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Welcome to the CPC Outreach Journal. As part of USAF Counterproliferation Center's mission to counter weapons of mass destruction through education and research, we're providing our government and civilian community a source for timely counterproliferation information. This information includes articles, papers and other documents addressing issues pertinent to US military response options for dealing with nuclear, biological and chemical threats and attacks. It's our hope this information resource will help enhance your counterproliferation issue awareness.

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(Editor's Note: Two GAO reports referencing National Guard equipment follow article.)

Miami Herald

October 21, 2005

Wars Leave National Guard Short On Critical Equipment

By Drew Brown, Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON - The Army National Guard has lost so much critical equipment in Iraq and Afghanistan that its ability to respond to a national emergency could be severely hampered, says a government report released Thursday.

Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told the House Government Reform Committee that the Guard needs \$1.3 billion to replace or upgrade radios, helicopters, tactical vehicles, heavy engineering

equipment, chemical detection gear and night-vision goggles, which are essential to responding to national emergencies such as the recent Gulf Coast hurricanes and terrorist attacks.

Blum's testimony, along with that of other top National Guard and military officials and the governors of Idaho and Pennsylvania, coincided with the release of a new Government Accountability Office report, which says the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have left many Army National Guard units dangerously short of critical equipment. The shortages threaten the National Guard's ability to prepare its forces for future missions at home and overseas, the auditors found.

"The bottom line is that our inventory is now at 34 percent" of what it should be, Blum said.

"National Guard officials believe that the National Guard's response to Hurricane Katrina was more complicated because significant quantities of critical equipment, such as satellite communications equipment, radios, trucks, helicopters and night-vision goggles were deployed to Iraq," said U.S. Comptroller General David M. Walker in a statement accompanying the report's release.

The report found several reasons for the problem:

- The National Guard is experiencing its biggest use of forces since World War II. More than 30 percent of Army troops in Iraq are National Guard soldiers.

- The Army traditionally has equipped National Guard units with only 70 percent of the combat equipment they need, under the assumption that if sent overseas, they would have time to obtain the rest before deployment.

- Current operations, especially in Iraq, have created an unprecedented demand for certain items, such as armored vehicles.

By July 2005, the Army National Guard had transferred more than 101,000 pieces of equipment from stateside units to equip those bound for overseas. More than 64,000 items, worth \$1.2 billion, have been left overseas for other units, the auditors found. Further, the practice has "exhausted" the National Guard's inventory of more than 220 high-demand items, such as radios, night-vision goggles and trucks, the report said.

Overall, the National Guard is down to 34 percent of its normal inventory of equipment, and the Army still hasn't developed a plan for replacing lost or missing items, the report said.

As a result, some units have been unprepared to respond to natural disasters when they return home.

Because West Virginia's 1092nd Engineer Battalion left its equipment in Iraq for another unit, its troops found themselves without front-end loaders and dump trucks necessary for flood relief.

The battalion had to rent the equipment it needed, said Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett, West Virginia's adjutant general.

"I believe this situation must be addressed before the next hurricane, earthquake or tsunami finds us ill-equipped to respond to a threat as potentially deadly as any enemy attack," he said.

Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis, R-Va., said he and Sen. Christopher Bond, R-Mo., are working to ensure that the National Guard gets the \$1.3 billion it needs in the next supplemental spending bill.

"Quite simply, we are robbing the nondeployed Peter to pay the deployed Paul," he said. "I understand the need to prioritize, but this shouldn't have to be a zero-sum game."

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/nation/12954882.htm>

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Reserve Forces: Plans Needed to Improve Army National Guard Equipment Readiness and Better Integrate Guard into Army Force Transformation Initiatives.

GAO-06-111, October 4.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-111>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06111high.pdf>

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Reserve Forces: Army National Guard's Role, Organization, and Equipment Need to Be Reexamined.

GAO-06-170T, October 20.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-170T>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06170thigh.pdf>

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New York Times
October 21, 2005

North Korea Ready For Talks, U.S. Envoy Says

By James Brooke

TOKYO, Friday, Oct. 21 - North Korea is "fully committed" to return to nuclear disarmament talks in November and is showing "flexibility" on conditions for obtaining a light-water reactor, an American envoy to the North said here Friday. "They showed me flexibility on the light-water reactor issue," the envoy, Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico, said in an interview.

Energy-poor North Korea has been seeking the reactor as the price for giving up its nuclear program. The North seems to want the reactor partly to save face for returning to international nuclear controls, Mr. Richardson said, adding, "In my opinion, it is an important issue, but not a deal breaker."

To make nuclear power in North Korea palatable to Washington, Mr. Richardson said, "they would be willing to have the U.S. participate in the fuel cycle at the front and back end."

"What that basically means is that the U.S. could control it, as well as the six parties." The talks also include China, Russia, South Korea and Japan.

The Chinese government announced Friday that President Hu Jintao will visit North Korea for three days next week, starting next Friday, The Associated Press reported. The government provided no details of the trip's purpose.

Bush administration officials have said they wanted North Korea to disarm before any talks could begin about the possibility of North Korea's obtaining civilian nuclear power. At Washington's insistence, work was halted two years ago on two nuclear power plants under construction on North Korea's east coast.

Arms control experts fear that weapon-grade fuel could be extracted from materials at civilian plants.

The issue of a civilian power plant became a stumbling block in the last round of talks, last month in Beijing. A day after agreeing to a joint statement on nuclear disarmament, the North blasted the agreement, demanding a light-water fuel plant in advance and casting a cloud over future talks.

North Korea gave an "unconditional commitment" to return to the talks in early November, Mr. Richardson said after four days of meetings in the capital, Pyongyang.

"They are returning to talks with a commitment to denuclearizing, but they want words for words, actions for actions," he said. "The most important issue is the nuclear reactor."

"They were very clear about adhering to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, very clear," he said.

"It was the most positive tone I have seen" Mr. Richardson said of his trip, his fourth to Pyongyang. He said he met four times with Kim Kye Gwan, North Korea's top nuclear negotiator, and had a two-hour meeting with Kang Sok Ju, a deputy foreign minister whom he described as "the top foreign policy adviser to Kim Jong Il," the North Korean leader.

