



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



07 September – 19 September 2011

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GENERAL ARMS CONTROL

Homeland Security Hosts UN Nonproliferation Panel

Global Security Newswire, 16 September 2011, gsn.nti.org

The U.S. Homeland Security Department on Thursday offered briefings for members of a panel established to oversee nations' implementation of a UN Security Council resolution aimed at curbing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. (245 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

CMA Progress at a Glance

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, September 2011, www.cma.army.mil

CMA news as of August 21, 2011. (673 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Disposal Operations to Restart at TOCDF: Parallel Processing Needed to Meet Treaty Deadline

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, September 2011, www.cma.army.mil

As it turns out, disposal operations at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) are not yet finished. (841 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

U.S. Supports International Conference on Chemical Safety and Security

U.S. Department of State, 08 September 2011, www.state.gov

Ambassador Robert Mikulak, the U.S. Representative to the OPCW (Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) will lead the U.S. delegation at the "Conference on International Cooperation and Chemical Safety and Security" in The Hague on September 12 and 13. (245 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

ANCA Makes Last Delivery to ANCDF

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 08 September 2011, www.cma.army.mil

Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) employees achieved their most significant milestone today. They delivered the last chemical agent-filled artillery shells in ANCA storage igloos to the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF). (433 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) (CONT.)

UMCDF Reaches 90 Percent in HD Mustard Disposal Campaign

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 14 September 2011, www.cma.army.mil

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) reached the 90 percent disposal point today in its last campaign when the incineration facility destroyed the 2,371th ton container.

(515 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Depot's Projectile X-Ray Mission Complete: No Major Problems Detected

The Richmond Register, 14 September 2011, richmondregister.com

Preliminary findings of a munitions X-ray mission at the Blue Grass Army Depot show no signs of significant damage, but the final report will not be released until December. (433 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

On-site Containers to be Recycled to Reduce Waste

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 15 September 2011, www.cma.army.mil

After 15 years of safely transporting munitions to the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) for destruction, the facility's on-site containers (ONCs) will soon meet their own fate as they are prepared to be recycled as scrap metal. (433 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Deseret Workers Begin Final Secondary Waste Campaign: More than 700,000 Pounds of Legacy Waste to be Treated

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 15 September 2011, www.cma.army.mil

Secondary waste operations in Deseret Chemical Depot's (DCD) Area 10 have recently switched gears as workers began processing 2,999 drums, or more than 700,000 pounds of "legacy" waste generated from DCD storage area and Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) operations. (353 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Value of the CTBT for the United States and for the World

U.S. Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna, 09 September 2011, vienna.usmission.gov

Entry into force of the CTBT is an essential step toward the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons, the vision President Obama articulated when he spoke in Prague in April 2009. (1,563 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT) (CONT.)

Ratify the Comprehensive [Nuclear] Test-Ban Treaty [OPINION]

Los Angeles Times, 14 September 2011, latimes.com

It's been signed and ratified by 154 member countries; the United States is one of just nine key nations that hasn't ratified it. The Senate can change that – and should do so now. (774 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

FISSILE MATERIALS

Conference on Disarmament Adopts Annual Report and Concludes 2011 Session

United Nations, 15 September 2011, www.un.org

The Conference on Disarmament this morning adopted its annual report to the General Assembly and concluded its 2011 session. (334 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

Remarks at the 2011 IAEA General Conference [EXCERPT]

U.S. Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna, 19 September 2011, vienna.usmission.gov

Nuclear energy lies at the intersection of two of our most pressing issues: the energy and climate challenge and the threat of nuclear proliferation and terrorism. (1,048 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (NEW START)

Flawed Air Force ICBM Count Shows Need for Better Books: GAO

Bloomberg, 15 September 2011, sfgate.com

The U.S. Air Force's property accounting system overstates by 105 the number of assembled nuclear missiles in service, according to congressional investigators and Air Force documents.

(379 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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OPEN SKIES TREATY

Norway, Sweden Make Joint Intelligence Flight over Russia

BarentsObserver, 13 September 2011, www.barentsobserver.com

Norway and Sweden have embarked on a joint inspection flight over Russia as part of the Open Skies Treaty [and] U.S. air inspectors conducted aerial observation flights over Russia in late August ... (248 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

FULL TEXT OF BI-WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:

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The U.S. Homeland Security Department on Thursday offered briefings for members of a panel established to oversee nations' implementation of a UN Security Council resolution aimed at curbing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Members of the "1540 Committee" met with Homeland Security officials at the National Targeting Center-Passenger, an operation established after the September 11, 2001, attacks to provide "tactical targeting information" to help catch terrorists and criminals, along with weapons of mass destruction and other illicit materials, according to a DHS press release. The visiting panelists also received briefings on counterproliferation operations at several Homeland Security Department branches, including the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office and Customs and Border Protection.

"Enforcing effective measures against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials is an essential part of our broader efforts to keep all of us safe and secure," Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said in the release. "We must continue to work closely with our international partners – including the United Nations – to combat the proliferation of WMD."

The Security Council adopted Resolution 1540 in 2004, calling on all UN states to establish and carry out measures for preventing the proliferation of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, their modes of delivery and associated materials. The 1540 panel members and accompanying specialists met this week in Washington with officials from various federal departments, including State, Defense, Justice and Health and Human Services. This was the committee's first such data-gathering trip to any country.

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CMA Progress at a Glance

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, September 2011, www.cma.army.mil

CMA news as of August 21, 2011:

Anniston Chemical Activity, Alabama: Anniston Army Depot has less than 1,000 chemical agent-filled munitions in storage. Following more than 8 years of safe operations to destroy 7 percent of the nation's cache of chemical agent-filled munitions, the depot is 99.9 percent complete. The last mustard-filled munitions, expected to be 33-pound 105 mm projectiles, are scheduled to be destroyed this month. Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) and Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) employees, made up of military, civilian and contractor personnel, have begun the next phase in the Anniston mission. ANCA employees are sampling storage igloos to make sure they are not contaminated. Simultaneously, contractors at the ANCDF are preparing to thoroughly decontaminate the destruction facility prior to closure.

