



# USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL

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USA Today  
November 21, 2006  
Pg. 1

## **Chemical Weapons' Disposal Delayed**

*U.S. won't be rid of arms until 2023*

By Peter Eisler, USA Today

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has extended its timeline to destroy its aging chemical weapons arsenal until 2023, despite concerns by Congress and watchdog groups that the stockpiles raise the risk of an accident or theft by terrorists.

The new schedule, outlined in Pentagon documents obtained by USA TODAY, means the military won't eliminate its stocks of deadly nerve gases and skin-blistering agents until 11 years after the 2012 deadline set by the international Chemical Weapons Convention. The U.S. government had already asked for a five-year extension from an earlier 2007 deadline.

Communities near the seven sites where weapons are stockpiled have long complained about the delays. Congress echoed those concerns this year, when it called eliminating the stockpiles “a homeland security imperative” and directed the Pentagon in a defense bill to “make every effort” to destroy them by the convention deadline or “soon thereafter.”

Pentagon spokesman Chris Isleib said the delay is the result of several factors, including technological challenges in developing and building disposal plants, regulatory delays, and safety and security issues. Even so, he said, the military remains committed to the job and that the war in Iraq has not drained money from the effort.

"Destroying these weapons safely is not a fast or simple process," Isleib said.

Disposal facilities, mostly incinerators, are operating at five sites. The new Pentagon plan, however, would slow construction and operating schedules for two remaining plants near Pueblo, Colo., and Richmond, Ky. Those plants, which will neutralize chemical agents instead of burning them, won't finish that work until 2020 and 2023, respectively, the plan shows.

The Pentagon "is again backsliding on its commitment," Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said in a statement.

The projections "are simply unacceptable," he said. "They would subject the people living near (stockpiles) to the dangers of chemical weapons until well into the 2020s."

The military has destroyed 41% of its 31,500-ton chemical arsenal, which includes weapons such as rockets and caches of raw chemical agents. A Pentagon report in April showed that projected costs for destroying all stockpiles have climbed from \$2 billion in 1986 to \$32 billion today.

Critics say the plan to slow spending and stretch construction at the remaining disposal plants will raise costs and create needless risks of an accidental chemical release or terrorist attack.

"To intentionally put tens of thousands of Americans at an unnecessary risk by continuing to store these weapons is reprehensible," said Craig Williams of the Chemical Weapons Working Group, a Kentucky-based coalition of citizen groups from stockpile sites. "Not only are they ignoring our international treaty obligations, they are undermining the military's ... obligation to protect U.S. citizens."

[http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20061121/1a\\_lede21\\_dom.art.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20061121/1a_lede21_dom.art.htm)

#### **Status of stockpiles**

Chemical weapons stockpile sites and disposal status:

#### **Disposal facilities operational**

**Umatilla, Oregon:** Nerve Gas, Mustard Gas

**Tooele, Utah:** Nerve Gas, Mustard Gas

**Pine Bluff, Ark.:** Nerve Gas, Mustard Gas

**Anniston, Ala.:** Nerve Gas, Mustard Gas

**Newport, Ind.:** Nerve Gas

#### **Disposal facilities under development**

**Pueblo, Colo.:** Mustard Gas

**Richmond, Ky.:** Nerve Gas, Mustard Gas

#### **Disposal work completed**

**Johnston Atoll (Pacific Ocean):** No material remaining

**Aberdeen, Md.:** No material remaining

*Source: Defense Department*

[http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20061121/1a\\_ledelist21\\_dom.art.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20061121/1a_ledelist21_dom.art.htm)

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Miami Herald

November 22, 2006

## **Iran Not Likely To Get Reactor Aid**

VIENNA (AP) -- Iran's call for help in building a plutonium-producing reactor appeared headed for rejection, with diplomats at a 35-nation meeting of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog agency saying Tuesday that many of Tehran's traditional allies favored denying the request.

