

Chem-Bio News

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3. POSITIVE RESULTS ANNOUNCED FOR RESTANZA IN TREATMENT OF INHALED TULAREMIA: *“A 14 day course of Restanza during a pivotal, non-human primate study achieved a 100 percent survival rate at the doses tested. In the study, all 10 animals receiving 16 mg/kg of Restanza once-a-day, the equivalent of a human dose of 300 mg, within 24 hours of exposure to a lethal dose of inhaled tularemia survived. Only of [sic] of the 10 animals that received a placebo survived.”*

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5. ALL ISRAELI RESIDENTS TO BE PROVIDED WITH GAS MASKS: *“The distribution will commence in two months.”*

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2. PINE BLUFF CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (PBCDF) - PBCDF SURPASSES 50 PERCENT COMPLETION OF FINAL DISPOSAL CAMPAIGN: *“The Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) successfully surpassed the 50 percent completion mark for processing the mustard agent-filled ton containers, the final disposal*

campaign of the Arsenal's chemical weapons stockpile, December 23, 2009."

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

U.S. AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR NUCLEAR DATA LEAK: GAO

By Timothy Gardner

Reuters

December 23, 2009

"Several federal agencies share responsibility for the inadvertent publishing by a government office of sensitive U.S. nuclear power information on the Web last May, Congressional investigators said on Wednesday."

"The Government Printing Office published the 266-page document, which gave details on nuclear power sites, locations, facilities and activities, on the Web on May 7.

It included 14 diagrams of buildings or facilities at U.S. nuclear sites, two of which were marked "Official Use Only" and described activities at national laboratories.

None of the agencies that had prepared the draft document for the International Atomic Energy Association -- the Departments of Energy and Commerce and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission -- had made sure it was marked with U.S. security designations, the Government Accountability Office said in a report about its investigation.

The data was marked only with IAEA designations, which helped lead to the printing office's publication of the information, the GAO report said."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5BM46M20091223>

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AMERICAN CHILDREN IN SOUTH KOREA GET NEW PROTECTIVE MASKS

By Jon Rabirot

Stars and Stripes

December 23, 2009

"In hopes of making things a little easier in the event of a chemical attack, 2nd ID officials this month are requiring soldiers with children living in South Korea to pick up new child-friendly protective masks.

Garcia said the model being replaced was good only for children 3 and younger, and was "more like a plastic bag that you put your kids in." The new model, he said, is good for children 8 and younger and "looks more like a space suit."

The XM52 Joint Service Chemical Environment Survivability Mask will continue to serve adults and children as young as 9.

Garcia said the new mask allows young children more room inside, a greater field of vision and even a built-in straw for drinking.

"This is more comfortable for them," he said."

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The old masks, Barrera said, "kind of creeped me out — it's like a plastic bag thrown over them. Now, they look like little astronaut suits, so I think it is a little more kid-friendly and doable.

"I mean, it's a weird concept to think about your kids having to wear a [protective] mask, but at the same time you have to look at the bright side — you can tell them they're astronauts ... for that period. Try to flip it around and not make it scary for them."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=66815>

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POSITIVE RESULTS ANNOUNCED FOR RESTANZA IN TREATMENT OF INHALED TULAREMIA

By Ted Purlain

BioPrepWatch.com

December 17, 2009

"A 14 day course of Restanza during a pivotal, non-human primate study achieved a 100 percent survival rate at the doses tested. In the study, all 10 animals receiving 16 mg/kg of Restanza once-a-day, the equivalent of a human dose of 300 mg, within 24 hours of exposure to a lethal dose of inhaled tularemia survived. Only of [sic] of the 10 animals that received a placebo survived."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.bioprepwatch.com/news/211316>

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MAVERICK IRAQI POLITICIAN CLAIMS IRAN COULD GO NUCLEAR WITHIN WEEKS

By Heather Robinson

The Jerusalem Post

December 25, 2009

"Iraqi parliamentarian Mithal al-Alusi is warning that Iran is much closer to attaining nuclear capability than most sources, including the International Atomic Energy Agency and the US State Department, believe. In fact, he predicts the Iranians could have a nuclear capability - and may announce that they have it - as soon as next month."

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"Alusi said he cannot reveal his sources of this information, because that would place in grave and imminent danger individuals within the Iranian "establishment" who risked their lives to share it with him.

"I am talking about Iranian insider information. Very clear, from inside Iran," he said. "There are people within Iran who want to be normal... They know this is a dangerous regime. You see how they treat their own people... Iran is terrorizing the world already. What will they do once they have the bomb and they are stronger?"

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"Alusi's estimate, which is that Iran will have nuclear capability by January or February, "sounds a little soon... [but] it's not outside the realm of possibility," according to Ilan Berman, vice president of the American Foreign Policy Council, who has consulted for the CIA and Defense Department.

According to Israeli intelligence, however, Iran already has sufficient low-enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon but has yet to reach the breakout stage and begin enriching uranium to higher levels, needed for a nuclear weapon. Even once this happens, it would take the Iranians some time to perfect the weapons program and manufacture a warhead. This would likely take a few years - until 2014, according to Mossad chief Meir Dagan."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1261364500273&pagename=JPost/JPArticle/ShowFull>

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ALL ISRAELI RESIDENTS TO BE PROVIDED WITH GAS MASKS

Argentina Star

December 26, 2009

"Israel is to outfit its entire population with gas masks.

