

## **Chem-Bio News**

**1. PAINT 'TO THWART CHEMICAL ATTACK':** "Scientists are planning to develop a paint coating for military vehicles which would soak up a chemical warfare agent and then decontaminate itself."

**2. EX-LOS ALAMOS LAB PHYSICIST DESCRIBES MEETINGS:** "Last year, the 74-year-old scientist believed the Venezuelan government wanted him to produce a study on how to build a nuclear weapons program. In return, he asked for the \$800,000, which he planned to use for his scientific work in New Mexico and persuade Congress to take a look at his theories."

**3. U.N. AGENCY HUNTS FOR MICROSCOPIC NUCLEAR CLUES:** "This is where International Atomic Energy Agency experts magnify, scour and dissolve hundreds of samples taken from nuclear sites worldwide each year to verify whether activities are peaceful by checking for the microscopic clues that could point to undeclared atomic work."

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**2. UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (UMCDF) – MPF [METAL PARTS FURNACE] MOD TESTING STARTS:** "Testing of the new quench spray system in the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) Discharge Airlock (DAL) began Wednesday. The system, involving a pair of "lances" that spray water into thermally decontaminated ton containers (TCs), was installed to speed up the cooling process."

# **CB Daily Report**

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### **PAINT 'TO THWART CHEMICAL ATTACK'**

By Paul Rincon

BBC

October 26, 2009

"Scientists are planning to develop a paint coating for military vehicles which would soak up a chemical warfare agent and then decontaminate itself.

The technology could protect those operating in or around a vehicle after a chemical attack.

It would be adapted from "strippable" coatings currently used to provide temporary camouflage for vehicles.

The development work is being carried out by the UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL).

Dr Steven Mitchell, who is based at DSTL's headquarters in Porton Down, Wiltshire, said the next generation of coatings could be engineered to absorb chemical warfare agents.

Further down the line, scientists are looking into reactive coatings. These would incorporate catalysts and possibly enzymes allowing the paint to "self-decontaminate".

"Ultimately, what we'd like to create is a coating that changes colour to indicate it's been contaminated, decontaminates itself, then returns to the original colour when it's clean," said Dr Mitchell, acting team leader for hazard management and decontamination at DSTL.

"This is a long-term but not unreasonable ultimate objective."

The full article can be found at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8321657.stm>

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## **EX-LOS ALAMOS LAB PHYSICIST DESCRIBES MEETINGS**

By Heather Clark

The Associated Press on Google News

October 23, 2009

"Late last year, that mystery man paid the scientist, P. Leonardo Mascheroni, \$20,000 in cash left in a drop box at the Albuquerque airport, according to Mascheroni, who says he kept it in a closed envelope that was opened by FBI agents who searched his Los Alamos home Monday.

Mascheroni, in an interview at his home Thursday with The Associated Press, said he wasn't interested in the money itself — not the \$20,000 in the envelope nor the \$800,000 he had asked for from the Venezuelan government for his work. Instead, he said, his motives were pure: He wanted the chance to pursue his theories of nuclear fusion."

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"No charges have been filed. An FBI spokesman confirmed the agency is pursuing an "ongoing investigation" in Los Alamos but declined further comment on the probe or on Mascheroni's claims."

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"Mascheroni worked in the nuclear weapons design division at the Los Alamos lab from 1979 until being laid off in 1988 after advocating for development of a hydrogen-fluoride laser to generate fusion.

Asked why he pursued contact with the purported Venezuelan representative, Mascheroni said he was motivated by his belief in cleaner, less expensive and more reliable nuclear weapons and power.

He began approaching other countries after his ideas were rejected by the lab and, later, congressional staffers.

Mascheroni, who is from Argentina but became a U.S. citizen in 1972, said he approached the Venezuelan government and Luis contacted him in return.

During the 13-hour search Monday, FBI agents found the envelope at Mascheroni's home containing the \$20,000 and counted the money for him.

Mascheroni said the agents told him they retrieved the CD from Luis, and was told that he was apprehended in Miami trying to leave the country. He said he now doesn't know whether Luis was a representative of Venezuela or a U.S. agent posing as one.

But he hopes his case will finally give him the chance to publicize his scientific ideas.”

The full article can be found at:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hW\\_1MTTOw2elptmI4jEbPxKPwJMwD9BGGV7G0](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hW_1MTTOw2elptmI4jEbPxKPwJMwD9BGGV7G0)

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## **U.N. AGENCY HUNTS FOR MICROSCOPIC NUCLEAR CLUES**

By Sylvia Westall

Reuters

October 22, 2009

“A hotchpotch set of grey and white buildings huddled in fields outside Vienna may seem an unlikely setting for a laboratory which could help uncover illicit nuclear activity.

This is where International Atomic Energy Agency experts magnify, scour and dissolve hundreds of samples taken from nuclear sites worldwide each year to verify whether activities are peaceful by checking for the microscopic clues that could point to undeclared atomic work.

The U.N. watchdog expects its inspectors will be able to bring back such environmental swab samples from their first visit to Iran's planned uranium enrichment site near the Shi'ite holy city of Qom on October 25, according to a diplomat close to the IAEA.”

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“The IAEA's Seibersdorf complex, which has mushroomed since 1962 like a jumbled university campus close to Vienna, could help provide some answers.”

