

Chem-Bio News

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2. MARKEY, MORAN & SANCHEZ INTRODUCE BILL TO IMPROVE RESPONSE TO WMD

ATTACKS, DISASTERS: "Representative Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), along with Reps. Jim Moran (D-Va.) and Loretta Sanchez (D-Calif.), today introduced H.R. 4580, the Metropolitan Medical Response System Act, to ensure that local emergency management plans are properly integrated and coordinated in the event of a terrorist attack using a Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) such as a nuclear bomb or biological weapon, natural disaster or disease outbreak."

3. DOE ALTERS POLICIES ON BIDDING FOR NATIONAL LAB CONTRACTS: "The Department of Energy no longer will automatically seek bids for management of national laboratories, including Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and may instead renew agreements with current contractors."

4. SOVIET CHEMICAL WEAPONS EXPERT: DUMPING WAS 'COMMON PRACTICE': "A Soviet chemical weapons expert says he is nearly certain that a report claiming the Soviet military dumped chemical weapons and radioactive waste in the Baltic Sea during the 1990s is accurate, RFE/RL's Tatar-Bashkir Service reports."

5. MALAYSIA SACKS IAEA ENVOY AFTER IRAN NUCLEAR VOTE: "The Malaysian Foreign Ministry said in December that Arshad disregarded orders by voting "no" to a resolution passed by a 25-3 margin with six abstentions to censure Iran for building a second uranium enrichment plant in secret."

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

BILL TO BOLSTER NATION'S 'NUCLEAR FORENSICS' CAPABILITIES AWAITS OBAMA'S SIGNATURE

By Jacob Goodwin
Government Security News
February 09, 2010

"The measure, known as the Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act, would establish a National Technical Nuclear Forensics Center within the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office at DHS, launch an academic program to foster the development of nuclear forensic expertise and set up an international framework for determining the source of any confiscated nuclear materials.

The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) and introduced in the House in January 2009. It made its way through both chambers, was debated in the House on January 21, approved on January 22 and presented to the President on February 4."

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"Recognizing what it termed the "narrowing pipeline of qualified people," H.R. 730 authorizes four-year scholarships and at least one summer internship at the undergraduate level, and five-year scholarships and at least two summer internships at the doctoral studies level. Up to 10 percent of this financial assistance would be set aside for federal employees.

The new National Technical Nuclear Forensics Center within DNDO would provide “centralized stewardship, planning, assessment, gap analysis, exercises, improvement, and integration for all federal nuclear forensics activities,” said the bill.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.gsnmagazine.com/article/20050/bill_bolster_nation%E2%80%99s_%E2%80%98nuclear_forensics%E2%80%99_capabili

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MARKEY, MORAN & SANCHEZ INTRODUCE BILL TO IMPROVE RESPONSE TO WMD ATTACKS, DISASTERS

Office of Congressman Ed Markey Press Release

February 03, 2010

“Representative Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), along with Reps. Jim Moran (D-Va.) and Loretta Sanchez (D-Calif.), today introduced H.R. 4580, the Metropolitan Medical Response System Act, to ensure that local emergency management plans are properly integrated and coordinated in the event of a terrorist attack using a Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) such as a nuclear bomb or biological weapon, natural disaster or disease outbreak.

H.R. 4580 would fund the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), the only federal program that integrates local emergency management, law enforcement, and health and medical systems into a coordinated response to a mass casualty event. This program is uniquely suited to mobilize these multiple agencies across jurisdictions, as well as nongovernmental organizations and private enterprises, which are all critical responders during catastrophic emergencies.

“First responders and medical personnel are our first line of defense in the event of the unthinkable,” said Markey. “We need to ensure that we provide them the resources needed to save lives in the aftermath of a terrorist attack, natural disaster or disease outbreak. Moreover, we must improve our emergency coordination and planning before disaster strikes, so that our police officers, fire fighters, medical personnel and other responders can act in an efficient, organized manner when every minute counts. The MMRS will help us do just that,” Rep. Markey concluded.