In the meetings, the North Koreans also agreed to allow most foreign aid workers to stay in the country. Last month, North Korea had given a Dec. 31 deadline for foreigners working for private aid groups to leave and had ordered the World Food Program to change its aid from "humanitarian" to "development."

"The North Koreans basically reversed their position on the aid issue, basically the date of expulsion is now not operational," said Mr. Richardson. "I said, 'You've got school lunches for kids.' They said, 'O.K., that's development.'"

The World Food Program will be allowed to keep 30 foreign aid workers, slightly fewer than their current allotment. On Tuesday, Richard Ragan, the American who directs aid efforts for this United Nations agency, said the personnel cuts were forcing him to prepare to close all of the program's 19 food-enrichment factories in North Korea. The program helps to feed about one-third of North Korea's 22 million people.

Private aid groups were guaranteed residency visas for 30 foreigners, said Mr. Richardson. "They have won breathing room for negotiations to take place to maintain a slightly reduced presence."

Allowing the North to save face, on foreign aid and on the nuclear program, is a key to making progress with the proud and often isolated government, he said.

Reflecting the North's poverty, Mr. Richardson said, on Wednesday, during a 90-minute car drive north from the capital to the Yongbyon nuclear research center, he saw a "destitute" countryside with only "one very antiquated tractor."

At the usually off-limits nuclear research complex, he said he saw no evidence that the weapons fuel had been made.

"I saw no spent fuel rods in the cooling pool," he said. "They told us the plutonium had been reprocessed from early 2003 to April 2005, when it was moved to the reprocessing facility or transferred elsewhere. They did not show me the reprocessing facility. They said it was being decontaminated."

As governor of New Mexico and earlier as secretary of energy, Mr. Richardson has often visited nuclear weapons laboratories in his state.

"I urged the North Koreans to shut down the Yongbyon reactor during the talks," he said.

He said he had asked the North Koreans how many bombs they had.

"Their response implied they have them, but that they have a very low number," Mr. Richardson said, believing the number to be "the lower end of single digits."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/10/21/international/asia/21korea.html?adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1129918935-M4QO+37uObd0/IQntfduog>

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Los Angeles Times

October 21, 2005

N. Korea Will Allow Some Aid Groups To Stay, Richardson Says

The regime also plans to return to nuclear arms talks, the New Mexico governor tells reporters.

By Bruce Wallace, Times Staff Writer

TOKYO — North Korea has backed away from an order for all international aid organizations to leave the country by the end of the year, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said today as he concluded a four-day visit to the isolated country.

"I believe they're sending signals of wanting to engage," an upbeat Richardson said at a news conference in Tokyo this morning, citing the change of heart over the planned expulsions. "Now there's a reprieve."

North Korea issued the order to the humanitarian agencies last month, claiming that a bumper harvest this year made the aid unnecessary. But aid agencies argue that more than a quarter of the 23 million North Koreans lack food and that emergency assistance is still needed.

Richardson said he secured permission for the United Nations' World Food Program and 30 of its international employees to stay in the country. He said, however, that he expected a modest reduction in the total number of international aid agencies in North Korea, to meet the regime's insistence on a shift from humanitarian to development aid.

Richardson, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, also said senior North Korean officials were committed to returning to international negotiations on their nuclear weapons arsenal in early November and would be willing to allow international oversight of their program if Pyongyang were allowed to acquire a nuclear reactor for generating power.

"We shouldn't expect an agreement in the next round, but there should be measurable progress made," he said.

North Korea has said it wants a light-water nuclear reactor to meet its energy needs in return for giving up its nuclear weapons ambitions. Washington insists that verifiable nuclear disarmament must precede any discussion of a reactor for peaceful uses.

The governor said his talks in North Korea led him to conclude that the country probably possesses two nuclear weapons. After initially being rebuffed, Richardson was given a two-hour tour of the Yongbyon nuclear facility, though he was denied access to a nearby reprocessing facility where plutonium is extracted from spent fuel rods for possible use in nuclear warheads.

"In my estimation, the sense was they have a small number on the lower end of one to five," Richardson said. "My sense was two. But I can't verify that."

Richardson said he was not visiting Pyongyang as a negotiator but rather used a standing invitation from North Korea to reinforce the Bush administration's message that Kim Jong Il's secretive dictatorship must give up its nuclear ambitions. He said the administration had approved his trip.

The governor traveled with a delegation of agricultural, medical and legal experts from New Mexico, a way to demonstrate the potential benefits that North Korea could expect from improved relations with the rest of the world.

"There is still mistrust, but I believe conditions for negotiations have improved," said Richardson, who has been dealing with North Korean issues for more than a decade. "The atmosphere is the best I've seen in 15 years."

Kim, North Korea's mercurial leader, did not meet Richardson during his visit. Pyongyang is prone to following up on any positive signal to the international community with conflicting, more bellicose language.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-norkor21oct21,1,7763441.story?coll=la-headlines-world>

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Miami Herald

October 21, 2005

Iran Disclosing Nuclear Data

By George Jahn, Associated Press

VIENNA - Diplomats and officials said Thursday that Iran has handed over sensitive documents to United Nations nuclear inspectors and allowed them to question a senior official about activities that could fuel atomic weapons -- concessions that may thwart U.S. efforts to bring Tehran before the Security Council.

At issue is how much centrifuge and related technology Iran received from the nuclear black market starting in the 1980s and where that equipment is.

There are suspicions that part of the technology, which can enrich uranium either to low-grade fuel or the fissile core for nuclear warheads, has not been declared to the International Atomic Energy Agency and has been used by the military to make bombs.

The energy agency hoped that Iran's decision to cooperate with inspectors over the enrichment program would help the probe into those suspicions, the diplomats and officials said on condition of anonymity because the information was confidential.

A U.S. official familiar with the issue said Iran was making "important concessions" in handing over documents and allowing the interview after nearly two years of stalling.

