

4 December 2009

## **Chem-Bio News**

**1. CBRNIAC ON THE MOVE:** *"The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense Information Analysis Center (CBRNIAC) is relocating from the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD to Aberdeen, MD effective 7 December 2009."*

**2. LIST RELEASED OF MUNITIONS FOUND IN SPRING VALLEY [D.C.]:** *"The report says between 1993 and 2001 the Corps of Engineers unearthed at least 865 intact munitions. Of those, at least 80 were listed as chemical in nature."*

**3. [AU] CASTLE HILL DEADLY CHEMICAL WEAPONS CLAIMS RESURFACE:** *"Mr McGrath's interest was rekindled after claims were aired last month by Melbourne wartime historian Mark Rawson in the Townsville Bulletin that a series of underground caverns were dug in Castle Hill by United States forces during World War II and after the war were used as a storage site for mustard gas - sulphur mustard blister agent (dichloroethyl sulphide)."*

**4. SECRETARY NAPOLITANO ANNOUNCES NEW STUDY TO PROTECT AGAINST CHEMICAL ATTACKS AND BOLSTER EMERGENCY PLANNING EFFORTS:** *"Particle and gas concentrations will be sampled in more than 20 stations and in subway cars in the underground portion of the MBTA [Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority] subway system from Dec. 5-11."*

**5. [IN] FOLLOW-UP - 15 KAIGA N-PLANT WORKERS PUT UNDER SCANNER:** *"Investigators have zeroed in on 15 employees who are among the suspects behind the contamination of drinking water at the high-security Kaiga Nuclear plant in Kannnada district of Karnataka with tritiated water vials. As many as 55 workers of the plant had consumed the water and were exposed to high-level of radiation."*

**6. IRAN WILL INFORM IAEA ON NEW NUCLEAR SITES WHEN READY:** *"Iran will inform the U.N. nuclear watchdog on progress in its 10 new uranium enrichment plants only six months ahead of starting production at the sites, the state news agency said on Friday."*

## **Chem-Demil News**

**1. [NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY?] BASE TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS CLEANUP OF TRAINING AREAS:** *"He's looking into eight different sites on the base where old bombs were blown up, training areas where Seabees prepared for chemical warfare and defunct firing ranges."*

# **CB Daily Report**

## **Chem-Bio News**

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**CBRNIAC ON THE MOVE**

CBRNIAC

December 02, 2009

"The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense Information Analysis Center (CBRNIAC) is relocating from the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD to Aberdeen, MD effective 7 December 2009. Our new address is:

CBRNIAC  
1204 Technology Drive  
Aberdeen, MD 21001

Our skilled staff, great products and outstanding services will not change. Our main telephone number (410-676-9030) will remain in effect, although staff members have new direct numbers. In addition, our website (<http://www.cbrniac.apgea.army.mil>), staff email addresses, and general email address ([cbrniac@battelle.org](mailto:cbrniac@battelle.org)) will remain the same."

Link not available.

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## **LIST RELEASED OF MUNITIONS FOUND IN SPRING VALLEY [D.C.]**

NewsChannel 8  
December 01, 2009

"At the demand of D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, the Army Corps of Engineers has for the first time given some insight into what they've discovered buried in Spring Valley. Since 1993, they've been digging up World War I era munitions buried after the war."

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"The report says between 1993 and 2001 the Corps of Engineers unearthed at least 865 intact munitions. Of those, at least 80 were listed as chemical in nature.

Slated to be destroyed next year are five projectiles containing chemical weapons. Three contain arsine, a colorless, nonirritating toxic gas with a mild garlic odor Also slated to be destroyed a round containing mustard gas, a blistering agent, and another round containing lewisite also a blistering agent that smells like geraniums."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.news8.net/news/stories/1209/683270.html>

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## **[AU] CASTLE HILL DEADLY CHEMICAL WEAPONS CLAIMS RESURFACE**

By Tony Raggatt  
Townesville Bulletin  
November 21, 2009

"Mr McGrath's interest was rekindled after claims were aired last month by Melbourne wartime historian Mark Rawson in the Townsville Bulletin that a series of underground caverns were dug in Castle Hill by United States forces during World War II and after the war were used as a storage site for mustard gas - sulphur mustard blister agent (dichloroethyl sulphide).

Mr McGrath said that as a young man he had been amazed at the tunnels dug at Newcastle during the war and about 10 years ago noticed what looked like the sealed entrance to a tunnel on Castle Hill.

He said the mystery of that site had gnawed at his conscience and he had since shown it to friends who were similarly intrigued, just as the Townsville Bulletin reporter and photographer were when they were shown the site this week.

On a rockface near the summit, quite visible from the roadway, a ledge of old looking concrete about 5m wide and half a metre deep protrudes from the rock.

Below it, concrete has been sprayed into what could conceivably have been a tunnel portal.

"It didn't make sense to me for anybody to put a big slab of concrete on the hill like that," Mr McGrath said."

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"Asked about claims of mustard gas stored at bunkers in Castle Hill, the Defence Department provided the following response. "Defence commissioned a report by Coffey Geosciences Pty Ltd to assess claims of WWII bunkers in Queensland. "Part of this report covered the area of Castle Hill. "The report was presented to Defence on 23 July 2002 and it concluded that there was no evidence to support the claim of bunkers at Castle Hill. "The Coffey report was later reviewed within Defence in April 2005. This review supported the methodology and findings of the original report.

