

21 October 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. EXPERT SAYS NUCLEAR TERRORISM IS NOT A MAJOR THREAT: *"Yet Brian Michael Jenkins, a longtime terrorism expert with the Rand Corp., says that the threat lies more in the realms of Hollywood dramas and terrorist dreams than in reality."*

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3. ZIMBABWE: CHOLERA OUTBREAK THREATENS TO BECOME ENDEMIC: *"There are fears that the onset of the rainy season could make the waterborne disease endemic if the authorities fail to address the water and sanitation crisis plaguing the county."*

4. SIONEX INTRODUCES TRACE CHEMICAL DETECTOR SYSTEM: *"Sionex Corp., a leading producer of chemical sensors and sub-systems, announced the introduction of the microAnalyzer, an integrated system that can quickly detect, identify, and measure extremely minute quantities of chemicals in air or vaporized liquids at the point of collection."*

5. CARDIN, MIKULSKI SEND BILL TO PRESIDENT WITH \$441.3 MILLION FOR CARROLL, CECIL AND HARFORD COUNTY DEFENSE PROJECTS: *"The Military Construction/Veterans Affairs spending bill provides \$424.7 million for Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) in Harford County....."*

Chem-Demil News

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CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

EXPERT SAYS NUCLEAR TERRORISM IS NOT A MAJOR THREAT

By James Kitfield

The National Journal on Government Executive.com

October 20, 2008

"Seven years after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, experts and presidential candidates continue to put nuclear terrorism atop their lists of the gravest threats to the United States. Yet Brian Michael Jenkins, a longtime terrorism expert with the Rand Corp., says that the threat lies more in the realms of Hollywood dramas and terrorist dreams than in reality. There has never been an act of nuclear terrorism, he notes, yet the threat is so potentially catastrophic that it incites fear -- and that fear fulfills a terrorist's primary goal. National Journal Staff Correspondent James Kitfield interviewed Jenkins about his research into nuclear terrorism for his new book, *Will Terrorists Go Nuclear?*"

"NJ: Hasn't Al Qaeda, in particular, focused considerable energy on nuclear weapons?"

Jenkins: Yes, because terror is the use of violence to create an atmosphere of fear that causes people to exaggerate the strength of the terrorists, and they are very good at that. So in Al Qaeda's media jihad there is a recurrent theme of nuclear terrorism. They realize that if they put the words "terrorism" and "nuclear" in proximity to each other it creates added fear. It also excites their constituency, because nothing excites the powerless more than the idea of ultimate power.

NJ: Are you saying that Al Qaeda is interested in nuclear weapons only in the abstract, as a propaganda tool?

Jenkins: No. Al Qaeda has actual nuclear ambitions, there is no doubt about that. When Osama bin Laden was in Sudan, he tried to acquire some nuclear material. The efforts were mostly amateurish, and Al Qaeda was the victim of some scams. Qaeda [leaders] also had meetings with some Pakistani nuclear scientists while in Afghanistan. So, clearly, they were thinking about nuclear weapons. If bin Laden were able to acquire a nuclear weapon, I also suspect that he would use it. My larger point is that Al Qaeda has already become the world's first nonstate nuclear power without even having nuclear weapons."

"NJ: What do you consider Al Qaeda's greatest vulnerability?"

Jenkins: Irrelevancy. As the world moves on to new issues, these virtual jihadists are locked into a closed-loop discourse on the Internet that is increasingly irrelevant. They are participating in a fantasy. That's the biggest fear of the terrorists: One day Osama bin Laden will issue his 450th proclamation, and no one will really be listening."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1008/102008nj1.htm>

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EUROPEAN EFFORTS TO DETERMINE POTENTIAL NANOTECHNOLOGY IMPACT ON FOOD SAFETY

By Michael Berger
Nanowerk Spotlight
October 20, 2008

"The European Commission current assessment of nanotechnology applications to the food

chain range from the almost certain (e.g., membranes, antibacterials, flavors, filters, food supplements, stabilizers) through to the probable (e.g., pathogen and contaminant sensors, environmental monitors, coupled sensing and warning devices, and remote sensing and tracking devices) to the improbable (e.g., 'creating unlimited amounts of food by synthesis at the atomic level').

