

11 February 2009

Chem-Bio News

- 1. NERVE AGENT MAY BE MISSING:** *"Pentagon auditors concede that is a remote possibility because of discrepancies in records between how much chemical weapons agent was initially stored and how much of it was later destroyed at Utah's Deseret Chemical Depot and other bases nationwide."*
- 2. LAWMAKERS UPSET OVER DHS EMPLOYEE'S HANDLING OF DEAD FISH, WHITE POWDER:** *"A Homeland Security intelligence official was responsible for bringing a package containing a dead fish and white powder to department offices in downtown Washington Friday, an apparent violation of security protocols that set off a significant security incident, according to sources familiar with the matter."*
- 3. MD. LAB GERM RESEARCH HALTED FOR RECORDS PROBE:** *"The Army said Monday it has suspended much of the research at its flagship biological weapons defense laboratory at Fort Detrick while it makes sure it has accounted for all of its dangerous germs and poisons."*
- 4. OTTAWA WANTS RADIOACTIVE DEVICES REMOVED:** *"The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission has ordered the removal of 28 nuclear devices containing highly radioactive material from the Mackenzie pulp mill north of Prince George."*
- 5. US TOO SLOW IN ADDRESSING WMD THREATS, EXPERTS SAY:** *"The Center for Security Policy gathered experts on chemical, biological and nuclear weapons in New York City to discuss the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism's recently released report, "World at Risk."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

NERVE AGENT MAY BE MISSING

By Lee Davidson
Deseret News
February 8, 2009

"Pentagon auditors concede that is a remote possibility because of discrepancies in records between how much chemical weapons agent was initially stored and how much of it was later destroyed at Utah's Deseret Chemical Depot and other bases nationwide.

But officials believe all the nerve agent in question was destroyed, according to a partially censored U.S. Army Audit Agency report obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request. Auditors list in it several reasons that could have caused apparent-but-unreal variances in those records.

But auditors concluded, "The (Army Chemical Materials) Agency didn't have complete assurance that amounts recorded in the system were accurate, which increased its chances for heightened levels of program scrutiny by federal, state and international organizations that have a vested interest in the elimination of chemical weapons."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,705283634,00.html>

[Return to Top](#)

LAWMAKERS UPSET OVER DHS EMPLOYEE'S HANDLING OF DEAD FISH, WHITE POWDER

By Christian Bourge and Chris Strohm
Government Executive.com
February 10, 2009

"A Homeland Security intelligence official was responsible for bringing a package containing a dead fish and white powder to department offices in downtown Washington Friday, an apparent violation of security protocols that set off a significant security incident, according to sources familiar with the matter.

The incident also has caught the attention of key lawmakers, who want a full report on what happened.

The package was sent Thursday to the home of Maureen McCarthy, a senior adviser for weapons of mass destruction intelligence programs at the Homeland Security Department, according to these sources, who spoke on the condition they not be identified.

Sources said McCarthy brought the package in her car Friday to her office on Vermont Ave., NW and parked her vehicle under a ventilation shaft in the garage.

But one source who defended the move said McCarthy initially placed the dead fish in a sealed bag and put it in her freezer in an effort to secure it, not noticing any white powder in the package. The source added that she was advised to bring it to the office by department security."

The full article can be found at: http://govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=42008&dcn=todaysnews

[Return to Top](#)

MD. LAB GERM RESEARCH HALTED FOR RECORDS PROBE

By David Disheau
Associated Press on Google News
February 10, 2009

"The Army said Monday it has suspended much of the research at its flagship biological weapons defense laboratory at Fort Detrick while it makes sure it has accounted for all of its dangerous germs and poisons.

The decision follows a review of inventory controls prompted by the FBI's conclusion that Fort Detrick scientist Bruce E. Ivins was responsible for the anthrax mailings that killed five people and sickened 17 others in 2001. Ivins killed himself in July after learning he would be charged in the attacks. His attorney maintains he was innocent.

In a memo obtained by The Associated Press, Col. John P. Skvorak orders workers to check all refrigerators and freezers at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick in Frederick for dangerous materials not listed in the lab's database. The memo, sent Wednesday, refers to "BSAT" materials, which are biological select agents and toxins.

"I believe that the probability that there are additional vials of BSAT not captured in our ... database is high," Skvorak wrote."

The full article can be found at: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gy2uxQacyQosF-6Rwoysfgnn_hYgD968AT7G1

[Return to Top](#)

OTTAWA WANTS RADIOACTIVE DEVICES REMOVED

By Gordon Hamilton
The Vancouver Sun
February 7, 2009

"The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission has ordered the removal of 28 nuclear devices containing highly radioactive material from the Mackenzie pulp mill north of Prince George.

The order came after problems surfaced with an application by new owner Worthington Mackenzie to possess the devices, They contain nuclear isotopes which could be used to make a dirty bomb."

"They contain cesium 137 and cobalt 160 two radioactive materials that are extremely toxic in small amounts.

Cesium 137 was the principal contaminant in the Chernobyl disaster. The isotopes are useful in industry because of their strong radioactivity. The 28 devices contain two grams of the isotopes."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Ottawa+wants+radioactive+devices+removed/1263617/story.html>

[Return to Top](#)

US TOO SLOW IN ADDRESSING WMD THREATS, EXPERTS SAY

By Liza Porteus Viana

HSToday

February 10, 2009

"The United States has simply moved too slow and has been too ineffective at safeguarding materials that could be used to make weapons of mass destruction, industry and government experts said at a recent conference in New York City.

The Center for Security Policy gathered experts on chemical, biological and nuclear weapons in New York City to discuss the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism's recently released report, "World at Risk." Congress commissioned the panel upon recommendation of the 9/11 Commission.

Many speakers said the federal government has to stop throwing money or more bureaucratic layers at problems like insufficient security at the nation's nuclear stockpile depots, and instead muster the political will to actually cause effective change. We have to get creative in the way we protect the country as the terrorists get creative in their plots, they said."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/7179/152/>

[Return to Top](#)

END of CB Daily Report.

Send subscription requests, unsubscribing requests, questions and comments to:

Steve Tesko: Steve.Tesko@anser.org

Copyright 2008. *Analytic Services Inc.*

[Analytic Services Inc. DMCA Copyright Notice: http://www.homelandsecurity.org/bulletin/Draft_ANSER_DCMA_Copyright_Notice.htm](http://www.homelandsecurity.org/bulletin/Draft_ANSER_DCMA_Copyright_Notice.htm)

Use of these news articles does not reflect official endorsement.

In accordance with Title 17 (USC), Section 107, this material is distributed without profit or payment and is intended for nonprofit research and educational purposes only.

Reproduction for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.

PRIVACY POLICY

Content provided in the *CB Daily Report* does not reflect the viewpoint(s) of Analytic Services Inc. Analytic Services Inc. does not share, publish, or in any way redistribute subscriber email addresses or any other personal information.