

19 February 2010

Chem-Bio News

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4. DANGER OF MARINES' WATER REMOVED FROM REPORT: *"An environmental contractor dramatically underreported the level of a cancer-causing chemical found in tap water at Camp Lejeune, then omitted it altogether as the Marine base prepared for a federal health review, an Associated Press review has found."*

5. HANFORD TANK WASTE PUMPING RESUMES: *"Pumping of waste from Hanford's underground tanks resumed Tuesday four days after a worker called a stop to work because of concerns about chemical vapors."*

6. NUCLEAR IRAN TO PROMPT TURKEY TO ACQUIRE ATOMIC WEAPONS: *"Authoritative Turkish sources believe that if neighboring Iran acquires nuclear arms, there will definitely be a strong demand from within Turkey for the country to acquire the same weapons capabilities."*

Chem-Demil News

1. UMATILLA CLOSSES FIRST IGLOO STORAGE FACILITY: *"The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has granted approval for the closure of I-block storage facility at UMCD."*

2. PINE BLUFF CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (PBCDF) UPDATE: *"Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF received approval from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality on a Class 1 Permit Modification Request."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

ARMY INVESTIGATES ALLEGED ATTEMPT BY SOLDIERS TO POISON FOOD AT FORT JACKSON

FOXNews

February 18, 2010

"The U.S. Army is investigating allegations that soldiers were attempting to poison the food supply at Fort Jackson in South Carolina.

The ongoing probe began two months ago, Chris Grey, a spokesman for the Army's Criminal Investigation Division, told Fox News.

The Army is taking the allegations "extremely seriously," Grey said, but so far, "there is no credible information to support the allegations."

Five suspects, detained in December, were part of an Arabic translation program called "09 Lima" and

use Arabic as their first language, two sources told Fox News. Another military source said they were Muslim. It wasn't clear whether they were still being held.

Grey would not confirm or deny the sources' information."

The full article can be found at: <http://blogs.cbn.com/stakelbeckonterror/archive/2010/02/18/cbn-exclusive-five-muslim-soldiers-arrested-at-fort-jackson-in.aspx>

[Return to Top](#)

UN NUCLEAR WATCHDOG ACCUSES IRAN OVER NUCLEAR WEAPONS

By Nico Hines

The Times (UK)

February 19, 2010

"The United Nations' nuclear watchdog has radically increased pressure on Iran by publicly describing concerns over atomic weapons for the first time.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said it feared that Tehran could be working on "a nuclear payload for a missile" in its bluntest report yet on Iran's uranium enrichment programme.

The White House responded to the report by threatening "consequences" if Iran failed to co-operate with nuclear inspectors.

In the IAEA's first report on Iran under its new director-general Yukiya Amano, tougher language appeared to signal a sea-change in the attitude towards Tehran.

Mr Amano was expected to be more confrontational than his predecessor, Mohamed ElBaradei, who had refused to acknowledge worries about military intentions in public before his retirement on December 1.

The report, published last night, said: "The information available to the agency is extensive... broadly consistent and credible in terms of the technical detail, the time frame in which the activities were conducted and the people and organisations involved."

The full article can be found at:

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle_east/article7033253.ece

[Return to Top](#)

DOE TO IMPROVE BERYLLIUM DISEASE PROTECTION AT HANFORD

By Annette Cary

The TriCity Herald

February 17, 2010

"It will boost a planned review of the Hanford prevention program to a full-scale inspection of the program, said Glenn Podonsky, the DOE chief health, safety and security officer.

In addition DOE will follow recommendations made by the Hanford Advisory Board to improve the prevention program, said Frank Marcinowski, a DOE deputy assistant secretary for environmental management.

On Feb. 5 the Hanford Advisory Board sent a letter to DOE officials critical of Hanford efforts to protect workers from beryllium exposure, saying recommendations for improvements were not being followed. It was part of an exchange of letters that started when the board gave DOE advice 10 months ago.

DOE responded by calling a meeting Tuesday in Richland with Podonsky that included members of the

advisory board, Hanford DOE leaders, organized labor officials and workers with chronic beryllium disease. The focus was to discuss the program and plans for the investigation.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/904674.html

[Return to Top](#)

DANGER OF MARINES' WATER REMOVED FROM REPORT

The Associated Press on MSNBC.com

February 17, 2010

“An environmental contractor dramatically underreported the level of a cancer-causing chemical found in tap water at Camp Lejeune, then omitted it altogether as the Marine base prepared for a federal health review, an Associated Press review has found.

The Marine Corps had been warned nearly a decade earlier about the dangerously high levels of benzene, which was traced to massive leaks from fuel tanks at the base on the North Carolina coast, according to recently disclosed studies.”

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“When water was sampled in July 1984, scientists found benzene in a well near the base's Hadnot Point Fuel Farm at levels of 380 parts per billion, according to a water tests done by a contractor. A year later, in a report summarizing the 1984 sampling, the same contractor pointed out the benzene concentration "far exceeds" the safety limit set by federal regulators at 5 parts per billion.”

