

25 February 2009

Chem-Bio News

1. EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED [TINKER AFB, OK]: *"The third was a disease containment exercise where installation personnel were tested on their ability to respond and protect people from a biological attack."*

2. IG: ENERGY CANNOT ACCOUNT FOR NUCLEAR MATERIALS AT 15 LOCATIONS: *"A number of institutions with licenses to hold nuclear material reported to the Energy Department in 2004 that the amount of material they held was less than agency records indicated. But rather than investigating the discrepancies, Energy officials wrote off significant quantities of nuclear material from the department's inventory records."*

3. FLORIDA COMPANY TARGET OF ANTHRAX HOAX: *"A Boca Raton company at the center of a deadly 2001 anthrax attack was evacuated again after a letter containing white powder arrived at its office."*

4. HARVARD EXPERT NOMINATED FOR KEY PENTAGON POST: *"President Obama late this afternoon nominated Harvard professor Ashton B. Carter, a leading authority on arms control, to take on a surprising new role, according to top administration officials -- as the Pentagon's chief weapons buyer."*

5. DHS-SPONSORED RESEARCH INFECTS LABORATORY MONKEYS WITH MONKEYPOX: *"The DHS Science and Technology Directorate plans to award a sole source contract to the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, of Albuquerque, NM, to complete its study of the "exhalation of aerosols" from monkeys infected with Monkeypox virus."*

6. ARMY CORPS WILL CHECK CHICKASAW ELEMENTARY LAND FOR WW II TOXIC CHEMICALS, BOMB DEBRIS: *"Sometime in the next two months, teams from the Army Corps of Engineers will check the grounds at Chickasaw Elementary School for any sign of debris or contamination left from a former World War II-era bombing range."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED

By Brandice J. Armstrong
Tinker Take Off (USAF)
February 20, 2009

"Over the past nine days, hundreds of Airmen participated in "War Wagon 09-02," a three-part exercise that trains Airmen in threatening situations. The first part simulated a deployment and encouraged Airmen to practice "ability to survive and operate" skills and wartime mission abilities. The second part of the assignment tested the wartime materiel

support exercise which tested the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center industrial processes. The third was a disease containment exercise where installation personnel were tested on their ability to respond and protect people from a biological attack. "No matter where you work, there are threats and contingencies that may affect you," said Paul Logan, exercise designer for the exercise program office. "Don't think because you are off in a corner of Bldg. 3001, tomorrow will be just like today."

"In one tent sat Maj. Lorenzo Gabiola and Tech. Sgt. Vernon Smith of the 72nd Medical Support Squadron's medical lab. Together they simulated a scenario involving contaminated yogurt. Because the medical equipment used on base and during deployments is expensive, the Airmen practice without the machinery, talking their way through the exercise.

Had the major and sergeant had the necessary equipment, they said they would have extracted DNA from the sample and tested it in a safe and clean area. Within four to six hours, they would have reached their results."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.tinkertakeoff.com/article.htm?intRecID=16635>

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IG: ENERGY CANNOT ACCOUNT FOR NUCLEAR MATERIALS AT 15 LOCATIONS

By Katherine McIntire Peters

GovernmentExecutive.com

February 23, 2009

"A number of institutions with licenses to hold nuclear material reported to the Energy Department in 2004 that the amount of material they held was less than agency records indicated. But rather than investigating the discrepancies, Energy officials wrote off significant quantities of nuclear material from the department's inventory records.

That's just one of the findings of a report released on Monday by Energy Department Inspector General Gregory Friedman that concluded "the department cannot properly account for and effectively manage its nuclear materials maintained by domestic licensees and may be unable to detect lost or stolen material."

Auditors found that Energy could not accurately account for the quantities and locations of nuclear material at 15 out of 40, or 37 percent, of facilities reviewed. The materials written off included 20,580 grams of enriched uranium, 45 grams of plutonium, 5,001 kilograms of normal uranium and 189,139 kilograms of depleted uranium."

The full article can be found at: http://govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=42100&dcn=todaysnews

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FLORIDA COMPANY TARGET OF ANTHRAX HOAX

WPBF.com

February 22, 2009

"A Boca Raton company at the center of a deadly 2001 anthrax attack was evacuated again after a letter containing white powder arrived at its office.

Tabloid publisher American Media Inc. evacuated for about 45 minutes Friday until police determined the powder was harmless."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.wpbf.com/news/18769648/detail.html>

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HARVARD EXPERT NOMINATED FOR KEY PENTAGON POST

By Bryan Bender

Boston.com

February 23, 2009

"President Obama late this afternoon nominated Harvard professor Ashton B. Carter, a leading authority on arms control, to take on a surprising new role, according to top administration officials -- as the Pentagon's chief weapons buyer.

The choice of Carter to run the office that oversees hundreds of billions of dollars for new weapons and research -- and the focus of intense lobbying by defense firms, retired generals, and members of Congress -- has been rumored for weeks. And word of his pending nomination has already sparked concern within the defense industry and some of the Pentagon bureaucracy.

But that may be exactly what Obama and Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates want.

Unlike most of his predecessors selected to be under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, Carter has no professional ties to America's arms makers or manufacturing industry, nor has he spent his career in government procurement. Instead, from his perch at Harvard's Kennedy School, Carter has been criticizing the Pentagon for buying too many armaments it doesn't need, decrying what he calls a lack of discipline and "failure to take account of cost growth in weapons systems and defense services."

The full article can be found at: http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2009/02/harvard_expert.html

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DHS-SPONSORED RESEARCH INFECTS LABORATORY MONKEYS WITH MONKEYPOX

By Jacob Goodwin

“The DHS Science and Technology Directorate plans to award a sole source contract to the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, of Albuquerque, NM, to complete its study of the “exhalation of aerosols” from monkeys infected with Monkeypox virus.

The ongoing study is part of scientific research sponsored by DHS intended to identify the causes and potential cures of Monkeyvirus, which first broke out in the U.S. in 2003.

“The source of that outbreak was traced to a shipment of mammals from Africa, particularly Gambian rats, which were kept near prairie dogs that were sold as pets,” according to Steve Down, in an article titled *Sorting the poxes*, published last year by John Wiley and Sons Ltd. “The prairie dogs became infected and passed the virus on to humans.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/1575.html>

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ARMY CORPS WILL CHECK CHICKASAW ELEMENTARY LAND FOR WW II TOXIC CHEMICALS, BOMB DEBRIS

By Rich McKay
OrlandoSentinel.com
February 24, 2009

“Sometime in the next two months, teams from the Army Corps of Engineers will check the grounds at Chickasaw Elementary School for any sign of debris or contamination left from a former World War II-era bombing range.

Randy Curtis, a project manager with the Corps' Jacksonville office, told Orange County commissioners today that there is no cause for alarm because the school at 6900 Autumnvale Drive appears to have been built in a buffer zone for the former Orlando Army Airfield, Toxic Gas and Decontamination Yard – and not on an active part of the former range.”

“The 2,100-acre site in Azaela Park -- north of Curry Ford Road along Goldenrod Road -- came to light during the Corps' investigation of another bombing range. In the 1940s, when the land was swamp and Florida scrub, the Army used the land as a toxic-gas yard. Soldiers were trained to protect themselves and decontaminate their equipment from combat gases, including mustard gas and Lewisite, a deadly arsenic compound that smells like gardenias. The Army also stored toxic gas there.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/iphone/orl-bk-bombingrange-toxicyard-orlando-022409,0,2520490,iphone.story>

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