



# Department of Homeland Security IAIP Directorate Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 14 May 2004

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- The South Florida Sun–Sentinel reports Fort Lauderdale, FL–based Mutual Benefits Corp., charged earlier this month with securities fraud, is also under federal investigation for using its operation to launder drug money. (See item [5](#))
- The American Medical Association reports that according to a clinical review, while adverse reactions from smallpox vaccinations given to military personnel remain minimal, the rate of cardiac complications has been higher than expected. (See item [16](#))
- US–CERT announces Vulnerability Note VU#106678: IEEE 802.11 wireless network protocol DSSS CCA algorithm vulnerable to denial of service. (See item [23](#))
- Internet Security Systems has raised AlertCon to Level 2, citing a need for increased vigilance. Please refer to the Internet Alert Dashboard.

### DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

**IT and Cyber:** [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES–ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *May 13, Connecticut Post Online (Bridgeport, CT)* — **Natural gas costs blamed for shortage of electricity.** Independent System Operator (ISO) New England, which maintains the region's power grid and oversees its wholesale electricity market, reported this week that electricity use during the week of January 14 increased dramatically at a time when many power suppliers

shut down to avoid paying high prices for natural gas. The spike in usage came during a cold snap. This report follows warnings issued in April that southwestern Connecticut could face power problems this summer because transmission lines cannot carry enough electricity into the area during heat waves when air conditioners tax the system. The report said the situation cut deeply into the region's power reserves, but did not bankrupt those reserves. Ellen Foley, a spokesperson for ISO New England explained that the cold weather pushed up prices for natural gas, which is mainly used to heat homes and factories. Many of the power plants — in Massachusetts, Maine and Rhode Island — that went offline said it would cost \$400 an hour to supply power to the grid because of high fuel costs. **She said the state and region receive a tremendous amount of electricity from nuclear plants but excessive reliance on natural gas continues to be a concern, especially since all plants that have been built in recent years are gas-fired.**

Source: <http://www.connpost.com/Stories/0,1413,96~3784~2145795,00.ht ml>

2. *May 13, Xinhua News Agency* — **China able to build one-million-kw nuclear power plant. China is ready to build, by itself, a nuclear generating unit with a capacity of one-million-kw with the help of latest foreign designing software, according to a renowned engineer.** Ye Qizhen, chief designer of the second-phase project of the Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant and academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, told Xinhua that Chinese engineers can easily develop the one-million-kw nuclear generating unit on the basis of the 600,000-kw one, only with the introduction of necessary advanced designing software from other countries. There are four nuclear power plants in China. Besides Qinshan, Daya Bay Nuclear Power Plant and Ling'ao Nuclear Power Plant are operating in Guangdong Province in the south, and Tianwan Nuclear Power Plant is being built in Lianyungang City of Jiangsu Province in northeast China

Source: [http://cnniw.yellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story\\_id=51077165&ID=cnniw&scategory=Energy:Nuclear&](http://cnniw.yellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=51077165&ID=cnniw&scategory=Energy:Nuclear&)

3. *May 13, New York Times* — **In 2003 blackout, hindsight is not 20/20.** As the electric grid approaches its season of peak strain, engineers say they still cannot answer the central question of how a power failure in Ohio on August 14, 2003, became the biggest blackout in North American history. **Investigators, including officials from the United States and Canada, say that the eastern power grid — the complex of generators, substations and transmission lines the power failure spread through last August — has become so large, complicated and heavily loaded in the last two decades that it is difficult to determine how a single problem can expand into an immense failure.** A report issued by the Energy Department last month said the blackout began with violations of some of those standards. The report made extensive recommendations for reducing the likelihood of isolated problems — like the failure of transmission lines in Ohio last August — but it stopped short of establishing how a local problem cascaded into a catastrophe that spread from northeastern Ohio through Michigan, Ontario and New York and into parts of Connecticut and New Jersey. **The report has drawn mixed reactions from electricity experts.** While some said it was thorough and balanced, others said that it reflected a bias by its overseer, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/13/business/13blackout.html>