Blue Grass Chemical Activity, Kentucky: Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) began conducting tests and collecting data to determine if installing the Igloo Filtration System (IFS) will contribute to safe storage. Testing the IFS as a consideration for BGCA igloos is part of the commitment to provide optimum storage conditions for the munitions and safe working conditions for BGCA personnel, as well as maximum protection to the public and the environment. Results from the data collection will be analyzed and released sometime in November. BGCA is now available to view and "like" on Facebook.

Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah: Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's (TOCDF) closure plan is now open for public comment, after the Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste drafted its final modifications. Because the original TOCDF closure plan was developed in the mid-1990s, it has undergone extensive revisions to incorporate programmatic closure concepts. These concepts are the compilation of lessons learned while closing other chemical demilitarization facilities, including Johnston Island and those in Maryland, Indiana and Arkansas. Programmatic closure concepts provide a sequence for closure-related activities, maximizing efficiency and reducing time and costs, while maintaining the safety of the workers.

Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas: Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility continues safe and environmentally compliant closure activities. In July, the Systems Contractor (SC) workforce reached two key safety milestones. The SC surpassed 1 million man-hours worked without any recordable Injuries and surpassed the 5 million man-hours worked consecutively without any lost workday away cases. Additionally, the Southwest Research Institute laboratory subcontractor reached the safety milestone of working one year without incurring any first aid. These safety achievements were accomplished while performing closure and demolition activities.

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Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado: Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) stores mustard-filled munitions: 105 mm projectiles and cartridges, 155 mm projectiles and 4.2-inch mortar cartridges. A Media Day is scheduled for September 22. Local and regional media will be invited to tour the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) and also tour a chemical storage igloo. Media Day will also include a “question and answer” working lunch with PCAPP and PCD leadership.

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Oregon: Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) successfully completed its “Overfilled Ton Container (TC)” campaign, utilizing a splash shield system, designed and fabricated by project personnel to minimize agent spillage in the Bulk Drain Station (BDS) room, to successfully process nine overfilled TCs. Creation of the splash guard and metal skirt was initiated nearly a year ago after the punch and drain method used on an overfilled TC resulted in a shower of agent that forced extensive decontamination and cleaning in the BDS. On August 10, Run 1 of four planned Rinsate Emissions Demonstration Tests (EDT) began, after utilizing 220 hours of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality-approved 350 hour maximum to “shakedown” its new rinsate system. The final EDT, Run 4, was conducted on August 18. The tests were performed at full feed rates and designed to quantify what is coming out of the LIC 2 stack. Off-site data analysis will compare emissions from processing rinsate to emissions from processing HD agent and will be used to update/confirm the current Human Health Risk Assessment. Umatilla’s final campaign, mustard agent disposal, is 84 percent complete and is expected to end in November.

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Disposal Operations to Restart at TOCDF: Parallel Processing Needed to Meet Treaty Deadline

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, September 2011, www.cma.army.mil

As it turns out, disposal operations at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) are not yet finished. It was originally planned that the remainder of Desert Chemical Depot's (DCD) stockpile would be destroyed at two new facilities: the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator would dispose of the small number of ton containers filled with GA nerve and Lewisite blister agents, and the Detonation of Ammunition in a Vacuum Integrated Chamber (DAVINCH) would take care of the remaining 300-plus mustard-filled 4.2-inch mortars and 155 mm projectiles.

However, as the international treaty deadline of April 29, 2012, draws nearer, the DAVINCH has suffered unexpected delays – from contractual issues to installation – and fallen significantly behind its initial schedule. To regain schedule and meet the treaty deadline, the plan now is to utilize both the TOCDF and the DAVINCH to destroy the remaining 4.2-inch mortars and 155 mm projectiles.

“Parallel processing has always been our backup plan,” said TOCDF Site Project Manager Ted Ryba, “but as the DAVINCH schedule continues to lose ground, the need to re-use the plant is a necessity. It is also utilizing a familiar process in order to meet our international obligations.”

The remaining 4.2-inch mortars and 155 mm projectiles are safely stored in overpack containers within the Area 10 storage igloos. Most of the 4.2-inch mortars were overpacked during agent sampling operations conducted by DCD personnel. However, the majority of 155 mm projectiles are overpacked because they have either leaked in the past or are so badly deteriorated that they could not be destroyed using TOCDF's normal disposal process.

In 2008, TOCDF workers attempted to process the problematic 155 mm projectiles, but manually removing the explosive components, known as bursters, proved to be difficult – if not impossible – with the knowledge and resources available at the time. Many of the 155 mm projectiles had solidified mustard agent fill, binding the burster and burster well in place. With the burster still in the munition, it can't be sent through the plant's Metal Parts Furnace (MPF).

Rod Chaney, TOCDF closure project manager, who is helping oversee the restart of plant operations, said modifications include a fine-tuned disposal process and reconfigured or new equipment such as a high-powered water spray to break down solidified agent and a remotely operated “pull-shoe” packed with 500 pounds of force to pull out the munition's explosive components. The work will be done inside the TOCDF's Explosive Containment Rooms (ECRs), which have fortified 28-inch thick steel reinforced concrete walls.

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“Even with a full day’s worth of work in the ECR – an estimated 10 munitions – we will be operating well below the room’s explosive storage limit,” said Chaney. “And we will not have any personnel in the room while the hazardous operations are done – all of that will be done remotely.” TOCDF’s two ECRs will each be outfitted with two cutters. The current plan is to only operate one ECR at a time; that may change if both ECRs can be operated efficiently.

The projectile/mortar disposal campaign will be carried out by dedicated teams to optimize efficiency. The first team (all workers will be dressed in personal protective equipment) will transport the overpacked munitions into the ECR and unpack them. The second team will stage the munitions for cutting and leave the ECR while the cuts are completed. A rotary cutter – the same type utilized for past agent campaigns at the TOCDF – will be used and performed remotely from the plant’s control room.