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“Not only hasn't the benzene disappeared from the now-closed wells, it's gotten much worse over time. One sample from a series of tests conducted from June 2007 to August 2009 registered 3,490 parts per billion, according to a report from a fourth contractor.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35445439/ns/health-cancer/>

[Return to Top](#)

HANFORD TANK WASTE PUMPING RESUMES

By Annette Cary

The TriCity Herald

February 17, 2010

“Pumping of waste from Hanford's underground tanks resumed Tuesday four days after a worker called a stop to work because of concerns about chemical vapors.

Washington River Protection Solutions had made several changes to better protect workers before the worker called a stop to pumping Friday and the contractor made no further changes before work was restarted Tuesday.

Friday was the second time this month that a worker had used his authority to halt pumping because he and other workers believed vapors posed a safety concern. Both times contractor and organized labor officials followed Department of Energy procedures and investigated and then determined that it would be safe to resume pumping, according to WRPS.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/business/story/904681.html>

[Return to Top](#)

NUCLEAR IRAN TO PROMPT TURKEY TO ACQUIRE ATOMIC WEAPONS

By Lale Kemal
Today's Zaman
February 18, 2010

"Authoritative Turkish sources believe that if neighboring Iran acquires nuclear arms, there will definitely be a strong demand from within Turkey for the country to acquire the same weapons capabilities."

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"Official Turkish sources are of the belief that an Iran possessing nuclear arms will be disastrous not only for Turkey but also for the already volatile Middle Eastern region, which will turn into an area where countries will engage in a nuclear arms race.

"Voices will increase tremendously in Turkey for the acquisition of nuclear arms as a means of deterrence against Iranian nuclear arms," a Turkish diplomat said.

Unlike the West, which prepared to impose tougher sanctions on Iran, Ankara insists the standoff can be solved through dialogue, believing that economic sanctions or military action against Iran will have severe repercussions in the region.

Turkey officially argues that if Iran acquires nuclear weapons, this does not mean Turkey will follow suit. Turkey is part of NATO's nuclear umbrella and that is sufficient, Ankara argues.

But behind closed doors, Turkey is highly concerned about nearby Iran possessing nuclear arms. So the possibility that Turkey will also acquire nuclear weapons is highly possible.

Chief of General Staff Gen. İlker Başbuğ told the Habertürk daily last week that Iran having nuclear arms will be a development against Turkey and will affect the country. He, however, stopped short of going into details.

The Turkish government's efforts to dissuade Iran from acquiring nuclear arms should also be interpreted as a reflection of Turkish concerns over Tehran's dangerous game.

Turkey is also of the opinion that maintaining an unidentified number of US nuclear weapons -- deployed during the Cold War -- at İncirlik Air Base in southern Turkey will definitely continue to serve as a deterrent for Ankara against nuclear arms possessed elsewhere."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/yazarDetay.do;jsessionid=4733B0EFF7D8DB10BFA470A4C6B91676?haberno=201841>

[Return to Top](#)

Chem-Demil News

UMATILLA CLOSES FIRST IGLOO STORAGE FACILITY

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News
February 2010

"As the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) looks toward completion of its mission and closure, the first of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permitted chemical weapons agent storage areas have been approved for closure. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has granted

approval for the closure of I-block storage facility at UMCD.

I-Block was the first storage facility to be closed at UMCD. It contained 30 hazardous waste chemical agent storage units, also known as igloos. These igloos housed mustard ton containers from 2001 to 2006, when they were safely consolidated into UMCD's remaining Chemical Limited Area.

"Teamwork along with a focus on safety and protection of the environment facilitated this major accomplishment for the depot in its progress toward closure. The planning and proven methods used to close I-Block will form the backbone for eventual closure of the Chemical Limited Area," said Lt. Col. Kris Perkins, UMCD commander.

Closure of the storage area was effective Dec. 7, 2009, after three years of closure planning under UMCD's Hazardous Waste Storage Permit. In all, UMCD has 1,001 storage igloos in 11 blocks, designated as A through K. Most of the igloos were used for conventional ammunition, but have since been emptied as UMCD prepares for closure under the federal Base Realignment and Closure program."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003682375>
[Return to Top](#)

PINE BLUFF CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (PBCDF) UPDATE

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News
February 2010

"Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) received approval from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality on a Class 1 Permit Modification Request. PBCDF is now authorized to change from the restricted 75 percent feed rates to the maximum 100 percent feed rates for both the Liquid Incinerator and the MPF. PBCDF paused processing to adjust set points for the furnaces to the new feed rates, and then began processing at 100 percent. On Monday, Jan. 11, the subcontractor completed demolition of the former BZ facility at the PBCDF site."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003682375>
[Return to Top](#)

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Steve Tesko: Steve.Tesko@anser.org

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