf cartel, and the Zetas. In response, the U.S. Consulate has restricted travel of American officials to Reynosa and closed its office there until further notice, the letter says. "The Consulate General in Matamoros advises U.S. citizens to take the above information into consideration when making any decisions concerning traveling to or within Reynosa," the letter says. Details of the confrontations and numbers of injured or killed are hard to come by, as local media often self-censor out of fear of retaliation. Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/02/25/us.mexico.consulate/>

(Missouri) Phone call causes some concern. A phone call from Cameron Schools in Missouri on Friday caused some concern for parents. The automated phone message most commonly used to alert parents if school is going to be in session during bad weather, spoke of a nationwide alert from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The alert, which went from the FBI to local law enforcement agencies on Thursday morning came from a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The Center had received a picture of a white male holding an automatic weapon towards a target with a message that read, "his score was the number of bullets he was going to take to school," said the Cameron police chief. According to a St. Joseph News-Press story in the Friday morning edition, three area schools went into lock down as a result of the threat: King City, Savannah and Nodaway-Holt. Cameron did not go into lock down. According to the News-Press story, the Missouri Alert Network (which is operated by the Missouri School Board Association) issued an alert to schools at 11:50 a.m. on Thursday, and said that the threat targeted a Missouri School. According to the story, the Network issued a second alert at 12:45 p.m. saying there was no threat, and that's when Savannah went out of lock down. The police chief said Friday that the threat did not target a Missouri School specifically, but it was a national alert. "The FBI received that information and they felt that it was a credible enough, yet general enough that they needed to send it out," the police chief said. "The threat is general in nature. It does target schools, but it's not a specific school. There's no credible information of an immediate threat, that's why we're not locked down. The threat is still

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there. The FBI felt it credible enough to send it out from Washington D.C. to law enforcement agencies.” Source: <http://www.citizen-observer.com/articles/2010/02/26/news/doc4b87e01d0b266006658322.txt>

(New York) Cops: False alarm in Riverhead school bus pipe bomb scare. A suspected pipe bomb was found on a school bus on Monday afternoon, Riverhead Town Police said. A Riverhead, New York, school bus driver found a “suspicious device, possibly a pipe bomb,” on an school bus while conducting a routine check to make sure it was empty at 2:10 p.m., police said in a statement. Emergency Service Unit officers and Arson Squad detectives with Suffolk police were called in. The object was found to be a solid metal rod with plastic end caps and not an explosive device, police said. Riverhead police are continuing their investigation. Source: <http://www.longislandpress.com/2010/02/23/cops-false-alarm-in-riverhead-school-bus-pipe-bomb-scare/>

(Illinois) Police: Harvard threat baseless. The Harvard Police Department investigated a bomb threat against Harvard Junior High School on Tuesday. A message was left stating that there was an explosive device at the school. Police were called at 4:18 p.m. and conducted a systematic search of the building, including the use of dogs. No evidence of an explosive device was found. Police are continuing to investigate the incident, but consider the report to be unfounded. Source: http://www.nwherald.com/articles/2010/02/24/r_vn_gabqjtsabixdfewcfow/index.xml

(Missouri) 15-year-old arrested for bomb threat. The Maries County Sheriff has arrested a 15-year-old boy accused of writing a bomb threat at the Maries County R-2 High School in Belle, Missouri. The Belle police chief says last Friday a teacher found a written threat on a desk saying a bomb would go off Tuesday. The student was taken into custody once police were called to the school. Maries County Sheriff, Belle Police and the Capitol Police along with their K-9 unit investigated the school last week as a precaution and found no bomb. Tuesday morning authorities checked the bags of each student as they came to school. The police chief says everybody so far has complied. The student is currently suspended. School is going on as usual. Source: <http://www.connectmidmissouri.com/news/story.aspx?id=420433>

(Florida) Student responsible for school bomb threat apprehended. Orange County school officials said they know who posted a message about wanting to bomb Walker Middle School on a Web site. Students came forward to put a name to the threat. “Again another classic case of students sharing information in order to protect the environment,” said the Orange County Public Schools’ senior director for safety. Sheriff’s investigators called in their intelligence unit to investigate the case before apprehending the student, whose name they will not reveal. They said this person faces serious consequences — 10-day suspension, the possibility of expulsion and the individual could face criminal charges. “I can tell you though bomb threats represent a potential felony and a fine,” the senior director for safety said. Source: http://www.cfnews13.com/News/Local/2010/2/23/police_apprehend_student_responsible_for_school_bomb_threat.html