But Tehran still had not met other demands, including giving access to military sites identified by Washington as possibly being used for weapons-related experiments, the official said.

For the Americans, Iran's cooperation is a mixed blessing. It blunts the U.S. effort to have the Islamic republic referred to the Security Council as soon as next month by weakening the argument that Iran was not cooperating with the energy agency's inquiry. The Security Council could impose sanctions if it determines that Iran violated the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, although veto-wielding China and Russia oppose referral.

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/world/12958088.htm>

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Baltimore Sun

October 24, 2005

Reviews Fault U.S. Disaster Response Plans

Relief plans lack needed detail, military officials say

By Tom Bowman, Sun reporter

WASHINGTON--Military officials reviewing the government's botched response to Hurricane Katrina are criticizing disaster planning overall, saying that relief plans lack detail on how the Pentagon and other agencies should assist local leaders in the event of a hurricane or terrorist attack.

According to officials who requested anonymity, preliminary reviews by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the U.S. Northern Command, the Colorado headquarters that oversees homeland security, point to shortfalls in the National Response Plan, unveiled early this year, which was designed to end the fragmented and confused disaster-relief efforts at all levels of government.

The Pentagon report on lessons learned from the Katrina debacle also is expected to criticize the current system of training exercises for failing to provide rigorous tests of disaster response in advance of a potentially catastrophic event. Those criticisms are included in written drafts, and the overall review is expected to be completed by year's end, officials said.

The military reviews, part of a governmentwide investigation ordered by the White House, say the response plan offers no specifics on how federal agencies from the Pentagon to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, should respond to a disaster. For example, the plan does not state what type of military units or equipment the Pentagon would provide in the event of a hurricane.

Training exercises, designed to test government officials and emergency responders in advance of a natural disaster or terrorist strike, often fail to include the right people - from senior decision-makers at the national level to local officials, according to military officials familiar with the review.

Training sessions are not realistic or rigorous enough, at times coming to an abrupt end at a point where a real disaster would sorely test responders. Some officials explained that exercises do not continue because they are time-consuming and expensive.

The 100-page National Response Plan, two years in the making, was unveiled with great fanfare in January by Tom Ridge, then secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

Ridge, who was replaced by Michael Chertoff in March, termed the response blueprint a "groundbreaking" document and said it would provide "vastly improved coordination" among local, state and federal governments.

The plan was drafted to remedy problems with the government's response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, widely criticized as being fragmented and confused.

Mike Kucharek, a spokesman for Northern Command, declined to answer questions about the post-Katrina review, saying it is still under way and would be sent to the Pentagon in coming weeks. A defense official had little comment on the Joint Chiefs' review, saying it is expected to be completed in December.

Asked about criticisms of the National Response Plan, Homeland Security spokesman Russ Knocke said: "I am not going to judge the plan, and I am not going to judge the operators involved in the plan." But he added, "When we're farther along in our after-action efforts, we'll be in a better place to identify if any of those lessons learned are going to be applicable to the National Response Plan in the future."

He said the department is working with state and local officials, at the direction of President Bush, to review its disaster plans, and as part of that, will review its training exercises.

Paul McHale, assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense, said he had not yet seen the two military reviews, which his office will send to the White House as part of a broader investigation of the government's response to Katrina being spearheaded by Frances Townsend, Bush's domestic security adviser. While not directly criticizing the federal response plan, McHale echoed some of the early assessments by military officials.

Practical focus

McHale said Washington needs detailed plans on what each federal agency would do in responding to 15 different types of potentially catastrophic events, from natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes to terrorist strikes using chemical or nuclear weapons.

"The National Response Plan took some major steps forward. We have to bring that high-level document down to a more practical level," McHale said in an interview at his Pentagon office.

McHale acknowledged that government training exercises "have not been sufficiently challenging." Exercises simulating chemical or biological attacks or earthquakes in major cities have engaged local, state and federal officials over several days.

The Department of Homeland Security conducts national and regional disaster simulations throughout the year, and assists state and local governments in planning their own exercises.

Last year, FEMA funded an exercise lasting nearly two weeks that involved federal and local officials and a fictitious Hurricane Pam, a Category 3 storm that hit New Orleans. The exercise involved 1 million evacuees and heavy flooding. But the exercise did not include an evacuation of New Orleans residents without transportation.

"The lesson of Katrina is, we must make sure our exercises stress responders, not only challenging the local responders," McHale said. "How does the state and federal response adjust when the first responders are taken out?"

He said exercises should be carried to the point that local transportation systems collapse, so the Pentagon could then take charge by having its Transportation Command bring in aircraft, trucks and ships to move hospital patients and other disaster victims.

A senior Pentagon official involved in disaster relief said that, too often, disaster exercises aren't thorough enough.

In many cases, he said, top officials from Cabinet-level secretaries and generals to governors and mayors do not participate and simulations do not last long enough. The lack of "more rigorous" planning probably contributed to the confused and sometimes slow federal response to Katrina, which was "ad hoc at all levels," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Some military officers said that exercises involving larger numbers of local officials might have exposed the sorts of problems that occurred in New Orleans, where a significant portion of the city's police force failed to show up for work.

Similarly, the Joint Chiefs' review suggests that the Pentagon's expertise in radios and other communications systems makes it the logical choice for making sure that government officials can talk to one another in a crisis.

"I think that's a legitimate issue to be reviewed as part of the after-action," McHale said, noting that during Katrina, the military had trouble communicating with local emergency officials along the Gulf Coast. Sophisticated military communications vans, which can be sent to disaster areas, could link local emergency personnel with active-duty or National Guard soldiers, just as they eventually did during Katrina, he said.

Moving faster

According to the Joint Chiefs' review, the military also must move faster when it comes to filling in for local first responders such as police and firefighters, rather than waiting for a call from state government leaders who might have fallen victim to the disaster.

The review also recommends that the Pentagon anticipate local needs in the event of a disaster and be ready to quickly move in a variety of specialists, including Army Signal units for communications and military police from the National Guard to assist local law enforcement.

