



# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



11 January – 24 January 2012

**DTRA**

## GENERAL ARMS CONTROL

### **U.S., Russian Arms Negotiators Plan Stability Talks**

Reuters News 12 January 2012, <http://www.reuters.com>

By Reuters Analyst David Alexander

U.S. and Russian negotiators will hold talks this year on issues ranging from missile defense to cyber security, hoping to set the stage for a renewed arms control push once elections are over in both countries, the top U.S. arms negotiator said on Thursday. (829 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

### **Biological Weapons Convention Meeting Makes Incremental Changes**

Global Security Newswire, 18 January 2012 <http://www.nti.org>

By Arms Control Today Analysts Daniel Horner and Oliver Meier

The 2011 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Review Conference ended December 22 with participants generally saying they were satisfied with the consensus agreement on a final document but with many expressing some disappointment that the conference failed to adopt significant changes in the treaty regime. (952 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Philippines May Host Bioweapons Conference in 2012**

GMA News, 11 January 2012 <http://www.gmanetwork.com>

A regional Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) [meeting] may be held in the Philippines later this year, to support the Philippines' international cooperative efforts for dealing with biological weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. (283 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

### **Utah Residents Rejoice as TOCDF Finishes Destroying Weapons**

Salt Lake Tribune (UT), 22 January 2012; [www.sltrib.com](http://www.sltrib.com)

A veteran of the Korean War and three terms in the Utah House, David Ostler is relieved that the longest campaign of his life – the destruction of nasty chemical weapons stored in Utah's desert for decades – is over. (327 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



11 January – 24 January 2012

**DTRA**

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) (CONT.)

### **OPCW Verifies Secret Libyan Chemical Arms**

*Global Security Newswire, 20 January 2012* <http://www.nti.org/>

*By Global Security Newswire analyst Chris Schneidmiller*

An international nonproliferation organization said on Friday it has verified the existence of Libyan chemical warfare materials never declared by the former Qadhafi regime before its fall last year. (963 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Deseret Chemical Depot Finally Destroys Last Chemical Weapons**

*Tooele Transcript Bulletin (UT), 19 January 2012;* [www.globalsecuritynewswire.com](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.com)

*By Lisa Christensen: lchristensen@tooeletranscript.com*

The end of a 15-year project came anti-climactically yesterday afternoon – a worker, wearing coveralls and a gas mask, laid thick mats on top of 23 mustard gas mortars as they came out of an incinerator, stopping any errant gasses from escaping while they cooled. And just like that, the mission of Deseret Chemical Depot was, for all intents and purposes, over. (1,040 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

### **Tooele Processes Final Chemical Agent at Depot**

*U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 18 January 2012* <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Workers began processing the depot's last remaining chemical agent, Lewisite through the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator, today, following the disposal of the final mustard agent-filled 155 mm projectiles through the depot's Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (307 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

### **Pueblo Chemical Weapons Disposal Plant Near Completion**

*The Chieftain, 13 January 2012* <http://www.chieftain.com>

*By Chieftain Reporter John Norton*

Members of Pueblo's business community received an update Thursday on one of the area's biggest projects: the \$3.6 billion effort to destroy one of the nation's last stockpiles of chemical weapons. (318 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



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**DTRA**

## COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

### **Guatemala Ratifies the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty**

CTBTO, 13 January 2012 <http://www.ctbto.org/>

By Annika Thunborg Spokesperson and Chief, Public Information of CTBTO

Guatemala has reaffirmed its long-standing support for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by ratifying the treaty. (457 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (NEW START)

### **Can the Yury Dolgoruky Fill the Yekaterinburg's Shoes**

RIA Novosti, 13 January 2012 <http://en.ria.ru/>

By RIA Novosti military analyst Konstantin Bogdanov

Experts believe that while the Yury Dolgoruky strategic ballistic missile submarine is capable of filling in for the Yekaterinburg, which was damaged by fire shortly before the New Year, it will not fix the deficiencies in Russia's nuclear shield. (963 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS

### **Nuclear Summit States Look to Limit Use of HEU**

Global Security Newswire 19 January 2012, <http://www.nti.org>

Representatives from the roughly 50 countries slated to take part in the next Global Nuclear Security Summit this week came to an "in principle" decision to restrict the nonmilitary use of highly enriched uranium, a material that can be used to fuel nuclear weapons, the Yonhap News Agency reported. (453 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## FULL TEXT OF BI-WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:



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U.S. and Russian negotiators will hold talks this year on issues ranging from missile defense to cyber security, hoping to set the stage for a renewed arms control push once elections are over in both countries, the top U.S. arms negotiator said on Thursday.

Ellen Tauscher, undersecretary of state for arms control, said a year after the New START nuclear arms treaty with Russia that the United States was still committed to returning to the negotiating table to discuss cuts in strategic and tactical nuclear weapons.

