

4 March 2009

Chem-Bio News

- 1. HOLT INTRODUCES ANTHRAX COMMISSION LEGISLATION:** *"Bill Would Create 9/11 Commission-Style Panel to Investigate Anthrax Attacks and Government Response."*
- 2. WATCHDOG SAYS FEW ISRAELIS SAFE FROM CHEMICAL HIT:** *"A parliamentary panel said Monday that most Israelis have no protection against chemical weapons attack and harshly criticized defense officials for what it called a "continuing mess" in failing to replace stockpiles of worn and obsolete gas mask and antidote kits."*
- 3. SIMPLE DEVICE ENSURES FOOD GETS TO THE STORE BACTERIA FREE:** *"Kevin Keener's in-bag ozonation method creates ozone in packaged foods by using high-voltage coils to charge the gas inside sealed food packages, effectively killing any bacteria inside them."*
- 4. TINY 'LAB-ON-A-CHIP' DETECTS POLLUTANTS, DISEASE AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS:** *"We've developed a platform -- essentially a micro-sized, quarter-inch square 'lab' -- employing genetically engineered bacteria that light up when presented with a stressor in water," says Prof. Shacham-Diamand."*

Chem-Demil News

- 1. [LEXINGTON BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT] - OPERATION SWIFT SOLUTION REACHES CRITICAL MILESTONE:** *"Operation Swift Solution, the Army initiative to eliminate three deteriorating steel containers storing a mixture of GB nerve agent and its decontamination breakdown products, reached another critical milestone Thursday when two trucks holding the caustic wastewater, known as hydrolysate and generated during the neutralization process, were received at Veolia Environmental Services near Port Arthur, Texas."*
- 2. [UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY] - WASHINGTON DEMILITARIZATION COMPANY PAYS \$20,000 DEQ PENALTY FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS AT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY:** *"Washington Demilitarization Company LLC, co-operator of the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Hermiston, has paid a \$20,000 Oregon Department of Environmental Quality penalty for violating its hazardous waste permit in April 2008."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

HOLT INTRODUCES ANTHRAX COMMISSION LEGISLATION

Rep. Rush Holt (NJ) Press Release

March 3, 2009

"Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today introduced the Anthrax Attacks Investigation Act of 2009, legislation that would establish a Congressional commission to investigate the 2001 anthrax attacks and the federal government's response to and investigation of the attacks. The bipartisan commission would make recommendations to the President and Congress on how the country can best prevent and respond to any future bioterrorism attack. The attacks evidently originated from a postal box in Holt's Central New Jersey congressional district, disrupting the lives and livelihoods of many of his constituents. Holt has consistently raised questions about the federal investigation into the attacks.

"All of us – but especially the families of the victims of the anthrax attacks – deserve credible answers about how the attacks happened and whether the case really is closed," Holt said. "The Commission, like the 9/11 Commission, would do that, and it would help American families know that the government is better prepared to protect them and their children from future bioterrorism attacks."

Under Holt's legislation, the commission would be comprised of no more than six members of from the same political party. The commission would hold public hearings, except in situations where classified information would be discussed. The commission would have to consult the National Academies of Sciences for recommendations on scientific staff to serve on the Commission. The Commission's final report would be due 18 months after the Commission begins operations.

"Myriad questions remain about the anthrax attacks and the government's bungled response to the attacks," Holt said. "One of the most effective oversight mechanisms we can employ to get answers to those questions is a 9/11 style Commission."

The full article can be found at: http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/nj12_holt/030309.html

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WATCHDOG SAYS FEW ISRAELIS SAFE FROM CHEMICAL HIT

By Steve Weizman

Associated Press on Google News

March 3, 2009

"A parliamentary panel said Monday that most Israelis have no protection against chemical weapons attack and harshly criticized defense officials for what it called a "continuing mess" in failing to replace stockpiles of worn and obsolete gas mask and antidote kits.

The annual report of the State Comptroller's Committee said a 2004 Cabinet decision to collect kits previously distributed to the public and to store and maintain them centrally was never properly followed through.

"The low incidence of functioning protection kits will not allow the provision of protection to most of the citizens of Israel in the event that the country is attacked," it said.

