a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents is a complex and often grim subject, tracing the deliberate manipulation of chemistry for destructive purposes. This article delves into the evolution of chemical warfare, from its early, rudimentary applications to the sophisticated and terrifying weapons developed through dedicated scientific research. We will explore the key milestones in the creation and deployment of these agents, examining the scientific advancements that enabled their synthesis, the ethical dilemmas they presented, and the global efforts to control their proliferation. Understanding this history is crucial for comprehending the present-day challenges of disarmament and non-proliferation in the face of evolving chemical threats.

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The Dawn of Chemical Warfare: Early Discoveries and Applications

The concept of using chemical substances to incapacitate or kill enemies is ancient, predating formal scientific understanding. Early civilizations employed natural poisons derived from plants and animals, often delivered through arrows or applied to food sources. However, the true laboratory history of chemical warfare agents began to take shape with the advent of industrial chemistry. The ability to synthesize new compounds and extract or concentrate toxic elements marked a significant shift. Early chemists, while not necessarily intending to create weapons, were uncovering the potent properties of various substances. The exploration of chlorine, for instance, initially driven by its industrial applications, would soon reveal its devastating potential as a battlefield agent. The understanding of chemical reactions and the isolation of pure elements laid the groundwork for the more deliberate

weaponization of chemistry.

Early Chemical Toxins and Their Weaponization

Before the organized scientific development of chemical warfare agents, rudimentary methods were employed. These included the burning of sulfurous materials to create choking fumes or the use of arsenic compounds. The siege of cities often involved biological and chemical tactics, such as catapulting diseased carcasses into enemy territory or using smoke to disorient defenders. These early instances, while crude, demonstrated a nascent understanding of how chemical properties could be leveraged for military advantage. The transition from these haphazard methods to scientifically engineered agents was a slow but inevitable progression, driven by the increasing sophistication of chemical knowledge.

World War I: The Laboratory Unleashed on the Battlefield

World War I stands as a stark turning point in the history of chemical warfare. It was during this period that laboratories actively and systematically researched, developed, and deployed chemical agents on an unprecedented scale. The stalemate of trench warfare created a desperate search for new ways to break the deadlock, and chemistry offered a seemingly potent solution. German chemists, in particular, were at the forefront of this development, driven by a desire to exploit the chemical industry's capabilities for military gain. The initial deployment of chlorine gas in 1915 at Ypres was a shock to the Allied forces, marking the first large-scale use of a chemical weapon.

The Introduction of Chlorine Gas

The development of chlorine gas as a weapon was a direct outcome of advancements in industrial chemistry. Chlorine, readily produced through electrolysis, was relatively easy to synthesize and store in cylinders. Its deployment involved releasing the gas from these cylinders, allowing wind to carry it towards enemy trenches. Chlorine is an irritant that attacks the respiratory system, causing coughing, choking, and pulmonary edema, often leading to death. The psychological impact of seeing a visible cloud of poison descending upon them was also significant for the soldiers. While effective in creating panic and disarray, its unpredictable dispersal by wind limited its strategic utility.

The Rise of Phosgene and Mustard Gas

Building on the initial successes and limitations of chlorine, scientists continued their research. Phosgene, another industrial chemical, proved to be a more potent and insidious agent. It was colorless and had a milder odor than chlorine, making its presence less immediately detectable. Phosgene causes delayed but severe damage to the lungs, leading to pulmonary edema that can take hours to manifest. The development of mustard gas by the British further escalated the chemical arms race. Mustard gas is a vesicant, meaning it

causes severe blistering of the skin, eyes, and respiratory tract. Unlike inhalation agents, mustard gas could persist on the ground and equipment, making areas contaminated by it hazardous for extended periods. Its laboratory synthesis involved specific chemical reactions designed to create this highly destructive compound.

The Chemical Arms Race and Countermeasures

The widespread use of chemical weapons in World War I spurred intense research into both offensive and defensive capabilities. Allied scientists worked to develop effective gas masks and protective clothing. The development of activated charcoal filters in gas masks was a crucial laboratory innovation that significantly improved soldier survivability. This constant back-and-forth between offensive development and defensive countermeasures characterized the chemical arms race during the war, pushing the boundaries of chemical research in a destructive direction.

The Interwar Period: Refinement and the Rise of Nerve Agents

Following the devastation of World War I, there was a widespread international revulsion towards chemical weapons. However, the laboratories did not cease their work. The interwar period saw a quieter but significant advancement in the understanding and synthesis of even more potent chemical agents. German chemists, in particular, made groundbreaking discoveries that would profoundly alter the landscape of chemical warfare. This era focused on developing agents that were far more toxic and difficult to detect than those used in the Great War.

The Discovery of Organophosphates and Nerve Agents

The most significant development of this period was the discovery of organophosphate compounds. In the 1930s, German scientists like Gerhard Schrader were researching new insecticides. During their work with highly reactive organophosphates, they stumbled upon compounds with extreme neurotoxic properties. These substances, such as Tabun and Sarin, were far more potent than existing chemical agents. Nerve agents work by inhibiting acetylcholinesterase, an enzyme essential for the proper functioning of the nervous system. This inhibition leads to an overstimulation of nerve signals, causing paralysis, respiratory failure, and death. The synthesis of these agents required a sophisticated understanding of organic chemistry and reaction pathways.

The Shift Towards Non-Lethal and Persistent Agents

While the development of highly lethal nerve agents was a primary focus, research also explored other types of chemical weapons. This included agents designed for incapacitation rather than immediate death, often referred to as "riot control agents" or incapacitating agents. Furthermore, research continued into persistent agents, which, like mustard gas,

could linger in the environment and contaminate areas for extended periods, making them tactically valuable for denying enemy access to territory. The laboratories were actively exploring a wide spectrum of chemical effects.

World War II and Beyond: Continued Development and Diversification

Although large-scale battlefield use of chemical weapons was limited in World War II, compared to World War I, the research and development of agents continued at an accelerated pace in many nations. The fear of an enemy developing or using these weapons motivated significant investment in chemical defense and offensive programs. Laboratories worked on improving the synthesis, storage, and delivery systems for existing agents, as well as exploring entirely new classes of chemical compounds with enhanced properties.

The Development of VX and Other Advanced Nerve Agents

Building upon the discovery of Tabun and Sarin, scientists continued to refine nerve agent technology. The development of VX, a highly persistent and potent nerve agent, occurred in the post-World War II era. VX is a liquid that can be absorbed through the skin and by inhalation, making it extremely dangerous. Its ability to persist in the environment for days or weeks adds a significant layer of threat. The laboratory synthesis of VX involved complex multi-step chemical processes designed to achieve its specific molecular structure and extreme toxicity.

Exploration of Other Agent Categories

Beyond nerve agents, laboratories continued to research other categories of chemical warfare agents. This included the development of more effective blister agents, choking agents, and blood agents. There was also exploration into the potential use of chemical agents in conjunction with other weapons systems, such as incorporating them into munitions for wider dispersal. The scientific pursuit of novel toxic compounds remained a priority for military research establishments.

The Cold War Era: Escalation, Stockpiling, and the Threat of Binary Weapons

The Cold War was a period of intense geopolitical tension and an unprecedented arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union. This rivalry extended to the development and stockpiling of chemical weapons. Both superpowers maintained vast arsenals, and their

laboratories were engaged in a continuous effort to improve existing agents and discover new ones. The fear of mutual assured destruction through nuclear war paradoxically led to a greater reliance on and development of chemical weapons as a potential tool of warfare.