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## Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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## Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *May 13, Government Computer News* — **DISA seeks bandwidth tech ideas.** The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) is seeking industry feedback on technologies that will add bandwidth to the Defense Information Systems Network (DISN). **Under the DISN Access Transport Services request for information, released last week, the Defense agency is looking to industry for ideas to upgrade the older network at roughly 600 sites so it can be integrated with the \$900 million Global Information Grid–Bandwidth Expansion program.** As part of the DISN upgrade, many legacy voice, data and video systems, as well as emerging capabilities—such as the department’s premier network–centric warfare initiatives—will move to operate over IP. DISN currently operates via a switched–circuit transport system. According to the RFI, which closes on May 24, DATS will provide leased access transmission services between the government–owned backbone network and customer locations. The transmission services will be required to support bandwidths up through OC–192. The DATS contract will provide similar services to two current DISA contracts that are expiring over the next two years, including the DISN Transmission Services CONUS (Continental United States) contract and the DISN Switched/Bandwidth Manager Services CONUS contract.

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily–updates/25882–1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily–updates/25882–1.html)

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## Banking and Finance Sector

5. *May 13, South Florida Sun–Sentinel* — **Feds investigate firm for laundering drug money. Fort Lauderdale, FL–based Mutual Benefits Corp., charged earlier this month with securities fraud, is also under federal investigation for using its operation to launder drug money, court records show.** Customs agents obtained a warrant in November 2002, and searched the company's offices. One focus of the investigation appears to be Mutual's activities in South America, including its dealings with Jaime Ray Albornoz, who acted as a general sales agent based in Bogota, Colombia, transcripts of e–mails filed in U.S. District Court show. Albornoz was arrested in Colombia on money–laundering charges a month after the search and has been jailed there since, a spokesperson for the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement said. Mutual Benefits was put in the hands of a receiver on May 5 by U.S. District Judge Federico Moreno at the request of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Documents filed by the SEC to support its case include a declaration by Cira Villazon, an agent with an Immigration and Customs Enforcement task force, saying that the agency is investigating the activities of Mutual Benefits. **"Specifically, the investigation concerns allegations of laundering of narcotics proceeds through investment–grade viatical and life insurance policies,"** Villazon wrote.

Source: <http://www.sun–sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/sfl–zmut>

6. *May 10, BBC News* — **Federal Reserve fines Swiss bank. Switzerland's largest bank, UBS, has been fined \$100M by the U.S. Federal Reserve for violating U.S. trade sanctions.** UBS admitted "very serious mistakes" had been made and said it would now quit the banknote trading business outside Switzerland. **The Federal Reserve had accused the bank of supplying U.S. dollars to countries such as Cuba, Libya, Iran, and Yugoslavia.** But in making the payout, UBS did not admit any guilt to the allegations. The Federal Reserve said the transactions had been carried out by UBS's Extended Custodial Inventory (ECI) facility in Zurich. The ECI was operated through a contract with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York which allowed UBS to maintain a depot for U.S. dollar notes in Zurich.  
Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/3702259.stm>

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## **Transportation Sector**

7. *May 13, The Times Leader, (Martins Ferry, OH)* — **Train derails, fuel is spilled. A train derailment, caused the two trains to collide, spilling about 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel close to several houses and a creek in Powhatan Point, OH, Wednesday night, May 12.** Norfolk and Southern train 7013 was heading south with a load of coal cars when it derailed and slammed into a parked train, marked with the Conrail Line. **Although the cause of the accident hasn't yet been officially determined, crews at the scene speculated that the train was trying to switch tracks, when the engine most likely jumped for some reason. When the engine jumped the tracks the fuel tank was ripped open spilling the fuel onto the tracks.** Dick Quinlin, Belmont County EMA director, said this morning, "We didn't have a good idea of what had escaped last night. But in Ohio, the reportable quantity for a spill is 25 gallons. It turned out to be about 2,000 gallons." Residents who live along both sides of the track say they heard what sounded like a storm approaching. According to some residents it sounded like loud thunder. Although it was not necessary to evacuate citizens close to the accident site there was a strong odor of diesel stench in the air. Hazmat crews used absorbents and sand to soak up as much gasoline as possible before it could reach the Captina Creek.  
Source: [http://www.timesleaderonline.com/news/story/0513202004\\_new02\\_train13.asp](http://www.timesleaderonline.com/news/story/0513202004_new02_train13.asp)
8. *May 13, CNN* — **Business airfares predicted to rise.** With oil prices at a 13-year high above \$40 a barrel, a number of airlines have already increased ticket prices. Middle East tensions and strong global demand — particularly in the U.S. and China — have led to a price rise for jet fuel of almost 60 per cent, compared to a year ago. Those airlines that have not yet implemented surcharges say that if oil prices continue to rise then they too will have to review ticket prices. **According to the American Express Airfare Index, airfares have remained stable in the last few months. But the company predicts sizable increases in front-of-the-plane airfares over the next six months.** The new fuel surcharge is appearing on some air tickets as a separate item, and airlines have said that this figure may be adjusted up or down depending on the jet fuel prices. **For all carriers, fuel accounts for a significant amount of operating costs.**  
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TRAVEL/05/12/bt.air.ticket.prices/index.html>

