

9 October 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY HITS 10-YEAR MARK: *"The agency was formed on Oct. 1, 1998, by the merger of three Defense Department offices. Its job was to reduce the threat posed by the possible intersection of terrorists or rogue nations and biological, chemical and nuclear weapons."*

2. NANOTECHNOLOGY DEPLOYED IN TEXTILES TO FIGHT GLOBAL MRSA BUG: *"A novel approach of deploying nanotechnology in textiles to reduce MRSA infection rates in hospitals has resulted in an Irish university team winning funding of €5m to carry out the necessary R&D."*

3. DOD ANNOUNCES ASSIGNMENT OF FORCES TO US NORTHERN COMMAND: *"The Department of Defense announces the assignment of an enhanced military capability to U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) to assist civil authorities in the response to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive (CBRNE) incidents in the U.S. homeland."*

4. CENOMED AND TORREYPINES THERAPEUTICS ENTER INTO LICENSING AGREEMENT: *"Cenomed BioSciences,, a majority-owned subsidiary of Abraxis BioScience, Inc. and TorreyPines Therapeutics, Inc. today announced that they have entered into an exclusive licensing agreement whereby Cenomed acquired from TorreyPines Therapeutics the worldwide development rights held by TorreyPines to three compounds: phenserine, Posiphen(TM) and bisnorcymcerine, for chemical defense and counterterrorism defense."*

5. TAIWAN SECURITY CHIEF APOLOGISES FOR SARS GAFFE: *"Taiwan's top national security chief on Tuesday was forced to apologise after suggesting the deadly Sars virus could have been developed in Chinese laboratories as a bioweapon."*

6. U.S. GOVERNMENT ISSUES DECLARATION COVERING EMERGENT BIOSOLUTIONS' BIOTHRAX® AND ANTHRAX IMMUNE GLOBULIN UNDER PREP ACT: *"Emergent BioSolutions Inc. announced today that two medical countermeasures included in its anthrax franchise -- BioThrax® (Anthrax Vaccine Adsorbed) and Anthrax Immune Globulin (AIG) -- have been included as covered countermeasures under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) pursuant to a declaration issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)."*

Chem-Demil News

1. CHEMICAL WEAPONS DISPOSAL RISKS TO BE MINIMISED -- KURGAN DEPUTY GOVERNOR: *"The safety of the population and the environment during the disposal of chemical weapons in Russia dominated a roundtable in Shchuchye, Kurgan region, on Wednesday."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY HITS 10-YEAR MARK

Global Security Newswire

October 8, 2008

"The agency was formed on Oct. 1, 1998, by the merger of three Defense Department offices. Its job was to reduce the threat posed by the possible intersection of terrorists or rogue nations and biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

Then-Defense Secretary William Cohen and other top Pentagon officials "were prescient, considering there was no 9/11 at the time, no Department of Homeland Security and no Northern Command," Tegnelya said in marking his agency's 10th anniversary."

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/ts_20081008_9372.php

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NANOTECHNOLOGY DEPLOYED IN TEXTILES TO FIGHT GLOBAL MRSA BUG

University of Limerick News Release/Silicon Republic

October 3, 2008

"A novel approach of deploying nanotechnology in textiles to reduce MRSA infection rates in hospitals has resulted in an Irish university team winning funding of €5m to carry out the necessary R&D.

The University of Limerick (UL) team has partnered with nine other European agencies, as well as National University of Ireland Galway and Irish companies BeoCare and Cook Medical."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nano.org.uk/news/oct2008/latest1625.htm>

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DOD ANNOUNCES ASSIGNMENT OF FORCES TO US NORTHERN COMMAND

US Department of Defense News Release

October 3, 2008

"The Department of Defense announces the assignment of an enhanced military capability to U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) to assist civil authorities in the response to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive (CBRNE) incidents in the

U.S. homeland.

“The stand-up of the first of three CBRNE Consequence Management Forces (CCMRF) represents a force of 4,000 to 6,000 personnel that can be quickly tailored to support a coordinated national response to a specific CBRNE incident. This is a fundamental change in military culture and capability,” said Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas’ Security Affairs Paul McHale.