(Colorado) School shooting suspect identified. The man suspected of shooting two students at a Littleton, Colorado, middle school has been identified authorities said Wednesday. The suspect, age 32, was arrested after the incident Tuesday at Deer Creek Middle School and is scheduled to appear

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in court Wednesday morning, according to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. He is facing two counts of attempted first-degree murder, the sheriff's office said. He is accused of shooting two students as classes were letting out at 3:15 p.m. Tuesday. A 6-foot-5 former college basketball player who is a math teacher and track coach tackled the suspected gunman as he was preparing to fire again, CNN affiliate KMGH reported. "[The shooter] was trying to rack another round," the teacher told the station. "I knew he couldn't get another round in before I got to him, so I grabbed him."

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/CRIME/02/24/colorado.school.shooting/?hpt=T2>

(California) Hemet federal building evacuated in bomb scare. Police in Hemet, California, say a federal building was evacuated for several hours after a man left a suspicious suitcase out front. A police spokesman says a Filipino immigrant reportedly caused a disturbance over benefits Monday at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office. The spokesman says the man returned Tuesday and left a suitcase at the building, which also houses the Social Security Administration office. Arriving police found him sitting at a bus stop at the corner with electrical wires and a suicide note taped to his chest. The man, whose name was not released, was detained for a mental exam. The building was evacuated until Riverside County authorities blew up the suitcase, which was found to contain clothes, a stereo and a candle. Source: <http://www.ktvn.com/Global/story.asp?S=12035963>

(Kansas) Threat prompts move of National Intelligence Director's speech at Kansas State. A speech by the National Intelligence Director was taking place at a different venue at Kansas State University because of a bomb scare at the original venue. A Kansas State spokeswoman says no one had been seated at McCain Auditorium when the threat came in around 1 p.m. Monday, about 30 minutes before the National Intelligence Director was to deliver a Landon Lecture. The university said law enforcement officials swept McCain and found no explosives or packages. The building was reopened for use at 2 p.m. The Director's speech was moved to the 580-seat Forum Hall in the student union building while the search at McCain was under way. McCain usually seats about 900 for the lectures. Source: <http://www.fox4kc.com/news/sns-ap-ks--blair-kansaslecture,0,7487433.story>

Ky. man charged with threatening Obama in Web poem. A Kentucky man has been charged with posting a poem threatening the President and First Lady on a white supremacist Web site. A U.S. Secret Service Special Agent said the 27 year-old suspect, who hails from Louisville, wrote and posted the poem, titled "The Sniper," on a page called NewSaxon.org. The site is described as an "Online Community for Whites by Whites." The poem was posted in August 2007, according to an arrest affidavit. A U.S. Magistrate Judge on Friday ordered the suspect released on \$25,000 bond, but kept under house arrest at a family member's home. He is charged with making threats against the President and threatening to kill or injure a major candidate for the office of the president. The poem describes a gunman shooting and killing a "tyrant" later identified as the President, setting off panic in the wake of the fatal shot being fired. Source:

http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/02/19/general-us-obama-threat-arrest_7372152.html

(New York) NFA student threatened school: cops. Town police have arrested a 16-year-old, saying he threatened an attack on Newburgh Free Academy (NFA) that would be worse than the Columbine High School massacre. The suspect made what town police say was a "stupid mistake" when he posted threats in the comments section of a YouTube.com video about the killings at Columbine. A Town police lieutenant said he did not believe the suspect, who is an NFA student, had access to weapons or intended to actually hurt anyone. However, just threatening an attack can violate the

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law. The lieutenant said teens increasingly commit crimes on the Internet without thinking. "They don't realize the consequences, that pretty much anything you put on the computer can be searched," the lieutenant said. A woman in the state of Florida saw the comments now attributed to the suspect under the screen name demonfromwithin1. She called the FBI, and that agency's Joint Terrorism Task Force began to investigate, calling the City of Newburgh Police Department because NFA is in the city. Subpoenaed computer records later showed the comments came from the Town of Newburgh, the lieutenant said. A town officer arrested him on Saturday at home. The teen faces a count of making a terrorist threat, a felony. Source:

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100223/NEWS/2230314/-1/SITEMAP>