Military officers and officials familiar with the two draft reviews, speaking on condition of anonymity, said military officials regard the National Response Plan as overly vague.

Retired Coast Guard Adm. James M. Loy helped draft the National Response Plan at the direction of Ridge and served as acting secretary when Ridge left the Homeland Security Department.

Asked about criticism of the plan, he said: "I still believe it's a good plan, but we do need to be more specific." Loy, now a senior counselor with the Cohen Group, a Washington, D.C., consulting group headed by former Defense Secretary William S. Cohen, said that devising step-by-step response plans for each of the 15 disaster scenarios is "a very, very good point."

Loy said the intention of the plan when it was unveiled last December was that state and federal governments would draft specific response plans of their own and complete them by next year.

Townsend, the president's homeland security adviser and a former prosecutor, has assembled a team of a dozen people to investigate lessons learned and recommend changes around the end of the year, so Congress can introduce legislation early next year.

She told reporters Friday that part of her effort will be an evaluation of the National Response Plan to determine whether officials used it properly and also whether the plan is adequate.

'A broader role'

The National Response Plan makes state and local responsible for managing emergencies. However, Bush suggested last month that the military might have to take "a broader role" in responding to disasters in the United States.

In their preliminary report, officials at Northern Command appear to echo Bush's statement. The existing federal response plan places the Pentagon at a disadvantage because it is only a supporting player, officials said, saying that in certain circumstances, the military should be authorized to take the lead.

McHale has said previously that active-duty troops should be used not for all disasters but only for "catastrophic events."

Sun reporter Siobhan Gorman contributed to this article.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/nationworld/bal-te.lessons24oct24.1.3555389.story?coll=bal-news-nation>

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New York Times

October 24, 2005

U.S. Widens Campaign On North Korea

By David E. Sanger

MOSCOW, Oct. 23 - The Bush administration is expanding what it calls "defensive measures" against North Korea, urging nations from China to the former Soviet states to deny overflight rights to aircraft that the United States says are carrying weapons technology, according to two senior administration officials.

At the same time, the officials said, the administration is accelerating an effort to place radiation detectors at land crossings and at airports throughout Central Asia. The devices are intended to monitor the North Koreans and the risk that nuclear weapons material could be removed from facilities in the former Soviet states.

The new campaign was speeded up this summer after a previously undisclosed incident in June, when American satellites tracked an Iranian cargo plane landing in North Korea. The two countries have a history of missile trade - Iran's Shahab missile is a derivative of a North Korean design - and intelligence officials suspected the plane was picking up missile parts.

Rather than watch silently, senior Bush administration officials began urging nations in the area to deny the plane the right to fly over their territory. China and at least one Central Asian nation cooperated, according to senior officials, who confirmed the outlines of the incident to demonstrate that President Bush's strategy to curb proliferation, which has been criticized by some experts for moving too slowly, is showing results. The officials insisted on anonymity because they were discussing sensitive information.

The officials said they believed the Iranian plane left without its cargo, but they were not sure. Nonetheless, the new effort underscored the efforts the administration is undertaking to curb the North's exports of missile parts, drugs and counterfeit currency that are widely believed to be its main source of revenue and the way it finances its nuclear program.

In interviews, the officials insisted that the more aggressive tactics would enhance the effort by the United States to continue negotiations over disarming North Korea, which have lasted for two years and resulted last month in a statement of broad principles to disarm, but no agreement about when or how.

"We are taking a number of new steps - defensive measures - that are intended to provide protection against all aspects of the North Korean proliferation threat," said Robert Joseph, the undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, who has been visiting former Soviet republics and other nations to secure commitments to halt flights like the one in June.

"These measures are necessary for our defense and the defense of our friends and allies," said Mr. Joseph, regarded as an administration hawk on North Korea. He also said the measures "are independent of the diplomatic efforts that we are pursuing" with the North that also include China, Russia, Japan and South Korea. "We believe that they will reinforce the prospect for the success of those talks."

But the Asian allies are divided on that question. South Korea's government, which is preparing for a visit by Mr. Bush next month, has been privately warning against taking steps that would aggravate North Korea. Arguing that "status quo isn't working," one senior administration official said this weekend that "we have to defend against illicit activity that harms America."

Russia has expressed similar concerns about pressuring Iran, saying that such action may force Tehran to show its defiance by resuming the enrichment of uranium.

On Sunday evening, Stephen J. Hadley, the president's national security adviser, arrived here to meet President Vladimir V. Putin and a range of Russian national security officials. The American efforts to exert more pressure on both North Korea and Iran - questions on which Moscow and Washington have been deeply divided - are expected to figure in his discussions.

Mr. Hadley is the second high-level administration official to arrive here in the past 10 days. Earlier this month, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was here on a similar mission, though when she left, Russian officials said they were still opposed to any step that would refer Iran to the United Nations Security Council for sanctions. For Russia, it is a matter of business as well as politics: Moscow is selling Iran the technology for a civilian nuclear reactor. The new administration effort has three components, according to Mr. Joseph and other officials. The first is to block the sale of any bomb material or radioactive material from North Korea. The second is to beef up anti-proliferation efforts, including denying overflight rights.

Mr. Joseph recently visited Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgistan and Kazakhstan, urging them to join a program called the Proliferation Security Initiative, which began as an effort to seize equipment at sea - like the BBC China, a freighter filled with centrifuge parts bound for Libya that was seized two years ago.

"We were inspired by the June incident," one senior official said this weekend, "and we said, 'Let's be more systematic.'"

A third component of the effort is to step up "counterproliferation," which involves preparing nations to counter chemical or biological weapons, and work out ways to defend against a missile attack. Japan, which has grown more hawkish on North Korea, has said it will join the American missile defense program, basing its anti-missile system on ships offshore. South Korea has declined, though it has long made use of the American-made Patriot system against short-range missiles.

One administration official cautioned that "some of these programs are new descriptions of older efforts, with more money in the pot."

