

27 March 2009

Chem-Bio News

- 1. EXPERIMENTAL VACCINE MAY HAVE SAVED HAMBURG SCIENTIST FROM EBOLA FEVER:** *"She has been transferred to a normal ward, because she had no clinical signs of infection, and neither the virus nor any antibodies against the virus were found in her blood."*
- 2. DOUBLE ATOMIC BOMB SURVIVOR FOUND IN JAPAN:** *"A 93-year-old Japanese man has become the first person to be officially recognised as a survivor of both atomic bombs dropped on Japan by the United States at the end of the Second World War."*
- 3. LOS ALAMOS' SECURITY FLAWS EXPOSED:** *"An Energy Department investigation has alleviated fears that a significant amount of plutonium was missing from a national laboratory, but it has also heightened concerns about flaws in the system for controlling the U.S. stockpile of weapons materials."*
- 4. FEDS DOWNGRADE DEPLETED URANIUM'S SAFETY RISK:** *"The Nuclear Regulatory Commission voted last week to classify depleted uranium from nuclear fuel enrichment plants as a Class A low-level radioactive waste -- the least dangerous kind of radioactive waste."*
- 5. [IS] MOD FAILED TO SUPERVISE ANTHRAX VACCINE TESTS:** *"The Defense Ministry said Thursday that it will examine the Israel Medical Association's harsh report on Omer 2, the IDF's seven-year clinical trials of an Israeli-developed anthrax vaccine on 716 healthy soldiers."*
- 6. FEDERAL PROGRAM HAS IMPROVED HEALTH AGENCIES' PREPAREDNESS FOR LARGE-SCALE BIOTERROR OR DISEASE OUTBREAKS:** *"Researchers found that the federal Cities Readiness Initiative, a program active in 72 metropolitan areas, appears to have improved agencies' ability to rapidly and widely dispense life-saving medications and other medical supplies in the event of a large-scale bioterror attack or a naturally occurring infectious disease outbreak."*
- 7. ELECTION FOR IAEA CHIEF STALLS AFTER THREE ROUNDS:** *"An election to pick a new head of the International Atomic Energy Agency stalled on Thursday when the Japanese frontrunner failed to win a required 2/3 majority in three rounds of voting."*
- 8. ANTHRAX VACCINATIONS MANDATORY FOR MORE AIRMEN:** *"Airmen in Pacific Air Forces will be affected by the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program exception to policy signed Dec. 5, 2008 by the Assistant Secretary of Defense."*

Chem-Demil News

- 1. EX-PCI HEAD, 3 FORMER EXECS GIVEN SUSPENDED PRISON TERMS FOR FRAUD:** *"The Tokyo District Court gave suspended prison terms to four businessmen Tuesday for swindling the Japanese government out of about 300 million yen by overcharging for a state-funded project to dispose of chemical weapons the Imperial*

Japanese Army abandoned in China at the end of World War II."

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

EXPERIMENTAL VACCINE MAY HAVE SAVED HAMBURG SCIENTIST FROM EBOLA FEVER

By Annette Tuffs
British Medical Journal
March 23, 2009

"A scientist from the Bernard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg who was quarantined for a week because of a possible infection with the Ebola fever virus has left the isolation ward of Hamburg University Hospital. She has been transferred to a normal ward, because she had no clinical signs of infection, and neither the virus nor any antibodies against the virus were found in her blood.

This positive development may be due to the use of an experimental vaccine given to the scientist that has never previously been used in humans. The vaccine virus was found in her blood shortly after vaccination but vanished within two days, indicating that the patient's immune system had eliminated it."

The full article can be found at: http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/extract/338/mar23_2/b1223

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DOUBLE ATOMIC BOMB SURVIVOR FOUND IN JAPAN

The Telegraph (UK)
March 24, 2009

"A 93-year-old Japanese man has become the first person to be officially recognised as a survivor of both atomic bombs dropped on Japan by the United States at the end of the Second World War.