(Arizona) U.S. military base shooting leaves one dead, one wounded. Two men were shot by security officers after they drove a stolen car through a gate at an Air Force base outside Phoenix during a police chase, authorities say. One of the men died and the other was wounded, officials say. The crash occurred at the entrance to Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, where pilots are trained to fly F-16s. The pair allegedly stole a car and drove through a security gate as they attempted to flee from authorities, a base spokesman said. Base security forces set up a roadblock, the spokesman said. Security officers, fearing for their safety, opened fire as the driver tried to run the roadblock. Source:

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-02-23-military-base-shooting_N.htm

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Border security: Better usage of electronic passport security features could improve fraud detection. The Department of State has developed a comprehensive set of controls to govern the operation and management of a system to generate and write a security feature called a digital signature on the chip of each e-passport it issues. When verified, digital signatures can help provide reasonable assurance that data placed on the chip by State have not been altered or forged. However, DHS does not have the capability to fully verify the digital signatures because it has not deployed e passport readers to all of its ports of entry and it has not implemented the system functionality necessary to perform the verification. Because the value of security features depends not only on their solid design, but also on an inspection process that uses them, the additional security against forgery and counterfeiting that could be provided by the inclusion of computer chips on e passports issued by the United States and foreign countries, including those participating in the visa waiver program, is not fully realized. Protections designed into the U.S. e-passport computer chip limit the risks of malicious code being resident on the chip, a necessary precondition for a malicious code attack to occur from the chip against computer systems that read them. GPO and State have taken additional actions to decrease the likelihood that malicious code could be introduced onto the chip. Source: <http://www.gao.gov/htext/d1096.html>

Phishing campaigns step up with hits on Twitter and Fotolog this week. Warnings have been made about a worm that spreads through the photo sharing website Fotolog. The worm, detected as FTLog.A by PandaLabs, spreads through the photo-blogging site by inserting a comment in the targeted user's page prompting them to click a link, supposedly pointing to a video. If the user clicks the link, the system will ask for permission to download the worm, which is disguised as a DivX video codec. Once installed, FTLog.A redirects the browser to a site with explicit content and a web page that asks users for their data in order to claim a (false) prize. If the user clicks 'Get Free Access' a setup.exe file is downloaded which, once run, installs the Media Pass plug-in. This also changes the

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browser home page and injects code into the browser to display pop-up ads, disrupting the user's browsing experience. Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/phishing-campaigns-step-up-with-hits-on-twitter-and-fotolog-this-week/article/164465/>

Experts warn of catastrophe from cyberattacks. Computer-based network attacks are slowly bleeding U.S. businesses of revenue and market advantage, while the government faces the prospect of losing in an all-out cyberwar, experts told Senators in a hearing on February 23. "If the nation went to war today in a cyberwar, we would lose," said the executive vice president of Booz Allen Hamilton's national security business and a former director of national security and national intelligence. "We're the most vulnerable. We're the most connected. We have the most to lose." The U.S. will not be able to mitigate the risk from cyberattack until the government gets more actively involved in protecting the nation's network, which may not occur until after a "catastrophic event" happens, he said in testimony during a hearing of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. The subject of the hearing was the Cyber Security Act of 2009, which would regulate organizations and companies that provide critical infrastructure for the U.S., require licensing and certification for cybersecurity professionals, and provide funding for grant and scholarship programs. The U.S. House of Representatives passed its version of the Cyber Security Act earlier this month. The bill is necessary and overdue, said a senior fellow at the nonprofit Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). The U.S. is "under attack every day, losing every day vital secrets. We can not wait," he said. "We need a new framework for cybersecurity and this bill helps provide that." "A cyberattack would be like being bled to death and not noticing it and that's kind of what's happening now," the senior fellow said when asked to define what a cyber attack is. "The cyberattack is mainly espionage, some crime," he added, noting as an example an attack in which \$9.8 million was extracted from ATMs over a three-day weekend. Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-27080_3-10458759-245.html

Major long-standing flaw revealed in Microsoft Windows operating systems that could be crashed using code. Microsoft Windows operating systems can be crashed just by running simple code. In a major long-standing vulnerability in the Windows operating system, identified by 2X Software, it could affect PCs and servers running anything from the latest Windows 7/Server 2008 versions to Windows 2000/Server 2003. The flaw was discovered by 2X Software's testing tools that resulted in a blue screen and system reboot. It claimed that the code needed to crash the system is very easy to develop and perfectly legal, with no 'tricks' or unusual techniques being required. With just a few lines of code an application can be created that will crash the whole Windows system and the flaw can be easily used inside malicious applications to generate a denial-of-service (DoS) attack. The problem can be easily corrected within the OS code by validating the arguments passed to the API. It said that as the vulnerability appears to have been introduced during the development of the Windows 2000 Operating System (as Windows NT 4.0 is unaffected), it is around ten years old. It is also present on 64-bit versions of the operating system (having tested Windows 2008). Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/exclusive-major-long-standing-flaw-revealed-in-microsoft-windows-operating-systems-that-could-be-crashed-using-code/article/164395/>

