18 March 2009

Chem-Bio News

1. CAN EMPLOYEES BE TRUSTED TO HANDLE 'SELECT AGENTS'?: *"The National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity will hold an open meeting in Bethesda, MD, on April 3, at which members of the scientific community, research organizations and the general public will discuss measures that institutions should take to assess whether their employees are trustworthy and reliable enough to work with dangerous biological agents and toxins known as "Select Agents."*

2. MUNITIONS DUMP ELUDES UNDERSEA HUNTERS: *"After 12 dives six miles south of Pearl Harbor, University of Hawaii and Army researchers using deep-diving submersibles and remote underwater drones still have not located the main site of chemical munitions believed to have been dumped there during and after World War II."*

3. DHS SEEKS SYSTEM-OF-SYSTEMS FOR IMPROVED RADIATION DETECTION: *"The Domestic Nuclear Detection Office issued a broad agency announcement on March 16 seeking proposals to develop an "intelligent radiation sensor system," which would consist of various detection devices, communications hardware, control hardware, software and algorithms, all intended to provide better detection of threatening radiation sources than a single, stand-alone detection unit."*

4. COLUMBUS PROVEN NOT GUILTY OF BRINGING ANTHRAX TO AMERICA: *"A new research has shown that Christopher Columbus, along with other medieval European explorers, did not introduce anthrax in the Americas, as the deadly bacteria arrived in the continent thousands of years earlier, when Stone Age humans crossed the Bering land bridge."*

Chem-Demil News

1. PINE BLUFF TON CONTAINER DECONTAMINATION FACILITY: *US Army Chemical Materials Agency Fact Sheet.*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

CAN EMPLOYEES BE TRUSTED TO HANDLE 'SELECT AGENTS'?
By Jacob Goodwin
Government Security News
March 16, 2009

"The National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity will hold an open meeting in Bethesda, MD, on April 3, at which members of the scientific community, research organizations and

the general public will discuss measures that institutions should take to assess whether their employees are trustworthy and reliable enough to work with dangerous biological agents and toxins known as “Select Agents.”

“The one day meeting will be held at the Bethesda Marriott Hotel at 5151 Pooks Hill Road from 8 AM to 5:15 PM.

Further information is available from Ronna Hill, of the NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities, at 301-435-2137.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/1688.html

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MUNITIONS DUMP ELUDES UNDERSEA HUNTERS
By Gregg K. Kakesako
The Star Bulletin
March 12, 2009

“After 12 dives six miles south of Pearl Harbor, University of Hawaii and Army researchers using deep-diving submersibles and remote underwater drones still have not located the main site of chemical munitions believed to have been dumped there during and after World War II.

They have found "numerous munitions of varying types, mostly conventional," said J.C. King, assistant for munitions and chemical matters in the office of the deputy assistant secretary of the Army for environment, safety and occupational health, in an e-mail yesterday.

He said of munitions recorded by high-definition video cameras are "multipurpose (conventional or chemical)."

“The Pearl Harbor site is one of three off Oahu where the Army dumped 2,558 tons of chemical agents, including blister agents lewisite and mustard gas and blood agents cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide. The practice of ocean dumping was banned in 1972.

The largest dump is reported to be in area 10 miles west of the Waianae Coast.

The Army has said it believes 16,000 M47-A2 bombs containing 598 tons of mustard gas were dumped at "Hawaii-05" around Oct. 1, 1944. Each chemical bomb weighs 100 pounds and is nearly 32 inches long.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.starbulletin.com/news/20090312_Munitions_dump_eludes_undersea_hunters.html

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DHS SEEKS SYSTEM-OF-SYSTEMS FOR IMPROVED RADIATION DETECTION
By Jacob Goodwin
Government Security News
March 17, 2009

“The Domestic Nuclear Detection Office issued a broad agency announcement on March 16 seeking proposals to develop an “intelligent radiation sensor system,” which would consist of various detection devices, communications hardware, control hardware, software and algorithms, all intended to provide better detection of threatening radiation sources than a single, stand-alone detection unit.

The sensor system would be designed for use in locations where it isn’t possible to route traffic through a single point-of-entry. “Examples of possible users include maritime boarding parties, personnel at general aviation facilities, security details at high profile events, and personnel monitoring non-entry border locations,” said Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) 09-102.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/1691.html

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COLUMBUS PROVEN NOT GUILTY OF BRINGING ANTHRAX TO AMERICA
Argentina Star
March 14, 2009

“A new research has shown that Christopher Columbus, along with other medieval European explorers, did not introduce anthrax in the Americas, as the deadly bacteria arrived in the continent thousands of years earlier, when Stone Age humans crossed the Bering land bridge.”

“According to a report in New Scientist, Paul Keim of the Northern Arizona University, who led the genetic investigation of the attacks, said that normally anthrax spores do not move far from their dead victims, so it was probably humans carrying scavenged, spore-infested hair and hides who moved one anthrax "family" into northern Africa, then across Eurasia.”

The full article can be found at: http://story.argentinastar.com/index.php/ct/9/cid/88176adfdf246af5/id/477628/cs/1/

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PINE BLUFF TON CONTAINER DECONTAMINATION FACILITY
US Army Chemical Materials Agency Fact Sheet
March 2009

"In September 2003, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) began work to decontaminate and recycle 4,233 empty ton containers (TCs) stored at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark. While empty today, the 1,600-pound steel containers once held hazardous materials and require decontamination for residual chemical agent hazard.

CMA's Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) is using an electrical heating method known as magnetic induction heating to decontaminate the TCs. The process generates less waste than a liquid rinse process and provides more thorough decontamination. Increased safety, reduced environmental impact and quicker processing are benefits of electrical heating.

The ton container decontamination process features a carefully designed venting system to capture any residual contaminants released from the ton containers.

Magnetic induction heating
Magnetic induction uses a magnetic field to raise the temperature of the TC. Insulation is placed over the container and a copper coil is wrapped around the assembly. When the system is energized, the magnetic field causes the iron in the TC to heat up. The insulation prevents the heat from escaping, enabling operators to raise the surface temperature to the desired level.

CMA heats the TCs to 1,000°F for 60 minutes, well in excess of the standard required by the Army to achieve chemical agent decontamination. The process significantly reduces liquid waste.

How it works
Operators bring the TC into the decontamination facility and put it in a glove box, where vent pipes and valves are installed. The TC then is removed from the glove box, and operators weld on eight thermocouples, cover it with an insulating blanket and add the induction coil. A ball valve and pipe extension connects the TC's opening to the air manifold system, allowing the system to capture any contaminants.

The induction coil generates the magnetic energy needed to heat the TC, eventually reaching 1,000°F for a minimum of 60 minutes, ensuring decontamination to what the Army once termed 5X.

Next, operators cut power to the induction coil, remove the coil and remove the TC from the air manifold system. Workers then use a forklift to move the decontaminated TC, on its cradle, to an outdoor holding area for cooling.

TCs then are loaded onto flatbed trailers for transport to a treatment, storage and disposal facility in Andrews, Texas. The TCs are unloaded and cut in half crosswise (twice), and any remaining residue is removed from the TC halves. The cleaned TCs are then sent to a metals recycler.

For more information on the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project, call Karen Drewen, (410) 436-4292. You may also visit our Web site at http://www.cma.army.mil/nscmp.aspx.

The full article can be found at: http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003673271

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