9. *May 13, Reuters* — **Flight attendants demand security training. The biggest U.S. flight attendant unions, representing more than 70,000 workers at big airlines, pressed the federal government on Wednesday, May 12, to develop mandatory security training for them.** Flight attendants complain that pilots — some of them armed — are locked away behind reinforced cockpit doors while cabin crews remain largely unprepared in self-defense and other security skills to handle a serious threat to the aircraft nearly three years after the September 11, 2001, attacks. The group represents workers at United Airlines, US Airways and several regional carriers. Federal law allows each airline to develop its own security program for flight attendants. "Times have changed. The old style of training is no longer appropriate," said John Ward, president of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants. That group represents workers at the world's biggest carrier, American Airlines. Attendants at low-cost powerhouse Southwest Airlines, represented by the Transportation Workers Union, also lobbied Congress and the administration for mandatory training. Delta Air Lines announced Tuesday it would offer voluntary personal self-defense training to its 14,000 flight attendants.  
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TRAVEL/05/13/security.airlines.reut/index.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

10. *May 13, Federal Times* — **Postal reform bill could net USPS billions. The House Government Reform Committee on May 12 advanced the first major legislation in three decades intended to overhaul the way the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) operates. The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, HR 4341, would net the Postal Service an additional \$27 billion over the next several decades.** It would also require USPS to fully fund its retiree health benefits. The bill would make the Treasury Department once again responsible for paying pensions earned by postal employees during their time in the military. It would also release to the Postal Service billions of dollars scheduled to be held in an escrow account beginning in 2006, as long as the Postal Service uses the money to fund \$40 billion to \$50 billion in unfunded health benefit liabilities. The bill would also give a proposed regulatory commission the responsibility to set up a more efficient means of setting postage rates, allow the Postal Service to maintain a profit, and lay the groundwork for future reforms by mandating several studies.  
Source: <http://federaltimes.com/index.php?S=2913645>

11. *May 13, Reuters* — **DOT upholds decision that Astar a U.S. company. The Bush administration Thursday, May 13, dealt a setback to FedEx Corp. and UPS Inc. , upholding an administrative judge's decision that a Miami-based cargo airline is a U.S. company and not illegally controlled by overseas interests.** The Department of Transportation (DOT) decided not to review the ruling on the international ownership dispute in the contested case involving Astar Air Cargo, formerly DHL Airways. Months before Astar was created, the U.S. cargo giants pressured Congress to order a new review the DOT's conclusion that DHL Airways was not directly owned or controlled by Brussels-based DHL Worldwide Express. DHL Worldwide is a unit of German postal giant Deutsche Post. But last December, an agency administrative law judge found that Miami-based Astar easily met the U.S. corporate citizenship test and was not under the control of the Deutsche Post network, despite clear financial links that FedEx and UPS highlighted in their case. FedEx and UPS can

appeal in federal court.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/business/services/newswire/2004/05/13/rtr1370668.html>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

12. *May 12, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **Funding for avian influenza prevention program.** Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman Wednesday, May 12, transferred \$13.7 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to address avian influenza. **Part of the funding, \$10.8 million, will be used to develop a national low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) control and prevention program.** "This program will address biosecurity and monitoring issues within the commercial poultry industry and the live bird market system to safeguard poultry in the U.S. from the effects of avian influenza," said Veneman. **As part of the LPAI program, officials with APHIS' National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) will develop and implement a monitoring system for the H5 and H7 strains of LPAI in the broiler, turkey and egg layer industries. APHIS will also create a set of standards for states to use in ensuring live bird markets are regulated in a uniform fashion.** Avian influenza (AI) viruses are classified into 15 subtypes. LPAI viruses cause few clinical signs in infected birds, constitute the vast majority of avian influenza viruses and are endemic to the United States. However, low pathogenic H5 and H7 viruses can mutate into a highly pathogenic form under field conditions and can strike without warning.