FTC warns firms, organizations of widespread data breach. The US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) said Monday it has notified nearly 100 companies and organizations of data breaches involving personal information about customers or employees. The FTC declined to identify the companies or organizations involved, but said they were both "private and public entities, including schools and

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local governments.” The companies and organizations ranged in size from “businesses with as few as eight employees to publicly held corporations employing tens of thousands,” the FTC said in a statement. It said sensitive data about customers and employees had been shared from the computer networks of the companies and organizations and made available on Internet peer-to-peer (P2P) file-sharing networks. The information was accessible to “any users of those networks, who could use it to commit identity theft or fraud,” the FTC said. Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jy5Z2rU64HCiD8W_p3AbbzOmBkNQ

(Minnesota) Star Tribune infecting web readers with a computer virus. Reports of the the website of the Minneapolis Star Tribune infecting users with a computer virus surfaced Monday morning. An e-mail circulating among government employees stated: We have received a number of tickets this morning reporting a screen that pops up reporting that the PC has a virus and wants the user to purchase software to repair the problem. The PCs have been infected by malware and the screen is a fake. Users have reported going to the Star Tribune website and picking it up. The Star Trib has been working on repairing their site. We have also had the malware picked up from other media websites - reportedly any owned by Gannet. Please refrain from visiting these media websites until they have fixed them. The Star Tribune acknowledged the problem in a note posted on its website at 2:11 p.m. Source: http://blogs.citypages.com/blotter/2010/02/star_tribune_in.php

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

AP Impact: Drug gangs taking over US public lands. Not far from Yosemite’s waterfalls and in the middle of California’s redwood forests, Mexican drug gangs are quietly commandeering U.S. public land to grow millions of marijuana plants and using smuggled immigrants to cultivate them. Pot has been grown on public lands for decades, but Mexican traffickers have taken it to a whole new level: using armed guards and trip wires to safeguard sprawling plots that in some cases contain tens of thousands of plants offering a potential yield of more than 30 tons of pot a year. “Just like the Mexicans took over the methamphetamine trade, they’ve gone to mega, monster gardens,” said a supervisor for the California Department of Justice’s Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement. He said Mexican traffickers have “supersized” the marijuana trade. Local, state and federal agents found about a million more pot plants each year between 2004 and 2008, and authorities say an estimated 75 percent to 90 percent of the new marijuana farms can be linked to Mexican gangs. In 2008 alone, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration, police across the country confiscated or destroyed 7.6 million plants from about 20,000 outdoor plots. Growing marijuana in the U.S. saves traffickers the risk and expense of smuggling their product across the border and allows gangs to produce their crops closer to local markets. About the only risk to the Mexican growers, experts say, is that a stray hiker or hunter could stumble onto a hidden field. Source:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D9E5SA5G0.html>

POSTAL AND SHIPPING

(Massachusetts) Mitre Corporation evacuated. Employees at the Mitre Corp. in Bedford, Massachusetts were evacuated as a precautionary measure early Thursday after an envelope with a white substance was delivered to the building, fire officials said. According to WCVB Channel 5, no one was reported injured in the incident at the facility, which is located at 202 Burlington Rd. The company describes itself as a “not-for-profit organization” that applies “our expertise in systems

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engineering, information technology, operational concepts, and enterprise modernization.” Mitre manages four federally funded research and development centers for the Department of Defense, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Homeland Security. Source:

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/bedford/news/x593976686/Mitre-Corporation-is-evacuated>

(California) FBI investigating anthrax scare at Kearny Mesa business. The FBI is investigating an anthrax scare at a business in Kearny Mesa. Firefighters and Hazmat crews were called to the Industrial Metal Supply Company on Ronson Road at noon Thursday. An employee apparently opened a letter that had a device inside it that caused white powder to puff up into the air, setting off fears of an anthrax attack. The building was evacuated. Two workers were taken to a hospital as a precaution. It turns out it was just talcum powder. “Definitely puts a dent in the day, if the person wanted nothing more than commotion they got that at a minimum,” a spokeswoman said. “That’s a weapon of potential mass destruction, it certainly causes a lot of fear and the legislature has deemed that a felony and something we take very, very seriously,” a San Diego Police Department spokesman said. The FBI will be testing the letter to find out who mailed it. Source:

