

4 February 2009

## **Chem-Bio News**

**1. COULD ECOTERRORISTS LET SLIP THE BUGS OF WAR?:** *"With perverse logic, they said that unless the Government stopped using pesticides they would assure a cataclysmic infestation that would lead to the quarantining of California produce, costing 132,000 jobs and \$13.4 billion in lost trade."*

**2. STRUCTURE OF ENZYME AGAINST CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS DETERMINED:** *"The enzyme DFPase from the squid Loligo vulgaris, is able to rapidly and efficiently detoxify chemical warfare agents such as Sarin, which was used in the Tokyo subway attacks in 1995."*

**3. U.S. BEGINS DEPLOYING PORTAL RADIATION SENSORS TO AIRPORTS:** *"The U. S. Homeland Security Department has deployed more than 1,000 cargo-scanning radiation detectors around the country, but until late last year none could be found at the nation's airports."*

**4. PSU SEEKS NEW BIORESEARCH FACILITY:** *"It will be what's known as a biosafety level 3 lab, compared with Penn State's existing level 2 lab. Mary Kennett, director of the Animal Resource Program and a professor of veterinary and biomedical sciences, said that research into salmonella, E. coli, whooping cough and other diseases can take place in a level 2 facility."*

**5. HUMAN GENOME SCIENCES BEGINS DELIVERY OF FIRST-IN-CLASS ANTHRAX TREATMENT TO U.S. STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE:** *"Human Genome Sciences, Inc. today announced that it has begun delivery of 20,000 doses of its human monoclonal antibody drug ABthrax™ (raxibacumab) to the U.S. Strategic National Stockpile for use in the treatment of inhalation anthrax."*

**6. DHS TO TEST MOBILE RADIATION DETECTORS IN NEVADA IN MAY:** *"DHS's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) is inviting manufacturers of mobile radiation detection systems to send one sample piece of equipment to a government test site in Nevada, where the gear will undergo a rigorous test program in May."*

## **Chem-Demil News**

**1. UMATILLA CHEMICAL DESTRUCTION FACILITY - STATE OKS PERMIT FOR BRINE LOADOUT STATION:** *"The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced conditional approval on Monday of a UMCDF permit modification to add a brine loadout station outside of the double fence surrounding the plant."*

**2. RUSSIA DEACTIVATES FIRST BATCH OF VX-CONTAINING BOMBS AT PENZA REGION FACILITY:** *"The facility's public relations office told ITAR-TASS today that reaction masses received in the process of detoxification of poisonous substances were removed from bomb casings on 27 January."*

# CB Daily Report

## *Chem-Bio News*

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### **COULD ECOTERRORISTS LET SLIP THE BUGS OF WAR?**

By Jeffrey A. Lockwood

The TimesOnline

February 2, 2009

"The terrorists' letter arrived at the Mayor of Los Angeles's office on November 30, 1989. A group calling itself "the Breeders" claimed to have released the Mediterranean fruit fly in Los Angeles and Orange counties, and threatened to expand their attack to the San Joaquin Valley, an important centre of Californian agriculture.

With perverse logic, they said that unless the Government stopped using pesticides they would assure a cataclysmic infestation that would lead to the quarantining of California produce, costing 132,000 jobs and \$13.4 billion in lost trade.

The infestation was real enough. It was ended by heavy spraying. It is still not known if ecoterrorists were behind it, but the panic it engendered shows that "the Breeders" were flirting with a powerful weapon."

"Insects are one of the cheapest and most destructive weapons available to terrorists today, and one of the most widely ignored: they are easy to sneak across borders, reproduce quickly and can spread disease and destroy crops with devastating speed.

A great strategic lesson of 9/11 has been overlooked. Terrorists need only a little ingenuity, not sophisticated weapons, to cause enormous damage. Armed only with box-cutters, terrorists hijacked aircraft and brought down the World Trade Centre. Insects are the box-cutters of biological warfare - cheap, simple and wickedly effective."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest\\_contributors/article5634450.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article5634450.ece)

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### **STRUCTURE OF ENZYME AGAINST CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS DETERMINED**

RedOrbit.com

January 29, 2009

"The enzyme DFPase from the squid *Loligo vulgaris*, is able to rapidly and efficiently detoxify chemical warfare agents such as Sarin, which was used in the Tokyo subway attacks in 1995. A detailed understanding of the mechanism by which enzymes catalyze chemical reactions is necessary for efforts aiming to improve their properties. A group of researchers at the University of Frankfurt, the Bundeswehr Institute for Pharmacology and Toxicology in

Munich, and Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, USA, have successfully determined the structure of DFPase using neutron diffraction. They report their findings in the 20 January 2009 issue of the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (106(3), 713-718)."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1630728/structure\\_of\\_enzyme\\_against\\_chemical\\_warfare\\_agents\\_determined/](http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1630728/structure_of_enzyme_against_chemical_warfare_agents_determined/)

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## **U.S. BEGINS DEPLOYING PORTAL RADIATION SENSORS TO AIRPORTS**

By Chris Schneidmiller  
Global Security Newswire  
January 30, 2009

"The U.S. Homeland Security Department has deployed more than 1,000 cargo-scanning radiation detectors around the country, but until late last year none could be found at the nation's airports.

