

20 November 2009

Chem-Bio News

1. TALIBAN THREATENS TO CONTAMINATE WATER SOURCES IN WAZIRISTAN

WITH POISONS: *"The letter said the Taliban had procured 200 litres of poisonous materials that would be used to contaminate water sources and reservoirs in Rawalpindi and Chaklala, official sources were quoted as saying by The News daily."*

2. GE GETTING \$2 MILLION GRANT TO DEVELOP WEARABLE SENSORS TO DETECT CHEMICAL WEAPONS, DISEASE:

"Radio-frequency identification sensors are commonly used to track materials, including in baggage at airports. GE's sensors would combine the tracking capability with gas sensors that could detect harmful chemicals in the air."

3. WORLD WAR 2 JAPANESE SUPER-SUBMARINE FOUND IN HAWAII:

"The Japanese also had another dirty trick in their pockets: Use the submarines to deploy rats infected with the plague and insects loaded with cholera, dengue, and typhus."

4. US GOVERNMENT AWARDS CONTRACT TO BAVARIAN NORDIC FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREEZE-DRIED IMVAMUNE® SMALLPOX VACCINE:

"Bavarian Nordic A/S announced today that BARDA (Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority) has awarded a new contract to Bavarian Nordic for the development of a freeze-dried version of its IMVAMUNE® smallpox vaccine with a total prospective value of USD 40 million."

5. SYRIA SUSPECTED OF CONCEALING NUCLEAR ACTIVITY:

"The IAEA is not buying either of the two explanations and is pressing Damascus for more answers and wants to know from where the uranium came. The agency has run its own tests and is certain the Syrian government is not telling the truth."

6. GAO REPORT - COMBATING NUCLEAR SMUGGLING: RECENT TESTING RAISES ISSUES ABOUT THE POTENTIAL EFFECTIVENESS OF ADVANCED RADIATION

DETECTION PORTAL MONITORS: *"GAO's May 2009 report on ASP testing found that DHS increased the rigor in comparison with previous tests and thereby added credibility to the test results. However, GAO's report also questioned whether the benefits of the ASPs justify its high cost."*

Chem-Demil News

1. FACILITY IN CENTRAL RUSSIA COMPLETES DESTRUCTION OF SARIN

MUNITIONS: *"The chemical weapons destruction facility Maradykovskiy (in Kirov Region's Orichevskiy District) has completed the destruction of ammunition with the toxic substance sarin."*

2. DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT - MOCK TREATY INSPECTION HELD AT DCD:

"Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) recently hosted its first simulated Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) challenge inspection to review and exercise recently revised U.S. Army inspection support procedures. A CWC challenge inspection is an aggressive inspection of a site to clarify and resolve allegations made by one state party against another concerning non-

compliance with the treaty."

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

TALIBAN THREATENS TO CONTAMINATE WATER SOURCES IN WAZIRISTAN WITH POISONS

The Deccan Herald
November 18, 2009

"The letter said the Taliban had procured 200 litres of poisonous materials that would be used to contaminate water sources and reservoirs in Rawalpindi and Chaklala, official sources were quoted as saying by The News daily.

The letter also warned the government to stop the military operations against the Taliban in South Waziristan, the sources said."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/36544/taliban-threatens-contaminate-water-sources.html>

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GE GETTING \$2 MILLION GRANT TO DEVELOP WEARABLE SENSORS TO DETECT CHEMICAL WEAPONS, DISEASE

The Associated Press in The Daily Press
November 17, 2009

"Radio-frequency identification sensors are commonly used to track materials, including in baggage at airports. GE's sensors would combine the tracking capability with gas sensors that could detect harmful chemicals in the air. Because they can be smaller than a penny, GE says the sensors could be integrated into identification badges or serve as part of warning systems."

