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Chem-Bio News

1. CHEMICAL OR NUCLEAR ATTACK THREAT 'MORE REALISTIC': *"Terrorist group al-Qa'ida is likely to fragment in the coming years but an attack on Britain involving chemical or nuclear weapons is now "more realistic", the Government warned today."*

2. NRC WANTS TO COMBAT 'INSIDER THREATS' AT SPENT FUEL STORAGE SITES: *"In an effort to combat the "Insider Threat," the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued rules that require companies operating storage sites for spent nuclear fuel to check fingerprints and run background checks on any employees given unescorted access to their sensitive facilities."*

3. POLICE 'NOT READY' FOR DIRTY BOMB: *"Just a "handful" of frontline police have the protective hoods needed to rescue civilians from a deadly dirty bomb attack by Islamic terrorists on London."*

4. GULF WAR VETERANS DISPLAY ABNORMAL BRAIN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC CHEMICALS: *"A new study by UT Southwestern Medical Center researchers is the first to pinpoint damage inside the brains of veterans suffering from Gulf War syndrome - a finding that links the illness to chemical exposures and may lead to diagnostic tests and treatments."*

5. ANTHRAX-LIKE LETTERS SENT TO CONGRESS: *"Federal authorities are investigating a documentary film crew that allegedly sent letters to Congress mimicking the anthrax mailings weeks after the 9/11 attacks."*

6. TOKYO STATIONS COMMEMORATE 14TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUM SARIN ATTACK: *"Friday marked the 14th anniversary of the 1995 sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway system by cult AUM Shinrikyo, which killed 12 and injured more than 5,000 people."*

Chem-Demil News

1. THE NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY CLOSURE: *"Closure activities presently underway are in accordance with a closure plan reviewed and approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and governed by environmental permits and Army regulations in order to ensure the long-term protection of human health and environment. In preparation for closure, NECDF evaluated decontamination technologies and prepared detailed plans and procedures for the transition of personnel from operations into closure and for the decontamination, dismantlement and demolition of facilities."*

2. NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY – NEWPORT PROJECT TOUR BOOK: *A brochure covering the history and activities of the Newport Chemical Depot and the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. The document includes a number of photos of historical and reference interest.*

[3. PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - ABBOTT FURNACE COMPANY SHIPS MUNITION](#)

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CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

CHEMICAL OR NUCLEAR ATTACK THREAT 'MORE REALISTIC'

By Sam Marsden

The Independent (UK)

March 24, 2009

"Terrorist group al-Qa'ida is likely to fragment in the coming years but an attack on Britain involving chemical or nuclear weapons is now "more realistic", the Government warned today.

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith highlighted the danger posed by new technologies and failed states around the world as she published an updated counter-terror strategy.

The report - known as Contest Two - is the first unclassified document to contain a detailed account of UK officials' assessment of the underlying causes of the terrorist threat and its likely future direction.

It contains a stark warning about the likelihood of an attack involving a "dirty bomb".

"The report said the threat to the UK came primarily from four sources.

These are: the al-Qa'ida leadership, terrorist groups affiliated to al-Qa'ida, "self-starting" terror networks or lone individuals motivated by an al-Qa'ida-style ideology, and terrorist groups with their own identity and agenda following a broadly similar ideology to al-Qa'ida.

The document said al-Qa'ida itself was "likely to fragment" under international pressure, and might not survive in its current form.

But its ideology will outlive changes to its structure, possibly leading to greater threat to the UK from smaller "self-starting" organisations."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/chemical-or-nuclear-attack-threat-more-realistic-1652747.html>

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NRC WANTS TO COMBAT 'INSIDER THREATS' AT SPENT FUEL STORAGE SITES

By Jacob Goodwin
Government Security News
March 23, 2009

"In an effort to combat the "Insider Threat," the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued rules that require companies operating storage sites for spent nuclear fuel to check fingerprints and run background checks on any employees given unescorted access to their sensitive facilities.

"Inasmuch as an insider has an opportunity equal to, or greater than, any other person, to commit radiological sabotage, the Commission has determined these measures to be prudent," said the NRC in an announcement published in the Federal Register on March 23."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/1723.html>

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POLICE 'NOT READY' FOR DIRTY BOMB

By Ted Jory
The Daily Express (UK)
March 22, 2009

"Just a "handful" of frontline police have the protective hoods needed to rescue civilians from a deadly dirty bomb attack by Islamic terrorists on London.