The diplomats at the International Atomic Energy Agency committee meeting said there was majority support for approving agency aid on seven other Iranian projects, but for refusing help on the eighth: the construction of the Arak reactor that will produce plutonium, a possible pathway to nuclear arms.

The United States was a chief supporter of that approach. "There was a certain pragmatism that we weren't going to win on the other ones," a U.S. official said, explaining why Washington did not push for a ban on all eight Iran aid requests.

Some diplomats also suggested a parallel U.S. decision to tread lightly while Washington considers seeking direct dialogue with Tehran on reducing Iraq violence.

The decision on the energy agency's technical aid to Iran was to be made formally Thursday, once the committee looking at hundreds of aid requests from member countries ends its work and the full board meeting begins. The

chairman of that meeting will likely announce approval of all the Iranian projects except for Arak, four diplomats said, asking for anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the closed meeting.

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/world/16071545.htm>

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New York Times  
November 24, 2006

## Iran Says It Will Build Heavy-Water Reactor Without Agency's Help

By Nazila Fathi

TEHRAN, Nov. 23 — Iran said Thursday that it would build a heavy-water reactor on its own after the United Nations nuclear monitoring agency decided to remove the item from a list of projects for which it planned to provide technical assistance.

“It is part of the agency’s duties to help,” Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said at a news conference on Thursday after the action in Vienna by the 35-member board of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the ISNA news service reported. “If they do not help, we will do it on our own.”

Iran says that it is building the heavy-water reactor at Arak, 120 miles southwest of Tehran, to produce radioactive isotopes for medical treatments and that the agency should provide it with technical assistance as part of its mission. The agency provides help to promote the peaceful development of nuclear energy, as well as monitoring possible weapons programs.

But the United States, European countries and other members that contend that Iran is seeking to develop nuclear arms oppose helping Iran with a plant that would yield plutonium, a fuel used in nuclear weapons. Those nations are seeking sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program in the United Nations Security Council.

In what appeared to be a modest concession on Thursday, after Iran said it would make some concessions to nuclear inspectors, the nuclear agency approved technical assistance for seven of Iran’s other nuclear energy programs that it determined did not pose a threat of being diverted into nuclear weapons programs. It said the Arak project could be resubmitted for consideration in two years. However, Iran has steadily narrowed over the past year the ability of inspectors to visit a wide range of facilities, and it has so far refused to answer a series of questions the nuclear agency had posed to it.

Mohamed ElBaradei, the agency’s director, said the project would be delayed. “If confidence in the nature of Iran’s program were to be restored,” Reuters quoted him as saying, “the board might consider to revisit the decision.” However, he told the board that Iran had agreed to let agency inspectors take further environmental samples from research equipment to try to determine the origin of traces of highly enriched, or weapons-quality, uranium found there.

Dr. ElBaradei said Iran had also agreed to provide inspectors access to operating records needed to audit the level of uranium enrichment at its Natanz pilot nuclear fuel plant after a prolonged refusal to do so.

“These are important steps in the right direction,” Reuters quoted him as saying.

“What we really require from Iran is a full explanation of the development of its nuclear program from start to finish,” Dr. ElBaradei said, adding, “Then, Iran needs to openly corroborate this explanation with evidence, including records and access to relevant locations and individuals involved.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/24/world/middleeast/24iran.html>

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Birmingham New  
Monday, November 27, 2006

## Combating anthrax

WILLIAM THORNTON

News staff writer

The sign staring back at me from the wall at UAB's Vaccine Clinic was something I hadn't counted on.

"Rate your pain on a scale of one to 10, one being nothing and 10 being the worst pain you've ever felt," it read.

"Time for your shot," said the nurse, coming into the room on cue. I nervously asked if that sign had anything to do with me.

"It could," she said.