<http://www.760kfmb.com/Global/story.asp?S=12047399>

(Maryland) White powder found in envelope. Fire officials say a suspicious powder that was found in an envelope sent to a Verizon office caused minor irritation to two employees. A captain with the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue says hazmat teams were called Tuesday about 3:10 p.m. at the mail sorting area of the building on Columbia Pike. A woman who opened the envelope said a small amount of powder in it irritated her nose, and another worker also complained of irritation. They were treated at the scene. The captain says because of the small amount of powder, hazmat teams were unable to determine what it was. He says it was classified as undetermined and nontoxic.

Source: <http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/displayUpdate.htm?StoryID=101718>

(Georgia) Suspicious package in Georgetown. A suspicious package causes police to lock down a neighborhood. It happened off Grove Point Road in Georgetown. A man received a suspicious package from his son that contained some type of powder. He immediately called 911. Police were not taking any chances until a hazardous materials team could figure out what they were dealing with. “Everything going on the way it has been the last few years, a lot of thoughts run through your head, but you just hope for the best,” said a resident. A spokeswoman with Savannah Chatham Police confirmed the powder was not dangerous. “The substance was tested, there was an air test done in the area, every kind of test you can run pretty much on the substance. It’s not hazardous.” Fire officials still do not know what the material was, just that it is not dangerous. Source:

<http://www.wtoctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12040767>

(New York) Powder sent to school was detergent. The suspicious substance found in a letter sent to a Syracuse High School was nothing more than detergent. The envelope was opened by the school principal last month and in it was a handwritten letter covered with a white substance. Geddes police say tests determined the powder was detergent. As soon as the envelope was opened, the school contacted police and measures were taken to ensure the safety of the principal and student body. Geddes police say the FBI and postal service are still investigating to determine who wrote the letter. Details of what was written in the letter cannot be released, pending the investigation. Source:

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http://news10now.com/cny-news-1013-content/top_stories/496970/powder-sent-to-school-was-detergent

(Massachusetts) Nine arrested for North Attleboro bombs. Police Monday arrested nine local high school students in connection with the planting of homemade bombs in two neighborhoods over the weekend. Police also expect to seek a warrant for a 10th suspect. Five were charged with placing soda bottles loaded with chemicals under two cars at 72 Limerick Way on Saturday night, one of which exploded and the other which was rendered harmless by a state police bomb squad Sunday. The five suspects charged with that incident are classmates of a resident of the home, a detective said. Four other suspects were charged with blowing up a randomly chosen mailbox on Fitzzy's Way Friday night with a similar explosive. "They told us it was a practical joke," the detective said. No one was injured in the incidents. The detective said the undercarriage of the car had signs of an explosion but that it was being examined to determine the extent of any damage. "They learned how to do this by watching it on the Internet," the detective said, adding the suspects could have injured themselves or others by their alleged actions. The soda bottles were filled with chemicals designed to cause a chemical reaction and explosion. The detective said the devices are dangerous because it cannot be determined how long it takes for a device to explode. The suspects are all charged with possession of an infernal machine, conspiracy and wanton destruction of property. Source:

<http://www.thesunchronicle.com/articles/2010/02/23/news/6993218.txt>

(Florida) Bomb scare at post office was unfounded. Last week, post office workers got a scare when an apparently abandoned suitcase was discovered in front of the King Street entrance to their building; located at 99 King Street. Just before 5:00 Friday afternoon, a St. Augustine, Florida, police officer responded to a call by a postal employee who first noticed the suspicious suitcase. Deputies from the St Johns County Bomb Squad arrived on the scene and assisted police by using a detonation device to open the suitcase. After it was determined safe, law enforcement officers inspected the contents of the suitcase which contained woman's clothing. A community affairs officer with the St. Augustine Police Department reports that the owner of the suitcase or how it came to be at the post office remains unknown. Source: <http://www.historiccity.com/2010/staugustine/news/florida/bomb-scare-at-post-office-was-unfounded-2631>

