

15 May 2009

## Chem-Bio News

**1. U.S. HAS PLAN TO SECURE PAKISTAN NUKES IF COUNTRY FALLS TO TALIBAN:** "American intelligence sources say the military's chief terrorist-hunting squad has units operating in Afghanistan on Pakistan's western border and is working on a secondary mission to secure foreign nuclear arsenals if the Taliban or Al Qaeda overwhelm Pakistan."

**2. USA ILL-EQUIPPED FOR A SWINE FLU PANDEMIC, EXPERTS FEAR:** "Yet even before the flu outbreak, emergency rooms could barely handle all the patients coming through their doors, says Katherine Heilpern, chair of Emory University's Department of Emergency Medicine in Atlanta. "Most emergency rooms are working at or above capacity," she says."

**3. ODNI LAUNCHES COUNTER-PROLIFERATION SITE:** "The Office of the Director of National Intelligence announced its National Counterproliferation Center has gone live with a new Web site, [www.counterwmd.gov](http://www.counterwmd.gov), in a move to offer transparency about the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction threat, the office reported."

**4. SCIENTIST ARRESTED FOR SMUGGLING VIALS USED IN EBOLA RESEARCH INTO US:** "A Canadian scientist has been arrested for smuggling 22 vials stolen from Canada's National Microbiology Lab, used in Ebola and HIV research, into the United States, Canadian and US officials said Wednesday."

**5. WHO REJECTS IDEA THAT NOVEL H1N1 VIRUS IS LAB-DERIVED:** "An international group of experts has examined and rejected the idea proposed recently by an Australian scientist that the novel H1N1 influenza (swine flu) virus is the product of a laboratory accident, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported today."

**6. OBAMA TO NAME FRIEDEN AS CDC CHIEF:** "U.S. President Barack Obama will name Dr Thomas Frieden as the new director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a spokesman for the organization said on Friday."

## Chem-Demil News

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**2. UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT - DEPOT DETECTS TRACE OF MUSTARD CHEMICAL AGENT:** "A depot chemical operations monitoring crew detected trace amounts of mustard chemical agent vapor today inside a depot storage structure containing ton containers."

# CB Daily Report

## Chem-Bio News

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### U.S. HAS PLAN TO SECURE PAKISTAN NUKES IF COUNTRY FALLS TO TALIBAN

By Rowan Scarborough  
Fox News.com  
May 14, 2009

"American intelligence sources say the military's chief terrorist-hunting squad has units operating in Afghanistan on Pakistan's western border and is working on a secondary mission to secure foreign nuclear arsenals if the Taliban or Al Qaeda overwhelm Pakistan."

"Small units could seize them, disable them and then centralize them in a secure location," the source said.

A secret Defense Intelligence Agency document first disclosed in 2004 said Pakistan has a nuclear arsenal of 35 weapons. The document said it plans to more than double the arsenal by 2020.

A Pakistani official said the U.S. and his country have had an understanding that if either Usama bin Laden, or his deputy, Ayman Zawahiri, is located, American troops and air strikes may be used inside borders to capture or kill them.

What makes the Pakistan mission especially difficult is that the military has its missiles on Soviet-style mobile launchers and rail lines. U.S. intelligence agencies, using satellite photos and communication intercepts, is constantly monitoring their whereabouts. Other warheads are kept in storage. U.S. technical experts have visited Pakistan to advise the government on how to maintain and protect its arsenal."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2009/05/14/plan-pakistan-teeters-falling-taliban/>  
[Return to Top](#)

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## **USA ILL-EQUIPPED FOR A SWINE FLU PANDEMIC, EXPERTS FEAR**

By Liz Szabo  
USA Today  
May 14, 2009

"The world is "better prepared for an influenza pandemic than at any time in history," said Margaret Chan, director general of the World Health Organization, last week.

Yet even before the flu outbreak, emergency rooms could barely handle all the patients coming through their doors, says Katherine Heilpern, chair of Emory University's Department of Emergency Medicine in Atlanta. "Most emergency rooms are working at or above capacity," she says.

### Equipment in limited supply

Hundreds of ERs have shut down over the past 15 years, largely because of financial pressures, including declining reimbursements from insurance programs such as Medicare, Heilpern says.

But the number of emergency room patients grew 32% from 1996 to 2006, according to the American College of Emergency Physicians. Emergency rooms have little "surge capacity," the ability to gear up to treat many more patients, Heilpern says.

