

14 June 2010

Chem-Bio News

- 1. HOUSE LAWMAKERS LOOK TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY AT U.S. BIOLABS:** *"The 95-page "WMD Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2010" requires the homeland security secretary -- in consultation with the heads of the Agriculture and Health and Human Services departments and other agencies -- to convene a "negotiated rulemaking committee" to develop enhanced security rules for individuals or institutions."*
- 2. US ARMY CHEMICAL CORPS – RESERVE COMPONENT UPDATE:** *The article consists of tables detailing the available professional military training courses as well as the availability of MOBDES positions.*
- 3. AT LABORATORY OUTSIDE OF LAS VEGAS, US OFFICIALS PREPARE FOR RESPONSE TO NUCLEAR TERROR:** *"It is from here, in a laboratory on the edge of the vast Nevada desert, that U.S. officials would gather some of the first critical information that could affect the lives of millions in the aftermath of a nuclear terrorist attack in an American city."*

Chem-Demil News

- 1. [AU] MUSTARD GAS SHELLS TO BE DESTROYED:** *"Official approval has been granted for the destruction of 144 mustard-gas shells found at a former World War II US military base at Columboola, between Chinchilla and Miles."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

HOUSE LAWMAKERS LOOK TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY AT U.S. BIOLABS

By Martin Matishak
Global Security Newswire
June 11, 2010

"The 95-page "WMD Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2010" requires the homeland security secretary -- in consultation with the heads of the Agriculture and Health and Human Services departments and other agencies -- to convene a "negotiated rulemaking committee" to develop enhanced security rules for individuals or institutions.

The panel would also create a tier of disease agents that are considered top material threats to the United States, dubbing them "Tier 1 Material Threat Agents." The committee will consider criteria such as whether the agent or toxin can be used effectively in a biological attack in making their determination.

The Agriculture and Health and Human Service departments would then be required to conduct inspections at designated facilities and to enforce the rules established by the

negotiating committee. Information collected from examinations of laboratories working with first-tier materials would be submitted to the Homeland Security Department "to ensure uniformity in enforcement" of the regulations, according to the bill's executive summary.

Agriculture and HHS officials would also be assigned to develop training programs for personnel at those facilities, the summary states.

The proposals are aimed toward implementing biosecurity recommendations made by the congressionally chartered Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism led by former Senators Bob Graham (D-Fla.) and Jim Talent (R-Mo.), Pascrell said."

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20100611_4895.php

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US ARMY CHEMICAL CORPS – RESERVE COMPONENT UPDATE

Army Chemical Review
Summer, 2010

The article consists of tables detailing the available professional military training courses as well as the availability of MOBDES positions.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.wood.army.mil/chmdsd/pdfs/Summer%2010/RC-Update-final.pdf>

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AT LABORATORY OUTSIDE OF LAS VEGAS, US OFFICIALS PREPARE FOR RESPONSE TO NUCLEAR TERROR

By Desmond Butler
The Associated Press in The L.A. Times
June 08, 2010

"It is from here, in a laboratory on the edge of the vast Nevada desert, that U.S. officials would gather some of the first critical information that could affect the lives of millions in the aftermath of a nuclear terrorist attack in an American city.

Normally concealed from the world within the high fences of Nellis Air Force Base, the doors were opened last month to provide rare tours for officials from 26 countries. A reporter from The Associated Press was also invited along.

The tours were part of efforts by the National Nuclear Safety Administration to coordinate international responses to nuclear or radiological catastrophes in the United States or abroad. The visiting countries included China, Russia and Israel."

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“In the case of a major release of radiation the laboratory is prepared to act as a control room to collect all the information on the catastrophe.

From the laboratory at Nellis, and a similar facility at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, analysts would assess the strength of a blast, the degree of radioactivity and the area of fallout.

In the control room, lined with monitors from wall to wall, analysts would assemble the information to help officials ranging from local mayors to the president make life-or-death decisions about how to respond, who should be evacuated and where they should go.

The first details would be known within moments. The NNSA can provide rough estimates of fallout following a detonation based on weather patterns and the apparent size of the blast.

Planes and helicopters equipped with detection devices would be dispatched immediately from Nellis or Andrews capable of reaching any part of the continental US within hours. They would transmit blast and weather data to the control rooms.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-us-nuclear-control-room,0,3832585.story>

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Chem-Demil News

[AU] MUSTARD GAS SHELLS TO BE DESTROYED

By Stuart Cumming
The Chronicle (AU)
June 09, 2010

“Official approval has been granted for the destruction of 144 mustard-gas shells found at a former World War II US military base at Columboola, between Chinchilla and Miles.

A specific method has not yet been chosen but a Department of Defence spokesman said most of the possibilities involved destruction of the shells inside specially designed chambers to ensure no harmful gases could escape. The 155mm shells were uncovered by mining company Syntech Resources who owned the site and were checking for unexploded weapons.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.thechronicle.com.au/story/2010/06/09/mustard-gas-shells-to-be-destroyed/>

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