

6 April 2009

Chem-Bio News

1. TEAM WAITS FOR TESTS ON WEAPONS OFF PEARL HARBOR: *"Researchers at the University of Hawaii are analyzing data from the deep ocean floor south of Pearl Harbor that will determine where chemical weapons from World War II were dumped."*

2. IAEA MAY NEED INTELLIGENCE ARM AGAINST ATOM TERROR: *"The U.N. atomic watchdog may need to set up its own intelligence unit to combat a growing menace of nuclear terrorism, a former senior CIA official said in an interview Wednesday."*

3. MOROCCAN PARTY CALLS FOR SPANISH DAMAGES OVER CHEMICAL WAR IN 1920S: *"Increasing voices in Morocco want the country to demand damages from Spain for the use of chemical weapons during the 1920-26 Rif war, press reports said Thursday."*

4. CONSORTIUM WINS US BIODEFENCE CONTRACT: *"The objective of the project is to develop a fast, flexible and portable biomanufacturing system that can be used to develop emergency therapeutics and vaccines."*

5. ANTHRAX, LABORATORY EXPOSURE - FRANCE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: *"An Afssa [Agence française de sécurité sanitaire des aliments] laboratory is contaminated with *Bacillus anthracis*; 5 laboratory workers have been placed in isolation in a hospital at Maison-Alfort after being in contact with the bacillus."*

6. MOD [UK] REVEALS NUCLEAR SUB INCIDENTS: *"There have been 14 collisions involving British nuclear submarines since 1988 and 237 fires on board the fleet of vessels, the government has revealed."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

TEAM WAITS FOR TESTS ON WEAPONS OFF PEARL HARBOR

KITV.com

April 3, 2009

"Researchers at the University of Hawaii are analyzing data from the deep ocean floor south of Pearl Harbor that will determine where chemical weapons from World War II were dumped."

"We sampled 19 different locations, four areas we saw in terms of ordnance, 1,000 or 2,000 things that looked like they were ordnance," UH researcher Margo Edwards said."

"The videos show old bombs that are corroded and rusty. Submersibles took samples of sand and water, which will be analyzed to see if explosives or chemicals are leaching out into the ocean. The samples are at labs where researchers will spend months analyzing them."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.kitv.com/news/19082089/detail.html>

[Return to Top](#)

IAEA MAY NEED INTELLIGENCE ARM AGAINST ATOM TERROR

By Mark Heinrich

Reuters

April 1, 2009

"The U.N. atomic watchdog may need to set up its own intelligence unit to combat a growing menace of nuclear terrorism, a former senior CIA official said in an interview Wednesday.

"The good news is that no credible information has surfaced that al Qaeda has obtained weapons-usable nuclear materials. The bad news is that (these) are missing in significant quantities," said Rolf Mowatt-Larssen.

He said the International Atomic Energy Agency, with its expertise probing shadowy nuclear activity in Iran and the A.Q. Khan nuclear smuggling ring, could be well placed to transcend national barriers to intelligence-sharing on atomic threats."

"He headed the CIA's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and terrorism division and the U. S. Energy Department's intelligence arm before leaving government in January to join a Harvard think tank concerned with the unraveling of the global nuclear order. The IAEA has struggled to resolve allegations of covert, proliferation-prone nuclear work in Iran and Syria and prevent losses or theft of nuclear materials in part for lack of timely provision of intelligence by member states, its officials say."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5305I920090401>

[Return to Top](#)

MOROCCAN PARTY CALLS FOR SPANISH DAMAGES OVER CHEMICAL WAR IN 1920S

Earth Times

April 2, 2009

"Increasing voices in Morocco want the country to demand damages from Spain for the use of chemical weapons during the 1920-26 Rif war, press reports said Thursday. Colonial powers Spain and France put down a rebellion in the northern mountainous Rif region, which was part of the Spanish protectorate at the time.

The National Rally of Independents (RNI), the second most important party in the coalition government, has called for damages over the use of chemical weapons in the conflict, following similar requests from non-governmental organizations."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/262685,moroccan-party-calls-for-spanish-damages-over-chemical-war-in-1920s.html>

[Return to Top](#)

CONSORTIUM WINS US BIODEFENCE CONTRACT

Pharmafocus

April 3, 2009

"A consortium of US and UK companies has been awarded an \$11 million grant from the US Government to speed up manufacturing of monoclonal antibodies and vaccines to answer an emerging biological threat.

The contract comes from the US Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) which was set up in 1998 to combat weapons of mass destruction, including biological agents.

The objective of the project is to develop a fast, flexible and portable biomanufacturing system that can be used to develop emergency therapeutics and vaccines."

The full article can be found at: http://www.pharmafocus.com/cda/focusH/1,2109,21-0-0-APR_2009-focus_news_detail-0-492647,00.html

[Return to Top](#)

ANTHRAX, LABORATORY EXPOSURE - FRANCE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

By Nadja Nasdala

ProMed-mail

March 29, 2009

"An Afssa [Agence française de sécurité sanitaire des aliments] laboratory is contaminated with *Bacillus anthracis*; 5 laboratory workers have been placed in isolation in a hospital at Maison-Alfort after being in contact with the bacillus. The incident occurred at the laboratory, which works in conjunction with the National reference lab for anthrax (Centre national de référence charbon (CNR charbon)) located in the Pasteur Institute. CNR charbon carries out epidemiologic surveillance on anthrax and characterizes the isolates from cases and outbreaks."

The full article can be found at: http://www.promedmail.org/pls/otn/f?p=2400:1001:53103::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,76800

[Return to Top](#)

MOD [UK] REVEALS NUCLEAR SUB INCIDENTS

BBC

April 3, 2009

"There have been 14 collisions involving British nuclear submarines since 1988 and 237 fires on board the fleet of vessels, the government has revealed.

February's collision between HMS Vanguard and French sub Le Triomphant was the sole recorded collision with another naval vessel, the MoD said.

Of the fires, 213 were classified as small-scale, needing minimal resources to put out, while 21 were more serious."

The full article can be found at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/low/uk_news/politics/7981569.stm

[Return to Top](#)

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