

Chem-Bio News

1. MISSING FOR 50 YEARS - US NUCLEAR BOMB: *"More than 50 years after a 7,600lb (3,500kg) nuclear bomb was dropped in US waters following a mid-air military collision, the question of whether the missing weapon still poses a threat remains."*

2. DEBATE OVER CHEMICAL SECURITY BILL CONTINUES: *"The House Committee on Homeland Security Tuesday is scheduled to continue its markup of new chemical facility anti-terrorism requirements, as Democrats continue to push for tougher standards for securing chemical plants considered at risk for terrorism."*

3. GATES WELCOMES FOUR SENIOR PENTAGON OFFICIALS: *The new senior officials are: Ashton B. Carter, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics; Michael Nacht, assistant secretary of defense for global strategic affairs; Elizabeth L. King, assistant secretary of defense for legislative affairs; and Andrew C. Weber, assistant secretary of defense for nuclear, chemical and biological programs.*

4. CUBA BECOMES 54TH STATE TO JOIN UN NUCLEAR TERRORISM PACT: *"Cuba on Wednesday became the 54th state to join the UN International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism."*

5. RUSSIA, US RESUME LANDMARK NUCLEAR TALK: *"US and Russian negotiators met in Geneva on Tuesday to discuss new cuts in nuclear weapons arsenals, in their last scheduled round of talks before a summit between their presidents next month."*

Chem-Demil News

1. UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT - LEAK: TRACE AMOUNT OF MUSTARD AGENT DETECTED IN DEPOT IGLOO: *"Trace amounts of mustard chemical agent were detected during weekly monitoring inside a storage igloo that holds bulk containers at Umatilla Chemical Depot, officials said today."*

2. OPCW DIRECTOR-GENERAL ADDRESSES UN COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE: *"Director-General Pfirter pointed out that, in the context of the CWC, the Council decided the contribution of the OPCW should focus on five key elements: the promotion of universal adherence to the CWC; the full implementation of legislative measures as required by its Article VII; the achievement of full destruction of chemical weapons and the means to produce them; full implementation of the provisions of Article VI, which relates to verification and inspections of chemical industries; and strengthening the ability of the OPCW to respond to the assistance and protection provisions under Article X."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

MISSING FOR 50 YEARS - US NUCLEAR BOMB

By Gerry Northam
BBC Radio 4 on the BBC website
June 22, 2009

"More than 50 years after a 7,600lb (3,500kg) nuclear bomb was dropped in US waters following a mid-air military collision, the question of whether the missing weapon still poses a threat remains.

In his own mind, retired 87-year-old Colonel Howard Richardson is a hero responsible for one of the most extraordinary displays of aeronautic skill in the history of the US Air Force.

His view carries a lot of weight and he has a large number of supporters - including the Air Force itself which honoured his feat with a Distinguished Flying Cross."

"As he cruised at 38,000 feet over North Carolina and Georgia, his plane was hit by another military aircraft, gouging a huge hole in the wing and knocking an engine almost off its mountings, leaving it hanging at a perilous angle."

"They would ditch their nuclear payload as soon as possible in order to lighten the aircraft for an emergency landing and also to eliminate the danger of an enormous explosion when they made their unsteady arrival at the nearest available runway.

"The tactical doctrine for Strategic Air Command gave me the authority to get rid of it (the bomb) for the safety of the crew - that was the number one priority," Colonel Richardson said.

He managed to direct the B-47 a mile or two off the coast of Savannah and opened the bomb doors, dropping the bomb somewhere into the shallow waters and light sand near Tybee Island."

The full article can be found at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8107908.stm>

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DEBATE OVER CHEMICAL SECURITY BILL CONTINUES

By Mickey McCarter

HSToday.com

June 23, 2009

"The House Committee on Homeland Security Tuesday is scheduled to continue its markup of new chemical facility anti-terrorism requirements, as Democrats continue to push for tougher standards for securing chemical plants considered at risk for terrorism.

The bill (HR 2868) would make permanent the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS), adopted in 2007 but set to expire Sept. 30. The bill, introduced by Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) also would require chemical companies to adopt less hazardous chemicals in facilities where it is feasible to do so in order to reduce health risks related to chemical fallout that could occur after an attack on a plant."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/9061/128/>

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GATES WELCOMES FOUR SENIOR PENTAGON OFFICIALS

By John J. Kruzel

American Forces Press Service on DefenseLink.mil

June 22, 2009

"Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates today welcomed four high-ranking new arrivals to the Pentagon, hailing them as "welcome additions" to the Defense Department.

The new officials -- nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the Senate -- will work under Gates in the areas of defense acquisition, congressional affairs, global defense strategy and nuclear, chemical and biological programs.

They've been on the job for several weeks, but today's event provided an opportunity for Gates to welcome them formally to the department."

