

21 April 2010

Chem-Bio News

- 1. [UK] GENERALS ADD THEIR FIRE TO CLEGG'S ATTACK ON TRIDENT:** *"Britain should be prepared to scrap its nuclear deterrent, a group of generals write in The Times today, pushing the future of Trident to the forefront of the election."*
- 2. MEXICAN CARTELS USING IEDS:** *"The Mexican military seized improvised explosive devices just miles from the Valley [Rio Grande Valley]. The IEDs (or roadside bombs) are the same weapons terrorists use in the Middle East."*
- 3. SEOUL REJECTS REDEPLOYMENT OF US NUCLEAR WEAPONS:** *"South Korea on Wednesday ruled out redeploying US atomic weapons on its territory in response to North Korea's nuclear arsenal."*
- 4. NEW URANIUM SITES YET TO BE FINALISED: IRAN ATOM CHIEF:** *"Iran's atomic chief said Wednesday the sites for building new uranium enrichment plants have yet to be finalised, denying reports that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has already approved the locations."*

[ANALYST NOTE: The following two articles should be read together.]

- 5. MANY INDIAN CITIES REPORTED DUMPING BIO-MEDICAL WASTE WITH GARBAGE:** *"It is now suspected that radio active cobalt-60 isotope which was found in the Mayapuri scarpyard of New Delhi has come from hospital waste."*
- 6. [IN] COBALT 60 MAY HAVE COME FROM ABROAD: GOVT:** *"It is most likely that this equipment (containing Cobalt 60), which was found there, is not registered with the Atomic Energy Regulation Board (AERB). So the logical conclusion is that it came as scrap from abroad," Minister of State for Atomic Energy Prithviraj Chavan told the Rajya Sabha."*

Chem-Demil News

- 1. ARMY ACHIEVES MAJOR PROGRAM MILESTONE:** *"Today, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) announced that it completed its mission to destroy all non-stockpile materiel declared when the United States entered into the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), an international treaty mandating the destruction of our Nation's chemical warfare."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

[UK] GENERALS ADD THEIR FIRE TO CLEGG'S ATTACK ON TRIDENT

By Deborah Haynes and Roland Watson

The Times (UK)
April 21, 2010

"Britain should be prepared to scrap its nuclear deterrent, a group of generals write in The Times today, pushing the future of Trident to the forefront of the election.

The generals say that the next government would threaten both frontline Forces and global disarmament talks unless it considers different ways of spending the £80 billion required to replace the fleet of submarines.

Their intervention, although nonpolitical, offers timely support for Nick Clegg, who goes into tomorrow night's foreign affairs debate with Gordon Brown and David Cameron as the only party leader arguing against a like-for-like replacement.

Writing in The Times, Field Marshal Lord Bramall, General Lord Ramsbotham, General Sir Hugh Beach and Major-General Patrick Cordingley express "deep concern" that the future of Trident has been excluded from the Strategic Defence Review that will follow the election. They caution that suppressing discussion of the issue or dismissing alternatives would be "a major strategic blunder".

The full article can be found at: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article7103318.ece>

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MEXICAN CARTELS USING IEDS

By Will Ripley and Lisa Cortez

KRGV.com

April 09, 2010

"The Mexican military seized improvised explosive devices just miles from the Valley [Rio Grande Valley]. The IEDs (or roadside bombs) are the same weapons terrorists use in the Middle East."

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"CHANNEL 5 NEWS learned the weapons are also in the hands of the drug cartels in Mexico.

On March 30, more than 50 cartel members attacked the Mexican military in Matamoros and Reynosa. Eighteen people died.

Soldiers seized 50 rifles, 60 hand grenades, and eight IEDs.

"The seizure of the IEDs is definitely worrisome," says a Latin American tactical analyst for STRATFOR, a private intelligence agency.

CHANNEL 5 NEWS traveled to Austin to meet with the analyst. We concealed his identity for

security reasons.

"The construction of the devices that we've seen are similar to crude devices that are being used in Afghanistan and Iraq," he tells us.

He says the IEDs used in Matamoros and Reynosa were mining grade explosives.

"As you're experimenting with the craft of bomb making, there's going to be a learning curve to it," explains the analyst.

That means cartel bomb makers are getting more advanced."

The full article can be found at: http://www.krgv.com/news/local/story/Mexican-Cartels-Using-IEDs/OEcUIcNtJk6ixXN_T7PaKg.csp

ANALYST NOTE: If the article's assessment is correct, it raises the question of whether chemical fills, such as chlorine, might be seen at some point in the future.

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SEOUL REJECTS REDEPLOYMENT OF US NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Agence France-Presse on Yahoo! News

April 21, 2010

"South Korea on Wednesday ruled out redeploying US atomic weapons on its territory in response to North Korea's nuclear arsenal.

"It can never be our option," Foreign Minister Yu Myung-Hwan said at a lecture.

