

10 December 2008

Chem-Bio News

- 1. TOP-SECRET LABORATORIES OUTSOURCED BY DEFRA [DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS]:** *"Britain's top-secret laboratories battling to prevent outbreaks of anthrax, foot-and-mouth, mad cow disease and Asian bird flu - with some installations so sensitive they do not officially exist - have been privatised."*
- 2. SCHLUMBERGER'S IRAN SALE RAISES QUESTIONS:** *"The U.S. oil-services firm Schlumberger is using a legal loophole to supply machines with radioactive chemicals to Iran, The Boston Globe reported Sunday."*
- 3. RUSSIA BACKS LEGALLY BINDING OVERSIGHT SYSTEM FOR BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION:** *"Russia yesterday expressed support for establishing a legally binding system to monitor compliance with the Biological Weapons Convention, Interfax reported."*

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- 1. US ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY – OUR MISSION:** *"The mission of the U. S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) is to protect, safely store and destroy aging chemical weapons while working toward the effective assessment, treatment and ultimate elimination of the nation's chemical warfare materiel."*
- 2. US ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY – MISSION AREA OVERVIEW:** *"PM-CSE is an acquisition PM responsible for the safe destruction of the nation's unitary chemical agents and weapons."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

TOP-SECRET LABORATORIES OUTSOURCED BY DEFRA [DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS]

The Daily Mail [UK]
December 5, 2008

"Britain's top-secret laboratories battling to prevent outbreaks of anthrax, foot-and-mouth, mad cow disease and Asian bird flu - with some installations so sensitive they do not officially exist - have been privatised.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is transferring the maintenance of 186 sites and 800 civil servants to outsourcing specialist Interserve.

The contract includes three labs, whose work is so top secret their locations are undisclosed."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/article-1092263/Top-secret-laboratories-outsourced-Defra.html>

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SCHLUMBERGER'S IRAN SALE RAISES QUESTIONS

The Boston Globe
December 7, 2008

"The U.S. oil-services firm Schlumberger is using a legal loophole to supply machines with radioactive chemicals to Iran, The Boston Globe reported Sunday.

The Globe says its investigation revealed the company has sold a 2,000-pound drilling tool to Iran powered by a kind of radioactive chemical that scientists say could fuel a so-called "dirty bomb." U.S. officials have sought to keep the chemical out of Iranian hands, but Schlumberger made the sale using a legal loophole allowing multinational corporations to employ foreign subsidiaries to sidestep U.S. sanctions, the Globe said."

The full article can be found at: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/12/07/Schlumbergers_Iran_sale_raises_questions/UPI-90781228672600/

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RUSSIA BACKS LEGALLY BINDING OVERSIGHT SYSTEM FOR BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Global Security Newswire
December 9, 2008

"Russia yesterday expressed support for establishing a legally binding system to monitor compliance with the Biological Weapons Convention, Interfax reported.

"The Foreign Ministry statement followed the meeting last week in Geneva of member nations to the treaty that bans the development, manufacture and possession of weapons that involve biological agents such as anthrax, smallpox or plague. The pact presently has no mechanism for checks on its 162 states parties."

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20081209_7554.php

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US ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY – OUR MISSION

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Fact Sheet

December 3, 2008

“The mission of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) is to protect, safely store and destroy aging chemical weapons while working toward the effective assessment, treatment and ultimate elimination of the nation’s chemical warfare materiel.

The CMA headquarters management team, as well as scientific, communications and support staff, is based at the Edgewood Area of the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, while other dedicated managers and staff fulfill the agency’s mission from weapons storage and disposal sites at locations across the country.

Destruction

The agency is responsible for two distinct chemical weapons destruction projects.

The Project Manager-Chemical Stockpile Elimination manages the safe treatment and disposal of chemical weapons using incineration and neutralization technologies.

Incineration, also referred to as “baseline incineration,” was selected as the Army’s preferred chemical weapons disposal technology in 1985 based on rigorous tests and comparisons of various technologies. Communities in Anniston, Ala., Pine Bluff, Ark., Umatilla, Ore., and Tooele, Utah, use incineration for their chemical weapons disposal.

The first incineration facility, a pilot facility, was built on Johnston Atoll in the Pacific Ocean and successfully completed disposal operations in November 2000. The facility was dismantled and the atoll was returned to its natural state and serves as a wildlife refuge.

Neutralization was first selected as an alternative to incineration for bulk agent storage sites only. Depending on the type of agent to be destroyed, neutralization involves mixing the chemical agent with either hot water or hot water and sodium hydroxide in order to eliminate the harmful characteristics of the agent. This process was used successfully in Edgewood, Md., to eliminate its entire stockpile of mustard, or blister agent.

Neutralization also was used successfully in Newport, Ind., where there was only one type of chemical agent, stored in large steel containers without explosives or other weapon components. Neutralization is the selected method for the Department of Defense’s Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program facilities near Richmond, Ky., and Pueblo, Colo.

The Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) develops and deploys technologies for use in the safe assessment and treatment of recovered chemical materiel. NSCMP’s nonintrusive assessment technologies enable on-site personnel to identify the contents and explosive configuration of recovered chemical materiel. Transportable treatment

technologies safely process recovered chemical material on site in complete environmental containment, protecting citizens and the environment.