But while the administration has been taking steps to isolate North Korea since President Bush took office in 2001, the combination of the effort to deny overflight rights to the Iranian plane and other recent activities suggests that the effort is being reinvigorated. It is being spurred, officials say, by some in the administration who suspect the North's willingness to sign a "statement of principles" to give up its weapons was a stalling tactic. So, using a series of existing powers and a new executive order signed by President Bush, the Treasury Department charged a bank based in Macao, Banco Delta Asia, with money-laundering, saying it was aiding North Korea's black-market dealings. The bank has denied the charge.

This summer, American officials seized \$2 million in counterfeit bills, which it said were produced in the North, and a man linked to the Irish Republican Army was arrested in Belfast, charged with trafficking in fake currency produced in the North.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/10/24/international/asia/24korea.html>

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Stateline.org

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2005

Avian flu is states' latest security threat

By Mark K. Matthews, Stateline.org Staff Writer

Health officials in California and New Mexico are pressing their states to stockpile anti-viral medication.

Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney (R) is urging residents to fill their pantries in case everyone is forced inside for an extended period. And Los Angeles airport officials are drawing up plans to quarantine passengers.

Across the country, states are reassessing their pandemic plans as fear of the deadly avian flu swells globally. Once largely limited to Southeast Asia, the disease has been detected in birds in Turkey and Romania in the past month.

And the World Health Organization reported that [avian flu killed a man in Thailand last week](#), bringing the virus' human toll to 61. The deaths have occurred in Indonesia, Vietnam and Cambodia as well as Thailand.

The state precautions are not unprecedented. For years, health experts have advocated stronger defenses against global outbreaks of a variety of diseases. But the potential for a pandemic -- a global outbreak of an infectious disease -- has ratcheted up the concern. "Right now, I think that people are uncomfortable that they don't have the right answers to all these things," said Patrick McConnon, executive director of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, which studies epidemic diseases.

He suggests that state officials build on research compiled during past health scares, such as anthrax and severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS. Another guide could be the national pandemic plan that is expected to be released by federal authorities soon. "The whole field is evolving month-to-month," McConnon said, suggesting that states update their pandemic plans as often as possible, including deciding who would get vaccinated first in an outbreak or how to enforce quarantine. ([Click here for a listing of state pandemic influenza plans.](#))

C. Mack Sewell, the state epidemiologist for New Mexico, said his state's efforts, which include improving its disease surveillance system by better tracking of hospitalizations and deaths, are aimed at bolstering the state's response in case federal defenses fail. He said his state is considering whether to buy its own supply of Tamiflu, an anti-viral medication, out of concern that the federal government might have insufficient supplies of the drug, which is designed to limit the severity of avian flu.

As of now, the federal government has dosages for just a few million Americans. Sewell concedes that buying the drug would be difficult with countries from all around the world trying to get it. "If there's a pandemic, states are going to be standing in line for the federal stockpile," Sewell said. "What's going to happen to a state like New Mexico?"

In California, the push for a stockpile of Tamiflu comes as officials have tested 25 potential human cases of avian flu in the past 18 months. All came back negative.

Even as the preparations continue, health officials said no one should panic over the avian flu. At this point, it remains mostly a bird disease, although [118 humans have contracted the disease worldwide](#), according to the World Health Organization. And for the disease to become a pandemic, it needs to mutate from its present form to become more easily transmissible between human beings -- a step that has not yet occurred.

For both these reasons, state officials must strike a balance between proper caution and improper panic, said Dr. Matthew L. Cartter, Connecticut's epidemiology program coordinator and an expert on state pandemic planning. "I always keep in mind that we need to remember history," said Cartter, pointing to the 1976 swine flu scare that led to mass vaccinations. The epidemic never came, he said, and a few patients actually got sick from the vaccinations.

Despite that scare, Cartter said government officials did not seriously consider planning for pandemics until the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the subsequent anthrax mailings, which raised the possibility of bio-terrorism. "That's what brought meaningful funding for public health emergencies," Cartter said.

Yet more is needed, he said. Emergency planners across the country need to draft comprehensive pandemic plans that lay out how to administer vaccines and quarantine sick residents. Lawmakers shouldn't panic over avian flu, but they should use the scare to prepare for the eventual global outbreak.

"We are overdue for a pandemic," said Cartter. "It's important for people to start with the assumption that we can't stop a pandemic, but we're trying to reduce the people who get sick and die."

<http://www.stateline.org/live/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=136&languageId=1&contentId=62069>

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New York Times

October 25, 2005

U.S. Widens Campaign On North Korea

By David E. Sanger

MOSCOW, Oct. 23 - The Bush administration is expanding what it calls "defensive measures" against North Korea, urging nations from China to the former Soviet states to deny overflight rights to aircraft that the United States says are carrying weapons technology, according to two senior administration officials.

At the same time, the officials said, the administration is accelerating an effort to place radiation detectors at land crossings and at airports throughout Central Asia. The devices are intended to monitor the North Koreans and the risk that nuclear weapons material could be removed from facilities in the former Soviet states.

The new campaign was speeded up this summer after a previously undisclosed incident in June, when American satellites tracked an Iranian cargo plane landing in North Korea. The two countries have a history of missile trade -

Iran's Shahab missile is a derivative of a North Korean design - and intelligence officials suspected the plane was picking up missile parts.

Rather than watch silently, senior Bush administration officials began urging nations in the area to deny the plane the right to fly over their territory. China and at least one Central Asian nation cooperated, according to senior officials, who confirmed the outlines of the incident to demonstrate that President Bush's strategy to curb proliferation, which has been criticized by some experts for moving too slowly, is showing results. The officials insisted on anonymity because they were discussing sensitive information.

The officials said they believed the Iranian plane left without its cargo, but they were not sure. Nonetheless, the new effort underscored the efforts the administration is undertaking to curb the North's exports of missile parts, drugs and counterfeit currency that are widely believed to be its main source of revenue and the way it finances its nuclear program.

In interviews, the officials insisted that the more aggressive tactics would enhance the effort by the United States to continue negotiations over disarming North Korea, which have lasted for two years and resulted last month in a statement of broad principles to disarm, but no agreement about when or how.