The Arms Race in Chemical Weapons

During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union amassed enormous stockpiles of chemical agents. This involved the large-scale production of agents like Sarin, VX, and various blister agents. The research focused not only on increasing toxicity but also on improving agent stability, dispersal methods, and the development of delivery systems such as artillery shells, bombs, and missiles. The sheer scale of these stockpiles represented a significant global threat, driven by ongoing laboratory research and development.

The Concept of Binary Weapons

A significant innovation in chemical weapons technology during the Cold War was the concept of binary weapons. These weapons consist of two less toxic precursor chemicals that are stored separately within the munition. Upon firing or detonation, the precursors mix and react to form the highly toxic chemical agent. This innovation addressed several challenges, including improved safety during storage and transport, as well as making it more difficult for adversaries to detect the presence of chemical warfare agents. The development of binary weapons required precise laboratory control over the mixing and reaction kinetics of the precursor chemicals.

International Efforts to Control Chemical Weapons

The devastating potential of chemical weapons, particularly after World War I, led to early international efforts to control their use. The Geneva Protocol of 1925 prohibited the use of chemical and biological weapons, though it did not prevent their development or stockpiling. The horrors of World War II and the escalating threat during the Cold War further galvanized the international community to pursue more comprehensive measures.

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

A landmark achievement in disarmament was the negotiation and entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in 1997. The CWC comprehensively prohibits the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer, or use of chemical weapons. It also mandates the destruction of existing chemical weapons stockpiles and production facilities. The convention is overseen by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which conducts inspections and verifies compliance. The CWC represents a significant global commitment to preventing the recurrence of chemical warfare, building on decades of scientific understanding of these agents.

Challenges in Verification and Enforcement

Despite the CWC's success, challenges remain in ensuring full compliance and verifying the absence of clandestine chemical weapons programs. The dual-use nature of many chemicals and the sophistication of modern chemical synthesis make detection and verification complex. Ongoing international cooperation and advancements in analytical chemistry and intelligence gathering are crucial for addressing these challenges and upholding the spirit of the convention. The constant evolution of chemical knowledge means that vigilance remains paramount.

The Enduring Legacy of Laboratory-Developed Chemical Warfare Agents

The laboratory history of chemical warfare agents is a somber testament to the capacity of scientific inquiry to be both constructive and destructive. While the development of these agents has been driven by military objectives, their existence has fundamentally shaped international security discourse and propelled significant disarmament efforts. The knowledge gained from the research into these compounds has also, in some instances, contributed to advancements in medicine, particularly in the understanding of neurochemistry and the development of antidotes and treatments for nerve agent poisoning.

The legacy of these laboratory-developed agents is one of constant vigilance and a commitment to preventing their re-emergence. The international framework established by the CWC is a crucial bulwark against the threat, but it requires ongoing support and adaptation to address new challenges. The historical trajectory of chemical warfare serves as a potent reminder of the ethical responsibilities that accompany scientific discovery and the vital importance of international cooperation in ensuring that chemistry is used for the benefit, not the destruction, of humanity.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is considered the first widely deployed chemical warfare agent in modern history?

Chlorine gas, first used by German forces against Allied troops near Ypres, Belgium, on April 22, 1915, is widely considered the first major chemical warfare agent deployed on a large scale.

Beyond chlorine, what other types of chemical agents were significantly developed and used during World War I?

World War I saw the development and use of phosgene (a choking agent that caused

severe lung damage), mustard gas (a blistering agent that caused severe burns to skin, eyes, and internal organs), and various riot control agents, though the focus shifted to more lethal agents over time.

How did the scientific understanding of chemistry contribute to the development of chemical warfare agents?

Advancements in organic chemistry and industrial chemical production during the late 19th and early 20th centuries provided the knowledge and capacity to synthesize and mass-produce increasingly potent and complex chemical compounds suitable for weaponization.

What was the role of laboratories in the development and testing of chemical warfare agents prior to and during World War I?

Laboratories were crucial for researching potential toxic compounds, synthesizing them, determining their properties (volatility, toxicity, stability), developing delivery mechanisms (e.g., gas shells), and conducting tests, often on animals, to assess their effectiveness and impact.

What significant shift in chemical warfare agent development occurred between World War I and World War II?

The interwar period saw the clandestine development of nerve agents, such as tabun and sarin, by Germany. These agents were significantly more toxic than the blister and choking agents of WWI, acting on the nervous system and requiring a fundamentally different approach to detection and treatment.

How did the post-World War II era and the Cold War influence the research and production of chemical warfare agents?

The Cold War led to an intensified arms race in chemical and biological weapons. Research focused on more persistent agents, agents with delayed effects, and agents to incapacitate rather than kill. Numerous countries established dedicated research facilities for this purpose.

What are some of the ethical considerations that have arisen throughout the history of chemical warfare agent research in laboratories?

Ethical considerations have centered on the moral implications of developing weapons that cause indiscriminate suffering, the use of human subjects or animals in testing, and the

dual-use nature of chemical research, where advancements for beneficial purposes can be diverted to weaponization.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to the laboratory history of chemical warfare agents, each with a short description:

1. The Alchemist's Shadow: From Lab Bench to Battlefield
This book delves into the early, often clandestine, experiments with poisonous substances in medieval and early modern laboratories. It traces the evolution from rudimentary concoctions to more refined chemical weapons, highlighting the scientific curiosity that inadvertently paved the way for their destructive potential. The narrative explores the ethical quandaries faced by early chemists dabbling in such dangerous knowledge.

2. The Devil's Own Brew: The Genesis of Chemical Warfare
This title examines the pivotal period leading up to and during World War I, when chemistry was weaponized on an unprecedented scale. It focuses on the laboratory research, development, and production of agents like chlorine and phosgene, detailing the ingenuity and desperation behind their creation. The book provides a stark account of how scientific advancements were turned towards mass destruction.

3. Mustard Gas Dreams: The Laboratory Origins of Blister Agents
This work specifically chronicles the scientific journey of sulfur mustard, from its initial synthesis in laboratories to its devastating use in warfare. It explores the experiments conducted to understand its properties, optimize its production, and assess its efficacy, often by unwitting or indifferent test subjects. The book underscores the dark side of chemical discovery and its application.

4. Tabun's Test Tube: The Dawn of Nerve Agents
This book investigates the groundbreaking, and terrifying, research that led to the development of nerve agents like Tabun and Sarin. It details the painstaking laboratory work undertaken by scientists in the interwar period, often with the initial intention of creating insecticides, that inadvertently discovered compounds capable of incapacitating and killing on a massive scale. The narrative illuminates the hidden pathways of scientific discovery.

5. The Lethal Formula: Soviet Chemical Warfare Research
This title explores the secretive chemical weapons programs conducted within Soviet laboratories. It sheds light on the research into novel agents, delivery systems, and countermeasures, revealing the scale and ambition of their efforts. The book provides a rare glimpse into a closed world of scientific inquiry driven by geopolitical rivalry.

6. Phantom Fire: American Chemical Warfare Development in the 20th Century
This book traces the evolution of American chemical warfare research and development throughout the Cold War and beyond. It details laboratory investigations into a wide array of agents, from nerve agents to incapacitating chemicals, and the ethical debates surrounding their creation and stockpiling. The narrative highlights the continuous cycle of innovation and apprehension in the field.

