

10 April 2009

Chem-Bio News

1. AIRCRAFT COULD BE BROUGHT DOWN BY DIY 'E-BOMBS': *"Electromagnetic pulse weapons capable of frying the electronics in civil airliners can be built using information and components available on the net, warn counterterrorism analysts."*

2. WASTE LAND: U.K. TO PRIVATIZE NUCLEAR WASTE SPECIALISTS: *"The U.K. announced today it plans to sell up to 100% of the state-owned clean-up division of the Atomic Energy Authority, which manages nuclear waste and decommissions old nuclear plants."*

3. [JA] NUCLEAR SHELTER SALES UP: *"A retailer of nuclear fallout shelters in Japan said Monday that sales soared in the lead-up to North Korea's rocket launch as jittery residents took their safety into their own hands. Osaka-based Shelter Co said it received 12 orders in just two months ahead of Sunday's launch—more than double the number it usually sells in an entire year."*

4. AHMEDINEJAD OPENS IRAN'S FIRST NUCLEAR PRODUCTION FACILITY: *"A triumphant President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad opened Iran's first plant for producing nuclear fuel today, marking a significant leap forward for his controversial nuclear programme and sparking international fears that the Islamic Republic may be closer than ever to acquiring an atomic weapon."*

5. ESTIMATING THE LOCATION AND SPATIAL EXTENT OF A COVERT ANTHRAX RELEASE: *"Previous studies have sought to estimate the time and size of a bioterror attack based on the symptomatic onset dates of early cases. We extend the scope of these methods by proposing a method for characterizing the time, strength, and also the location of an aerosolized pathogen release."*

6. ETHNIC KURDS FILE CLASS ACTION IN BALTIMORE AGAINST CHEMICAL MAKERS: *"Five survivors of the 1988 poison gas attacks of ethnic Kurds in Iraq have filed a class action lawsuit in Maryland claiming three American companies and the government of Iraq violated the Geneva Convention by using mustard and nerve gasses to kill tens of thousands of people."*

Chem-Demil News

1. PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - ARMY MAY RECONSIDER SHIPPING DEPOT WASTE: *"A group of civic leaders from around the state were told during a recent trip to Washington, D.C., that the Department of Defense will not try to ship the waste from neutralized mustard agent at the Pueblo Chemical Depot to another location for treatment."*

CB Daily Report

AIRCRAFT COULD BE BROUGHT DOWN BY DIY 'E-BOMBS'

By Paul Marks
New Scientist
April 1, 2009

"ELECTROMAGNETIC pulse weapons capable of frying the electronics in civil airliners can be built using information and components available on the net, warn counterterrorism analysts.

All it would take to bring a plane down would be a single but highly energetic microwave radio pulse blasted from a device inside a plane, or on the ground and trained at an aircraft coming in to land.

Yael Shahar, director of the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism in Herzliya, Israel, and her colleagues have analysed electromagnetic weapons in development or used by military forces worldwide, and have discovered that there is low-cost equipment available online that can act in similar ways. "These will become more of a threat as the electromagnetic weapons technology matures," she says."

"Speculation persists that such "e-bombs" have been used in the Persian Gulf, and in Kosovo and Afghanistan - but this remains unconfirmed. But much of what the military is doing can be duplicated by others, Shahar says. "Once it is known that aircraft are vulnerable to particular types of disruption, it isn't too much of a leap to build a device that can produce that sort of disruption. And much of this could be built from off-the-shelf components or dual-use technologies."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20227026.200-aircraft-could-be-brought-down-by-diy-ebombs.html>

[Return to Top](#)

WASTE LAND: U.K. TO PRIVATIZE NUCLEAR WASTE SPECIALISTS

By Keith Johnson
Wall Street Journal
March 30, 2009

"The U.K. announced today it plans to sell up to 100% of the state-owned clean-up division of the Atomic Energy Authority, which manages nuclear waste and decommissions old nuclear plants.

That's part of the British government's fire sale of state assets to raise cash, and also a plan to make nuclear cleanup a viable business, something it hasn't really been while inside the government stable."

The full article can be found at: <http://blogs.wsj.com/environmentalcapital/2009/03/30/>

[Return to Top](#)

[JA] NUCLEAR SHELTER SALES UP

JapanToday

April 7, 2009

“A retailer of nuclear fallout shelters in Japan said Monday that sales soared in the lead-up to North Korea’s rocket launch as jittery residents took their safety into their own hands. Osaka-based Shelter Co said it received 12 orders in just two months ahead of Sunday’s launch—more than double the number it usually sells in an entire year.

Most orders for the Swiss-made 2.8 million yen “household nuclear shelters” came from northwestern Akita and Iwate prefectures, located under the rocket’s path, said company president Seiichiro Nishimoto. “This is a record in the 30 years I’ve been in this business,” he said. “Japanese want to be prepared. I expect the number of orders to increase.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.japantoday.com/category/business/view/nuclear-shelter-sales-up>

[Return to Top](#)

AHMEDINEJAD OPENS IRAN'S FIRST NUCLEAR PRODUCTION FACILITY

By James Hider

TimesOnline (UK)

April 9, 2009

“A triumphant President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad opened Iran's first plant for producing nuclear fuel today, marking a significant leap forward for his controversial nuclear programme and sparking international fears that the Islamic Republic may be closer than ever to acquiring an atomic weapon.

