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Chem-Bio News

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CB Daily Report

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US ARMY CHEMICAL WARFARE DOCTRINE DOCUMENTATION STATUS

U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center
Appearing in “Army Chemical Review”
Winter, 2008 edition

A table providing descriptive information as well as the publication and review status of US Army chemical warfare documentation.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.wood.army.mil/chmdsd/pdfs/Winter%2008/Doctrine%20Update%20Winter%2008.pdf>

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IRAN APPROACHING NUCLEAR-WEAPON DECISION, CIA CHIEF SAYS

Global Security Newswire

January 16, 2009

"Iran could soon decide whether to turn its expanding atomic program toward producing a nuclear warhead, CIA chief Michael Hayden told reporters yesterday."

"CIA officials concluded that Iran wants the option to pursue a nuclear weapon because the nation has endured a variety of sanctions in order to continue its enrichment activities without accepting more invasive international audits.

"I'm amazed Iran is willing to run the costs they are running if they are not trying to keep the option open for a nuclear weapon," he said.

Hayden listed the potential for an Iranian nuclear warhead among 10 critical issues that the next CIA director should carefully monitor in the first year of President-elect Barack Obama's administration (Pamela Hess, Associated Press/Google News, Jan. 15).

Meanwhile, the United States has detected Iranian efforts to acquire large supplies of Chinese metals it could use in nuclear-capable missiles, the Wall Street Journal reported today.

The Iranian firm ABAN Commercial & Industrial Ltd. hired a third party to buy 66,000 pounds of tungsten copper ingots from China's Advanced Technology & Materials Co. Ltd., according to correspondence viewed by the Journal."

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090116_1478.php

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LEVEL A TOXIC TRAINING— A NEW MILESTONE FOR DOD'S ONLY TOXIC-TRAINING FACILITY

By Lieutenant Colonel Daniel S. Murray (Retired)
US Army Chemical Review
Winter, 2008

"Since late 2007, all USACBRNS professional military education (PME) course programs of instruction have been updated so that training includes hazmat certification at the technician level, with advanced individual training currently instructed at the awareness level. This initiative institutionalized the training needed to employ the toxic industrial chemical protection and detection equipment that is already in use by Soldiers in the field.

The inclusion of this certification in the programs of instruction resulted in renewed efforts to pursue the development of a Level A toxic-training capability at the Chemical Defense Training Facility (CDTF), which had been stalled by costs exceeding \$1 million. When the USACBRNS opened the First Lieutenant Joseph Terry CBRN Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Response Training Facility, Level A training resources were leveraged to reduce much of the overhead costs that had defeated this initiative in the past.

Beginning in July 2007, the CDTF staff, led by Captain Rebecca Resendes, embarked on the mission of developing and implementing a Level A toxic-training program before the end of Fiscal Year 2008."

"The primary near-term USACBRNS objective is to integrate Level A toxic training into CBRN PME courses. This integration is expected to occur in mid-Fiscal Year 2009, but the date depends on the receipt of an organic set of Level A equipment. In the meantime, collective training for CSTs and deployable CBRN defense units can be planned and coordinated in much the same way as the pilot exercise for the 93d CST."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.wood.army.mil/chmdsd/pdfs/Winter%2008/Murray.pdf>

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ISRAEL TO PROBE PHOSPHORUS CLAIMS

BBC

January 21, 2009

"The Israeli army is to investigate claims it used white phosphorus illegally during its three-week offensive in Gaza.

The move follows numerous allegations by rights groups and in media reports that the army fired phosphorus shells where they could harm civilians.

The UN said its headquarters were hit by three such shells causing a fire destroying much of its aid supplies.

White phosphorus is legal for making smokescreens on a battlefield.

The Israeli army says all its weapons in the Gaza offensive were entirely legal, but until now has refused to specify which weapons it used."

The full article can be found at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/7841999.stm

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[UK] NUCLEAR TEST VETERANS LAUNCH CASE

BBC

January 21, 2009

"Veterans involved in British nuclear tests in the Indian and Pacific oceans are to launch a legal bid against the government at the High Court later.

Ex-servicemen want compensation for illnesses they claim are the result of exposure to

radiation in the 1950s.

But MoD lawyers will try to derail their claims before a full hearing, by arguing the tests happened too long ago for compensation to be considered.

The full article can be found at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7840854.stm>

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AL QAEDA BUNGLES ARMS EXPERIMENT

By Eli Lake

The Washington Times

January 19, 2009

“An al Qaeda affiliate in Algeria closed a base earlier this month after an experiment with unconventional weapons went awry, a senior U.S. intelligence official said Monday.

The official, who spoke on the condition he not be named because of the sensitive nature of the issue, said he could not confirm press reports that the accident killed at least 40 al Qaeda operatives, but he said the mishap led the militant group to shut down a base in the mountains of Tizi Ouzou province in eastern Algeria.

He said authorities in the first week of January intercepted an urgent communication between the leadership of al Qaeda in the Land of the Maghreb (AQIM) and al Qaeda's leadership in the tribal region of Pakistan on the border with Afghanistan. The communication suggested that an area sealed to prevent leakage of a biological or chemical substance had been breached, according to the official.”

“The story was first reported by the British tabloid the Sun, which said the al Qaeda operatives died after being infected with a strain of bubonic plague, the disease that killed a third of Europe's population in the 14th century. But the intelligence official dismissed that claim.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/jan/19/al-qaeda-bungles-arms-experiment/>

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