

Chem-Bio News

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- 2. U.S. ANNOUNCES NEW STRATEGY FOR BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION:** *"The White House's National Strategy for Countering Biological Threats -- released today -- concluded that there is no comprehensive strategy to deal with "gaps" in efforts to prevent the proliferation of biological weapons and the abuse of science, Undersecretary of State Ellen Tauscher said at an annual meeting of the international agreement's member states in Geneva, Switzerland."*
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- 4. HANFORD WATER CLEANUP TEAM GIVEN AWARD:** *"The project completed demonstration of removal of carbon tetrachloride from Hanford nuclear reservation ground water and commits \$240 million for 95 percent removal of a variety of radionuclides and hazardous chemicals from four-square miles in central Hanford."*
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- 6. STUDY DISMISSES HANFORD B REACTOR FOR NATIONAL PARK:** *"A draft National Park Service study on preserving Hanford's historic B Reactor looks at several options but dismisses the possibility of making the reactor directly part of the national park system."*
- 7. SCIENTISTS HELP SOLDIERS FIGHT 'DIRTY BOMBS':** *"Defence researchers develop software that tracks spread of chemical agents."*

Chem-Demil News

- 1. PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - LOCAL ADVISORS COOL TO IDEA OF EXPLODING MUSTARD SHELLS:** *"The citizens commission overseeing the destruction of chemical weapons here - and a number of citizens in the audience at the panel's meeting Wednesday night - were not supportive of the government's plan to blow up 16 percent of the stockpile."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

DOCTRINE UPDATE

US Army Chemical Review
U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center
Winter 2009 Edition

The current status of US Army CBRN doctrinal documents.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.wood.army.mil/chmdsd/pdfs/Winter%202009/Doctrine-Update-W-09.pdf>

[Return to Top](#)

U.S. ANNOUNCES NEW STRATEGY FOR BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

By Martin Matishak
Global Security Newswire
December 09, 2009

"The Obama administration has developed a strategy designed to boost the goals of the Biological Weapons Convention but stopped short of endorsing the creation of an international monitoring system to verify compliance with the pact, a senior State Department official said today.

The White House's National Strategy for Countering Biological Threats -- released today -- concluded that there is no comprehensive strategy to deal with "gaps" in efforts to prevent the proliferation of biological weapons and the abuse of science, Undersecretary of State Ellen Tauscher said at an annual meeting of the international agreement's member states in Geneva, Switzerland."

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"In 2001, the Bush administration withdrew from extended negotiations intended to create an inspections protocol for the 1975 compact. Officials claimed then that such a system would not increase confidence in the convention and would unduly burden U.S. biodefense research efforts and the biotechnology industry with increased inspection costs and bureaucratic hurdles.

"The Obama administration will not seek to revive negotiations on a verification protocol to the convention," Tauscher said today. "We have carefully reviewed previous efforts to develop a verification protocol and have determined that a legally binding protocol would not achieve meaningful verification or greater security."

She said ensuring compliance is "extraordinarily difficult" because of the ease with which biological weapons programs could be disguised as legitimate activities. In addition, rapid advances in biological research make it harder to detect violations.

"We believe that a protocol would not be able to keep pace with the rapidly changing nature of the biological weapons threat," Tauscher said. She did not elaborate."

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20091209_8157.php

[Return to Top](#)

DOCUMENTS IDENTIFY TERRORISM THREAT IN BORDER GAPS

By Thomas Burr
The Salt Lake Tribune
December 06, 2009

"Shortly after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, a secret government report highlighted a way terrorists might easily enter the United States carting weapons of mass destruction.

It wasn't by air or sea.

The classified analysis pointed to an arid and sparsely populated stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona teeming with drug runners.

"This area has become very active with smuggling and encrypted radio traffic," says the report titled "Threat Assessment for Public Lands" completed by the Interior Department in late 2002. "This would be an ideal area to smuggle a weapon of mass destruction."

The report, marked "sensitive," surfaced recently in a load of documents uncovered by Utah Republican

Rep. Rob Bishop.

Officials with the federal departments of Interior and Homeland Security insist the report is outdated, but refused to release updated assessments.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_13936032

[Return to Top](#)

HANFORD WATER CLEANUP TEAM GIVEN AWARD

The TriCity Herald
December 08, 2009

“A multi-agency team working on ground water cleanup in central Hanford has won the 2009 Excellence in Hazardous Materials Management Award.

The award will be presented this week to the ZP-1 Ground Water Remediation Team by the Eastern Washington Chapter of the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers. The team includes Arlene Tortoso and John Morse of the Department of Energy; Dennis Faulk and Emerald Laija of the Environmental Protection Agency; the late David Miller, Mark Byrnes, Donald Clark and Bruce Sasser of CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Co. and Sally Simmons of Fluor Federal Services.

The project completed demonstration of removal of carbon tetrachloride from Hanford nuclear reservation ground water and commits \$240 million for 95 percent removal of a variety of radionuclides and hazardous chemicals from four-square miles in central Hanford.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/business/story/821439.html>

[Return to Top](#)

HHS MODIFIES APPROACH TO SUPPORTING SECOND GENERATION ANTHRAX VACCINE

US Department of Health and Human Services
December 07, 2009

“The HHS Biomedical Research and Development Authority (BARDA) will cancel its request for proposal (RFP) for “Recombinant Protective Antigen Anthrax Vaccine for the Strategic National Stockpile” (RFP-BARDA-08-15). BARDA took this action after a technical evaluation panel determined that none of the vaccine developers submitting proposals could meet the Project BioShield statutory requirements of having a product ready for licensure within 8 years. In response to this development, BARDA will modify its approach to the advanced development of a next-generation anthrax vaccine.