Once the needed cuts are completed (4.2-inch mortars will be cut once; 155 mm projectiles will be cut twice), workers will then re-enter the room and attempt to manually remove the burster well assembly. If the assembly cannot be easily removed, workers will position the pull-shoe and again leave the ECR while control room operators remotely attempt to remove the burster. If the burster assembly is still stuck, workers reposition the munition so that the remotely operated high-pressure spray can wash out the solidified agent and free the burster. Once separated, the agent-filled munition casing will be processed through the MPF; the explosive burster components will be destroyed in TOCDF’s Deactivation Furnace System.

The third, and final, team of workers then enters the ECR and cleans up the overpacks and waste in preparation for the next round of munitions.

“We plan to focus TOCDF plant operations on the safest and easiest items to handle – the 4.2-inch mortars – and focus the DAVINCH’s path forward on the more difficult items such as leakers in double overpacks,” said TOCDF General Manager Gary McCloskey. “It’s a dual-processing plan that gives us balance and places all of us in our best position for success.”

Meanwhile, DAVINCH construction activities are complete and systemization has started. Systemization is a stringent process that first tests individual components of the detonation chamber, including support equipment, then tests each system, and ultimately the entire facility and process. This process helps ensure a safe and efficient disposal process.

TOCDF plant operations are estimated to restart in late October; the DAVINCH is anticipated to start up in late November.

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The U.S. delegation will include Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins, the Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs, experts from the Department of State's Chemical Security Engagement Program (CSP), and other U.S. government and chemical industry representatives. The Department of State is providing financial support for the conference, including funding to allow selected international participants to attend.

Upwards of 200 international participants are expected to attend the conference, organized by the OPCW to commemorate the International Year of Chemistry. The conference will seek to enhance support for the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention by focusing on the essential role that it plays in ensuring that chemistry is used exclusively for the good of humankind; this includes the areas of chemical safety, security and international cooperation. Strengthening safety and security at chemical plant sites and in transportation is essential in preventing the misuse and/or unintended release of toxic chemicals.

To broaden its reach to audiences around the world, the conference will be featuring the first-ever live webcast of an OPCW event. The live webcast will cover the opening session in The Hague's famous Peace Palace, featuring the Nobel Laureate for Chemistry Paul Crutzen, Nancy Jackson, the President of the American Chemical Society, and prominent speakers from academia and industry.

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Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) employees achieved their most significant milestone today. They delivered the last chemical agent-filled artillery shells in ANCA storage igloos to the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF). Lt.Col. Willie J. Flucker, Anniston Chemical Activity commander, said, “for the first time in 48 years, neither Anniston Chemical Activity nor Anniston Army Depot employees are storing nerve agent or mustard agent munitions. That’s huge news. As we draw closer to the safe destruction of the last chemical munitions on Anniston Army Depot, it is appropriate to reflect [...] on the many milestones and accomplishments achieved not only by our ANCA employees but also our teammates on and off Anniston Army Depot.”

Working relationships were forged between the chemical munitions handlers and other Depot employees as well as with the first responders throughout the surrounding communities. Mock disaster drills tested the procedures that were developed and the people who were trained in case there was an accident or an incident involving the chemical munitions. “Because we all worked hard together, and we all trained well together, ANCA employees and our partners on and off the Depot can take great pride in a most significant accomplishment. We have safely completed the storage phase of our dual chemical munitions mission,” said Flucker. “Now the Anniston Team is close to completing our next key mission as well. That is the safe destruction of our last chemical munition in the ANCDF.”

Chemical munitions have been stored at Anniston Army Depot since 1963. Anniston Chemical Activity commanders and employees assumed the responsibility of safely storing the munitions in 1995. Flucker is the ninth and final ANCA commander. “When I took command 14 months ago,” recalled Flucker, “we still had 133,307 mustard-filled artillery shells, mortars, and bulk ton containers. Now, through the hard work and perseverance of our ANCA Team, our igloos are empty and we can begin to concentrate on what’s next.”

ANCA’s next mission is to conduct cleanup and closure activities in preparation for the eventual inactivation of the organization. ANCA employees are now surveying and testing the storage igloos that were used since 1963 to safely store the munitions. The igloos will be cleaned and tested for any measurable, residual chemical agent before they are returned to the Depot for possible reuse. Closure activities are expected to take 18-24 months. During closure, ANCA will continue to provide protective clothing to the Depot and the ANCDF. ANCA employees will also be preparing their munitions handling equipment for turn in and possible reissue to the remaining two chemical munitions storage sites in Colorado and Kentucky.

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UMCDF Reaches 90 Percent in HD Mustard Disposal Campaign

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 14 September 2011, www.cma.army.mil

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) reached the 90 percent disposal point today in its last campaign when the incineration facility destroyed the 2,371st ton container.

Officials are projecting completion of this final campaign in November of this year, a little more than seven years after the first chemical munition was destroyed on September 8, 2004. For the past 21 days, the plant averaged disposal of 5.6 ton containers per day. The UMCDF has destroyed 2,371 ton containers with 264 remaining.

“As we move closer to eliminating the Umatilla stockpile safely and compliantly, we are continuing to plan our closure activities,” said Gary Anderson, UMCDF Army Site Project Manager. “Continuity of our safety culture from operations to closure is of paramount importance and critical to our continued success.” Steve Warren, project general manager for URS, which built and operates the incineration plant, added, “Safety and environmental compliance drive our operations.”

“Reaching the 90 percent mark in the disposal campaign is a significant milestone. We have made great strides in ensuring safety and environmental compliance, both in transporting the munitions from the depot to the plant and in the disposal process,” said Lt. Col. Kris Perkins, UMCD commander.

Disposal of HD mustard containers is the 13th individual chemical munitions disposal campaign for the depot and disposal plant. The project successfully destroyed six types of GB or sarin-filled munitions and six types of VX-filled munitions. A total of 217,969 GB and VX munitions have been destroyed. Both GB and VX are nerve agents, and most of those munitions contained explosive components. Mustard is a blister agent.

The United States and other nations are destroying chemical weapons stockpiles in compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) international treaty, with a deadline of April 29, 2012.

