

27 August 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. SENATORS SEEK TO BOOST U.S. BIOSAFETY: *"The bill from Senator Richard Burr (R-N.C.) and Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) followed a series of mishaps in recent years at biological defense research institutions, notably exposures of several Texas A&M staffers to Brucella and Q fever."*

2. NEW GROUP TO EDUCATE PUBLIC ON 'DIRTY BOMB' THREATS: *"A nonpartisan effort to raise public awareness on how to prevent and prepare for radiological attacks was launched Monday."*

3. CHEMICAL PLANT BLAST IN SW CHINA KILLS 5, INJURES 55: *"More than 100 anti-chemical warfare professionals were dispatched to the explosion site to scrutinize if there were any explosive chemicals left."*

4. CANADA SENDS CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL SUITS TO PHILIPPINES: *"The Canadian government has shipped chemical and biological defense equipment to the Philippines and will soon send personnel to that nation to train special forces and other units in its use."*

5. BIOTERRORISM WARNING - CALL FOR CURBS ON DNA SALES: *"New legislation must keep up with rapid advances in bioscience as it becomes increasingly easy to create potential mass weapons, the National Centre for Biosecurity director says."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

SENATORS SEEK TO BOOST U.S. BIOSAFETY

By Chris Schneidmiller
Global Security Newswire
August 27, 2008

"The bill from Senator Richard Burr (R-N.C.) and Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) followed a series of mishaps in recent years at biological defense research institutions, notably exposures of several Texas A&M staffers to Brucella and Q fever (see GSN, Sept. 20, 2007). It predated by less than two months the Justice Department's identification of U.S. Army microbiologist Bruce Ivins as the perpetrator of the 2001 anthrax mailings (see GSN, Aug. 7).

Among a host of legislative proposals addressing disease research safety and security are calls for improvements to oversight and training at Biosafety Level 3 and 4 laboratories, which can contain the most dangerous pathogens.

Burr and Kennedy are also seeking funding reauthorization through 2013 of the U.S. Select Agent Program, which sets rules for the 400 entities and more than 14,000 individuals

authorized to hold, use and ship any of 72 agents and toxins that could pose significant health threats to humans, animals and plants. The list includes potential bioterrorism agents such as ricin, the smallpox virus, and the bacteria that cause anthrax and plague.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_8_22.html

[Return to Top](#)

NEW GROUP TO EDUCATE PUBLIC ON ‘DIRTY BOMB’ THREATS

By Tierney Plumb
Denver Business Journal
August 25, 2008

“A nonpartisan effort to raise public awareness on how to prevent and prepare for radiological attacks was launched Monday.

The D.C.-based Radiological Threat Awareness Coalition offers Web-based information and resources on the risk of a radiological catastrophe such as a series of “dirty bomb” attacks. It will serve as a meeting ground for first responders, business groups, health advocates and homeland security experts.”

The full article can be found at: <http://denver.bizjournals.com/denver/othercities/washington/stories/2008/08/25/daily13.html?b=1219636800%5E1690188>

[Return to Top](#)

CHEMICAL PLANT BLAST IN SW CHINA KILLS 5, INJURES 55

JongoNews
August 26, 2008

“Heavy smoke rises from the Guangwei Chemical Industry Co. in southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Tuesday following a blast which killed at least five people and injured another 55. The explosion at the chemical plant in Yizhou City, prompted evacuation of thousands of nearby residents.”

“More than 100 anti-chemical warfare professionals were dispatched to the explosion site to scrutinize if there were any explosive chemicals left.”

“The plant mainly produces polyvinyl acetate (PVA, used in adhesives) calcium carbide, and vinyl acetate monomer (VAM, used in paints, adhesives and coatings).”

The full article can be found at: <http://news.jongo.com/articles/08/0826/149414/MTQ5NDE0ny0JUSoN.html>

[Return to Top](#)

CANADA SENDS CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL SUITS TO PHILIPPINES

NationalTerrorAlert.com

August 18, 2008

“The Canadian government has shipped chemical and biological defense equipment to the Philippines and will soon send personnel to that nation to train special forces and other units in its use.

Canadian officials donated the 300 protective suits to senior military representatives in Manila several weeks ago and an agreement signed by the two countries notes that Canadian personnel will train Filipino troops in the use of the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence equipment.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nationalterroralert.com/updates/2008/08/18/canada-sends-chemical-biological-suits-to-philippines/>

[Return to Top](#)

BIOTERRORISM WARNING - CALL FOR CURBS ON DNA SALES

Canberra Times

August 24, 2008

“NEW LEGISLATION must keep up with rapid advances in bioscience as it becomes increasingly easy to create potential mass weapons, the National Centre for Biosecurity director says.

Professor Ian Ramshaw said the number of gene foundry companies, which create and sell DNA, was growing internationally.

There were no requirements to control what kind of DNA the companies sold and to whom they sold it, whether it was DNA for influenza or the Ebola virus.”

Link not available.

[Return to Top](#)

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