



# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



09 February– 25 February 2010

**DTRA**

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

### **Destroying Chemical Weapons: U.S. Army Reviews Technology**

*Defense Industry Daily*, 09 February 2010, <http://www.cwwg.org/>

To destroy chemical weapons, the U.S. Army can't just throw them in an incinerator. They have to be destroyed carefully so that no harmful chemicals are released into the air or water supplies. (840 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **New 1540 Committee Chairman Visits the OPCW**

*OPCW*, 10 February 2010, <http://www.opcw.org/>

H.E. Mr. Claude Heller, who was appointed Chairman of the United Nations Security Council 1540 Committee on January 31, 2010, paid a visit to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands, on February 8, 2010 and met with the OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Rogelio Pfrirer. (231 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

### **Seventy Percent of Army's Chemical Weapons Stockpiles Destroyed**

*BioprepWatch.com*, 15 February 2010, <http://www.bioprepwatch.com>

U.S. Army officials have announced that more than 70 percent of the Army's chemical weapons stockpiles have been destroyed with the majority expected to be destroyed by 2012. (240 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

### **Tooele Disposal Facility Resumes Destruction of Mustard Agent-Filled Mortars**

*Chemical Materials Agency*, 15 February 2010, <http://www.cma.army.mil>

Workers resumed processing mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch cartridges (mortars) today as part of ongoing mustard disposal operations at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF).

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

## CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM)

### **UN-Backed Pact against Cluster Munitions to Take Effect August 1<sup>st</sup>**

*UN News Service*, 16 February 2010, <http://www.un.org/news/>

The United Nations-backed convention banning the use of cluster munitions will enter into force on August 1, 2010, after the 30<sup>th</sup> country ratified the pact today [February 16, 2010], a move that was immediately welcomed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as "a major advance on the global disarmament agenda." (282 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



09 February– 25 February 2010



## FISSILE MATERIAL CUTOFF TREATY (FMCT)

### **UN Vents Frustration at Stalled Arms Control Forum**

Reuters, 11 February 2010, <http://www.reuters.com/>

The United Nations vented frustration on Thursday at the lack of progress at the world's only multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, calling on its members to show more flexibility and get down to work. (301 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

### **START Signing Time and Venue Not Determined Yet—Tauscher**

Moscow ITAR-TASS, 16 February 2010, accessed via Open Source Center

The time and the place where a new strategic arms reduction treaty will be signed have not been determined yet, Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Ellen Tauscher told foreign journalists, including Itar-Tass, on Monday. (469 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

### **New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty May Be Signed in March—Margelov**

Moscow ITAR-TASS, 16 February 2010, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia and the United States may sign a new treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive armaments in a European capital city in March, the Chairman of the Federation Council International Affairs Committee, Mikhail Margelov, told Itar-Tass. (151 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

### **Russian, U.S. Presidents Agree New Arms Cuts Treaty Will Be Parity-Based—Lavrov**

Moscow Interfax, 25 February 2010, accessed via Open Source Center

Moscow hopes the successor agreement to the expired Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) will take into account the link between defensive weapons and offensive weapons, and have a strictly parity-based character, said Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. (292 words)

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## FULL TEXT OF WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:



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DTRA

## Destroying Chemical Weapons: U.S. Army Reviews Technology

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To destroy chemical weapons, the U.S. Army can't just throw them in an incinerator. They have to be destroyed carefully so that no harmful chemicals are released into the air or water supplies.

In 2009, the U.S. Army, working with the National Research Council (NRC), tested four technologies—three private-vendor systems and one Army-developed explosive destruction system (EDS)—to destroy chemical weapons. Tests were conducted at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky and at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado.

The developers of one of the systems tested—U.S.-based Versar and Japan's Kobe Steel—announced February 9, 2010, that they received a \$13 million subcontract from URS Corporation to deliver their Detonation in a Vacuum Assisted Chamber (DAVINCH) system to the Desert Chemical Depot in Tooele, Utah for chemical weapons destruction. In addition to supplying the system, Versar will provide project management at the depot.

The Army testing revealed some interesting facts about the DAVINCH system...The three private-vendor systems tested by Army and the NRC were the DAVINCH system developed by Kobe Steel and Versar, the transportable detonation chamber T-60 model supplied by U.S.-based CH2M Hill, and the static detonation chamber SDC2000 model from Sweden's Dynasafe.

A report prepared on the testing by the Board on Army Science and Technology describes how each system works:

DAVINCH: "The process uses a detonation chamber in which chemical munitions are destroyed when donor charges surrounding the munitions are detonated. Offgases are produced that require secondary treatment. ... The offgases resulting from agent destruction in the DAVINCH vessel are filtered to remove particulates and, with oxygen from an external supply, are pumped into the cold plasma oxidizer, which oxidizes CO to CO<sub>2</sub>. Condensate water is then recovered from the exhaust gas; the gas is passed through activated carbon and exhausted to the atmosphere."

