

Chem-Bio News

- 1. AIR FORCE RESEARCHER WINS TOP SCIENCE AWARD:** *"Maj. (Dr) Vikhyat Bebartha, chief of medical toxicology and a staff emergency physician, is the recipient of the Best Basic Science Research Award, presented by the Society of Academic Emergency Medicine, for his research on evaluating treatments for cyanide poisoning."*
- 2. O'TOOLE QUESTIONED ON BIOTERROR EXERCISES:** *"President Barack Obama's nominee for Under Secretary for the Science and Technology Directorate, Tara O'Toole, was subject to questioning by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs in her confirmation hearing on Wednesday. Among the questions asked was what her involvement was with two controversial bioterrorism exercises."*
- 3. COMMERCE DEPT. TO MONITOR EXPORTS OF INGREDIENTS FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS:** *"In an effort to identify individuals and organizations seeking to purchase chemicals that could be transformed into lethal chemical weapons, the U.S. Department of Commerce will begin monitoring the export of "sample shipments of chemical weapon precursors," to watch for suspicious quantities and patterns of such sales."*
- 4. NAPOLITANO TO KEYNOTE CHEMICAL SECTOR SECURITY SUMMIT:** *"DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano will be a keynote speaker at the upcoming Chemical Sector Security Summit, to be held June 29 - July 1, in Baltimore, MD."*
- 5. FEMA SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON TWO RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DOCUMENTS:** *"These documents will update emergency preparedness requirements for planning and response organizations regarding how they operate around nuclear power plants."*
- 6. U.S. FACING SHORTAGE OF NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS:** *"According to the GAO report, efforts to recruit and train new scientists are "ad hoc and uncoordinated."*
- 7. RUSSIA MILITARY SAYS NEEDS 1,500 WARHEADS: REPORT:** *"Russia must keep at least 1,500 nuclear warheads after talks with the United States on a new arms treaty, Interfax news agency quoted the commander of Russia's Strategic Nuclear Forces as saying Wednesday."*
- 8. WHO DECLARES FIRST 21ST CENTURY FLU PANDEMIC:** *"The World Health Organization declared an influenza pandemic on Thursday and advised governments to prepare for a long-term battle against an unstoppable new flu virus."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

AIR FORCE RESEARCHER WINS TOP SCIENCE AWARD

By Linda Frost
US Air Force website
June 08, 2009

"A Wilford Hall doctor has received one of the highest distinctions a researcher can achieve, according to medical officials here.

Maj. (Dr) Vikhyat Bebartha, chief of medical toxicology and a staff emergency physician, is the recipient of the Best Basic Science Research Award, presented by the Society of Academic Emergency Medicine, for his research on evaluating treatments for cyanide poisoning.

SAEM is the premier organization for emergency medicine research and is dedicated to the

improvement of care for the acutely ill and injured patient by improving research and education.

The year-long research involved the comparison of two antidotes to determine the most effective treatment for cases of cyanide poisoning resulting in cardiac arrest or death.

The study makes headway in providing better treatment for the men and women of the Armed Forces. Service members are exposed to building fires in the U.S and in combat, and they can be exposed to cyanide. It is a high-level terrorist threat and has been used as a weapon by terrorists."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123152867>

[Return to Top](#)

O'TOOLE QUESTIONED ON BIOTERROR EXERCISES

By Wes Mayle

HSToday

June 11, 2009

"President Barack Obama's nominee for Under Secretary for the Science and Technology Directorate, Tara O'Toole, was subject to questioning by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs in her confirmation hearing on Wednesday. Among the questions asked was what her involvement was with two controversial bioterrorism exercises."