Tsutomu Yamaguchi had already been a certified hibakusha, or radiation survivor, of the Aug 9, 1945, atomic bombing in Nagasaki. But officials have now confirmed that he also survived the attack on Hiroshima three days earlier.

Mr Yamaguchi was in Hiroshima on a business trip on Aug 6, 1945, when a US B-29 dropped an atomic bomb on the city. He then returned to his home in Nagasaki just in time for the second attack, officials said."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/>

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LOS ALAMOS' SECURITY FLAWS EXPOSED

By Ralph Vartabedian
The Los Angeles Times
March 26, 2009

"An Energy Department investigation has alleviated fears that a significant amount of plutonium was missing from a national laboratory, but it has also heightened concerns about flaws in the system for controlling the U.S. stockpile of weapons materials.

The investigation began in February, shortly after a routine inventory at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico found a plutonium shortage estimated at 2.2 pounds, setting off a frantic national effort to determine what happened to the material.

The confidential investigation concluded this week that statisticians at the lab had miscalculated the amount of plutonium at its facility and that none was actually missing."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-nuke26-2009mar26,0,3038917.story>

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FEDS DOWNGRADE DEPLETED URANIUM'S SAFETY RISK

By Sue Sturgis
The Institute for Southern Studies
March 26, 2009

"The Nuclear Regulatory Commission voted last week to classify depleted uranium from nuclear fuel enrichment plants as a Class A low-level radioactive waste -- the least dangerous kind of radioactive waste.

In doing so, it ignored its own previous findings that DU from enrichment plants is far more radioactive than Class A waste is supposed to be. A 1981 NRC analysis concluded that DU in Class A waste should not exceed 0.05 microcuries per cubic centimeter, but DU from enrichment plants has a concentration at least 10 times greater than that.

All of the four sitting commissioners voted in favor of the reclassification except for Gregory Jaczko, who called for a public rulemaking process to determine the proper classification for DU."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.southernstudies.org/2009/03/feds-downgrade-depleted-uraniums-safety-risk.html>

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[IS] MOD FAILED TO SUPERVISE ANTHRAX VACCINE TESTS

By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

The Jerusalem Post

March 26, 2009

"The Defense Ministry said Thursday that it will examine the Israel Medical Association's harsh report on Omer 2, the IDF's seven-year clinical trials of an Israeli-developed anthrax vaccine on 716 healthy soldiers."

The report, which the High Court of Justice approved for release late Wednesday, calls for civilian supervision of clinical experimentation and sharply criticized the defense authorities, especially the IDF, for the fact that more than 4,000 soldiers were asked, under psychological pressure, to participate without giving their informed consent.

The ministry added that every effort was made to conduct the clinical trials of the vaccine in "a transparent manner," even though there was none of the civilian medical supervision required by the Helsinki Convention on Human Medical Experimentation. The ministry added that "it would not oppose calls" by soldiers to set up a governmental committee of inquiry to further investigate the issue.

Dozens of ex-soldiers who were vaccinated as far back as 1999 complained of skin, eye, gastrointestinal and other side effects that persist today, but none of them was examined by the IMA committee members, so it's impossible to know if their symptoms resulted from the vaccination."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1237727553887&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

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FEDERAL PROGRAM HAS IMPROVED HEALTH AGENCIES' PREPAREDNESS FOR LARGE-SCALE BIOTERROR OR DISEASE OUTBREAKS

Rand Corporation

March 24, 2009

"A federal program designed to help metropolitan public health agencies prepare to deliver essential medicines to the public after a large-scale bioterror attack or natural disease outbreak has succeeded in improving the level of readiness, according to a new RAND Corporation study.

Researchers found that the federal Cities Readiness Initiative, a program active in 72 metropolitan areas, appears to have improved agencies' ability to rapidly and widely

dispense life-saving medications and other medical supplies in the event of a large-scale bioterror attack or a naturally occurring infectious disease outbreak.

