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Chem-Bio News

1. ISRAEL INTERCEPTS PLANE OVERFLYING NUCLEAR REACTOR: *"The Israeli air force scrambled fighter jets on Tuesday after a light aircraft flew into restricted air space over its nuclear reactor in the southern Negev desert, officials said."*

2. NNSA MEGAPORTS INITIATIVE EXPANDS TO FOUR NEW PORTS: *"The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has completed installation and testing of radiation detection systems at four new ports this month: Ashdod, Israel; Lisbon, Portugal; Kaohsiung, Taiwan; and Port Klang, Malaysia."*

3. NUCLEAR PELLETS MISSING: *"Federal investigators said the public faces little danger from 25 pounds of radioactive material reported missing from a Columbia nuclear fuel plant, but at least one expert from a private group said any amount of uranium could be dangerous in the wrong hands."*

4. IRAN TO INSTALL ADVANCED CENTRIFUGES AT NEW ENRICHMENT SITE: *"We have put our effort on research and development of new machines in the past two or three months so that we would be able to produce machines with high efficiency and completely indigenous," Iranian atomic energy chief Ali Akbar Salehi said, according to Reuters."*

5. REPORT: NKOREA NEARLY RESTORES NUCLEAR FACILITIES: *"South Korean and U.S. intelligence authorities reached the conclusion after scrutinizing about 10 atomic facilities in North Korea since April when the communist regime vowed to restart its nuclear program in anger over a U.N. rebuke of its long-range rocket launch."*

6. CHEMICAL AGENT-DETECTING UAV TESTED: *"The detection and identification system, able to fit in the interchangeable nose cone of a Raven UAV, is a result of the collaborative efforts between Smiths Detection, AeroVironment, Inc. (AV), the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and other U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) laboratories."*

7. ARMY CORPS TO REVEAL LIST OF MUNITIONS FOUND IN DC: *"The Army has lifted a security order concealing a list of World War I-era munitions uncovered in Washington's Spring Valley neighborhood."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

ISRAEL INTERCEPTS PLANE OVERFLYING NUCLEAR REACTOR

Agence France-Presse on Google News

October 06, 2009

"The Israeli air force scrambled fighter jets on Tuesday after a light aircraft flew into restricted air space over its nuclear reactor in the southern Negev desert, officials said."

The warplanes intercepted the aircraft and forced it to land at a nearby airstrip, where the pilot were handed over to civilian authorities for investigation, an army spokeswoman said."

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"Israel says the reactor is for research purposes, but defence analysts say it is the centre of Israel's undeclared nuclear weapons programme. They say Dimona has been used to produce up to 200 nuclear warheads."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gfzrUESYomR-CC4MGiXrwrB6czKg>

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NNSA MEGAPORTS INITIATIVE EXPANDS TO FOUR NEW PORTS

US National Nuclear Security Administration News Release

October 01, 2009

"The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has completed installation and testing of radiation detection systems at four new ports this month: Ashdod, Israel; Lisbon, Portugal; Kaohsiung, Taiwan; and Port Klang, Malaysia. This new equipment is part of a global effort to implement President Obama's commitment to prevent nuclear terrorism by securing dangerous nuclear material around the world.

"These four new operational Megaports bring us closer to our goal of equipping 100 ports with radiation detection equipment by 2015 while helping us strengthen our capability to prevent nuclear and radiological smuggling throughout the global maritime system," said NNSA Administrator Thomas P. D'Agostino. "The Megaports Initiative is a critical part of NNSA's efforts to implement President Obama's unprecedented commitment to securing vulnerable nuclear material and keeping it out of the hands of terrorists, smugglers and proliferators. The success of this program is due in no small part to continued and future cooperation among and support from our international partners."

The addition of four new Megaports will improve NNSA's ability to monitor cargo in the global maritime shipping system. The strategic location of the ports linking the Middle East, Europe, and East Asia underscores the importance of the operations to increasing international maritime security.

The work is part of NNSA's Second Line of Defense Program's Megaports Initiative, which aims to strengthen the capability of foreign governments to deter, detect, and interdict illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials transiting the global maritime shipping system. The Megaports Initiative provides radiation detection equipment, training, and technical support to key international seaports to scan cargo containers for nuclear and other radioactive materials. The installation of radiation detection systems at these four new locations represents a significant step forward for the Megaports Initiative, which is now operational at 27 ports around the world. Work is underway at additional ports in Asia, Latin

America and the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nnsa.energy.gov/2633.htm>

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NUCLEAR PELLETS MISSING

By Meg Kinnard

Associated Press on PostAndCourier.com

October 03, 2009

“Federal investigators said the public faces little danger from 25 pounds of radioactive material reported missing from a Columbia nuclear fuel plant, but at least one expert from a private group said any amount of uranium could be dangerous in the wrong hands.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials held a public meeting in Columbia Thursday to discuss their months-long inspection at the Westinghouse Electric Co. plant.

In May, the Monroeville, Pa.-based company told regulators it could not account for about 25 pounds of low-enriched uranium -- small, pencil-eraser-sized pellets used to make nuclear fuel.

