

5 May 2010

## Chem-Bio News

**1. US HAS MORE THAN 5,000 NUCLEAR WARHEADS:** *"The United States has become the first country to disclose an up-to-date figure for the number of weapons in its nuclear arsenal."*

**2. DELHI CAN EXHALE, ALL COBALT 60 FOUND, MOVED TO SAFETY:** *"The Department of Atomic Energy has confirmed that all the missing Cobalt 60 from Delhi University (DU) has been recovered. Sixteen pencils containing the radioactive material have been located and have been safely moved to the Narora Atomic Power Station."*

**3. IRAN'S ADVANCES IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY SPARK NEW CONCERNS ABOUT WEAPONS:** *"U.N. nuclear monitors have not been allowed to examine the new centrifuge, which Iranian officials briefly put on display at a news conference last month. But an expert group's analysis of the machine -- based on photos -- suggests that it could be up to five times as productive as the balky centrifuges Iran currently uses to enrich uranium."*

**4. NNSA SITES TO DISCUSS WAYS TO REDUCE GLOBAL DANGER OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AT LDRD SYMPOSIUM JUNE 9:** *"The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today announced that the 2010 NNSA Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) Symposium will be held June 9 at the University of California Washington Center, 1608 Rhode Island Ave NW in Washington, D.C."*

## CB Daily Report

## Chem-Bio News

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### US HAS MORE THAN 5,000 NUCLEAR WARHEADS

By Alex Spillius

The Telegraph (UK)

May 04, 2010

"The United States has become the first country to disclose an up-to-date figure for the number of weapons in its nuclear arsenal."

"It has done so to encourage more openness from other nuclear states and to further President Barack Obama's goal of global disarmament."

The Pentagon said 5,113 warheads were either operationally deployed, kept in active reserve or held in inactive storage. On a fact sheet detailing numbers that had been classified for decades, it said that the arsenal has been reduced by 84 per cent from its maximum level of 31,225 warheads at the end of 1967.

The total disclosed by the Pentagon did not include the number of warheads that have been retired and scheduled for complete dismantlement, an estimated 4,600 according to the

Federation of American Scientists.

The Pentagon did not detail the size of the remaining warheads. But according to previous analysis many weapons in the arsenal are far more powerful than the 15 kilotons of TNT used at Hiroshima and the 22 kiloton bomb dropped on Nagasaki.

The only country to use nuclear weapons, the US has developed warheads up to 25 megatons, which would be thousands of times more powerful than either bomb used on Japan at the end of the Second World War. Most are in the 5 to 400 kiloton range.

The US government had only made partial announcements about its arsenal before, revealing it had 1,968 operational warheads at the end of last year. In 1993 it disclosed the numbers only up to 1961."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/7674962/US-has-more-than-5000-nuclear-warheads.html>

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## **DELHI CAN EXHALE, ALL COBALT 60 FOUND, MOVED TO SAFETY**

By Pallava Bagla

NDTV.com

May 05, 2010

"The Department of Atomic Energy has confirmed that all the missing Cobalt 60 from Delhi University (DU) has been recovered. Sixteen pencils containing the radioactive material have been located and have been safely moved to the Narora Atomic Power Station."

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"Scrap dealers had bought a Gamma Irradiator machine from Delhi University's Chemistry department, which decided to auction the machine because it had not been used for 40 years. The machine contained Cobalt 60 pencils. When the scrap dealers broke open the machine's lead cover, they were exposed to radiation. (Read: What is Gamma Irradiator?)

The crisis has been one of India's worst ever radiation leaks, and Delhi University faces severe punishment for violating basic safety rules in the disposal of radioactive material.

Because many pencils from the machine were missing till this morning, the fear was that Delhi was still vulnerable. Of the 16 pencils recovered, five were found in Mayapuri, some of them in small pieces. The others were located outside Delhi."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.ndtv.com/news/india/delhi-can-exhale-all-cobalt-60-found-moved-to-safety-23265.php?u=1245>

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## IRAN'S ADVANCES IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY SPARK NEW CONCERNS ABOUT WEAPONS

By Joby Warrick

The Washington Post

May 2, 2010

"Iran is poised to make a significant leap in its ability to enrich uranium, with more sophisticated centrifuge technology that is being assembled in secret to advance the country's nuclear efforts, according to U.S. and European intelligence officials and diplomats."