But with Europe working on a nuclear deterrence review, elections in Russia and the United States, and Moscow largely satisfied with nuclear stockpile levels following the New START treaty, Tauscher said the timing was not right for a new round of nuclear talks.

"We would like to get back to talks ... but I think we're sanguine about the fact that they're not ready to do it," she told defense writers. "So what we've decided to do is to multitask and to use this next six to eight months to do these ... strategic stability talks."

Tauscher, who would lead the talks with her Russian counterpart, said the two sides agreed in December to focus on 13 topic areas and to meet at least monthly and talk every few days in an effort to identify common concerns, threats and points of agreement.

The issues include conventional forces in Europe, piracy, cyber security, missile defense and other areas where there is a considerable amount of common interest and agreement but some threat as well. The aim is to define what the two sides mean by strategic stability and what steps they must take to achieve it.

"We're not wasting this year, which is pretty much consumed by ... things that are going to distract people," Tauscher said. "We'll get that work done, and as soon as we get the opening subsequent to their election and perhaps even subsequent to ours, off we go."

Tauscher said the New START treaty ratified last February had been an important step in improving U.S. and Russian relations, which had soured as a result of U.S. efforts to build a missile defense system in Europe and other disagreements.



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The accord commits both sides to reduce their deployed nuclear warheads to no more than 1,550 within seven years. While the reduction was modest, the treaty revived much of the inspection and verification system of the original START strategic arms treaty.

The United States has signaled an interest in further nuclear cuts, in part to cut costs. A strategic review released last week to help guide spending reductions at the Pentagon said it was possible that U.S. deterrence goals could be achieved with a smaller nuclear arsenal.

The review was guided by conclusions in a near-complete Pentagon study on how to implement the administration's 2010 Nuclear Posture Review. The classified document also makes recommendations about changes that should be made in future nuclear policy.

## *Hedge Weapons*

U.S. President Barack Obama has endorsed a long-term goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, while seeking \$80 billion over 10 years to revitalize the nation's nuclear weapons complex to provide confidence the aging arsenal will work.

Tauscher said the spending was a necessary part of achieving deeper cuts in the U.S. nuclear stockpile because it would give Washington the confidence it needed to eliminate many of its underplayed warheads, which are kept as a hedge in case some weapons do not work. "As you take weapons down, mostly you're probably going to take down what we call the hedge weapons first," she said. "You have to have a responsive infrastructure to do that."

While ties with Moscow have improved as a result of the New START treaty, the Obama administration's effort to build a missile defense system in Europe continues to be a source of friction in the relationship, Tauscher said.

After he took office in 2009, Obama abandoned former President George W. Bush's plan for a European missile defense shield and replaced it with the so-called phased adaptive approach. The Obama system relied on smaller missile interceptors initially based on ship and later on the ground in Poland and Romania along with a radar system in Turkey.

Washington says the system is aimed at countering a missile threat from Iran, but Russia is concerned it could be used to undermine Moscow's nuclear deterrent. Russia has demanded assurances that Tauscher said the United States could not give without limiting or eliminating parts of the system.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



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**DTRA**

"The only way they're going to be reassured that ... the system itself does not undercut their strategic deterrent is to sit with us in the tent in NATO and see what we're doing," she said. "So is it a political leap of faith? Yes. Are they ready to do it? No," she said. "But we're hoping that these strategic stability talks over the next eight months will start to kind of loosen these old ties that have been binding everybody."

 [back to top](#)

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## Biological Weapons Convention Meeting Makes Incremental Changes

*Global Security Newswire*, 18 January 2012 <http://www.nti.org/>

By Arms Control Today Analysts Daniel Horner and Oliver Meier

Delegates to last month's Biological Weapons Convention [BWC] review conference achieved consensus on a number of updates to decision-making and trust-building mechanisms for the pact, but agreement was limited in those areas and fully lacking on other matters, official participants and independent experts said.

Nations represented at the meeting approved certain reforms to the "intersessional" gatherings carried out in years when the five-year review conference does not convene, Arms Control Today reported in its latest edition. In addition, participants acted to alter data-sharing provisions under trust-building systems for the pact that bans the preparation, production, holding and use of disease-based weapons.

Still, some parties were disappointed by the changes, which they considered too limited in nature. As was widely anticipated, the conference also failed to break new ground on the potential establishment of an international verification regime for the accord. "Overall, we have done pretty well. In some areas, we could have done better," said Dutch diplomat Paul van den Ijssel, the president of last month's conference.

Van den Ijssel described plans to reform the intersessional meetings as a "a glass half-full and a glass half-empty," expressing regret over the lack of consensus on permitting enforceable decisions by the gatherings. An unsuccessful motion at the conference would have specifically enabled the next four intersessional meetings to agree on such mandatory measures. The 103 diplomatic teams at the conference, though, resolved just "to retain previous structures" that call for the meetings to "discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action" on certain matters.

