

## Chem-Bio News

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- 2. IRANIAN TECHNOCRATS, DISILLUSIONED WITH GOVERNMENT, OFFER WEALTH OF INTELLIGENCE TO U.S:** *"Iran's political turmoil has prompted a growing number of the country's officials to defect or leak information to the West, creating a new flow of intelligence about its secretive nuclear program, U.S. officials said."*
- 3. WORK AT HANFORD BURIAL GROUNDS COMPLETED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE:** *"One of the most hazardous and challenging burial grounds was 618-7, where Washington Closure workers dug up more than 800 barrels of hazardous materials, 100 drums of zircaloy shavings and 16 stainless steel tanks, including at least one containing an oxide of radioactive thorium."*
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# CB Daily Report

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### **IRAN STRIKES SECRET NUCLEAR MINING DEAL WITH ZIMBABWE'S MUGABE REGIME**

By Itai Mushekwe and Harriet Alexander  
The Telegraph (UK)  
April 24, 2010

"The agreement was sealed last month during a visit to Tehran by a close aide to Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwean president who last weekend celebrated 30 years in power, The Sunday Telegraph has learned.

In return for supplying oil, which Zimbabwe desperately needs to keep its faltering economy moving, Iran has been promised access to potentially huge deposits of uranium ore – which can be converted into the basic fuel for nuclear power or enriched to make a nuclear bomb.

"Iran secured the exclusive uranium rights last month when minister of state for Presidential affairs, Didymus Mutasa visited Tehran," said a Zimbabwean government source. "That is when the formal signing of the deal was made, away from the glare of the media."

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"Uranium was first discovered in the Kanyemba district, about 150 miles north of the capital Harare by German prospectors in the 1980s but were not exploited due to low world prices."

The full article can be found at:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/zimbabwe/7628750/Iran-strikes-secret-nuclear-mining-deal-with-Zimbabwes-Mugabe-regime.html>

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## **IRANIAN TECHNOCRATS, DISILLUSIONED WITH GOVERNMENT, OFFER WEALTH OF INTELLIGENCE TO U.S**

By Joby Warrick and Greg Miller

The Washington Post

April 25, 2010

"Iran's political turmoil has prompted a growing number of the country's officials to defect or leak information to the West, creating a new flow of intelligence about its secretive nuclear program, U.S. officials said.

The gains have complicated work on a long-awaited assessment of Iran's nuclear activities, a report that will represent the combined judgment of more than a dozen U.S. spy agencies. The National Intelligence Estimate was due last fall but has been delayed at least twice amid efforts to incorporate information from sources who are still being vetted.

Director of National Intelligence Dennis C. Blair said in a brief interview last week that the delay in the completion of the NIE "has to do with the information coming in and the pace of developments."

Some of the most significant new material has come from informants, including scientists and others with access to Iran's military programs, who are motivated by antipathy toward the government and its suppression of the opposition movement after a disputed presidential election in June, according to current and former officials in the United States and Europe who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the intelligence gains."

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"In recent weeks, U.S. officials have acknowledged that an Iranian nuclear scientist defected to the West in June. Shahram Amiri, 32, vanished while on a religious pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia and has provided spy agencies with details about sensitive programs, including a long-hidden uranium-enrichment plant near the city of Qom, intelligence officials and Europe-based diplomats said.

Amiri is described by some as the most significant Iranian defector since Brig. Gen. Ali Reza Asgari, a former deputy defense minister and Revolutionary Guard Corps commander who switched sides during a 2007 trip to Turkey.

But sources said there has been a spate of other recent defections by diplomatic and military officials, some of which have not been made public. Among the defectors was a top diplomat at the Iranian mission in Oslo, who said he was pressured to falsify election returns for Iranian nationals who had cast

votes at the embassy.”

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“Some observers say the Tehran government has been unnerved by the defections and point to the death of an Iranian physics professor more than three months ago as a sign that it has begun a crackdown designed to frighten would-be spies.