7. The Unseen Enemy: Laboratory Pathways to Biological Weapons
While focusing on chemical agents, this book also touches upon the synergistic research that blurred the lines between chemical and biological warfare. It examines how laboratory techniques and understandings of molecular biology contributed to the conceptualization and potential development of biological weapons. The text explores the chilling crossover between different forms of WMD research.

8. The Chemical Crucible: Innovation and Destruction in the Lab
This comprehensive work offers a broad overview of the scientific advancements and ethical challenges associated with chemical warfare agents throughout history. It highlights key laboratory breakthroughs, the scientists involved (both celebrated and obscure), and the devastating consequences of their discoveries. The book serves as a critical examination of the dual-use nature of chemical science.

9. Agent Orange's Ancestors: The Laboratory Roots of Herbicides in Warfare
While primarily known as a defoliant, Agent Orange's development involved extensive laboratory research that shares similarities with the study of other chemical warfare agents. This book traces the scientific investigation into potent herbicides, their synthesis, and their application in military contexts, exploring the unintended consequences and ethical debates that arose from their laboratory origins. It examines how chemical research can have far-reaching environmental and human impacts.

A Laboratory History Of Chemical Warfare Agents

A Laboratory History of Chemical Warfare Agents: From Mustard Gas to Modern Neurotoxins

This ebook delves into the chilling history of chemical warfare agents, tracing their development from rudimentary concoctions to sophisticated, highly lethal neurotoxins. We will explore the scientific advancements, ethical dilemmas, and enduring consequences associated with their creation and use, examining both the historical context and the ongoing relevance in contemporary security and public health discussions.

Ebook Title: A Laboratory History of Chemical Warfare Agents: From Mustard Gas to Modern Neurotoxins

Contents Outline:

Introduction: Defining chemical warfare and its historical context.
Chapter 1: Early Experiments and World War I: Focusing on the first large-scale use of chemical weapons.
Chapter 2: The Interwar Period and the Rise of Nerve Agents: Detailing the development of more potent agents like Sarin and Tabun.
Chapter 3: World War II and Beyond: Expanding the Arsenal: Examining the advancements and diversification of chemical weapons during and after WWII.
Chapter 4: The Chemical Weapons Convention and its Impact: Discussing international efforts to ban and control chemical weapons.
Chapter 5: Modern Chemical Warfare Agents and Emerging Threats: Exploring new agents and potential future threats.
Chapter 6: Detection, Decontamination, and Medical Countermeasures: Focusing on the scientific and technological advancements in response to chemical weapons.
Chapter 7: The Ethical and Legal Dimensions of Chemical Warfare: Examining the moral and legal frameworks surrounding the development and use of chemical weapons.
Conclusion: Summarizing key findings and discussing the enduring legacy of chemical warfare.

Detailed Outline Explanation:

Introduction: This section sets the stage, defining chemical warfare and providing a brief historical overview to establish the context for the subsequent chapters. It will highlight the significance of understanding the historical development to better prevent future use.

Chapter 1: Early Experiments and World War I: This chapter explores the early, often haphazard experiments with chemical agents, culminating in the devastating use of mustard gas and other agents during World War I. It will analyze the tactical and strategic impact of their deployment.

Chapter 2: The Interwar Period and the Rise of Nerve Agents: This chapter focuses on the rapid advancements in chemical weapons technology during the interwar period, particularly the development of highly toxic nerve agents like Sarin and Tabun. It will discuss the scientific breakthroughs that led to these advancements.

Chapter 3: World War II and Beyond: Expanding the Arsenal: This chapter expands on the continued development and diversification of chemical weapons throughout and after World War II, including the exploration of binary weapons and other delivery systems. It explores the role of different nations in this development.

Chapter 4: The Chemical Weapons Convention and its Impact: This chapter examines the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and its impact on the global effort to eliminate chemical weapons. It will assess the effectiveness of the CWC and the challenges it faces.

Chapter 5: Modern Chemical Warfare Agents and Emerging Threats: This chapter explores the potential for new and more dangerous chemical agents to emerge, including discussion of potential agents based on advancements in biotechnology and nanotechnology. It also considers the threat of non-state actors.

Chapter 6: Detection, Decontamination, and Medical Countermeasures: This chapter delves into the scientific and technological responses to chemical warfare, including methods for detecting agents, decontamination procedures, and medical treatments for victims of chemical attacks. It will discuss the ongoing research in these areas.

Chapter 7: The Ethical and Legal Dimensions of Chemical Warfare: This chapter examines the ethical and legal frameworks surrounding the use of chemical weapons, including international humanitarian law and the moral implications of their development and deployment. It will analyze case studies and legal precedents.

Conclusion: The conclusion summarizes the key themes and findings of the ebook, highlighting the enduring legacy of chemical warfare and the importance of continued vigilance in preventing their future use. It will emphasize the need for ongoing research and international cooperation.

Keywords: Chemical warfare, chemical weapons, nerve agents, mustard gas, Sarin, Tabun, VX, chemical weapons convention (CWC), decontamination, medical countermeasures, World War I, World War II, bioterrorism, toxicology, international law, ethics, historical analysis, recent research, chemical detection

Chapter 1: Early Experiments and World War I (Example Section)

The early history of chemical warfare is marred by a disturbing lack of ethical considerations. Experiments, often conducted with little regard for human safety, laid the groundwork for the industrial-scale deployment of lethal agents during World War I. The use of chlorine gas at Ypres in 1915 marked a turning point, highlighting the devastating potential of chemical weapons. This chapter will analyze the technological advancements and strategic decisions that led to this unprecedented level of carnage. We will explore the development of early chemical agents, such as chlorine, phosgene, and mustard gas, examining their chemical properties, methods of production, and effectiveness on the battlefield. The impact on soldiers, both physically and psychologically, will be explored, alongside an examination of the early attempts at defense and mitigation. Recent research on the long-term health effects of exposure to these agents will also be included, underscoring the lingering consequences of this grim chapter in history.

(Continue this structure for each chapter, integrating relevant keywords and recent research findings throughout the text. Include images, diagrams, and tables where appropriate to enhance readability and SEO.)

FAQs

1. What are the most lethal chemical warfare agents? Nerve agents like VX, Sarin, and Soman are among the deadliest.
2. How are chemical weapons detected? Detection methods range from simple colorimetric tests to sophisticated mass spectrometry techniques.
3. What are the long-term effects of exposure to chemical weapons? Long-term effects can include respiratory problems, neurological damage, and cancer.
4. What is the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)? The CWC is an international treaty banning the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons.
5. Are there any current threats from chemical weapons? Yes, the potential for terrorist organizations or rogue states to acquire and use chemical weapons remains a significant concern.
6. What are the ethical implications of chemical weapons research? The development of chemical weapons raises serious ethical questions about the responsibility of scientists and governments.
7. How are victims of chemical attacks treated? Treatment depends on the specific agent, but often involves supportive care, antidotes, and decontamination.
8. What are binary chemical weapons? Binary weapons are designed with two less hazardous components that mix to form the toxic agent upon delivery.
9. What role does international cooperation play in preventing chemical warfare? International cooperation is crucial for the effective implementation of the CWC and prevention of chemical warfare.

