

20 March 2009

Chem-Bio News

- 1. CZECH SPECIAL UNIT TO JOIN KFOR MISSION, HEAD NATO BATTALION:** *"A total of 105 troops from the Czech military 31st brigade of the radiation, chemical and biological warfare will join the KFOR mission in Kosovo next year, and others will continue operating in the ISAF forces in Kabul, Commander Miroslav Knopp told CTK Tuesday."*
- 2. SEVEN YEARS AFTER 9/11, NO PROTECTIVE RAIL HAZMAT RE-ROUTING YET:** *"Although admittedly uninsured for a disastrous \$10 billion toxic gas release, the railroads are still routing through and storing in all 60 major U.S. target cities ("pre-positioning" as potential terrorist weapons) the 100,000-plus annual poison-gas rail cargoes that the federal government terms Weapons of Mass Destruction."*
- 3. NEW VACCINE DELIVERED VIA SMOOTHIE:** *"Mohamadzadeh said he has successfully used the approach in a preclinical study to create immunity to anthrax exposure."*
- 4. TAUSCHER LEAVING HOUSE SEAT FOR CLINTON'S STATE DEPARTMENT:** *"Rep. Ellen Tauscher, D-Calif., announced on Wednesday that she was leaving her House seat to accept the Obama administration's nomination as undersecretary for arms control and international security at the State Department."*
- 5. NEW BORDER PATROL DEVICE USES SEE-THROUGH SCANNING:** *"It can detect explosives, plastic weapons, nuclear, radioactive or organic threats as well as drugs, said Al White, patrol agent in charge of the Border Patrol's station at Nogales, Ariz., about 60 miles south of Tucson."*
- 6. SENATORS BAYH, DORGAN, WYDEN INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO CARE FOR SOLDIERS EXPOSED TO TOXINS:** *"Senators Evan Bayh (D-IN), Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and Ron Wyden (D-OR) today introduced legislation to improve medical care for U.S. soldiers exposed to toxic chemicals during wartime military service."*

Chem-Demil News

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- 2. TOCDF [TOOELE CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY] DESTROYS 50 PERCENT OF MUSTARD TON CONTAINER STOCKPILE:** *"The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) achieved another milestone on March 12 when Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) hit 50 percent completion of the mustard agent-filled ton containers stored at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD). This is more than 3,199 mustard agent-filled ton containers."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

CZECH SPECIAL UNIT TO JOIN KFOR MISSION, HEAD NATO BATTALION

Prague Daily Monitor

March 17, 2009

"A total of 105 troops from the Czech military 31st brigade of the radiation, chemical and biological warfare will join the KFOR mission in Kosovo next year, and others will continue operating in the ISAF forces in Kabul, Commander Miroslav Knopp told CTK Tuesday."

"A 14-strong Czech chemical warfare unit has been deployed at the Kabul airport for almost three years. Its task is to monitor the radiation, chemical and biological situation and detect toxic and radioactive substances.

They analyse samples of suspicious substances in a state-of-the-art lab."

The full article can be found at: <http://praguemonitor.com/2009/03/18/czech-special-unit-join-kfor-mission-head-nato-battalion>

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SEVEN YEARS AFTER 9/11, NO PROTECTIVE RAIL HAZMAT RE-ROUTING YET

By Fred Millar

Government Security News

March 18, 2009

"Although admittedly uninsured for a disastrous \$10 billion toxic gas release, the railroads are still routing through and storing in all 60 major U.S. target cities ("pre-positioning" as potential terrorist weapons) the 100,000-plus annual poison-gas rail cargoes that the federal government terms Weapons of Mass Destruction. The Chlorine Institute says that one chlorine tank car can produce an urban toxic gas cloud 15 miles long and four miles wide at a lethal level.

Some national experts, like Richard Falkenrath, former top homeland security official in President George Bush's White House and now a New York City counter-terrorism official, see chemical security as the greatest single national vulnerability. Colorful railcar graffiti advertises daily the lack of rail security for dangerous cargoes ("hazmat")."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/1705.html>

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NEW VACCINE DELIVERED VIA SMOOTHIE

UPI.com

March 17, 2009

"Mansour Mohamadzadeh of the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago have developed a new oral vaccine using probiotics, the healthy bacteria found in dairy products such as yogurt and cheese.

Mohamadzadeh said he has successfully used the approach in a preclinical study to create immunity to anthrax exposure. In addition, Mohamadzadeh is using the method to develop vaccines for various infectious diseases."

The full article can be found at: http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2009/03/17/New_vaccine_delivered_via_smoothie/UPI-15671237348013/

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TAUSCHER LEAVING HOUSE SEAT FOR CLINTON'S STATE DEPARTMENT

By Gregg Sangillo

NationalJournal.com on GovernmentExecutive.com

March 19, 2009

"Rep. Ellen Tauscher, D-Calif., announced on Wednesday that she was leaving her House seat to accept the Obama administration's nomination as undersecretary for arms control and international security at the State Department."

"Tauscher has a reputation as someone with knowledge of the nuclear arsenal and nonproliferation issues, and the Lawrence Livermore nuclear weapons laboratory sits in her district. Tauscher pushed legislation to fund nuclear weapons dismantlement, and she's also led House opposition to funding controversial Energy Department research programs into smaller "bunker busting" nuclear weapons."

The full article can be found at: http://govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=42300&dcn=todaysnews

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NEW BORDER PATROL DEVICE USES SEE-THROUGH SCANNING

By Arthur H. Rotstein

Associated Press on FresnoBee.com

March 18, 2009

"See-through technology that stirred concerns about privacy of passengers being scanned at

airports has been adapted for less sensitive use by the U.S. Border Patrol.