"Redeployment of nuclear deterrence must be dealt with within the framework of a global security and in that regard, a policy coordination with the United States as part of its global nuclear strategy is crucial," he said.

US tactical nuclear weapons were reportedly pulled out of South Korea in the early 1990s, although US military maintains a policy of "neither confirm nor deny" on the existence of nuclear weapons in certain regions."

The full article can be found at: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100421/wl_asia_afp/nkoreanuclearskoreaus

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MANY INDIAN CITIES REPORTED DUMPING BIO-MEDICAL WASTE WITH GARBAGE

By Dr. M.P. Mishra

Ecosensorium.org

April 20, 2010

"As per the Central Pollution Control Board Evaluation Report- presently 50 to 55 per cent of Bio-Medical Waste is collected, segregated and treated as per the Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules. Rests are dumped with the Municipal Solid Waste. This evaluation report was submitted in February 2010. It was carried out by Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow and commissioned by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests.

It is now suspected that radio active cobalt-60 isotope which was found in the Mayapuri scrapyard of New Delhi has come from hospital waste....."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.ecosensorium.org/2010/04/many-indian-cities-reported-dumping-bio.html>

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[IN] COBALT 60 MAY HAVE COME FROM ABROAD: GOVT

Hindustan Times

April 21, 2010

"The government on Tuesday said the radioactive material found among scrap in Mayapuri early this month most probably came from abroad.

"It is most likely that this equipment (containing Cobalt 60), which was found there, is not registered with the Atomic Energy Regulation Board (AERB). So the logical conclusion is that it came as scrap from abroad," Minister of State for Atomic Energy Prithviraj Chavan told the Rajya Sabha.

Chavan ruled out the origin of the radioactive material from domestic sources as the country has "very strict mechanism of rules and regulations".

The minister added that no operator in the country could buy radiological equipment for treatment without permission of the AERB and even the disposal was also monitored."

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"Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said the government would come out with comprehensive guidelines for monitoring e-waste by May 15."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/rssfeed/newdelhi/Cobalt-60-may-have-come-from-abroad-Govt/Article1-533888.aspx>

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ARMY ACHIEVES MAJOR PROGRAM MILESTONE

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

April 19, 2010

"Today, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) announced that it completed its mission to destroy all non-stockpile materiel declared when the United States entered into the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), an international treaty mandating the destruction of our Nation's chemical warfare.

This milestone also marks the destruction of the largest inventory of recovered chemical warfare materiel (RCWM) to date – more than 1,200 munitions – with a stellar safety record.

CMA's U.S. Army Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) began operations at the Pine Bluff Explosive Destruction System (PBEDS), located at Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA), Ark., in June 2006 to destroy items, such as 4.2-inch mortars and German Traktor rockets captured during World War II. PBEDS completed destruction operations on April 14.

"The Army's Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project is the Nation's best equipped organization to provide safe, successful destruction of such a diverse inventory of recovered chemical munitions," said Carmen Spencer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Elimination of Chemical Weapons. "This accomplishment exemplifies the excellent work we have come to expect from this dedicated group."

Munitions were assessed at PBA before treatment in NSCMP's Explosive Destruction System (EDS), a neutralization technology that provides safe, environmentally responsible treatment of RCWM. Developed as an alternative to open detonation, the transportable EDS provides on-site treatment and neutralization of RCWM and prevents the release of vapor, blast and munition fragments from the process. Operators confirm complete neutralization of the chemical agent by sampling liquid and air prior to opening the EDS.

"This milestone underscores our commitment to the CWC," said CMA Director Conrad Whyne. "This accomplishment could not have been possible without the commitment of all the workers, led by the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project, including Pine Bluff Arsenal, Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, 20th Support Command, CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity-West, Sandia National Laboratory, Idaho National Laboratory, Science Applications International Corporation and supporting work forces. Their levels of technical expertise make it possible for us to fulfill our mission while protecting the public, workers and environment."

The NSCMP research and development team, faced with the unique and diverse inventory of recovered munitions at PBEDS, invented patent-protected processes and cutting-edge vessel enhancements.

"The PBEDS project presented many challenges, but we worked through all of them, achieving a significant milestone," said Laurence Gottschalk, Project Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel. "Everyone involved should be proud of their contributions."

NSCMP engineers and chemists received a U.S. National Patent for developing a technology that improves the detoxification of lewisite, a World War II-era German arsenic-based compound. Before their work, the Army was challenged by disposal of lewisite and other arsenical compounds.

System enhancements included the Advanced Fragment Suppression System, which reduces the amount of solid waste generated by up to 80 percent, significantly cutting costs and supporting NSCMP's commitment to environmental stewardship.

For photos and more information on the PBEDS mission and operator testimonials, please visit the NSCMP virtual newsroom at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/pbeds.aspx>."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?DocID=003682734>

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