The following 12 chemical munitions disposal campaigns were safely completed before the start of the mustard campaign:

- 4 GB (sarin-filled) bulk containers or “ton containers” completed Jan. 5, 2006. This was a Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) mission.
- 27 GB 500-pound bombs completed May 18, 2006.

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- 2,418 GB 750-pound bombs completed June 9, 2006.
- 91,442 GB rockets and warheads completed Aug. 9, 2006.
- 14,246 GB 8-inch diameter artillery projectiles completed Jan. 3, 2007.
- 47,406 GB 155mm diameter artillery projectiles completed July 8, 2007.
- 1 VX bulk container or “ton container” completed Nov. 26, 2007. This was a NSCMP mission.
- 156 VX aircraft-mounted spray tanks completed Dec. 24, 2007.
- 14,519 VX rockets and warheads completed Jan. 23, 2008.
- 32,313 VX 155mm projectiles completed June 27, 2008.
- 3,752 VX 8-inch projectiles completed Aug. 6, 2008.
- 11,685 VX land mines completed Nov. 5, 2008.

Some of the disposal campaigns ran simultaneously, since the plant has multiple processing lines and is capable of safely disposing of different types of munitions at the same time.

When the Umatilla chemical munitions destruction mission is complete, toxic areas in the disposal plant will be thoroughly cleaned and disassembled according to environmental permits. The depot opened in 1941 and chemical munitions have been stored here since the 1960s.

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Depot's Projectile X-Ray Mission Complete: No Major Problems Detected

The Richmond Register, 14 September 2011, richmondregister.com

Preliminary findings of a munitions X-ray mission at the Blue Grass Army Depot show no signs of significant damage, but the final report will not be released until December. This announcement was made during Tuesday's regular meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Commission/Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) in Richmond.

A mission to X-ray random samples of the 15,400 mustard-agent projectiles at the depot began May 25 and now is complete. The X-rays were conducted to determine if the components of the projectiles had fused or if their liquids had solidified, as was the case with similar rounds stored in Colorado. Problematic rounds could get stuck in the automated destruction plant, requiring personnel to retrieve them in a dangerous procedure, the CDCAB had been told in previous sessions.

Nearly 100 rounds were selected for testing, 32 of each of the three storage igloos that house mustard rounds. Statistically, that number of samples gives a 95-percent confidence rate, according to David Velazquez, civilian director of chemical activities at the depot. The formal and final analysis of the X-ray assessment will be completed by the end of October and reported at the next CDCAB meeting in December.

Rusty Fendick, system operations team member for the U.S. Army Chemical Material Activity (ACWA), gave an update about the recent tests to determine the damage to the aging chemical weapon projectiles. "All projectiles had heel material on a side wall from possibly being stored in a horizontal position," Fendick said. "The X-rays indicated that most of the 96 non-leaking projectiles had significant heel formation."

"Heel" material is a build-up of mustard agent, which does not make the weapon more dangerous, but calls for more human interaction during disassembly. This would make the demilitarization process more dangerous, according to Susan Kahler, a representative from the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office in Richmond.

One way to avoid this human interaction and increase safety is referred to as Explosive Destruction Technology, which is being considered for use at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant. The disposal for the majority of the weapons stored at the depot will be neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation, where the caustic waste from neutralization is broken down further. Explosive Destruction Technology uses charges of heat to destroy chemical weapons and does not require disassembly of the weapon. According to ACWA, it is not to be confused with incineration.

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A formal recommendation on EDT at the Blue Grass Army Depot needs to be formulated and considered by the CDCAB by March 2012, according to CDCAB co-chair Craig Williams. “It is expected that by the December CDCAB meeting, Anniston, Alabama (Anniston Army Depot) will have completed their mustard 4.2-inch mortars and 105/155 mm projectiles and Tooele, Utah (Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility) will have started their EDT operations,” Williams said. “The Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) has offered to provide data on both operations to assist in our considerations of EDT.”

Members of the CMA have agreed to give a presentation during December’s CDCAB meeting to discuss their experiences with EDT at other chemical weapon storage sites. Jeff Brubaker, site project manager for the pilot plant, recommended the EDT working group meet again prior to December’s CDCAB meeting to work on a “... path forward,” he said.

The Blue Grass Chemical Agent Pilot Plant being built at the depot is more than 40 percent complete with construction now, according Brubaker. “Our new target is to complete construction in the summer of 2015,” Brubaker said. The facility is being built to safely dispose of the chemical-agent-filled weapons stored at the depot.

Nearly 900 employed to construct plant

Thomas McKinney, project manager for Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, updated the audience on the employee and payroll roster for the pilot plant. A total of 888 people are employed to help construct the BGCAPP. Of those, 741 are local hires and 147 are from Washington, Ohio, California and Maryland.

Almost \$75 million has been spent with Kentucky companies and \$44.6 million spent in Madison and surrounding counties. The payroll for those working on the BGCAPP is \$201 million, and \$426 million is to be paid by project completion.

The next meeting of the CDCAB is scheduled for December 13.

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On-site Containers to be Recycled to Reduce Waste

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 15 September 2011, www.cma.army.mil

After 15 years of safely transporting munitions to the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) for destruction, the facility's on-site containers (ONCs) will soon meet their own fate as they are prepared to be recycled as scrap metal. "It would be expensive to landfill the ONCs," said Matt Tomac, Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) environmental protection specialist and recycling program manager. "It would cost approximately \$14,400 – and that is a low estimate – for each ONC to be buried in the ground."

Although five ONCs will stay on site to transport the remaining 300-plus overpacked mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars and 155mm projectiles to the TOCDF for disposal, 40 ONCs will be recycled. Because the ONCs are considered as secondary containment, the facility's operating permit requires that they be triple rinsed to ensure they are clean before they leave the TOCDF. Workers first removed the interior munitions tray, which was tented for 24 hours at 70 degrees, then monitored to confirm there was no chemical agent contamination. The ONCs were then prepared for the rinse process.