The Metropolitan Police has admitted its team to deal with a chemical or biological attack by terrorists is tiny.

By contrast, Scotland has enough masks, which protect against a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) attack, for all officers."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/90414/Police-not-ready-for-dirty-bomb>

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GULF WAR VETERANS DISPLAY ABNORMAL BRAIN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC CHEMICALS

Physorg.com
March 23, 2009

"A new study by UT Southwestern Medical Center researchers is the first to pinpoint damage inside the brains of veterans suffering from Gulf War syndrome - a finding that links the illness to chemical exposures and may lead to diagnostic tests and treatments.

Dr. Robert Haley, chief of epidemiology at UT Southwestern and lead author of the study, said the research uncovers and locates areas of the brain that function abnormally. Recent studies had shown evidence of chemical abnormalities and shrinkage of white matter in the brains of veterans exposed to certain toxic chemicals, such as sarin gas during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

The research, published in the March issue of the journal *Psychiatry Research: Neuroimaging*, enables investigators to visualize exact brain structures affected by these chemical exposures, Dr. Haley said."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.physorg.com/news157018337.html>

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ANTHRAX-LIKE LETTERS SENT TO CONGRESS

USAToday

March 24, 2009

"Federal authorities are investigating a documentary film crew that allegedly sent letters to Congress mimicking the anthrax mailings weeks after the 9/11 attacks.

An official said the investigation started late last week and the letters were written to look exactly like the ones that were sent to Sen. Patrick Leahy and then-Sen. Tom Daschle in 2001. The official said the copycat letters did not contain any white powder. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the case is still under investigation.

Authorities did not identify the film crew, and it was not immediately clear if anyone would face criminal charges. The group was apparently making a documentary about the original 2001 mailings and had re-created the block-letter handwriting and format of the original letters, the official said."

The full article can be found at: http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2009-03-24-letter-scare_N.htm

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TOKYO STATIONS COMMEMORATE 14TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUM SARIN ATTACK

By Tombie

OkinawaHDR.com

March 21, 2009

"Friday marked the 14th anniversary of the 1995 sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway system by cult AUM Shinrikyo, which killed 12 and injured more than 5,000 people.

"Years have passed, but I cannot forget that day," said Noboru Ueno, 55, the station service chief at Kasumigaseki Station in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward. Station staff laid flowers and offered a silent prayer at 8 a.m., around the same time the incident occurred 14 years ago. Flowers were also laid at five other Tokyo Metro stations."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.okinawahdr.com/japan-news/recent-japan-news-online/tokyo-stations-commemorate-14th-anniversary-of-aum-sarin-attack/>

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Chem-Demil News

THE NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY CLOSURE

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Fact Sheet
March 23, 2009

"The Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) at the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD) in Newport, Ind., successfully and safely neutralized the 1,269 tons of chemical nerve agent VX that had been stored at NECD since 1968. Neutralization operations began May 5, 2005, and chemical stockpile elimination was achieved Aug. 8, 2008.

Closure activities presently underway are in accordance with a closure plan reviewed and approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and governed by environmental permits and Army regulations in order to ensure the long-term protection of human health and environment. In preparation for closure, NECDF evaluated decontamination technologies and prepared detailed plans and procedures for the transition of personnel from operations into closure and for the decontamination, dismantlement and demolition of facilities.

Closure at NECDF is divided into four phases with specific goals for each phase. Work packages provide the work force with detailed guidance for achieving these goals at each phase of the project.

Closure Phase One

Phase one activities focus on initial cleanup and removal of agent processing systems. Facility decontamination is initiated by performing a flush of the chemical agent processing systems with a caustic solution. The solution is flushed through the facility piping and into the neutralization reactors where it is processed and tested to confirm the absence of chemical agent. Completion of this activity initiated the formal request to terminate NECDF's chemical agent surety status. The request was approved Oct. 24, 2008, by the Department of the Army.