PUBLIC HEALTH

Company recalls mine emergency air packs over problem with oxygen starter; feds investigating. A breathing device that coal miners count on to save their lives during fires and other accidents is being recalled because of a problem with the oxygen starter. CSE Corp. of Monroeville, Pennsylvania, issued a voluntary recall Friday and suspended production of the SR-100, the most popular self-contained self-rescuer unit in U.S. coal mines. CSE said it is recalling the entire production lot of more than 4,000 units sold to mining companies operating in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Alabama, Ohio, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico. However, it believes the problem may affect less than 1 percent of those units. The federal Mine Safety and Health Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health are investigating. Source:

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-us-mine-safety-air-packs,0,2274615.story>

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Medical device manufacturer Guidant charged in failure to report defibrillator safety problems to FDA. Medical device manufacturer Guidant LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Boston Scientific Corporation, was charged with criminal violations of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act related to safety problems with some of its implantable defibrillators. Guidant LLC formerly did business as Guidant Corporation. The Justice Department filed the criminal information today in connection with an agreement with Guidant to resolve the charges. A formal guilty plea agreement is expected to be filed with the court at a later date. Boston Scientific previously announced in a November 2009 press release that the company would pay \$296 million on behalf of Guidant in connection with these charges. According to the information filed today in federal district court in St. Paul, Minnesota, Guidant concealed information from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding catastrophic failures in some of its lifesaving devices. The charges were filed following a four-year investigation into Guidant's handling of short-circuiting failures of three models of implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs): the Ventak Prizm 2 DR (Model 1861) and the Contak Renewal (Models H135 and H155). Guidant issued safety advisories regarding the failures in June 2005. Source: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/February/10-civ-202.html>

FDA approves new pneumonia vaccine with wider reach. The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday approved a new pneumococcal vaccine that protects against more strains of bacteria than the existing one and is expected to produce a sharp reduction in the number of cases of bacterial pneumonia and ear infections in children and adolescents. The existing vaccine, called Prevnar, protects against the seven main strains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, which not only produce pneumonia but also can invade the blood, middle ear and the covering of the brain and spinal cord. When Prevnar was first marketed in 2000, those seven strains accounted for about 80% of all pneumococcal disease. By 2007, the overall incidence of disease caused by the seven strains in children younger than 5 had been reduced by 99%. As the prevalence of the original seven strains of *S. pneumoniae* was reduced, however, other strains began moving into their niche. Researchers now think that as many as three-quarters of new cases of pneumonia and other streptococcal infections are caused by the six additional strains of bacteria included in the new vaccine, Prevnar 13, along with the original seven. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nation-and-world/la-sci-vaccine25-2010feb25,0,7748272.story>

Hospital infections killed 48,000, report shows. Pneumonia and blood-borne infections caught in U.S. hospitals killed 48,000 patients and cost \$8.1 billion in 2006, according to a report released on Monday. The study is one of the first to put a price tag on the widespread problem, which is worsening and which some experts say is adding to the growing cost of healthcare in the United States. "In many cases, these conditions could have been avoided with better infection control in hospitals," said a researcher at Resources for the Future, a think tank that sponsored the study. Researchers studied hospital discharge records from 69 million patients at hospitals in 40 U.S. states between 1998 and 2006, looking for two diagnoses — hospital-acquired pneumonia and sepsis. Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35526643/ns/health-infectious_diseases/

(Puerto Rico) U.S. warns Lilly over insulin ingredient production. Health officials have warned Eli Lilly and Co about problems with the manufacturing of an insulin ingredient at a plant in Puerto Rico, a letter released on Tuesday said. A July 2009 inspection found problems with the production of an ingredient called Lyspro Insulin Zinc Crystals, the Food and Drug Administration said in a February 5 letter to the company. The agency said Lilly "failed to adequately investigate critical deviations or a

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failure of a batch to meet its specifications or quality standards.” The FDA asked Lilly to evaluate the impact of problems at the plant on its Humalog insulin product. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61M3U620100223>

(New York) New Rochelle teen charged in bomb threat against hospital. A New Rochelle, New York, teen faces a felony charge after allegedly making a bomb threat against Sound Shore Medical Center. Police received the threat, not the hospital, on Monday. The teen was accused of making the call and was arrested before noon and charged with felony first-degree falsely reporting an incident, police said. He was caught before he ever went to the hospital, police said. The hospital routine was unaffected, police said. Source: <http://www.lohud.com/article/20100222/NEWS02/2220371/-1/newsfront/New-Rochelle-teen-charged-in-bomb-threat-against-hospital>