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“But the Seibersdorf laboratories are outdated and underfunded, according to IAEA chief Mohammed ElBaradei, who in June lashed out at states reluctant to raise the agency budget.

“The agency can continue to struggle on with growing restrictions and increasing risk, watching the quality of its services erode,” ElBaradei told the IAEA's board of governors.

“Or, with adequate funding, it can make an effective contribution to non-proliferation, nuclear security and the scourges of poverty, hunger and disease.”

Known mainly as the world's nuclear inspectorate, the agency also promotes atomic security and safety and helps states apply nuclear technology for health, environmental and trade purposes.

The Seibersdorf complex also houses billions of flies, bred and irradiated as part of a disease-control program. It cultivates disease-resistant plants in its hothouses and helps train dozens of scientists a year. But funding is very tight.

After months of haggling, the IAEA's 35-nation board agreed in August to raise the agency's core budget by 5.4 percent to 318.2 million euros for 2010, less than the 11 percent sought by ElBaradei but a net gain after years of zero growth.

Members of the Seibersdorf analytical team, who at times have labored through the night to file urgent analysis on isotopes and enrichment levels, have worked in temporary cabins because the volume of verification work has expanded so quickly.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsMaps/idUSTRE59L1TW20091022?>

sp=true

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## **IRAN TO DECIDE ON ATOM FUEL DEAL IN A "FEW DAYS"**

By Reza Derakhshi

Reuters

October 26, 2009

"Iran can either buy nuclear fuel for a Tehran reactor or agree to a U.N.-drafted plan and send its uranium abroad for further processing, its foreign minister said on Monday.

"Iran's decision on the provision of necessary fuel for the Tehran reactor will be announced in the next few days," the official IRNA news agency quoted Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki as saying.

"There are two options on the table ... either to buy it or to give part of our fuel for further processing abroad," Mottaki said.

On Friday, Iran said it would give an answer this week to the U.N.-drafted deal for it to cut an atomic stockpile the West fears could be used for weapons, ignoring an Oct 23 deadline and challenging the basis of the pact.

Iranian lawmakers have suggested Tehran preferred to acquire enriched uranium abroad rather than send out its own for processing into fuel for nuclear medicine, as Western powers said it tentatively agreed to do at Geneva talks on October 1."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE59N14M20091026>

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### **ANNISTON CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (ANCDF) - ANCDF OPERATIONS CURTAILED FOR MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES**

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release  
October 21, 2009

“Operations at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) have been temporarily curtailed while Westinghouse Anniston maintenance teams work in an Explosion Containment Room (ECR) to remove a 4.2-inch mustard agent-filled mortar after a small flame was encountered when removing components from it yesterday.

According to ANCDF officials, this occurred at 2 p.m. during routine disposal operations while robotic equipment in a specially designed blast containment room, with concrete walls 2 feet thick, was being used to remove the mortar fuze and burster. A flame was detected where the equipment grips the fuze and burster to rotate and remove them. The small flame lasted approximately 10-15 seconds.

There was no explosion. There was no damage to ANCDF processing equipment. Because remote controlled, robotic equipment was being used, no one was in the immediate vicinity and no one was injured. Some of the gallon of mustard agent in the mortar spilled onto the floor in the room.

Engineering designs of the facility prevented any agent vapor from escaping into other areas of the ANCDF or to the outside environment. Neither the community nor the ANCDF work force was at any risk.

ANCDF maintenance teams will dress in protective suits before entering the ECR. Once in the room, the team will place the mortar in a container that will be sealed and returned to storage for disposal at a later date. The teams will also clean up the spilled agent and decontaminate the area.

Mustard munition disposal operations at the ANCDF began in early July. To date, 42,683 mortars and 20,334 gallons of mustard agent have been safely demilitarized. Full ANCDF disposal operations are expected to resume later today or tomorrow after the maintenance teams complete their activities.

Site and U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) officials will study the event to see what can be learned with an eye to predicting and preventing a similar situation in the future at the ANCDF and at the other U.S. chemical munition disposal sites. Chemical munition stockpile demilitarization activities in Anniston began in August

2003. Since then, 404,485 munitions (rockets, artillery shells, land mines, and mortars) accounting for more than 61 percent of the Anniston stockpile have been safely processed. That includes 313,337 gallons of liquid nerve agent (GB and VX) and mustard agent (60.8 percent).

Nationally, the CMA demilitarization operations have accounted for the safe disposal of 2,231,794 munitions (64.8 percent of the U.S. stockpile) and 21,151 tons of chemical agent.

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The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003681673>  
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## **UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (UMCDF) – MPF [METAL PARTS FURNACE] MOD TESTING STARTS**

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Weekly Update  
October 22, 2009

“Testing of the new quench spray system in the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) Discharge Airlock (DAL) began Wednesday. The system, involving a pair of “lances” that spray water into thermally decontaminated ton containers (TCs), was installed to speed up the cooling process.

Last week, the UMCDF received a temporary authorization from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to design, install and test the system. Once testing is complete and the results deemed satisfactory, the plant is expected to resume mustard TC processing. A permit modification request (PMR) was also submitted related to the system. A public information meeting is scheduled for Nov. 24 in Hermiston (see the Oct. 15, 2009 Weekly Update for details).

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003681692>  
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