

23 September 2009

Chem-Bio News

1. HAZARDOUS WASTE AND HISTORY MIX ON D.C. TOUR: *"The manicured lawns and beautiful brick homes that line the streets of Spring Valley look like those in most affluent District neighborhoods. But the area looked much different during World War I, when the Army was using it as a testing ground for chemical weapons."*

2. BIPARTISAN US CONGRESSIONAL PANEL WARNS OF THREAT OF BIOLOGICAL ATTACK: *"Two U.S. senators are citing a report by a bipartisan panel that warns of the threat of a terrorist attack with weapons of mass destruction. Senators Joseph Lieberman and Susan Collins say a biological attack is more likely than a nuclear or chemical attack, and are pushing new legislation to boost the country's readiness for such a strike."*

3. 'EID UL-FITR MESSAGE FROM TALIBAN LEADER MULLAH OMAR – ACCUSES US OF USING CHEMICAL WEAPONS: *"During the past eight years, NATO, under the leadership of the militarists of the Pentagon, have implemented a policy of brutality and atrocity, hoping that they will subjugate the brave people of Afghanistan by dint of military power. They have used their sophisticated and cutting-edge technology, including **chemical weapons** [emphasis added], in order to achieve that end; employed hundreds of centers of propaganda; and spent billions of dollars to portray the image of their military power in a palatable way and terrorize their counterpart opposition."*

4. BRITAIN'S NUCLEAR OVERTURE - WE WILL CUT TRIDENT FLEET: *"Gordon Brown is preparing to surrender one of Britain's four Trident submarines to help to cut nuclear arsenals around the world."*

5. BRINGING THE SOVIET MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX TO LIFE: *"In 1989, a Politburo commission came together to discuss the secret Soviet biological weapons program. This meeting, and many others like it, were recorded and annotated by Vitaly Katayev, a Central Committee staffer who didn't believe increasing weapons production meant increased security for the Soviet Union. His notebooks are now housed at the Hoover Institution, shedding new light on the Soviet chemical, biological, and nuclear weapon programs in the final years of the Cold War."*

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CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

HAZARDOUS WASTE AND HISTORY MIX ON D.C. TOUR

By Yamiche Alcindor
The Washington Post
September 21, 2009

"The manicured lawns and beautiful brick homes that line the streets of Spring Valley look like those in most affluent District neighborhoods.

But the area looked much different during World War I, when the Army was using it as a testing ground for chemical weapons.

On Sunday, visitors on a tour of the neighborhood heard how, 90 years after scientists ended their experiments, the remnants of toxic munitions remain.

"The purpose of the tour is to encourage more historical research, investigation and cleanup here," said Kent Slowinski, who led more than a dozen people on the walk. "We want to raise awareness in both Spring Valley and nationwide."

He and Allen Hengst co-founded "Environmental Health Group: Spring Valley," a group that advocates for more research into the locations and health effects of the chemicals.

The one-mile walk was part of more than 120 free WalkingTownDC tours, presented by Cultural Tourism DC, that took place across the District over the weekend.

During World War I, 661 acres of forested land around the American University campus were used for Army tests. The range became known as the American University Experiment Station.

In 1993, a construction crew's discovery of an artillery round triggered an evacuation and cleanup of the area. Experts have since been scouring the neighborhood for buried munitions and chemicals. Workers have found several toxins, such as arsine, a vomiting agent called DA or Clark 1 and liquid mustard, a type of blistering agent."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/20/AR2009092001961.html>

[Return to Top](#)

BIPARTISAN US CONGRESSIONAL PANEL WARNS OF THREAT OF BIOLOGICAL ATTACK

By Cindy Saine

VoANews.com

September 22, 2009

"Two U.S. senators are citing a report by a bipartisan panel that warns of the threat of a terrorist attack with weapons of mass destruction. Senators Joseph Lieberman and Susan Collins say a biological attack is more likely than a nuclear or chemical attack, and are pushing new legislation to boost the country's readiness for such a strike.

Senator Joseph Lieberman is an Independent Democrat from Connecticut, and is chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. He commented on the sober conclusions of a congressionally-mandated commission created to study changes to national security policy in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

"A WMD attack is probable somewhere in the world in the next four years, and it is more likely to be biological than nuclear," he said.

Senator Lieberman and Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine have introduced legislation that would enact the commission's recommendations and establish what he called a "comprehensive framework" to protect the country from attacks using weapons of mass destruction.

Lieberman warned that the United State's margin of safety is shrinking and not growing, and said the bill, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2009, is the best way to ensure that the lives lost in the 2001 attack were not in vain.

Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine pointed out that the threat of a biological attack definitely begins at home.