"Based on the Coffey report and the subsequent review, Defence is of the opinion that there is no credible evidence that underground bunkers exist at Castle Hill and hence no chemical weapons would be buried there."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/article/2009/11/21/95401\\_news.html](http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/article/2009/11/21/95401_news.html)

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## **SECRETARY NAPOLITANO ANNOUNCES NEW STUDY TO PROTECT AGAINST CHEMICAL ATTACKS AND BOLSTER EMERGENCY PLANNING EFFORTS**

Department of Homeland Security News Release  
December 02, 2009

"Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano and the Massachusetts

Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) today announced a new DHS Science & Technology Directorate-led study that will examine the behavior of airborne contaminants if they were to be released into the subway—reflecting Secretary Napolitano’s emphasis on preparedness and the shared responsibility of protecting the nation’s critical infrastructure.”

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“The study will involve the release of common, harmless tracer gases used for indoor and outdoor air testing; an inert particle tracer tagged with a biologically inert, non-toxic organic dye used in medical imaging applications; and a common optical brightener often used in laundry detergents and paper manufacturing. The study will help scientists understand the airflow characteristics for smoke or unintentional spills of chemicals or fuels—providing data that will help guide the design of next generation detection systems and enable transportation systems to strengthen evacuation, ventilation and other incident response strategies.

Particle and gas concentrations will be sampled in more than 20 stations and in subway cars in the underground portion of the MBTA subway system from Dec. 5-11. Although commuters may notice the presence of equipment and researchers, the study will not disrupt normal activities or inconvenience the public.

The research team will include scientists from Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) of Argonne, Ill.; Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) of Berkeley, Calif.; ICx Technologies of Arlington, Va.; Defence Science and Technology Laboratory of the United Kingdom; and Chemistry Centre of Australia.”

The full article can be found at: [http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr\\_1259790815577.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1259790815577.shtm)

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## **[IN] FOLLOW-UP - 15 KAIGA N-PLANT WORKERS PUT UNDER SCANNER**

By Kestur Vasuki

The Pioneer

December 01, 2009

“Investigators have zeroed in on 15 employees who are among the suspects behind the contamination of drinking water at the high-security Kaiga Nuclear plant in Kannada district of Karnataka with tritiated water vials. As many as 55 workers of the plant had consumed the water and were exposed to high-level of radiation.”

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“We know the antecedents of the radiation employees who were working in that shift. We have their records in the form of biometrics and photo identification cards. It is for the investigators to catch the suspects,” Gupta said.

Clarifying that the Tritium contamination was not fatal and that the affected employees were not exposed to excess radiation, Gupta said of the total radiation workers, only one person was found to be near the permissible limit of (30ml) while the rest of them were far below the limit (30 ml) approved by the Indian Atomic Energy Regulation Board (AERB).

"Within hours after the affected employees displayed abnormal symptoms, we administered medicine to flush out the contamination in the drinking water by giving a stomach-wash to each of them," Gupta informed.

After the Government's confirmation that the radio isotope leak at Kaiga was sabotage, many questions of plant safety have also been raised. There are many theories doing the rounds which also include the involvement of a foreign hand in the whole incident.

According to sources the fact that the water-cooler was in a high security area close to a reactor that was supposed to be monitored round the clock, is likely to raise concerns about the vulnerability of India's nuclear power plants to terrorist attacks."

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"Some of the scientists on condition of anonymity revealed that the incident had thrown open the security of the plant and might cause a hindrance to the security agencies as there were no CCTV cameras inside. However, the plant officials said that the computer access system has a record of all employees who entered the operating Island."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.dailypioneer.com/219504/15-Kaiga-N-plant-workers-put-under-scanner.html>

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## **IRAN WILL INFORM IAEA ON NEW NUCLEAR SITES WHEN READY**

Reuters

December 04, 2009

"Iran will inform the U.N. nuclear watchdog on progress in its 10 new uranium enrichment plants only six months ahead of starting production at the sites, the state news agency said on Friday."

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"According to the safeguards, after installation of equipment (centrifuges) and only 180 days ahead of injecting gas into centrifuges ... we should inform the IAEA," Abolfazl Zohrehvand told IRNA. "And we will act within the framework of the safeguard," the former Iranian ambassador to Italy said."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5B316R20091204>

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

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### **[NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY?] BASE TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS CLEANUP OF TRAINING AREAS**

By Zeke Barlow

Ventura County Star

December 02, 2009

"Steve Granade is a detective of sorts, trying to solve 50-year-old cases where the suspects are generally buried or burned.

He's looking for bullets, mustard gas and unexploded bombs left behind.

Granade isn't a cop or a detective -- he's the installation restoration program manager for Naval Base Ventura County....."

He's looking into eight different sites on the base where old bombs were blown up, training areas where Seabees prepared for chemical warfare and defunct firing ranges.

The base is holding a public meeting tonight on a proposal to study the sites for contamination and determine what cleanup is needed."

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"At another site, where small vials of diluted mustard gas were blown up as sailors trained for chemical warfare in the 1940s, the earth will be dug up because the detectors found some metal.

"They are buried items that have some sort of metallic signature," Granade said. "It could also be a Tonka truck."

On about 500 bases around the country, where similar exercises took place, only five instances of contamination were found, he said.

If traces of mustard gas are found, it becomes a hazardous waste disposal site, where great care is taken to remove the substance, he said."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.waterworld.com/index/display/news\\_display/138471970.html](http://www.waterworld.com/index/display/news_display/138471970.html)

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