

Chem-Bio News

1. FRANCE - NUCLEAR TERROR SUSPECT IS TOP PHYSICIST: *"Using sophisticated monitoring equipment that allows them to read emails as they are transmitted, French intelligence concluded in recent days that Adlène Hicheur had reached the "intention or desire stage" of preparing to mount an attack on a nuclear site."*

2. FEDS GIVE BACK HALF OF ORIGINAL FUNDING FOR DIRTY BOMB SENSORS: *"Congress restored partial funding to New York City's antiterrorism efforts yesterday, after drawing criticism for slashing money to the "Securing the Cities" program."*

3. PLANNING, RESOURCING, AND TRAINING ISSUES CHALLENGE DOD'S RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR, AND HIGH-YIELD EXPLOSIVE INCIDENTS: *"DOD is making progress in identifying and providing funding and equipment to meet CCMRF mission requirements; however, its efforts to identify all requirements have not been completed, and funding responsibilities are spread across the department and are not subject to central oversight."*

4. LOS ALAMOS MOVING AHEAD WITH NEW LAB BUILDING: *"The federal government has released \$47 million toward a long-planned plutonium research lab at Los Alamos National Laboratory, a project Los Alamos officials say is vital but which nuclear watchdogs contend only positions the U.S. to build more nuclear weapons."*

5. CHINA DETECTS DEADLY NERVE GAS AT BORDER WITH NKOREA: REPORT: *"China has detected deadly nerve gas at its border with North Korea and suspects an accidental release inside the secretive state, a Japanese news report said Friday."*

6. PATAGONIA CRIME SCENE PLAYS ROLE IN NUCLEAR-SECURITY BID: *"It took two armed men no more than three minutes to break into an underground bunker in Argentina, swipe a canister of radioactive material and make a quick getaway after tying up the lone security guard on duty at the facility."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

FRANCE - NUCLEAR TERROR SUSPECT IS TOP PHYSICIST

By John Lichfield
The Independent
October 11, 2009

"Was a leading scientist working on Cern's Large Hadron Collider plotting with al-Qa'ida to sabotage sites in France?"

"The scientist suspected of plotting terrorist attacks on nuclear sites in France is a brilliant, internationally known physicist who has worked on research projects in Britain and the US, it emerged yesterday.

Adlène Hicheur, 32, who currently works on the "Big Bang" Large Hadron Collider experiment on the Swiss-French border, was once a research fellow at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Chilton, Oxfordshire. His name is attached to dozens of research papers presented at universities and nuclear research centres all over the world.

Mr Hicheur, and his brother, Zitouni, or Halim, also a highly qualified scientist, were arrested at their

parents' home on a suburban council estate at Vienne, south of Lyons, on Thursday. French investigators say that advanced, internet "bugging" equipment allowed them to read, in "real time", emails exchanged between the brothers and the North African branch of al-Qa'ida. The messages are alleged to have contained, in recent days, suggested targets for attacks on nuclear sites in France and other countries "allied with the United States".

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“Using sophisticated monitoring equipment that allows them to read emails as they are transmitted, French intelligence concluded in recent days that Adlène Hicheur had reached the "intention or desire stage" of preparing to mount an attack on a nuclear site. A French intelligence source told the news agency Agence France-Presse that he had not yet reached the "action stage" of gathering materials and detailed information. He had, however, put forward a list of several possible targets in emails sent to people in North Africa known to be linked to "al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb" or AQIM.”

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“They have not yet been formally accused of anything but are being held on suspicion of "associating with wrong-doers linked to a terrorist organisation".

The full article can be found at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/nuclear-terror-suspect-is-top-physicist-1800927.html>

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FEDS GIVE BACK HALF OF ORIGINAL FUNDING FOR DIRTY BOMB SENSORS

Metro US

October 12, 2009

“Congress restored partial funding to New York City’s antiterrorism efforts yesterday, after drawing criticism for slashing money to the “Securing the Cities” program.

Members of the New York delegation had requested full restoration of the \$40 million originally approved. Instead, Congress agreed to put \$20 million toward the program, which attempts to ring the city in sensors that can detect a makeshift nuclear device or a radioactive dirty bomb.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.metro.us/us/article/2009/10/08/07/0314-82/index.xml>

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PLANNING, RESOURCING, AND TRAINING ISSUES CHALLENGE DOD'S RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR, AND HIGH-YIELD EXPLOSIVE INCIDENTS

US Government Accountability Office

October 2009

“Why GAO Did This Study

DOD plays a support role in managing Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosives (CBRNE) incidents, including providing capabilities to save lives, alleviate hardship or suffering, and minimize property damage. This report addresses the extent to which (1) DOD’s CBRNE consequence management plans and capabilities are integrated with other federal plans; (2) DOD has planned for and structured its force to provide CBRNE consequence management assistance; (3) DOD’s CBRNE Consequence Management Response Forces (CCMRF) are prepared for their mission; and (4) DOD has CCMRF funding plans that are linked to requirements for specialized CBRNE capabilities. GAO reviewed DOD’s plans for CBRNE consequence management and documents from the Department of

Homeland Security (DHS) and FEMA. GAO also met with officials from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense, U.S Northern Command, the military services, the National Guard Bureau, and some CCMRF units.”