"A large sheet of plastic was placed on the floor and the ONC was tilted so the water would run out," explained Jeff Loughton, TOCDF's operations munition coordinator. "There wasn't a lot of water needed. It's not like a car wash; we were pretty particular about how we sprayed it down and how much water was used."

For each ONC, the initial rinse was performed with clean catch pans to capture and sample the resulting rinse water for analysis. Laboratory workers analyzed each sample, monitoring for all three agents that have been processed through the TOCDF – GB, VX and mustard. The lab results verified that the initial rinse water's contamination levels were below permitted levels. Workers then completed a second and third rinse for each ONC to complete the triple rinse process. Although each ONC weighs almost two tons with walls nearly a foot thick, they are not solid steel. Rather, they have six layers of steel – the first three are separated by ceramic heat tile and three additional layers are divided by polyurethane foam as insulation. There is also stainless steel within these six layers.

"We estimate about \$6,500 in return from recycling each ONC," said Tomac, "and diverting over 700,000 pounds of waste from a landfill." The ONCs have been transported from the TOCDF property to a gravel-covered lot within DCD's boundaries. They will remain there until a recycling contract is in place, which is expected to happen by the end of this month. After the disposal operations are complete, the five remaining ONCs will also be recycled.

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Deseret Workers Begin Final Secondary Waste Campaign: More than 700,000 Pounds of Legacy Waste to be Treated

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 15 September 2011, www.cma.army.mil

Secondary waste operations in Deseret Chemical Depot's (DCD) Area 10 have recently switched gears as workers began processing 2,999 drums, or more than 700,000 pounds of "legacy" waste generated from DCD storage area and Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) operations.

In preparation of the legacy waste operations, a project was initiated in July 2010 to upgrade the Area 10 secondary waste facility. "The principal part of this project was the mustard monitoring installation. This work represented not only the most important part of the project, but also the bulk of the work," said Steve Baily, URS Project Manager.

With new mustard monitoring buildings and equipment in place, workers can now monitor for all three agents involved in the collection of legacy wastes – GB, VX and mustard. Before beginning the DCD and CAMDS waste operations, workers were focused on waste generated from the GB and VX nerve agent disposal operations at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) and did not require mustard agent monitoring.

In order to sufficiently characterize the containers, workers will need to sort through a greater percentage of the legacy waste. Thus, a Life Support System (clean air supply) and an expanded Spent Decontamination System are also being installed. Both systems are required to support extended entries into the Drum Ventilation System Sorting Room – a ventilated area where workers in OSHA Level A protective gear can safely open the containers to identify and sort the contents.

As workers sort and monitor the waste, they will verify the level of agent contamination, which will determine how the waste will be processed. If monitoring results are below permitted levels, the waste may be shipped off site to a permitted hazardous waste landfill. If agent readings are at or above the permitted levels, the waste drum will be thermally treated in the facility's autoclave system before being shipped off site.

More than 1,300,000 pounds of GB and VX secondary waste from TOCDF operations have already been processed through the secondary waste facility in DCD's Area 10. Workers expect to wrap up the legacy waste operations by late 2012 – well ahead of schedule.

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Value of the CTBT for the United States and for the World

*U.S. Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna, 09 September 2011, vienna.usmission.gov
Remarks by Ambassador Glyn Davies, Permanent U.S. Representative to International Organizations in Vienna, to Participants in the CTBTO Introductory Course (as prepared)*

U.S. Views on the CTBT and its Value

[...]I'd like to say a few words about U.S. views on the CTBT and the effort to promote its universality. Entry into force of the CTBT is an essential step toward the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons, the vision President Obama articulated when he spoke in Prague in April 2009. While the United States abides by the core prohibition of the CTBT through our nuclear testing moratorium, which we voluntarily undertook in 1992, the principal benefit of the treaty – that of constraining all states from testing – still eludes us.

Something that wasn't readily apparent to me when I began my current posting was the extent of the interplay between nonproliferation on the one hand, and arms control and disarmament on the other. The CTBT – which has been signed by 182 states and ratified by 154 – plays a key role in the global nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament regime. The foundation of that regime is the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). The CTBT directly underpins the NPT by inhibiting the development of new nuclear weapons and the refinement of existing ones. The CTBT also contributes to strategic stability by attenuating the inclination of states to react to others' tests with tests of their own. But the CTBT can only fully play that role, and the CTBTO can only dispose of all the tools prescribed by the treaty, including on-site inspections, when the treaty enters into force.

The On-Site Inspection regime (OSI) creates a powerful deterrent against nuclear testing by would-be proliferators because it provides a mechanism by which the international community can definitively establish the provenance of ambiguous events. OSI has been described as the most intrusive verification measure prescribed in any treaty. We would argue that is appropriate given that the issue at hand is detecting clandestine nuclear explosions. I'd like to stress the importance the United States attaches to developing the OSI regime, which has historically lagged behind development of the International Monitoring System (IMS), the other key pillar of the CTBT's verification regime.

While we would like to see OSI draw even with the IMS. The good news is that there has been significant progress in the past decade building the IMS – 86 percent of the IMS stations have been built, and 80 percent certified. The expansion of the IMS network, together with significant advances in the main technologies that undergird the verification regime, mean that the CTBTO can reliably detect even relatively small nuclear explosions. That capability was graphically demonstrated in 2006 and 2009 with the DPRK's nuclear tests, both of which the IMS detected.

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A less obvious, but equally important benefit of the CTBT is that it provides a ready mechanism for verifying regional nuclear weapons-free zones such as those in Africa, Central Asia, Latin America, Southeast Asia and the South Pacific. The CTBT also serves as an important confidence building measure, contributing to regional peace and security by limiting the extent to which nuclear testing can be used as a political lever in regional conflicts. And with the recent Fukushima nuclear crisis, we saw dramatic proof the CTBTO's International Monitoring System for non-verification related purposes such as tsunami warnings and tracking radioactivity from reactor accidents.