The European Commission has now decided that it would like to address the possible safety issues arising from nanoscience and nanotechnologies in a stepwise fashion, thereby facilitating the establishment of a roadmap for future actions in the area of food and feed safety and the environment."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nanowerk.com/spotlight/spotid=7814.php>

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ZIMBABWE: CHOLERA OUTBREAK THREATENS TO BECOME ENDEMIC

IRIN on Reuters

October 20, 2008

"A cholera outbreak that has bridged Zimbabwe's dry season is proving difficult to contain and has spread from the cities to rural areas.

There are fears that the onset of the rainy season could make the waterborne disease endemic if the authorities fail to address the water and sanitation crisis plaguing the county."

"The collapse of health and municipal services is seen as the cause for the spread of the disease, with local authorities failing to provide potable water, rubbish collection and adequate sanitation, forcing people to dig shallow wells to obtain household and drinking water in areas where sewerage spills into streets because of poor, or non-existent, maintenance regimes.

The state-owned Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) has pumped raw sewerage into Lake Chivero, one of the reservoirs providing Harare with water; residents with access to piped water often have to contend with a smelly greenish discharge from their taps."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/fb18716ba366556be8854a15caf940b1.htm>

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SIONEX INTRODUCES TRACE CHEMICAL DETECTOR SYSTEM

Sensors

October 15, 2008

"Sionex Corp., a leading producer of chemical sensors and sub-systems, announced the

introduction of the microAnalyzer, an integrated system that can quickly detect, identify, and measure extremely minute quantities of chemicals in air or vaporized liquids at the point of collection. The microAnalyzer is the first product to provide, in one, small, portable package, an (oven-less) gas chromatographic (GC) separation module and Sionex's patented microDMx sensor, dramatically improving selectivity in complex chemical environments. Sensitivity is typically in the range of parts per trillion, and the speed of the microDMx technology allows for processing times between 30 s and 5 min."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.sensorsmag.com/sensors/Sensor+News/Sionex-Introduces-Trace-Chemical-Detector-System/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/559144?contextCategoryId=34296>

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CARDIN, MIKULSKI SEND BILL TO PRESIDENT WITH \$441.3 MILLION FOR CARROLL, CECIL AND HARFORD COUNTY DEFENSE PROJECTS

US Senator Benjamin L. Cardin News Release
27 September 2008

"The Military Construction/Veterans Affairs spending bill provides \$424.7 million for Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) in Harford County, including:

- \$241 million in BRAC funding to continue construction on C4ISR facilities
- \$43 million in BRAC funding to consolidate Army Test and Evaluation Command headquarters.
- \$35 million in BRAC funding to consolidate Army Research Lab vehicle technology facilities.
- \$28 million for an aviation support facility for the Army National Guard at Weide Army Airfield in Edgewood.
- \$27 million in BRAC funding for a medical research lab on chemical and biological weapons defense.
- \$27 million in BRAC funding for a non-medical chemical and biological facility.
- \$23.7 million for the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cardin.senate.gov/news/record.cfm?id=303851>

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Chem-Demil News

CHEM-DEMIL PLANT GETS FINAL OK

By John Norton

The Pueblo Chieftain
October 21, 2008

"The effort to destroy the stockpile of chemical weapons at the Pueblo Chemical Depot passed another hurdle this week with approval of the final permit to construct the plant where the work will be done.

Even though the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has taken the Defense Department to court seeking an order to get rid of the 2,100 tons of mustard agent by 2017, the state and the Pentagon department overseeing the work have been on good terms as the permitting process for the plant itself has progressed."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2008/10/21/news/local/doc48fd56bbc8723608933596.txt>

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