"Some of the world's most dangerous pathogens are not secure," she said. "And that includes pathogens housed in bio-labs right here in the United States."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-09-22-voa54.cfm>

[Return to Top](#)

'EID UL-FITR MESSAGE FROM TALIBAN LEADER MULLAH OMAR – ACCUSES US OF USING CHEMICAL WEAPONS

The Middle East Media Research Institute

September 20, 2009

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"a) I assure our brave people and the gallant Mujahideen that the plans of global colonialism for occupation of Afghanistan have faced failure because of your selfless sacrifices. During the past eight years, NATO, under the leadership of the militarists of the Pentagon, have implemented a policy of brutality and atrocity, hoping that they will subjugate the brave people of Afghanistan by dint of military power. They have used their sophisticated and cutting-edge technology, including chemical weapons, in order to achieve that end; employed hundreds of centers of propaganda; and spent billions of dollars to portray the image of their military power in a palatable way and terrorize their counterpart opposition. But all these anti-human activities could not bring them success. With the passage of time, the resistance and the Jihadic movement, as a robust Islamic and nationalist movement, assumed the shape of a popular movement, and is approaching the edge of victory."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.memri.org/bin/latestnews.cgi?ID=SD255009>

[Return to Top](#)

BRITAIN'S NUCLEAR OVERTURE - WE WILL CUT TRIDENT FLEET

By Francis Elliott and Michael Evans

TimesOnline (UK)

September 22, 2009

"Gordon Brown is preparing to surrender one of Britain's four Trident submarines to help to cut nuclear arsenals around the world.

The number and power of Britain's 160 warheads could also be reduced.

The Prime Minister will insist that scaling back the Trident fleet when the current programme is replaced has nothing to do with the economy but is instead part of efforts led by President Obama to slash nuclear stockpiles and force countries such as Iran to abandon efforts to build atomic weapons.

It means that the future of Britain's independent nuclear deterrent is in doubt whoever wins the next election.

Liam Fox, the Shadow Defence Secretary, suggested recently that Britain scale back the Trident fleet from four vessels to three. This would raise questions about the effectiveness of the deterrent, given that one sub-marine is in base at all times."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6845247.ece>

[Return to Top](#)

BRINGING THE SOVIET MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX TO LIFE

By David E. Hoffman
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists
September 17, 2009

"In 1989, a Politburo commission came together to discuss the secret Soviet biological weapons program. This meeting, and many others like it, were recorded and annotated by Vitaly Katayev, a Central Committee staffer who didn't believe increasing weapons production meant increased security for the Soviet Union. His notebooks are now housed at the Hoover Institution, shedding new light on the Soviet chemical, biological, and nuclear weapon programs in the final years of the Cold War."

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"In Moscow on July 27, 1989, at the offices of the Central Committee, a group of high-level officials gathered in the office of Lev Zaikov, the Soviet Politburo member who oversaw the country's military-industrial complex. Sixteen people in addition to Zaikov came to the session, a Politburo "commission" that included Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, KGB Chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, and Chief of the General Staff Mikhail Moiseev.

The first item on the agenda: "About measures for modernizing the organization of work on special problems." The term special problems was a euphemism for biological weapons. Yuri Kalinin, the head of Biopreparat, the massive and secret Soviet biological weapons organization, reported to the group.

The Soviet Union had signed on to the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC), but the treaty had no formal enforcement mechanism, and in defiance of it, the Soviet Union had secretly developed new pathogens and built germ weapon production facilities while at the same time claiming it was in compliance with the BWC.

The officials in Zaikov's office were worried. A new treaty was being drafted in Geneva that would eliminate chemical weapons, and, unlike the BWC, it had real enforcement mechanisms: mandatory on-site challenge inspections. What's more, Shevardnadze previously had announced Soviet support for such inspections in the spirit of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost. With serious verification measures on the horizon, the officials realized the illicit Biopreparat facilities could be at risk of discovery. They grappled with what to do. "There will be a convention in a year's time--any enterprise will be under verification," warned Shevardnadze. Although notes from the meeting are fragmentary, some kind of discussion took place about cleaning up certain facilities to show inspectors, while destroying documents and covering up the illegal work. Zaikov appeared impatient, wondering if it could be done sooner than Kalinin initially had suggested.

The meeting notes offer a rare glimpse at the thinking and tactics of Soviet officials behind closed doors. The discussion suggests the threat of intrusive verification was taken seriously by the same group of men who had violated the weak BWC. The officials feared the prospect of foreign inspectors roaming around and picking out places for mandatory challenge inspections. The notes tend to support the account offered by Ken Alibek, the former Biopreparat official who described the cover-up of the germ warfare program in his 1999 memoir, *Biohazard: The Chilling True Story of the Largest Covert Biological Weapons*

Program in the World. The officials didn't rush to close down their program after the July 27 meeting, but they were attentive to the prospect of being exposed by a tough verification regime."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/features/bringing-the-soviet-military-industrial-complex-to-life>

[Return to Top](#)

AQ KHAN NAILS PAKISTAN'S NUKE LIES

By Chidanand Rajghatta

The Times of India

September 21, 2009

"An angry, humiliated, and wounded A.Q.Khan has finally made public and official what has long been suspected: his nuclear proliferation activities that included exchanging and passing blue-prints and equipment to China, Iran, North Korea, and Libya was done at the behest of the Pakistani government and military, and he was forced to take the rap for it.