Related Articles:

1. The Science of Nerve Agents: A deep dive into the chemistry and toxicology of nerve agents.
2. Mustard Gas: A Historical Perspective: Examines the development, use, and lasting impact of mustard gas.
3. The Chemical Weapons Convention: Achievements and Challenges: Analyzes the successes and failures of the CWC.
4. Medical Countermeasures Against Chemical Warfare Agents: Details the development and effectiveness of antidotes and treatments.
5. Chemical Warfare in the 21st Century: Emerging Threats: Explores potential future scenarios and new agents.
6. The Ethical Dilemmas of Chemical Weapons Research: A philosophical examination of the moral issues involved.
7. Decontamination Techniques for Chemical Warfare Agents: Provides a practical guide to decontamination procedures.
8. Case Studies in Chemical Warfare: Analyses specific instances of chemical weapons use throughout history.
9. The Role of Forensic Science in Chemical Warfare Investigations: Explores the methods used to identify and attribute the use of chemical weapons.

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data and informational contents on the worlds most common Chemical Warfare Agents. These existing warfare agents in Volume 1 include updated toxicity data and information regarding environmental persistence, contamination degree, lethal dose, and biological routes of entry and bodily function. As well, each chemical entry includes updated molecular formulas for preparation and structure, 3D molecular images, molecular physical properties, and laboratory chemistry, procedures, and safety. The third edition Volume 1 includes brand new chapters and sections including: Section I: LABORATORY TUTORIAL AND REFERENCE GUIDE, Chapter 1: Laboratory tutorial on techniques and procedures; Chapter 2: Reference guide. Section II: LACHRYMATOR, DISABLING, AND IRRITANT AGENTS, Chapter 3: Physical Nature of Lachrymator, disabling, and irritant substances; Chapter 4: Preparation of Lachrymator, disabling, and irritant substances. Section III: BLOOD AGENTS, Chapter 5: Physical Nature of Blood Agents; Chapter 6: The Preparation of blood agents. Section IV: BLISTER AGENTS (POTENT VESICANTS: TISSUE DAMAGING AGENTS), Chapter 7: Physical Nature of Blister agents, including sulfur mustards, nitrogen mustards, and arsenicals; Chapter 8: Preparation of Blister Agents including sulfur mustards, nitrogen mustards, and arsenicals. Section V: NERVE AGENTS (POTENT ACETYLCHOLINESTERASE INHIBITORS), Chapter 9: Physical Nature of Nerve agents; and Chapter 10: Preparation of Nerve Agents. The Preparatory Manual of Chemical Warfare Agents Third Edition Volume 1 is an extremely valuable reference book used to teach scientific, laboratory, and toxicity data for students, researchers, government agencies, contractors, first responders, and military operatives.

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depth section and chapter on the extraction, isolation, and military weaponization of Ricin; and a upgrade to methods of chemical dissemination i.e. chemical warfare munitions.

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a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: Chemical Warfare Agents Timothy T. Marrs, Robert L. Maynard, Frederick Sidell, 2007-04-04 Chemical Warfare Agents, Second Edition has been totally revised since the successful first edition and expanded to about three times the length, with many new chapters and much more in-depth consideration of all the topics. The chapters have been written by distinguished international experts in various aspects of chemical warfare agents and edited by an experienced team to produce a clear review of the field. The book now contains a wealth of material on the mechanisms of action of the major chemical warfare agents, including the nerve agent cyclosarin, formally considered to be of secondary importance, as well as ricin and abrin. Chemical Warfare Agents, Second Edition discusses the physico-chemical properties of chemical warfare agents, their dispersion and fate in the environment, their toxicology and management of their effects on humans, decontamination and protective equipment. New chapters cover the experience gained after the use of sarin to attack travellers on the Tokyo subway and how to deal with the outcome of the deployment of riot control agents such as CS gas. This book provides a comprehensive review of chemical warfare agents, assessing all available evidence regarding the medical, technical and legal aspects of their use. It is an invaluable reference work for physicians, public health planners, regulators and any other professionals involved in this field. Review of the First Edition: What more appropriate time for a title of this scope than in the post 9/11 era? ...a timely, scholarly, and well-written volume which offers much information of immense current and...future benefit. —VETERINARY AND HUMAN TOXICOLOGY

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: One Hundred Years of Chemical Warfare: Research, Deployment, Consequences Bretislav Friedrich, Dieter Hoffmann, Jürgen Renn, Florian Schmaltz, Martin Wolf, 2017-11-26 This book is open access under a CC BY-NC 2.5 license. On April 22, 1915, the German military released 150 tons of chlorine gas at Ypres, Belgium. Carried by a long-awaited wind, the chlorine cloud passed within a few minutes through the British and French trenches, leaving behind at least 1,000 dead and 4,000 injured. This chemical attack, which amounted to the first use of a weapon of mass destruction, marks a turning point in world history. The preparation as well as the execution of the gas attack was orchestrated by Fritz Haber, the director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry in Berlin-Dahlem. During World War I, Haber transformed his research institute into a center for the development of chemical weapons (and of the means of protection against them). Bretislav Friedrich and Martin Wolf (Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society, the successor institution of Haber’s institute) together with Dieter Hoffmann, Jürgen Renn, and Florian Schmaltz (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science) organized an international symposium to commemorate the centenary of the infamous chemical attack. The symposium examined crucial facets of chemical warfare from the first research on and deployment of chemical weapons in WWI to the development and use of chemical warfare during the century hence. The focus was on scientific, ethical, legal, and political issues of chemical weapons research and deployment — including the issue of dual use — as well as the ongoing effort to control the possession of chemical weapons and to ultimately achieve their elimination. The volume consists of papers presented at the symposium and supplemented by additional articles that together cover key aspects of chemical warfare from 22 April 1915 until the summer of 2015.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: *Dew of Death* Joel A. Vilensky, 2005-09-07 Dr. Vilensky raises important concerns regarding the threats posed by lewisite and other weapons of mass destruction. As he describes, non-proliferation programs are a vital component in the War on Terror. -- Richard G. Lugar, United States Senator Joel Vilensky's book is a detailed and immensely