MMRS was established in the wake of the deadly release of sarin nerve gas in a Tokyo subway and the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City in 1995. The program provides funds to local jurisdictions in 43 states to enhance emergency planning, communication, training, equipment, and stockpile pharmaceuticals.

“Local law enforcement and health professionals are often the first to arrive at the scene of a mass casualty event, and they must have the essential resources to meet this challenge,” said Rep. Moran. “Funding through the MMRS program will ensure localities have the necessary equipment, personnel, and training to respond effectively to any natural or manmade disaster.”

“In order to maximize the effectiveness of our response to a significant natural disaster or terrorist attack, we have to coordinate the actions of our federal, state, and local first responders,” said Rep. Sanchez. “I’m proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 4580, which takes concrete steps to mitigate the consequences of an attack or disaster by ensuring our fire fighters, hospital administrators, and other first responders have a system of communication in place before an incident occurs.”

The full article can be found at: http://markey.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3839&Itemid=141

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DOE ALTERS POLICIES ON BIDDING FOR NATIONAL LAB CONTRACTS

By Annette Cary
The TriCity Herald
February 10, 2010

“The Department of Energy no longer will automatically seek bids for management of national laboratories, including Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and may instead renew agreements with current contractors.

In a new policy statement, Energy Secretary Steven Chu said that the practice common under the previous presidential administration of routinely opening the lab contracts to competition often did not have the expected benefits of saving money and improving efficiency.

Under Chu's leadership, the decision on whether to open management contracts for competition will be decided case by case.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.tricityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/895756.html
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SOVIET CHEMICAL WEAPONS EXPERT: DUMPING WAS 'COMMON PRACTICE'

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
February 10, 2010

“A Soviet chemical weapons expert says he is nearly certain that a report claiming the Soviet military dumped chemical weapons and radioactive waste in the Baltic Sea during the 1990s is accurate, RFE/RL's Tatar-Bashkir Service reports.

Vil Mirzayanov told RFE/RL that a Swedish report about the Soviet military's dumping "reflects the reality of that time." He said dumping to get rid of toxic materials and to hide illegal chemical weapons "was a common practice at that time."

A documentary shown on February 3 by the Swedish channel SVT said dangerous waste from a former Soviet military base in Latvia was dumped by Soviet boats at night near Gotland Island between 1989 and 1992.

Mirzayanov, 75, was a scientist at a secret Russian chemical weapons laboratory, but wrote articles from 1991-92 that detailed Russia's development of new chemical agents. He was arrested for revealing state secrets but later released following an international outcry. He left Russia in 1996 and now lives in the United States.

Some Swedish politicians are calling for an official investigation into the allegations because the reported dumping is said to have occurred in Sweden's economic zone.

Officials deny that the two alleged sites where dumping took place are near the location of the planned Nord Stream gas-pipeline project. Mirzayanov said "if the pipeline would go through that area, it would be a catastrophe."

The full article can be found at:
http://www.rferl.org/content/Soviet_Chemical_Weapons_Expert_Dumping_Was_Common_Practice/1950582.html.
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MALAYSIA SACKS IAEA ENVOY AFTER IRAN NUCLEAR VOTE

The Malaysian Insider

February 10, 2010

“Malaysia has fired its ambassador to the UN nuclear watchdog for voting against a resolution rebuking Iran and he will be replaced as rotating head of the agency’s governing body later this week, officials said.

The rare removal of a senior serving diplomat on the International Atomic Energy Agency’s board of governors underlined the volatile politics and high stakes in policymaking involving Iran’s disputed nuclear programme.

Mohd Arshad Manzoor Hussain, a 35-year diplomatic veteran, told Reuters he had been sacked by his government after being recalled to Kuala Lumpur following the Nov 27 vote and several weeks of consultations.

The Malaysian Foreign Ministry said in December that Arshad disregarded orders by voting “no” to a resolution passed by a 25-3 margin with six abstentions to censure Iran for building a second uranium enrichment plant in secret.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/index.php/malaysia/52601-malaysia-sacks-iaea-envoy-after-iran-nuclear-vote>

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