Just two months before crucial elections in which he is pitted against a powerful moderate candidate, the hardline Iranian leader celebrated the breakthrough in his country's pursuit of nuclear technology, saying that Iranian scientists have tested two new types of enrichment centrifuges with a higher capacity for producing uranium. The President has insisted that the nuclear fuel will be used only for generating electricity, but the international community fears that it could also be used to build nuclear warheads.”

“The ribbon-cutting ceremony in Isfahan, in central Iran, coincided with the country's national Nuclear Day. The new plant will produce pellets of uranium oxide to fuel the heavy-water research reactor, which is expected to be up and running either this year or next. The international community is worried that Iran could reprocess spent fuel from the heavy-water reactor into plutonium for building a warhead.

The Iranian news agency said that the fuel plant can produce 10 tonnes of nuclear fuel annually to feed the heavy water Arak reactor as well as 30 tonnes for light water reactors such as the Bushehr nuclear plant."

The full article can be found at: http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle_east/article6068368.ece

[Return to Top](#)

ESTIMATING THE LOCATION AND SPATIAL EXTENT OF A COVERT ANTHRAX RELEASE

By Judith Legrand, Joseph R. Egan, Ian M. Hall, Simon Cauchemez, Steve Leach, Neil M. Ferguson
PLoS Computational Biology
April, 2009

"Rapidly identifying the features of a covert release of an agent such as anthrax could help to inform the planning of public health mitigation strategies. Previous studies have sought to estimate the time and size of a bioterror attack based on the symptomatic onset dates of early cases. We extend the scope of these methods by proposing a method for characterizing the time, strength, and also the location of an aerosolized pathogen release. A back-calculation method is developed allowing the characterization of the release based on the data on the first few observed cases of the subsequent outbreak, meteorological data, population densities, and data on population travel patterns. We evaluate this method on small simulated anthrax outbreaks (about 25–35 cases) and show that it could date and localize a release after a few cases have been observed, although misspecifications of the spore dispersion model, or the within-host dynamics model, on which the method relies can bias the estimates. Our method could also provide an estimate of the outbreak's geographical extent and, as a consequence, could help to identify populations at risk and, therefore, requiring prophylactic treatment. Our analysis demonstrates that while estimates based on the first ten or 15 observed cases were more accurate and less sensitive to model misspecifications than those based on five cases, overall mortality is minimized by targeting prophylactic treatment early on the basis of estimates made using data on the first five cases. The method we propose could provide early estimates of the time, strength, and location of an aerosolized anthrax release and the geographical extent of the subsequent outbreak. In addition, estimates of release features could be used to parameterize more detailed models allowing the simulation of control strategies and intervention logistics."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.ploscompbiol.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pcbi.1000356;jsessionid=59BCC324CB62F4068756EA8536B26DB8>

[Return to Top](#)

ETHNIC KURDS FILE CLASS ACTION IN BALTIMORE AGAINST CHEMICAL MAKERS

By Ben Mook
The Daily Record
April 9, 2009

"Five survivors of the 1988 poison gas attacks of ethnic Kurds in Iraq have filed a class action lawsuit in Maryland claiming three American companies and the government of Iraq violated the Geneva Convention by using mustard and nerve gasses to kill tens of thousands of people.

Filed in U.S. District Court in Baltimore, the lawsuit says the companies supplied the regime of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein with the chemical precursors and compounds needed to make the poison gases used in the six-month long "Operation Anfal."

One of the companies, Alcolac Inc., was headquartered in Baltimore at the time of the attacks but is now defunct. Some of its assets were acquired by a French firm, Rhodia Inc., which is mentioned in the complaint but not named as a defendant."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.mddailyrecord.com/article.cfm?fuseaction=print&id=11247&type=UTTM>

[Return to Top](#)

Chem-Demil News

PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - ARMY MAY RECONSIDER SHIPPING DEPOT WASTE

By John Norton
The Pueblo Chieftain
April 10, 2009

"A group of civic leaders from around the state were told during a recent trip to Washington, D.C., that the Department of Defense will not try to ship the waste from neutralized mustard agent at the Pueblo Chemical Depot to another location for treatment.

State and local officials have been urging the Defense Department for two years to keep the mustard agent hydrolysate, a hazardous material, here and break it down through biotreatment.

Members of the Colorado Chemical Demilitarizations Citizens Advisory Commission have expressed worry that an accident in shipment or just refusal by other states or communities to allow it to pass through could cause more delays in the program. Pentagon officials have maintained it's cheaper to contract for treatment at another site but the commission members warn that savings could easily vanish if costly delays occurred."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2009/04/10/news/local/doc49dee1d592a68551640021.txt>

[Return to Top](#)

END of CB Daily Report.

Send subscription requests, unsubscribing requests, questions and comments to:

Steve Tesko: Steve.Tesko@anser.org

Copyright 2008. *Analytic Services Inc.*

[Analytic Services Inc. DMCA Copyright Notice: http://www.homelandsecurity.org/bulletin/Draft_ANSER_DCMA_Copyright_Notice.htm](http://www.homelandsecurity.org/bulletin/Draft_ANSER_DCMA_Copyright_Notice.htm)

Use of these news articles does not reflect official endorsement.

In accordance with Title 17 (USC), Section 107, this material is distributed without profit or payment and is intended for nonprofit research and educational purposes only.

Reproduction for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.

PRIVACY POLICY

Content provided in the *CB Daily Report* does not reflect the viewpoint(s) of Analytic Services Inc. Analytic Services Inc. does not share, publish, or in any way redistribute subscriber email addresses or any other personal information.