Celebrity Cruises ship in Caribbean hit by major outbreak of stomach illness. A Celebrity Cruises ship sailing in the Caribbean is experiencing an unusually large breakout of a norovirus-like illness, with more than 15 percent of passengers having fallen ill. A spokeswoman tells USA TODAY about 300 out of 1,800 passengers on the Celebrity Mercury are suffering from stomach upset, vomiting and diarrhea. The ship set sail out of Charleston on February 15 on an 11-night voyage to the Caribbean that is scheduled to end in the city on Friday. The spokeswoman told the Associated Press the ship’s medical facilities have been overwhelmed, and the vessel brought on an extra doctor and nurse during its latest port call. Source:

<http://www.usatoday.com/travel/cruises/item.aspx?type=blog&ak=80136.blog>

TRANSPORTATION

(Indiana; Ohio) Three charged with conspiracy to destroy railroad communication lines. The United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio Thursday announced the filing of an information charging three men with conspiracy to destroy railroad communication lines. The information alleges that the defendants would cut and steal copper wires along railroad lines in Indiana and Ohio, which wires provided power for the railroad signaling system. The information charges that between January 2006 and January 2008, on approximately 80 occasions, one or more of the defendants stole copper wire totaling 360,000 linear feet of copper wire from railroad right-of-ways, which wire they sold to scrap metal processors. If convicted, the defendants’ sentences will be determined by the Court after review of factors unique to each case, including the defendants’ prior criminal records, if any, the defendants’ roles in the offense and the characteristics of the violation. Source:

<http://cleveland.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel10/cl022510.htm>

(New York) JFK Airport’s four-month repair job spells long lines. Delays at Kennedy Airport are expected to get worse starting Monday when its main runway shuts down for a four-month repair project. About a third of airport traffic - and half of departures - will have to be diverted from the Bay Runway to smaller runways, leading to longer lines on the ground and in the air. Millions of passengers at other airports also will be delayed by the ripple effect from Kennedy bottlenecks this spring. The construction also may spark price hikes for airline tickets. Airlines will have to cut the number of planes flying by about 10 percent, so they might raise prices because there will be fewer seats to meet demand, analysts say. The airport’s massive Bay Runway - at more than 14,500 feet one of the longest in the world - is being repaved with concrete and widened to fit bigger planes. Airport officials are hoping delays on the \$376 million project will be minimal because March through

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June is the driest period in the city. Kennedy Airport is already near the bottom of the barrel in delays - it ranked 28th out of 31 major airports last year in on-time performance, federal Department of Transportation data show. Airlines are adding cushion time into their schedules so planes won't arrive officially late as often, but you can still expect about 50-minute delays at peak travel times and an average delay of 30 minutes, the Federal Aviation Administration predicts. Air-traffic controllers will have to learn new patterns without the main runway in operation, which could cause more delays, especially at first. Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/03/01/2010-03-01_jfk_revamp_spells_long_lines.html

(New York) Man in wheelchair put bomb in 125th St. Metro-North Station. A legless man in a wheelchair planted explosives in the 125th Street Metro-North station yesterday in Manhattan, according to police. Trains were rerouted and the Harlem station was evacuated while officers tried to make sure that the "pyrotechnic" device, which consisted of M-80 fireworks and shotgun shells, did not detonate. The Daily News reports that a wheelchair-bound 57-year-old is accused of putting the explosives next to a waiting room bench in the station. One or two other men are believed to have wheeled the man around the station while he carried the bomb, which was made from a laptop, wires, shotgun shells, paper, and lug nuts taped to fireworks. The device was concealed inside a laptop bag, which was covered by a black bag. The bomb could not have been triggered remotely, but "if it was lit, someone could have been hurt pretty bad," a law enforcement source said. "We don't know if it was a planned prank. If it was, it would have been a dangerous one." The man was arrested after putting the bomb in front of a ticket window. He is reportedly under observation at Bellevue Hospital Center. One of the men accused of pushing his chair was questioned and released, while police continue searching for a third suspect. Source: http://gothamist.com/2010/02/26/man_in_wheelchair_put_bomb_in_125th.php

(New Jersey) Police defuse explosive device attached to street sign. Police bomb squads from outside the Jersey Shore area were summoned Thursday after authorities found explosive devices attached to two traffic signs in a rural area just north of here. One street sign was damaged and another destroyed, but no injuries were reported, according to the local fire chief, who described it as a potentially dangerous situation. "If it would've gone off when somebody was driving by or standing at the signs or handling the devices, there was aluminum shrapnel that could've hit them," the chief said. The chief said an explosive chemical, unconfirmed as Tantalum, was placed inside a small jar attached to both signs. "The contents of the container were unknown but believed to be a binary explosive type material," he said. It appeared the plan was to detonate the explosives from a distance using a rifle. Source: <http://www.sungazette.com/page/content.detail/id/539868.html?nav=5011>