Thankfully, I rated a 1. The shot may - or may not - have been the anthrax vaccine. In April 2003, I signed up for a study through UAB on the vaccine's effects. I completed it in October. Over three years, I made 25 visits to the 20th Street clinic for shots, blood draws and to occasionally drop off a diary listing possible side effects. I won't know until next year whether I ever got the vaccine.

I was one of 375 people in the Birmingham area who signed up. Not everyone made it as far as I did. Some just dropped out or moved away. For my trouble, I received \$50 for visits involving a blood draw or a shot, plus the occasional gift card for staying with the study over time.

The study, through the Centers for Disease Control, is being conducted nationwide at five separate centers and is helping to determine just how much of the anthrax vaccine the body needs to develop immunity.

Soldiers, for example, get a course of eight vaccines over 3½ years. But transfers to far-off stations or even combat sometimes means skipping an injection.

The study, among other things, is trying to find out if a person can get by with four injections. Researchers also will use the results to determine the side effects from injecting the shot into the muscles of the upper arm rather than the fatty tissue farther down.

I signed up out of some vague sense of patriotism after hearing a few radio commercials. The anthrax scares of 2001 were still fresh on my mind, along with the knowledge that, at 33, I'm a little old for enlisting. Call it my very insignificant service in the War on Terror.

My wife asked me what the side effects were, something I didn't think to ask when I signed up. I had to reassure my mother that I had not been injected with the anthrax virus itself.

Visits started off with a slate of questions about my general health. Any recent hospital visits? Nervousness? Fatigue? The research nurse handling my case, Jerri Moody, took my blood pressure and temperature, then called for the nurse to come with my shot. After waiting a few minutes in case side effects developed, I was allowed to leave. Two to three days later, I would come back for a blood draw.

After each injection, I kept a daily log of how I felt, taking my temperature for four days and logging whether my arm was sore or itchy. If I had a rash around the injection area, I noted the size and intensity. That happened twice over the three years, providing a day's worth of minor scratching.

"Remember, every drug you will ever use in your life went through this process," Jerri told me, which alleviated any minor doubts I still had.

The pattern repeated itself every few months. I went, answered questions with Jerri, had my shot, picked up my diary sheets. Over time, the trips grew less and less frequent.

During my visits, I showed off pictures of my growing daughter, heard about Jerri's courtship and marriage, and observed my weight fluctuate through several half-hearted diets. I watched more and more of the checks I got for participating in the study disappear into my gas tank.

Still, some moments reminded me of how the study might appear to others. Early on, the clinic moved to a different building. I made a visit and found the remaining equipment surrounded by moving boxes.

I smiled and wondered who they would find to carry them. All the boxes had the same sinister word scrawled in black marker: Anthrax.

"Good luck finding volunteers for that," I thought.

<http://www.al.com/living/birminghamnews/index.ssf?/base/living/1164623670293820.xml&coll=2&thispage=1>

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New York Times  
November 29, 2006

## **Iran Resolution, Still Not Final, Drops Mention Of Sanctions**

By Helene Cooper

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28 — The six world powers seeking to rein in Iran's nuclear ambitions are circulating a significantly weakened draft for a United Nations Security Council resolution against Tehran's nuclear program, in a bid to keep their fragile coalition from falling apart.

The new text under consideration has dropped all mention of sanctions against Iran's first nuclear power plant at Bushehr, according to European diplomats. The United States had initially proposed including Bushehr on the list of programs to single out, but Russia, which has been helping to build the power plant with the Iranians, balked.

Diplomats from the six countries, which also include Britain, France, Germany and China, have been squabbling about the draft resolution for almost three months. There is still no agreement on a final draft.

Complicating the matter is the steady drumbeat in Washington, from inside and outside the Bush administration, calling on President Bush to initiate talks with Iran over the worsening violence in Iraq.

"This has to be carefully managed," said one European diplomat, speaking under condition of anonymity under normal diplomatic practice. "It's important for the U.S. to separate the two issues, because the Iranians would like everything to be combined."