CCMRFs are Title 10, U.S. Code, joint forces capable of responding to a wide range of CBRNE attacks against the American people with a wide range of services, including: radiological assessment, decontamination and security of a contaminated site or area; medical triage, treatment, and care; and transportation and logistical support.

This first CCMRF will fall under the operational control of USNORTHCOM’s Joint Force Land Component Command, U.S. Army North, located in San Antonio, Texas.”

For additional information on the Defense Department’s mission to support civil authorities, visit DefenseLink at http://www.defenselink.mil/policy/sections/policy_offices/hd/.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=12260>

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CENOMED AND TORREYPINES THERAPEUTICS ENTER INTO LICENSING AGREEMENT

PR-inside.com

October 8, 2008

“Cenomed BioSciences,, a majority-owned subsidiary of Abraxis BioScience, Inc. and TorreyPines Therapeutics, Inc. today announced that they have entered into an exclusive licensing agreement whereby Cenomed acquired from TorreyPines Therapeutics the worldwide development rights held by TorreyPines to three compounds: phenserine, Posiphen(TM) and bisnorcymcerine, for chemical defense and counterterrorism defense. Cenomed intends to develop these compounds for potential use in preventing toxicity following exposure to chemical organophosphorus nerve agents, including the chemical warfare agents sarin, soman, tabun and VX.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.pr-inside.com/cenomed-and-torreypines-therapeutics-enter-r850463.htm>

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TAIWAN SECURITY CHIEF APOLOGISES FOR SARS GAFFE

Agence France-Presse on AsiaOneNews

October 7, 2008

"Taiwan's top national security chief on Tuesday was forced to apologise after suggesting the deadly Sars virus could have been developed in Chinese laboratories as a bioweapon.

National Security Bureau director Tsai Chao-ming 'expresses his sincere apology that his gaffe ... has caused misunderstanding and concerns,' the bureau said in a statement.

Mr Tsai stirred up controversy on Monday after telling lawmakers that Taiwan had intelligence linking the Sars virus to research done in Chinese labs."

The full article can be found at: <http://news.asiaone.com/News/Latest%2BNews/Asia/Story/A1Story20081007-92254.html>

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U.S. GOVERNMENT ISSUES DECLARATION COVERING EMERGENT BIOSOLUTIONS' BIOTHRAX® AND ANTHRAX IMMUNE GLOBULIN UNDER PREP ACT

Emergent Biosolutions News Release on Business Wire

October 9, 2008

"Emergent BioSolutions Inc. announced today that two medical countermeasures included in its anthrax franchise -- BioThrax® (Anthrax Vaccine Adsorbed) and Anthrax Immune Globulin (AIG) -- have been included as covered countermeasures under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) pursuant to a declaration issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In issuing this declaration, the Secretary of HHS determined that there is a credible risk that the threat of exposure to anthrax and the resulting disease constitutes a public health emergency. The declaration will remain in effect until December 31, 2015. BioThrax is the only vaccine licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the prevention of anthrax infection."

The full article can be found at: http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/home/permalink/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20081009005250&newsLang=en

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Chem-Demil News

CHEMICAL WEAPONS DISPOSAL RISKS TO BE MINIMISED -- KURGAN DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Itar-Tass

October 8, 2008

"The safety of the population and the environment during the disposal of chemical weapons in Russia dominated a roundtable in Shchuchye, Kurgan region, on Wednesday.

A big chemical weapons disposal plant is under construction in the city, and its operation is a matter of concern to the population of the Kurgan and Chelyabinsk regions because the facility (to be commissioned in December of this year) is located 180 kilometres from Kurgan and 80 kilometres from Chelyabinsk."

"Daily water, oil and air monitoring is conducted at the places where stocks of toxic agents are kept. Ten thousand people living in the area surrounding the facility have undergone medical examination.

The chemical weapons disposal plant in Shchuchye will be Russia's fifth large-scale facility designed to dispose of highly hazardous toxic agents. A total of 5,467.5 tonnes of highly hazardous toxic agents (sarin, soman, VX) are kept there, making up 13.6 percent of all stocks of chemical weapons in Russia."

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