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## **Chem-Bio News**

**1. FULL-SCALE EXERCISE MOCKING UP NON-NUCLEAR STATE VERIFICATION OF NUCLEAR WARHEAD DISMANTLEMENT HELD:** *"In June 2009, Norway and the U.K. held their first full-scale exercise as part of a joint initiative."*

**2. DELHI DOCTORS TO GET TRAINED TO FIGHT 'DIRTY BOMBS':** *"Hundreds of doctors in the national capital will be trained to handle chemical disaster before the Commonwealth Games next year."*

**3. EARLY DETECTION AND QUICK RESPONSE ARE KEY TO DEFENSE AGAINST ANTHRAX ATTACK:** *"Delays Could Overwhelm Hospitals, According to New Study by Weill Cornell Medical College Public Health Researchers."*

## **Chem-Demil News**

**1. NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT - REDUCTION IN FORCE AT NEWPORT:** *"As part of the Army's progress toward closure of the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD), this week depot officials announced the impending layoff of approximately 180 employees."*

**2. RUSSIA DESTROYS FIRST TON OF WAR GAS SARIN:** *"The first ton of the warfare gas sarin was destroyed at the chemical weapons destruction facility Maradykovsky in the Kirov region."*

# **CB Daily Report**

## **Chem-Bio News**

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### **FULL-SCALE EXERCISE MOCKING UP NON-NUCLEAR STATE VERIFICATION OF NUCLEAR WARHEAD DISMANTLEMENT HELD**

By Cristina Hansell

James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies

July 21, 2009

"In June 2009, Norway and the U.K. held their first full-scale exercise as part of a joint initiative."

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"The exercise scenario centered on the dismantlement of a warhead by a mock Nuclear Weapon State (NWS), called Torland (played by Norway). Torland had concluded a bilateral agreement with Luvania, a NNWS (played by the United Kingdom), whereby Luvania would be allowed to monitor the dismantlement without having access to any classified

information. For the exercise, Norway built a mock nuclear warhead using Cobalt-60 in place of plutonium, which was placed in the jointly designed IB system. Non-destructive assay technologies that detect gamma ray and neutron emissions were employed to detect the mock fissile material (Cobalt-60) — but the instrument measurements were not visible to the inspectors (such instruments can determine the existence, isotopic ratio, mass, and age of fissile material). Instead, the inspectors were only able to read a pass/fail response transmitted by the IB system, to avoid the transfer of sensitive information. (Green indicated the presence of Cobalt-60, red its absence.)

Despite the fact that a dry run of the exercise was held in November 2008, as well as a familiarization visit to the site in December of last year, the June exercise nevertheless faced several hiccoughs that had to be overcome through last-minute negotiation. One of the first difficulties was that the Luvianian inspectors arrived with personal computers that they wanted to use during the inspections. The Torland weapons laboratory security chief (played by Per Ivar Wethe of IFE [Institute for Energy Technology]) would not allow the computers into the mock lab, noting that they could be used to contact people outside of the "secret" facility. He insisted that Torland officials be contacted—noting later that the success of the exercise depended upon all procedures being taken very seriously, as they would in an actual dismantlement effort. The impasse was solved when the Luvians were provided with computers cleared by Torland. Soon thereafter, however, another interruption: the Luvians asked how many warnings they would be given before the guards would shoot. While the guards' weapons were not loaded with real bullets (they were similar to paint guns), the physical security of nuclear weapons must be very strict, and even fake bullets can be harmful at close range.

The full article can be found at: [http://www.cns.miis.edu/stories/090721\\_dismantlement\\_exercise.htm](http://www.cns.miis.edu/stories/090721_dismantlement_exercise.htm)

[Return to Top](#)

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## **DELHI DOCTORS TO GET TRAINED TO FIGHT 'DIRTY BOMBS'**

Sindh Today – Online News

July 29, 2009

“Hundreds of doctors in the national capital will be trained to handle chemical disaster before the Commonwealth Games next year.

A three-day special training programme was launched Wednesday at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) as a beginning to get prepared for “dirty bomb attacks during Commonwealth Games”. There will be longer programmes soon.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.sindhtoday.net/news/1/35539.htm>

[Return to Top](#)

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## **EARLY DETECTION AND QUICK RESPONSE ARE KEY TO DEFENSE AGAINST ANTHRAX ATTACK**

Weill Cornell Medical College Press Release  
July 24, 2009

"Delays Could Overwhelm Hospitals, According to New Study by Weill Cornell Medical College Public Health Researchers."

"A large attack on a major metropolitan area with airborne anthrax could affect more than a million people, necessitating their treatment with powerful antibiotics. A new study finds that in order for a response to be effective, quick detection and treatment are essential, and any delay beyond three days would overwhelm hospitals with critically ill people.

