

8 May 2009

Chem-Bio News

1. TALIBAN ISLAMISTS NEARING PAKISTANI NUKES: *"Similarly, "Nuclear Taliban/Al Qaida is a far more ominous threat than nuclear Iran could ever be," writes Byron Ellis, who heads the international Jethro Project consulting company."*

2. U.S. HALTS PILOT PROGRAM IN NEW YORK TO DETECT BIOLOGICAL ATTACKS: *"The Department of Homeland Security is dismantling a next-generation biological attack warning system in New York City subways because of technical problems, U.S. officials said."*

3. TARA O'TOOLE IS PRESIDENT'S PICK FOR DHS UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: *"Biosecurity expert, Dr. Tara O'Toole, the founder, CEO and director of the Center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, will be nominated by President Obama to be the new DHS under secretary for science and technology."*

4. F.B.I. TO PAY FOR ANTHRAX INQUIRY REVIEW: *"The Federal Bureau of Investigation has agreed to pay \$879,550 to the National Academy of Sciences for a 15-month review of its scientific work on the anthrax investigation, academy officials said, but the review will not assess the bureau's detective work or its conclusion that an Army microbiologist, Bruce E. Ivins, sent the deadly letters in 2001."*

Chem-Demil News

1. LEXINGTON BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT - PENTAGON ACCELERATES SCHEDULE FOR WEAPONS DISPOSAL AT BLUE GRASS: *"The Pentagon plans to speed up by more than three years the destruction of chemical weapons at Blue Grass Army Depot in Madison County, a move that includes an additional \$1.2 billion in construction at new disposal plants in Kentucky and Colorado, according to the Department of Defense."*

2. UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY - DIKEMAN TAKES OVER AS DEPOT MANAGER: *"Doug Hamrick, who has been the project general manager since 2002 retired and former plant manager Bob Dikeman took over on Friday."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

TALIBAN ISLAMISTS NEARING PAKISTANI NUKES

By Hillel Fendel
Arutz Sheva
May 07, 2009

“Pakistan must move to the top of our strategic agenda,” writes former US Ambassador to the UN John Bolton. Similarly, “Nuclear Taliban/Al Qaida is a far more ominous threat than nuclear Iran could ever be,” writes Byron Ellis, who heads the international Jethro Project consulting company.”

“There is a “tangible risk that several weapons could slip out of military control,” Bolton warns. “Such weapons could then find their way to Al Qaeda or other terrorists, with obvious global implications.”

Even graver is the possibility that Pakistan’s government could collapse entirely, enabling “a well-organized, tightly disciplined group to seize control of the entire Pakistani government.”

“To prevent either scenario, Pakistan must move to the top of our strategic agenda, albeit closely related to Afghanistan,” he wrote. “Neither greater economic assistance, nor more civilian advisers upcountry, nor stronger democratic institutions will eliminate the strategic threat nearly soon enough... We must strengthen pro-American elements in Pakistan's military so they can purge dangerous Islamicists from their ranks; roll back Taliban advances; and, together with our increased efforts in Afghanistan, decisively defeat the militants on either side of the border.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/131216>

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U.S. HALTS PILOT PROGRAM IN NEW YORK TO DETECT BIOLOGICAL ATTACKS

By Spencer S. Hsu
The Washington Post
May 07, 2009

“The Department of Homeland Security is dismantling a next-generation biological attack warning system in New York City subways because of technical problems, U.S. officials said.

Robert Hooks, a deputy assistant secretary, said the department no longer believes it is necessary to expand the pilot program, as he told Congress in July, because of resource and technology limits. Hooks said a long-planned alternative sensor system, set for initial deployment late next year, also will not be available nationwide until 2012, to allow for more testing.

The deactivation of the pilot program in late March marks a setback in U.S. efforts to detect biological weapons, and its disclosure comes as the Obama administration is unveiling new security priorities as part of its 2010 budget today.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/06/AR2009050603425.html>

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TARA O'TOOLE IS PRESIDENT'S PICK FOR DHS UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

By Louis Chunovic
Government Security News
May 07, 2009

"Biosecurity expert, Dr. Tara O'Toole, the founder, CEO and director of the Center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, will be nominated by President Obama to be the new DHS under secretary for science and technology."

"Prior to leading the Center for Biosecurity, O'Toole was a founding member of the Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies, serving as its director from 2001 to 2003. She also is co-editor-in-chief of the journal Biosecurity and Bioterrorism: Biodefense Strategy, Practice and Science, and was a principal author and producer of Dark Winter, a 2001 exercise conducted to alert national leaders to the dangers of bioterrorist attacks."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/1974.html>

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F.B.I. TO PAY FOR ANTHRAX INQUIRY REVIEW

By Scott Shane
The New York Times
May 07, 2009

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation has agreed to pay \$879,550 to the National Academy of Sciences for a 15-month review of its scientific work on the anthrax investigation, academy officials said, but the review will not assess the bureau's detective work or its conclusion that an Army microbiologist, Bruce E. Ivins, sent the deadly letters in 2001. The academy panel will review genetic fingerprinting that led agents to Dr. Ivins's Maryland laboratory, as well as clues to how and where the anthrax was grown and dried. Some colleagues of Dr. Ivins, who killed himself in July, have expressed doubt that he mailed the anthrax."

The full article can be found at: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/07/us/07brfs-FBITOPAYFORA_BRF.html?ref=us

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Chem-Demil News

LEXINGTON BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT - PENTAGON ACCELERATES SCHEDULE FOR WEAPONS DISPOSAL AT BLUE GRASS

By Halimah Abdullah

Kentucky.com

May 07, 2009

“The Pentagon plans to speed up by more than three years the destruction of chemical weapons at Blue Grass Army Depot in Madison County, a move that includes an additional \$1.2 billion in construction at new disposal plants in Kentucky and Colorado, according to the Department of Defense.

Though the new Pentagon proposal includes a spending increase through 2015 to build the plants at the Blue Grass Army Depot and similar facility in Colorado, the Pentagon doesn't anticipate disposing of all of its chemical weapons until 2021—nearly a decade beyond the 2012 deadline set by the international Chemical Weapons Convention.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.kentucky.com/181/story/786819.html>

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UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY - DIKEMAN TAKES OVER AS DEPOT MANAGER

The East Oregonian

May 03, 2009

“Doug Hamrick, who has been the project general manager since 2002 retired and former plant manager Bob Dikeman took over on Friday. The project general manager oversees execution of the facility and the 830 employees there.”

The full article can be found at: <http://eastoregonian.com/main.asp?SectionID=13&SubSectionID=48&ArticleID=92086&TM=8500.095>

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