

## Chem-Bio News

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**2. MRICD [U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL DEFENSE] BREAKS GROUND ON NEW BUILDING:** *"The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense (MRICD) held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new replacement facility at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) on September 15."*

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**4. BEST PRACTICES FOR PROTECTING EMS RESPONDERS DURING TREATMENT AND TRANSPORT OF VICTIMS OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE RELEASES:** *"This guide is intended for employers of EMS responders and discusses the measures these employers need to take to protect their EMS responders from becoming additional victims while on the front line of medical response."*

**5. URANIUM TAILINGS IN CENTRAL ASIA: THE CASE OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC:** *"In 2005, the Kyrgyz Republic reported that, with assistance from the United States and in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), it had secured or disposed of 1,000 items containing radioactive material believed to be vulnerable to theft. However, according to Kyrgyz authorities, there were still 500 more items to secure."*

## Chem-Demil News

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# CB Daily Report

## Chem-Bio News

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### **RICIN 'ANTIDOTE' TO BE PRODUCED**

By Paul Rincon

BBC

November 11, 2009

"It is the result of eight years of work by researchers at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory based at Porton Down in Wiltshire.

The antidote can protect against death up to 24 hours after exposure, according to Dr Jane Holley from DSTL."

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"The principal scientist in biomedical sciences at DSTL added: "It is anticipated that a product will be available for use in the next couple of years."

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“Ricin was the poison used for the infamous murder of Bulgarian dissident Georgi Markov in 1978.

Mr Markov was an avowed critic of Bulgaria's communist regime. He was waiting at a bus stop near Waterloo Bridge, London, when a stranger jabbed him in the leg with an umbrella.

The rigged umbrella injected a tiny ricin-filled pellet into Mr Markov's calf. He was admitted to hospital that evening but died three days later.”

The full article can be found at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8351666.stm>

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## **MRICD [U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL DEFENSE] BREAKS GROUND ON NEW BUILDING**

By Cindy Kronman  
CBRNIAC Newsletter  
November 2009

“The Institute of Chemical Defense (MRICD) held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new replacement facility at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) on September 15. Hosted by Maj. Gen. James K. Gilman, commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, MRICD’s parent organization, the ceremony included a keynote address by Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Command and the Army Surgeon General.”

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“Richard Decker, technical director of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, who was representing the installation commander, Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo, and Col. Orlando Ortiz, the garrison commander. Mr. Turhan Robinson, Maryland’s civilian aide to the secretary of the Army, and Brig. Gen. Timothy K. Adams, commander, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and a former commander of MRICD, were among the guests. Harford County Executive David Craig attended the groundbreaking, along with county council members Dion Guthrie, Mary Ann Lisant, James V. McMahan, Jr. and Chad Shrodes. Representatives from the offices of Sens. Barbara A. Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin and Reps. Dutch Ruppersberger and Roscoe Bartlett also attended, as did state Sen. Barry Glassman and Ms. Asuntha Chiang-Smith, executive director for Governor Martin O’Malley’s BRAC sub-cabinet.

Budgeted at over \$300 million and scheduled for completion in 2013, the new 526,000-square-foot facility will consolidate numerous dispersed structures into a single modern, energy efficient building with a central utility plant. Additionally, the improved research laboratories and training facilities will be able to accommodate 395 employees.”

The full article can be found at: [https://www.cbrniac.apgea.army.mil/Documents/vol10\\_num4.pdf](https://www.cbrniac.apgea.army.mil/Documents/vol10_num4.pdf)

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## **DHS SEEKS BACTERIAL AND VIRAL BIO-FORENSICS TECHNOLOGIES**

By Louis Chunovic  
Government Security News  
November 09, 2009

“The DHS Chemical Biological Division (CBD) seeks sources of technologies to “prevent and defend” against a chemical and biological attack, according to a recent solicitation, number BAA09-19.

Specifically, DHS is looking for technologies to achieve the following goals:

- Develop novel techniques to culture fastidious bacterial threat agents (BTAs) from complex environmental samples;
- Develop methods to improve dry collection and extraction of forensic samples;
- Determine the maturity of ultra-high throughput next generation sequencing technologies in finding rare variants in forensic bacterial samples;
- Determine the dynamics of mobile elements in bacterial select agents;
- Develop forensic genotyping methods for select agent viruses; and
- Develop novel applications of orthogonal methods to genetic characterization of BTA signatures and their sample matrices.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/2920.html>  
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## **BEST PRACTICES FOR PROTECTING EMS RESPONDERS DURING TREATMENT AND TRANSPORT OF VICTIMS OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE RELEASES**

Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor  
OSHA 3370-11  
2009

“This guide is intended for employers of EMS responders and discusses the measures these employers need to take to protect their EMS responders from becoming additional victims while on the front line of medical response.”