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"The grant is from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, which is part of the National Institutes of Health."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.dailypress.com/business/nationworld/sns-ap-us-ge-sensors,0,2918594.story>

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WORLD WAR 2 JAPANESE SUPER-SUBMARINE FOUND IN HAWAII

By Jesus Diaz

Gizmodo

November 18, 2009

“According to Van Tillburg, it looks more like a Cold War submarine than a WW2 ship, build for high speed underwater travel. The I-401 was its sister vessel. That one was located in 2005, and it was capable of carrying 144 people through 37,000 miles, it was three times the size of modern submarines. Japan wanted to use these ships to launch aerial attacks in the continental United States. To do this, it used three Aichi light bombers, each capable of carrying an 800-kilogram bomb. When their mission was complete, the bombers returned to the submarine, landing on the water using floats.

The Japanese also had another dirty trick in their pockets: Use the submarines to deploy rats infected with the plague and insects loaded with cholera, dengue, and typhus. They never were able to put that in practice, however. The Americans delivered a fat tin can full of atoms to them first.”

The full article can be found at: <http://gizmodo.com/5407769/world-war-2-japanese-super-submarine-found-in-hawaii>

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US GOVERNMENT AWARDS CONTRACT TO BAVARIAN NORDIC FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREEZE-DRIED IMVAMUNE® SMALLPOX VACCINE

Bavarian Nordic News Release

November 17, 2009

“Bavarian Nordic A/S announced today that BARDA (Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority) has awarded a new contract to Bavarian Nordic for the development of a freeze-dried version of its IMVAMUNE® smallpox vaccine with a total prospective value of USD 40 million.

The contract provides funds to validate the new freeze-dried manufacturing process and the associated pre-clinical and clinical studies to support the advanced development of a freeze-dried version of IMVAMUNE®. The base year funding represents 33% of the total contract value, followed by four additional years of optional funding, which are triggered by the completion of pre-determined technical milestones. These freeze-dried development activities will be performed in parallel to the licensure activities of the current liquid-frozen IMVAMUNE® formulation under the RFP-3 contract.”

The full article can be found at: <http://hugin.info/100065/R/1355436/328993.pdf>

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SYRIA SUSPECTED OF CONCEALING NUCLEAR ACTIVITY

J.J. Greer

WTOP.com

November 19, 2009

"The agency found traces of uranium at the Dair Alzour nuclear site that are not included in Syria's declared inventory, according to a just released report. The Syrians said the uranium came from the Israeli missiles used to destroy the nearby al-Kibar reactor in September 2007.

The presence of uranium particles was detected at a second site near Damascus -- the Miniature Neutron Source Reactor. Syria said it came from the accumulation of samples and reference materials used in neutron activation analysis.

The IAEA is not buying either of the two explanations and is pressing Damascus for more answers and wants to know from where the uranium came. The agency has run its own tests and is certain the Syrian government is not telling the truth."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=778&sid=1816869>

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GAO REPORT - COMBATING NUCLEAR SMUGGLING: RECENT TESTING RAISES ISSUES ABOUT THE POTENTIAL EFFECTIVENESS OF ADVANCED RADIATION DETECTION PORTAL MONITORS

Statement of Gene Aloise, Director, Natural Resources and Environment

US Government Accountability Office

November 17, 2009

"GAO's May 2009 report on ASP testing found that DHS increased the rigor in comparison with previous tests and thereby added credibility to the test results. However, GAO's report also questioned whether the benefits of the ASPs justify its high cost. In particular, the DHS criteria for a significant increase in operational effectiveness require only a marginal improvement in the detection of certain weapons-usable nuclear materials, which DNDO considers a key limitation of current-generation portal monitors. The marginal improvement required of ASPs is particularly notable given that DNDO has not completed efforts to fine-tune current-generation equipment to provide greater sensitivity. Moreover, the test results showed that ASPs performed better than current-generation portal monitors in detection of such materials concealed by light shielding approximating the threat guidance for setting detection thresholds, but that differences in sensitivity were less notable when shielding was slightly below or above that level. Finally, DNDO had not yet updated its cost-benefit analysis to take into account the results of ASP testing and did not plan to complete computer simulations that could provide additional insight into ASP capabilities and limitations prior to certification even though test delays have allowed more time to conduct the simulations. DNDO officials believed the other tests were sufficient for ASPs to demonstrate a significant increase in operational effectiveness. GAO recommended that DHS

assess ASPs against the full potential of current-generation equipment and revise the program schedule to allow time to conduct computer simulations and to uncover and resolve problems with ASPs before full-scale deployment. DHS agreed to a phased deployment that should allow time to uncover ASP problems but disagreed with the other recommendations, which GAO believes remain valid.