useful account of the development and history of one of the major chemical weapons.... We will always know how to make lewisite, the 'Dew of Death,' but that does not mean that we should, or be compelled to accept such weapons in our lives. -- from the Foreword by Richard Butler, former head of UN Special Commission to Disarm Iraq In 1919, when the Great War was over, the New York Times reported on a new chemical weapon with the fragrance of geranium blossoms, a poison gas that was the climax of this country's achievements in the lethal arts. The name of this substance was lewisite and this is its story -- the story of an American weapon of mass destruction. Discovered by accident by a graduate student and priest in a chemistry laboratory at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., lewisite was developed into a weapon by Winford Lewis, who became its namesake, working with a team led by James Conant, later president of Harvard and head of government oversight for the U.S.'s atomic bomb program, the Manhattan Project. After a powerful German counterattack in the spring of 1918, the government began frantic production of lewisite in hopes of delivering 3,000 tons of the stuff to be ready for use in Europe the following year. The end of war came just as the first shipment was being prepared. It was dumped into the sea, but not forgotten. Joel A. Vilensky tells the intriguing story of the discovery and development of lewisite and its curious history. During World War II, the United States produced more than 20,000 tons of lewisite, testing it on soldiers and secretly dropping it from airplanes. In the end, the substance was abandoned as a weapon because it was too unstable under most combat conditions. But a weapon once discovered never disappears. It was used by Japan in Manchuria and by Iraq in its war with Iran. The Soviet Union was once a major manufacturer. Strangely enough, although it was developed for lethal purposes, lewisite led to an effective treatment for a rare neurological disease.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: *Toxicology of Cyanides and Cyanogens* Alan H. Hall, Gary E. Isom, Gary A. Rockwood, 2015-10-13 The basic and applied toxicology of cyanides and cyanogens has widespread commercial, occupational, environmental, clinical, forensic, military, and public health implications. This book provides a detailed and updated reference describing the properties, uses, general and human toxicology, clinical recognition, diagnosis and medical management, and countermeasures is therefore required in academic, medical, occupational, environmental, medico-legal, regulatory, emergency response, and military arenas. Edited by a world-renowned team of experts from academia, defense and industry, this book will be an invaluable reference for professionals, researchers and students in cyanide and cyanogens.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: CBRN Protection Andre Richardt, Birgit Hülseweh, Bernd Niemeyer, Frank Sabath, 2013-03-01 Originating in the armed forces of the early 20th century, weapons based on chemical, biological or nuclear agents have become an everpresent threat that has not vanished after the end of the cold war. Since the technology to produce these agents is nowadays available to many countries and organizations, including those with terrorist aims, civil authorities across the world need to prepare against incidents involving these agents and train their personnel accordingly. As an introductory text on NBC CBRN weapons and agents, this book leads the reader from the scientific basics to the current threats and strategies to prepare against them. After an introductory part on the history of NBC CBRN weapons and their international control, the three classes of nuclear/radiological, biological, and chemical weapons are introduced, focusing on agents and delivery vehicles. Current methods for the rapid detection of NBC CBRN agents are introduced, and the principles of physical protection of humans and structures are explained. The final parts addresses more general issues of risk management, preparedness and response management, as the set of tools that authorities and civil services will be needed in a future CBRN scenario as well as the likely future scenarios that authorities and civil services will be faced with in the coming years. This book is a must-have for Health Officers, Public Health Agencies, and Military Authorities.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: Secret Science Ulf Schmidt, 2015 Charting the ethical trajectory and culture of military science from its development in 1915 in response to Germany's first use of chemical weapons in WW1 to the ongoing attempts by the international community to ban these weapons, Secret Science offers a comprehensive history of chemical and

biological weapons research by former Allied powers.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: Germs Judith Miller, William J Broad, Stephen Engelberg, 2012-02-01 In this “engrossing, well-documented, and highly readable” (San Francisco Chronicle) New York Times bestseller, three veteran reporters draw on top sources inside and outside the U.S. government to reveal Washington's secret strategies for combating germ warfare and the deadly threat of biological and chemical weapons. Today Americans have begun to grapple with two difficult truths: that there is no terrorist threat more horrifying—and less understood—than germ warfare, and that it would take very little to mount a devastating attack on American soil. Featuring an inside look at how germ warfare has been waged throughout history and what form its future might take (and in whose hands), Germs reads like a gripping detective story told by fascinating key figures: American and Soviet medical specialists who once made germ weapons but now fight their spread, FBI agents who track Islamic radicals, the Iraqis who built Saddam Hussein's secret arsenal, spies who travel the world collecting lethal microbes, and scientists who see ominous developments on the horizon. With clear scientific explanations and harrowing insights, Germs is a vivid, masterfully written—and timely—work of investigative journalism.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: *Chemical Warfare Agents* Brian J. Lukey, James A. Romano Jr., Harry Salem, 2019-04-11 The first edition of this book, Chemical Warfare Agents: Toxicity at Low Levels, was published just prior to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The second edition titled, Chemical Warfare Agents: Pharmacology, Toxicology, and Therapeutics, included new epidemiological and clinical studies of exposed or potentially exposed populations; new treatment concepts and products; improved organization of the national response apparatus addressing the potential for CWA terrorism; and improved diagnostic tests that enable rapid diagnosis and treatment. Since the second edition, the chemical warfare agent community has worked hard to advance research for protection and treatment and develop/improve response approaches for individuals and definitive care. Consequently, in addition to updating previous chapters, Chemical Warfare Agents: Biomedical and Psychological Effects, Medical Countermeasures, and Emergency Response, Third Edition features several new chapters that address the Syrian War, chemical destruction, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, biomarkers for chemical warfare agent exposure, field sensors, aircraft decontamination, lung/human on a chip, chemical warfare response decision making, and other research advancements. Features: Describes the newest medical interventions, and the latest technologies deployed in the field, as well as developments in the international response to CW usage highlighting recent events in the Middle East Discusses the latest in organizational/interagency partitioning in terms of responsibilities for emergency response, not just in the United States but at the international level—whether prevention, mitigation, medical care, reclamation, or medico-legal aspects of such response Contains the most current research from bench-level experts The third edition contains the most up-to-date and comprehensive coverage of the question of chemical warfare agent employment on the battlefield or in terrorism. Edited by workers that have been in the field for 35+ years, it remains faithful to the scientific constants, while evaluating and crediting the advances by the industry that have made us safer.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: The Challenge of Old Chemical Munitions and Toxic Armament Wastes Thomas Stock, Karlheinz Lohs, 1997 In October 1993, eighteen experts from ten countries met in Munster, Germany to discuss various aspects of the problem of old chemical munitions and toxic armaments wastes. This comprehensive study discusses the characteristics of chemical warfare agents and toxic armament wastes, past chemical weapons production activities, chemical weapons disposal and destruction, sea dumping of chemical weapons, and legal issues related to old chemical munitions and toxic armament wastes.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: *Chemical Warfare Agents* M. Somani Satu, Brian J. Lukey, James A. Romano Jr., James A. Romano, Harry Salem, 2000-12-07 Many books cover the emergency response to chemical terrorism. But what happens after the initial crisis? Chlorine,

phosgene, and mustard were used in World War I. Only years after the war were the long-term effects of these gases realized. In the 60s, 70s, and 80s, these and other agents were used in localized wars. Chemical Warfare Agents: Tox

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: Health Aspects of Chemical and Biological Weapons World Health Organization, 1970

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: A History of Chemical and Biological Weapons Edward M. Spiers, 2010-04-30 Following the 9/11 attacks and the anthrax letters that appeared in their wake, the threat posed by the widespread accessibility of chemical and biological weapons has continually been used to stir public fear and opinion by politicians and the media alike. In Chemical and Biological Weapons, Edward M. Spiers cuts through the scare tactics and hype to provide a thorough and even-handed examination of the weapons themselves—the various types and effects—and their evolution from World War I to the present. Spiers describes the similarities and differences between the two types of weapons and how technological advancements have led to tactical innovations in their use over time. As well, he gives equal attention to the international response to the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons, analyzing global efforts aimed at restraining their use, such as deterrence and disarmament, and the effectiveness of these approaches in the twentieth century. Using Iraq as a case study, Spiers also investigates its deployment of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq War and the attempts by the international community to disarm Iraq through the United Nations Special Commission and the United States-led war in 2003. A timely and balanced historical survey, Chemical and Biological Weapons will be of interest to readers studying the proliferation and use of chemical and biological warfare and the reactions of the international community throughout the last several decades.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: *Public Health Response to Biological and Chemical Weapons* World Health Organization, 2004-01-21 This is the second edition of this publication which focuses on the public health aspects of the possible deliberate use of biological or chemical agents. Issues discussed include: the key principles for public health planning, risk assessment, hazard identification and evaluation, risk management strategies, and response planning as part of existing national emergency plans, disease surveillance and early warning systems, the national and international legal framework, and international sources of assistance. Technical annexes cover a range of issues including chemical agents, toxins, biological agents, principles of protection, precautions against the sabotage of drinking water, food and other products, information resources and the affiliation of WHO Member States to the international treaties on biological and chemical weapons.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: *A Short History of Biological Warfare* W. Seth Carus, National Defense University (U S), National Defense University. Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction, 2017 This publication gives a history of biological warfare (BW) from the prehistoric period through the present, with a section on the future of BW. The publication relies on works by historians who used primary sources dealing with BW. In-depth definitions of biological agents, biological weapons, and biological warfare (BW) are included, as well as an appendix of further reading on the subject. Related items: Arms & Weapons publications can be found here: https://bookstore.gpo.gov/catalog/arms-weapons Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT & CBRNE) publications can be found here: https://bookstore.gpo.gov/catalog/hazardous-materials-hazmat-cbrne