"We are taking a number of new steps - defensive measures - that are intended to provide protection against all aspects of the North Korean proliferation threat," said Robert Joseph, the undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, who has been visiting former Soviet republics and other nations to secure commitments to halt flights like the one in June.

"These measures are necessary for our defense and the defense of our friends and allies," said Mr. Joseph, regarded as an administration hawk on North Korea. He also said the measures "are independent of the diplomatic efforts that we are pursuing" with the North that also include China, Russia, Japan and South Korea. "We believe that they will reinforce the prospect for the success of those talks."

But the Asian allies are divided on that question. South Korea's government, which is preparing for a visit by Mr. Bush next month, has been privately warning against taking steps that would aggravate North Korea. Arguing that "status quo isn't working," one senior administration official said this weekend that "we have to defend against illicit activity that harms America."

Russia has expressed similar concerns about pressuring Iran, saying that such action may force Tehran to show its defiance by resuming the enrichment of uranium.

On Sunday evening, Stephen J. Hadley, the president's national security adviser, arrived here to meet President Vladimir V. Putin and a range of Russian national security officials. The American efforts to exert more pressure on both North Korea and Iran - questions on which Moscow and Washington have been deeply divided - are expected to figure in his discussions.

Mr. Hadley is the second high-level administration official to arrive here in the past 10 days. Earlier this month, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was here on a similar mission, though when she left, Russian officials said they were still opposed to any step that would refer Iran to the United Nations Security Council for sanctions. For Russia, it is a matter of business as well as politics: Moscow is selling Iran the technology for a civilian nuclear reactor. The new administration effort has three components, according to Mr. Joseph and other officials. The first is to block the sale of any bomb material or radioactive material from North Korea. The second is to beef up anti-proliferation efforts, including denying overflight rights.

Mr. Joseph recently visited Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, urging them to join a program called the Proliferation Security Initiative, which began as an effort to seize equipment at sea - like the BBC China, a freighter filled with centrifuge parts bound for Libya that was seized two years ago.

"We were inspired by the June incident," one senior official said this weekend, "and we said, 'Let's be more systematic.'"

A third component of the effort is to step up "counterproliferation," which involves preparing nations to counter chemical or biological weapons, and work out ways to defend against a missile attack. Japan, which has grown more hawkish on North Korea, has said it will join the American missile defense program, basing its anti-missile system on ships offshore. South Korea has declined, though it has long made use of the American-made Patriot system against short-range missiles.

One administration official cautioned that "some of these programs are new descriptions of older efforts, with more money in the pot."

But while the administration has been taking steps to isolate North Korea since President Bush took office in 2001, the combination of the effort to deny overflight rights to the Iranian plane and other recent activities suggests that the effort is being reinvigorated. It is being spurred, officials say, by some in the administration who suspect the North's willingness to sign a "statement of principles" to give up its weapons was a stalling tactic. So, using a series of existing powers and a new executive order signed by President Bush, the Treasury Department charged a bank

based in Macao, Banco Delta Asia, with money-laundering, saying it was aiding North Korea's black-market dealings. The bank has denied the charge.

This summer, American officials seized \$2 million in counterfeit bills, which it said were produced in the North, and a man linked to the Irish Republican Army was arrested in Belfast, charged with trafficking in fake currency produced in the North.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/10/24/international/asia/24korea.html>

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London Financial Times

October 25, 2005

Russia Tries To Break Impasse With Iran

By Daniel Dombey in Brussels, Neil Buckley in Moscow and Gareth Smyth in Tehran

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Russia said yesterday it would seek to resolve the impasse over Iran's controversial nuclear programme, in sign of Moscow's increasing importance in international attempts to broker a deal with Iran.

On a day of intensive diplomacy in Moscow, Sergei Lavrov, Russian foreign minister, saw both Manouchehr Mottaki, his Iranian opposite number, and Stephen Hadley, the US national security adviser.

"We agreed to continue contacts on this question and work on a settlement together with other countries, in particular the EU3 (of France, Germany, and the UK)," Mr Lavrov said after his meeting with Mr Mottaki.

While the US and the European Union suspect Iran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons, Iran denies having any such intention.

But negotiations between the EU3 and Iran broke down after Tehran rejected a European proposal in August and resumed work on uranium conversion, a preliminary part of the nuclear cycle it had previously suspended as part of a framework deal.

The prospect of direct EU-Iranian talks has since faded, because of disagreement over the Europeans' insistence that Iran stop all conversion once again. But Iran has maintained a freeze on uranium enrichment - a process that can produce weapons-grade material.

Attention has now shifted to Russia's attempt to break the deadlock.

Moscow has floated the idea that rather than use Iranian territory to carry out uranium enrichment, Tehran could do so as part of an international joint venture on Russian soil. While the EU appeared to reject the Russian proposal several months ago, today they are asking for more details and even the US has indicated interest.

"The Russians . . . want to do what we all want to do, which is they want to pursue a diplomatic path and see if the Iranians will come along," said Condoleezza Rice, US secretary of state, at the weekend.

However, it is by no means certain that the Russians can produce a mutually satisfactory solution. Yesterday Mr Mottaki said that even if its nuclear programme was referred to the UN Security Council, Iran would continue to fight for its right to develop nuclear power.

<http://news.ft.com/cms/s/4ba5825e-44f4-11da-a5f0-00000e2511c8.html>

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Washington Post

October 25, 2005

Pg. 21

It Wasn't Just Miller's Story

By Robert Kagan

The Judith Miller-Valerie Plame-Scooter Libby imbroglio is being reduced to a simple narrative about the origins of the Iraq war. Miller, the story goes, was an anti-Saddam Hussein, weapons-of-mass-destruction-hunting zealot and was either an eager participant or an unwitting dupe in a campaign by Bush administration officials and Iraqi exiles to justify the invasion. The New York Times now characterizes the affair as "just one skirmish in the continuing battle over the Bush administration's justification for the war in Iraq." Miller may be "best known for her role in a series of Times articles in 2002 and 2003 that strongly suggested Saddam Hussein already had or was acquiring an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction." According to the Times's critique, she credulously reported information passed on by "a circle of Iraqi informants, defectors and exiles bent on 'regime change' in Iraq," which was then "eagerly confirmed by United States officials convinced of the need to intervene in Iraq." Many critics outside the

Times suggest that Miller's eagerness to publish the Bush administration's line was the primary reason Americans went to war. The Times itself is edging closer to this version of events.

