

POSTAL NEWS

No. 1/2010

Formulated by UNI-Japan Post in cooperation with UNI-Apro,
ASPEK Indonesia and SPPI

1. **1910 London Sunday Post Shaken . Jan 3, 2010.**
2. **Obama: In case of anthrax attack, your postman will deliver antidote . Jan 3, 2010.**
3. **Jordan, UAE to sign postal money orders deal . Jan 3, 2010.**
4. **Change Postal Service Plan. Jan 2, 2010.**
5. **DPJ set to streamline Japan Post group firms. Jan 3, 2010.**

Published: January 3, 2010

1. 1910 London Sunday Post Shaken

LONDON London is to have its Sunday postal service shaken up. That is really a thing to marvel over, for until now the English metropolis has had no postal service whatever on Sundays. The business man who desires to send an important letter, even to Paris, or any other Continental city, must resign himself to wait until the wheels of the Post Office machinery begin to revolve again on Monday. In the light of this situation, therefore, there is much excitement over the announcement by the Postmaster-General that, after January 8, an experiment will be entered upon whereby some communication in London with outsiders will be possible through utilization of a combination of postal and telephone services.

000

2. Obama: In case of anthrax attack, your postman will deliver antidote

January 3, 10:03

President Obama has authorized the United States Postal Service to deliver self-administered antidotes in the event of a large-scale biological attack. He has also asked for a plan that would use federal guns to protect postguys and postgals while on their delivery route.

Obama issued on December 30, 2009, Executive Order 13528: "Establishing Federal Capability for the Timely Provision of Medical Countermeasures Following a Biological Attack."

Here's the heart of it:

Sec. 2. United States Postal Service Delivery of Medical Countermeasures.

(a) The U.S. Postal Service has the capacity for rapid residential delivery of medical countermeasures for self administration across all communities in the United States.

The Federal Government shall pursue a national U.S. Postal Service medical countermeasures dispensing model to respond to a large-scale biological attack.

(b) The Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security, in coordination with the U.S. Postal Service, within 180 days of the date of this order, shall establish a national U.S. Postal Service medical countermeasures dispensing model for U.S. cities to respond to a large-scale biological attack, with anthrax as the primary threat consideration.

(c) In support of the national U.S. Postal Service model, the Secretaries of Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, and Defense, and the Attorney General, in coordination with the U.S. Postal Service, and in consultation with State and local public health, emergency management, and law enforcement officials, within 180 days of the date of this order, shall develop an accompanying plan for supplementing local law enforcement personnel, as necessary and appropriate, with local Federal law enforcement, as well as other appropriate personnel, to escort U.S. Postal workers delivering medical countermeasures.

Let's imagine a situation where this EO kicks in. First, the primary-threat consideration is anthrax. That suggests that the target zone is limited. In fact, I can't imagine a biological attack that would send the entire country into lock-down. So let's presume NYC immediately following, say, KLM's opening statement at his faux trial. Mode of delivery: Cropduster planes supplemented on the ground by exploding jihadists.

The feds determine some ground zero and because of prevailing winds declare the affected areas to be 20 miles in all directions. That's an area of 1,256.8 miles. They would have to over-estimate the possibly affected area, right? What if they said Paramus, NJ was fine (about 15 miles) , and then someone dies of apparent anthrax poisoning?

How many people in the 20-mile circle? There's over eight million in the boroughs alone, and 20 miles would include Paterson, Newark, the Oranges, and Yonkers. Let's just round it to 10 million.

Next step: We're talking about delivering antidotes. The federal government will bring the antidote to you. They must know where you are. We will not be allowed to go to a distribution point. Answer: Martial law. Full restriction on movement.

How many postal-delivery folks? We have 3% of the US population. Three percent of all USPS workers would be about 20,000 people. Assume one in four actually deliver (yes, I made that up), that gives us 5,000 folks needing protection. That number seems low since we are delivering to 10 million people - about 5 million homes. That's 1,000 homes per mailguy/gal. But it's better to under-estimate for now.

Enter armed escorts to supplement "local law enforcement personnel, as necessary and appropriate, with local Federal law enforcement, as well as other appropriate personnel." If we are talking complete local lock-down, then local cops are maxed out. We have two alternatives: Federal personnel or state personnel. The state's have the National Guard. Obama seems to be saying that he will protect his own - the

USPS folks being federal personnel. He has the military. He has ICE (which just ordered 200 million rounds of hollow-point ammunition, btw). Barry's got options.

