

5 November 2008

## **Chem-Bio News**

**1. D.C. HOSPITAL GETS 'DIRTY BOMB' SENSORS:** *"The largest private hospital in the nation's capital on Tuesday began installing sophisticated new radiation detectors in an effort to better prepare for a terrorist attack with a radiological "dirty bomb."*

**2. SERBIA STOPS BULGARIAN TRAIN OVER RADIOACTIVE CARGO: CUSTOMS:** *"Serbian Customs found radioactivity 3,000 times over permitted levels inside one of the carriages of the train and 300 times on the (outer) surface of the carriage," it said in a statement sent to AFP."*

**3. NATIONAL LAB BUILDING TOPPED OFF IN RICHLAND:** *"It's one of three new facilities planned to replace Pacific Northwest National Laboratory research and office space in the Hanford 300 Area that is being torn down as part of cleanup of the nuclear reservation."*

**4. SAFETY FEARS OVER NANOCOSMETICS:** This issue may have relevance to RDT&E efforts regarding NBC topical protectants.

**5. DISCOVERY REVEALS WWI GOVERNMENT IGNORED MUSTARD GAS WARNING:** *"If the Government during the First World War had heeded early advice from chemical scientists, British soldiers would not have been killed and injured en masse by mustard gas inflicted upon them by the Germans on the Western Front."*

## **Chem-Demil News**

**1. UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT UPDATE:** *"Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility continues processing VX land mines."*

# **CB Daily Report**

## **Chem-Bio News**

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### **D.C. HOSPITAL GETS 'DIRTY BOMB' SENSORS**

By Mimi Hall

USA Today

November 4, 2008

"The largest private hospital in the nation's capital on Tuesday began installing sophisticated new radiation detectors in an effort to better prepare for a terrorist attack with a radiological "dirty bomb."

The sensors, which will be placed out of public view at the 926-bed Washington Hospital Center, will immediately let doctors, nurses and other hospital staff know if someone

contaminated with dangerous radiation enters the emergency room or other areas of the hospital."

"Other tests of radiation-detection equipment have been done at hospitals in Washington and in New York City, both of which are considered top terrorist targets. But none have used sensors that can identify radioactive isotopes. The system can also send text messages to cellphones of hospital employees, notifying them of an alarm."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-11-04-hospitalsensors\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-11-04-hospitalsensors_N.htm)

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## **SERBIA STOPS BULGARIAN TRAIN OVER RADIOACTIVE CARGO: CUSTOMS**

SpaceWar.com

November 3, 2008

"Serbia has denied entry to a train from Bulgaria after discovering a carriage laden with radioactive material, the customs service said Monday.

"Serbian Customs found radioactivity 3,000 times over permitted levels inside one of the carriages of the train and 300 times on the (outer) surface of the carriage," it said in a statement sent to AFP."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.spacewar.com/2006/081103112430.cyv1i3vu.html>

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## **NATIONAL LAB BUILDING TOPPED OFF IN RICHLAND**

By Annette Cary

TriCityHerald.com

October 31, 2008

"The ceremony marked the 438th day of construction, with work on the research complex on schedule and budget. It's one of three new facilities planned to replace Pacific Northwest National Laboratory research and office space in the Hanford 300 Area that is being torn down as part of cleanup of the nuclear reservation.

The building is budgeted at \$224 million, which also includes some work to extend the operating life of the Radiochemical Processing Laboratory in the 300 Area. Funding comes from DOE, the National Nuclear Security Administration and Department of Homeland Security."

"The nearly 200,000-square-foot facility will include three buildings.

An ultra-trace module will house specialized labs and instrumentation for developing and testing methods for treaty verification related to nuclear and chemical weapons. The radiation detection module will include a paved track outside the building for testing the detection of radiological materials in vehicles and containers.

The materials science and technology module will include laboratories for processing radioactive material samples to study their performance in high-radiation and high-temperature conditions. Work will help evaluate the aging of materials in nuclear power plants and the development of radiation-resistant building materials for reactors."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/915/story/368515.html>

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## **SAFETY FEARS OVER NANOCOSMETICS**

BBC

November 5, 2008

"Cosmetics containing tiny "nano" particles are being used widely despite unresolved issues surrounding their safety, a consumer watchdog warns."

"But experts are concerned about their possible long-term effects on the body, Which? reports."

"Another example was a type of nanomaterial called "fullerenes" used in anti-aging cream products.

Scientists have raised particular concerns about potential toxicity of fullerenes if they were able to penetrate the skin."

"Sue Davies of Which? said: "We're not saying the use of nanotechnology in cosmetics is a bad thing, far from it. Many of its applications could lead to exciting and revolutionary developments in a wide range of products, but until all the necessary safety tests are carried out, the simple fact is we just don't know enough."

The full article can be found at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7706818.stm>

ANALYST NOTE:

This issue may have relevance to RDT&E efforts regarding NBC topical protectants.

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## **DISCOVERY REVEALS WWI GOVERNMENT IGNORED MUSTARD GAS WARNING**

"If the Government during the First World War had heeded early advice from chemical scientists, British soldiers would not have been killed and injured en masse by mustard gas inflicted upon them by the Germans on the Western Front.

An account written by a chemist after the war, which has been sent to the Royal Society of Chemistry, sheds new light on the way that scientists' advice was discounted by politicians, with dire consequences.'

"The document, entitled "Some memories of the Activities of the R.E. Anti-Gas Establishment during the Great War", was marked for 'private circulation' by chemist Leonard Levy."

"The 31-page narrative includes a section on Mustard Gas which might have ethical reverberations in today's world. Levy wrote: "It is a matter of considerable interest that had the advice of the Anti-Gas Establishment been taken, it would have been quite possible for the Allies to have employed Mustard Gas before it was used by the Germans, instead of being apparently taken completely by surprise, and being unable to make extended use of this material in the field, until a year after its first use by the Germans."

It continues: "The late major Dudley, who was working in Emil Fisher's laboratory in Berlin before the War, had first-hand evidence of the potency of dichlorethyl-sulphide. A fellow student working in Fischer's laboratory with this substance evidently split (sic) one drop if it on his waistcoat. This caused extensive vesication over the whole of his stomach, as a result of which he very nearly lost his life."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.rsc.org/AboutUs/News/PressReleases/2008/MustardGasWarning.asp>

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## ***Chem-Demil News***

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### **UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT UPDATE**

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release  
November 2008

"Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility continues processing VX land mines. This campaign is expected to be completed in November 2008, which will mark the total elimination of VX nerve agent in the Umatilla Chemical Depot stockpile. Mustard agent processing is planned to begin in spring 2009."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003679365>

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