

23 October 2009

Chem-Bio News

1. LAWSUIT DISMISSAL ALLOWS PLAN TO REPLACE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PARTS

PLANT TO PROCEED: *"A plan to replace the nuclear weapons parts plant at the Bannister Federal Complex has cleared a significant hurdle with the dismissal of a lawsuit filed in Washington."*

2. DANGER: FOOD SUPPLY VULNERABLE TO TERRORISM:

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3. LIBYA REQUESTS ANOTHER EXTENSION TO CHEMICAL-WEAPON DISARMAMENT

DEADLINE: *"The northern African country has submitted a request for an extension of "intermediate and final deadlines" for the destruction of its Category 1 chemical weapons, states an Oct. 7 status report by the director general of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons."*

4. AIR FORCE FINISHES DEACTIVATION OF MISSILE SITES:

"The full deactivation of the 50 missile launch facilities of Malmstrom Air Force Base's 564th Missile Squadron was completed in late August after nearly two years of work, Malmstrom officials said."

5. [UK] SECRET FILES REVEAL COVERT NETWORK RUN BY NUCLEAR POLICE:

"The nuclear industry funds the special armed police force which guards its installations across the UK, and secret documents, seen by the Guardian, show the 750-strong force is authorised to carry out covert intelligence operations against anti-nuclear protesters, one of its main targets."

6. TALIBAN STRIKE NEAR NUCLEAR FACILITY IN PAKISTAN'S PUNJAB:

"The suicide bomber detonated outside a security checkpoint near the Kamra Air Weapon Complex in the district of Attock, Geo News reported."

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

LAWSUIT DISMISSAL ALLOWS PLAN TO REPLACE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PARTS PLANT TO PROCEED

By Kevin Collison
The Kansas City Star
October 20, 2009

"A plan to replace the nuclear weapons parts plant at the Bannister Federal Complex has cleared a significant hurdle with the dismissal of a lawsuit filed in Washington.

The top official for the National Nuclear Security Administration's Kansas City plant said

Tuesday that the challenge by environmental and peace groups had hampered the ability of private developers to obtain private financing for the \$673 million project planned for Missouri 150 and Botts Road.

"This eliminates pretty much all the barriers to getting the lease signed," said Mark Holecek."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.kansascity.com/898/story/1520255.html>

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DANGER: FOOD SUPPLY VULNERABLE TO TERRORISM

By Jim Kouri

The Examiner

October 21, 2009

"Imported food makes up a substantial and growing portion of the U.S. food supply and, considering the health and safety concerns of keeping American's safe, Washington insiders seem oblivious to that part of protecting American citizens."

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"US agriculture generates more than \$1.5 trillion per year in economic activity and provides an abundant food supply for Americans and others. There are continuing concerns about the vulnerability of US agriculture to the deliberate introduction of animal and plant diseases by those wishing to harm American citizens.

"The big problem is money be spent to monitor food products being imported into the United States. So far, the budget for food safety is minimal when compared to other government programs. For example, politicians push for vaccinating millions of Americans against what they characterize as a deadly flu epidemic, yet they do not seem concerned over a very real threat to all Americans -- contaminated food," said political strategist Mike Baker.

Federal agencies also have been conducting vulnerability assessments of the agriculture infrastructure; have created networks of laboratories capable of diagnosing animal, plant, and human diseases; have begun efforts to develop a national veterinary stockpile that intends to include vaccines against foreign animal diseases; and have created new federal emergency coordinator positions to help states develop emergency response plans for the agriculture sector. However, the United States still faces complex challenges that limit the nation's ability to respond effectively to an attack against livestock.

CBP, FDA, and FSIS claim they have taken steps to address challenges in ensuring the safety of the increasing volume of imported food. For example, CBP maintains that the system importers use to provide information to FDA on food shipments; FDA electronically reviews food imports and inspects some foreign food production facilities to prevent contaminated food from reaching U.S. shores; and FSIS employs an equivalency system that requires countries to demonstrate that their food safety systems provide the same level of protection as the U.S. system.

