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**Graham Joins Merrick as Principal Scientist, Scientific Programs Manager**  
*Firm Involved in International Research Lab Projects*

Aurora, Colorado – March 6, 2009 - R. Ross Graham, DVM, MPH, PhD, CBSP, has joined Merrick & Company ([www.merrick.com](http://www.merrick.com)) as principal scientist and scientific programs manager. In this role, he will oversee scientific operations including laboratory design, laboratory operations and startup, certifications, and biosafety. He will also serve as a consultant to domestic and international organizations and projects on laboratory and surveillance procedures for infectious diseases and biosafety.

Dr. Graham has extensive experience in the project management of scientific programs and operational experience of research and diagnostic laboratories. He has been heavily involved in the design, construction, and operation of BSL-2 and BSL-3 biocontainment facilities and laboratory animal facilities, both in the United States and overseas.

With the addition of Dr. Graham, Merrick's professional staff expands its capacity in the planning and design of high containment and life sciences labs through its integrated facilities and operations program. This senior-level staff addition also amplifies Merrick's life sciences value chain to also encompass lab operations consulting services that include lab start-up planning and implementation, lab certification, and continuing operations and/or sustainment planning and implementation.

According to Merrick vice president Bob Berglund, "With the addition of Dr. Graham, the talents of Merrick architects and engineers are combined with the operations expertise of scientific lab professionals to better accomplish our clients' projects. Our goal is to develop safe and secure high containment research labs that also best accommodate the operational aspects of disease research and development plus diagnostic laboratories. The addition of Dr. Graham to our team greatly enhances the firm's capabilities."

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**Merrick & Company (continued)***Dr. Graham Joins Merrick*

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Dr. Graham served for 26 years in the US Army as a microbiologist, primarily in overseas assignments. He was the head of virology research programs in South Korea, Indonesia, and Egypt where he conducted laboratory-based surveillance programs on infectious diseases throughout South East Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Dr. Graham also served as a technical advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO) and was the head of the WHO Collaborating Center on HIV located in Cairo, Egypt. After retiring from the military, he was responsible for developing laboratory-based veterinary and human health surveillance programs in Central Asia and the Caucasus. He recently was assigned as the principal manager for administrative and technical management for a \$33 million U.S.-funded project to combat avian influenza worldwide, where he was responsible for developing and implementing capacity building activities to deal with avian influenza in animal and human populations.

Dr. Graham holds a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine (DVM), a PhD in microbiology/epidemiology, and a Masters in Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley. He is a certified Specialist Microbiologist in biological safety with the National Registry of Microbiologists, a part of the American Society of Microbiology, and he is a Certified Biological Safety Professional with the American Biological Safety Association. He also has extensive experience in laboratory animal medicine and served as the command laboratory animal veterinarian for many of his military assignments. In that role, he obtained Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) accreditation for the laboratory animal facility in Jakarta, Indonesia. He is the member of a variety of professional organizations ranging from the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, the American Society of Microbiology, and the American Veterinary Medical Association to the U.S. Animal Health Association, the American Biological Safety Association, and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, where he serves as the co-chair for the Biosafety Committee.

Merrick & Company, a \$75 million professional services, construction management, and geospatial solutions firm, serves domestic and international clients in the government, life sciences, energy, infrastructure, and mapping markets. With a focus on life science research laboratories, high containment labs, and other research facilities, the firm's most recent work includes the planning and design of the National Bio & Agro Defense Facility (NBAF), a \$550 million project that will replace the existing research facility currently located at Plum Island, New York. The firm also designed a \$72 million BSL-3Ag large animal facility, which is one of the initial elements of the \$460 million modernization of the largest Federal animal disease center, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's research and diagnostic facilities, located in Ames, Iowa. More information about Merrick & Company's Life Sciences Program is located at [Merrick Life Sciences](#).

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