

22 February 2010

Chem-Bio News

- 1. IAEA SUSPECTS SYRIAN NUCLEAR ACTIVITY AT BOMBED SITE:** *"Uranium particles found at a Syrian desert complex bombed to ruin by Israel in 2007 point to possible covert nuclear activity at the site, the U.N. atomic watchdog said Thursday."*
- 2. FBI FORMALLY CLOSES ANTHRAX CASE:** *"The FBI has closed its long-running investigation of the deadly 2001 anthrax mailings, according to a Justice Department document released Friday."*
- 3. NNSA AND FBI STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP WITH SLOVAKIA TO PREVENT ILLICIT MOVEMENT OF WMD MATERIALS:** *"The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Directorate, in cooperation with representatives from relevant Slovakian ministries and agencies, today announced the successful conclusion of a week-long training session aimed at thwarting nuclear smuggling and preventing the illicit movement of nuclear and radioactive materials."*
- 4. NAVY AGREES TO FUND TOXIC WATER STUDY AT NC BASE:** *"The Navy has agreed after months of fighting to fund a study into the health effects of past water pollution at Camp Lejeune on Marines."*
- 5. MANY WOULD DELAY TAKING RECOMMENDED ANTIBIOTICS AFTER ANTHRAX ATTACK, POLL FINDS:** *"In a national poll aimed at helping with planning efforts for a public health response to a possible bioterrorism attack, researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) have found that, in response to a fictional scenario describing a significant anthrax attack in their city or town, most Americans (89 percent) will likely follow public health recommendations to obtain prophylactic antibiotics. However, a significant minority of those likely to pick up antibiotics (39 percent) will hold on to them rather than take them right away, which public health experts believe may put them at greater risk of serious illness."*

Chem-Demil News

- 1. FT. MCCLELLAN - BAINS GAP ROAD STILL CLOSED AFTER WWI SHELL FOUND:** *"The watermelon-sized shell, known as a Livens projectile, has probably been in the ground since the 1920s or 30s, said Scott Bolton, site manager for the US Army transitions force. The shells were used to hold various compounds, ranging from smoke to a choking agent, he said."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

IAEA SUSPECTS SYRIAN NUCLEAR ACTIVITY AT BOMBED SITE

By Mark Heinrich
Reuters
February 18, 2010

"Uranium particles found at a Syrian desert complex bombed to ruin by Israel in 2007 point to possible covert nuclear activity at the site, the U.N. atomic watchdog said Thursday.

It was the first time the International Atomic Energy Agency lent public support to Western suspicions that Israel's target was a nascent nuclear reactor that Washington said was North Korean in design and geared to making weapons-grade plutonium."

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"The report said Syria had refused a meeting in Damascus last month to address the issue. But inspectors now planned to visit the research reactor on February 23 to take more test samples and examine "relevant source documents related to the experiments."

Some analysts say the Damascus findings raised the question whether Syria used some natural uranium intended for the alleged reactor at Dair Alzour in tests applicable to learning how to separate out bomb-grade plutonium from spent nuclear fuel."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61H66320100218>

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FBI FORMALLY CLOSES ANTHRAX CASE

By Devlin Barrett
NewsChannel8.com
February 19, 2010

"The FBI (web) has closed its long-running investigation of the deadly 2001 anthrax mailings, according to a Justice Department document released Friday.

The anthrax letters were sent to lawmakers and news organizations as the nation was still reeling in the weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. A person informed of the decision to close the case spoke on condition of anonymity because there was no authorization to discuss it ahead of an announcement planned later Friday by the FBI and Justice Department."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.news8.net/news/stories/0210/708040.html>

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NSA AND FBI STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP WITH SLOVAKIA TO PREVENT ILLICIT MOVEMENT OF WMD MATERIALS

US National Nuclear Security Administration News Release
February 16, 2010

“The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Directorate, in cooperation with representatives from relevant Slovakian ministries and agencies, today announced the successful conclusion of a week-long training session aimed at thwarting nuclear smuggling and preventing the illicit movement of nuclear and radioactive materials.”

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“NNSA and FBI have jointly developed a comprehensive training curriculum that incorporates both the radiation detection and law enforcement aspects of interdicting illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials. The curriculum is designed around the use of fixed and mobile radiation detection equipment. As a strong NNSA partner, Slovakian counterparts are participating in one of the first offerings of this new NNSA/FBI training. The training consists of both instructional activities and realistic practical exercises that incorporate installed radiation portal monitors, vans equipped with detection equipment, other portable radiation detection equipment, and law enforcement and investigative tools.

Under a 2006 Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Energy and the Customs Directorate, NNSA’s Second Line of Defense program (SLD) has provided the Slovak Customs Directorate with fixed, mobile and handheld radiation detection equipment, related communications equipment, and training at five border crossings. Using a cost-sharing approach, the Customs Directorate funded and performed equipment installation, while U.S. contractors provided designs, advice and limited oversight.