New full-body scanners for 2 airports. The first of 150 full-body scanners planned for U.S. airports will be installed in Boston next week, officials said Tuesday. The plan is to install three machines at Logan International Airport, according to a Homeland Security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the announcement has not yet been made. In the next two weeks, officials plan to install another machine at Chicago's O'Hare International. The rest of the 150 machines that were purchased with \$25 million from the President's 2009 stimulus plan are expected to be installed in airports by the end of June, another Homeland Security official said. The use of the scanners in airports is key to the Administration's plans to improve airport security because of their ability to show objects hidden on the body. Body scanners have been available for years, but their deployment has been slowed by objections from privacy advocates. Source:

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http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/02/23/ap_source_new_full_body_scanners_for_2_airports/

Hackers expose security flaws with 'Elvis Presley' passport. In the name of improved security a hacker showed how a biometric passport issued in the name of long-dead rock 'n' roll king Elvis Presley could be cleared through an automated passport scanning system being tested at an international airport. Using a doctored passport at a self-serve passport machine, the hacker was cleared for travel after just a few seconds and a picture of the King himself appeared on the monitor's display. The pair, who call themselves "ethical hackers," say the exercise exposed how easy it is to fool a passport scanner with a fraudulent biometric chip. Passports, and the ability to fake them, are back in the spotlight after the apparent use of false documents during the gang assassination of a Hamas militant in Dubai in January. According to the hackers, "what we did for that chip is create passport content for Elvis Presley and put it on a chip and sign it with our own key for a non-existent country. And a device that was used to read chips didn't check the country's signatures." Fingerprint scans, eye scans and digital photographs are now frequently used with passports to check a traveler's biometrics — unique physical characteristics that can identify a specific individual. Biometric passports — with data stored on embedded chip — are now standard issue in Europe, the U.S. and a number of other countries. "I think [fraud] is 100 percent possible," one of the hackers said. "The passport bit is the more difficult. You would have to buy one from a professional forger or some means, but adding the chip is something we could do ourselves using off the shelf equipment using \$100 investment." Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/TECH/02/19/passport.security/index.html>

(North Carolina) Worker charged in RDU breach. A contract worker at Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) was arrested Monday after officers said he illegally used his security badge to help a Delta Air Lines passenger slip around the federal security checkpoint. RDU airport police charged the 37-year-old with disorderly conduct. "A friend of his was traveling out, and he offered to take [her] onto the concourse, bypassing security," an airport spokeswoman said. "When they stepped onto the concourse, a TSA officer saw them immediately and notified an RDU law enforcement officer. And they were arrested and cited." The passenger was charged with second-degree trespassing. Both charges are misdemeanors. The incident was not regarded as a security threat, and other travelers were not affected, the spokeswoman said. Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/02/23/353603/worker-charged-in-rdu-breach.html>

(New Hampshire) NH Police Bomb Squad called to tear gas grenade. The New Hampshire State Police Bomb squad says a suspicious device found beneath a bridge in Keene turned out to be an old tear gas grenade wrapped in duct tape. Police say a 15-year-old teenager found the device below the Ashuelot River Bridge about 3 p.m. Monday. Officers secured the area around where the device was found and called the bomb squad. Officials say the public was never in danger. WMUR-TV says it is not clear from where the device came. Source: <http://wbztv.com/wireapnewsnh/NH.police.bomb.2.1512944.html>

WATER AND DAMS

(Oregon) FBI seeks to identify men who took photos of Detroit Dam. The FBI said Saturday, February 28 that agents are trying to learn the identities of nine men who were photographed taking pictures of Detroit Dam on February 14. An FBI spokeswoman said the Portland office received

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photographs that were taken by a worker at the dam. The worker thought that men photographing the dam appeared suspicious, and the worker's photographs of the men were turned over to local authorities before they were handed over to the FBI, according to a story originally published in the Albany Democrat-Herald. The Democrat-Herald described the men as being of "Middle Eastern" descent. "A worker at the dam took pictures of the people taking pictures," she said Saturday. "We are in possession of the [worker's] photos ... We are interested in identifying" the men in the photos. Anyone who saw the men or who knows who they are or who they might be is asked to contact the FBI office. Source: <http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20100228/NEWS/2280350/1001>

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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