The professor, Masoud Ali Mohammadi, was killed Jan. 12 when a bomb planted on a motorcycle exploded as he passed nearby. Iranian officials accused Israeli and Western intelligence operatives in the killing, but news accounts indicated that Mohammadi had been sympathetic to the opposition movement and had attended anti-government demonstrations. The day before his death, Iranian intelligence agents had searched his home and confiscated documents and notes, according to a report by the NCRI.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/24/AR2010042402710.html>

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## **WORK AT HANFORD BURIAL GROUNDS COMPLETED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE**

By Annette Cary  
The TriCity Herald  
April 27, 2010

“The work, started in 2002, was completed this month nearly two years ahead of a legally binding Tri-Party Agreement deadline.”

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“Contractor Washington Closure Hanford is 8 percent ahead of schedule and has saved \$170 million in costs for work to clean up Hanford along the Columbia River, said Washington Closure spokesman Todd Nelson. It's used those savings to accelerate work to finish the 11 waste sites.

They include some smaller sites with contamination near the surface, but five of them were burial grounds where Cold War workers believed they were disposing of debris and other waste permanently. Modern cleanup standards have led to the sites being excavated to protect the Columbia River.

Workers on the 11 sites have excavated 426,000 tons of soil. Work was started by a previous contractor, Bechtel Hanford.

One of the most hazardous and challenging burial grounds was 618-7, where Washington Closure workers dug up more than 800 barrels of hazardous materials, 100 drums of zircaloy shavings and 16 stainless steel tanks, including at least one containing an oxide of radioactive thorium.

In other burial grounds, workers uncovered five forklifts and a flatbed trailer. One of the most unusual finds was a safe in the 618-2 Burial Ground that still held a jug of plutonium.

Nuclear archaeology at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory traced its origins to the first batch of weapons-grade material ever processed at Hanford. It's the world's second oldest known man-made plutonium 239.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2010/04/27/992164/work-at-hanford-burial-grounds.html>

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## **POPULAR IRANIAN SUPPORT WANES FOR NUCLEAR PROGRAMME**

By Damien McElroy  
London Daily Telegraph  
April 19, 2010

“When Iran fuels Western alarm over its nuclear ambitions – as it did again yesterday with orders to start construction of new uranium enrichment plants – it has in the past been able to count on widespread domestic support. Even critics and opponent of the regime led by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad have stood up for Iran's right to develop nuclear technology.

However there is now increasing resentment that the once popular nuclear programme could be detracting from more urgent needs in the face of economic mismanagement and sanctions.

A Chinese-style construction and consumption boom in the capital Tehran has started to sour. One third of the shops at the Laleh Shopping Centre in central Tehran have closed in recent months. Merchants said demand has held up only cars and mobile phones, where new products are available to replace antiquated models.

Far from resenting the US-designed sanctions, Iranians blame the slowdown on the government. “Nuclear energy is something that I supported but why go about it in this way,” asked Zori Baghi, a pensioner and father of two. “If it is legitimate, then why are we suffering for it in this way. If it's not legitimate, then do it in the right way or give it up. We're paying too heavy a price.”

Central Bank of Iran figures reveal a huge drop in financial reserves despite massive earnings from oil exports. In the first nine months of last year foreign exchange holdings dropped \$13.8 billion (£9 billion) to \$77 billion. Some economists believe that foreign exchange reserves may not cover the annual cost of imports.”

The full article can be found at:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iran/7607341/Popular-Iranian-support-wanes-for-nuclear-programme.html>

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## **ECBC TECHNICAL DIRECTOR RICK DECKER HONORED DURING RETIREMENT CEREMONY AFTER 24 YEARS OF SERVICE**

PR Newswire  
April 23, 2010

“The U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) Technical Director Richard "Rick" W. Decker II was honored for his 24 years of outstanding service during his retirement ceremony April 23 at the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) conference center in Edgewood, Md.”