The kits — containing gas masks, filters, syringes with an antidote for nerve gas and powder for neutralizing chemicals — were originally distributed in 1990, ahead of the first Gulf War. Although Israel did not fight in the U.S.-led war, Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles at Israel. Despite fears about Iraqi chemical capabilities, none turned out to have chemical warheads.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hVuoqGf40XxQitz_URI_ORHoI1KAD96M58F80

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SIMPLE DEVICE ENSURES FOOD GETS TO THE STORE BACTERIA FREE

By Brian Wallheimer

Infection Control Today Magazine

March 2, 2009

“Kevin Keener’s in-bag ozonation method creates ozone in packaged foods by using high-voltage coils to charge the gas inside sealed food packages, effectively killing any bacteria inside them.”

“A Purdue University researcher has found a way to eliminate bacteria in packaged foods such as spinach and tomatoes, a process that could eliminate worries concerning some foodborne illnesses. Kevin Keener designed a device consisting of a set of high-voltage coils attached to a small transformer that generates a room-temperature plasma field inside a package, ionizing the gases inside. The process kills harmful bacteria such as E. coli and salmonella, which have caused major public health concerns.

Keener's process is outlined in an article released online early in LWT - Food Science and Technology, a journal for the Swiss Society of Food and Technology and the International Union of Food Science and Technology.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.infectioncontrolday.com/hotnews/bacteria-free-food-device.html>

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TINY 'LAB-ON-A-CHIP' DETECTS POLLUTANTS, DISEASE AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

Nanotechwire.com

March 2, 2009

“A team led by Prof. Yosi Shacham-Diamand, vice-dean of TAU's Faculty of Engineering, has developed a nano-sized laboratory, complete with a microscopic workbench, to measure water quality in real time. Their "lab on a chip" is a breakthrough in the effort to keep water safe from pollution and bioterrorist threats, pairing biology with the cutting-edge capabilities

of nanotechnology.

"We've developed a platform -- essentially a micro-sized, quarter-inch square 'lab' -- employing genetically engineered bacteria that light up when presented with a stressor in water," says Prof. Shacham-Diamand. Equipment on the little chip can work to help detect very tiny light levels produced by the bacteria."

The full article can be found at: <http://nanotechwire.com/news.asp?nid=7494>

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Chem-Demil News

[LEXINGTON BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT] - OPERATION SWIFT SOLUTION REACHES CRITICAL MILESTONE

The Richmond Register (KY)
February 28, 2009

"Operation Swift Solution, the Army initiative to eliminate three deteriorating steel containers storing a mixture of GB nerve agent and its decontamination breakdown products, reached another critical milestone Thursday when two trucks holding the caustic wastewater, known as hydrolysate and generated during the neutralization process, were received at Veolia Environmental Services near Port Arthur, Texas.

The United States received credit under the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty for chemical destruction when the hydrolysate was off-loaded at the Veolia site."

The full article can be found at: http://www.richmondregister.com/localnews/local_story_059215746.html

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[UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY] - WASHINGTON DEMILITARIZATION COMPANY PAYS \$20,000 DEQ PENALTY FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS AT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY

State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality News Release
March 2, 2009

"Washington Demilitarization Company LLC, co-operator of the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Hermiston, has paid a \$20,000 Oregon Department of Environmental Quality penalty for violating its hazardous waste permit in April 2008. The U.S. Army Umatilla Chemical Depot, a section of the United States Department of the Army, owns the

facility.

On April 19, 2008, personnel at the facility conducted maintenance activities and discovered high levels of moisture in the flue gas stream. The moisture affected required monitoring of the facility's common emissions stack. To protect public health and the environment, the facility must shut down incineration systems if required monitoring systems are not operating properly. The facility should have halted hazardous waste processing until the status of the stack monitoring could be determined.

Washington Demilitarization Company LLC violated its hazardous waste permit by feeding hazardous waste to two incinerators that exhaust to the common stack while required monitoring instruments failed to operate properly. This self-reported violation was corrected and procedures to ensure that chemical agent is sufficiently treated and the emissions from the common stack are within safe limits are in place."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/news/prDisplay.asp?docID=2880>

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