The results of a computer simulation study appear in the July/August edition of the journal *Medical Decision Making* — one of two studies by Dr. Nathaniel Hupert of Weill Cornell Medical College in the issue. The study can be found at <http://mdm.sagepub.com/cgi/rapidpdf/0272989X09341389v1>.

"No matter how well-organized and prolonged a treatment program is, it must be quickly implemented. In fact, our analysis shows that time-to-treatment is roughly twice as important as the duration of the distribution program," says lead author Dr. Nathaniel Hupert, associate professor of public health and medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College.

"Crucial to rapidly implementing a treatment program is early detection, including thorough use of advanced biosurveillance technologies and live, person-to-person communication," continues Dr. Hupert, who is also director of the new Preparedness Modeling Unit at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "But most important of all are multilateral diplomatic efforts to prevent bioterrorist attacks from ever happening."

The study predicts that a campaign initiated two days after exposure would protect as many as 87 percent of exposed individuals from illness — a rate considered successful by the CDC. Each additional day needed to complete the campaign would result in an average of up to 2.9 percent more hospitalizations in the exposed population. And each extra day of delay to the start of the program beyond two days would result in up to 6.5 percent more hospitalizations."

The full article can be found at: [http://news.med.cornell.edu/wcmc/wcmc\\_2009/07\\_24\\_09.shtml](http://news.med.cornell.edu/wcmc/wcmc_2009/07_24_09.shtml)

The original article can be found at: <http://mdm.sagepub.com/cgi/rapidpdf/0272989X09341389v1>

[Return to Top](#)

## **NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT - REDUCTION IN FORCE AT NEWPORT**

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

July 30, 2009

"As part of the Army's progress toward closure of the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD), this week depot officials announced the impending layoff of approximately 180 employees. The workers affected by this reduction, which will be effective in September, are employed by Parsons Corporation, the Army contractor that built, operated and now is dismantling the facility where more than 1,200 tons of chemical agent VX was destroyed. Workers completed destruction of the VX nerve agent stockpile in August 2008.

Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) Site Project Manager Anthony W. Reed said, "Our contractor is providing 60 days advance notice of a mass layoff to allow employees time to look at their options."

"While NECDF employees are making great progress in our closure operations, these achievements come at the cost of jobs," Reed added. Several of the workers being laid off will move to positions at other chemical agent disposal facilities.

"Newport workers are experts in their fields with countless hours of valuable training and hands-on experience. A variety of industries, as well as current chemical stockpile sites, would definitely benefit from their skills and knowledge," said Depot Commander Lt. Col. William Hibner.

The Army's plan to close the NECD under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) law also has resulted in the elimination of nearly 150 positions with Mason & Hanger, which has operated the installation since 1986. Approximately 385 remaining contract and government positions at the installation will gradually be phased out until the Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority, the local entity appointed to develop land reuse plans for the depot property, assumes management control. The transfer is expected to occur prior to the September 2011 deadline established by BRAC law.

Newport is one of seven chemical stockpile sites currently managed by the U.S. Army Chemicals Materials Agency (CMA) and the third CMA installation to complete stockpile destruction."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003681164>

[Return to Top](#)

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## **RUSSIA DESTROYS FIRST TON OF WAR GAS SARIN**

ITAR-TASS

July 29, 2009

"The first ton of the warfare gas sarin was destroyed at the chemical weapons destruction

facility Maradykovsky in the Kirov region.

"The destruction of this substance, which is a nerve agent, was launched on July 27, and more than 1,100 kilograms of sarin has already been destroyed so far," chief of the regional department for conventional problems Mikhail Manin told Itar-Tass on Wednesday.

According to him, sarin was destroyed in 26 warheads at 9 a.m. Moscow time on Wednesday, after that their hulls were decontaminated and exposed to thermal processing. "Now this metal scrap is not dangerous," Manin said."

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"The Maradykovsky chemical weapons destruction facility is planning to destroy 231 tons and 119 kilograms of sarin by the yearend. Some 4,833 aviation bombs and warheads of chemical missiles contain the foresaid war gas.

Maradykovsky is the third Russian complex, which had launched the full-scale destruction of chemical weapons since September 2006. Since 1953 the complex has stockpiled more than 40,000 aviation bombs and warheads of chemical missiles staffed with the mixture of nerve agents. Some 4546.7 tons of VX gases were destroyed at the end of 2008.

The Maradykovsky destruction facility is planning to launch the destruction of one more toxic agent – soman as of 2010. Russia will have destroyed the whole stock of toxic agents under Russia's international liabilities and the federal program for the destruction of chemical weapons in Russia by 2012."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cwwg.org/it07.29.09.html>

[Return to Top](#)

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