T-60: "The T-60 has three main components: a detonation chamber, an expansion chamber, and an emissions control system. A munition wrapped in explosive is mounted in the detonation chamber. The floor of the chamber is covered with pea gravel, which absorbs some of the blast energy. Bags containing water are suspended near the projectile to help absorb blast energy and to produce steam, which reacts with agent vapors. Oxygen is added when destroying

 [back to top](#)

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**DTRA**

munitions containing mustard agent. After the explosive is detonated, the gases are vented to an expansion chamber, then to the emissions control system. The offgas treatment system includes a reactive-bed ceramic filter to remove acidic gases and to collect particulates such as soot and dust from the pea gravel. A catalytic oxidation (CATOX) unit oxidizes hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and organic vapors from the gas stream before the stream is vented through a carbon adsorption bed and released to the atmosphere.”

SDC2000: “The detonation chamber is a nearly spherical, armored, high-alloy stainless steel vessel. The vessel is double-walled, with the inner wall considered to be armored ... Chemical munitions are placed in a cardboard box or carrier, which is transported to the top of the system. The boxed munitions are fed into the detonation chamber through two sequential loading chambers. The boxed munitions are dropped onto a heated (550°C-600°C) shrapnel (scrap) bed at the bottom of the detonation chamber, resulting in deflagration, detonation, or burning of the munition’s explosive fill. The chemical agent in the munitions is destroyed by the shock wave from the detonation or by decomposition due to the high heat in the chamber. The offgas treatment system includes a cyclone for removal of large particulates and a flameless thermal oxidizer that converts carbon monoxide and hydrogen to carbon dioxide and water. This is followed by a fast quench system to minimize dioxin and furan formation, acidic and basic (caustic) scrubbers, and an absorber/particulate filter system that uses Sorbalite, a mixture of calcium oxides and carbonates with activated carbon.”

Army EDS: “The U.S. Army’s EDSs are trailer-mounted mobile systems originally intended to destroy explosively configured chemical munitions that are deemed unsafe to transport. The system has been used to destroy chemical munitions with or without explosive components. At the heart of the EDS system is an explosion containment vessel. The EDS Phase 2 (EDS-2) containment vessel is designed to handle munitions containing up to 4.8 lbs TNT-equivalent of explosives. The EDS uses explosive shaped charges to access the agent cavity and to destroy any energetics in the munition. After detonation of the shaped charges, reagents appropriate to the agent to be neutralized are pumped into the vessel and the vessel contents are mixed until the treatment goal has been attained. After the concentration of chemical agent falls below the treatment goal, as determined by sampling the contents of the chamber, the liquid waste solution is transferred out of the chamber into a waste drum. The drummed EDS liquid waste is normally treated further at a commercial hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facility.”

For destruction of 155-mm mustard gas munitions, the report determined that the DAVINCH and SDC2000 were the most effective. For destruction of M55 rocket motors, the report found that the T-60 was most effective.

 [back to top](#)

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Mr. Heller recalled that the comprehensive review of the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540, which was conducted by the 1540 Committee in October 2009, underlined the importance of enhanced cooperation between the Committee and relevant international organizations. He therefore welcomed the opportunity for an exchange of views with the Director-General given the significant contribution the OPCW is making to global nonproliferation efforts. He noted in particular the OPCW's success in promoting effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) at the national level, which provides important insights as the Committee seeks to improve implementation of UNSCR 1540 globally.

The Director-General noted that the OPCW's cooperation with the 1540 Committee and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) is within the overall framework of its cooperation with the UN and underlined the importance of regular contact. He stated that the OPCW's experience gained over the years in assisting States Parties in national implementation of the CWC offered valuable lessons for enhancing the ability of countries to fulfill their implementation obligations arising from various international legal instruments.

[back to top](#)

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**DTRA**

## Seventy Percent of Army's Chemical Weapons Stockpiles Destroyed

*BioprepWatch.com, 15 February 2010, <http://www.bioprepwatch.com>*

U.S. Army officials have announced that more than 70 percent of the Army's chemical weapons stockpiles have been destroyed with the majority expected to be destroyed by 2012. The United States' arsenal includes 31,500 tons of chemical weapons, made up of sarin, VX and mustard agents. To date, 22,322 tons of that arsenal have been destroyed.

"It is a tremendous success story," Carmen Spencer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Elimination of Chemical Weapons), told Army.mil. "Not only is the United States doing all it can to meet its international commitments, but more importantly, the Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) is contributing to the national security of the United States in the process. These weapons in the wrong hands can do harm. They are safely and securely storing and destroying them while providing maximum protection to the public and environment," Mr. Spencer said.

