

11 September 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. TERROR GROUPS DEVELOPING 'DIRTY BOMB', SAY SECURITY CHIEFS: *"Islamist terrorists have stepped up their efforts to develop a 'dirty' bomb for use against Western targets, senior Western security sources have told The Daily Telegraph."*

2. WORK BEGINS ON EUROPEAN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS STANDARD: *"The eventual agreement will help responders improve their organizations, procedures, communications, equipment, PPE [personal protective equipment], and training to mitigate incidents, attacks, or natural disasters through co-ordination and use of trained personal in a timely way."*

3. NANO DISTILLATION DETECTS DISEASE, PURIFIES WATER: *"This device may help to overcome difficulties in tracking extremely low-abundance molecular biomarkers, which can indicate disease."*

4. NEW NANOTECHNOLOGY PAINTS FOR HOSPITALS COULD KILL SUPERBUGS: *"New nanotechnology paints for walls, ceilings, and surfaces could be used to kill hospital superbugs when fluorescent lights are switched on, scientists heard at the Society for General Microbiology's Autumn meeting being held this week at Trinity College, Dublin."*

Chem-Demil News

1. UMATILLA - DISPOSAL FACILITY CONTRACTOR'S PARENT COMPANY IS ONE OF THE SAFEST IN THE UNITED STATES: *"The URS Washington Division, the company that built the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) for the Army, has once again been recognized as one of America's safest companies for 2008 by Occupational Hazards, the leading magazine of safety, health, and loss prevention."*

2. LEXINGTON BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT - DEPOT TO BEGIN DESTROYING NERVE AGENT: *"Workers next month plan to start destroying three leaky containers of diluted nerve agent stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot, a federal official said Tuesday."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

TERROR GROUPS DEVELOPING 'DIRTY BOMB', SAY SECURITY CHIEFS

By Colin Coughlin
London Daily Telegraph
September 7, 2008

"Islamist terrorists have stepped up their efforts to develop a 'dirty' bomb for use against Western targets, senior Western security sources have told The Daily Telegraph.

They are exploiting the political chaos in Pakistan in a bid to acquire nuclear material for a 'spectacular' attack.

At least one plot has been uncovered involving Pakistani-based terrorists planning to use nuclear material against a major European target."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/lawandorder/2700195/Terror-groups-developing-dirty-bomb-say-security-chiefs.html>

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WORK BEGINS ON EUROPEAN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS STANDARD

Occupational Health & Safety

September 8, 2008

"The Brussels Management Centre of CEN, the European Committee for Standardization, is the site of two meetings today that will lead to creation of a new standard for protecting the populace against natural disasters and terrorist acts. CEN, which develops voluntary standards, was asked by the European Community to address this issue, and it formed CEN BT/WG 161, "Protection and Security of the Citizen," to accomplish the task."

"The eventual agreement will help responders improve their organizations, procedures, communications, equipment, PPE [personal protective equipment], and training to mitigate incidents, attacks, or natural disasters through co-ordination and use of trained personal in a timely way."

The full article can be found at: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/67267/>

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NANO DISTILLATION DETECTS DISEASE, PURIFIES WATER

California Institute of Technology News Release

April 9, 2008

"California Institute of Technology researchers have crafted the world's tiniest still to concentrate scant amounts of micromolecules for easier detection. This device may help to overcome difficulties in tracking extremely low-abundance molecular biomarkers, which can indicate disease."

"The still is a microfluidic chip, with a microns-wide channel, thinner than a hair, etched into silicone rubber and serving as the microplumbing for tiny volumes of fluid. But unlike typical microfluidic chips, the channel is sealed by a glass slide studded with gold nanoparticles. Into the channel is introduced a microbubble wide enough to form an air gap in the fluid. Energy from a laser no more powerful than an average laser pointer heats the gold particles,

which quickly transfer the heat to the liquid on one side of the bubble, turning it to vapor."

"This microscopic still overturns some major obstacles in microscience. First, it allows distillation of delicate molecules and organisms that can't survive high temperatures and a lack of dissolved gasses. Second, while nanoparticles have often been useful floating freely in fluid, this can bring unwanted side effects, remarks coauthor David Goodwin, professor of mechanical engineering and applied physics at Caltech. "It's difficult to control the concentrations of nanoparticles, they can interact with organisms or other particles in a way you don't want, and they're hard to get out once they're there," he says."

The full article can be found at: http://mr.caltech.edu/media/Press_Releases/PR13127.html

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NEW NANOTECHNOLOGY PAINTS FOR HOSPITALS COULD KILL SUPERBUGS

Medical News Today

September 11, 2008

"New nanotechnology paints for walls, ceilings, and surfaces could be used to kill hospital superbugs when fluorescent lights are switched on, scientists heard at the Society for General Microbiology's Autumn meeting being held this week at Trinity College, Dublin.

The new paints contain tiny particles of titanium dioxide, which is the dazzling white compound often used as a brightener in commercial paints. It will also be familiar to tennis fans as the powder used for the white lines to mark out the courts at Wimbledon.

Scientists have discovered that extremely small, nanoparticle-sized forms of titanium dioxide can kill bacteria and destroy dirt when they absorb ultraviolet light (UV) energy from the sun. They produce active molecules which clean up the painted surfaces."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/120996.php>

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Chem-Demil News

UMATILLA - DISPOSAL FACILITY CONTRACTOR'S PARENT COMPANY IS ONE OF THE SAFEST IN THE UNITED STATES

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

September 4, 2008

"The URS Washington Division, the company that built the Umatilla Chemical Agent

Disposal Facility (UMCDF) for the Army, has once again been recognized as one of America's safest companies for 2008 by Occupational Hazards, the leading magazine of safety, health, and loss prevention. URS Washington Division was formerly Washington Group International.

The Washington Division or one of its subsidiaries has earned the title four out of the past five years. Rust Constructors, Washington Division's construction arm, was recognized in 2006. Washington Savannah River Company was named to the list in 2005, and Washington Group International was selected in 2004."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003678754>

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LEXINGTON BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT - DEPOT TO BEGIN DESTROYING NERVE AGENT

By Jim Warren
Lexington Herald-Leader
September 10, 2008

"Workers next month plan to start destroying three leaky containers of diluted nerve agent stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot, a federal official said Tuesday.

Kevin Flamm, who manages the Department of Defense program responsible for destroying the aging chemical weapons, said that if things go as hoped, "Operation Swift Solution" could be completed by year's end.

That would be historic, marking the first actual destruction of nerve agent at the Richmond depot since efforts to eliminate the materials began more than two decades ago. But it would be only a first, tentative step toward the much bigger job of destroying all 523 tons of deadly chemical agents stockpiled at the depot — a process now expected to extend beyond 2017."

"Swift Solution is intended to destroy three metal containers holding 157 gallons of diluted GB, an agent that turns into an odorless, tasteless, but deadly nerve gas when it is released from munitions.

The small amount of material involved basically consists of GB that was removed from munitions at the army depot here over the past 20 years for sampling purposes. Although it has been diluted with some neutralization chemicals, it remains highly dangerous."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.kentucky.com/181/story/518707.html>

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