Source: <http://www.usda.gov/Newsroom/0191.04.html>

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## **Food Sector**

13. *May 12, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **U.S. and Japan to hold BSE meeting. The U.S. and Japan will begin a series of technical working group meetings next week with the objective of resuming beef trade between the two countries in the summer.** The first meeting will be held May 18 and 19, in Tokyo with subsequent meetings to be held in June and July. On April 23–24, a multi–agency U.S. Government delegation (including U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and Department of State) held consultations with the Government of Japan in Tokyo on the resumption of beef trade. Those discussions resulted in an agreement to form a joint technical working group to address several key issues, including: the definition of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and methods of testing; the definition of Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) and the method for removal; appropriate surveillance; and appropriate feed ban implementation.

Source: <http://www.usda.gov/Newsroom/0192.04.html>

14. *May 12, Food and Drug Administration* — **Salmon recalled. Stonington Sea Products of Stonington, ME, is recalling a seventy pound batch of smoked salmon, because it has the potential to be contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes.** Listeria can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened

immune systems. The smoked salmon was distributed to three retail stores, one each in Maine, Massachusetts, and New York. It was also distributed to three restaurants and via mail order to four customers. All customers have been notified and no illnesses have been reported to date. This recall was a result of a sampling program carried out by the Food and Drug Administration on a recent inspection.

Source: [http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/stonington05\\_04.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/stonington05_04.html)

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## Water Sector

15. *May 13, Associated Press* — **Robotic water sensors could be future protectors against terrorism. A network of underwater robots beaming up a near real-time environmental profile of lakes, rivers, and reservoirs could soon be on the prowl helping safeguard the nation's drinking water from sabotage. The robots would replace researchers who painstakingly collect water samples in bottles and take them back to the laboratory for analysis, an expensive, time-consuming, and sometimes dangerous practice.** By summer 2005, Syracuse University researchers will have installed a dozen robotic sensors to form the largest underwater monitoring system of its kind in the country and one of the most extensive in the world, said principal investigator Charles Driscoll, a professor of environmental systems engineering at Syracuse. The project will cover more than 25 miles of the Seneca River and five connected lakes, including three municipal drinking water sources for more than 500,000 people in central New York. **"Not too far off, though, this technology will be able to serve as an early warning system, a network of robotic sentinels, to protect our waterways from terrorist attacks,"** said Steven Effler, executive director of the Upstate Freshwater Institute, a partner in the project.

Source: [http://www.detnews.com/2004/technology/0405/13/technology-15\\_1496.htm](http://www.detnews.com/2004/technology/0405/13/technology-15_1496.htm)

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## Public Health Sector

16. *May 13, American Medical Association* — **Complications from smallpox vaccination higher than expected. While adverse reactions from smallpox vaccinations given to military personnel in the wake of renewed threats of bioterrorism remain minimal, the rate of cardiac complications has been higher than expected, according to a clinical review.** The review showed the Department of Defense Smallpox Vaccination Program reported over 50 cases to date of myopericarditis, inflammation of the heart muscle or of the sac surrounding the heart, following vaccination. "Reported rates of non-cardiac complications have been very low, in line with the rates of complications we saw historically, when children were routinely vaccinated for smallpox," said Dimitri Cassimatis, first author of the review and cardiology fellow at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. "The rate of cardiac complications, however, has been higher than expected." The U.S. Department of Defense resumed smallpox vaccination of military personnel in December 2002. As of June 2003, more than 450,000 military personnel have been vaccinated and carefully followed to identify and manage any adverse reactions to the vaccine. **Cassimatis said future research is needed to better quantify the risk of**

**myopericarditis after smallpox vaccination.**

Source: [http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2004-05/ama-ccf050704.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-05/ama-ccf050704.php)