More than 3,084 tons of chemical weapons were destroyed by the Army's Chemical Stockpile Elimination mission in 2009. That mission began in the early 1990's, prior to the 1992 international Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) called for destroying chemical weapons stockpiles as well as prohibiting their use and production.

The CWC was signed in 1993 and has been ratified by 188 countries. The Convention states that, "Each State Party undertakes to destroy the chemical weapons it owns or possesses, or that are located in any place under its jurisdiction or control, in accordance with the provisions of this convention."

[back to top](#)

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Workers resumed processing mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch cartridges (mortars) today as part of ongoing mustard disposal operations at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF).

Officials suspended processing of the mortars last year (and resumed destroying agent filled bulk containers) when sampling and analysis of the furnace exhaust gas conducted during start-up of mortar operations identified higher-than-anticipated levels of mercury.

Since halting mortar operations, a new \$33 million filtering system, designed to safely capture mercury from furnace exhaust gas streams generated while destroying munitions with elevated amounts of mercury, has successfully completed full-scale performance demonstration tests before Utah state regulatory authorities.

This new Pollution Abatement System (PAS) Filtration System (PFS) uses sulfurimpregnated carbon to capture mercury in furnace exhausts. To ensure maximum safety of the workers, community and environment, mercury-monitoring systems are located at intervals within the PFS filter beds. These mercury-monitoring systems ensure the carbon filters are working properly and complement other emission monitoring equipment.

More than 70 percent of the original mustard agent stockpile (by agent weight) has been destroyed. Planning for the elimination of DCD's relatively small remaining stockpile of GA (Tabun) nerve and Lewisite blister agent is in progress. Chemical weapons destruction operations at DCD are scheduled to be completed by the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty deadline of April 29, 2012.

 [back to top](#)

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Burkina Faso and Moldova both submitted their instruments of ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions at UN Headquarters in New York, ensuring that the pact prohibiting explosive remnants of war known as either cluster munitions or unexploded ordnance (UXO) becomes part of international law.

In a statement issued by his spokesperson, Mr. Ban said the fact that the Convention was entering into force just two years after countries adopted the treaty “demonstrates the world’s collective revulsion at the impact of these terrible weapons.”

First used in the Second World War, cluster munitions contain dozens of smaller explosives designed to disperse over an area the size of several football fields, but often fail to detonate upon impact, creating large de facto minefields. They are also notoriously inaccurate.

The failure rate makes these weapons particularly dangerous for civilians, who continue to be maimed or killed for years after conflicts end. Some 98 percent of victims are civilians and cluster bombs have claimed over 10,000 civilian lives, 40 percent of whom are children.

Recovery from conflict is also hampered because the munitions place roads and lands off-limits to farmers and aid workers.

Mr. Ban called on all States that have not yet ratified to become a party to the Convention immediately.

“The United Nations is firmly committed to ending the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of cluster munitions and mitigating the suffering they cause,” he said.

 [back to top](#)

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Reuters, 11 February 2010, <http://www.reuters.com/>

The United Nations vented frustration on Thursday at the lack of progress at the world's only multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, calling on its members to show more flexibility and get down to work.

The UN-backed Conference on Disarmament (CD) has been unable to launch negotiations to halt global production of nuclear bomb-making fissile material so far this year.

Pakistan has refused to join a required consensus at the 65-member forum, insisting that it needs to keep open the fissile option to keep pace with its nuclear-armed rival India.

The talks have "regressed" and risk becoming "irrelevant" if they don't keep in tune with international efforts to cut weapons arsenals, warned Sergei Ordzhonikidze, head of the UN in Geneva who serves as secretary-general of the conference.

"What we see is not zero, but it is minus," he said in a blunt speech on Thursday. "We have done nothing. ... I don't know what to tell the Secretary-General (Ban Ki-moon) when he asks what is going on in the CD except to say, 'I am sorry Mr. Secretary-General, nothing is going on.'" ...

On behalf of Mr. Ban, Ordzhonikidze appealed to members to be "a little more flexible" and to overcome the wrangling over which items to tackle in 2010, known as the program of work. "It is not the finalization of the elaboration of any treaty, it is just the program of work," he said.

In addition to fissile material (highly-enriched uranium and plutonium), the other core issues on the table are talks on wider nuclear disarmament, halting an arms race in outer space, and "negative security assurances"—promises by nuclear powers not to use atomic weapons on non-nuclear states.

... [O]ther issues [raised] include the use of missiles as weapon delivery systems and regional arms control issues at the annual session.

