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## **Chem-Bio News**

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- 2. HUMAN TEETH REVEAL HISTORY OF CATASTROPHES:** *"Teeth are a window into our past, storing a record of the environmental pollutants and radiation they've encountered. Now scientists are developing tools to use teeth enamel to test how much radiation a person has been exposed to in the case of a major emergency, like a dirty bomb explosion."*
- 3. NUCLEAR BUNKER SOLD ON EBAY:** *"The underground bunker in Derbyshire's Peak District went on sale on the online auction site with a starting price of £500, but was sold for £20,600 after more than 40 bids."*

## **Chem-Demil News**

- 1. IRAQ FACES MAJOR CHALLENGES IN DESTROYING ITS LEGACY CHEMICAL WEAPONS:** *"Because some of Iraq's legacy chemical weapons were damaged by aerial bombing during the Gulf War and are extremely dangerous to handle, Baghdad will have great difficulty disposing of them. In addition, chemical munitions from the pre-1991 era will probably be recovered in the future and will have to be destroyed in a verifiable manner."*
- 2. [LEXINGTON BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT] - DEPOT CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILE PASSES INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION:** *"Inspectors from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), located in the Netherlands, arrived Wednesday, February 24th, to conduct their annual inspection of the chemical weapons Stockpile. The inspection process took four days consisting of the physical inspection and inventory of each igloo and writing the inspection report."*

# **CB Daily Report**

## **Chem-Bio News**

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### **EXPERTS FIND FLAWS IN PLANNING FOR MD. ARMY BIOLAB**

By David Dishneau

The Associated Press in The Washington Examiner

March 04, 2010

"The Army failed to fully analyze the risk of public exposure to deadly pathogens from a biodefense laboratory building under construction at Fort Detrick, a National Academy of Sciences panel said Thursday.

But the committee said stringent safety procedures will protect workers and the public when the new U.S. Army Medical Institute of Infectious Diseases opens in 2014 at the Army installation 50 miles northwest of Washington. The security measures will be tougher than those at the existing institute, the military's flagship biodefense center, where safety precautions already meet or exceed accepted standards, the committee's report said.

The strength of the operational safety measures outweighed weaknesses in the project's flawed environmental impact statement, panel chairman Charles N. Haas, a professor of environmental engineering at Drexel University, said at a briefing. So rather than recommending a rewrite of the environmental statement, which could have halted the \$680 million project, the experts urged the Army to improve its risk assessment for such projects in the future."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/ap/expert-panel-finds-flaws-in-army-biolab-planning-86364547.html#ixzz0haEOUvS0>

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## **HUMAN TEETH REVEAL HISTORY OF CATASTROPHES**

By Clara Moskowitz

LiveScience.com

February 26, 2010

"Teeth are a window into our past, storing a record of the environmental pollutants and radiation they've encountered. Now scientists are developing tools to use teeth enamel to test how much radiation a person has been exposed to in the case of a major emergency, like a dirty bomb explosion."

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"When a person is exposed to radiation, the energy can create free radicals in the body. These are atoms that have an extra unpaired electron, which makes them unstable – in healthy tissue, they can harm regular molecules by stealing electrons and damaging DNA.

But free radicals can be a useful indicator of how much radiation a person has come in contact with. Scientists are working on perfecting a process called Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) that can measure levels of free radicals in substances like teeth.

The technique could prove especially useful in gauging how much harm has been done after a major release of radiation from an accident or a radiation dispersal device, often called a dirty bomb.

The process works like this: Scientists need a small sample of a tooth – basically a tiny piece that can be carved out with a dental drill, and doesn't damage the remaining tooth. Then they apply microwave energy to the sample. Free radicals will absorb microwave energy, so scientists can measure how much energy is left after passing through the tooth fragment to estimate how many free radicals are present.

"These free radicals are generated in proportion to the radiation exposure," Pass explained this month at a meeting of the American Physical Society in Washington, D.C. "The absorption of microwave energy is proportional to the concentration of these free radicals."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.livescience.com/health/teeth-radiation-history-catastrophe-100226.html>

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## **NUCLEAR BUNKER SOLD ON EBAY**

By Rosa Silverman  
The Independent (UK)  
March 08, 2010

"A Cold War nuclear bunker has been sold on eBay for more than £20,000, it emerged today.

The underground bunker in Derbyshire's Peak District went on sale on the online auction site with a starting price of £500, but was sold for £20,600 after more than 40 bids.

The bunker was built in 1959 and operated by the Royal Observer Corps as a post from which nuclear fallout could be monitored.

According to the seller, it was fully operational until 1991 and is "set in a stunning location with glorious views".