There is a big problem with this simple narrative. It is that the Times, along with The Post and other news organizations, ran many alarming stories about Iraq's weapons programs before the election of George W. Bush. A quick search through the Times archives before 2001 produces such headlines as "Iraq Has Network of Outside Help on Arms, Experts Say" (November 1998), "U.S. Says Iraq Aided Production of Chemical Weapons in Sudan" (August 1998), "Iraq Suspected of Secret Germ War Effort" (February 2000), "Signs of Iraqi Arms Buildup Bedevil U.S. Administration" (February 2000), "Flight Tests Show Iraq Has Resumed a Missile Program" (July 2000). (A somewhat shorter list can be compiled from The Post's archives, including a September 1998 headline: "Iraqi Work Toward A-Bomb Reported.") The Times stories were written by Barbara Crossette, Tim Weiner and Steven Lee Myers; Miller shared a byline on one.

Many such stories appeared before and after the Clinton administration bombed Iraq for four days in late 1998 in what it insisted was an effort to degrade Iraqi weapons programs. Philip Shenon reported official concerns that Iraq would be "capable within months -- and possibly just weeks or days -- of threatening its neighbors with an arsenal of chemical, biological and even nuclear weapons." He reported that Iraq was thought to be "still hiding tons of nerve gas" and was "seeking to obtain uranium from a rogue nation or terrorist groups to complete as many as four nuclear warheads." Tim Weiner and Steven Erlanger reported that Hussein was closer than ever "to what he wants most: keeping a secret cache of biological and chemical weapons." "To maintain his chemical and biological weapons -- and the ability to build more," they reported, Hussein had sacrificed over \$120 billion in oil revenue and "devoted his intelligence service to an endless game of cat and mouse to hide his suspected weapons caches from United Nations inspections."

In 1999 Weiner reported that "Iraq's chances of rebuilding a secret arsenal look good." Hussein was "scouring the world for tools to build new weapons." He might "be as close to building a nuclear weapon -- perhaps closer -- than he was in 1991." In 2000 Myers reported that Iraq had rebuilt 12 "missile factories or industrial sites" thought to be "involved in Iraq's efforts to produce weapons of mass destruction" and had "continued its pursuit of biological and chemical weapons."

The Times's sources were "administration officials," "intelligence officials," "U.N. weapons inspectors" and "international analysts." The "administration officials" were, of course, Clinton officials. A number of stories were based not on off-the-record conversations but on public statements and documentation by U.N. inspectors. From 1998 through 2000, the Times editorial page warned that "without further outside intervention, Iraq should be able to rebuild weapons and missile plants within a year" and that "future military attacks may be required to diminish the arsenal again." Otherwise, Iraq could "restore its ability to deliver biological and chemical weapons against potential targets in the Middle East." "The world," it said, "cannot leave Mr. Hussein free to manufacture horrific germs and nerve gases and use them to terrorize neighboring countries."

Times editorials insisted the danger from Iraq was imminent. When the Clinton administration attempted to negotiate, they warned against letting "diplomacy drift into dangerous delay. Even a few more weeks free of inspections might allow Mr. Hussein to revive construction of a biological, chemical or nuclear weapon." They also argued that it was "hard to negotiate with a tyrant who has no intention of honoring his commitments and who sees nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as his country's salvation." "As Washington contemplates an extended war against terrorism," a Times editorial insisted, "it cannot give in to a man who specializes in the unthinkable." Another Times editorial warned that containment of Hussein was eroding. "The Security Council is wobbling, with Russia and France eager to ease inspections and sanctions." Any approach "that depends on Security Council unity is destined to be weak." "Mr. [Kofi] Annan's resolve seems in doubt." When Hans Blix was appointed to head the U.N. inspectors, the editors criticized him for "a decade-long failure to detect Iraq's secret nuclear weapons program before the gulf war" and for a "tendency to credit official assurances from rulers like Mr. Hussein." His selection was "a disturbing sign that the international community lacks the determination to rebuild an effective arms inspection system." The "further the world gets from the gulf war, the more it seems willing to let Mr. Hussein revive his deadly weapons projects." Even "[m]any Americans question the need to maintain pressure on Baghdad and would oppose the use of force. But the threat is too great to give ground to Mr. Hussein. The cost to the world and to the United States of dealing with a belligerent Iraq armed with biological weapons would be far greater than the cost of preventing Baghdad from rearming."

The Times was not alone, of course. On Jan. 29, 2001, The Post editorialized that "of all the booby traps left behind by the Clinton administration, none is more dangerous -- or more urgent -- than the situation in Iraq. Over the last year, Mr. Clinton and his team quietly avoided dealing with, or calling attention to, the almost complete unraveling of a decade's efforts to isolate the regime of Saddam Hussein and prevent it from rebuilding its weapons of mass destruction. That leaves President Bush to confront a dismaying panorama in the Persian Gulf," including

"intelligence photos that show the reconstruction of factories long suspected of producing chemical and biological weapons."

This was the consensus before Bush took office, before Scooter Libby assumed his post and before Judith Miller did most of the reporting for which she is now, uniquely, criticized. It was based on reporting by a large number of journalists who in turn based their stories on the judgments of international intelligence analysts, Clinton officials and weapons inspectors. As we wage what the Times now calls "the continuing battle over the Bush administration's justification for the war in Iraq," we will have to grapple with the stubborn fact that the underlying rationale for the war was already in place when this administration arrived.