 [back to top](#)

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## **START Signing Time and Venue Not Determined Yet—Tauscher**

*Moscow ITAR-TASS, 16 February 2010, accessed via Open Source Center*

The time and the place where a new strategic arms reduction treaty will be signed have not been determined yet, Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Ellen Tauscher told foreign journalists, including Itar-Tass, on Monday.

"We do not have a place to sign yet nor do we have a date to sign, but we hope that the remaining negotiations could conclude quickly. But we will not make any predictions about when we will finish," she said.

The U.S. and Russian delegations are in Geneva and "resumed negotiations and treaty text preparation, and we hope to complete a new treaty as soon as possible".

"It's important that we arrive at a quality agreement that meets the needs and interests of both sides, so it's important that we get it right by producing a treaty that enhances United States security," Tauscher said.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) expired on December 5, 2009. ... Russia and the United States agreed to further reduce strategic offensive arms and to sign a new legally binding treaty to replace START ... in accordance with the "Joint Understanding on Further Strategic Offensive Arms Cuts and Reductions" signed by Mr. Medvedev and Mr. Obama in Moscow in July 2009.

The Joint Understanding commits the United States and Russia to reduce their strategic warheads to a range of 1,500-1,675, and their strategic delivery vehicles to a range of 500-1,100. Under the expired START treaty and the existing Moscow Treaty [Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty ( SORT)], the maximum allowable number of warheads is 2,200 and the maximum allowable number of launch vehicles is 1,600.

The numbers stated in the Joint Understanding are lower than those in any prior or existing arms control agreements. The new treaty will also include effective verification measures drawn from the experience of the States Parties implementing START. The new agreement will enhance the security of both the United States and Russia, as well as provide predictability and stability with regard to strategic offensive forces. This new follow-on agreement to START, directly supports the goals outlined by the U.S. President during his speech in Prague [in 2009] and will demonstrate Russian and American leadership in strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



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**DTRA**

The START treaty was signed on July 31, 1991, and entered into force on December 5, 1994. ...This treaty obliged the States parties to reduce their nuclear warheads by more than 40 percent (to 6,000 warheads each) and to reduce their strategic carries (delivery vehicles) by about 30 percent (to 1,600 pieces each). Both Russia and the United States fulfilled these obligations by 2001. Meanwhile, the treaty introduced qualitative restrictions: the ban on air-to-ground ballistic missiles; on the number of warheads exceeding the coordinated number on each type of missiles; on the equipping of cruise missiles with multiple warheads; etc.

 [back to top](#)

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Russia and the United States may sign a new treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive armaments in a European capital city in March, the Chairman of the Federation Council International Affairs Committee, Mikhail Margelov, told Itar-Tass.

"The negotiators have done a colossal work, and the treaty is about 97 percent ready. I hope it will be signed in a European capital city in March," Margelov said. "I think we should start to discuss Phase Two, i.e. the synchronous ratification process in Russia and in the United States."

Russian and American senators will meet in Washington DC from April 15-17, 2010, immediately after the nuclear summit, Margelov said. "We have the intention to say that the ratification of the new treaty is not a Russian gift to the United States or vice versa. This is a mutual gift, which will reinforce national security of both countries for the benefit of the entire world," he said.

[back to top](#)

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## Russian, U.S. Presidents Agree New Arms Cuts Treaty Will Be Parity-Based— Lavrov

*Moscow Interfax, 25 February 2010, accessed via Open Source Center*

Moscow hopes the successor agreement to the expired Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) will take into account the link between defensive weapons and offensive weapons, and have a strictly parity-based character, said Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Russian and U.S. presidents Dmitry Medvedev and Barack Obama discussed the link between missile defense and strategic offensive arms by telephone on Wednesday [February 24], Lavrov said, according to the radio station.

"Our president and his American counterpart confirmed that their earlier agreement remains fully in force and that the delegations working in Geneva must abide by these agreements. This means that the link between strategic offensive and strategic defensive weapons, or between strategic offensive arms and missile defense, must be taken into account," Lavrov was quoted as saying.

The foreign minister hopes that the American negotiators will document this link in the form tentatively agreed on ... [which was] a strictly parity-based character of the future strategic arms reduction treaty.

"Namely, no control measure ... deemed excessive, since we live in a different epoch, where there must be much less room for suspicion. We are not adversaries. We call each other partners and we want to maintain friendly relations. Besides that, all control measures must be equal on each side, if the parity, agreed upon by the presidents, is to be observed," Lavrov said.

The new strategic arms reduction treaty has been 95 percent drafted, Lavrov also said. "But we must not forget about a more than 200-page protocol to this treaty, which deals with specifically military-technical issues, the work on which has never stopped. However, the remaining minor issues, in terms of their page volume, must be given the final brushes in strict accordance with the parity principles, agreed upon by the presidents."

[back to top](#)

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