

27 July 2009

Chem-Bio News

1. TERRORISTS COULD USE INTERNET TO LAUNCH NUCLEAR ATTACK: REPORT:

"The claims come in a study commissioned by the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND), which suggests that under the right circumstances, terrorists could break into computer systems and launch an attack on a nuclear state – triggering a catastrophic chain of events that would have a global impact."

2. CROATIA REJECTS ANTI-TERRORIST TRAINING CENTER: *"If the proposal had been accepted, the facility would have been the largest training ground of its type in Europe, housing large stores of chemicals and viruses on site. Its construction would have cost 15 million kuna (just over two million euros)."*

3. DHS SCANS 98 PERCENT OF IMPORTS FOR RADIATION: *"According to the report, Customs and Border Protection operates at 58 ports around the world to screen containers for terrorist risk under the Container Security Initiative."*

4. AGENT ORANGE LINKED TO HEART DISEASE, PARKINSON'S: *"A study from the Institute of Medicine released Friday contains several caveats, but suggests there is a stronger connection than previously thought about the health risks to Vietnam veterans."*

5. US ON VERGE OF CLOSING ANTHRAX PROBE AFTER 8 YEARS: *"Several law enforcement officials told The Associated Press that the department had tentatively planned last week to close the case, but backed away from that decision after government lawyers said they needed more time to review the evidence and determine what further information can be made public without compromising grand jury secrecy or privacy laws."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

TERRORISTS COULD USE INTERNET TO LAUNCH NUCLEAR ATTACK: REPORT

By Bobbie Johnson
The Guardian
July 24, 2009

"The claims come in a study commissioned by the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND), which suggests that under the right circumstances, terrorists could break into computer systems and launch an attack on a nuclear state – triggering a catastrophic chain of events that would have a global impact.

Without better protection of computer and information systems, the paper suggests, governments around the world are leaving open the possibility that a well-coordinated cyberwar could quickly elevate to nuclear levels.

In fact, says the study, "this may be an easier alternative for terrorist groups than building or acquiring a nuclear weapon or dirty bomb themselves".

The full article can be found at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2009/jul/24/internet-cyber-attack-terrorists>

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CROATIA REJECTS ANTI-TERRORIST TRAINING CENTER

BalkanInsight.com

July 24, 2009

"If the proposal had been accepted, the facility would have been the largest training ground of its type in Europe, housing large stores of chemicals and viruses on site. Its construction would have cost 15 million kuna (just over two million euros).

The US has sought a facility for training troops in methods to deal with chemical and biological weapons attack on Croatia's Dalmatian coast because the region enjoys good weather. This allows almost eight months of active training, which cannot take place in inclement weather.

While the ministry opposes construction of the centre, it stands in favour of other companies or organisations using the abandoned warehouses on site."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/main/news/21296/>

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DHS SCANS 98 PERCENT OF IMPORTS FOR RADIATION

By R.G. Edmonson

The Journal of Commerce

July 21, 2009

"The Department of Homeland Security scans 98 percent of imported cargo for radiation, according to a new report. The report touts the department's achievements in the five years since the 9/11 Commission reported on U.S. preparedness to face terrorist attacks.

According to the report, Customs and Border Protection operates at 58 ports around the world to screen containers for terrorist risk under the Container Security Initiative. Under the separate Secure Freight Initiative, the agency scans all containers at five ports.

Under the law Congress passed last year to implement all recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, it called for 100 percent scanning of all U.S.-bound cargo by 2012. The report is silent on the department's progress toward meeting that goal, although last year officials told Congress that they would not meet the deadline."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.joc.com/node/412494>

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AGENT ORANGE LINKED TO HEART DISEASE, PARKINSON'S

By RICHARD LARDNER

Associated Press on FindLaw.com

July 24, 2009

“Medical researchers say there may be a link between exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange and other herbicides used during the Vietnam War and an increased chance of developing serious heart problems and Parkinson's disease.

A study from the Institute of Medicine released Friday contains several caveats, but suggests there is a stronger connection than previously thought about the health risks to Vietnam veterans.

The research was sponsored by the Veterans Affairs Department, which will decide what to do with the findings.”

The full article can be found at: http://news.lp.findlaw.com/ap/a/w/1155/07-24-2009/20090724092006_11.html

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US ON VERGE OF CLOSING ANTHRAX PROBE AFTER 8 YEARS

By Devlin Barrett

Associated Press on Yahoo! News

July 26, 2009

“Several law enforcement officials told The Associated Press that the department had tentatively planned last week to close the case, but backed away from that decision after government lawyers said they needed more time to review the evidence and determine what further information can be made public without compromising grand jury secrecy or privacy laws.

Officials told the AP the decision to close the case has been put off for what may be weeks, as the FBI and Justice Department continue to wrestle with an investigation that has led many to question the quality of their work and the certainty of their conclusions.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iVV4-3Z1an1LfZXDYeNY2vokK0QAD99M7TU01>

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