The distribution will commence in two months.

No reason has been given by the Israeli government for providing its residents with gas masks.

There has been no indication from any country that it is planning to attack Israel, nor is any country in the Middle East likely to engage Israel in chemical warfare.

The move has heightened expectations that Israel may launch an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities which could spark an unconventional response. It is not known however whether Iran has any chemical or biological weapons capability.

Rumors have been circulating in the Middle East that Israel is preparing for another war on Lebanon to rein in Hezbollah. That organization however is not known to harbor chemical or biological weapons."

The full article can be found at: <http://story.arginastar.com/index.php/ct/9/cid/c08dd24cec417021/id/581914/cs/1/>

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DETAINED AMERICANS HAD NUCLEAR POWER SITE MAP, SAY PAKISTAN POLICE

The Associated Press on Guardian.co.uk

December 27, 2009

"Police are trying to determine whether five Americans detained in Pakistan had planned to attack a complex that houses nuclear power facilities.

The young Muslim men, who are from the Washington DC area, were arrested in Pakistan earlier this month. Pakistani police and government officials have made a series of escalating and, at times, seemingly contradictory claims about the men's intentions. US officials have been far more cautious, but they, too, are looking at charging the men."

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"The men allegedly had a map of Chashma Barrage, a complex that along with nuclear power facilities houses a water reservoir and other structures, said Javed Islam, a senior police official in the Sargodha area of Punjab province where the men were arrested.

He stressed that they were not carrying a specific map of a nuclear power plant, but a map of the whole Chashma Barrage. The detained men had also exchanged emails about the area, Islam claimed. "We are also working to retrieve the deleted material in their computers," he said."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/dec/27/detained-americans-pakistan-nuclear-power-map>

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Chem-Demil News

ANNISTON CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (ANCDF) - ANNISTON DISPOSAL OPERATIONS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release
December 22, 2009

“Chemical munitions stockpile demilitarization operations at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) were temporarily suspended following an interruption in the robotic disassembly of a mortar tonight.

ANCDF control room employees were monitoring normal operations at 5:30 p.m. when they noticed a “flash” in one of the facility’s two Explosion Containment Rooms (ECR). At the time of the flash, robotic equipment was removing the explosive fuze and burster from a mustard-filled 4.2-inch mortar. The routine operation, done for more than 75,500 other mustard-filled munitions since July, normally includes the separation of the burster from the nose cone.

Under standard operating procedures, the equipment automatically tries to separate the burster from the nose cone. According to the site manager, “At this time the rear portion of the burster flashed. The nose cone assembly appears to be intact.”

No one is allowed in the ECR during munition disposal operations there. The “flash” did not injure anyone. There is no apparent damage to ANCDF equipment. Also notable is that the flash did not involve any mustard agent.

The ANCDF manager said, “There was no threat to other ANCDF personnel, the depot work force, or the surrounding community.

“ANCDF disposal operations will not resume until managers and regulators are sure that it is safe to do so,” the manager said.

Since disposal operations began in August 2003, more than 437,300 (66.1 percent) nerve agent and mustard-filled munitions have been safely processed. Operations have also processed more than 330,670 gallons (64.8 percent) of liquid nerve and mustard agents. Since July, ANCDF employees have processed more than 75,500 mustard-filled mortars.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003682061>

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PINE BLUFF CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (PBCDF) - PBCDF SURPASSES 50 PERCENT COMPLETION OF FINAL DISPOSAL CAMPAIGN

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release
December 23, 2009

“The Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) successfully surpassed the 50

percent completion mark for processing the mustard agent-filled ton containers, the final disposal campaign of the Arsenal's chemical weapons stockpile, December 23, 2009.

"This is truly a significant processing achievement. More than 2.8 million pounds of mustard agent have been safely destroyed," said Mark Greer, PBCDF site project manager. "The amount of agent already safely processed during the mustard campaign is more than the combined amount processed during our three previous campaigns."

Ton container disposal operations began in December 2008. The ton containers are the last disposal campaign at the Arsenal. Operations are scheduled to last three years.

"We are confident that we will complete disposal operations by the Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty date of April 29, 2012," said Mark Greer, PBCDF site project manager. "Currently we are operating ahead of schedule. The early completion estimate in the Transition Planning Guide predicts the end of the ton container disposal campaign to be in December 2010."

Following the completion of disposal operations, PBCDF will begin its facility closure phase. During this time the disposal facility will be decontaminated and dismantled in accordance with the site's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit.

"This milestone represents the dedicated safety culture and focus on operational excellence demonstrated by our people to achieve this status of the project," said Guy Campbell, acting project general manager for Washington Demilitarization Company, LLC EG&G Division of the URS Corporation, which operates the plant for the Army.

Chemical weapons disposal operations began at the Arsenal in March 2005 with the GB nerve-agent filled rockets. The second disposal campaign, VX nerve-agent filled rockets, ended in February 2008; and the third disposal campaign, VX nerve-agent filled landmines, ended in June 2008. Unlike the previous disposal campaigns that dealt with nerve agent, the final disposal campaign deals with mustard, a blister agent.

Prior to chemical weapons disposal operations, the Pine Bluff Arsenal safely stored approximately 3,850 tons of chemical agent or 12 percent of the Army's original chemical weapons stockpile for more than 60 years."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003682075>

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