Even hospital equipment could be in short supply. In a pandemic, hospitals might not have enough mechanical ventilators — used when patients have severe trouble breathing, Heilpern says.

Up to 80,000 of the nation's 105,000 ventilators are being used for everyday medical care, and nearly all of them are used during a normal flu season, according to a 2007 editorial in The New England Journal of Medicine.

Even if hospitals were able to order more machines, many hospitals don't have enough critical care nurses, respiratory therapists or intensive care doctors to open up more beds in their intensive care units, Heilpern says.

In a pandemic, doctors could be forced to ration ventilators, using them on patients who have the most to gain, such as those who — though severely ill in the short term — are otherwise healthy enough to recover, she says."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-05-13-preparedflu\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-05-13-preparedflu_N.htm)

ANALYST NOTE: Much of this article appears to be equally applicable to ***any mass casualty event***, not just pandemic influenza.

[Return to Top](#)

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## **ODNI LAUNCHES COUNTER-PROLIFERATION SITE**

UPI.com

May 13, 2009

“The U.S. director of national intelligence has launched a Web site designed to provide a clearer understanding of weapons of mass destruction proliferation.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence announced its National Counterproliferation Center has gone live with a new Web site, [www.counterwmd.gov](http://www.counterwmd.gov), in a move to offer transparency about the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction threat, the office reported.”

The full article can be found at: [http://www.upi.com/Emerging\\_Threats/2009/05/13/ODNI-launches-counter-proliferation-site/UPI-48331242246996/](http://www.upi.com/Emerging_Threats/2009/05/13/ODNI-launches-counter-proliferation-site/UPI-48331242246996/)

[Return to Top](#)

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## **SCIENTIST ARRESTED FOR SMUGGLING VIALS USED IN EBOLA RESEARCH INTO US**

Breitbart.com

May 13, 2009

“A Canadian scientist has been arrested for smuggling 22 vials stolen from Canada's National Microbiology Lab, used in Ebola and HIV research, into the United States, Canadian and US officials said Wednesday.

Konan Michel Yao, 42, "was taken into custody" while crossing the border from Manitoba province into the western US state of North Dakota on May 5, said a spokeswoman for the Public Health Agency of Canada, which operates the lab.

According to US prosecutor Lynn Jordheim, Yao was detained for carrying unidentified biological materials in vials wrapped in aluminium foil inside a glove and packaged in a plastic bag, along with electrical wires, in the trunk of his car.

Yao said in an affidavit he stole the vials, described as research vectors, from the Winnipeg lab on his last day of work there on January 21.

He told US border guards he was taking them to his new job with the National Institutes of Health at the Biodefense Research Laboratory in Bethesda, Maryland.”

The full article can be found at: [http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=CNG.1eb625e36e305c62ccc14e75288e023d.6f1&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=CNG.1eb625e36e305c62ccc14e75288e023d.6f1&show_article=1)

[Return to Top](#)

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## **WHO REJECTS IDEA THAT NOVEL H1N1 VIRUS IS LAB-DERIVED**

By Robert Roos

CIDRAP News (Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy – University of Minnesota)

May 14, 2009

“An international group of experts has examined and rejected the idea proposed recently by an Australian scientist that the novel H1N1 influenza (swine flu) virus is the product of a laboratory accident, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported today.

"The group of scientists feels that this hypothesis does not really stand up to scrutiny, that the evidence suggests that this is a naturally derived virus, and not a laboratory-derived virus," said Dr. Keiji Fukuda, WHO assistant director-general for health security and environment, at a press briefing today.

Adrian Gibbs, 75, a veteran flu researcher, said recently that he had concluded from his analysis of the virus's genetic sequence that it might have evolved in eggs used by scientists to grow viruses and by drug companies to make flu vaccines. Gibbs said he intended to publish a scientific paper describing his hypothesis, according to a May 13 Bloomberg News report.

Fukuda said Gibbs contacted the WHO May 9 to communicate his idea, which he had arrived at by studying genetic data deposited in public databases, not from studying the virus directly.

"Because of the nature of the hypothesis and the credible nature of the scientist, we took this seriously," Fukuda said. The Bloomberg story said Gibbs was involved in research that led to the development of oseltamivir (Tamiflu)."

