

16 February 2009

Chem-Bio News

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CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

BRITISH AND FRENCH NUCLEAR SUBMARINES 'CRASH IN ATLANTIC'

By David Byers and Charles Bremner

The Times Online [UK]

February 16, 2009

"A cross-channel investigation has been launched after two submarines carrying nuclear weapons – from the Royal and French navies – collided in the Atlantic.

HMS Vanguard and Le Triomphant crashed on February 3 or 4, despite both vessels being equipped with sonar.

The British submarine, which has a crew of 135, weighs nearly 16,000 tonnes and is 150m long, is one of Britain's four V-class subs under the Trident programme.

Armed with 16 ballistic missiles, it is now believed to have been towed last night to Faslane, a nuclear submarine base in Scotland, with dents and scrapes to its hull.

Its French counterpart was reportedly carrying a similar number of warheads, and also had around 130 crew on board."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article5744071.ece>

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KANSAS FARMERS SKEPTICAL OF SAFETY OF NATIONAL BIO-LAB

AgWeek

February 16, 2009

"Although he makes no promises, the dean of agriculture at Kansas State University says he thinks a new federal laboratory to study livestock diseases is no threat to their herds.

Fred Cholick, who spoke at the recent Kansas Cattlemen's Convention, says he would not be afraid to live next door to the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility, which is expected to open on the Kansas State campus in five or six years."

The full article can be found at: http://www.agweek.com/articles/?id=2588&article_id=13631&property_id=41

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DEVICE KILLS BIOHAZARDS FROM LETTERS

By Don Butler
The Ottawa Citizen
February 12, 2009

"Dishwasher-sized box destroys threats that come via the mail."

"Yesterday, the [US] embassy hosted a demonstration of a product designed to neutralize those threats. The MailDefender, developed by Boston-based BioDefense Corp., is a dishwasher-sized stainless steel box capable that can detect and destroy anthrax, smallpox, ricin, plague, E. coli, influenza, HIV and botulism.

It's sort of a microwave oven with attitude. Once mail is placed in its "killing chamber," BioDefense's co-founder Jonathan Morrone told an invited audience of about 60, an internal wheel rotates for 45 minutes, blasting the letters with a mixture of microwave energy, ultraviolet and broad beam light, and infrared energy.

The letters come out undamaged. But any pathogens they contain are "cooked" and rendered harmless, said BioDefense CEO Michael Lu.

The MailDefender sells for \$89,000, Mr. Lu said, but that translates into only pennies per letter -- a bargain considering the massive disruption even hoax attacks can cause. "This is a product you can't afford to be without," he said."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/Technology/Device+kills+biohazards+from+letters/1281240/story.html>

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SMALLPOX ANTIVIRAL FOR THE STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE

Solicitation Number: RFP-BARDA-09-35
Department of Health and Human Services
February 10, 2009

"THIS IS A FORMAL SYNOPSIS OF A PROPOSED CONTRACT ACTION NOTICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH FAR 5.2. THIS IS A SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDE IN ACCORDANCE WITH FAR 19.5. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) is seeking to acquire medical countermeasures (MCM) that will support an effective public health medical emergency response. The United States Government (USG) contemplates award of a five year Firm Fixed Price type contract for MCMs that can specifically provide treatment courses for symptomatic individuals exposed to smallpox. It is the goal of the forthcoming RFP to obtain advanced development products, i.e., at a development level, as classified by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which are in no less than the clinical study phase of the Investigational New Drug (IND) process as well as those products which already have approved therapeutic indications. Prior to the submission of the proposal, the Offeror must have met with the appropriate review division at the FDA to consult on the appropriate path for approval of their respective therapeutic for use in pathologies known to

be associated with, or as components of, a Smallpox antiviral drug. It is the goal of BARDA to place a Smallpox Antiviral drug in the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) as a Final Drug Product (FDP) which can be used for the treatment of individuals who are symptomatic."

The full article can be found at: https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=de86bdf6692468c380b358e99a36158f&tab=core&_cview=0&cck=1&au=&ck=

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