

Chem-Bio News

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CB Daily Report

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THE NEW CBRN WARRANT OFFICER PROGRAM

By Major Tammy R. Alatorre
Army Chemical Review
Summer, 2010

"Following the events of 11 September 2001 and continuing through the current operating environment, the role of the Chemical Corps has evolved from conducting conventional chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) passive defense to encompassing the full spectrum of operations, including consequence management; weapons of mass destruction-elimination; and toxic industrial chemical, toxic industrial material, and radiological hazards mitigation. The associated increase in technical requirements for the Chemical Corps resulted in a heightened challenge to develop incoming lieutenants. Unit expectations for these new battalion CBRN officers shifted from combined arms tactics and leadership advisor to technical expert for all new technologies developed and fielded to support the expanding missions.

To bridge the technical gap, the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School (USACBRNS) proposed the creation of a new military occupational specialty (MOS)—the CBRN warrant officer. These warrant officers are expected to provide the Army with CBRN technical expertise on existing equipment and new technologies at all levels of command. In establishing the CBRN Warrant Officer Program, the USACBRNS proposed that CBRN officer authorizations be exchanged for CBRN warrant officer positions. This would allow the Chemical Corps to maintain a professional development model for officers, while concurrently creating one for warrant officers.

The implementation of the CBRN Warrant Officer Program requires that 13 percent of the CBRN officer positions be converted to CBRN warrant officer positions (Figure 1). The officer conversions apply to Regular Army and Reserve Component positions, ultimately decreasing the number of branch detail officers by 30–50 percent. The adjustment will provide an increased opportunity for many CBRN lieutenants to serve in platoon leader positions— positions that were previously filled by branch detail officers.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.wood.army.mil/chmdsd/pdfs/Summer%2010/Alatorre-final.pdf>

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NNSA HOSTS 26 COUNTRIES FOR NUCLEAR EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING

US National Nuclear Security Administration

May 28, 2010

“The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced today that it recently completed an International Search and Consequence Management workshop in Las Vegas, Nev. Through this first of its kind workshop, NNSA brought together 92 officials from 26 countries and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to interact with NNSA experts to improve understanding of the processes and techniques used by the U.S. for nuclear and radiological incidents.

“This workshop is part of NNSA’s broader effort to build and enhance the global capacity to prevent and respond to nuclear and radiological emergencies, and it directly supports the aims of Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism,” said NNSA Associate Administrator for Emergency Operations Joseph Krol. “NNSA’s expanded cooperation with foreign partners builds on momentum from President Obama’s Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington in April.”

The four-day workshop in Las Vegas took place from May 17 to 20. It was an interactive process in which equipment, procedures and techniques were demonstrated, and participants were able to operate and discuss them with NNSA experts. The workshop activities included demonstrations of NNSA’s radiological search equipment and techniques, set up and operation of the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC) to address consequence management, geographic information systems, and medical response to nuclear and radiological emergencies.”

The full article can be found at:

<http://www.nnsa.energy.gov/mediaroom/pressreleases/emergencyresponse05.28.10>

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FISHERMEN OVERCOME BY MUSTARD GAS-LIKE CHEMICAL

By Beth Germano

WBZTV.com

June 07, 2010

“New Bedford fisherman Kevin O’Sullivan had never seen symptoms like this before, cracked skin and swelled fingers.

But he may have come in contact with mustard gas when the crew of the E.S.S. Pursuit picked up at least ten old military canisters as they were dragging the ocean floor clamming over the weekend.

The vessel has now been quarantined outside New Bedford harbor while hazardous materials teams from the Massachusetts National Guard try to determine the source of the contamination.

“My eyes are quite sore; I wash my eyes every few minutes. There’s burning on my face, cheeks and

hands," said Captain Kieran Kelly, who has refused to leave the boat during the investigation.

O'Sullivan says he and another crew member handled one of the canisters as they threw it back overboard.

It broke open and exposed a fisherman named Costa, causing blistering on his arm and leg.

"He experienced immediate pain," said O'Sullivan, who also experienced shortness of breath.

Both men were taken to the hospital, while two more crew members were transported Monday night."

The full article can be found at: <http://wbztv.com/local/chemical.boat.fishermen.2.1738256.html>

FOLLOW-UP:

TESTS CONFIRM FISHERMAN EXPOSED TO MUSTARD GAS

WBZTV.com

June 08, 2010

"A doctor treating a commercial fisherman who was sickened after his clamming boat pulled up munitions tainted with chemicals says tests show he was exposed to mustard gas.

Dr. Edward Boyer, a toxicologist at UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, said blood and urine tests that confirmed mustard gas exposure came back Monday night."

The full article can be found at: <http://wbztv.com/local/chemical.boat.fishermen.2.1738723.html>

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CMA NAMES DIRECTOR OF STOCKPILE OPERATIONS

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

June 07, 2010

"The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) has named Col. John J. Megnia as the Director of Stockpile Operations (DOSO). Col. Megnia's lengthy military career makes his background and expertise a valuable asset to CMA. He served most recently in Baghdad, as Chief of Staff for both the CJ3 Operations and J4 Logistics Directorates for United States Forces – Iraq.

The DOSO position was previously filled by Col. Raymond Naworol, who served from October 2008 to September 2009, when he deployed to Iraq. Col. Gerald Gladney, commander of the Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah, served as acting DOSO during Col.

Naworol's deployment, until handing over the position to Col. Megnia.

Col. Megnia is expected to report to CMA on June 25th.

Col. Megnia began his career in 1977 at Fort Campbell, Ky. He has served in areas of the United States such as Fort Devens, Mass.; Fort Leonard Wood; Fort Hood, Texas; the Pentagon; San Francisco, Calif.; and Johnston Island in the Pacific Ocean. Col. Megnia is not new to the CMA family having served as commander of the Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo., where he oversaw storage of the chemical weapons stockpile and completion of several environmental restoration projects.

Internationally, Col. Megnia played key roles in peace-keeping operations in Bosnia; as the U.S. Forces Korea Chemical Officer in Korea; and as an assistant operations and chemical officer in Germany.

As CMA DOSO, Col. Megnia will oversee operational activities and support the overall mission. He will provide leadership and direction to CMA commanders responsible for safe storage and destruction of the national chemical weapons stockpile.

CMA remains committed to the safe and timely destruction of the Nation's chemical agent and chemical warfare materiel. Final blister agent campaigns continue at CMA's four remaining destruction sites in Anniston, Ala.; Pine Bluff, Ark.; Tooele, Utah; and Umatilla, Ore. CMA continues to safely store chemical agent munitions at the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternative sites near Richmond, Ky.; and at Pueblo, Colo. For more information about CMA, please visit www.cma.army.mil."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?DocID=003682977>
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OPERATORS SAY TRACE MUSTARD GAS VAPOR AT PUEBLO DEPOT NO DANGER

By Kieran Nicholson
The Denver Post
June 04, 2010

"Workers on Thursday detected a trace level of mustard gas vapor inside a storage igloo at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot.

"At no time were workers at the depot or members of the surrounding communities in any danger," according to a media release from the depot.

The Pueblo depot is one of six Army installations in the United States that store chemical weapons.

The vapor was detected at about 10:20 a.m. Thursday."

The full article can be found at: http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_15227450
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