

7 August 2009

Chem-Bio News

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- 2. BHOPAL RETURNS TO HAUNT FORMER UNION CARBIDE CHIEF:** *"Union Carbide's Bhopal pesticide plant spewed 40 tonnes of deadly methyl isocyanate gas on the night of 2 December 1984 in what came to be known as the Hiroshima of chemical industry."*
- 3. SAN ANTONIO LAB STILL LAGGING ON SECURITY, GAO REPORT STATES:** *"Ten months after a critical report on the security of biosafety level 4 labs dealing in deadly diseases, only a few of those recommendations have been implemented at the one at San Antonio's Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research."*
- 4. MINUTEMAN MISSILES TO BE PRESENTED IN THEIR 'ALERT' AND 'STAND-DOWN' CONDITIONS:** *"The National Park Service has issued its "Record of Decision" document, which spells out its plan to develop and maintain a Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, off Interstate 90, about 70 miles east of Rapid City, SD."*
- 5. PENTAGON, EYEING IRAN, WANTS TO RUSH 30,000-POUND BOMB PROGRAM:** *"The bomb would be the U.S. military's largest and six times bigger than the 5,000-pound bunker buster that the Air Force now uses to attack deeply buried nuclear, biological or chemical sites."*

Chem-Demil News

- 1. ARMY IS STUDYING EFFECTS OF DUMPING LIVE AMMO IN SEA:** *"For the past two years, the Army has reviewed more than 2 million documents under a congressional mandate to pinpoint and determine the effects of dumping of chemical and conventional weapons into the ocean -- which was banned in 1972."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

REVEALED: BURMA'S NUCLEAR BOMBSHELL

By Hamish McDonald
Sydney Morning Herald
August 01, 2009

"BURMA's isolated military junta is building a secret nuclear reactor and plutonium extraction facilities with North Korean help, with the aim of acquiring its first nuclear bomb in five years, according to evidence from key defectors revealed in an exclusive Herald report today.

The secret complex, much of it in caves tunnelled into a mountain at Naung Laing in northern Burma, runs parallel to a civilian reactor being built at another site by Russia that both the Russians and Burmese say will be put under international safeguards.

Two defectors were extensively interviewed separately over the past two years in Thailand by the Australian National University strategic expert Desmond Ball and a Thai-based Irish-Australian journalist, Phil Thornton, who has followed Burma for years.

One was an officer with a secret nuclear battalion in the Burmese army who was sent to Moscow for two years' training; the other was a former executive of the leading regime business partner, Htoo Trading, who handled nuclear contracts with Russia and North Korea."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/world/revealed-burmax2019s-nuclear-bombshell-20090731-e4fw.html>
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BHOPAL RETURNS TO HAUNT FORMER UNION CARBIDE CHIEF

By Killugudi Jayaraman
Chemistry World
05 August 2009

"Fresh calls for the extradition of former Union Carbide chief executive Warren Anderson to India from the US have brought the Bhopal industrial disaster of 1984 back to the front page.

Despite being in his 80s, Anderson is the most wanted person by survivors of the tragedy: 'They will not rest until he is brought to justice,' Rachna Dhingra of the Bhopal Group for Information and Action told Chemistry World."

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"Union Carbide's Bhopal pesticide plant spewed 40 tonnes of deadly methyl isocyanate gas on the night of 2 December 1984 in what came to be known as the Hiroshima of chemical industry. The accident killed at least 10 000 and reportedly left more than 500,000 survivors with medical problems.

On 31 July a Bhopal court in issued a fresh warrant for Anderson's arrest and ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) - equivalent to the FBI in the US - to produce him without further delay. The court has also asked the Ministry of External Affairs to press Washington again for Anderson's extradition. 'India's earlier extradition request in May 2002 was rejected in 2004 by the US justice department for "technical" reasons and the CBI did nothing after that,' Dhingra says. 'Thanks to the latest ruling we expect CBI to act.' She said the court will pursue the issue at the next hearing on 19 August. As of 4 August the Indian government has not submitted the extradition request to Washington."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/News/2009/August/05080901.asp>
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SAN ANTONIO LAB STILL LAGGING ON SECURITY, GAO REPORT STATES

By Elizabeth Allen
MySanAntonio.com
August 07, 2009

"Ten months after a critical report on the security of biosafety level 4 labs dealing in deadly diseases, only a few of those recommendations have been implemented at the one at San Antonio's Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research.

A Government Accounting Office report faults the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for not working out a plan for the labs after the report was released last fall.

The two most vulnerable labs, SFBR and an Atlanta lab run by Georgia State University, have made some changes, but not enough, the GAO report stated.

In the Southwest Foundation's BSL4 lab, regulated by the CDC and the U.S. Department of Agriculture

but privately owned, scientists study deadly diseases like the Ebola virus.