"According to Lieberman, the criticism is based on what some have called a severe portrayal of the outcome of a smallpox outbreak and that some have called her science "not sound." Her critics, according to Lieberman, were concerned on the policy side of things in that if someone of O'Toole's stature predicts such a harsh scenario, more money would be allocated to the prevention of bio-medical warfare than the other facets of homeland security."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/8900/152/>

[Return to Top](#)

COMMERCE DEPT. TO MONITOR EXPORTS OF INGREDIENTS FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS

By Jacob Goodwin

Government Security News

June 11, 2009

"In an effort to identify individuals and organizations seeking to purchase chemicals that could be transformed into lethal chemical weapons, the U.S. Department of Commerce will begin monitoring the export of "sample shipments of chemical weapon precursors," to watch for suspicious quantities and patterns of such sales.

The Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security announced on June 11 that it will examine newly required quarterly reports filed by U.S. exporters that provide information on the chemical sample exported, quantity, name and address of recipient and the date shipped."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/2144.html>

[Return to Top](#)

NAPOLITANO TO KEYNOTE CHEMICAL SECTOR SECURITY SUMMIT

By Louis Chunovic

Government Security News

June 09, 2009

“DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano will be a keynote speaker at the upcoming Chemical Sector Security Summit, to be held June 29 - July 1, in Baltimore, MD.

The annual event "allows participants to learn about the roles of different agencies and departments involved in chemical security and ask specific questions about the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards," according to a CSSS statement.

Topics the summit will explore include emergency response, communications interoperability, and accessibility post-disaster; identifying and defeating WMDs; state and local issues, and the congressional perspective.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/2127.html>
[Return to Top](#)

FEMA SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON TWO RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DOCUMENTS

Government Security News
June 10, 2009

“These documents will update emergency preparedness requirements for planning and response organizations regarding how they operate around nuclear power plants.

The two documents are supplement 4 to Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants (NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, Rev.1) and the proposed revision to the August 2002 Interim Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) program manual.

Supplement 4 provides additional guidance for the development, review and evaluation of offsite emergency response planning. The guidance assists in planning for and responding to hostile, action-based events and ensures more challenging drills and exercises.

The guidance enhances exercise activities to avoid player preconditioning and predictability of scenarios and ensures that backup means for alert and notification systems are in place. Additionally, the guidance integrates and updates REP policy and guidance with tenets of the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act, as well as other national incident and response frameworks.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/2132.html>
[Return to Top](#)

U.S. FACING SHORTAGE OF NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS

Government Security News
June 10, 2009

“The U.S. faces a growing shortage of Ph.D.-level scientists trained in relevant fields for nuclear forensics, according to the unclassified version of a Government Accountability Office report, entitled Nuclear Forensics: Comprehensive Interagency Plan Needed to Address Human Capital Issues, which was released recently by the House Committee on Homeland Security.

According to the GAO report, efforts to recruit and train new scientists are "ad hoc and uncoordinated."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/2134.html>
[Return to Top](#)

RUSSIA MILITARY SAYS NEEDS 1,500 WARHEADS: REPORT

By Conor Sweeney

Reuters

June 10, 2009

“Russia must keep at least 1,500 nuclear warheads after talks with the United States on a new arms treaty, Interfax news agency quoted the commander of Russia's Strategic Nuclear Forces as saying Wednesday.

If Moscow's final position reflects Colonel-General Nikolai Solovtsov's view, it would mean Russia is not willing to cut its stockpiles by more than a few hundred strategic warheads - far less than some arms control bodies had hoped.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE55925F20090610>

[Return to Top](#)

WHO DECLARES FIRST 21ST CENTURY FLU PANDEMIC

By Jonathan Lynn

Reuters

June 11, 2009

“The World Health Organization declared an influenza pandemic on Thursday and advised governments to prepare for a long-term battle against an unstoppable new flu virus.

The United Nations agency raised its pandemic flu alert to phase 6 on a six-point scale, indicating the first influenza pandemic since 1968 is under way.

"With today's announcement, WHO moves from an emergency to a longer-term response. Based on past experience, this pandemic will be with us for some months, if not years, to come," WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan said in a letter to staff, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSTRE55A1U720090612>

[Return to Top](#)

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