Storage

CMA is also responsible for the safe storage of the nation's chemical weapons stockpile before its ultimate destruction. CMA manages a National Inventory Control Point and National Maintenance Point to ensure the stockpile is maintained safely during its remaining storage life.

CMA also partners with the Department of Homeland Security in the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) to ensure effective emergency preparedness of the communities surrounding the stockpile storage sites. CSEPP provides funding for chemical accident response equipment and warning systems. CSEPP also oversees yearly community-wide emergency preparedness exercises at all of the stockpile sites and works with communities to conduct public education activities to enable residents to respond appropriately to a chemical stockpile incident.

Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), a separate Department of Defense program, is responsible for the safe destruction of the Army's chemical weapons stored in Colorado and Kentucky. The program oversees the design, construction, systemization, testing, operation and closing of the pilot plants that will destroy the chemical weapons at both locations.

International cooperation

In addition, CMA is meeting its commitment to its mission as outlined in the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention, which more than 160 nations have signed as their pledge to rid the world of this class of weapons. Technical expertise, training and financial support for the safe and environmentally sound disposal of chemical weapons located at seven sites within independent states of the former Soviet Union are provided through the Cooperative Threat Reduction program.

Summary

From dedicated workers ensuring safe, secure storage and destruction, to technical experts collaborating with international colleagues, CMA strives to accomplish its mission to create a safer tomorrow."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003674450>

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**US ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY – MISSION AREA OVERVIEW: PROJECT
MANAGER – CHEMICAL STOCKPILE ELIMINATION**

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Fact Sheet

December 3, 2008

“What is the Project Manager – Chemical Stockpile Elimination (PM-CSE)?

PM-CSE is an acquisition PM responsible for the safe destruction of the nation’s unitary chemical agents and weapons. The destruction technologies used by PM-CSE include incineration and neutralization.

The PM-CSE is one mission area of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA). CMA’s mission is to protect, safely store and destroy the aging chemical weapons stockpile.

Why incineration?

Incineration was selected as the Army’s preferred chemical weapons disposal technology in 1985 based on rigorous tests and comparisons of various technologies. The Army found incineration technology to be the safest and most efficient method to treat and dispose of various types of chemical weapons including chemical agents, explosives and metal parts. The process has been tested and used successfully in the chemical weapons disposal missions since 1979 and is endorsed by the National Research Council and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The first full-scale incineration facility was built on Johnston Atoll located in the Pacific Ocean. It successfully completed it’s mission in November 2000—safely destroying the 6 percent of the U.S. stockpile stored at the atoll. The disposal facility was dismantled and the atoll was returned to its natural state as a coral reef habitat. Other locations throughout the United States that use incineration for the safe disposal of chemical weapons include: Anniston Army Depot, Ala.; Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.; Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah; and Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.

Why neutralization?

After extensive research for technologies other than incineration that could possibly be used to destroy chemical agent, four viable alternative technologies were selected for examination. One of the technologies was neutralization. Three independent groups reviewed each technology to determine which could destroy the bulk agent stockpile while meeting all of the legal and regulatory requirements for safety, environmental protection and cost effectiveness. The three groups, as well as the Citizen’s Advisory Commissions for Indiana and Maryland, recommended neutralization technology as the best alternative process at those sites.

What has been destroyed and what is left to destroy?

- Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Maryland had 5 percent of the original stockpile, all of it blister agent HD in bulk containers. It completed its disposal mission in 2005 and has been closed.
- Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Alabama had 7 percent of the original stockpile and has destroyed all of its GB nerve agent and munitions. It has nerve agent VX

and HD and HT blister agents and munitions remaining to destroy.

- Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Indiana had 4 percent of the original stockpile, all of it nerve agent VX in bulk containers. It completed elimination of its stockpile in 2008 and is being closed.
- Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Arkansas had 12 percent of the original stockpile and has destroyed all of its GB and VX nerve agents and munitions. It has HD and HT blister agents and munitions left to destroy.
- Deseret Chemical Depot in Utah had 44 percent of the original U.S. stockpile and has destroyed all of its GB and VX nerve agents and munitions. It has H, HT, HD, GA and L agents and munitions left to destroy.
- Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Oregon had 12 percent of the original stockpile and has destroyed its nerve agent GB and munitions. It has nerve agent VX and HD blister agent and munitions remaining to destroy.
- Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System in the Pacific Ocean had 6 percent of the original stockpile and completed its disposal mission in 2000, destroying nerve agents GB and VX and HD blister agent and munitions.

Who else is involved?

The PM-CSE, headquartered at the Edgewood area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., is responsible for thousands of military, civilian and contract workers who are dedicated to ensuring the project's success. PM-CSE works with many state and federal oversight agencies including Congress, Department of Defense, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Research Council, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. PM-CSE also works with local and state regulators and nearby communities to ensure the safety of the workers, the public and the environment.

How can I learn more?

Learn more about the PM-CSE mission by visiting the CMA Web site at www.cma.army.mil."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003672435>

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