The termination of surety is followed by continued decontamination and dismantlement of equipment directly exposed to VX chemical agent during operations. Pumps, piping and holding tanks, including agent holding tanks, neutralization reactors, caustic and hydrolysate holding tanks are pressure washed and steam cleaned. Following decontamination, workers carefully remove the agent processing system pumps, piping and instrumentation. This equipment is packaged into waste drums in preparation for final treatment and disposal. During phase one, the areas and equipment used to store hydrolysate, the byproduct of the chemical neutralization process, are also decontaminated. Pumps, piping and tanks are cleaned and removed in preparation for final treatment and disposal. This area is then closed in accordance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit issued by IDEM.

Closure Phase Two

Phase two focuses on final decontamination and dismantlement of all other areas and equipment used in the neutralization of VX agent. During phase two, workers decontaminate the walls, floors, stairs, walkways and external surfaces of remaining equipment to support lowering worker personal protective equipment requirements. Equipment is removed as necessary to allow complete access to all areas of potential contamination. In addition, the Ton Container Line (TCL) equipment, which was used during operations to decontaminate the empty steel containers in preparation for recycling, is cleaned and dismantled. A performance standard for decontamination, utilizing a health-based risk assessment approach, was developed to ensure the safety of personnel and the environment following the shut down of the NECDF air exhaust filtration system. Monitoring is performed during a temporary shut down of this air exhaust filtration system to demonstrate successful decontamination. Once monitoring has demonstrated that VX agent has been successfully removed below 1 short-term exposure limit (STEL) or 0.00001 mg/m³, air exhaust filtration is terminated and demolition of facilities is initiated. A 1 STEL reading is similar in perspective to finding one grain of salt in 34 freight cars full of potato chips. This represents the completion of closure phase two.

Closure Phase Three

Phase three focuses on the demolition of facilities used to neutralize VX agent and on the final disposal of all hazardous waste materials. In preparation for demolition of the agent processing building, electrical service is terminated. The extensive exhaust filtration system that was used during agent operations is disassembled. Each filtration unit is

decontaminated and carefully monitored in preparation for final disposition. A demolition subcontractor then demolishes the remaining buildings and equipment where agent neutralization or storage of hydrolysate had been performed.

Closure waste is any waste resulting from the removal of equipment and buildings and is generated during all three phases of closure. These wastes are decontaminated prior to packaging, but some may contain trace levels of agent. Closure waste is handled safely and in accordance with regulations both on site at NECDF and off site at commercial permitted treatment and disposal facilities. Once these closure wastes are safely transported off site for final disposal, monitoring is no longer required at NECDF.

At the end of this third phase of closure, the Army will submit a report that demonstrates that closure activities have been conducted in accordance with the IDEM-approved closure plan and that the site meets all of the required cleanup standards. Additionally, this report will be reviewed and certified by a professional engineer. Upon review and acceptance of the report by IDEM, the NECD RCRA permit will be terminated.

Closure Phase Four

Phase four is defined as administrative closeout. This phase focuses on disposition of government property, closeout of government contracts and formal records archiving.

By the end of this phase, the remaining buildings which had supported personnel, laboratory and maintenance activity are all returned to ownership of NECD.

Conclusion

The safe and efficient closure of NECDF marks a significant milestone in our nation's history. The cornerstone of closure at NECDF remains the same as during operations - the safety of the workers, surrounding communities and the environment.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003680340>

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NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY – NEWPORT PROJECT TOUR BOOK
US Army Chemical Materials Agency
March 23, 2004

A brochure covering the history and activities of the Newport Chemical Depot and the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. The document includes a number of photos of historical and reference interest.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003680329>

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PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - ABBOTT FURNACE COMPANY SHIPS MUNITION TREATMENT UNIT

The News Tribune
March 20, 2009

"Abbott Furnace Company, a private Pennsylvania corporation, announced today that it has shipped the first of two Munitions Treatment Units for a chemical demilitarization project in Pueblo, Colorado. The Pueblo plant, which is under construction, will destroy a stockpile of chemical weapons containing mustard agent. The munitions treatment unit will destroy any trace amounts of mustard agent that may remain on the munitions after they have been drained and the agent has been neutralized.

The second unit, destined for the same project, is scheduled to ship before the end of 2009."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/business/prnewswire/story/680887.html>

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