

8 July 2009

Chem-Bio News

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- 2. BOMB SEIZURES SPARK FAR-RIGHT TERROR PLOT FEAR:** *"Fears have been heightened by the discovery of an alleged plot involving ricin, a lethal poison; two men have been charged with offences under the Terrorism Act."*
- 3. MILLIONS OF MUSCOVITES AT RISK OF TOXIC WASTE POISONING:** *"Crowds of Muscovites are flocking city parks, but few are aware that a popular place of leisure used to be a testing ground for chemical and biological weapons and remnants from those experiments are still buried there."*
- 4. BIDEN GIVES APPARENT GREEN LIGHT FOR ISRAELI IRAN ATTACK:** *"Vice President Joe Biden signaled that the Obama administration would not stand in the way if Israel chose to attack Iran's nuclear facilities, even as the top U.S. military officer said any attack on Iran would be destabilizing."*
- 5. U.S. MILITARY CHIEF SAYS CLOCK TICKING ON IRAN NUKE:** *"The top U.S. military officer warned on Tuesday that time is running out for dialogue with Tehran to avoid either a nuclear-armed Iran or a possible military strike against the Islamic Republic."*
- 6. NEW FLU VIRUS FOUND IN CANADIAN PIG FARM WORKERS:** *"The Canadian authorities have announced that a new strain of influenza A virus has been found in two pig farm workers in the Province of Saskatchewan but it is not a new strain of A(H1N1) pandemic swine flu."*

Chem-Demil News

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- 2. UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT - TRACE OF MUSTARD CHEMICAL AGENT VAPOR DETECTED:** *"Depot chemical operations monitoring workers detected trace amounts of HD mustard chemical agent vapor today inside a depot storage structure or "igloo" that houses bulk containers."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

SAUDIS GIVE NOD TO ISRAELI RAID ON IRAN

By Uzi Mahnaimi and Sarah Baxter
TimesOnline.co.uk
July 05, 2009

"The head of Mossad, Israel's overseas intelligence service, has assured Benjamin Netanyahu, its prime minister, that Saudi Arabia would turn a blind eye to Israeli jets flying over the kingdom during any future raid on Iran's nuclear sites.

Earlier this year Meir Dagan, Mossad's director since 2002, held secret talks with Saudi officials to discuss the possibility.

The Israeli press has already carried unconfirmed reports that high-ranking officials, including Ehud

Olmert, the former prime minister, held meetings with Saudi colleagues. The reports were denied by Saudi officials.”

The full article can be found at:

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle_east/article6638568.ece

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BOMB SEIZURES SPARK FAR-RIGHT TERROR PLOT FEAR

By David Leppard
TimesOnline.co.uk
July 05, 2009

“A network of suspected far-right extremists with access to 300 weapons and 80 bombs has been uncovered by counter-terrorism detectives.

Thirty-two people have been questioned in a police operation that raises the prospect of a right-wing bombing campaign against mosques. Police are said to have recovered a British National party membership card and other right-wing literature during a raid on the home of one suspect charged under the Terrorism Act.

In England’s largest seizure of a suspected terrorist arsenal since the IRA mainland bombings of the early 1990s, rocket launchers, grenades, pipe bombs and dozens of firearms have been recovered in the past six weeks during raids on more than 20 properties. Several people have been charged and more arrests are imminent. Current police activity is linked to arrests in Europe, New Zealand and Australia.

Police are examining allegations that many of the guns were manufactured or reactivated, then sold over the internet to viewers of a right-wing website. Details of the previously secret operation were disclosed by Sir Norman Bettison, the chief constable of West Yorkshire, to security officials.

Police sources say that in a recent case not linked to the current arrests, detectives seized maps and plans of mosques from the homes of suspected far-right supporters. A senior Whitehall official said MI5 was monitoring the police investigation. While the security agency did not have a brief to probe right-wing terrorism, that position was constantly under review, said the official.

Fears have been heightened by the discovery of an alleged plot involving ricin, a lethal poison; two men have been charged with offences under the Terrorism Act.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article6638139.ece>

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MILLIONS OF MUSCOVITES AT RISK OF TOXIC WASTE POISONING

RussiaToday.com
July 03, 2009

“Crowds of Muscovites are flocking city parks, but few are aware that a popular place of leisure used to be a testing ground for chemical and biological weapons and remnants from those experiments are still buried there.

Thousands visit Moscow's Kuzminki park each day for a scenic walk or a good catch, and it doesn't look like a toxic graveyard at all.

But Dr. Lev Fyodorov, a leading chemical weapons expert, knows better.

"There is mustard gas everywhere here. The smell is overpowering. There are tons of chemical weapons just inches beneath my feet," says Fyodorov, Chemical Safety Association president."

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"Despite its location, after World War I, Kuzminki was set up by the Soviets to test their newest chemical and biological weapons.

When the authorities decided to move it further out in the 1940s, the clean-up operation was rudimentary at best.