As a demonstration of the value the United States places on the CTBT, we have just concluded with the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) a Memorandum of Understanding for the United States to provide a contribution of up to \$25.5 million to underwrite a project to rebuild a hydroacoustic monitoring station in the southern Indian Ocean. That station, on Crozet Island, will complete the IMS's important hydro acoustic network. The United States also announced two weeks ago a voluntary in-kind contribution of \$8.9 million to support projects that will accelerate development of the CTBT verification regime. Together, U.S. extra-budgetary contributions to the CTBTO this year total \$34.4 million, more than our annual assessed contribution (\$33.5 million). Given the tough budget climate in Washington and other capitals, those contributions are particularly timely and important. They also graphically demonstrate the vital importance the United States attaches to the CTBT, and to completing the verification regime.

Status of the U.S. Ratification Effort

Now I promised you at the outset that I would address the status of the CTBT ratification effort in the United States, so before I close I'd like to say a few words about that. Some of you may be aware that Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Disarmament and Verification Rose Gottemoeller led the U.S. delegation at the CTBTO's Preparatory Commission [PrepCom] meeting in June. I want to reiterate her statement at the PrepCom emphasizing the serious commitment by the United States and the administration of President Obama to seek the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate to ratify the CTBT. Her participation in that meeting – as the most senior U.S. representative to date to a PrepCom – underscored the depth of that commitment. To that end, we have begun a deliberate and methodical process of engaging the U.S. Senate and the American public on the importance of the CTBT.

In anticipation of the ratification debate in the U.S. Senate, the Administration commissioned a number of classified and unclassified reports, including an updated National Intelligence Estimate and an independent National Academy of Sciences report to assess the ability of the

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United States to monitor compliance with the treaty and the ability of the United States to maintain, in the absence of nuclear explosive testing, a safe, secure and effective nuclear arsenal so long as these weapons exist. Those reports and meetings with Senators and their expert staff to respond to questions about the CTBTO and its capabilities will give the U.S. Senate a wealth of information to assist them in making a determination on the merits of ratification of the CTBT.

The key question those reports and briefings will attempt to answer definitively and positively is whether the CTBT could be effectively verified. As many of you are well aware, the U.S. Senate declined to provide its consent to ratification of the CTBT in 1999, in large part because of concerns about whether the treaty could be effectively verified. With the advances in technology and the build out of the IMS that have happened since, we have a much stronger case in that regard today. It is thanks to the hard work of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, the CTBT's States Signatory, and the staff of the PTS that such great progress toward establishing the treaty's verification regime has been made in the last decade. That's the good news.

The other news is that there has been a substantial change of the guard in the U.S. Senate since the treaty was last considered in 1999. One of the challenges proponents of the CTBT face is that the generation of U.S. politicians who came of age during the Cold War, many of whom invested considerable time learning arms control issues, has given way to a new cadre of leaders. For many of them, arms control is relatively unfamiliar territory. So there is a process of engagement and explanation that needs to take place to tee up an informed debate about the merits of the CTBT. That process, like most things worth doing, takes some time.

Our recent experience working with the U.S. Senate to gain ratification of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty – New START – with the Russian Federation has prepared us for what is expected to be an equally thorough and robust debate over the CTBT. We do not expect it will be easy or happen quickly, but we will work hard to make it happen. We have been careful and consistent in noting that we have no specific date in mind for a ratification vote. There is a good reason for that: rushing to a vote before the important process of engagement and explanation has run its course increases the risk of an unfavorable outcome, which is the last thing those of us who support the CTBT want. So we will continue working to engage members of the Senate on the national security rationale behind our support for the CTBT, and will keep a close eye on that dialogue to judge when the time is right to bring the CTBT to the floor of the U.S. Senate for a formal debate.

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Ratify the Comprehensive [Nuclear] Test-Ban Treaty [OPINION]

Los Angeles Times, 14 September 2011, latimes.com

By Hazel R. O'Leary and Daryl G. Kimball

It's been signed and ratified by 154 member countries; the United States is one of just nine key nations that hasn't ratified it. The Senate can change that – and should do so now.

More than 100 government leaders from around the globe will meet this month at the United Nations to discuss the Comprehensive [Nuclear] Test Ban Treaty, an international accord whose goal is to make the world safer by stemming the spread of nuclear weapons.

The treaty has been in limbo for more than a decade. Negotiations on it were concluded at the United Nations General Assembly in 1996, with the treaty calling for the ban of nuclear test explosions for any purpose. It's been signed and ratified by 154 member countries, including Russia, Japan, South Korea and all of America's NATO allies.

The United States is one of just nine key nations that hasn't ratified the treaty. The U.S. Senate can change that – and should do so now. Its ratification and entry into force would immediately bolster the international community's efforts to stop rogue states from developing and potentially proliferating nuclear weapons.

In 1996, President Clinton was the first world leader to sign the treaty. But the Senate in 1999, after only a brief consideration, rejected ratification of the measure and hasn't taken up the issue since.

The treaty is an essential tool for dealing with today's security threats. The age of a superpower nuclear arms race is over. Instead, world leaders must focus on preventing the spread of nuclear weapons to additional states, blocking advances in their nuclear weapons technologies – and not letting nuclear weapons slip into the hands of terrorists.

Countries with nuclear weapons, such as China, India and Pakistan, cannot create advanced nukes without further nuclear test explosions. Without nuclear tests, Iran could not confidently build warheads for delivery by ballistic missiles. By ratifying the treaty, the United States would put pressure on these nations to shelve their nuclear programs and engage more productively with the international community.

To detect and deter nuclear testing, the treaty empowers the United States and the international community with strong inspections authority. The treaty provides for a global network of 337 monitoring stations, many of which are in sensitive locations like Russia and China to which the

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United States doesn't have access. Once in force, the treaty would give inspectors the ability to conduct short-notice, on-site investigations of any suspicious sites. That's an ability the United States does not possess now.

In 1999, opponents of the treaty expressed concern that it would hamper America's ability to maintain a robust nuclear arsenal. Those worries are now moot. Thanks to technological progress over the last decade, nuclear scientists can determine with high confidence that warheads work without detonating them. Indeed, the United States hasn't conducted a nuclear test explosion since 1992.