That changed in September with installation of a radiation portal monitor at Dulles International Airport near Washington, D.C. Another three machines are due to be deployed at unspecified airports this spring and ultimately 30 sites that handle 99 percent of all U.S. airborne cargo could receive the technology.

The intent is to prevent a nuclear or radiological weapon from being smuggled into the country through an airport. It is part of a larger DHS effort that has placed about 1,120 portal units at U.S. seaports and border crossings since 2001."

The full article can be found at: [http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw\\_20090130\\_1559.php](http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090130_1559.php)

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## **PSU SEEKS NEW BIORESEARCH FACILITY**

By Anne Danahy  
CentreDaily.com  
January 31, 2009

"A new bioresearch laboratory that Penn State plans to build will allow researchers to study diseases they can't at the university's existing lab and increase the possibilities for high-level grants, university officials said.

It will be what's known as a biosafety level 3 lab, compared with Penn State's existing level 2 lab. Mary Kennett, director of the Animal Resource Program and a professor of veterinary and biomedical sciences, said that research into salmonella, E. coli, whooping cough and other diseases can take place in a level 2 facility.

But the lack of a level 3 lab has squeezed Penn State out of the competition for federal research funding, Kennett said. And that's caused the university to lose top faculty recruits, she said."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.centredaily.com/news/local/story/1091983.html>

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## **ANTHRAX TREATMENT TO U.S. STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE**

HGS Press Release

February 2, 2009

"Human Genome Sciences, Inc. today announced that it has begun delivery of 20,000 doses of its human monoclonal antibody drug ABthrax™ (raxibacumab) to the U.S. Strategic National Stockpile for use in the treatment of inhalation anthrax.

ABthrax is a first-in-class treatment for anthrax, and the first procurement under Project BioShield of a product discovered and developed after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. It specifically targets the deadly toxins released within the human body by Bacillus anthracis that are the real culprits in most anthrax-related deaths. ABthrax is being developed under a contract entered into in 2006 with the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.hgsi.com/latest/human-genome-sciences-begins-delivery-of-first-in-class-anthrax-treatment-to-u.s.-strategic-national-stoc-4.html>

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## **DHS TO TEST MOBILE RADIATION DETECTORS IN NEVADA IN MAY**

By Jacob Goodwin

Government Security News

February 2, 2009

"DHS's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) is inviting manufacturers of mobile radiation detection systems to send one sample piece of equipment to a government test site in Nevada, where the gear will undergo a rigorous test program in May.

The systems engineering and evaluation directorate of DNDO wants to test "commercially available" gamma-ray "Mobile Platform Radiation Detection Systems" (MPRDS) that also possess neutron detection capability, according to a sources sought notice posted by DNDO on Jan. 30."

"The desired equipment should be able to detect gamma emitting isotopes and neutrons, be

able to perform stationary and mobile operations, be fully integrated into a vehicle, be able to distinguish threat isotopes from non-threat isotopes, and be outfitted with an external alarm, the DHS notice specified.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/1461.html>

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## ***Chem-Demil News***

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### **UMATILLA CHEMICAL DESTRUCTION FACILITY - STATE OKS PERMIT FOR BRINE LOADOUT STATION**

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

January 28, 2009

“The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced conditional approval on Monday of a UMCDF permit modification to add a brine loadout station outside of the double fence surrounding the plant.

Locating a more permanent transfer structure outside the double fence averts the need to bring tankers inside the plant, which improves safety, the permit approval said. Having the transfer station inside the plant required bringing tanker trucks through the sally port at the Entry Control Facility (ECF), which inhibits personnel entry and exit through the ECF. It also required several sharp turns by the tanker trucks, which had to avoid overhead equipment, so it increased the risk of accident, injury, or release to the environment.

The new loadout station is proposed as an enhancement to the current design to reduce the risk of equipment damage and releases to the environment. Plant management anticipates the need for brine shipments five days per week to support HD mustard processing. Work on the new brine loadout station and pipe trench are nearing completion. It includes upgrading the pipe trench portion to double-walled pipe and leak detection, and it upgrades instrumentation and pump capacity.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003679992>

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### **RUSSIA DEACTIVATES FIRST BATCH OF VX-CONTAINING BOMBS AT PENZA REGION FACILITY**

ITAR-TASS

January 28, 2009

"The facility's public relations office told ITAR-TASS today that reaction masses received in the process of detoxification of poisonous substances were removed from bomb casings on 27 January."

"Currently, 22,743 pieces of ammunition containing VX gases are undergoing the stage of detoxification. "That's 4,370 tonnes - almost 85 per cent of the total amount of VX gases stored in military depots in Leonidovka in aerial bomb casings," the public relations office specified.

The construction of buildings and installation of equipment for the second complex is in full swing at the facility. The second complex, at which sarin and soman will be destroyed, is due to be launched at the end of the second quarter of 2009."

Link not available.

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