However, gaps in enforcement and collaboration undermine these efforts. First, CBP's computer system does not currently notify FDA or FSIS when imported food shipments arrive at U.S. ports, although efforts are underway to provide this information to FDA for air and truck shipments."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.examiner.com/examiner/x-2684-Law-Enforcement-Examiner~y2009m10d21-Danger-Food-supply-vulnerable-to-terrorism>

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LIBYA REQUESTS ANOTHER EXTENSION TO CHEMICAL-WEAPON DISARMAMENT DEADLINE

By Martin Matishak

Global Security Newswire

October 21, 2009

"The northern African country has submitted a request for an extension of "intermediate and final deadlines" for the destruction of its Category 1 chemical weapons, states an Oct. 7 status report by the director general of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Category 1 weapons contain materials that have little if any nonmilitary use and pose a "high risk" to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Libya's stockpile consists of roughly 25 metric tons of sulfur mustard stored in bulk containers, along with two chemical-weapon precursor materials, according to Jonathan Tucker, a senior fellow with the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies."

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20091021_9068.php

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AIR FORCE FINISHES DEACTIVATION OF MISSILE SITES

By Peter Johnson

Great Falls Tribune

October 21, 2009

"The full deactivation of the 50 missile launch facilities of Malmstrom Air Force Base's 564th Missile Squadron was completed in late August after nearly two years of work, Malmstrom officials said.

Malmstrom's 341st Maintenance Group worked more than 29,000 man-hours to pull all the major equipment and components from the 50 launch facilities, or silos, as well as the five missile alert facilities that controlled them."

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"The Air Force chose to deactivate the 564th, which lay northwest of Great Falls between Shelby and Dutton, because its missile silos' internal communications system was different than the one used in the nation's nine other ICBM squadrons. That meant the 564th required extra money for staffing, equipping and training."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.greatfalls Tribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009910210301>

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[UK] SECRET FILES REVEAL COVERT NETWORK RUN BY NUCLEAR POLICE

By Rob Evans

The Guardian (UK)

October 20, 2009

"The nuclear industry funds the special armed police force which guards its installations across the UK, and secret documents, seen by the Guardian, show the 750-strong force is authorised to carry out covert intelligence operations against anti-nuclear protesters, one of its main targets."

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"The job of the force is to protect civil nuclear plants and guard radioactive nuclear material when it is being transported by land, rail or sea to ensure it is not stolen or sabotaged. The industry also receives advice from the security services on how to protect itself from attack.

The force is authorised to send informers to infiltrate organisations and to conduct undercover surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). It is also permitted to obtain communications data such as phone numbers and email addresses."

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Since 2007, the CNC has also been headed by an ex-intelligence official, rather than a police officer. Richard Thompson is reported to have been a senior officer in MI6. Rose noted Thompson "has extensive experience in the intelligence world, but has no previous police background".

The full article can be found at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/oct/20/nuclear-police-run-covert-network>

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TALIBAN STRIKE NEAR NUCLEAR FACILITY IN PAKISTAN'S PUNJAB

By Bill Roggio
October 22, 2009

"The suicide bomber detonated outside a security checkpoint near the Kamra Air Weapon Complex in the district of Attock, Geo News reported. Three security personnel and four civilians were killed in the blast, and 12 more were wounded."

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"The Kamra Air Weapon Complex is one of three military industrial production facilities in the Wah Cantt, according to Global Security. The Pakistani Ordnance Factories, a collection of 14 factories that produce arms and ammunition for the Pakistani armed forces, and Heavy Industries Taxila are also contained within the Wah Cantt. More than 40,000 Pakistanis are employed at the factories.

Kamra is believed to be connected with Pakistan's nuclear weapons program. The Pakistani Ordnance Factories are believed to store nuclear weapons at a "screwdriver level" - meaning the components are stored disassembled and can be assembled within hours of needed use."

The full article can be found at: http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2009/10/taliban_strike_near.php

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