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: *The Preparatory Manual of Explosives* Jared Ledgard, 2018-11-25 The Preparatory Manual of Explosives: Radical, Extreme, Experimental Explosives Chemistry Vol.1 is broken down into Section 1: a) Introduction; b) Dual bonding; c) The Element Nitrogen; d) The element oxygen; e) The element chlorine; f) Introduction to filtration; 1) Gravity filtration; a) Fluting Filter Paper for use in gravity filtration; 2) Vacuum Filtration (suction filtration); a) General Laboratory Techniques: Methods of heating; 1) Free flame; 2) Steam bath, or water bath; 3) Oil bath; 4) Electric Heating Mantles; 5) Hot Plates; a) Methods of Cooling; 1) Cold water bath; 2) Ice water bath; 3) Standard ice bath; 4) Salt/ice bath; 5) Dry ice/acetone bath; a) Cooling tricks of the trade; b) Recrystallization, and solid product recovery; c) Recrystallization; 1)

General recrystallization utilizing heat only; a) Working example of recrystallization using heat only; 2) Recrystallization using seed crystals; 3) Recovering the product through low heat and vacuum; a) Washing liquids; b) Washing solids using non-vacuum techniques; c) Washing solids using vacuum techniques; d) Drying solids; e) Drying liquids to remove water; f) Laboratory safety; g) Laboratory glassware; h) Laboratory equipment; Section 2: Intermediates, Reagents, and Solvents; Section 3: Experimental Explosives Chemistry; Theoretical Preparation 1: 1,3,5-trinitrohexazinane; Azinane; Theoretical Preparation 2: trisodium hexazinane-1,3,5-triide; SOD; Theoretical Preparation 3: 3,3',3''-hexazinane-1,3,5-triyltris(triaza-1,2-dien-2-ium-1-ide); HEXAAZIDE; HTA; Theoretical Preparation 4: diammonium trioxidane-1,3-diide; diammonium trioxide; DATD; Theoretical Preparation 5: 3,3'-trioxidane-1,3-diylbis(triaza-1,2-dien-2-ium-1-ide); TDTD; Theoretical Preparation 6: benzene-1,3,5-triyltris(chlorane) nonaoxide; BTCN; Chlorane; Theoretical Preparation 7: 2,4,6-trinitro-1,3,5,2,4,6-trioxatriazinane; TNTOTA; oxatriazinane; Theoretical Preparation 8: (2,4,6-trinitrobenzene-1,3,5-triyl)tris(chlorane) nonaoxide; Chlorane; Theoretical Preparation 9: 1,3,5-triazido-2,4,6-trinitrobenzene; Nitrazide; TATNB; Theoretical Preparation 10: 1,3,5-trinitrohexasilinane; nitrosilane; 2-TNHS; Theoretical Preparation 11: 1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-tris(nitrooxy)hexasilinane-1,3,5-triium; TNNHS; Si-135; Theoretical Preparation 12: 1,3,5-trinitrohexaphosphinane; TNHP; High Explosive Phosphorus; Theoretical Preparation 13: pentanitro-l5-phosphane; 5-PNP; Theoretical Preparation 14: trinitroamine oxide; TNAOX; NITROXIDE; Theoretical Preparation 15: pentachloryl-l5-phosphane; Theoretical Preparation 16: Tetranitrodiborane; TNDB; Nitro Boron; Theoretical Preparation 17: 1,2,3,4,5,6-hexanitrocyclohexaborane; KNCHB; 6-Nitrocycloborane; Theoretical Preparation 18: N'-perchlorylperchloric hydrazide; N'PCPH, Perchloryl hydrazine; Theoretical Preparation 19: tetranitrohydrazine; TNH-X; Theoretical Preparation 20: hexaaza-1,2,4,5-tetraene-2,5-diium-1,6-diide; Hexazide; HTDD; Theoretical Preparation 21: hexaazidobenzene; HAAB; 6-Azide; Theoretical Preparation 22: 1,2,3,4,5,6-hexanitro-1l4,2l4,3l4,4l4,5l4,6l4-hexathiine; Nitro hexathiine; Gamma-HNH; Theoretical Preparation 23: pentakis(dioxidobromanyl)-l5-chlorane; Chlorane; pentabromate chloride; PDDBC; Theoretical Preparation 24: hexa-1,3,5-triyne-1,6-diyl dinitrate; HTDD; poly acetylene dinitrate; Theoretical Preparation 25: 1,2,3,4,5,6-hexanitrohexa-1,3,5-triene-1,6-diyl dinitrate; HNHTDD; Hexanitro-Triene; Triene dinitrate; Theoretical Preparation 26: (1Z,3E,5Z)-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexaazidohexa-1,3,5-triene-1,6-diyl dinitrate; EZ-Azido Triene; HAHTDN; Theoretical Preparation 27: 1,2,3,4,5,6-hexafluoro-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexaperchlorylhexane-1,6-diyl dinitrate; Fluoroperchlorylhexane; HFGPHDD; Theoretical Preparation 28: 3,3':4',3''-ter-1,2-dioxetane-4,4''-diyl dinitrate; Dioxetane; Dioxetane dinitrate; ter-DDD; Theoretical Preparation 29: 2H,3'H,3H-2,2':3',2-teraluminum-3,3-diyl dinitrate; Aluminum-3H-dinitrate; Aluminum-3-3-dinitrate; 2H'3H'-Aluminum d

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: Chemical and Biological Terrorism Institute of Medicine, Committee on R&D Needs for Improving Civilian Medical Response to Chemical and Biological Terrorism Incidents, 1999-03-12 The threat of domestic terrorism today looms larger than ever. Bombings at the World Trade Center and Oklahoma City's Federal Building, as well as nerve gas attacks in Japan, have made it tragically obvious that American civilians must be ready for terrorist attacks. What do we need to know to help emergency and medical personnel prepare for these attacks? Chemical and Biological Terrorism identifies the R&D efforts needed to implement recommendations in key areas: pre-incident intelligence, detection and identification of chemical and biological agents, protective clothing and equipment, early recognition that a population has been covertly exposed to a pathogen, mass casualty decontamination and triage, use of vaccines and pharmaceuticals, and the psychological effects of terror. Specific objectives for computer software development are also identified. The book addresses the differences between a biological and chemical attack, the distinct challenges to the military and civilian medical communities, and other broader issues. This book will be of critical interest to anyone involved in civilian preparedness for terrorist attack: planners, administrators, responders, medical

professionals, public health and emergency personnel, and technology designers and engineers.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: Possible Long-term Health Effects of Short-term Exposure to Chemical Agents , 1982