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“Scope

EMS responders are broadly defined here as the individuals who provide pre-hospital emergency medical care and patient transportation. Some EMS responders are also assigned duties that support patient care, including patient decontamination. For the purpose of this guide, the term EMS responder refers to all levels of emergency medical personnel involved in incident response (e.g., emergency medical technicians [EMTs], paramedics, and others who perform similar duties). While many EMS responders are cross-trained (e.g., EMT and firefighter), this guide applies to these workers only when they are functioning as EMS responders.”

The full article can be found at: <http://osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3370-protecting-EMS-respondersSM.pdf>  
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## **URANIUM TAILINGS IN CENTRAL ASIA: THE CASE OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

By Paula Humphrey, Research Associate and Margarita Sevcik  
Monterey Institute for International Studies  
James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies  
October 16, 2009

“The security risks include the possible terrorist theft of radioactive materials. Although the Republic does not possess highly-enriched uranium (which can be used to produce nuclear weapons), it does

harbor radioactive materials that have been abandoned in sealed or unsealed sources or are poorly secured within non-operational mining facilities. In 2005, the Kyrgyz Republic reported that, with assistance from the United States and in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), it had secured or disposed of 1,000 items containing radioactive material believed to be vulnerable to theft. However, according to Kyrgyz authorities, there were still 500 more items to secure. They also noted that an unidentified amount of material is still missing.[5] One cannot rule out the possibility that this material remains inadequately secured in numerous facilities in the Kyrgyz Republic, and the recent history of the area is replete with examples of theft and smuggling of such material across transnational boundaries. The main obstacles in securing the materials are lack of knowledge about the risks they pose and an inadequate inventory of potential radioactive sources, including uranium tailings sites, in the Kyrgyz Republic, and throughout Central Asia."

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"The additional, unknown radioactive sources that may exist on Kyrgyz territory, however, could pose a security threat, as certain mining equipment contains cobalt-60 and cesium-137, isotopes that would make attractive dirty bomb components.[8] Although much work is being done to assess the environmental impact (e.g., soil and water samples taken near mining sites), an actual inventory of potentially dangerous RDD materials remains to be done. Indeed, much of the "original documentation about the content and structure of the tailings impoundments is missing or inaccessible." [9]

The government of the Kyrgyz Republic recognizes the danger of unauthorized access to the radioactive waste sites and abandoned mines by scrap metal scavengers who "open up RW storage facilities and break into abandoned uranium mines and underground workings in order to extract contaminated metal, electro-technical equipment and cables from them." [10] This government statement does not establish that there are RDD components within the territory, but it hints that there might be. Indeed, smuggling incidents attest that these materials are surfacing in the Kyrgyz Republic, although their source is not always within its boundaries."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.nti.org/e\\_research/e3\\_kyrgyz.html](http://www.nti.org/e_research/e3_kyrgyz.html)  
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## ***Chem-Demil News***

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### **PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - LEAKING MUSTARD PROJECTILES FOUND, SEALED; BACK IN STORAGE**

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release  
November 09, 2009

"Chemical Crews today closed out a mustard leaker operation that began more than two months ago, when monitoring crews were alerted to a mustard agent leak inside a munitions storage structure at Pueblo Chemical Depot.

The agent vapor was detected on August 24 by mobile monitoring equipment designed to analyze air inside the storage structures through fixed sample lines within the earth covered igloos.

An air filtration unit was immediately installed on to an air vent on the back of the storage structure. The air filtration unit cleaned the contaminated air inside the igloo by forcing the air through carbon filters.

Chemical crews dressed in personal protective equipment then began a deliberate systematic operation to cover and isolate individual stacked pallets of more than 17,000 projectiles stored inside the igloo.

On Wednesday, September 2nd, a stack of pallets covered by plastic sheeting was monitored and found

to contain the agent vapor. Crews then separated the stack into individual pallets to find the specific leaking pallet, and then continued monitoring until two individual projectiles, one leaking liquid mustard and one leaking mustard vapor, were discovered.

Chemical crews transferred the munitions into larger sealed containers and moved them to another storage igloo on November 5 for continued storage.

County and state officials were given updates on this operation from the start to today's completion of operations.

All operations were carried out under strict engineering controls, safely protecting the surrounding communities, depot employees and the environment."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003681816>  
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