The full article can be found at:

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/swineflu/news/may1409who.html>

[Return to Top](#)

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## **OBAMA TO NAME FRIEDEN AS CDC CHIEF**

Reuters

May 15, 2009

“U.S. President Barack Obama will name Dr Thomas Frieden as the new director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a spokesman for the organization said on Friday.

An infectious disease specialist, Frieden, 48, has been New York's top health official for seven years, according to The New York Times.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE54E1X520090515>

[Return to Top](#)

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## ***Chem-Demil News***

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### **NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY - NECDF DRUM REPACK FACILITY**

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Fact Sheet

May 2009

“On May 5, 2005, workers at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) began the successful neutralization of 1,269 tons of chemical agent VX that had been stored at the Newport Chemical Depot since 1968. Chemical stockpile elimination was safely achieved Aug. 8, 2008. The NECDF is currently focused on facility closure operations. During stockpile elimination operations, NECDF generated secondary waste, such as laboratory waste, personal protective equipment, cleaning materials and equipment parts from maintenance and repair activities. During NECDF closure operations, decontamination and demolition activities generate additional secondary waste materials.

Ensuring secondary waste is managed in a safe manner and in compliance with all applicable laws is an important part of closure. Some secondary waste is transported to permitted treatment, storage and disposal facilities for further treatment and final disposal. The Drum Repack Facility (DRF) located at NECDF assists employees with their closure mission by providing a containment area to safely pretreat and repackage waste in preparation for transport.

The DRF consists of a separate enclosed repack room, staging area and service area, which are all contained within the Permitted Storage Area (PSA) sprung structure. The PSA is a sprung aluminum I-beam structure covered with architectural membrane to effectively seal the interior from outside elements. The filtration system in the DRF provides secondary containment for the remote possibility of vapors leaking from hazardous secondary waste drums. During operations, plant personnel perform rounds to verify and record filter pressures, which also support maintaining the secondary containment.

The most common drum used for waste storage is the 55-gallon drum. Standard 55-gallon drums meet the U.S. Department of Transportation requirements. All NECDF 1X waste has been placed into 55-gallon polyethylene drums since January 2007. Prior to this date, waste was often placed into steel drums. These metal drums are not compatible with off-site disposal operations. Therefore, the drum contents must be repacked into polyethylene drums prior to leaving NECDF.

1X secondary waste materials with known or suspected contamination from agent processing operations are double bagged, monitored using a minimum four hour hold time to confirm agent concentrations are below acceptable levels and placed in a 55-gallon drum with liners and absorbent material. Prior to shipment, the drums are placed on pallets of wood slat construction. The pallets are designed to accommodate four 55-gallon drums each. The drums are secured to the pallet with shrink wrap.

The DRF began operations July 2008 and is shut down during the winter months due to cold weather conditions that prevent monitoring of waste materials at a minimum of 65 degrees. Recently, the NECDF installed a Thermal Treatment Unit in the DRF. The unit consists of a commercially-available truck oven for hot air drying waste materials prior to packaging and shipment off site to a commercial treatment, storage and disposal facility.

The NECDF has partnered with a commercial facility for the safe treatment and final disposal of secondary wastes. Waste is shipped to Veolia Environmental Services in Port Arthur, Texas, for incineration. Veolia is permitted to receive, treat and dispose of chemical agent-contaminated waste.

Employees at NECDF have always operated with the safety and health of the work force, surrounding communities and the environment as the top priority and will continue to operate as such throughout all post-neutralization operations (i.e. processing secondary wastes, closure activities, etc.). The mission will not be complete until all secondary waste materials are properly treated and disposed.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003680581>  
[Return to Top](#)

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## **UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT - DEPOT DETECTS TRACE OF MUSTARD CHEMICAL AGENT**

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

May 12, 2009

“A depot chemical operations monitoring crew detected trace amounts of mustard chemical agent vapor today inside a depot storage structure containing ton containers.

The trace of mustard chemical agent was detected during routine monitoring.

The storage structure, commonly called an igloo, has a “passive” filtration system that prevents chemical agent vapor from escaping outside the structure. However, as a further protective measure, a powered filtration system has been installed. A team of specially-trained workers will enter the igloo to isolate the suspect ton container and determine future actions.

Even though the readings are so low they are not harmful to the public or the environment, depot officials notify the public when such incidents occur. They also notify off-post emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow counties, Ore., Benton County, Wash., those in Oregon and Washington states, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003680637>  
[Return to Top](#)

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