

4 November 2009

Chem-Bio News

- 1. RUSSIA 'SIMULATES' NUCLEAR ATTACK ON POLAND:** *"Russia has provoked outrage in Poland by simulating an air and sea attack on the country during military exercises."*
- 2. N KOREA 'HAS EXTRACTED PLUTONIUM':** *"North Korea has completed the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel rods to extract weapons-grade plutonium, according to its official news agency."*
- 3. KENT STATE NAMED BIOSAFETY TRAINING SCHOOL:** *"The university's designation was conferred by the National Institutes of Health's National Biosafety and Biocontainment Training Program, making Kent the second facility in the country to receive that designation."*
- 4. U.S., KAZAKHSTAN, NORWAY COMPLETE MAJOR JOINT BORDER SECURITY AND NONPROLIFERATION EFFORT:** *"The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the Administration of the Customs Control Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan (KCCC) and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a ceremony at the U.S. Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan today to recognize the successful installation of radiation detection equipment at four border crossings and one international airport in Kazakhstan."*
- 5. CBP LACKS A RISK ASSESSMENT ON WMD PATHWAYS:** *"US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has not completed risk assessment of where biological or chemical weapons could enter the United States and therefore has not effectively deployed its radiation detectors, warned the inspector general (IG) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Monday."*
- 6. DHS SEEKS COMMENTS ON POST-ANTHRAX-ATTACK GUIDANCE FOR FIRST-RESPONDER PROTECTION:** *"The DHS Office of Health Affairs is soliciting comments on its Proposed Guidance for Protecting Responders' Health During the First Week Following a Wide-Area Anthrax Attack."*
- 7. OTHER NATIONS FEAR HENDRA VIRUS, CONFERENCE TOLD:** *"Americans see it as a potential bioterrorism weapon that's why (the department of) Homeland Security are funding research into viruses in bats," Dr Reid said."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

RUSSIA 'SIMULATES' NUCLEAR ATTACK ON POLAND

By Matthew Day

The Telegraph (UK)

November 01, 2009

"Russia has provoked outrage in Poland by simulating an air and sea attack on the country during military exercises."

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"Documents obtained by Wprost, one of Poland's leading news magazines, said the exercise was carried out in conjunction with soldiers from Belarus."

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"The manoeuvres are thought to have been held in September and involved about 13,000 Russian and Belarusian troops.

Poland, which has strained relations with both countries, was cast as the "potential aggressor".

The documents state the exercises, code-named "West", were officially classified as "defensive" but many of the operations appeared to have an offensive nature.

The Russian air force practised using weapons from its nuclear arsenal, while in the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, which neighbours Poland, Red Army forces stormed a "Polish" beach and attacked a gas pipeline.

The operation also involved the simulated suppression of an uprising by a national minority in Belarus – the country has a significant Polish population which has a strained relationship with authoritarian government of Belarus."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/poland/6480227/Russia-simulates-nuclear-attack-on-Poland.html>

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N KOREA 'HAS EXTRACTED PLUTONIUM'

BBC

November 03, 2009

"North Korea has completed the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel rods to extract weapons-grade plutonium, according to its official news agency.

The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) added that "noticeable successes" had been made in turning the extracted material into weapons grade plutonium.

The statement comes one day after North Korea said it was ready for talks with the US on its nuclear programme.

It also threatened to "go its own way" if Washington refused direct talks.

Eight thousand spent fuel rods had been reprocessed, KCNA said. Analysts say this is enough plutonium to make at least one atomic bomb.

North Korea was already believed by some analysts to have enough weapons-grade plutonium for about six bombs, but had none small enough to place on a missile."

The full article can be found at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8339439.stm>

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KENT STATE NAMED BIOSAFETY TRAINING SCHOOL

UPI.com

October 26, 2009

"The university's designation was conferred by the National Institutes of Health's National Biosafety and Biocontainment Training Program, making Kent the second facility in the country to receive that designation. As such, the university's Biosafety Training Lab becomes a continuing education training site to prepare biosafety and biocontainment professionals to meet the needs of the biomedical, emerging disease and civilian biodefense research communities."