"The bastards first used us and are now playing dirty games with us," Khan writes about the Pakistani leadership in a December 2003 letter to his wife Henny that has finally been made public by an interlocutor. "Darling, if the government plays any mischief with me take a tough stand," he tells his wife, adding, "They might try to get rid of me to cover up all the things they got done by me."

But Henny was unable to play hardball because Khan had also sent copies of that letter to his daughter Dina in London, and to his niece Kausar Khan in Amsterdam through his brother, a Pakistan Airlines executive. Pakistani intelligence agencies got wind of it and threatened the well-being of the family, forcing him to recant and publicly take the blame for the proliferation activities in a humiliating television spectacle engineered by then military ruler Pervez Musharraf.

However, a copy of the four-page letter reached Khan's long-time journalistic contact Simon Henderson in 2007. In fact, in the letter, Khan tells his wife, "Get in touch with Simon Henderson and give him all the details." Henderson says when he acquired the copy of the letter, he was shocked. His acquaintance with Khan goes back to the late 1970s, but it was never intimate, and consisted of an occasional interviews and conversations, and seasonal greetings.

Describing the four-page letter as "extraordinary," Henderson says in numbered paragraphs, it outlines Pakistan's nuclear co-operation with China, Iran and North Korea, and also mentions Libya. Some of the disclosures are stunning, and in one para that is bound to embarrass Beijing, besides implicating it, Khan writes about how Pakistan helped China in enrichment technology in return for bomb blueprints.

"We put up a centrifuge plant at Hanzhong (250km southwest of Xian)," Khan writes. "The Chinese gave us drawings of the nuclear weapon, gave us 50kg of enriched uranium, gave

us 10 tons of UF6 (natural) and 5 tons of UF6 (3%)." UF6 is uranium hexafluoride, the gaseous feedstock for an enrichment plan.

On Iran, the letter says: "Probably with the blessings of BB [Benazir Bhutto]...General Imtiaz [Benazir's defence adviser, now dead] asked me to give a set of drawings and some components to the Iranians. The names and addresses of suppliers were also given to the Iranians."

On North Korea: "[A now-retired general] took \$3million through me from the N. Koreans and asked me to give some drawings and machines."

The full article can be found at: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/world/pakistan/AQ-Khan-blows-the-whistle-on-Pakistan/articleshow/5034825.cms>

[Return to Top](#)

IRAN SAYS MAKES NEW MODEL OF NUCLEAR CENTRIFUGES

By Reza Derakhsi

Reuters

September 22, 2009

"Iran has built a new generation of centrifuges for enriching uranium and is testing them, the official news agency IRNA quoted its nuclear energy agency chief as saying Tuesday.

"Iranian scientists have made a new generation of centrifuges that are currently undergoing necessary tests," Ali Akbar Salehi told a Tehran news conference as reported by IRNA.

"Chains of 10 centrifuges are now under test," he said, and the number in each chain "will be gradually increased."

Salehi did not say when the new model of centrifuge would be introduced to the production line in its Natanz enrichment plant but said it was stronger and faster than those now in operation."

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"A senior diplomat close to the IAEA said there appeared to be little new in Salehi's announcement. The IAEA has reported Iran testing advanced models of centrifuges for more than two years but found no sign of them being phased into production lines."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE58L2BF20090922?sp=true>

[Return to Top](#)

LEXINGTON BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT - LEAKING MUSTARD MUNITION EVENT CONCLUDED

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release
September 17, 2009

"The leaking Mustard artillery shell first detected in mid August was identified and overpacked by toxic chemical crews of the Blue Grass Chemical Activity. The leaking munition was then moved to a separate leaker igloo. Following the required number of monitoring days with no trace of Mustard agent vapor found in the original igloo, the leaking incident is closed out.

The igloos containing the overpacked chemical munitions are monitored every working day. To date, none of the munitions stored in that igloo have leaked through their overpack.

Both Madison County and Commonwealth of Kentucky Emergency Management Agencies as well as the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection were kept informed during all aspects of the leaking munition. The community and environment were never at risk."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003681486>

[Return to Top](#)

PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - JUDGE FINDS FOR ARMY IN DEMIL CASE

By Robert Boczkiewicz
The Pueblo Chieftain
September 22, 2009

"A judge Tuesday denied state health authorities' request for an enforceable deadline for destruction of toxic chemical weapons at the Army's Pueblo Chemical Depot.

The decision by Senior U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch was a major victory for the Army in its battle with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Matsch concluded the state cannot interfere with a schedule set by Congress for the destruction of the weapons.

The federal law establishing the schedule preempts the state's hazardous waste law, Matsch wrote in an 11-page decision. "Congress has superior authority in this matter." The decision seemed to cast strong doubt about the state's other court battle about the depot. In that lawsuit, the state seeks to ensure what it calls sufficient monitoring and safe storage of the weapons.

"The underlying premise of both of these cases is not tenable - that Colorado law controls the destruction of chemical weapons" at the depot, Matsch wrote."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2009/09/23/news/local/doc4ab9a9bdd5644283398140.txt>

[Return to Top](#)

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