It has been six months since the six powers offered Iran a list of incentives to stop enriching uranium and threatened sanctions if Iran did not. In June, at the time of the initial offer, American officials said Iran had "weeks, not months" to comply.

The growing call for Washington to initiate talks with Tehran over Iraq is only one of the complicating factors. Also holding things up is that Russia and China—but Russia in particular — dislike like the idea of punitive sanctions, and have been dragged along kicking and screaming, according to diplomats.

American officials have sought a strongly worded resolution that would prohibit any technical or financial assistance that could benefit Iran's nuclear program, and would impose a ban on visas for any Iranians involved in nuclear activities, according to American and European diplomats involved in the talks.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/29/world/middleeast/29iran.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/29/world/middleeast/29iran.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

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REUTERS UK

## **U.S. tells North Korea to get out of nuclear business**

Thu Nov 30, 2006 9:24 AM GMT

By Nick Macfie and Anil Ekmeçic

BEIJING (Reuters) - The U.S. envoy to nuclear talks headed back to Washington on Thursday with a promise from North Korea that it would study ideas proposed in two days of talks, and said the ball was now in Pyongyang's court. Urging North Korea to get out of the nuclear business and rejoin a non-proliferation treaty, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said Pyongyang had tough decisions to make ahead of a resumption of talks on dismantling its nuclear weapons programme, which is expected in mid-December.

The reclusive state agreed to return to the negotiations -- which also involve South Korea, the United States, host China, Japan and Russia -- after its first nuclear test on October 9 triggered U.N.-backed sanctions.

"The ball is very much in the North Korean court," Hill told reporters during a brief stopover at Tokyo airport after meetings in Beijing with his North Korean and Chinese counterparts.

"The problem is not setting a date. We can set a date any day -- that's not a problem. The problem is getting to the talks and making progress."

"They must get out of the nuclear business and into the NPT," he said, referring to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which North Korea quit in 2003.

North Korean envoy Kim Kwe-gwan was amicable, but adamant about not giving up the country's nuclear programmes.

"The results to come will eventually surface after time goes by, and that is part of the diplomatic progress," he told reporters after a meeting with South Korea's envoy in Beijing.

"... about giving up nuclear weapons, we cannot unilaterally give them up," he added.

Hill said his team, "working with the Chinese consistently throughout", had shared ideas with the North Koreans. The U.S. embassy -- referring to North Korea by its official acronym -- said: "The DPRK promised to study these ideas".

"NOTHING NEW"

"We have given them ideas for how we can proceed. I invited Mr Kim Kwe-gwan to give me ideas if he had any. Unfortunately he did not have anything new," Hill said.

In Washington, the Bush administration kept up pressure on Pyongyang, listing luxury items it would seek to block under U.N. trade sanctions, including cognac, cigars and jet skis.

"While North Korea's people starve and suffer, there is simply no excuse for the regime to be splurging on cognac and cigars," Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez said.

"We will ban the export of these and other luxury goods that are purchased for no other reason than to benefit North Korea's governing elite," he added in a written statement.

Kim has long been known for his fondness for cognac and is said to have a wine cellar with space for 10,000 bottles. U.S. officials argue that if the elite directly feel the sting of international outrage, it could loosen Kim's control.

"It's a creative idea. Somebody's got a sense of humour over there" at the Commerce Department, said William Reinsch, a former senior Commerce Department official who administered trade restrictions with North Korea for former president Bill Clinton.

"I don't think it'll do any good, but it'll certainly send a message," he said.

The U.N. Security Council has already voted to ban military supplies and weapons shipments, echoing sanctions already imposed by the United States. It also prohibited sales of luxury goods but left each country to define such items.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said Pyongyang wanted sanctions dropped and Washington to free the North's overseas bank accounts as preconditions for ending its nuclear programme.