17. *May 13, Associated Press* — **Children's Motrin containers might contain adult Tylenol. Bottles that were supposed to contain Children's Motrin grape chewable ibuprofen tablets might mistakenly contain an adult dose of a different kind of over-the-counter painkiller, a drugmaker announced.** A lot that was distributed nationwide to wholesale and retail customers between February 5 and April 1 might mistakenly contain eight-hour extended release Tylenol Geltabs, McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceuticals said Wednesday, May 12. The adult product contains an adult dose of acetaminophen. In children, an acetaminophen overdose can lead to nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain, and liver failure, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2004/05/13/financial0743EDT0017.DTL>

18. *May 12, Agence France Presse* — **Bosnian town threatened by Q-fever epidemic. Seventy-five people from the Bosnian Serb town of Banja Luka have contracted Q-fever, an animal transmitted disease with symptoms similar to severe influenza, a doctor said.** It is the most serious outbreak of the disease recorded so far in the Serb-run half of Bosnia, Zeljko Rodic, head of the Banja Luka hospital infectious diseases department, said. **Rodic said all the cases were reported in the past five days and 38 people were hospitalized.** The illness, which primarily affects cattle, sheep, and goats, can be contracted by humans through inhalation of contaminated dust. Several cases of the illness were also recorded in the northern town of Gradiska, Rodic said.

Source: [http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=1507&ncid=1507&e=9&u=/afp/20040512/hl\\_afp/bosnia\\_health\\_040512194003](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=1507&ncid=1507&e=9&u=/afp/20040512/hl_afp/bosnia_health_040512194003)

19. *May 12, EU Business* — **EU faces shortage of anti-flu drugs.** The European Union (EU) is experiencing a shortage of drugs to fight the flu virus, Ireland's Health Minister Michael Martin, whose country currently holds the EU's rotating presidency, said Wednesday, May 12. "At the moment, EU members will be competing with each other to buy an available stock of anti-viral which is in short supply should a flu outbreak occur," Martin told reporters. Martin suggested that member states boost their ties with Europe's pharmaceutical industry. **Scientists warned last month at a World Health Organization meeting that the world was ill-prepared for an inevitable human flu pandemic and urgently needed to improve health care, surveillance and the supply of key medicines.** "We know another pandemic is inevitable. It is coming," WHO Director-General Jong Wook Lee then said. "And when this happens we also know that we are unlikely to have enough drugs, vaccines, health care workers, and hospital capacity to cope in an ideal way," he added.

Source: <http://www.eubusiness.com/afp/040512225051.3ld215lq>

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## **Government Sector**

20. *May 13, Department of Homeland Security* — **Federal Government tests continuity of**

**operations plans. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and more than 40 other agencies are testing their continuity of operations (COOP) plans during Forward Challenge 04 (FC 04), a two day exercise May 12–13.** The exercise is a full–scale, scenario–based event in which Federal departments and agencies are implementing COOP plans, deploying pre–designated personnel and leadership at alternate sites away from the National Capital Region and performing essential functions at those locations. In order to ensure Federal departments and agencies are prepared to continue essential operations during any type of threat or emergency, DHS maintains an active program of planning, testing, training and evaluation of the Federal Executive Branch COOP program. Forward Challenge 04 tests the federal government's readiness to respond and ability to resume critical operations during an emergency situation. "This is the first–time that the Federal government has conducted a government–wide test of its continuity of operations plans," said DHS Secretary Tom Ridge. Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=3554>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

**21. *May 13, lamonitor.com* — First responders get topnotch training at New Mexico Tech. The Energetic Materials Research and Test Center (EMRTC) at New Mexico Tech is training first responders from New Mexico and around the world.** They are taught about explosives and the deterrence of explosive attacks in a uniquely equipped area in the mountains of Socorro behind the campus. "We put them through a very intensive 32–hour course to recognize and understand what the threat could be with explosives and how to protect themselves," said Dennis Hunter, associate director of Safety, Security and Training for EMRTC. "We are not training bomb techs." **EMRTC is a research, development, test and evaluation complex with over 30 facilities located within a 40–square mile area, Hunter said.** More than 100 professionals perform between 200 and 300 in–depth scientific investigations and tests each year in several technology areas, Hunter said. The tests are conducted in conjunction with or for the Departments of Defense, State, Energy, Justice, Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency and Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories. Source: [http://www.lamonitor.com/articles/2004/05/13/headline\\_news/news07.txt](http://www.lamonitor.com/articles/2004/05/13/headline_news/news07.txt)