The agency is checking vehicles for hidden compartments and contraband with a breakthrough X-ray detection technology mounted in vehicles it calls 'Z Backscatter Vans,' or ZBV.

The mobile device, loaded on a Ford F-350 pickup truck like a camper shell, can scan any vehicle, including semitrailer trucks, in minutes.

It can detect explosives, plastic weapons, nuclear, radioactive or organic threats as well as drugs, said Al White, patrol agent in charge of the Border Patrol's station at Nogales, Ariz., about 60 miles south of Tucson."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.fresnobee.com/384/story/1271106.html>

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SENATORS BAYH, DORGAN, WYDEN INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO CARE FOR SOLDIERS EXPOSED TO TOXINS

US Senator Ron Wyden Press Release

March 19, 2009

"Senators Evan Bayh (D-IN), Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and Ron Wyden (D-OR) today introduced legislation to improve medical care for U.S. soldiers exposed to toxic chemicals during wartime military service.

In 2003, National Guard soldiers from Indiana, Oregon, West Virginia and South Carolina guarding the Qarmat Ali water treatment facility in Iraq were exposed to sodium dichromate, a deadly carcinogen.

The legislation proposed by Senators Bayh, Dorgan and Wyden, the Health Care for Members of the Armed Forces Exposed to Chemical Hazards Act of 2009, would guarantee lifelong care at Veterans Administration (VA) medical facilities for service members who have been exposed to occupational and environmental hazards while deployed. Their proposed VA medical registry is modeled after the government's response to the Agent Orange exposure during the Vietnam War.

"This bill recognizes our responsibility to remove needless obstacles to care for American troops exposed to harmful toxins during wartime service," Senator Bayh said. "We should be guided by our government's response to Agent Orange in Vietnam, when we shifted the evidentiary burden so veterans placed at risk did not bear the burden of proof if future health conditions developed."

"We need to make sure soldiers exposed to this deadly chemical are, first, notified that they've been exposed, and second, that they get the screening, counseling and medical treatment they need. The legislation we are introducing today would establish a registry of those exposed, that would allow us to do that, both today and in the years to come," said

Senator Dorgan, who chaired the Democratic Policy Committee hearings that revealed soldiers from several states were exposed, without warning or protective equipment to the deadly chemical.

“This bill corrects a major flaw in how we take care of the troops,” said Senator Wyden. “It would ensure that our troops are told when they have been exposed to harmful chemicals and that they can use VA services if they do get sick. Our government will truly be making good on its obligation to take care of them both on the battlefield and when they get back home.”

Original cosponsors of the legislation are Senators Bayh, Dorgan, Wyden, Robert Byrd (D-WV), and Richard Lugar (R-IN). The legislation was originally introduced by Senator Bayh as an amendment to last year’s National Defense Authorization Act. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, then Senators, were both cosponsors.

The legislation would establish a registry making at-risk veterans eligible for a series of medical examinations and laboratory tests. It would also authorize scientific reviews of the evidence linking exposure to adverse health effects. Under this approach, a veteran’s own report of exposure would constitute sufficient proof necessary to receive medical care, barring evidence to the contrary.

The environmental health threats that the Guardsmen faced at Qarmat Ali are not unique. In July 2005, a senior Department of Defense official testified before the House Committee on Government Reform about numerous incidents involving potentially hazardous materials. These included incidents at Al Tuwaitha Nuclear Research Center in Iraq, with possible excessive exposure levels of ionizing radiation; Al-Samawah in Iraq, with depleted uranium and exposure to toxic chemicals; Ash Shuaiba Port in Kuwait, with industrial pollution at a large port; Camp War Eagle in Iraq, with possible airborne lead exposures; Baghdad, with possible exposure to sarin; Kharsi Khanabad in Uzbekistan, with suspected environmental radiological and chemical agent contamination; and, Al Mishraq Sulfur Plant in Iraq, with airborne combustion products from a sulfur fire.”

The full article can be found at: <http://wyden.senate.gov/newsroom/record.cfm?id=310123&>

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Chem-Demil News

U.S. ARMY AT THE RMA RECEIVES OSHA’S HIGHEST AWARD

By Claire Haupt

YourHub.com

March 17, 2009

"The U.S. Army at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal strengthened its record as a national leader in workplace safety in early March by earning the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star Award from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration."

"The Arsenal's cleanup program is led by the Army and Shell Oil Co. Like many construction programs across the country, the Arsenal's cleanup involves multiple organizations. With the Army's Star Status achievement, the Arsenal currently has three VPP Star organizations working at the site."

The full article can be found at: <http://denver.yourhub.com/CommerceCity/Stories/News/General-News/Story~592571.aspx>

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TOCDF [TOOELE CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY] DESTROYS 50 PERCENT OF MUSTARD TON CONTAINER STOCKPILE

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

March 20, 2009

"The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) achieved another milestone on March 12 when Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) hit 50 percent completion of the mustard agent-filled ton containers stored at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD). This is more than 3,199 mustard agent-filled ton containers.

Eliminating the mustard presented some challenges to the TOCDF workers due to the heels or residual solids that are in some of the ton containers, the development of a Heel Transfer System that reduces the heels so that they can be processed resolved the problem. TOCDF workers will continue processing high-heel mustard ton containers while systemization continues in preparation of the mustard (HT) 4.2-inch mortar campaign, scheduled to begin in April.

This accomplishment proves the expertise and safety of TOCDF, DCD and CMA and reflects positively on the Army's efforts to destroy the nation's chemical stockpile."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

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