The results of DNDO's most recent round of field testing raise continuing issues. In July 2009, DNDO resumed the field testing of ASPs that it initiated in January 2009 but suspended because of serious performance problems. However, the July tests also revealed critical performance deficiencies. For example, the ASP had a high number of false positive alarms for the detection of certain nuclear materials. According to CBP, these false alarms are very disruptive in a port environment because any alarm for this type of nuclear material causes CBP to take enhanced security precautions. To address these false alarms, DNDO plans to modify the ASP to make these monitors less sensitive to these nuclear materials and thereby diminishing the ASPs' capability. As GAO reported earlier this year, previous testing results demonstrated that the ASPs represented a marginal improvement in detecting these materials. By reducing the sensitivity to nuclear materials even further, it is uncertain exactly what improvement in detecting these materials the ASPs are providing or whether DNDO might be able to achieve a similar level of performance as the modified ASPs by improving the current-generation portal monitors that are already in place. In addition, the July 2009 testing also identified a critical equipment failure, including an alert malfunction, which DNDO is taking steps to resolve for future testing."

The full report can be found at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10252t.pdf>

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FACILITY IN CENTRAL RUSSIA COMPLETES DESTRUCTION OF SARIN MUNITIONS

BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union - Political

November 19, 2009

"Kirov, 18 November: The chemical weapons destruction facility Maradykovskiy (in Kirov Region's Orichevskiy District) has completed the destruction of ammunition with the toxic substance sarin.

Overall, there were 4,866 units of ammunition containing 232.6 t of sarin at the facility, the press service of the Kirov Region government said, citing the region's conventional issues directorate.

"The facility has completed the construction of a line for the destruction of mustard-lewisite mixture. In late November hook-up and commissioning work will start at the line, testing the technology for destroying this toxic substance first in neutral and then in real media," the statement said.

The Maradykovskiy facility is to destroy 150 t of mustard-lewisite mixture or 277 units of ammunition. [Passage omitted]

Chemical disarmament at the Maradykovskiy facility is planned to be completed by 2012.

Source: Interfax-AVN military news agency website, Moscow, in Russian 1420 gmt 18 Nov 09"

Link not available.

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DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT - MOCK TREATY INSPECTION HELD AT DCD

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

November 19, 2009

"Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) recently hosted its first simulated Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) challenge inspection to review and exercise recently revised U.S. Army inspection support procedures. A CWC challenge inspection is an aggressive inspection of a site to clarify and resolve allegations made by one state party against another concerning non-compliance with the treaty.

The CWC treaty requires all state parties to declare and destroy any stockpile of chemical weapons they may hold and any facilities which produced them, as well as any chemical weapons they abandoned on the territory of other state parties in the past. Although the U. S. has never had to respond to an actual treaty challenge inspection, the Department of Defense has been conducting large-scale challenge inspection support trainings at various locations since the mid-1990s.

In the event that the U.S. faced a true challenge inspection, the Center for Treaty Inspection and Compliance (CTIC) would deploy an Installation Assistance Team to help implement the Army's challenge inspection support procedures. Considering that the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, an international agency responsible for conducting all CWC inspections, would provide as little as 12 hours notice, this team would need to quickly pull together various logistical requirements in preparation for arrival of the international inspectors. A real challenge inspection would be a rapid, high-profile event and could take multiple days to conduct a comprehensive inspection of the challenged site.

Through the support of many DCD employees, Installation Assistance Team members were able to practice various treaty required implementation skills under near-realistic circumstances. Prior to the simulated inspection activities, mock negotiations took place to establish the inspection site perimeter, necessary monitoring activities and logistical arrangements. This important training effort provided the CTIC an opportunity to validate the Army's revised inspection support plans and capture valuable lessons learned."

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

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