Instead of re-issuing an RFP, BARDA will request that vaccine developers submit product development plans under special instructions to an existing broad agency announcement (BAA-BARDA-09-34) that supports the development of medical countermeasures for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats. Studies funded through this program can help potential vaccines advance far enough to enable meeting Project BioShield requirements in the future.

HHS is committed to a modernized countermeasure production process that promotes promising discoveries, more advanced development, more robust manufacturing, better stockpiling, and more advanced distribution practices. Aligning the funds and authorities with the product development programs is of paramount importance to ensure success for BARDA’s end-to-end, comprehensive strategy of product development.

“Following a thorough evaluation of proposals, we determined that awarding Project BioShield acquisition contracts at this time would have placed undue risk of failure on potential contractors and the federal government,” said BARDA Director Dr. Robin Robinson. “However, we believe the broad

agency announcement and the flexibilities it provides are well adapted to the further development of these products. Anthrax preparedness remains one of our highest priorities so we will continue to address this threat using all of the authorities and resources at our disposal.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.hhs.gov/disasters/rpaapproach.html>

[Return to Top](#)

STUDY DISMISSES HANFORD B REACTOR FOR NATIONAL PARK

By Annette Cary

TriCity Herald

December 11, 2009

“A draft National Park Service study on preserving Hanford's historic B Reactor looks at several options but dismisses the possibility of making the reactor directly part of the national park system.

Only Los Alamos, N.M., is being considered to be named a Manhattan Project National Historical Park. However, most of the five options being considered for Hanford would offer some possible park service role to provide technical assistance or educational programs for B Reactor.

Most of the options for B Reactor would rely heavily on local groups or other nonprofit agencies to preserve the reactor as a museum, develop and maintain exhibits and coordinate public visits. All options likely would require fundraising to keep the reactor open to the public.

The draft study did not reach a conclusion on the best option for B Reactor's future or other Manhattan Project sites.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.tricityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/825855.html

[Return to Top](#)

SCIENTISTS HELP SOLDIERS FIGHT 'DIRTY BOMBS'

By Jermyn Chow

The Straits Times

December 09, 2009

“Before it was full of spectators watching this year's Singapore Grand Prix, it was occupied by a group of defence scientists studying how lethal chemical agents could spread in a building.

Their breakthrough software can gauge - within 15 minutes of a 'dirty bomb' going off in a 30-storey building - how toxic the chemical agent is and how far the gas has spread within the premises.”

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“The indoor dispersion modelling software, which monitors the spread of chemical agents in real time, was developed by the DSO National Laboratories, the national defence research and development organisation.

The world's first prototype was rolled out in the Singapore Armed Forces' Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Explosives (CBRE) Defence Group in early March and tested at the F1 building, four years after scientists started working on the project.

It was cited yesterday by Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean as the successful result of a partnership between Singapore's defence scientists and military planners when they started acquiring skills in the early 1990s to handle biochemical and radiological threats.”

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“The indoor dispersion modelling software can monitor more than 40 chemical warfare agents such as sarin gas, mustard gas and anthrax.”

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“The four-day symposium, the only CBRE symposium in the Asia-Pacific, also showcases other gadgets that deal with hazardous nuclear or radioactive substances - materials that can be used to assemble dirty bombs or improvised explosive devices.

Also on show is an indoor decontaminant that can decompose chemical agents that seep through concrete walls, even after the area has been decontaminated. These chemicals, like sulphur mustard, eventually seep back into the air and cause harm.

A world's first, the decontaminant's photocatalytic substance can use indoor light such as that from fluorescent lamps to break down hazardous chemical agents.”

The full article can be found at: http://app.mfa.gov.sg/pr/read_content.asp?View,14210,
[Return to Top](#)

Chem-Demil News

PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - LOCAL ADVISORS COOL TO IDEA OF EXPLODING MUSTARD SHELLS

By John Norton
The Chieftain
December 10, 2009

“The citizens commission overseeing the destruction of chemical weapons here - and a number of citizens in the audience at the panel’s meeting Wednesday night - were not supportive of the government’s plan to blow up 16 percent of the stockpile.”

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“The Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens Advisory Commission agreed to give Flamm a letter when he reports back to the Secretary of Defense Dec. 15 on the feasibility of the program.

The letter reiterates the commission’s support of explosive technology for the anticipated 1,000 or so leaking weapons found or expected to be found at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. But it says that the commission opposed “at this time,” diverting any other weapons from the water neutralization process.

The commission letter also expressed concerns about how hazardous wastes would be handled from blowing up 125,000 weapons.

Commission members and the general public grilled Flamm on the program, asking how the explosion chambers differed from incineration which the community successfully blocked more than a decade ago. Commission member Jeff Chostner asked if the explosive technology plan was too successful if it would just replace water neutralization and lead to “back door” incineration.”

The full article can be found at:
<http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2009/12/10/news/local/doc4b2090229db68439105724.txt>

[Return to Top](#)

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