**22. *May 13, General Accounting Office* — GAO–04–788T: National Preparedness: Federal Funding for First Responders (Testimony).** In this testimony, the General Accounting Office (GAO) addressed the need to balance expeditious distribution of first responder funds to states and localities with accountability for effective use of those funds and summarized major findings related to funding distribution delays and delays involving funds received by local governments, as presented in reports issued by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General and the House Select Committee on Homeland Security. The reports of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the House Select Committee on Homeland Security examined the distribution of funds to states and localities. Both reports found that although there have been delays in getting federal first–responder funds to local governments and first–responder agencies, the grant management requirements, procedures, and processes of the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) were not the principal cause. **The GAO said that it is important to note that those who manage homeland security grants to states and local governments must balance two sometimes**

competing goals: (1) getting funds to states and localities expeditiously and (2) assuring that there is appropriate planning and accountability for the effective use of the funds.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04788thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-788T>

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

23. *May 13, US-CERT* — **Vulnerability Note VU#106678: IEEE 802.11 wireless network protocol DSSS CCA algorithm vulnerable to denial of service.** The Clear Channel Assessment (CCA) algorithm used in conjunction with Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum (DSSS) transmission is vulnerable to an attack in which a specially crafted RF signal will cause the algorithm to conclude that the channel is busy, so that no device in range of the signal will transmit data. The attacker must be actively transmitting a signal and within range to affect wireless devices. AusCERT notes that devices that use 802.11 and DSSS transmission encoding are affected. **An unauthenticated, remote attacker can cause any vulnerable device within range to stop transmitting, causing a denial of service.** A complete solution is not available for 802.11 DSSS devices. This vulnerability and potential workarounds are available in AusCERT Advisory AA-2004.02: <http://www.auscert.org.au/render.html?it=4091>  
Source: <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/106678>
  
24. *May 13, Government Computer News* — **NIST releases computer security documents.** The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has published final versions of three computer security documents and released one draft document for public comment. **Special Publication 800-38C, Recommendation for Block Cipher Modes of Operation: the CCM Mode for Authentication and Confidentiality, specifies an authenticated encryption mode of the Advanced Encryption Standard.** The Guide for the Security Certification and Accreditation of Federal Information Systems (Special Publication 800-37), is one of a series of guidelines to help agencies comply with the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA). FISMA requires that all IT systems be certified and accredited for operation. The new guidelines provide a standardized approach for assessing the effectiveness of security controls determining the risks posed by threats to the system. **A draft of An Introductory Resource Guide for Implementation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Security Rule (Special Publication 800-66), provides help for agencies subject to both HIPPA and FISMA.** The document identifies NIST resources for addressing HIPPA requirements, and provides cross-mapping between HIPPA and FISMA requirements to help agencies avoid redundant work. Additional information is available on the NIST Website: <http://www.nist.gov/>  
Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/25881-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/25881-1.html)
  
25. *May 13, Reuters* — **FCC proposes opening airwaves between TV channels.** The airwaves between television channels could become available for new wireless communications services under a proposal issued by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission Thursday, May 13. Despite objections by some television broadcasters, **the FCC voted to propose using the buffer space between television frequencies as long as the new services do not cause interference for television broadcasters and viewers.** The additional airwaves could help

meet growing demand and encourage innovations like the Wi-Fi wireless Internet services that now connect consumers to the Web in airports, coffee shops and swimming pools. **The wireless industry are anxious to get access to more airwaves so they can offer more products for local area networks and high-speed Internet access.** The spectrum at issue, frequencies below 900 megahertz, is a desirable segment because the signals there can easily penetrate walls, trees and other obstructions unlike at higher frequencies. Broadcasters are fearful that such uses could disrupt their signals. The FCC will gather comments on the proposal before determining whether to make the airwaves available.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A23865-2004May13.html>

**26. *May 12, Government Computer News* — DOE commissions world's fastest supercomputer.**

The Department of Energy (DOE) will build the world's fastest computer, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham announced Wednesday, May 12. The agency has awarded a \$25 million grant to start developing a computer that will have a sustained capability of 50 trillion floating-point operations per second. **The total expected cost of the computer will run between \$150 million and \$200 million, and will be fully operational within five years,** said Ray Orbach, who is the director of the DOE's Office of Science. Last year, federal R&D policy makers expressed concern over the fact that Japan has built a computer faster than any in the United States. In 2002, Japan brought online a 5,120-vector-processor computer, called the Earth Simulator, that demonstrated a 36T capability. That computer carries out scientific calculation, such as modeling the weather.

