

Chem-Bio News

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2. FLOODING AT UGA GERM LAB REVEALED:

"A University of Georgia high-containment germ lab, designed for experiments on infected cows and other animals, flooded twice this fall and leaked water into a basement during one of the overflows, according to internal reports."

3. ANTHRAX LAWSUIT CLEARED FOR NEXT STEP:

"The widow of a 2001 anthrax mail victim yesterday won a Florida Supreme Court decision that will enable her to continue a lawsuit against the U.S. government and a private laboratory."

4. SWEDISH NUCLEAR PLANT POSTED CLEANERS AS GUARDS: *"Managers of an atomic power plant in Sweden used janitors to guard the facility when the alarm system was malfunctioning, according to a critical report Thursday from the country's nuclear watchdog."*

5. RUSSIA INSISTS ITS NUCLEAR ARSENAL IS SECURE: *"The Foreign Ministry described U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates' remarks on uncertainties about the old Soviet arsenal as being groundless "insinuations."*

6. MINI 11, WORLD'S SMALLEST EXPLOSIVE OR BIO-TERRORISM DETECTOR: *"They claim that their tiny version of a regular laboratory device is the smallest of its kind ever created and it can be used to trace small amounts of chemicals in the surroundings."*

Chem-Demil News

1. DELAYS LIKELY AT ARMS PLANT: *"The Army warns that more delays are possible for its embattled program to destroy chemical arms, which is already years behind schedule and has skyrocketed in cost from \$1.7 billion to \$25 billion."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

DETECTING DIRTY BOMB MATERIAL WITH ESA GAMMA-RAY TECHNOLOGY

DefenceTalk.com

November 3, 2008

"Thanks to ESA and UK technology transfer support, a British company has developed a device based on the gamma-ray detection equipment used in ESA's Integral astronomy satellite to detect and identify the radioactive material mixed with conventional explosives in 'dirty bombs'."

"The companies are developing a handheld and backpack Human Portable Radiation Detection System, tailored to meet these criteria. The device features space radiation detection hardware and signal processing software for use by emergency services, border patrol agents, customs and coast guard officers, and other law enforcement personnel.

The detectors can identify and determine the location of incoming radiation and also reliably discriminate between normally occurring radioactive material and potential threats."

The full article can be found at: http://www.defencetalk.com/news/publish/wmd/Detecting_Dirty_Bomb_Material_with_ESA_Gamma-Ray_Technology170016666.php

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FLOODING AT UGA GERM LAB REVEALED

By Craig Schneider and Ariel Hart

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

November 2, 2008

"A University of Georgia high-containment germ lab, designed for experiments on infected cows and other animals, flooded twice this fall and leaked water into a basement during one of the overflows, according to internal reports.

The lab was shut down after the experiment was complete, which was two weeks after the last flood. The lab will remain closed until UGA officials are satisfied that the flooding problem has been solved. Cows used in the experiment were destroyed at its end."

"UGA facility manager Michael Mispagel said the floods — the first of some 15,000 gallons, and the second of about 5,000 gallons— did not expose any workers or the public to dangerous germs. The floods and leak were cleaned and the lab was decontaminated, he said."

The full article can be found at: http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2008/11/02/lab_1102_2DOT.html

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ANTHRAX LAWSUIT CLEARED FOR NEXT STEP

Global Security Newswire

October 31, 2008

"The widow of a 2001 anthrax mail victim yesterday won a Florida Supreme Court decision that will enable her to continue a lawsuit against the U.S. government and a private laboratory.

Maureen Stevens filed the original suit following the death of her husband Robert Stevens, a magazine photo editor who inhaled anthrax after the lethal toxin was mailed to several locations in late 2001. The mail attack killed five and sickened 17 people in the Eastern United States.

Stevens's suit argues that the United States and the Ohio-based Battelle Memorial Institute failed to properly secure the anthrax used in the attack."

"A U.S. circuit court sought the guidance of the Supreme Court asking for its opinion on this question: "Does a laboratory that manufactures, grows, tests or handles ultra-hazardous materials owe a duty of reasonable care to members of the general public to avoid an unauthorized interception and dissemination of the materials?"

The Supreme Court yesterday ruled, "We answer ... in the affirmative."

The majority opinion emphasized, however, that it was not ruling on the facts of the case."

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20081031_4903.php

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SWEDISH NUCLEAR PLANT POSTED CLEANERS AS GUARDS

By Louise Nordstrom

Associated Press on GoogleNews

October 31, 2008

"Managers of an atomic power plant in Sweden used janitors to guard the facility when the alarm system was malfunctioning, according to a critical report Thursday from the country's nuclear watchdog.

In a statement on its Web site, the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority called the incident at the Oskarshamn plant serious because the workers had no training as security guards."

The full article can be found at: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5i1WwgJF3inm-9-ecJ7xUU0qOvgKwD94529I01>

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RUSSIA INSISTS ITS NUCLEAR ARSENAL IS SECURE

The Associated Press

November 3, 2008

"Russia insisted Friday its nuclear arsenal is secure, angrily rejecting U.S. allegations that tens of thousands of aging Soviet weapons may not be fully accounted for.

The Foreign Ministry described U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates' remarks on uncertainties about the old Soviet arsenal as being groundless "insinuations."

The ministry stressed that all nuclear weapons in Russia have been under reliable protection since the 1991 Soviet collapse - despite the nation's economic turmoil."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.kansascity.com/451/story/868217.html>

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MINI 11, WORLD'S SMALLEST EXPLOSIVE OR BIO-TERRORISM DETECTOR

Softpedia.com

October 30, 2008

"They claim that their tiny version of a regular laboratory device is the smallest of its kind ever created and it can be used to trace small amounts of chemicals in the surroundings. R. Graham Cooks, Zheng Ouyang and their team call the invention Mini 11. It is the size of a shoe box, weighing about 9 pounds (4 kg), half the weight of its closest competitor, and it is able to detect threats to human safety, such as bio-terrorism agents or concealed explosive materials."

The full article can be found at: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Mini-11-World-039-s-Smallest-Explosives-Or-Bio-Terrorism-Detector-96901.shtml>

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Chem-Demil News

DELAYS LIKELY AT ARMS PLANT

By Lee Davidson

Deseret Morning News

November 2, 2008

"The Army warns that more delays are possible for its embattled program to destroy chemical arms, which is already years behind schedule and has skyrocketed in cost from \$1.7 billion to \$25 billion.

It says it still hopes to complete all arms destruction by 2011 — or four years beyond the current 2007 deadline set by international treaty. That treaty, however, allows one five-year extension to 2012.”

“Despite the extension of the deadline, the Deseret Chemical Depot expects to have 100 percent of stockpiled agents destroyed by 2008, said depot spokesman Chuck Sprague, barring any unforeseen delays.”

The full article can be found at: <http://deseretnews.com/article/content/mobile/1,5620,525035122,00.html?printView=true>

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