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"U.N. nuclear monitors have not been allowed to examine the new centrifuge, which Iranian officials briefly put on display at a news conference last month. But an expert group's analysis of the machine -- based on photos -- suggests that it could be up to five times as productive as the balky centrifuges Iran currently uses to enrich uranium."

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"Iran's progress on a new centrifuge coincides with a marked decline in activity at its two known uranium-enrichment plants, sources said, spurring speculation that it plans to use the machine at a still-unknown facility.

One of the known plants, a small, heavily fortified facility built in a mountain tunnel near the city of Qom, has been all but idle in recent months. Construction has slowed to a near halt in the weeks since the facility was publicly revealed in September, according to two Europe-based diplomats privy to intelligence reports about the site.

"They seem to have lost interest in Qom since its discovery," said the diplomat, who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence about Iran's nuclear program. "It makes us wonder if they're thinking about a new site."

A second diplomat confirmed that inspectors had seen a sharp drop-off in activity at Qom, prompting questions about the whereabouts of scores of highly trained scientists and workers seen there during visits six months ago. "They do not have enough trained people to work in multiple places," the official said."

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"The IR1 centrifuge used at Natanz is based on a 1950s Dutch design that Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan stole and sold to the Iranians. The machine is prone to crashing, and it was quickly abandoned by other countries that used it.

The new machine displayed by Iran leaps ahead by at least two generations, according to diplomatic sources and nuclear experts. One diplomat said the machine on display was "probably an IR5," adding that the U.N. officials do not know how Iran developed the

centrifuge or who might have provided assistance.

"We don't know where these are supposed to be going," the official said.

An analysis by the nonprofit Institute for Science and International Security concluded that the new machine is made of rare, hard-to-make metals such as carbon fiber and has been substantially redesigned to increase efficiency. Although Iran has offered no test data, the machine appears "theoretically capable" of producing enriched uranium at a rate five times as fast as the IR1, the Washington-based nuclear research group said."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/01/AR2010050101689.html?hpid=moreheadlines>

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## **NNSA SITES TO DISCUSS WAYS TO REDUCE GLOBAL DANGER OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AT LDRD SYMPOSIUM JUNE 9**

US National Nuclear Security Administration

April 29, 2010

"The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today announced that the 2010 NNSA Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) Symposium will be held June 9 at the University of California Washington Center, 1608 Rhode Island Ave NW in Washington, D. C."

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"This all-day event will explore LDRD investments that NNSA national laboratories and sites are making to protect our nation from weapons of mass destruction. The symposium will include presentations from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, the Nevada Test Site, and the NNSA production sites.

"The LDRD program is critical to keeping NNSA and its national laboratories and sites in the frontlines of science and technology and to recruiting and retaining the next generation of nuclear security professionals," said NNSA Administrator Thomas P. D'Agostino. "This year's LDRD symposium will once again bring together NNSA's researchers to discuss important issues that impact our national security missions."

The LDRD program promotes highly innovative and exploratory research to respond to present national security mission needs and anticipate future ones. The program funds projects that pursue technological solutions to the most urgent challenges facing our nation or that promote science and engineering foundations that will lead to new research and development.

The LDRD program constitutes one of the principal means to seed innovative science and

new research directions. Based on ideas that come from current research challenges or bold original concepts that anticipate the nation's future needs, LDRD projects make it possible for the NNSA top scientists and engineers to pursue leading-edge R&D that keeps NNSA's sites at the forefront of science and technology in its mission areas.

Symposium topics will include nuclear counterterrorism, arms control and treaty monitoring, and countering biological and chemical threats.

Scheduled keynote presenters include: Steven Koonin, Under Secretary for Science, U.S. Department of Energy; Tara O'Toole, Under Secretary for Science and Technology, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Ellen Tauscher, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, U.S. Department of State; and John Phillips, Chief Scientist, U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

A panel of officials from NNSA and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency will discuss current and future technical R&D challenges facing our nation's security against weapons of mass destruction.

For more information on the symposium and to register for the event, visit the LDRD website at: <http://tri-lab.lanl.gov>. A registration fee of \$30 is required for this event and includes morning and afternoon refreshments and a program booklet. For more information about this year's symposium call (505) 667-1235 or email [ldrd@lanl.gov](mailto:ldrd@lanl.gov)."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nnsa.energy.gov/mediaroom/pressreleases/ldrd2010>

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