Research has shown that plutonium, the key ingredient in nuclear weapons, is not affected by aging for 85 years or more. Scientific advances have also allowed America's nuclear scientists to refurbish and modernize existing warheads with "life extension programs." A September 2009 study from the JASON panel, a group of independent scientists, concluded that the "lifetimes of today's nuclear warheads could be extended for decades" without explosive testing.

Nuclear experts have argued forcefully against testing. Earlier this year, the head of the National Nuclear Security Administration, Thomas D'Agostino, said that the United States has "a safe and secure and reliable stockpile" and that "there's no need to conduct underground [nuclear] testing."

Even some of those who opposed ratification of the treaty in 1999 have come out in favor of the agreement. George Shultz, the secretary of State under President Reagan, has said that his fellow Republicans "might have been right voting against [the treaty] some years ago" but they'd "be right voting for it now."

After all, the treaty does not hamstring America's efforts to maintain its nuclear arsenal. President Obama has called for \$85 billion over the next 10 years for our nation's nuclear weapons laboratories – a full 13% increase over the level of spending during President George W. Bush's administration, and more than enough to get the job done.

By ratifying the treaty, the United States would gain the political and moral leverage to end nuclear testing worldwide. And we'd help establish the kind of robust framework needed by the international community to monitor and deter the nuclear activities of the most dangerous countries. Now is the time for the Senate to seriously reconsider and approve the test ban treaty.

Hazel R. O'Leary served as U.S. secretary of Energy from 1993-97; Daryl G. Kimball is executive director of the nonpartisan Arms Control Association.

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Conference on Disarmament Adopts Annual Report and Concludes 2011 Session

United Nations, 15 September 2011, www.un.org

The Conference on Disarmament this morning adopted its annual report to the General Assembly and concluded its 2011 session. During the discussion that followed the adoption of the annual report, speakers expressed their disappointment and frustration with the situation of deadlock the Conference on Disarmament had experienced this year and for the failure of the Conference on Disarmament to implement its own program of work.

One speaker said that the role of the Conference on Disarmament was to punch out legally binding documents and treaties via discussions and negotiations. Furthermore, speakers said that the Conference on Disarmament was a forum for the multilateral negotiation of treaties and not for political debates or confrontation. There was a danger of the Conference on Disarmament becoming a political showcase if their discussion and cooperation were excessively handled under the name of regional or other groups. It was time for all of the Member States and delegates to work together for their collective interests in disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and regain the reputation of the body as a conference for creating multilateral treaties on disarmament.

Some speakers said that the next logical step would be to negotiate a verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty, and that it was their duty to make the best possible use of the human, intellectual and financial resources available. Several speakers appealed to members of the Conference on Disarmament to help the body comply with its mandate and make a substantial contribution to multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation, concluding that the possibility for the Conference on Disarmament to retrieve its role depended on all members.

With regard to the annual report, it was considered by several speakers that it was important that it reflected what had actually happened in the Conference this year and did refer, in a clear and concise manner, to the “situation of impasse”. The report will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly next week by Ambassador Rodolfo Reyes Rodriguez of Cuba, the President of the Conference on Disarmament.

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Remarks at the 2011 IAEA General Conference [EXCERPT]

*U.S. Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna, 19 September 2011, vienna.usmission.gov
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery by U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu at the 2011 IAEA General Conference*

[...] Today, I want to discuss four priorities of President Obama's nuclear agenda: the safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy, strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime, nuclear disarmament and nuclear security.

Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

[...] In June, the IAEA and other member states pledged to re-examine nuclear safety standards, emergency preparedness plans, and incident response capabilities. The United States strongly supports these efforts, and believes the IAEA must play a critical role. The United States also supports the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on nuclear safety to address lessons learned from Fukushima. We must, however, maintain the central role of national regulators and plant operators in achieving safety objectives. [...]

We also encourage discussion through the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation on issues including infrastructure development, financing, and nuclear fuel services. The United States supports expanded and reliable access to fuel supplies, working through the commercial marketplace and public-private partnerships, for peaceful nuclear programs. The IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Fuel Bank, the UK mechanism for assured supply, and the Russian fuel reserve at Angarsk provide important fuel supply assurances.

The United States recently announced the availability of a reserve stockpile of low-enriched uranium for countries pursuing peaceful civilian nuclear programs. The American Assured Fuel Supply, which is now available, comes from down-blending 17.4 metric tons of surplus highly enriched uranium from the U.S. weapons stockpile. This initiative will help promote nuclear energy in a way that is consistent with our nonproliferation and disarmament commitments. [...]

Strengthening Nonproliferation and International Safeguards

Promoting civil nuclear energy must go hand in hand with strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime by making international safeguards more efficient and more effective. But we cannot expect the IAEA to succeed in that mission without adequate resources and the support of its members. That is why the United States is making a voluntary contribution of more than \$85 million above our 2011 budget contribution to enhance technical cooperation, international safeguards, nuclear safety, nuclear security, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

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That is [also] why our Next Generation Safeguards Initiative and the U.S. Support Program are working to modernize IAEA safeguards and to encourage the transition to a robust, information driven system. And that is why we encourage all states to bring into force and fully implement comprehensive safeguards agreements along with an Additional Protocol. Only in this way will the IAEA have the authority needed to meet its verification responsibilities.

We congratulate the eight states that have brought into force an Additional Protocol since last year's General Conference. To maintain the credibility and effectiveness of the nuclear nonproliferation regime, all states must honor their IAEA safeguards obligations. [...] The IAEA Board of Governors has taken strong action by reporting noncompliance by these three states to the UN Security Council. Now, the international community must send a strong message that violations of nuclear nonproliferation obligations will not be tolerated. Failure to address these issues would undermine global and regional stability and the global nonproliferation regime itself.

Nuclear Disarmament

A key part of the nonproliferation regime is our shared commitment to meeting our NPT Article VI commitments. Since we last met, the United States has taken bold steps toward fulfilling our nuclear disarmament obligations. In February, the New START Treaty between the United States and Russia entered into force. Our two nations will reduce the number of deployed warheads to the lowest level since the 1950s – an approximate reduction of 85 percent from the dark days of the Cold War.