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What GAO Found

DOD has its own CBRNE consequence management plans but has not integrated them with other federal plans because those federal entities have not completed all elements of the Integrated Planning System mandated by Presidential directive in December 2007. The system is to develop and link planning documents at the federal, state, and local levels. While the system’s framework is established, the CBRNE concept and strategic plans that provide further guidance are incomplete. DOD has had operational plans in place and revises these plans regularly. However, until the Integrated Planning System and its associated plans are complete, DOD’s plans and those of other federal and state entities will not be integrated, and it will remain unclear whether DOD’s CCMRF will address potential gaps in capabilities. We previously recommended and DHS agreed that FEMA should develop a program management plan and schedule to complete the planning system.

With a goal to respond to multiple, near-simultaneous, catastrophic CBRNE incidents, DOD has plans to provide needed capabilities, but its response times may not meet incident requirements, it may lack sufficient capacity in some capabilities, and it faces challenges to its strategy for sourcing all three CCMRFs with available units. Without assigned units and plans that integrate the active and reserve portions of CCMRF, and agreements between DOD and the states on availability of National Guard units and the duty status in which they would respond to an incident requiring federal forces, DOD’s ability to train and deploy forces in a timely manner is at risk.

DOD has taken a number of actions in the past year to improve the readiness of units assigned to the first CCMRF, increasing both individual and collective training focused on the mission and identifying the mission as high priority. However, the CCMRF has not conducted realistic full force field training to confirm units’ readiness to assume the mission or to deploy rapidly. Competing demands of overseas missions may distract from a unit’s focus on the domestic mission, and some CCMRF units rotate more frequently than stated goals. These training and force rotation problems have prevented DOD from providing the kind of stability to the force that would allow units to build cohesiveness.

DOD is making progress in identifying and providing funding and equipment to meet CCMRF mission requirements; however, its efforts to identify all requirements have not been completed, and funding responsibilities are spread across the department and are not subject to central oversight. When the CCMRF mission priority increased in the spring of 2008, more funding was provided. However, units did not have dedicated funding and thus purchased equipment with funding also used for other missions. DOD lacks visibility over total funding requirements. Without an overarching approach to requirements and funding and a centralized focal point to ensure that all requirements have been identified and funded, DOD’s ability to ensure that its forces are prepared to carry out this high-priority mission remains challenged.”

The full report can be found at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10123.pdf>
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LOS ALAMOS MOVING AHEAD WITH NEW LAB BUILDING

By Sue Major Holmes
Associated Press on ABQJournal.com
October 06, 2009

“The federal government has released \$47 million toward a long-planned plutonium research lab at Los Alamos National Laboratory, a project Los Alamos officials say is vital but which nuclear watchdogs contend only positions the U.S. to build more nuclear weapons.

The building would replace an aging lab where scientists analyze samples of plutonium and other radioactive materials.

The current structure was built more than 50 years ago and upgraded earlier this decade at a cost of \$90 million. About half of it has been shut down, largely because Los Alamos does not want to make further upgrades.

The Energy Department late last year approved a program limiting the most dangerous nuclear material to Los Alamos and four other sites, reflecting a significant decline in the number of warheads the United States maintains and an expectation of more reductions.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.abqjournal.com/news/state/applutoniumlab110-06-09.htm>
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CHINA DETECTS DEADLY NERVE GAS AT BORDER WITH NKOREA: REPORT

Agence France-Presse on Google News
October 09, 2009

“China has detected deadly nerve gas at its border with North Korea and suspects an accidental release inside the secretive state, a Japanese news report said Friday.

The Chinese military is strengthening its surveillance activities after detecting the highly virulent sarin gas in November last year and in February in Liaoning province, the Asahi Shimbun newspaper reported, citing anonymous sources from the Chinese military.”

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“The Chinese special operations forces found 0.015-0.03 microgrammes of the gas per cubic metre when they were conducting regular surveys while there were winds from the direction of North Korea, the report said.

China suspects that there were some experiments or accidents in its neighbouring country, it said.”

The full article can be found at:
http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gF1BMbOzAoT_AcuJYhC-T-pOOE0A
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PATAGONIA CRIME SCENE PLAYS ROLE IN NUCLEAR-SECURITY BID

By Siobhan Gorman
The Wall Street Journal
October 09, 2009

“It took two armed men no more than three minutes to break into an underground bunker in Argentina, swipe a canister of radioactive material and make a quick getaway after tying up the lone security guard on duty at the facility.

The heist of cesium-137 from a Baker Atlas Co. oil-drilling operations base earlier this year, the first theft of radioactive material in Argentina, put to the test a new emergency-response process that Argentina's Nuclear Regulatory Authority launched as part of a U.S. global nuclear security program. The program, officials in both countries say, enabled Argentine authorities to recover the radioactive material in less than two days.”

The full article can be found at: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125504219290974603.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_RIGHTTopCarousel

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