The full article can be found at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/nuclear-bunker-sold-on-ebay-1918139.html>

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## ***Chem-Demil News***

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### **IRAQ FACES MAJOR CHALLENGES IN DESTROYING ITS LEGACY CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

By Jonathan B. Tucker  
James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies  
March 04, 2010

"Before the 1991 Persian Gulf War, Saddam Hussein's Iraq produced and stockpiled hundreds of tons of chemical weapons (CW), a small fraction of which still exist. After Iraq acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) on February 12, 2009, it was obligated to declare and destroy any surviving CW agents and munitions according to the detailed procedures set out in the treaty. Because some of Iraq's legacy chemical weapons were

damaged by aerial bombing during the Gulf War and are extremely dangerous to handle, Baghdad will have great difficulty disposing of them. In addition, chemical munitions from the pre-1991 era will probably be recovered in the future and will have to be destroyed in a verifiable manner. How Iraq and the international community deal with these issues will have important implications for the CWC and the prospects for chemical disarmament in the Middle East.”

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“In late 1990, during the run-up to the 1991 Persian Gulf War, Iraq produced a large stockpile of chemical weapons at the Muthanna State Establishment, some 20 kilometers south of the city of Samarra, including aerial bombs, shells, artillery rockets, and Scud missile warheads filled with mustard and nerve agents. Chemical weapons were stockpiled at Muthanna in eight large cruciform bunkers—semi-underground structures resembling truncated pyramids that were built of reinforced concrete one meter thick and covered with a three-meter layer of sandy clay. Each bunker was about the size of a football field and had a main storage room with a capacity of about 10,800 cubic meters.[2]

During the Gulf War, U.S. retaliatory threats deterred Saddam Hussein from using his chemical arsenal, and Coalition aircraft bombed much of the Muthanna complex, shutting down Iraq's chemical weapons production. On February 8, 1991, an aerial bomb hit the roof of Bunker 13 at Muthanna. According to Iraqi declarations, this bunker stored 2,500 sarin-filled 122mm artillery rockets, which were partially damaged or destroyed in the bombardment. In addition, the bunker held about 200 metric tons of sodium and potassium cyanide salts (precursors for tabun production) and 75 kilograms of arsenic trichloride (a precursor for blister agent).[3]”

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“Even if the sarin inside the rockets in Bunker 13 has degraded to the point that it has no military value and is little more than hazardous waste, the CWC still requires that all such materials be destroyed. Following Iraq's submission of its initial CW declaration in March 2009, the OPCW Technical Secretariat processed and analyzed the data. In April, Iraq submitted a general plan for destroying the CW materials stored in the two declared bunkers at Muthanna, as well as dismantling its former chemical weapons production facilities.[12]

Because Baghdad acceded to the CWC more than ten years after the treaty entered into force in 1997, Iraq is not subject to the April 29, 2012 deadline for completing destruction of its chemical weapons that applies to the other member-states that are still eliminating their stockpiles (Libya, Russia, and the United States).[13] Instead, under paragraph 8 of Article IV of the CWC, Iraq must destroy its chemical weapons "as soon as possible," with the order of destruction and procedures for stringent verification to be determined by the OPCW Executive Council. In April 2009, OPCW Director-General Rogelio Pfrter observed, "Undoubtedly, history and the unique complexities that we can envision for the implementation of Articles IV and V of the Convention [dealing, respectively, with the destruction of chemical weapons and former production facilities] make the Iraqi accession to the Convention a special case, and one that might provide unique implementation challenges." [14]”

The full article can be found at: [http://cns.miis.edu/stories/100304\\_iraq\\_cw\\_legacy.htm](http://cns.miis.edu/stories/100304_iraq_cw_legacy.htm)

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## **[LEXINGTON BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT] - DEPOT CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILE PASSES INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION**

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

March 01, 2010

"Inspectors from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), located in the Netherlands, arrived Wednesday, February 24th, to conduct their annual inspection of the chemical weapons Stockpile. The inspection process took four days consisting of the physical inspection and inventory of each igloo and writing the inspection report.

The five inspectors, who hailed from The Republic of Korea, Spain, the United States, Romania and the Russian Federation, assured accountability of every chemical weapon declared to be in storage at the Depot as part of the United States' compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

"Inspections are extensive and thorough," stated Ms. Deborah Boston, the Depot Treaty Compliance Officer. "The inspectors physically count every munition stored in the Chemical Limited Area. I was greatly impressed by the professionalism and the courtesy of the international inspectors as they completed this exhaustive task." This marks the 14th time that Blue Grass has been inspected by the OPCW with every inspection showing that Blue Grass Army Depot is in full compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

"I am very proud of the men and women of Blue Grass Chemical Activity," said Lieutenant Colonel David Musgrave, Commander of Blue Grass Chemical Activity. "The international inspectors, assisted by their U.S. National escorts and my host team were able to complete the inventory of all igloos containing toxic chemical munitions in a short time. This called for extraordinary coordination between my toxic chemical workers and the inspectors. We were able to keep up with their very ambitious work schedule while always providing the utmost in personal safety for the inspectors, their escorts, the guards and our toxic chemical workers."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cwwg.org/BGCA%20-%20treaty%20release%20-%20Mar%202010.doc.pdf>

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