U.S. officials have said they want North Korea, without condition, to stand by an agreement last year to abandon all nuclear weapons and nuclear programmes. In return, the other nations held out economic, political and security incentives.

(Additional reporting by Lee Jin-joo in Seoul, Carol Giacomo in Washington and Teruaki Ueno in Tokyo)

[http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/articlenews.aspx?storyid=2006-11-30T092424Z\\_01\\_PEK179368\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_UK-KOREA-NORTH.xml&type=worldNews&WTmodLoc=World-C3-More-4](http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/articlenews.aspx?storyid=2006-11-30T092424Z_01_PEK179368_RTRUKOC_0_UK-KOREA-NORTH.xml&type=worldNews&WTmodLoc=World-C3-More-4)

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Washington Post

December 1, 2006

Pg. 22

## **U.S. May Pursue Iran Sanctions Even If Russia Balks**

By Glenn Kessler, Washington Post Staff Writer

DEAD SEA, Jordan, Nov. 30 -- Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice signaled Thursday that the United States is willing to risk a breach with Russia if the Russians do not soon sign on to a U.N. Security Council resolution to punish Iran for its nuclear activities.

"I am all for maintaining unity, but I am also in favor of action," Rice told reporters traveling with her as she devoted much of her day to other Middle East crises: trying to nurture a fledgling truce between Israel and the Palestinians, and attending talks in Amman, Jordan, between President Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Six months ago, the United States said it would join European-led talks on Iran's nuclear programs if Iran agreed to halt uranium enrichment. Officials said at the time that they would give Iran "weeks, not months" to comply. But since Iran rejected the offer, the administration has engaged in difficult negotiations with Russia over the terms of a U.N. resolution to impose sanctions.

Until now, a key administration goal has been to keep the five nations on the Security Council that hold veto power, plus Germany, unified on the Iran issue. But Rice's remarks suggested that the administration's patience is waning and that officials could soon offer a resolution, daring Russia to veto it. Officials say they believe Russia would abstain instead, allowing passage of a resolution under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter.

Russia has strong business ties with Iran and is building a nuclear reactor in Bushehr, which it has sought to shield from the sanctions resolution.

"Obviously, we'd like to keep the unity of the P5-plus-one," Rice said, referring to the five permanent Security Council members and Germany, "but unity is not an end in itself. The goal is to get a resolution that makes sense in terms of convincing the Iranians that their behavior is not acceptable in the international community. We have to do something."

Rice, who is at this Jordanian resort to attend a conference on Arab democracy, devoted much of her day to trying to revive long-stalled peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians. Palestinian factions and Israel agreed this past weekend to a tenuous cease-fire in the Gaza Strip, and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert offered to release some Palestinian prisoners, reduce controls on the movement of people and goods in Gaza and the West Bank, and restart negotiations to create a Palestinian state.

Rice met first with the Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas, in the West Bank city of Jericho before traveling to Jerusalem, where she met with Olmert and Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni.

In Jericho, Abbas announced that months of talks to establish a unity government had "unfortunately reached a dead end." The victory by the Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas, in legislative elections in January resulted in a cutoff of international aid, so Abbas, who heads the rival Fatah party, said the failure of the talks "is very painful for us because we know how badly the people have been suffering over the last nine months. All options are open, with the exception of civil war, which we will never accept."

Saeb Erekat, chief Palestinian negotiator and a Fatah legislator, said Abbas sought Rice's help on several issues. He asked her to work with Egyptian officials to support a so-far elusive exchange of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails for Israeli army Cpl. Gilad Shalit, who has been held by Palestinian gunmen since late June.

Abbas also urged Rice to press Israeli officials to adhere to the terms of an agreement she helped broker last year governing the operation of the crossings between Israel and Gaza, Erekat said. Citing security concerns, Israel has kept the key cargo passages closed for much of the year.

*Correspondent Scott Wilson in Jerusalem contributed to this report.*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/11/30/AR2006113000031.html>

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