Discussing Chemical Weapons Abolition: Are We There Yet?

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World War I
Ypres, Belgium, April/May 1915

- 90,000 killed, 1 million injured by chemical weapons in WWI
- 190,000 tons of chemical agents produced by Germany, France, Britain, and US
- April 22, 1915 – 5,700 canisters of chlorine used by Germany
1925 Geneva Protocol

- For the Prohibition of Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous, or Other Gases, and Bacteriological Methods of Warfare
- Banned use of chemical and biological weapons, but not RDT&E
- US President Roosevelt (1943) – “use of such [gas] weapons has been outlawed by the general opinion of civilized mankind.”
Chemical Weapons Threats

- Iran-Iraq War 1980s
- Iraq attack in Halabja 1988
- 1991 Gulf War
- 1995 Tokyo attack by Aum Shinrikyo
- Ongoing terrorist threats to obtain WMD
- Syria 2012-2016
Chemical Weapons Convention

- Over 12 years in negotiations
- Opened for signature in 1993
- Entered into force in 1997
- US and Russia both ratified in 1997
- 192 States Parties today
- 4 countries still outside of CWC
- 8 countries declared CW stockpiles
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>CW Stockpiles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>40,000 metric tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>28,600 metric tons (31,500 US)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1,055 metric tons (est)</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>605 metric tons (est)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>26 metric tons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>16 metric tons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>na</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>1,308 metric tons (est)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>72,500 +/- metric tons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Declared U.S. CW Stockpile: 31,495 US tons  
(9 stockpile sites in 8 states and Johnston Atoll)
Declared R.F. CW Stockpile: 40,000 MTs
(7 stockpiles in 5 Oblasts and the Udmurt Republic)
Shchuch’ye Stockpile
Shchuch’ye Chemical Weapons
CW Destruction in US

- 1990 – present
- 25,650 MT destroyed (90%)
- 7 stockpiles closed
- $35 billion+ spent to date
- 6-7 more years to go
- 2 facilities under construction
CW Destruction in Russia

- 2002 – present
- 36,800 MT destroyed (92%)
- 6 stockpiles neutralized
- $8+ billion spent to date
- 3-5+ years to go
Other CWD Progress

- **Albania** – 16 MT destroyed (100%) 2007
- **South Korea** – 605 MT destroyed (100%) 2008
- **India** – 1,055 MT destroyed (100%) 2009
- **Libya** – 26 +/- MT destroyed (100%) 2014
- **Iraq** – Declared 2009
- **Syria** – Declared 2013
Buried Chemical Weapons
Sea-Dumped Chemical Weapons
Syrian Chemical Weapons

- 1,308 MTs of chemicals declared
- 20 MTs of mustard agent
- 100% removed by June 2014 from Syria
- 100% destroyed by December 2015
- Ongoing discussions over 2013 declaration
OPCW, UN, and Syria

- OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) continues to investigate alleged use of chemicals in Syria.
- OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) will issue September report on accountability for chemical attacks.
- Recent statements that there remain “gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies,” in Syria’s declarations.
Conclusions

- Chemical agents are no longer viable military weapons, and have become “taboo,” morally reprehensible, and a dangerous burden.

- All possessor states must complete safe elimination of CW stockpiles in the near term – Russia, US, Iraq, and Libya.

- All non-member states must join the CWC – Egypt, Israel, North Korea, and South Sudan.
Conclusions (2)

- Protection of the environment, public health, and worker safety in weapons demilitarization processes is an absolute necessity, trumping deadlines and budget limits.

- Transparency, stakeholder involvement, public dialogue, and consensus-building are essential to program success.

- Abolition of a whole class of weapons of mass destruction is an historic achievement.
Conclusions (3)

- Threats of accident and terrorist use remain, requiring emergency preparedness, response mechanisms, and first responder training.
- “Non-lethal” industrial chemicals, e.g. chlorine, also pose serious risks and can still be lethal, as shown in Syria & Iraq today.
- A “chemical-weapons-free world” will still not be devoid of dangerous chemicals.
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