Lawmakers wanted a review of the nation's five BSL4 labs out of worry that terrorists could steal those or other lethal germs or toxins and launch a bioterror attack.

Southwest Foundation's lab, referred to in the report as Lab E, has added concrete planters as a vehicle barricade on a road next to the lab, is building another barricade, and has frosted a window to block sight lines into the lab.

Greg Patterson, Southwest's vice president of research operations, said the lab has spent \$146,000 on the perimeter security improvements.

It's also addressing four of five of the items the GAO lists as not yet in place through a \$6.2 million grant application. That includes a closed-circuit television system and fiber optic intrusion detection system to be monitored by an in-house command and control center.

The last recommendation — arming the foundation's security guards beyond the single roving supervisor — is a steep ongoing expense and a contentious issue, he said.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/52616097.html

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MINUTEMAN MISSILES TO BE PRESENTED IN THEIR 'ALERT' AND 'STAND-DOWN' CONDITIONS

By Jacob Goodwin
Government Security News
August 06, 2009

“The National Park Service has issued its "Record of Decision" document, which spells out its plan to develop and maintain a Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, off Interstate 90, about 70 miles east of Rapid City, SD.”

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“The selected alternative, with the concept of presenting the national historic site as a symbol of the Cold War, will restore Delta One to its ready-alert status and rehabilitate Delta Nine to its stand-down appearance," said a notice posted by the Department of the Interior in the Federal Register on August 6. "These facilities will be presented as symbols commemorating the history and significance of the Cold War, the arms race, and the intercontinental ballistic missile in the second half of the 20th century.”

Visitors will be allowed to drive their cars to the Delta One facility, where they'll be offered a ranger-led tour. They'll also be allowed to drive their cars to the nearby Delta Nine site, where they'll be able to take a self-guided tour.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/2455.html>

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PENTAGON, EYEING IRAN, WANTS TO RUSH 30,000-POUND BOMB PROGRAM

By Tony Capaccio
Bloomberg News
July 31, 2009

“The U.S. Defense Department wants to accelerate by three years the deployment of a 30,000-pound bunker-buster bomb, a request that reflects growing unease over nuclear threats from Iran and North

Korea.

Comptroller Robert Hale, in a formal request to the four congressional defense committees earlier this month, asked permission to shift about \$68 million in the Pentagon's budget to this program to ensure the first four bombs could be mounted on stealthy B-2 bombers by July 2010.

Hale, in his July 8 request, said there was "an urgent operational need for the capability to strike hard and deeply buried targets in high-threat environments," and top commanders of U.S. forces in Asia and the Middle East "recently identified the need to expedite" the bomb program.

The bomb would be the U.S. military's largest and six times bigger than the 5,000-pound bunker buster that the Air Force now uses to attack deeply buried nuclear, biological or chemical sites.

Accelerating the program "is intended to, at the very least, give the president the option of conducting a strike to knock out Iran's main uranium enrichment capabilities," said Ken Katzman, Middle East military expert for the non-partisan Congressional Research Service."

The full article can be found at: <http://bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601109&sid=aMiQmByND.2A>
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Chem-Demil News

ARMY IS STUDYING EFFECTS OF DUMPING LIVE AMMO IN SEA

By Gregg K. Kakesako
Honolulu Star-Bulletin
August 04, 2009

"For the past two years, the Army has reviewed more than 2 million documents under a congressional mandate to pinpoint and determine the effects of dumping of chemical and conventional weapons into the ocean -- which was banned in 1972.

To date, the Pentagon has spent \$7 million to determine the location of these munition dumpsites in Hawaii, analyze the effects on the environment and determine ways to remove the unexploded ordnance.

Tad Davis, the Army's deputy assistant secretary for the environment, safety and occupational health, is in town this week to meet with Army officials, University of Hawaii scientists involved in several of the ocean monitoring and testing programs and members of the staffs of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

He also will attend a special session of the Nanakuli and Waianae neighborhood boards tomorrow night to discuss the ongoing environmental issues at Makua Military Reservation, where the Army hopes to resume limited live-fire exercises at the end of this month.

Besides Hawaii, there were chemical weapons sea disposal sites in the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and off Alaska.

Off Oahu there were three areas where chemical weapons were thrown overboard -- two off Pearl Harbor. One is 10 miles south of Pearl Harbor where the ocean depth is 10,000 feet; another is five miles south of Pearl Harbor at a depth of 1,000 to 1,500 feet. The third is believed to be 10 miles west of Waianae where the depth is 10,000 feet.

About 2,000 conventional munitions -- weapons that are not nuclear, chemical or biological -- were dumped in the shallow waters off Waianae known as Ordnance Reef."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cwwg.org/sb08.04.09.html>

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