"I was fifteen and a volunteer. We were told to bury the toxic waste in the ground. There were test tubes, barrels, special suits. We dug out a 1.5 meter-deep trench, and just flung them in," says Boleslav Grokholsky, a former waste-removal volunteer."

The full article can be found at: http://www.russiatoday.com/Top_News/2009-07-03/Millions_of_Muscovites_at_risk_of_toxic_waste_poisoning.html?fullstory

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BIDEN GIVES APPARENT GREEN LIGHT FOR ISRAELI IRAN ATTACK

Newsmax.com

July 05, 2009

"Vice President Joe Biden signaled that the Obama administration would not stand in the way if Israel chose to attack Iran's nuclear facilities, even as the top U.S. military officer said any attack on Iran would be destabilizing.

Biden's remarks suggested a tougher U.S. stance against Iran's nuclear ambitions. Nonetheless, administration officials insisted his televised remarks Sunday reflected the U.S. view that Israel has a right to defend itself and make its own decisions on national security.

In an interview on ABC's "This Week," Biden also said the U.S. offer to negotiate with Tehran on its nuclear program still stands. Some thought the administration's approach might change in light of the Iranian government's harsh crackdown on protesters after the June 12 presidential election. Opponents of the ruling authorities claimed the vote was rigged against them."

The full article can be found at:

http://www.newsmax.com/headlines/biden_israel_iran/2009/07/05/232132.html

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U.S. MILITARY CHIEF SAYS CLOCK TICKING ON IRAN NUKE

By David Morgan

Reuters

July 08, 2009

"The top U.S. military officer warned on Tuesday that time is running out for dialogue with Tehran to avoid either a nuclear-armed Iran or a possible military strike against the Islamic Republic.

Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said it is critical for diplomatic efforts to reach a solution before Iran develops a nuclear weapon or faces an Israeli or U.S. strike to turn back its nuclear program.

"That window is a very narrow window," Mullen told an audience at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank."

The full article can be found at: <http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-40879020090707>
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NEW FLU VIRUS FOUND IN CANADIAN PIG FARM WORKERS

Medical News Today
July 08, 2009

“The Canadian authorities have announced that a new strain of influenza A virus has been found in two pig farm workers in the Province of Saskatchewan but it is not a new strain of A(H1N1) pandemic swine flu.”

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“An investigation by scientists at the National Microbiology Laboratory of the PHAC in Winnipeg, found that the new strain contains genes from human seasonal flu and swine flu viruses. However, it is not a new strain of the pandemic A(H1N1) flu virus that has killed more than 400 people worldwide and contains human, swine and avian flu genes.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/156692.php>
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Chem-Demil News

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT CHANGE OF COMMAND SET FOR JULY 16

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release
July 06, 2009

“Lt. Col. Kris Perkins will assume command of the U.S. Army Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) from Lt. Col. Bob Stein in a July 16 change of command ceremony at the depot. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m.

Invited guests, depot employees and media representatives will attend the Thursday morning ceremony.

Perkins, 39, will be the 35th commander in the depot’s 68-year history. As commander, he’ll be responsible for safe and secure storage of the depot’s chemical weapons and depot closure efforts during his two-year tenure. The Umatilla Chemical Depot is slated for eventual closure under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) when the chemical weapons disposal mission is completed.

Conrad Whyne, director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) headquartered in Aberdeen, Md., will lead the change of command ceremony. CMA is the parent command of UMCD.

Lt. Col. Stein is being assigned to U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland at the end of his two-year command tenure here.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003680968>
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TRACE OF MUSTARD CHEMICAL AGENT VAPOR DETECTED

“Depot chemical operations monitoring workers detected trace amounts of HD mustard chemical agent vapor today inside a depot storage structure or “igloo” that houses bulk containers. The traces of mustard chemical agent vapor were detected during routine weekly monitoring. The vapor is likely due to a leaking bulk container.

There was no danger to the public or environment. The igloos have a passive filtration system that prevents chemical agent vapor from escaping outside the structures. As a further protective measure after each leak is discovered, a powered filtration system was installed on the igloo. The leaking container will be identified, inspected, repaired as necessary, and decontaminated.

The depot is currently disposing of the HD mustard ton containers in its final agent disposal campaign after successfully destroying its stockpile of GB Sarin and VX nerve agents.

Mustard is a blister agent that freezes below 59 degrees Fahrenheit and is thawed above that temperature. As aging mustard bulk containers thaw out in warmer months of the year, they can leak. Those leaks are typically first discovered when depot monitoring workers routinely check for agent vapors from outside the igloo.

Mustard agent is a colorless to light yellow to dark brown oily liquid, depending upon the age and relative purity of the material. It has the odor of garlic or horseradish and its vapor is approximately 5.5 times heavier than air. Although mustard does not readily evaporate, it may pose both a liquid contact hazard and a vapor hazard to the eyes, skin or respiratory tract. The only type of mustard munition stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot is bulk containers or “ton containers.” Those munitions have no explosive components.

Depot officials routinely notify the public when such incidents occur. Army officials also notify off-post emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow counties, Ore.; Benton County, Wash.; those in Oregon and Washington states; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003681002>
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