The study from RAND Health concludes there is merit in extending the program so the impact can be further monitored, although the analysis did not assess the cost-effectiveness of the effort or compare it to other public health priorities."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.rand.org/news/press/2009/03/24/>

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ELECTION FOR IAEA CHIEF STALLS AFTER THREE ROUNDS

By Mark Heinrich and Sylvia Westall

Reuters

March 26, 2009

"An election to pick a new head of the International Atomic Energy Agency stalled on Thursday when the Japanese frontrunner failed to win a required 2/3 majority in three rounds of voting.

The stalemate underlined a deep split between industrialized and developing states represented on the U.N. nuclear watchdog's 35-nation board of governors and will prompt a search for alternative candidates if further voting on Friday is inconclusive.

A prolonged delay in choosing a new director-general would be damaging, given an growing list of challenges to the agency's credibility, including controversial nuclear activity in Iran and Syria and a serious funding shortage."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE52O7P220090326>

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ANTHRAX VACCINATIONS MANDATORY FOR MORE AIRMEN

PACAF News

March 26, 2009

"Airmen in Pacific Air Forces will be affected by the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program exception to policy signed Dec. 5, 2008 by the Assistant Secretary of Defense.

"The extended nature of the immunization schedule necessitates pre-designation of personnel to ensure Air Force personnel most likely to deploy to high-threat areas on short notice are provided the maximum protection available against Anthrax," said Maj. Gen. Mike Hostage III, PACAF vice commander.

Under the new exception to policy, the following personnel may be subject to mandatory anthrax vaccinations: mobility aircrew for the C-17, C-130 and KC-135 aircraft, special airlift mission aircrew for the C-37 and C-40 aircraft, aeromedical evacuation aircrew, Security Forces RAVENS, Air Mobility Operational Support Aircrew/Flying Crew Chiefs, Office of Special Investigations agents and Contingency Response Wings, to include affiliated units, response elements and liaison teams.

The program was ordered to resume under the deputy secretary of defense in October 2006. It mandates Airmen assigned to high-threat areas receive the Anthrax vaccine.

The mandatory anthrax vaccinations were previously limited to certain Airmen designated to deploy to specific high-threat areas - primarily the Central Command area of responsibility or the Korean peninsula. Designated special mission units, regardless of location, are also subject to mandatory anthrax vaccinations, and voluntary anthrax vaccinations will continue for certain non-mandatory members.

In order to ensure sufficient immunity to Anthrax, personnel must complete the full anthrax immunization series in accordance with the approved dosing schedule, General Hostage said.

There are five shots in the Anthrax series. The initial vaccination is followed by a shot four weeks, six months, 12 months and 18 months. Once Airmen complete the series they need an annual booster to remain current.

"The extended nature of the immunization schedule necessitates pre-designation of personnel to ensure Air Force personnel most likely to deploy to high-threat areas on short notice are provided the maximum protection available against Anthrax," General Hostage said.

Personnel in the aforementioned categories who may deploy to a high-threat area, such as Korea or the Central Command area of responsibility, for 15 or more cumulative days in a 12-month period must be identified by their unit commanders.

The anthrax vaccine was first licensed in the United States in 1970. Since then, it has been given to those people - such as military members, veterinarians, farmers, and woolworkers - who could be exposed to environmental sources of anthrax.

For more information, contact local base immunization clinics."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.pacaf.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123141606>

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Chem-Demil News

EX-PCI HEAD, 3 FORMER EXECS GIVEN SUSPENDED PRISON TERMS FOR FRAUD

JapanToday.com

March 24, 2009

"The Tokyo District Court gave suspended prison terms to four businessmen Tuesday for swindling the Japanese government out of about 300 million yen by overcharging for a state-funded project to dispose of chemical weapons the Imperial Japanese Army abandoned in China at the end of World War II.

Masayoshi Taga, 63, former president of Tokyo-based consultancy Pacific Consultants International, was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison, suspended for three years. His three co-defendants were sentenced to two years in prison, also suspended for three years."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.japantoday.com/category/crime/view/ex-pci-head-3-former-execs-given-suspended-prison-terms-for-fraud>

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