

23 March 2009

## **Chem-Bio News**

**1. MISSING NUCLEAR MATERIALS POSE PROBLEM FOR U.S.:** *"Missing nuclear materials from overseas pose a bigger threat to countries like the United States than a stolen bomb from Russia or a so-called "dirty bomb," according to a former U.S. Air Force secretary."*

**2. IRAQ GOVT CALLS FOR DEATH SENTENCES TO BE RATIFIED:** *"The appeal came on the same day that two of the former officials on death row, including Saddam Hussein's cousin known as "Chemical Ali" Hassan al-Majid, faced their latest trial over a chemical weapons attack on the Kurdish city of Halabja 21 years ago."*

**3. OKUNOSHIMA: POISON GAS PAST BELIES ISLE'S BUCOLIC SERENITY:** *"From 1929 to 1945, the (Imperial) Japanese Army produced five types of poison gas on Okunoshima," said Yamauchi Masayuki, a former educator and one of the leaders of a volunteer organization that gives tours of the poison gas facilities."*

**4. PREPARED FOR RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT:** *"Singapore has bought two vehicles which can neutralise the fallout from radioactive materials and decontaminate large swathes of affected terrain."*

**5. IRANIAN DEFECTOR REPORTEDLY TIPPED OFF U.S. ON SYRIA NUKE PLANT:** *"The February 2007 defection to the United States of Ali Reza Asghari, a retired general in Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards and a former deputy defense minister, provided considerable information on Iran's own nuclear program...."*

**6. DEVELOPING A BIOLOGICAL INCIDENT DATABASE:** *"Paragraph 11 of the Plan of action invites, inter alia, "the United Nations system to develop, together with Member States, a single comprehensive database on biological incidents, ensuring that it is complementary to the biocrimes database contemplated by the International Criminal Police Organization"."*

## **Chem-Demil News**

**1. ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT, ANNISTON CHEMICAL ACTIVITY TO PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL TRAINING EXERCISE:** *"Trained responders at Anniston Army Depot will be participating in the Anniston Community Exercise planned for Wednesday, March 25."*

**2. TOOELE CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (TOCDF) AND DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT (DCD) - DIFFICULT PROJOS SENT BACK TO STORAGE:** *"They were being stored at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) awaiting disposal, but because processing the problem projos—overpacked leakers or munitions with stuck lifting lugs and/or bursters—proved to be so difficult, plans have changed."*

# **CB Daily Report**

### **MISSING NUCLEAR MATERIALS POSE PROBLEM FOR U.S.**

By John Huotari

The Oak Ridger

Posted Mar 17, 2009

"Missing nuclear materials from overseas pose a bigger threat to countries like the United States than a stolen bomb from Russia or a so-called "dirty bomb," according to a former U. S. Air Force secretary.

"Fissile materials from Russia and Pakistan are the problem," said Thomas Reed, a nuclear physicist who worked for President Ronald Reagan, as well as a weapons designer at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory."

"Assuming weight is not a concern, most anyone could devise a five-kiloton device that would be hard to detect but powerful enough to kill everybody south of Central Park in New York City, Reed added."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.oakridger.com/news/x599198790/Missing-nuclear-materials-pose-problem-for-U-S>

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### **IRAQ GOVT CALLS FOR DEATH SENTENCES TO BE RATIFIED**

By Kim Gamel

Associated Press on Yahoo! News

March 17, 2009

"Iraq's government on Tuesday called on the presidential council to ratify the death sentences against former officials from Saddam Hussein's regime so that the punishments can be carried out.

The appeal came on the same day that two of the former officials on death row, including Saddam Hussein's cousin known as "Chemical Ali" Hassan al-Majid, faced their latest trial over a chemical weapons attack on the Kurdish city of Halabja 21 years ago."

"But influential Sunni Arabs and President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, intervened and insisted that Sultan Hashim — widely viewed as a respected career soldier who was forced to follow Saddam's orders in the purges against Kurds — be spared the gallows.

That delayed the execution of all three."

The full article can be found at: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090317/ap\\_on\\_re\\_mi\\_ea/ml\\_iraq\\_580](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090317/ap_on_re_mi_ea/ml_iraq_580)

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## **OKUNOSHIMA: POISON GAS PAST BELIES ISLE'S BUCOLIC SERENITY**

By Eric Johnson

The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus

August 11, 2005 (although dated, of possible reader interest)

"From 1929 to 1945, the (Imperial) Japanese Army produced five types of poison gas on Okunoshima," said Yamauchi Masayuki, a former educator and one of the leaders of a volunteer organization that gives tours of the poison gas facilities. "The island was so secret that it was ordered removed from area maps and local residents were warned to keep quiet about what went on here."

"Okunoshima was chosen as the main production site for several reasons.

First, it was far enough away from heavily populated areas that deaths would be minimized in the event of an accident.