The material, which amounts to a container of pellets about the size of a five-pound coffee can, likely never left the plant and was recycled with discarded materials that don't meet quality standards, NRC spokesman Roger Hannah said.

And even if it had been released, the stable composition of the uranium is such that it couldn't be used as a weapon, like a dirty bomb, he said.

"It poses very little risk," Hannah said. "Because of the very small amount of radiation, even if you had the worst of motivations ... it's not very useful for that kind of device."

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"There's another way a terrorist could actually use material like that to create a radiological weapon, and that is by essentially building a small nuclear reactor with that material," said Edwin Lyman, a senior staff scientist for the Union of Concerned Scientists, a nuclear nonproliferation group.

"Somebody who knows a little about nuclear engineering could arrange that material in such a way that it would go critical and produce a large amount of neutrons ... and a chain reaction would happen, like in the core of a nuclear reactor."

This incident marks at least the second time that the Columbia plant has reported amounts of uranium going missing. In July 2008 Westinghouse officials met with regulators in Atlanta to discuss another batch of low-enriched uranium missing from the plant.

In that incident, company officials said an employee mistakenly threw out about 4.5 ounces

of the product, with a radioactivity level lower than what a person would be exposed to during a dental X-ray.

Officials said the employee thought the container was empty, and it went out with the regular trash. The company searched its plant, a metal shredding facility in Spartanburg and a landfill in Elgin, but didn't find the vials."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2009/oct/03/nrc-officials-suggest-changes-at-plant/>

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IRAN TO INSTALL ADVANCED CENTRIFUGES AT NEW ENRICHMENT SITE

Global Security Newswire

October 06, 2009

"Iran intends to enrich uranium at its Qum facility using a new model of advanced centrifuge, one of the country's top nuclear officials said in remarks published today."

"Iran's disclosure of the unfinished site last month heightened Western suspicions that the Middle Eastern state's uranium enrichment program is geared toward generating nuclear-weapon material. Tehran contends that its nuclear program is strictly civilian in nature, and the government has repeatedly refused to consider halting the effort in exchange for political and economic benefits.

"We have put our effort on research and development of new machines in the past two or three months so that we would be able to produce machines with high efficiency and completely indigenous," Iranian atomic energy chief Ali Akbar Salehi said, according to Reuters.

"We are hopeful of using a new generation of centrifuges at the Fordu site," Salehi told the Kayhan, referring to the Qum facility.

The new machines could be two to three times faster than Iran's existing P-1 centrifuges, which at times have been forced off-line by overheating or vibrations (Hashem Kalantari, Reuters, Oct. 6).

One high-level British official yesterday questioned why U.N. officials are not scheduled to visit the Qum site until later this month to ensure that its activities have no military component, the Financial Times reported."

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20091006_9291.php

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REPORT: NKOREA NEARLY RESTORES NUCLEAR FACILITIES

By JAE-SOON CHANG

Associated Press on Yahoo! News

October 06, 2009

"North Korea is in the final stage of restoring its nuclear facilities, a news report said Tuesday, as leader Kim Jong Il expressed a conditional willingness to end Pyongyang's boycott of international nuclear talks.

South Korean and U.S. intelligence authorities reached the conclusion after scrutinizing about 10 atomic facilities in North Korea since April when the communist regime vowed to restart its nuclear program in anger over a U.N. rebuke of its long-range rocket launch."

The full article can be found at: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091006/ap_on_re_as/as_koreas_nuclear_5

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CHEMICAL AGENT-DETECTING UAV TESTED

Defence Talk

October 07, 2009

"Smiths Detection today announces the successful creation and demonstration of an unmanned aircraft chemical detection and identification system capable of warning troops against chemical warfare agents. The detection and identification system, able to fit in the interchangeable nose cone of a Raven UAV, is a result of the collaborative efforts between Smiths Detection, AeroVironment, Inc. (AV), the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and other U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) laboratories.

To provide safe and effective standoff detection and identification capability of chemical hazardous events, the sophisticated chemical sensor nose cone was developed specifically to fit into AV's RQ-11B Raven as part of a DoD program funded by the Joint Program Manager Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Contamination Avoidance, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the U.S. Army Product Manager, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems."

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"In a successful demonstration at the U.S. Army's Dugway Proving Grounds, a chemical sensor-equipped Raven was flown into a chemical cloud and successfully detected and identified the chemical, tracking the chemical vapor plume autonomously. Thousands of Raven air vehicles have been deployed and are in use by U.S. and several allied military forces."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.defencetalk.com/chemical-agent-detecting-uav-army-22430/>

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ARMY CORPS TO REVEAL LIST OF MUNITIONS FOUND IN DC

Associated Press in The Examiner

October 06, 2009

"The Army has lifted a security order concealing a list of World War I-era munitions uncovered in Washington's Spring Valley neighborhood.

At a community meeting Tuesday, officials with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said the list of recovered munitions would be made public next month."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/ap/army-corps-to-reveal-list-of-munitions-found-in-dc-63642427.html>

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