

## Chem-Bio News

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# CB Daily Report

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### **DUCK HUNTERS SPARK NUCLEAR WEAPONS PLANT LOCKDOWN**

BBC

January 15, 2010

"A pair of duck hunters triggered a security alert at a nuclear weapons assembly plant in Amarillo, Texas.

Officials put the plant into lockdown after getting reports of individuals in camouflage gear stalking across the road from the factory.

They turned out to be two plant employees who had decided to spend their day off hunting fowl."

The full article can be found at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8462547.stm>

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### **HANFORD NUCLEAR RESERVATION - VIT PLANT MIXING HAZARDS RAISES WORRIES**

By Annette Cary

The TriCity Herald

January 19, 2010

"Inadequate mixing of some radioactive wastes at the Hanford vitrification plant could cause a criticality or a build-up of flammable gas that could cause an explosion, according to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

But the Department of Energy believes the problem can be resolved.

It initiated tests on the mixing system planned for parts of the vitrification plant after a panel of experts in 2006 identified it as one of 28 technical issues that needed to be studied. It's the last major and complex issue to be resolved for the plant, which is half-completed.

DOE has been testing the mixing systems at the M3 Mixing Test Platform installed at Mid-Columbia Engineering near the Hanford nuclear reservation. It expects to have testing completed in April, including confirming any modifications that need to be done to the mixing system.

That's ahead of a legally binding Tri-Party Agreement deadline to have the work completed in June.

At issue is keeping heavy particles in high-level radioactive waste mixed with the rest of the waste in tanks at the vitrification plant, which is being built to turn the waste into a stable glass form for disposal. The waste is left from the past production of plutonium at Hanford for the nation's nuclear weapons program."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.tricityherald.com/kennewick\\_pasco\\_richland/story/867954.html](http://www.tricityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/867954.html)

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## **ELITE US TROOPS READY TO COMBAT PAKISTANI NUCLEAR HIJACKS**

By Christina Lamb

The Times (UK)

January 17, 2010

"The US army is training a crack unit to seal off and snatch back Pakistani nuclear weapons in the event that militants, possibly from inside the country's security apparatus, get their hands on a nuclear device or materials that could make one.

The specialised unit would be charged with recovering the nuclear materials and securing them.

The move follows growing anti-Americanism in Pakistan's military, a series of attacks on sensitive installations over the past two years, several of which housed nuclear facilities, and rising tension that has seen a series of official complaints by US authorities to Islamabad in the past fortnight."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article6991056.ece>

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## **PAKISTAN BLOCKS AGENDA AT U.N. DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE**

By Jonathan Lynn

Reuters in International Business Times - U.S.

January 19, 2010

"Arms negotiators failed to start talks on Tuesday on cutting nuclear weapons when Pakistan blocked the adoption of the 2010 agenda for the U.N.-sponsored Conference on Disarmament.

The conference, the world's sole multinational negotiating forum for disarmament, spent much of 2009 stuck on procedural wrangles raised by Pakistan after breaking a 12-year deadlock to agree a programme of work.

The impasse on Tuesday suggested 2010 would be another year of halting progress. Pakistan, which tested a nuclear weapon in 1998, is wary of the proposed focus in the programme on limiting the

production of fissile material, which would put it at a disadvantage against longer-standing nuclear powers such as India.

It therefore has an interest in delaying the start of substantive talks, diplomats say.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/20100119/pakistan-blocks-agenda-atn-disarmament-conference.htm>

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## **DOOMSDAY CULT MEMBER FACES EXECUTION**

ABC News (AU)

January 19, 2010

“Japan's supreme court has rejected an appeal against the death sentence for a senior member of the doomsday cult behind the 1995 deadly sarin nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway.

The ruling means Tomomitsu Niimi, 45, will be the 10th member of the Aum Supreme Truth cult to face execution after exhausting all legal appeals.

Three other cult members are awaiting verdicts on appeals against their death sentences.

The supreme court upheld the death sentence handed down by two lower courts against Niimi, who was convicted on 11 charges, including the subway attack that killed 12 people and the murders of a lawyer, his wife and their baby.

Niimi, who was involved in the deaths of a total of 26 people, and his lawyers had contended that he simply followed the orders of Aum leader Shoko Asahara in the series of crimes.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/01/19/2796252.htm>

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