Attendees established three topics for the annual meetings to regularly address: collaboration and support pertaining to Article 10 on the nonmilitary use of biological materials; scientific and technological changes; and state compliance with pact obligations. Separately, the 2012 and 2013 gatherings would address possible means of boosting state involvement in trust-building provisions under the pact, while the 2014 and 2015 sessions would consider collaboration and aid in the event of a biological strike.

A comparable agenda has been executed at past yearly BWC meetings, according to *Arms Control Today*. Van den Ijssel said placing three set agenda items for upcoming meetings would

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



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**DTRA**

"enable us to have structured discussions under the (intersessional process) and make progress on three important issues."

Western powers had advocated for the intersessional meetings to receive authority to issue enforceable decisions. The European Union called for "enhanced arrangements for further progress" in the annual sessions. Last month's conference achieved "some progress," but the lack of agreement to provide to provide the additional authority was "regrettable," a high-level European nation official said after the conference concluded.

Enabling enforceable decisions outside the review conferences would have been "a very modest innovation" that could have rendered nonproliferation regime "a little bit more nimble," but some nations voiced reservations over "allowing even a limited range of decision to be made" between the five-year meetings, Thomas Countryman, assistant secretary of State for international security and nonproliferation, told reporters in a December 23 telephone discussion.

A Russian government source, though, said the next series of four annual gatherings would be "very similar" to the prior one, and "it is logical that its mandate should remain the same." "[D]ecision-making powers, therefore, shall continue to rest with (the) review conference, unless delegated by it to subsidiary bodies for achieving some notable and consensually accepted goal," the Russian source said in a January 2 e-mail.

The convention does not "specifically set out" the system of annual meetings and policy-making authority should remain strictly within the purview of the five-year sessions, Bilal Ahmad, first secretary at Pakistan's mission to the UN operations in Geneva, Switzerland, told *Arms Control Today* on January 3.

An official representative of a major member of the 118-nation Nonaligned Movement [NAM] said more significant alterations to the intersessional meetings were "not achievable." Still, the system today "is more structured and will address more substantial issues." The diplomat said "there is scope to move a bit on the decision-making issue during the (period between review conferences), but that will depend on the chairs (of the annual meetings)."

Van den Ijssel said reform of the Implementation Support Unit [ISU], the three-person team that provides administrative assistance on matters including states' obligations under the convention, was an "area where I had hoped we would do better." Member states "could not agree on an increase in the budget to enable a modest increase of the size" of the support unit,

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



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**DTRA**

he said. Delegates recalled considering the possible expansion of the ISU team to five personnel. “Understandable financial concerns” among a number of governments were “the most important reason” for the lack a agreement on such an addition, van den Ijssel said. Still, he said he “did not foresee this problem as being so severe.”

A number of conference attendees welcomed agreement on alterations to data-sharing paperwork for the treaty. Certain updates would “clarify the questions posed to states parties to provide for more consistent and relevant data collection” while additional changes would “reduce the reporting burden by eliminating requirements that have been superseded,” Countryman wrote in a January 5 e-mail.

The nations resolved to address “how to enable fuller participation” in the trust-building systems. Fewer than 50 percent of BWC member nations presently provide relevant disclosures in compliance with political agreements to do so. Van den Ijssel said the transparency efforts “are not always the easiest topic,” though “if you had asked me before the review conference, I would have been happy with the outcome that we have achieved now.”

Meanwhile, the United States continued to hold that a viable treaty verification mechanism cannot be achieved, while the European Union, Russia and the Nonaligned Movement called at the review conference for such a system (Horner/Meier, *Arms Control Today*, January/February 2012).

 [back to top](#)

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## Philippines May Host Bioweapons Conference in 2012

GMA News, 11 January 2012 <http://www.gmanetwork.com>

A regional Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) [meeting] may be held in the Philippines later this year, to support the Philippines' international cooperative efforts for dealing with biological weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. The convention would follow the Seventh Review Conference of the BWC held in Geneva last December 4 to 22, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

"The United Nations and other participants expressed strong interest in convening a second regional BWC Conference in the Philippines later in 2012, and in supporting the Philippines' efforts in Southeast Asia in synergizing implementation activities for the BWC and other Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Conventions," the DFA said in a news release.

Earlier, the Philippine Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said the Philippines actively participated in the Seventh Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC RevCon). The Philippine delegation to the RevCon included Ambassador Evan Garcia, Minister Jesus Domingo and Attache Hossana dela Cruz from the Philippine Mission; Defense and Armed Forces Attache of the Philippine Embassy in London Colonel Inoncencio Mayangao; and Department of Justice State Counsel Atty. Paulito De Jesus.

