

17 February 2010

## **Chem-Bio News**

**1. FRANCE USED TROOPS AS NUCLEAR "GUINEA PIGS": PAPER:** *"France deliberately exposed its soldiers to nuclear explosions in Algeria in the 1960s to study the effect of radiation on humans, a newspaper reported on Tuesday, citing confidential documents."*

**2. PENTAGON MIGHT SHIFT COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMBATING WMD SPREAD:** *"The assessment -- led by U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Va. -- could result in a significant change in oversight or modifications in the way the military approaches missions to counter the spread of WMD materials and technologies."*

**3. MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR ELECTED AS CHAIRPERSON OF IAEA BOARD:** *"At a meeting held today in Vienna, the IAEA Board of Governors elected the Malaysian Ambassador to the State of Qatar, Mr. Dato' Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob, as Chairman for the unexpired term of office for 2009-2010. He succeeds and completes the term of his fellow countryman, Mr. M. H. Arshad."*

**4. [UK] POLICE ARREST 26 AT ALDERMASTON NUCLEAR WEAPONS PLANT BLOCKADE:** *"Hundreds of demonstrators block entrance to Berkshire factory that makes Trident warheads."*

# **CB Daily Report**

## **Chem-Bio News**

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### **FRANCE USED TROOPS AS NUCLEAR "GUINEA PIGS": PAPER**

By Sophie Hardach  
Reuters  
February 16, 2010

"France deliberately exposed its soldiers to nuclear explosions in Algeria in the 1960s to study the effect of radiation on humans, a newspaper reported on Tuesday, citing confidential documents."

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"The French government promised last year to compensate victims of nuclear tests in Algeria, carried out between 1960 and 1966, recognizing a link between the explosions and veterans' illnesses such as cancer.

While the government has said the tests were conducted as safely as possible, newspaper Le Parisien quoted an official defense report from the period as saying that the army deliberately sent its soldiers on risky maneuvers on April 25, 1961.

One of the aims was "to study the physical and psychological effect of atomic weapons on humans, in order to obtain necessary elements for the physical preparation and training of morale of the modern combatant", Le Parisien quoted the report as saying."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61F1QL20100216>

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### **PENTAGON MIGHT SHIFT COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMBATING WMD SPREAD**

By Elaine M. Grossman

Global Security Newswire

February 12, 2010

“The U.S. Defense Department has just launched a high-level assessment of how its military forces might more effectively help combat the global proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, according to officials.

The assessment -- led by U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Va. -- could result in a significant change in oversight or modifications in the way the military approaches missions to counter the spread of WMD materials and technologies.

The move follows a Pentagon initiative -- described in the Quadrennial Defense Review, released last week -- to ramp up military efforts in this mission area.”

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“That additional study, led by Joint Forces Command, might augur even farther-reaching changes that consolidate or shift command responsibility for the mission, Global Security Newswire has learned.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff quietly launched an initial assessment of Pentagon counter-WMD responsibilities in 2008 after the head of U.S. Strategic Command opted to reduce headquarters emphasis on the mission, but the potential for change reportedly has gained steam over the past year since President Barack Obama took office.”

The full article can be found at: [http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw\\_20100212\\_7722.php](http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20100212_7722.php)

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## **MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR ELECTED AS CHAIRPERSON OF IAEA BOARD**

International Atomic Energy Agency Press Release

February 12, 2010

“At a meeting held today in Vienna, the IAEA Board of Governors elected the Malaysian Ambassador to the State of Qatar, Mr. Dato’ Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob, as Chairman for the unexpired term of office for 2009–2010. He succeeds and completes the term of his fellow countryman, Mr. M. H. Arshad.

Messrs. Cornel Feruță, Governor for Romania, and Rudiger Ludeking, Governor for Germany, will continue to serve as the Vice-Chairmen for the term.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2010/electboardchair.html>

ANALYST NOTE: The 10 February 2010 edition of the CB Daily has additional information regarding the removal of the previous Malaysian ambassador.

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## **[UK] POLICE ARREST 26 AT ALDERMASTON NUCLEAR WEAPONS PLANT BLOCKADE**

The Guardian

February 15, 2010

“Hundreds of demonstrators block entrance to Berkshire factory that makes Trident warheads.”

“Police made 26 arrests at a peace protest today when hundreds of demonstrators blocked entrances to a nuclear weapons site.

Organisers of the protest said up to 800 people travelled from across the UK to take part in the blockade of the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) in Aldermaston, Berkshire, where warheads for Trident submarines are made. Thames Valley police said about 400 people attended.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/feb/15/nuclear-blockade-aldermaston>  
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**Steve Tesko:** [Steve.Tesko@anser.org](mailto:Steve.Tesko@anser.org)

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