

15 February 2010

Chem-Bio News

1. [DE] POISONOUS GAS MUNITIONS TO REMAIN OFF HELGOLAND: *"Ninety tonnes of poisonous gas shells from World War II sunken off the coast of the North Sea island Helgoland will not be raised out of safety concerns, authorities in the state of Schleswig-Holstein said on Thursday."*

2. [NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT] WABASH VALLEY VISIONS AND VOICES ADDS CHEMICAL DEPOT DOCUMENTS: *"Though the archive will have information about multiple depot projects, it highlights the VX project, documenting the beginning stages of operation to the final stages of chemical stockpile elimination."*

3. [AU] MORNING GLORY – SCARY POWDER: *"It can now be revealed the substance was in fact doughnut sugar, which glows the same colour as anthrax and other chemical nasties under the security scan."*

4. CONCERN OVER BILL TO BAN BIO-WEAPONS: *"New legislation concerning the banning of biological weapons should also include the prohibition of transmission of such arms through Irish airspace, Labour's spokesman on foreign affairs Michael D Higgins has said."*

Chem-Demil News

1. CAMP SIBERT CLEANUP CONTINUES AT SITE 2A: *"Camp Sibert was a 37,000-acre, live-fire training area for chemical weapons southwest of Gadsden. Interstate 59 traverses the site. Old munitions such as mortar rounds or parts of them have been found and removed."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

[DE] POISONOUS GAS MUNITIONS TO REMAIN OFF HELGOLAND

The Local

February 11, 2010

"Ninety tonnes of poisonous gas shells from World War II sunken off the coast of the North Sea island Helgoland will not be raised out of safety concerns, authorities in the state of Schleswig-Holstein said on Thursday.

Experts have decided that removing the artillery shells would be more dangerous than allowing them to remain at the bottom of the ocean, the state's Deputy Interior Minister Volker Dornquast said.

He said the shells, which are full of toxic nerve agent tabun, would likely explode from the change in pressure if they surface and suggested a fishing ban and a reduction of naval exercises in the area instead."

.....

"The British military apparently ordered that the weapons be sunk some four kilometres south of the island in 1949. They now lie between 45 and 55 metres below the surface and contain almost 12 tonnes of tabun."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.thelocal.de/national/20100211-25197.html>

[Return to Top](#)

[NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT] WABASH VALLEY VISIONS AND VOICES ADDS CHEMICAL DEPOT DOCUMENTS

Indiana State University
February 11, 2010

“Wabash Valley Visions and Voices recently expanded its digital history collection to include an archive of the history of the Newport Chemical Depot near Newport, Ind.

“It's an important addition to Wabash Valley Visions and Voices,” said Cinda May, project coordinator and Indiana State University assistant librarian. “The Newport Chemical Depot facility had a major impact on the lives of the people in Vermillion County.”

The depot, which has been the site of many Department of Defense projects including heavy water, RDX, nerve agent VX and TNT along with the storage and ultimate disposal of VX, must be closed by September 2011 under Base Realignment and Closure requirements.

Through Wabash Valley Visions and Voices, historical documents, photos and videos will be available long after U.S. Army projects are finished on site, leaving a legacy for the people of Newport.

“The Army appreciates the national contributions of the Newport work force over the last 60 plus years,” said Terry Arthur, Newport Chemical Depot public affairs officer. “It is hoped that this project can show their valuable efforts to the surrounding communities, the country and the world. Newport workers made history. They made a difference.”

Though the archive will have information about multiple depot projects, it highlights the VX project, documenting the beginning stages of operation to the final stages of chemical stockpile elimination.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.indstate.edu/news/news.php?newsid=2124>
[Return to Top](#)

MORNING GLORY – SCARY POWDER

The Australian
February 03, 2010

“It seems sugar ain't so sweet for Victorian Premier John Brumby and his fellow workers at 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne, where everyone was put on high alert last week when a routine security scan detected "organic material" in an envelope addressed to Brumby. The suspicious package triggered a full-scale emergency response, with police, fire engines and specialist hazardous chemical teams barging through morning rush-hour traffic to contain any threat and secure the nerve centre of Spring Street. It can now be revealed the substance was in fact doughnut sugar, which glows the same colour as anthrax and other chemical nasties under the security scan.....”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/morning-glory/story-e6frgdk6-1225829865598>
[Return to Top](#)

CONCERN OVER BILL TO BAN BIO-WEAPONS

By Mary Fitzgerald
The Irish Times
February 11, 2010

“New legislation concerning the banning of biological weapons should also include the prohibition of

transmission of such arms through Irish airspace, Labour's spokesman on foreign affairs Michael D Higgins has said.

The Biological Weapons Bill, the heads of which were approved by Cabinet this week, will prohibit the use, development, production, manufacture, possession, stockpiling, acquisition, and retention or transfer of biological weapons. The ban will apply to vessels and aircraft registered in Ireland, members of the Defence Forces and citizens of Ireland outside the State.

Speaking in the Dáil yesterday, Mr Higgins raised concerns the Bill, in its current form, would not extend to a ban on the transmission of biological weapons through Shannon and other Irish airports."

The full article can be found at:

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2010/0211/1224264202782.html>

[Return to Top](#)

Chem-Demil News

CAMP SIBERT CLEANUP CONTINUES AT SITE 2A

By Dana Beyerle
The Gadsen Times
February 08, 2010

"According to a report in 2007 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a tract in Site 2A was used for chemical agent decontamination training and contained buried material in three separate pits. The pits were dug up in 1948 and treated in various ways, including using chloride of lime.

The Army recommended the area only be used for grazing, but when the property started being transferred to government or private ownership in 1948, the grazing restriction did not follow in titles, the government report said.

The Army said in 1993 other burial sites might be within Site 2A. Other studies showed contaminants in area underground water and in soil samples.

Camp Sibert was a 37,000-acre, live-fire training area for chemical weapons southwest of Gadsden. Interstate 59 traverses the site. Old munitions such as mortar rounds or parts of them have been found and removed."

The full article can be found at:

<http://www.gadsdentimes.com/article/20100208/NEWS/100209849/1017/NEWS?Title=Camp-Sibert-cleanup-continues-at-Site-2A>

[Return to Top](#)

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