During the RevCon, the Philippines was elected as vice president, while Domingo was appointed as a facilitator to coordinate discussions on assistance and cooperation. Also during the conference, the Philippines was commended for organizing the "BWC Conference Week" held in Makati City last June 27 to July 1, led by the DFA and the Anti-Terrorism Council (ATC) with participation from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) partner nations, the European Union (EU) and the UN.

The Mission had also organized a side event during the RevCon for East Asia and Pacific Delegations.



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A veteran of the Korean War and three terms in the Utah House, David Ostler is relieved that the longest campaign of his life – the destruction of nasty chemical weapons stored in Utah's desert for decades – is over.

Workers at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility [TOCDF] at Deseret Chemical Depot, 20 miles south of Tooele, Utah finished incinerating the last of the depot's lewisite, a blister agent, at 4:29 a.m. Saturday [January 21].

"It's good to have that behind us," says Ostler, who with hundreds of other Utahans played a behind-the-scenes role in the Army's \$3.3 billion campaign to obliterate 44 percent of the nation's stockpile of chemical weapons, which it had stored at the depot beginning in 1945.

Ostler for two decades was a member of the Utah Citizens Advisory Commission, which met six to 12 times a year to monitor the plant's safety and environmental precautions. Like the 1,400 employees who were celebrating their achievement last week, Ostler was marveling over the plant's safety record. That no one ever died while destroying 1.1 million munitions and 13,617 tons of chemical agent is nothing short of amazing, Ostler says.

Indeed, the plant has operated for more than 13.5 million worker-hours without a lost workday injury, an achievement that the Army's site manager, Ted Ryba, likens to the rate librarians are injured. "That's just unbeatable," says Ryba. The only worker ever exposed to nerve agent was back at work the next day, albeit in a non-toxic area of the plant, Ryba says.

The last chemical agent destroyed was 5,000 pounds of lewisite, a blister agent. It went into a liquid incinerator on Tuesday and took several days to destroy. On Wednesday, the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility at the depot finished burning the last of the 155 millimeter projectiles that once held mustard agent.

The munitions had been stored above ground and in igloos at what previously was Tooele Army Depot South since World War II.

 [back to top](#)

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*By Global Security Newswire analyst Chris Schneidmiller*

An international nonproliferation organization said on Friday it has verified the existence of Libyan chemical warfare materials never declared by the former Qadhafi regime before its fall last year. Libya acknowledged holding roughly 25 metric tons of mustard blister agent and 1,400 metric tons of precursor substances when it joined the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2004 as part of a broader program to halt all unconventional weapons activities.

An equipment malfunction forced the North African state to suspend mandatory elimination of the banned materials just before the February 2011 uprising that ultimately produced a new government in Tripoli and led to the death of longtime dictator Muammar Qadhafi. The new leadership in November officially declared the existence of additional sulfur mustard agent beyond what had been cited by its predecessor.

A representative for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons [OPCW] (the Hague, Netherlands based monitoring body for the convention) declined to discuss specifics but indicated the amount of newly declared mustard agent is not large. "It represents a fraction of what was in the original declaration," spokesman Michael Luhan told Global Security Newswire.

Inspectors from the organization confirmed the details of the November declaration during a three-day trip to Libya this week, according to an OPCW release. They also determined that a number of empty artillery rounds and other munitions found by the government were designed for use as chemical arms and must be declared, which was done during their visit.

The Qadhafi regime had previously destroyed thousands of aerial munitions that could have been used to disperse chemical agents. Mustard agent, depending on the level of exposure, can cause blistering and burns to the skin, respiratory and digestive troubles, blindness and death. Libya's remaining chemical stocks, both the materials identified in 2004 and the recently declared mustard agent, are held at the Ruwaha installation in the nation's southeast.

A mobile neutralization facility had been used to eliminate 54 percent of the previously known mustard agent and roughly 40 percent of the precursor material before shutting down nearly one year ago, the OPCW release says. Of the stockpile declared under Qadhafi, slightly less than nine metric tons of mustard agent in liquid form and 2.5 metric tons of congealed agent remain to be destroyed, according to Luhan. There is not yet a known schedule for Libya to resume and conclude disposal operations, he said.



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



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**DTRA**

The Chemical Weapons Convention requires Tripoli to finish off its chemical weapons stores no later than April 29 of this year. Libya, like Russia and the United States, holders of much larger stockpiles, will not meet that deadline.

Member nations to the international accord in late 2011 agreed not to penalize the three countries for failing to keep to the schedule. Instead, Moscow, Tripoli and Washington will be placed under a program of heightened transparency and reporting of their demilitarization activities. That includes delivering by April 29 a comprehensive disposal plan offering a set date by which the chemical arsenals will be destroyed.