The United States is committed to continuing a step-by-step process to reduce the overall number of nuclear weapons, including the pursuit of a future agreement with Russia for broad reductions in all nuclear weapons – strategic, non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed.

The United States and Russia also brought into force a landmark agreement to each dispose of at least 34 metric tons of surplus weapons-grade plutonium. The IAEA has a significant and unique role to play in helping to implement the agreement's verification regime, and we are working closely with the Agency to define and develop that role.

Additionally, the NPT Nuclear Weapon States continue to discuss nuclear disarmament, nonproliferation, transparency, and verification. We continue to make progress toward our shared commitment to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty into force by strengthening its verification regime. The United States is committed to ratifying the CTBT.

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The United States is aggressively pursuing a disarmament agenda. We call on others to faithfully do the same. We can make a start by launching long delayed negotiations on a fissile material cutoff treaty. This treaty is crucial to achieving our shared disarmament and nonproliferation objectives.

Nuclear Security/ Preventing Nuclear Terrorism

Finally, we must continue our work together to prevent nuclear terrorism – one of the most immediate and extreme threats to global security. We are grateful to the many nations who participated in the historic 2010 Nuclear Security Summit, and who are living up to those commitments. Tremendous progress has been made. For example:

- Many states have committed to developing nuclear security “Centers of Excellence” to provide training and capacity building.
- Since the summit, the United States has removed approximately 400 kilograms of highly enriched uranium and plutonium – enough material to make over 15 nuclear weapons – from several countries.
- We’ve also down-blended 700 kilograms of highly enriched uranium from civil nuclear programs to low enriched uranium, making it unsuitable for use in nuclear weapons.
- In cooperation with our partners, we have deployed radiation detection systems to 19 transit sites worldwide, continue to improve security at nuclear facilities, and are working to increase information sharing among police and security services to counter nuclear smuggling.
- In addition, the IAEA has revised and strengthened its Nuclear Security Guidance document on “The Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities.” The United States welcomes this action and looks forward to working with the IAEA and member states to implement the recommendations.

We look forward to building on this collective progress at the follow-up summit next year in the Republic of Korea.

Conclusion

Nuclear energy lies at the intersection of two of our most pressing issues: the energy and climate challenge and the threat of nuclear proliferation and terrorism. We cannot defer action on either of these tough problems. [...]

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Flawed Air Force ICBM Count Shows Need for Better Books: GAO

Bloomberg, 15 September 2011, sfgate.com

The U.S. Air Force's property accounting system overstates by 105 the number of assembled nuclear missiles in service, according to congressional investigators and Air Force documents. The system doesn't distinguish between a complete Minuteman III, a partially assembled intercontinental ballistic missile or a spare stage-one missile motor, said an Air Force "Financial Improvement Plan" evaluated by the Government Accountability Office.

The Air Force system indicates 555 Minuteman IIIs; the actual number is 450. The additional 105 are disassembled one-stage boosters that could be assembled into complete missiles, according Air Force records. The discrepancy doesn't mean a loss of operational control or not knowing the location of armed nuclear weapons, the service's top spokesman, Brigadier General Les Kodlick said.

Still, the Air Force acknowledges the deficiency "must be corrected before military equipment can be ready for audit," GAO said in a report scheduled for release today. The Air Force says it's fixing the system so that it automatically distinguishes and separately notes disassembled missiles, according to GAO.

There are "serious failings of the Department of Defense's current accounting and finance systems," said Senator Tom Carper of Delaware, the Democratic chairman of the Homeland Security Committee financial management panel [...] Carper is convening a hearing today to examine the Pentagon's progress in meeting a congressional mandate to get its books into shape for auditing by 2017 [...].

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, asked yesterday about the report, said 2017 wasn't fast enough ... "we have to have the ability to audit our books." Senate panel member Tom Coburn, a Republican from Oklahoma, said ... he was pleased with Panetta's stance. "These reports highlight the need for an aggressive chief management officer," he said. The GAO since 1995 has flagged the Pentagon's financial management system "because of its inability to ensure accountability," Coburn said.

Air Force spokesman Kodlick ... said service managers are "closely engaged with the GAO and defense officials as we work to fully define the specialized accounting rules that will be applied to various weapons systems. Even though financial accounting rules are under discussion, the Air Force maintains 100 percent operational accountability and control for ICBMs and other vital military equipment. [...] This has been a major area of focus for Air Force leaders for the last several years." [...]

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Norway, Sweden Make Joint Intelligence Flight over Russia

BarentsObserver, 13 September 2011, www.barentsobserver.com

Norway and Sweden have embarked on a joint inspection flight over Russia as part of the Open Skies Treaty. The inspections will take place on September 12-16 from a Swedish Saab 340B aircraft, ITAR-TASS reports.

This is not the first Open Skies inspection over Russia this autumn. According to Voice of Russia, U.S. air inspectors conducted aerial observation flights over Russia in late August, while Italy, Greece and Germany did the same earlier in the month.

Russia has built an aircraft specially equipped for international aerial inspections under the Open Skies Treaty, RIA Novosti reports. This is a Tupolev Tu-214ON aircraft with Russian-made equipment capable of conducting optic-electronic, radiolocation, radio- and radio-technical reconnaissance. The first plane of this kind was showcased for the first time at the MAKS-2011 International Air Show in the Moscow Region in August this year.

The Open Skies Treaty, signed in 1992 at the initiative of U.S. President George Bush Sr., established a regime of unarmed aerial observation flights over the territories of its 34 member states to promote openness and transparency of military forces and activities.

The Open Skies regime covers the territory over which the State Party exercises sovereignty, including land, islands, and internal and territorial waters. The treaty specifies that the entire territory of a State Party is open to observation. Observation flights may only be restricted for reasons of flight safety; not for reasons of national security. Imagery collected from Open Skies missions is available to any State Party upon request.

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