“The new senior officials are:

-- Ashton B. Carter, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics. Under the authority of the defense secretary, Carter serves as the principal staff assistant and advisor for all matters relating to the defense acquisition, research and development, technology developmental testing and evaluation; production; logistics; installation management; military construction; procurement; environment security; and nuclear, chemical and biological matters.

-- Michael Nacht, assistant secretary of defense for global strategic affairs. Nacht heads a newly configured directorate in the Office of the Secretary of Defense that develops policy for the secretary on countering weapons of mass destruction, nuclear forces and missile defense, cyber security and space policy.

-- Elizabeth L. King, assistant secretary of defense for legislative affairs. King is responsible for providing support to the secretary of defense in his dealings with the White House, Cabinet members, members of Congress and the State Department. King also serves as liaison and maintains relationships with members of Congress and the executive branch.

-- Andrew C. Weber, assistant secretary of defense for nuclear, chemical and biological programs. In this role, Weber is the principal advisor to the defense secretary, deputy defense secretary and undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics for all matters concerning the formulation of policy and plans for nuclear, chemical and biological defense programs.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.defenselink.mil//news/newsarticle.aspx?id=54865>

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CUBA BECOMES 54TH STATE TO JOIN UN NUCLEAR TERRORISM PACT

SpaceWar.com

June 17, 2009

“Cuba on Wednesday became the 54th state to join the UN International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Cuba's UN representative Abelardo Moreno delivered the signed document at United Nations headquarters Wednesday, according his spokesman, Alaim Pena.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.spacewar.com/2006/090617174247.sz5wh3hl.html>

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RUSSIA, US RESUME LANDMARK NUCLEAR TALKS

SpaceWar.com

June 23, 2009

“US and Russian negotiators met in Geneva on Tuesday to discuss new cuts in nuclear weapons arsenals, in their last scheduled round of talks before a summit between their presidents next month.

The third round of talks on replacing the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) was due to last two days.

"The negotiations restarted at 11.00 am (0900 GMT) today at the Russian mission," a Russian diplomat said.

Negotiators also met on Monday, Russian and US diplomatic sources added.

The attempt to strike a new deal to succeed START, which expires on December 5, symbolises a thaw in US-Russian relations in recent months, although the Russians are insisting on concessions on the US missile defence shield.

The negotiations are meant to prepare the ground for Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's landmark meeting with US counterpart Barack Obama in Moscow on July 6."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.spacewar.com/2006/090623102115.8rw6sxtb.html>
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Chem-Demil News

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT - LEAK: TRACE AMOUNT OF MUSTARD AGENT DETECTED IN DEPOT IGLOO

TriCityHerald.com
June 23, 2009

"Trace amounts of mustard chemical agent were detected during weekly monitoring inside a storage igloo that holds bulk containers at Umatilla Chemical Depot, officials said today.

None of the agent escaped and there was no danger to the public, depot officials said. The igloos have a passive filtration system that prevents chemical agent vapor from escaping outside the structures, and as a further protective measure after each leak is discovered, a powered filtration system was installed on the igloo.

Officials said the leaking containers will be identified, inspected, repaired as necessary, and decontaminated."

The full article can be found at:
http://tch.vrvm.com/tricity/db_1313/contentdetail.htm;jsessionid=658E8C6D0DD18709D558B84B98D0C12C?contentguid=xIFxSMfV&storycount=15&detailindex=7&pn=&ps=
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OPCW DIRECTOR-GENERAL ADDRESSES UN COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Press Release
June 22, 2009

"In his address, Director-General Pfirter recalled that shortly after the adoption of UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001) which created the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the OPCW Executive Council at its Twenty-Seventh Session on 11 December 2001 recognised that the full and effective implementation of all the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in and of itself makes a significant contribution to global counter-terrorism efforts.

Director-General Pfirter pointed out that, in the context of the CWC, the Council decided the contribution of the OPCW should focus on five key elements: the promotion of universal adherence to the CWC; the full implementation of legislative measures as required by its Article VII; the achievement of full destruction of chemical weapons and the means to produce them; full implementation of the provisions of Article VI, which relates to verification and inspections of chemical industries; and strengthening the ability of the OPCW to respond to the assistance and protection provisions under Article X.

The Director-General then reviewed the progress which the OPCW has made in these areas and the

challenges that lie ahead. He highlighted the OPCW's cooperation with the United Nations and relevant regional and international organisations, and the support which the Technical Secretariat provides to OPCW Member States for putting into place the necessary rules and regulations to fully implement the CWC at national level. He also noted that contemporary security threats have created increased interest among Member States in the OPCW's ability to coordinate the delivery of emergency assistance in case of an attack, or threat of an attack, with chemical weapons.

The Director-General stated that these activities have contributed to international efforts against terrorism within the framework of UNSC Resolutions 1373 and 1540, as well as the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2006."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.opcw.org/news/news/article/opcw-director-general-addresses-un-counter-terrorism-committee/>
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