[back to top](#)

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## Deseret Chemical Depot Finally Destroys Last Chemical Weapons

Tooele Transcript Bulletin (UT), 19 January 2012; [www.globalsecuritynewswire.com](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.com)

By Lisa Christensen: [lchristensen@tooeletranscript.com](mailto:lchristensen@tooeletranscript.com)

The end of a 15-year project came anti-climactically yesterday afternoon – a worker, wearing coveralls and a gas mask, laid thick mats on top of 23 mustard gas mortars as they came out of an incinerator, stopping any errant gasses from escaping while they cooled. And just like that, the mission of Deseret Chemical Depot was, for all intents and purposes, over.

The last of more than 1 million munitions was incinerated to the standards of the Chemical Weapons Convention, an international treaty that set a deadline of April 29 of this year for all chemical weapons stockpiles to be destroyed. Since its establishment in 1942, DCD has undergone various stages of destroying the stockpile, but this latest, most earnest effort began in 1996 when the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, or TOCDF, was constructed in anticipation and fulfillment of the 1997 treaty.

“Reaching this milestone is surely a credit to the five generations of dedicated workers, the support of the community and the resolve of our nation to destroy these weapons,” said Col. Mark Pomeroy, commander of DCD.

DCD was originally named Deseret Chemical Warfare Depot upon its 1942 selection as a chemical depot. In 1962, the site was realigned under Tooele Army Depot and named the Tooele Army Depot South Area, a designation that stuck until the installation was renamed Deseret Chemical Depot in 1996. In 1979, while still under Tooele Army Depot, the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System, or CAMDS, began operations. The disposal techniques demonstrated at CAMDS are now in use at other chemical depots, but CAMDS itself will be decontaminated, dismantled and disposed of now that the mission is complete.

The destruction of the 13,616 tons of chemical agent have required workers to make more than 24,000 chemical deliveries from storage areas of the installation to disposal and demolition facilities – all of which were conducted safely. Ted Ryba, site project manager for TOCDF, said making all operations at DCD as safe as possible was a chief goal for the project. “Safety has been a priority for the TOCDF team since the beginning,” he said. “Safety of our workers, the surrounding community and the environment.”

The schedule for destroying the different types of chemical agents in the original stockpile is one example of the group’s focus on safety, he said. The nerve agents GB and VX were destroyed first, making the remainder of the stockpile far less of a threat.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



11 January – 24 January 2012



Pomeroy said that focus on safety was and is present in every aspect of the operation, though the requirements of the project were steep and the timeframe relatively short. There has never been a fatality at DCD and, as of Wednesday, the installation was nearing 14 million hours worked without an injury severe enough to merit time off of work. “It had to be done safely. There were no shortcuts taken anywhere along the line,” Pomeroy said. “Meeting a deadline and doing it safely without shortcuts is just something that couldn’t be compromised.”

Although those mustard gas munitions were incinerated Wednesday, the process of incinerating all of the chemical agent is not quite done. Four one-ton containers of lewisite, a blister agent with similar effects as mustard gas but with a different chemical composition, were drained Tuesday into a liquid incinerator, but that destruction process will take several days. The agent is expected to be completely destroyed by Friday night or Saturday morning.

DCD is one of eight chemical depots around the country, but held 44 percent of the nation’s chemical weapons stockpile – more than double the amount held at any other single facility. Besides the sheer quantity of agent at DCD, Pomeroy said the depot was unusual in that there were many types of agent to destroy, while most other facilities only had one type. “We were a bit unique in that we had two simultaneous campaigns competing neck and neck for completion,” he said.

Even after the lewisite has been destroyed to treaty standards, the lights at DCD cannot be turned off and the gates locked. Companies have been contracted to clean the surface of the depot for debris left over from landfills and other non-chemical disposal, demolition facilities will need to be themselves disposed of and the storage and administrative areas will need to be cleaned and prepared for use by Tooele Army Depot, which will reclaim the facility as its South Area in July 2013. The area presently known as Tooele Army Depot will be referred to as Tooele Army Depot North Area.

Kathy Anderson, public information officer at Tooele Army Depot, said the South Area will be used mainly for storage, and the administrative facilities will hopefully be rented out to contractors or private industry organizations.

“The original intent, and our intent, is it’s beneficial for the Army because their storage sites allows us to store additional conventional ammunition, because we’d have additional space. And then there’s the possibility of bringing tenants in to help subsidize the cost of the infrastructure,” she said. “Right now that is Tooele Army Depot’s plan – use the storage sites, and then later on get partnerships with contractors or private industry.”



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## BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



11 January – 24 January 2012

**DTRA**

The installation's approximately 1,400 employees will have to be prepared for the closure of the facility. Gary McCloskey, manager of TOCDF and vice president of URS, the company contracted by the military to dispose of the agent, said many employees will be retiring, and another quarter of the workforce is participating in company-sponsored education programs to prepare them for jobs after DCD. Another approximate quarter of workers will be transferring to other chemical depots, such as Pueblo Chemical Depot, near Pueblo, Colorado, or Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky.