NNSA’s SLD program works with foreign governments at border crossings, airports, seaports, and other points of entry to install specialized radiation detection equipment and train officials to detect smuggled nuclear and other radioactive materials. Similar equipment has been installed at more than 300 sites around the world, including sites in Eastern Europe, Russia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

A fact sheet on NNSA’s SLD program is available online. <http://www.nnsa.energy.gov/news/2299.htm>

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nnsa.energy.gov/2826.htm>

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NAVY AGREES TO FUND TOXIC WATER STUDY AT NC BASE

The Associated Press in Stars and Stripes
February 19, 2010

“The Navy has agreed after months of fighting to fund a study into the health effects of past water pollution at Camp Lejeune on Marines.

The Department of the Navy said in a letter Thursday to the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry that it will pay more than \$1.5 million for the work. The study will look at whether there are higher mortality rates for Marines who served at the base during the years the water was contaminated."

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"North Carolina Sens. Richard Burr and Kay Hagan had urged the Navy to fund the study. The two lawmakers were behind legislation passed by the Senate in September preventing the military from dismissing claims related to water contamination before studies are completed."

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"The federal agency still needs funding for a health survey, which asks former residents of Camp Lejeune to report any illnesses. After months of wrangling, the Navy agreed in November to pay \$92,000 for the reanalysis of a study looking at pregnancy issue like mean birth weight and preterm birth.

The Navy also agreed to pay almost \$2 million for the completion of a water modeling project to determine how underground water flowed at the base and how toxins would have been introduced and spread."

The full article can be found at: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_TOXIC_TAP_WATER?SITE=DCSAS

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MANY WOULD DELAY TAKING RECOMMENDED ANTIBIOTICS AFTER ANTHRAX ATTACK, POLL FINDS

Infection Control Today Magazine
February 19, 2010

"In a national poll aimed at helping with planning efforts for a public health response to a possible bioterrorism attack, researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) have found that, in response to a fictional scenario describing a significant anthrax attack in their city or town, most Americans (89 percent) will likely follow public health recommendations to obtain prophylactic antibiotics. However, a significant minority of those likely to pick up antibiotics (39 percent) will hold on to them rather than take them right away, which public health experts believe may put them at greater risk of serious illness."

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"The poll was conducted Dec. 9-28, 2009 among a national sample, as well as people living in areas that actually experienced anthrax attacks in 2001: Washington, D.C., Trenton/Mercer County, N.J. and New York City. The poll was conducted as part of an ongoing series by the Harvard Opinion Research Program at HSPH. The polls are aimed at helping federal,

state and local governments better understand the general public's needs and beliefs in the event of a traumatic public health emergency, including biological threats and natural disasters, and to formulate plans for the best delivery of countermeasures. The Harvard researchers have no knowledge of an impending biological attack using anthrax in the United States."

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"The poll results also call attention to potential areas of resistance to public health recommendations by examining the reasoning among those who said they were unlikely or only "somewhat likely" to go get antibiotic pills at these dispensing sites (for themselves or for their children); this included roughly a third (34 percent) of people. This group most often cited worries about officials being unable to control crowds (45 percent) as a "major reason" for their decision. Other major reasons were that they would: worry about being exposed to anthrax while going to a dispensing site (41 percent); worry that there would not be enough antibiotics (40 percent); worry about the safety of the antibiotics (38 percent). Some also said that they would wait to get antibiotics until they were sure they truly had been exposed to anthrax (37 percent).

While a majority of the public said they were confident in the government's ability to deliver antibiotics quickly to everyone in their city or town, it is notable that a sizeable minority did not agree. Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) were confident that there would be a sufficient supply of the antibiotics for everyone in their city or town who wanted them, but a third (36 percent) were not confident."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.infectioncontrolday.com/hotnews/anthrax-attack-prophylactic-antibiotics,p2.html>

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Chem-Demil News

FT. MCCLELLAN - BAINS GAP ROAD STILL CLOSED AFTER WWI SHELL FOUND

By Rebecca Walker
The Anniston Star
February 19, 2010

"Bain's Gap Road, which was scheduled to reopen tomorrow after several months of munitions cleanup, will have to stay closed a little longer after a contractor found a World War I-era round near the road today.

The watermelon-sized shell, known as a Livens projectile, has probably been in the ground since the 1920s or 30s, said Scott Bolton, site manager for the US Army transitions force. The shells were used to hold various compounds, ranging from smoke to a choking agent, he said."

The full article can be found at: http://annistonstar.com/view/full_story/6411231/article-Bains-Gap-Road-still-closed-after-WWI-shell-found?instance=home_news

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