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/25876-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/25876-1.html)

**27. *May 12, eWEEK* — Multiple vulnerabilities found in Symantec client products.** Symantec

has acknowledged several serious bugs in several of its client security products in both corporate and consumer editions. The problems involve several functions of the products but one specific file, SYMDNS.SYS. Fixes for all of the problems are available through Symantec's LiveUpdate and technical-support channels. Products affected include Symantec Client Firewall versions 5.0.0 through 5.1.1; Symantec Client Security 1.0.0, 1.1.0 and 2.0.0; Norton AntiSpam 2004; Norton Internet Security 2002 through 2004; and Norton Internet Security Professional Edition 2002 through 2004. DNS response is one of the functions listed as having such an error. **A malicious response to a DNS request could cause the program to fail or alter the flow of the program. There are also errors in the processing of NetBIOS Name Service responses that could allow remote code execution or denial of service.** Since NetBIOS is not a routable protocol, such attacks would have to come from within a network segment. Additional information is available on the Symantec Website:

<http://securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/security/Content/2004.05.12.html>

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1759.1591455.00.asp>



**28. *May 11, SearchSecurity.com* — 'Whispering keyboards' could be next attack trend.**

Eavesdroppers can decipher what is typed by simply listening to the sound of a keystroke, according to scientist Dmitri Asonov at this week's IEEE Symposium of Security and Privacy in Oakland, CA. Each key on computer keyboards, telephones and even ATM machines makes a unique sound as each key is depressed and released, according to the paper titled "Keyboard Acoustic Emanations." All that is needed is about \$200 worth of microphones and sound processing and PC neural networking software. Today's keyboard, telephone keypads, ATM machines and even door locks have a rubber membrane underneath the keys. "This membrane

acts like a drum, and each key hits the drum in a different location and produces a unique frequency or sound that the neural networking software can decipher," said Asonov. **Asonov found that by recording the same sound of a keystroke about 30 times and feeding it into a PC running standard neural networking software, he could decipher the keys with an 80% accuracy rate.** He was also able to train the software on one keyboard to decipher the keystrokes on any other keyboard of the same make and model. Good sound quality is not required to recognize the acoustic signature or frequency of the key. In fact, **Asonov was able to extract the audio captured by a cellular phone and still decipher the signal.**

Source: [http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,289142,sid14\\_gci963348,00.html](http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,289142,sid14_gci963348,00.html)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 <p>AlertCon: 2 out of 4 <a href="https://gtoc.iss.net">https://gtoc.iss.net</a></p>	 <p>Security Focus ThreatCon: 2 out of 4 <a href="http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/">http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</a></p>
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
<b>Virus:</b>	#1 Virus in the United States: <b>HTML_NETSKY.P</b> Source: <a href="http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html">http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html</a> , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	21 (ftp), 53 (domain), 25 (smtp), 57 (priv-term), 23 (telnet), 33 (dsp), 22 (ssh), 2 (compressnet), 79 (finger), 1 (tcpmux) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center

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## General Sector

**29. *May 13, Australian* — Terror threat to Olympic visitors. An extremist group threatened visitors to the Greek Olympic Games on Wednesday, May 12. The warning from the so-called Revolutionary Struggle came hours after makeshift bombs exploded at a local bank in an Athens suburb, and another explosive device was found at a nearby British bank.** Devices made from gas canisters exploded at 2 a.m. at an ATM owned by Alpha Bank, Greece's second largest bank and an Olympic sponsor. Another explosive device was found outside the office of the British-owned HSBC bank and defused. The blasts, which caused some damage but no injuries, came eight days after dynamite explosions at a police station in Athens. Greece announced this week that 70,000 security personnel will watch over the Games — outnumbering athletes by almost seven to one. The Greek capital expects to host around 16,000 athletes and officials, 45,000 volunteers, 21,500 journalists, and millions of spectators. Source: [http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,5744,9556455%255E401,00.html](http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,9556455%255E401,00.html)

## **DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information**

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

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

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

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### **Contact DHS/IAIP**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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