McCloskey said the gradual reduction in the workforce, which began last Friday with a 52-worker layoff, is designed to make the transition easier on the workers and community. However, he said, workers were needed until the end, so incentives were offered to some to stay aboard and see the job through to final completion.

Pomeroy said he, for one, has always intended to stay until the bitter end. "I came here knowing I'd be the last commander of Deseret Chemical Depot," he said, "and I'll be here until we hand the keys over to Tooele Army Depot."

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



11 January – 24 January 2012



## Tooele Processes Final Chemical Agent at Depot

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 18 January 2012 <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Workers began processing the depot's last remaining chemical agent, Lewisite through the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator, today, following the disposal of the final mustard agent-filled 155 mm projectiles through the depot's Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF). Over the next few days, these two separate disposal operations will bring to an end the storage and destruction of what was once the largest-single chemical weapons stockpile in the United States.

"From the research and development of destruction technologies developed at the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) to more than 24,000 safe deliveries to the disposal facility, our workers have demonstrated excellence and perseverance," said Col. Mark B. Pomeroy, depot commander. "Our workforce represents the nation's finest examples of experts in the safe and secure handling of chemical agents."

"We destroyed our first munition, a GB nerve agent-filled rocket, on August 22, 1996. Since then we have destroyed more than 1.1 million munitions containing more than 13,600 tons of chemical agent," said Ted Ryba, TOCDF site project manager. "Our contribution to ridding the nation of its aging chemical weapons stockpile has been significant with 44 percent of our country's stockpile destroyed here."

"I'm proud of our workers for all their efforts over the years to reach this point – mission completion," said Gary McCloskey, URS vice president and TOCDF general manager. "And we reached this milestone safely, working more than 13.5 million man-hours without a lost workday injury. As we move into closure of the demil facilities, we will continue to emphasize safety for our workers and the environment."

DCD will be returned to Tooele Army Depot in July 2013. Until then, the number of employees will steadily decline as the workload decreases. Over the next two years, secondary waste operations will be completed and the TOCDF facility will be decontaminated and dismantled.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



11 January – 24 January 2012



## Pueblo Chemical Weapons Disposal Plant Near Completion

*The Chieftain*, 13 January 2012 <http://www.chieftain.com/>

Members of Pueblo's business community received an update Thursday on one of the area's biggest projects: the \$3.6 billion effort to destroy one of the nation's last stockpiles of chemical weapons.

Bruce Huenefeld, site project manager for the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternative [ACWA] program, was the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce at the Pueblo Convention Center.

ACWA is an Army agency set up to oversee weapons destruction at the Pueblo Chemical Depot and at the Bluegrass Army Depot in Kentucky, both of which are using water neutralization techniques to destroy the mustard agent, rather than incineration, which has been used on most of the weapons already destroyed.

The Pueblo Chemical Depot houses 780,000 mortar rounds and artillery shells with 2,611 tons of mustard agent that will be washed out of the weapons, neutralized and the waste broken down in a biotreatment plant.

Huenefeld said that construction of the plant is 85 percent complete and all of the mechanical construction work should be done by the end of March. The program will involve a number of remote-controlled systems as well as robotic machinery – about 300 systems in all, of which 100 have already been assembled.

Over the next two years, the firms that Bechtel has assembled, including URS Corp. and Battelle Memorial Laboratories, will be developing procedures, testing equipment and training workers. Actual destruction of mustard agent is expected to begin in 2015 and, if all goes on schedule, finish by the end of 2017.

Huenefeld told chamber members that the program has had a major economic impact on Pueblo. So far, the Bechtel team has spent \$91 million inside Pueblo County, \$75 million of that with small businesses. In other parts of Colorado, spending has totaled \$156.7 million. In addition, there are 754 construction workers still on the site and 581 people working in non-construction jobs, 189 of them hired locally.



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



11 January – 24 January 2012

**DTRA**

## Guatemala Ratifies the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty

CTBTO, 13 January 2012 <http://www.ctbto.org/>

By Annika Thunborg Spokesperson and Chief, Public Information of CTBTO

Guatemala has reaffirmed its long-standing support for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by ratifying the treaty. The number of ratifications now stands at 156; while a total of 182 states have signed the treaty. The instrument of ratification was handed over personally by Foreign Minister Haroldo Rodas Melgar at a ceremony at the United Nations in New York yesterday afternoon.

Tibor Tóth, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) welcomed the step: “Guatemala’s ratification of the CTBT is an important building block towards a world free of nuclear weapons. It underlines Guatemala’s commitment to outlaw nuclear testing and to enhance nonproliferation and disarmament worldwide.”