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“The well-attended ceremony was emceed by ECBC Associate Technical Director James Baker, Ph.D. and included congratulatory remarks from the recently retired Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense and Chemical Demilitarization Jean Reed, the former Joint Program Executive Officer for Chemical and Biological Defense MG (Retired) Stephen Reeves, the 20th Support Command Commander BG Jeffrey Snow, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's COL Michael Holl, the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) Garrison Commander COL Orlando Ortiz, COL (Retired) Debra Thedford on behalf of the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School Commandant BG Leslie Smith and Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Lopez, the RDECOM Deputy to the Commanding General Gary Martin, representatives from the Local 178 Chapter of the National Federation of Federal Employees and the Center's three directors.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/ecbc-technical-director-rick->

### **DELHI RADIATION EXPOSURE: ONE PATIENT DIES**

Press Trust of India on NDTV.com  
April 26, 2010

“Rajender, 35, a worker at a shop in Mayapuri scrap market, died at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. He was shifted there on April 13 from the DDU hospital, where he was initially admitted.

"He died due to multi-organ failure at around 9.30 pm. His condition had deteriorated. His TLC count and his platelet count had dropped drastically and he had developed pneumonia. There were signs of kidney and liver function impairment. He was on ventilator and was being administered multiple drugs," a doctor with the hospital said.

Four other radiation exposure patients are still admitted in AIIMS, while Deepak Jain, the owner of the scrap shop from where radioactive material Cobalt-60 was recovered, is at Apollo Hospital. Another patient Ajay Jain is undergoing treatment at Army Hospital, Research and Referral.

Ten sources of Cobalt-60 had been found in the Mayapuri scrap market earlier this month and eight persons were hospitalised. One of them has been discharged.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.ndtv.com/news/cities/delhi-radiation-exposure-one-patient-dies-21006.php>

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## ***Chem-Demil News***

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### **PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - CHEM WEAPON MONITORING SUIT SETTLED**

By John Norton  
The Pueblo Chieftain  
April 27, 2010

“Details were not available Monday because the Army had not sent back a copy of the settlement but a spokesman for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment said that one provision calls for the Army to close the vents on the igloos where the weapons are stored to prevent uncontrolled chemical releases to the environment and to put charcoal filters on the igloos in the near future.

Previously, the Army had checked igloos on a quarterly rotation but state officials said that was not often enough and sued to require tougher rules.

As an example of the cooperation between the Army and Colorado officials, state health department representatives were on hand Monday for what was a major trash day at the Pueblo Chemical Depot.

Three transport trucks hauled off more than two decades worth of waste from the chemical stockpile program and took it to an incineration plant in Port Arthur, Texas.

Items from decontamination work have been piling up since the mid-1980s, a depot spokesman said, and contained things from the cleanup of spills, old chemical munitions sampling operations and decontamination procedures associated with leaking mustard agent-filled munitions.”

The full article can be found at: [http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/article\\_73e6ec5a-51b8-11df-a9b1-](http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/article_73e6ec5a-51b8-11df-a9b1-)

## **PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - NEW CHEM WEAPONS PLANS DISLIKED**

By John Norton  
The Pueblo Chieftain  
April 28, 2010

“Public comments on the Pentagon’s pending decision to accelerate the destruction of chemical weapons here ranged from don’t do it to don’t do it without a much better analysis of the environmental impact.

The public has until Friday to comment on an environmental assessment that found no significant impact. The assessment looked at the effects of four proposals, that ranged from the status quo to bringing in devices that would destroy weapons in explosion chambers, running as many as 125,000 of the Pueblo Chemical Depot’s stockpile of 780,000 through the process.”

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“Irene Kornelly, chairwoman of the commission, told Flamm, “We still have issues that deal with costs, pollutants and maintenance.” Hart added that in meetings with the vendors, he was told they only monitor for residual mustard agent and he asked Flamm for more information on what happens to air and solid pollutants from the devices.

Commission member Ross Vincent, who also chairs the local Sierra Club chapter, said he believed the environmental assessment was “seriously deficient” and disagreed with the finding of no impact.

“I’m not sure it can be justified,” he said.

Kornelly also asked about the economic impact of shortening the project by eight months. She said that the explosive technology workers would come from outside Pueblo but local residents would lose eight months of work.

Flamm encouraged the group to voice their concerns through the comment process. “What are the things most important to you all?” he asked, adding, “That’s not saying you agree with the environmental assessment.”

The full article can be found at: [http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/article\\_896a687a-529b-11df-93ed-001cc4c002e0.html](http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/article_896a687a-529b-11df-93ed-001cc4c002e0.html)  
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