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Chem-Bio News

1. LA PORTS ADD SHIP TO SCREEN FOR BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS: *"A new ship to detect chemical and biological weapons has been launched to protect the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach."*

2. HHS ADVISORS FACE SHORT DEADLINE FOR ANALYZING BIODEFENSE: *"A committee that advises the US Department of Health and Human Services on biodefense issues took the first steps today to meet the tough assignment of analyzing the challenges facing HHS's medical countermeasures program and completing a report by Mar 26."*

3. [HANFORD NUCLEAR RESERVATION] WORK ON TANKS POISED TO RESUME: *"Work to empty Hanford's oldest underground tanks of radioactive waste is expected to resume as soon as this week."*

4. [IN] INDIA COULD BE A TARGET OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, SAYS NSG CHIEF: *"The National Security Guards (NSG) chief N.P.S. Aulakh on Wednesday said that India could become a victim of terror attacks using toxic industrial chemicals."*

5. FORMER CIA ANALYST: TEHRAN WANTS NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR TWO KEY OBJECTIVES: *"It is my conviction that Iran has already developed nuclear warheads and tested them in non-chain reaction, non-fission, trigger device testing, probably in deep underground sites."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

LA PORTS ADD SHIP TO SCREEN FOR BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

The Associated Press on ABC News
February 10, 2010

"A new ship to detect chemical and biological weapons has been launched to protect the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department said Wednesday it started using the \$3 million vessel this week. It is staffed by explosives experts and equipped with tools to screen cargo ships for threats before they enter the nation's busiest port complex."

The full article can be found at: <http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=9799825>

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HHS ADVISORS FACE SHORT DEADLINE FOR ANALYZING BIODEFENSE

By Robert Roos
CIDRAP News (Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy – University of Minnesota)
February 10, 2010

"A committee that advises the US Department of Health and Human Services on biodefense issues took the first steps today to meet the tough assignment of analyzing the challenges facing HHS's medical countermeasures program and completing a report by Mar 26.

The National Biodefense Science Board (NBSB) was asked by Dr. Nicole Lurie, HHS assistant secretary

for preparedness and response, to take a leading role in a major review of the program for producing countermeasures against biological attacks and other public health threats. HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, citing the slow initial deliveries of H1N1 vaccine, first called for the review in December.

At today's meeting, which was entirely by teleconference because of heavy snow in Washington, DC, the board decided to set up a working group with three co-chairs to take on the assignment. The emphasis in the discussion was on the need to move quickly because of the short deadline.

In a Jan 26 letter, Lurie asked the NBSB to do two things for the review:

- * Organize a workshop to review the "strategic management, leadership, and accountability structure" of the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise, or PHEMCE. She commissioned a white paper with case studies to facilitate the discussions

- * Produce a written report by Mar 26 "synthesizing the issues and challenges facing the PHEMCE" and possibly "suggesting policy options to optimize it"

The overall review also includes another track, in the form of a workshop to be held Feb 22-24 by the Institute of Medicine and focusing on regulatory issues, market disincentives to countermeasure development, and other issues."

The full article can be found at:

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/bioprep/news/feb1010nbsb.html>

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[HANFORD NUCLEAR RESERVATION] WORK ON TANKS POISED TO RESUME

By Annette Cary
The TriCity Herald
February 12, 2010

"Work to empty Hanford's oldest underground tanks of radioactive waste is expected to resume as soon as this week.

It stopped Feb. 2 over concerns about chemical fumes from the tanks. After a review this week, Washington River Protection Solutions is taking short-term actions to better protect workers.

Pumping waste from leak-prone Tank C-104 into a sturdier double-shell tank will resume while the Department of Energy contractor looks at longer-term changes. Tank C-104 is the only Hanford tank currently being emptied.

Both long- and short-term changes were suggested by a committee assembled to brainstorm improvements."

The full article can be found at: http://www.tricityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/898678.html

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[IN] INDIA COULD BE A TARGET OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, SAYS NSG CHIEF

India Vision
February 11, 2010

"The National Security Guards (NSG) chief N.P.S. Aulakh on Wednesday said that India could become a victim of terror attacks using toxic industrial chemicals.

Interacting with the media here Aulakh said that an industrial disaster like the 1984 Bhopal gas leak

could be easily replicated by engineering a leak.”

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“He said the inability of terrorists to execute attacks within the country in the last one year could turn their eyes towards Indian assets abroad.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.indiavision.com/news/article/national/25017/>
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FORMER CIA ANALYST: TEHRAN WANTS NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR TWO KEY OBJECTIVES

By N.Bogdanova
Trend News
February 12, 2010

“Lopez is a former CIA analyst, and has previously produced technical threat assessments for U.S. Embassies.”

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“Lopez: Iran's nuclear weapons program is considered by its clerical rulers to be indispensable for both domestic and foreign policy. Internally, the mullahs believe that acquisition of a deliverable nuclear weapon would encourage national pride, but also convince dissidents and internal opponents that if the entire world could not stop Iran from getting a bomb, then their quest for liberty is also a hopeless one.

Externally, Tehran wants a nuclear weapons capability for two key objectives: geostrategic dominance, including adventuresome aggression, in the Persian Gulf and Middle East region, and to seize leadership of the international Jihad movement away from the Sunnis. The idea is 'Shi'a Rising,' Persian Empire reborn, and Shi'a at the forefront of the Islamic Jihad vs. the Western, non-Muslim world.”

.....

“It is my conviction that Iran has already developed nuclear warheads and tested them in non-chain reaction, non-fission, trigger device testing, probably in deep underground sites. I don't think there is any doubt whatsoever that Iran has mastered the full nuclear fuel cycle....moving to 20 percent enrichment is merely the latest challenge to the impotence of the international community.”

The full article can be found at: <http://en.trend.az/news/politics/foreign/1637970.html>
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Steve Tesko: Steve.Tesko@anser.org

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