Guatemala’s ratification follows its announcement at the 2010 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in New York that it would initiate the internal ratification procedure. Guatemala signed the CTBT on September 20, 1999 and has shown its support for the treaty by regularly voting in favor of the CTBT in the United Nations General Assembly. The country also hosted a regional workshop on CTBT International Cooperation in 2005.

The region of Latin America and the Caribbean was the first in the world to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone with the Treaty of Tlatelolco in 1967. “Guatemala’s ratification of the CTBT is a boost for the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which will soon celebrate 10 years of being the world’s first nuclear-weapon-free zone to include all countries in the region,” noted Tibor Tóth, adding: “This bodes well for the CTBT.” Among the 33 states in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, 31 have now ratified the CTBT; Cuba and Dominica being the only countries that have not yet signed or ratified.

The CTBT can only enter into force after it has been ratified by the eight remaining nuclear technology holder countries: China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the United States. The Indonesian parliament took the decision to ratify the CTBT on December 6, 2011.

The CTBT bans all nuclear explosions everywhere, by everyone. The CTBTO is building an International Monitoring System (IMS) to make sure that no nuclear explosion goes undetected. There are currently over 280 facilities in 85 countries, including 35 in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Guatemala hosts an operational IMS seismic station in El Apazote in central

[back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



11 January – 24 January 2012

**DTRA**

Guatemala. Seismic stations monitor the ground for shockwaves generated by nuclear explosions.

The data registered by the IMS can also be used for disaster mitigation such as earthquake monitoring, tsunami warning, and the tracking of the levels and dispersal of radioactive materials from nuclear accidents.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



11 January – 24 January 2012

DTRA

## Can the Yury Dolgoruky Fill the Yekaterinburg's Shoes

RIA Novosti, 13 January 2012 <http://en.ria.ru/>

By RIA Novosti military analyst Konstantin Bogdanov

Experts believe that while the Yury Dolgoruky strategic ballistic missile submarine is capable of filling in for the Yekaterinburg, which was damaged by fire shortly before the New Year, it will not fix the deficiencies in Russia's nuclear shield.

### *The Long Arm of the Navy*

The Yury Dolgoruky, the first Borei-class SSBN carrying Bulava missiles, is one step away from being put into service. The second submarine, the Alexander Nevsky, set sail for testing in fall 2011. A third vessel, the Vladimir Monomakh, is still under construction. Yet another submarine of the same class is still on the drawing board. Its preliminary name is the Svyatitel Nikolai and it will reportedly have 20 missile silos versus 16 on the earlier models.

In addition to the Svyatitel Nikolai, the Navy will likely receive another four Borei-class subs, bringing the total figure to eight. The number of Bulava missiles on them will be either 128 or 148, if the reports about the 20-silo model prove true.

This will make it possible to decommission the older SSBN's (667BDR- and 667BDRM-class submarines), which currently constitute the naval component of Russia's Strategic Nuclear Forces (SNF).

### *Forced Downtime*

The end of 2011 sprung an unpleasant surprise for the Navy. Fire broke out on the Yekaterinburg on December 29, destroying the submarine, which was being stored in dry dock at Shipyard #82 for maintenance. The fire destroyed the sonar complex, cable routes, and the acoustically-treated light hull. Luckily, the weapons compartments and the central station were not damaged.

According to Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, the newly appointed caretaker of the military complex, the submarine reconstruction project will be launched in June 2012 along with scheduled maintenance that "had to be carried out in 2013 anyway." It might take not so long to return the Yekaterinburg to service: its sonar complex can be replaced rather soon because it was only installed in 2003, a fact that will likely minimize design and manufacturing problems.



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



11 January – 24 January 2012

**DTRA**

But the Yury Dolgoruky will simply fill in for one of the six 667BDRM-class submarines, whose temporary withdrawal from active status can only worsen the unfavorable state of affairs in the Strategic Nuclear Forces.

## *Decommissioning Outpaces New Construction*

The prospects of the Russian nuclear triad in the next decade can inspire cautious optimism at best among the military-political leadership. The rate of decommissioning of warheads capable of reaching U.S. territory is much higher than the rate at which new ones are being commissioned.

This fact explains the recent vigorous efforts to reform the Strategic Missile Forces and the naval strategic nuclear force. Some results are already in evidence: Russia developed and commissioned the Bulava missile and redesigned the single-warhead Topol-M missile for MIRV'ed warheads (a modification codenamed Yars). There are reports that the new missile systems are undergoing testing.

The same goes for plans to develop new silo-based liquid-fuel carriers. Recall that the majority of Russia's land-based SNF is represented by rapidly ageing Soviet-made missiles. Slightly over one hundred heavy silo-based R-36M2/MUTTH and UR-100NUTTH missiles capable of carrying 10 and six MIRV warheads respectively account for 80 percent of all warheads in the strategic land component. The rest are single-warhead Topol and Topol-M missiles and a handful of Yars missiles.