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: Dirty War Glenn Cross, 2017-03-21 Dirty War is the first comprehensive look at the Rhodesia's top secret use of chemical and biological weapons (CBW) during their long counterinsurgency against native African nationalists. Having declared its independence from Great Britain in 1965, the government—made up of European settlers and their descendants—almost immediately faced a growing threat from native African nationalists. In the midst of this long and terrible conflict, Rhodesia resorted to chemical and biological weapons against an elusive guerrilla adversary. A small team made up of a few scientists and their students at a remote Rhodesian fort to produce lethal agents for use. Cloaked in the strictest secrecy, these efforts were overseen by a battle-hardened and ruthless officer of Rhodesia's Special Branch and his select team of policemen. Answerable only to the head of Rhodesian intelligence and the Prime Minister, these men working alongside Rhodesia's elite counterguerrilla military unit, the Selous Scouts, developed the ingenious means to deploy their poisons against the insurgents. The effect of the poisons and disease agents devastated the insurgent groups both inside Rhodesia and at their base camps in neighboring countries. At times in the conflict, the Rhodesians thought that their poisons effort would bring the decisive blow against the guerrillas. For months at a time, the Rhodesian use of CBW accounted for higher casualty rates than conventional weapons. In the end, however, neither CBW use nor conventional battlefield successes could turn the tide. Lacking international political or economic support, Rhodesia's fate from the outset was doomed. Eventually the conflict was settled by the ballot box and Rhodesia became independent Zimbabwe in April 1980. Dirty War is the culmination of nearly two decades of painstaking research and interviews of dozens of former Rhodesian officers who either participated or were knowledgeable about the top secret development and use of CBW. The book also draws on the handful of remaining classified Rhodesian documents that tell the story of the CBW program. Dirty War combines all of the available evidence to provide a compelling account of how a small group of men prepared and used CBW to devastating effect against a largely unprepared and unwitting enemy. Looking at the use of CBW in the context of the Rhodesian conflict, Dirty War provides unique insights into the motivation behind CBW development and use by states, especially by states combating internal insurgencies. As the norms against CBW use have seemingly eroded with CW use evident in Iraq and most recently in Syria, the lessons of the Rhodesian experience are all the more valid and timely.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: *Toxicology of Organophosphate and Carbamate Compounds* Ramesh C Gupta, 2011-04-28 This text/reference book provides the most comprehensive coverage of anticholinesterase compounds (Organophosphates and Carbamates), which constitute the largest number of chemicals that are primarily used as insecticides in agriculture, industry, and around the home/garden. Some OPs (nerve agents) have been used in chemical warfare and terrorist attacks, while some OPs and CMs have been recommended as therapeutic agents in human medicine as well as in veterinary medicine. Many chemicals of both classes are extremely toxic and lack selectivity, thus their inadvertent/accidental use continues to pose a threat to human and animal health, aquatic systems and wildlife. These anticholinesterase agents produce a variety of toxicological effects in target and nontarget organs. In light of this complexicity, this multi-authored book is written by the well known scientists from many countries. The book is organized into nine sections, with a total of 49 chapters, to provide in-depth knowledge on various aspects of OP and CM compounds, including their use, classification, mechanism-based toxicity, and prophylactic and therapeutic measurements. Several chapters are written with special emphasis to cover timely topics, such as chemical warfare agents, physiologically-based pharmacokinetic modeling, structure and function of cholinesterases, paraoxonase, carboxylesterases; developmental neurotoxicity, the intermediate syndrome, oxidative stress, endocrine disruption, and DNA damage/gene expression and carcinogenesis. Section-VI with 5 chapters is specifically devoted to risk assessment, and safety and regulatory guidelines for

pesticides. - Describes everything you need to know about Organophosphates and Carbamates - Extensively covers pesticides, nerve agents, therapeutic drugs, and flame retardants - Describes epidemiology of the world's major disasters involving Organophosphates and Carbamates - Covers animal, human, aquatic, and wildlife toxicity of Anticholinesterases - Insights into in-depth cholinergic and noncholinergic mechanisms of toxicity - Describes recent advancements in cholinesterases, paraoxonases, carboxylesterases, oxidative stress, endocrine disruption, cardiac and pulmonary toxicity, and carcinogenesis - Provides in vitro and in vivo models for neurotoxicity testing - Integrates knowledge of studies in lab animals and humans - Offers risk/safety assessment and national/international guidelines for permissible levels of pesticide residues - Describes management of Anticholinesterase poisoning in humans

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: Chemical Warfare in World War I Charles E Heller, 2018-09-16 This Leavenworth Paper chronicles the introduction of chemical agents in World War I, the U.S. Army's tentative preparations for gas warfare prior to and after American entry into the war, and the AEF experience with gas on the Western Front. Chemical warfare affected tactics and almost changed the outcome of World War I. The overwhelming success of the first use of gas caught both sides by surprise. Fortunately, the pace of hostilities permitted the Allies to develop a suitable defense to German gas attacks and eventually to field a considerable offensive chemical capability. Nonetheless, from the introduction of chemical warfare in early 1915 until Armistice Day in November, 1918, the Allies were usually one step behind their German counterparts in the development of gas doctrine and the employment of gas tactics and procedures. In his final report to Congress on World War I, General John J. Pershing expressed the sentiment of contemporary senior officers when he said, Whether or not gas will be employed in future wars is a matter of conjecture, but the effect is so deadly to the unprepared that we can never afford to neglect the question. General Pershing was the last American field commander actually to confront chemical agents on the battlefield. Today, in light of a significant Soviet chemical threat and solid evidence of chemical warfare in Southeast and Southwest Asia, it is by no means certain he will retain that distinction. Over 50 percent of the Total Army's Chemical Corps assets are located within the United States Army Reserve. This Leavenworth Paper was prepared by the USAA Staff Officer serving with the Combat Studies Institute, USACGSC, after a number of requests from USAA Chemical Corps officers for a historical study on the nature of chemical warfare in World War I. Despite originally being published in 1984, this Leavenworth Paper also meets the needs of the Total Army in its preparations to fight, if necessary, on a battlefield where chemical agents might be employed.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: *Callinicus; a Defence of Chemical Warfare* John Burdon Sanderson Haldane, 1925

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: *The Chemical Warfare Service: Organizing for war* , 1959

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: Why Evolution is True Jerry A. Coyne, 2010-01-14 For all the discussion in the media about creationism and 'Intelligent Design', virtually nothing has been said about the evidence in question - the evidence for evolution by natural selection. Yet, as this succinct and important book shows, that evidence is vast, varied, and magnificent, and drawn from many disparate fields of science. The very latest research is uncovering a stream of evidence revealing evolution in action - from the actual observation of a species splitting into two, to new fossil discoveries, to the deciphering of the evidence stored in our genome. Why Evolution is True weaves together the many threads of modern work in genetics, palaeontology, geology, molecular biology, anatomy, and development to demonstrate the 'indelible stamp' of the processes first proposed by Darwin. It is a crisp, lucid, and accessible statement that will leave no one with an open mind in any doubt about the truth of evolution.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: Defending the U.S. Air Transportation System Against Chemical and Biological Threats National Research Council, Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences, National Materials Advisory Board, Committee on Assessment of Security