The full article can be found at: http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2009/10/26/Kent-State-named-biosafety-training-school/UPI-99551256581995/

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U.S., KAZAKHSTAN, NORWAY COMPLETE MAJOR JOINT BORDER SECURITY AND NONPROLIFERATION EFFORT

US National Nuclear Security Administration News Release

October 29, 2009

"The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the Administration of the Customs Control Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan (KCCC) and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a ceremony at the U.S. Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan today to recognize the successful installation of radiation detection equipment at four border crossings and one international airport in Kazakhstan. Today's ceremony also recognized the effective cooperation between the U.S., Kazakhstan and Norway in preventing illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive material across Kazakhstan's borders."

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"Funds for the purchase and installation of the equipment at two of the sites recognized today were provided by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The remaining three sites were funded by NNSA.

Under a 2006 Implementing Agreement between the U.S. and Kazakhstan, NNSA's Second Line of Defense (SLD) Program is working with KCCC to provide radiation detection equipment at border crossings and other points of entry, conduct training, and hold technical workshops. As part of a 2008 agreement between the U.S. and Norway, Norway contributed \$837,600 toward NNSA's nonproliferation projects in Kazakhstan, including the purchase of the radiation detection equipment for two border crossings on Kazakhstan's northern border."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nnsa.energy.gov/2682.htm>

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CBP LACKS A RISK ASSESSMENT ON WMD PATHWAYS

By Mickey McCarter

HSToday

November 03, 2009

"US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has not completed risk assessment of where biological or chemical weapons could enter the United States and therefore has not effectively deployed its radiation detectors, warned the inspector general (IG) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Monday.

In addition, CBP officers do not utilize consistent processes to examine cargo for potential threats, the DHS IG said in the report CBP's Ability to Detect Biological and Chemical Threats in Maritime Cargo Containers .

"Conducting a formal risk assessment of the various pathways would help ensure that Customs and Border Protection allocates its detection technology development resources to threat pathways that pose the highest risk to national security," the report stated.

"In addition, Customs and Border Protection needs updated policies and procedures on how inspections for such threats are to be conducted," it said.

CBP agreed with the recommendations, noting that initiatives were underway to address them. CPB anticipated actions that would result in a risk assessment to be complete by August 31, 2010. CBP also said its Office of Field Operations would update the Anti-Terrorism Contraband Enforcement Team National Directive and create a training module for its officers by June 30, 2010."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/10920/128/>

The GAO report can be found at: http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmtrpts/OIG_10-01_Oct09.pdf

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DHS SEEKS COMMENTS ON POST-ANTHRAX-ATTACK GUIDANCE FOR FIRST-RESPONDER PROTECTION

By Louis Chunovic
Government Security Newswire
November 02, 2009

"The DHS Office of Health Affairs is soliciting comments on its Proposed Guidance for Protecting Responders' Health During the First Week Following a Wide-Area Anthrax Attack."

The DHS document is available at: <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/leaving.cgi?from=leavingFR.html&log=linklog&to=http://www.regulations.gov>

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/2887.html>

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OTHER NATIONS FEAR HENDRA VIRUS, CONFERENCE TOLD

Courier Mail (AU)
October 29, 2009

"A Queensland Horse Council Hendra virus conference attended by horse owners and bat carers in Cleveland, on Brisbane's bayside, heard from Dr Peter Reid today.

Dr Reid, who was the veterinarian involved in the first known Hendra outbreak that claimed the life of horse trainer Vic Rail in 1994, said the virus and its relative, the Nipah virus, were so lethal that the US considered it a homeland security threat.

"Americans see it as a potential bioterrorism weapon that's why (the department of) Homeland Security are funding research into viruses in bats," Dr Reid said.

"There is no effective treatment or vaccine for Hendra or Nipah and the mortality rate is high."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,,26276700-3102,00.html>

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