Second, it was close enough to military installations near Hiroshima and Kure in Hiroshima Prefecture to appeal to the top brass.

Third, after the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 destroyed chemical weapons plants in the Tokyo region, the military realized it would be less expensive to build new ones on Okunoshima than to rebuild the sites in Tokyo.

When production began in 1929, priority was given to mustard gas. Nerve gases and diphenylchlorarsine, or "sneezing gas" because it blocks the body's ability to absorb oxygen by inducing constant sneezing, were also produced.

"Workers were local residents who were very happy to be working for good wages," Yamauchi said. "Former workers have testified that they did not know the names of the gases they were producing and simply referred to them by their color: yellow for mustard gas, red for sneezing gas."

The full article can be found at: <http://japanfocus.org/-Eric-Johnston/1776>

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## **PREPARED FOR RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT**

By Teh Joo Lin

The Straits Times

March 19, 2009

"SINGAPORE has bought two vehicles which can neutralise the fallout from radioactive materials and decontaminate large swathes of affected terrain.

The Terrain Decontamination Vehicles, which were acquired by the National Environment Agency in the past two years, can help reduce deadly radiation levels in wide and open areas. They are also equipped to clean up chemical spills by spraying foam over open spaces and the outside of buildings."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Singapore/Story/STIStory\\_352259.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Singapore/Story/STIStory_352259.html)

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## **IRANIAN DEFECTOR REPORTEDLY TIPPED OFF U.S. ON SYRIA NUKE PLANT**

Associated Press on Fox News

March 19, 2009

"The February 2007 defection to the United States of Ali Reza Asghari, a retired general in Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards and a former deputy defense minister, provided considerable information on Iran's own nuclear program, said the article, written by Hans Rühle, former chief of the planning staff of the German Defense Ministry. "The biggest surprise, however, was his assertion that Iran was financing a secret nuclear project of Syria and North Korea," he said. "No one in the American intelligence scene had heard anything of it. And the Israelis who were immediately informed also were completely unaware."."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,509813,00.html>

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## **DEVELOPING A BIOLOGICAL INCIDENT DATABASE**

UN Office of Disarmament Affairs Occasional Paper No. 15

March 2009

"Among the measures set forth related to biological threats, this publication addresses bioincidents. Paragraph 11 of the Plan of action invites, inter alia, "the United Nations system to develop, together with Member States, a single comprehensive database on biological incidents, ensuring that it is complementary to the biocrimes database contemplated by the International Criminal Police Organization".

To that end, a template of the Biological Incident Database (BID) has been developed based on proposals by experts from interested Member States and on public information available in case studies. Its aim is to raise awareness and build capacity with respect to preparedness, risk assessment and consequence management of biological incidents. Its purpose is to strengthen the capabilities of States to prevent and combat terrorism. The BID

form has been reproduced in appendix II of this volume and will be available online upon request by contacting Mr. Franz Kolar through UNODA-web@un.org.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/ODAPublications/OccasionalPapers/PDF/OP15.pdf>

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

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### **ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT, ANNISTON CHEMICAL ACTIVITY TO PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL TRAINING EXERCISE**

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release  
March 20, 2009

“Trained responders at Anniston Army Depot will be participating in the Anniston Community Exercise planned for Wednesday, March 25.

The exercise is expected to begin in the morning with a scripted “incident” in or near Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) chemical munitions storage igloos. Depot sirens will use the Westminster chimes to alert responders that the exercise has begun.

No other response to the alert is expected except from designated responding personnel.

Like in years past, State and County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) personnel (Clanton, Ala.; Counties: Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Etowah, St. Clair, and Talladega) will also participate.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003680302>

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### **TOOELE CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (TOCDF) AND DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT (DCD) - DIFFICULT PROJOS SENT BACK TO STORAGE**

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release  
March 19, 2009

“Approximately 50 mustard agent-filled 155mm “problem” projectiles will soon be shipped back to Deseret Chemical Depot’s (DCD) storage area. They were being stored at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) awaiting disposal, but because processing

the problem projos— overpacked leakers or munitions with stuck lifting lugs and/or bursters —proved to be so difficult, plans have changed. The 155mm problem projos will now be destroyed in a detonation chamber located within DCD's Area 10. (The detonation technology has not been chosen and the destruction start date has yet to be determined.)

In addition, the TOCDF will soon start destroying HT mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars, and permitting requirements prohibit 155mm projectiles from being stored in the Explosive Containment Vestibule (ECV) while 4.2-inch mortars are being processed.

TOCDF workers overpacked the munitions a second time to ensure safe containment before transporting them a short distance to DCD's storage igloos. The depot's original stockpile consisted of more than 50,000 mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles. All but the nearly 200 problem projos have been destroyed.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003680267>

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Send subscription requests, unsubscribing requests, questions and comments to:

**Steve Tesko:** [Steve.Tesko@anser.org](mailto:Steve.Tesko@anser.org)

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