Here is where I find it interesting. The black market for antidote dosages is going to be profitable. If a mailguy/guyette is going to have thousands of dosages on their person, then security had better be more than one additional person riding along. We may also need to revisit the vehicle being used. It doesn't seem too far to envision using National Guard or other military vehicles with 3 or 4 "escorts" accompanying the postaldude/dudess. Hunh. Where does the USPS end and the military begin? It seems as if the USPS is merely the guide on this trip.

Is any of this a problem, or it is all just good planning? Imagine a liberal's reaction if President Bush did this exact same thing. He/she/it would be distrustful. Well, count me as distrustful. Barry has earned the title of "He whose words and actions travel different paths."

I don't trust him not to exploit a crisis - any crisis. And remember, those are Rahm's words, not mine.

Finally, how do you give a postal person a direct order to delivery? The compliance alternative is being fired - at worst - and is not a court martial. So the posties say, "No way am I entering a war zone." Then what? Do we call UPS?

000

3. Jordan, UAE to sign postal money orders deal

Written by J D Team

Sunday, 03 January 2010 19:39

Jordan and the United Arab Emirates UAE will sign a postal money orders agreement between the posts of the two countries, said Director General of Jordan Post Ahmad Obeidat.

He added that the proposed deal, which will be finalised in the next few days, would enhance postal cooperation and ease financial transactions through post offices in both countries.

The accord, he said, would enable the people of both countries to electronically transfer money through post offices with a permitted amount not exceeding 1,000 U.S dollars or its equivalent in local currency for each order.

000

4. Change Postal Service Plan

By The Intelligencer

POSTED: January 2, 2010

In one way it is fortunate that the U.S. Postal Service is a government agency, with officials who are sensitive to political concerns. Postal Service executives understand that upsetting too many people is not good for their futures.

We encourage local residents to make it clear to the agency that if it goes through with a plan involving the Wheeling Post Office, many people will be very upset.

Last year it was announced that the Postal Service is considering a plan to move some mail processing operations out of Wheeling and to Pittsburgh. Obviously, that would affect local mail service adversely, despite the agency's claims to the contrary.

It also would affect several jobs at the Wheeling facility, though the Postal Service insists those affected would be offered positions elsewhere.

Enough opposition to the plan has been heard for the Postal Service to schedule a public hearing on it. The hearing will be held from 7-9 p.m., Jan. 13 in the Wheeling Park High School auditorium.

We agree with Don Bentz, president of the Wheeling Area Local of the American Postal Workers Union. "Let's pack this place and voice our concerns," Bentz said of the hearing.

Precisely. If enough opposition to the plan is heard, the Postal Service will reconsider it. If comparatively few complaints are heard, the plan will move forward. The situation is that simple.

000

Sunday, Jan. 3, 2010

5. DPJ set to streamline Japan Post group firms

Kyodo News

Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Kazuhiro Haraguchi revealed a plan Friday to reorganize the Japan Post group through a merger of group companies in a move seen as a step backward for postal privatization.

Streamlining the group structure would be centered on a merger between state-owned Japan Post Holdings Co., the holding company for the group, struggling mail and parcel delivery unit Japan Post Service Co. and post office operator Japan Post Network Co., according to Haraguchi.

The group's banking and insurance units, Japan Post Bank Co. and Japan Post Insurance Co., would operate under the wing of the merged company as the plan envisions trimming the number of group firms from five to three.

Haraguchi and Shizuka Kamei, state minister for postal issues, will work out the details of the realignment before submitting relevant bills to the upcoming Diet session to be convened later this month.

"Combining Japan Post Holdings, post office operations and mail delivery services will enable the group to provide varied services as one unit, along with two financial services companies under its umbrella," Haraguchi said.

The reorganization was prompted by worries that Japan Post Service may not stay afloat given the frail business environment surrounding its mail and parcel delivery services. Japan Post Bank and Japan Post Insurance generate the bulk of profits for the group.

The original plan called for Japan Post Holdings to sell all stakes in the two financial companies. Haraguchi declined to comment on the stakes the government-owned firm would hold in them after the planned merger.

The government led by the Democratic Party of Japan, launched in September, has been pushing for a review of the postal privatization reforms spearheaded by former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of the Liberal Democratic Party.

Kamei, who also heads the DPJ's coalition partner, Kokumin Shinto (People's New Party), has been a staunch opponent of the privatization process Koizumi led and has been keen on reshaping the Japan Post group.

000

Collected by Chairul Anwar, Bandung, Indonesia.

E-mail address : chairulanwar49@operamail.com, uyungchairul@plasa.com.