Technologies for Transportation, 2006-01-10 Historically, most terrorist attacks on civilian targets have involved the use of firearms or explosives, and current defensive strategies are aimed at preventing attacks perpetrated by such means. However, the use of the nerve agent sarin in 1995 to attack the Tokyo subway system, the use of the U.S. mail in 2001 to distribute letters containing anthrax spores, and the discovery in 2004 of the biological toxin ricin in U.S. Senate Office Buildings in Washington, D.C., demonstrate that chemical and biological agents have been added to terrorists' arsenals. Attacks involving chemical/biological agents are of great concern, not only because of the potential for mass casualties but also because there is no strategy or technology fielded today that can respond adequately to this threat. As the United States and other countries reassess the security measures they have in place to prevent or defend against such attacks, the risks to the air transportation system as a primary target become clear. Defending the U.S. Air Transportation System Against Chemical and Biological Threats is an exploration of defensive strategies that could be used to protect air transportation spaces (specifically, airport terminals and aircraft) against attack with chemical or biological agents and makes recommendations with respect to the role of TSA in implementing these strategies.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: Chemical and Biological Warfare Seymour M. Hersh, 1968

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: A History of Chemical Warfare K. Coleman, 2005-05-23 This book provides an analysis of the development and deployment of chemical weapons from 700BC to the present day. The First World War is examined in detail since it remains the most significant experience of the chemical threat, but the Second World War, and post-war conflicts are also evaluated. Additionally, protocols attempting to control the proliferation and use of chemical weapons are assessed. Finally, the book examines the threat (real and imagined) from a chemical warfare attack today by rationally assessing to what extent terrorist groups around the world are capable of making and using such weapons.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: The A to Z of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare Benjamin C. Garrett, John Hart, 2009-09-16 Human experience with nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) warfare has been limited, especially in comparison to conventional forms of warfare. Our experience with nuclear warfare is confined to a period of less than one week during the end of World War II, when the United States successfully used two nuclear weapons against targets in Japan. The course of biological warfare and modern use of biological weapons are difficult to track owing to the difficulty of differentiating deliberate use from natural outbreaks. However, the keen potential of biological weapons in acts of terror was shown in the mass disruption caused in the fall 2001 experience in the U.S. with the release of anthrax through the American postal system. Chemical weapons have been used in a handful of conflicts since their introduction to modern warfare during World War I, most recently during the Iran-Iraq War during the 1980s. Despite this limited experience, NBC warfare continues to exert a certain fascination among states. The A to Z of Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Warfare covers the development and use of NBC weapons as well as efforts to limit or control the use of these weapons through a chronology, a bibliography, an introductory essay, and dictionary entries. Over 500 cross-referenced dictionary entries provide a unique selection of terms related to NBC warfare, ranging from basic descriptions of substances used in NBC warfare to details on incidents and episodes where NBC weapons were used. Entries are structured around historical events, persons important to NBC warfare, countries where such weapons have been developed or used, and international treaties and treaty-related organizations.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: Ethics Of Chemistry: From Poison Gas To Climate Engineering Joachim Schummer, Tom Borsen, 2021-02-08 'Overall, this collection of case studies provides an outstanding starting point for understanding the ethics of chemistry. It is an extremely important contribution to the study of chemical ethics ... Ethics of Chemistry is a key resource for educators interested in integrating ethics instruction into their chemistry curricula ... an important foundation for equipping students with the moral judgement and analytical skills

necessary to contend with the ethical issues they are likely to face in their professional lives.'Nature Chemistry'... the book offers a general introduction to many relevant topics concerning the values, responsibilities, and judgements in (and of) chemistry. The volume could be helpful for university students and teachers or even general readers interested in the ethics of chemistry.' [Read Full Review]José Ramón Bertomeu-SánchezAmbixAlthough chemistry has been the target of numerous public moral debates for over a century, there is still no academic field of ethics of chemistry to develop an ethically balanced view of the discipline. And while ethics courses are increasingly demanded for science and engineering students in many countries, chemistry is still lagging behind because of a lack of appropriate teaching material. This volume fills both gaps by establishing the scope of ethics of chemistry and providing a cased-based approach to teaching, thereby also narrating a cultural history of chemistry.From poison gas in WWI to climate engineering of the future, this volume covers the most important historical cases of chemistry. It draws lesson from major disasters of the past, such as in Bhopal and Love Canal, or from thalidomide, Agent Orange, and DDT. It further introduces to ethical arguments pro and con by discussing issues about bisphenol-A, polyvinyl chloride, and rare earth elements; as well as of contested chemical projects such as human enhancement, the creation of artificial life, and patents on human DNA. Moreover, it illustrates chemical engagements in preventing hazards, from the prediction of ozone depletion, to Green Chemistry, and research in recycling, industrial substance substitution, and clean-up. Students also learn about codes of conduct and chemical regulations.An international team of experts narrate the historical cases and analyse their ethical dimensions. All cases are suitable for undergraduate teaching, either in classes of ethics, history of chemistry, or in chemistry classes proper.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: Toxic Exposures Susan L. Smith, 2017-01-17 Mustard gas is typically associated with the horrors of World War I battlefields and trenches, where chemical weapons were responsible for tens of thousands of deaths. Few realize, however, that mustard gas had a resurgence during the Second World War, when its uses and effects were widespread and insidious. Toxic Exposures tells the shocking story of how the United States and its allies intentionally subjected thousands of their own servicemen to poison gas as part of their preparation for chemical warfare. In addition, it reveals the racialized dimension of these mustard gas experiments, as scientists tested whether the effects of toxic exposure might vary between Asian, Hispanic, black, and white Americans. Drawing from once-classified American and Canadian government records, military reports, scientists' papers, and veterans' testimony, historian Susan L. Smith explores not only the human cost of this research, but also the environmental degradation caused by ocean dumping of unwanted mustard gas. As she assesses the poisonous legacy of these chemical warfare experiments, Smith also considers their surprising impact on the origins of chemotherapy as cancer treatment and the development of veterans' rights movements. Toxic Exposures thus traces the scars left when the interests of national security and scientific curiosity battled with medical ethics and human rights.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: *The Chemists' War* Michael Freemantle, 2015 The 1914-18 war has been referred to as the 'chemists' war' and to commemorate the centenary this collection of essays will examine various facets of the role of chemistry in the First World War. Written by an experienced science writer, this will be of interest to scientists and historians with an interest in this technologically challenging time.

a laboratory history of chemical warfare agents: *Chemical and Biological Warfare* Eric Croddy, 2011-06-27 The armaments of chemical and biological warfare (CBW) are now widely held not just by nation-states, but by terrorist and criminal enterprises. The weapons themselves are relatively inexpensive and very easy to hide, allowing organizations of just a few dozen people to deploy potentially devastating attacks. While in the twentieth century most arms-control efforts focused, rightly, on nuclear arsenals, in the twenty-first century CBW will almost certainly require just as much attention. This book defines the basics of CBW for the concerned citizen, including non-alarmist scientific descriptions of the weapons and their antidotes, methods of deployment and

defensive response, and the likelihood in the current global political climate of additional proliferation.

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