To quote Commander-in-Chief of the Strategic Missile Troops Sergei Karakayev, all UR-100NUTTH missiles will be decommissioned by 2017 to be followed by practically the entire R-36M family by 2021. (Earlier it was reported that these missiles could remain in service until 2026, but perhaps this applies only to some well-preserved specimens.) Even in the best of circumstances, the new liquid-fuel missiles will have only just started being supplied to the forces by that time.

The rate of commissioning of Yars missiles (and their potential successors which, as Karakayev hinted, might be tested in 2015) is unlikely to be high enough in the next decade to keep the force unchanged.



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



11 January – 24 January 2012

**DTRA**

## *A Hole in the Bottom of New START*

Some Russian experts believe it is possible that Russia will reduce its offensive armaments below the level of 1,550 warheads stipulated in the New START treaty to 1,100-1,300 warheads in order to return to 1,550 as a result of the large-scale renovation of its strategic equipment. Maj. Gen. Vladimir Dvorkin of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of World Economy and International Relations (the former head of the Defense Ministry's 4th Central Research Institute in charge of scientific and engineering support for the strategic forces) quipped at an international seminar last year that Russia would have to actively build new missiles in order to participate in nuclear disarmament in accordance with the New START ceilings.

But it will be difficult to balance the manufacture of Bulavas relative to Yars missiles. Both are produced by the same Votkinsky Plant in Udmurtia, which is also the sole manufacturer of the tactical Iskander missiles that are badly needed by the Land Forces. The recommended remedies include expanding the scale of production or at least transferring the manufacture of Iskanders elsewhere. But each option will take time and it will be difficult to build up the output of solid-fuel strategic missiles even if implementation begins immediately.

The situation being what it is, the most active existing part of the naval Strategic Nuclear Forces (667BDRM-class submarines with R-29RMU Sineva missiles) emerges as the crucial element in the effort to maintain the strategic balance of power. This is why the reaction to the Yekaterinburg fire was so pained. At one stroke this country has lost, even if temporarily, 16 percent of its submarine-based nuclear warheads. The upcoming commissioning of the Yury Dolgoruky will at best serve as a stopgap, halting the downward trend in Russia's Strategic Nuclear Forces.

*The views expressed in this article are the author's and may not necessarily represent those of RIA Novosti or of the United States.*

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



11 January – 24 January 2012

**DTRA**

## **Nuclear Summit States Look to Limit Use of HEU**

*Global Security Newswire 19 January 2012, <http://www.nti.org>*

Representatives from the roughly 50 countries slated to take part in the next Global Nuclear Security Summit this week came to an "in principle" decision to restrict the nonmilitary use of highly enriched uranium, a material that can be used to fuel nuclear weapons, the Yonhap News Agency reported.

Negotiators participating in a preparatory meeting for the March summit in South Korea "agreed in principle to minimize the use of civilian HEU in research reactors, in the medical sector and in other civilian applications," said a high-ranking South Korean diplomat who took part in the session in New Delhi.

The agreement on HEU material would be incorporated into the "Seoul Communiqué" – the final document that nations taking part in the summit are expected to adopt. The event in the South Korean capital comes nearly two years after the first Global Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, where leaders pledged support for the goal of securing all vulnerable atomic materials within four years.

The upcoming summit is scheduled to take place on March 26-27 and will feature heads of states and senior officials from some 50 nations. China, France, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States are a few of the advanced nuclear nations expected to participate, Yonhap reported.

South Korean officials said one of the central matters to be covered at the event would be how to safeguard radioactive sources around the world from potential diversion by extremists seeking to produce an improvised nuclear weapon. Additional agenda issues will include "practical and concrete" options for minimizing the danger of a nuclear terrorist attack and preventing nuclear power crises like that at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi facility, officials said.

Meanwhile, a large group of U.S. nonproliferation, medical and health specialists on Wednesday called on lawmakers to curb U.S. use of medical isotopes produced from Russian weapon-ready uranium and to prohibit entirely their employment no later than 2017, according to a release from the University of Texas at Austin's Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Project.

The group of experts in their letter to three House lawmakers said Russia was quickly increasing its utilization of bomb-grade uranium to produce the medical isotope molybdenum 99 in order to gain supremacy over isotope sales in the U.S. medical sector. Such an effort goes counter to U.S. moves to heighten this country's manufacturing of medical isotopes through

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



11 January – 24 January 2012

**DTRA**

reactors that do not use highly enriched uranium, according to the organization. Moscow's program could also raise the threat of nuclear terrorism, the letter states.

The specialists requested that lawmakers modify legislation approved in November by the Senate – The American Medical Isotopes Production Act – to mandate "preferential procurement" of isotopes that are not generated from weapon-usable uranium (Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Project release, January 18).

 [back to top](#)

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