Robert Kagan, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund, writes a monthly column for The Post.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/10/24/AR2005102401405.html>

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Los Angeles Times

October 26, 2005

Funding For 'Bunker Buster' Nuclear Warhead Is Dropped

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration has abandoned research into a "bunker-buster" nuclear warhead, deciding instead to pursue a similar device using conventional weaponry, a key Republican senator said Tuesday. Sen. Pete V. Domenici (R-N.M.) said funding for the warhead as part of the Energy Department's fiscal 2006 budget had been dropped at the department's request.

The nuclear bunker-buster had been the focus of intense debate in Congress, with opponents saying that its development as a tactical weapon could add to nuclear proliferation.

Administration officials have contended that the country must try to develop a nuclear warhead that could destroy buried targets including bunkers tunneled into rock.

The House blocked funding for the program, even though the Energy Department had scaled back its request to \$4 million. The Senate approved the \$4 million, but a final decision was up to lawmakers working out a compromise between the House and Senate on the department's budget.

Domenici, who heads the subcommittee that oversees the Energy Department budget, said the conferees had agreed to drop the funding at the request of the department's National Nuclear Security Administration.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-bunker26oct26.1.4691305.story?coll=la-headlines-nation>

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GovExec.com

DAILY BRIEFING

October 25, 2005

Bird flu fears raise quarantine questions

By Brian Friel, [National Journal](#)

When the infectious disease known to the world as SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, hit Asia and Canada in 2003, tens of thousands of people who had possibly been exposed to the virus were quarantined. In mainland China, Hong Kong, and Singapore, police surrounded and cordoned off buildings, set up checkpoints on roads into and out of areas where the disease had been discovered, installed Web cameras in people's homes, blocked off whole villages, and even threatened to execute anyone who broke quarantine.

In Canada, public health authorities merely asked people who might have been exposed to SARS to voluntarily quarantine themselves in their homes. Canadian authorities provided food, other supplies, and even compensation for lost wages to people in quarantine. An estimated 20,000 civic-minded Canadians complied. Only 27 people were served with legal quarantine orders after they put up some resistance.

If an avian-flu pandemic hits the United States, will federal, state, and local authorities' use of their quarantine powers look more like what happened in China or the events in Canada? Would Americans politely obey quarantine requests, or would they defy orders, cross quarantine lines, panic, and riot? Should law enforcement officers -- or the military -- plan to use force to prevent the further spread of a disease that epidemiologists predict could kill millions? The legal authority for either the Chinese or the Canadian approach exists at the federal level and in most states and localities -- albeit with more due-process protections than Chinese law affords. So, the question is less what can U.S. authorities do than what would they do.

For the most part, public health officials in this country are promoting a Canadian version of quarantine, in which authorities appeal to Americans' humanity to help contain the disease voluntarily. Government officials tend to avoid discussing the use of force. "Everyone's so reluctant to go there," said Karen Guttieri, a professor at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., who has explored the issue with students from federal, state, and local agencies. "It's almost like if you don't talk about it, it won't happen."

But many experts warn that the nation's underfunded, understaffed public health infrastructure would be quickly overwhelmed by an avian-flu pandemic. They say that little interagency planning for such an outbreak has been undertaken by local and state public health, law enforcement, and emergency management agencies -- let alone by the federal government. Thus, it is easy to imagine that, in a pandemic, aid workers would face the problems seen in the aftermath of Katrina: inconsistent instructions from government officials, poor coordination among rescue agencies; and rumors and misinformation. What's more, the inundation of hospital emergency rooms with the "worried well," the looting of pharmacies, and the movement of people would combine to worsen the spread of the disease. In such a scenario, the police or the military might need to take aggressive action to restore order.

"What passes for quarantine planning proceeds without appreciation for a worst-case outcome," said law enforcement expert Clifford Karchmer. "The nation quickly needs to plan for and train its public safety infrastructure for that Plan B."

Public health officials say "quarantine" is a much-misunderstood term. When they use it, they mean the confinement of individuals who have been exposed to a disease but have not shown any symptoms of it. A confinement of a given period of time (10 days for measles, for example) is set to monitor whether the exposed person becomes sick. Those who are ill are then "isolated" -- usually in a hospital isolation unit -- and given medical care. Confusion over the meaning of "quarantine" would likely hamper communications during a pandemic.

Large-scale quarantines have not been imposed in the United States for more than 80 years, not since the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. Some small quarantines have been ordered, including one last year for seven Iowa teenagers who declined to be vaccinated during a measles scare. However, the idea of massive quarantine has been back on the minds of many public officials since the anthrax mail attacks that followed September 11, 2001.

Public health officials, police officers, and military analysts have been debating the appropriate use of quarantine during a terrorist biohazard attack. Many of the scenarios developed as a result of those discussions postulate a contained area of exposure -- such as an airport -- that could be blocked off to prevent anyone from coming in. Decontamination units would be set up to clear people to leave.

Since the SARS outbreak of 2003, officials have been trying to learn from the quarantines in Asia and in Toronto, the center of the outbreak in Canada. But neither a contained biohazard attack nor the SARS episode matches the situation that would be created by human-to-human transmission of a virulent avian flu. Public health experts predict that such a disease would spread to many points on the globe before even being identified.

Recognizing the great danger an avian-flu pandemic could pose -- and that it could easily overwhelm state and local agencies -- President Bush has suggested military enforcement of a quarantine. "If we had an outbreak somewhere in the United States, do we not then quarantine that part of the country, and how do you then enforce a quarantine?" Bush asked at his October 4 press conference. "Who best to be able to effect a quarantine? One option is the use of a military that's able to plan and move."

The idea of a military-enforced quarantine conjures up images of the 1995 Dustin Hoffman movie *Outbreak* and has been widely criticized ever since Bush suggested it. "Are you going to tell the soldier to shoot the soccer mom trying to get her kids out of the city in her minivan?" asked Ed Richards, a Louisiana State University law professor who has studied quarantines and the use of force. "The answer is, Only if you're crazy."

Indeed, military planners themselves are reticent to even talk about a military-run quarantine. Over the past few years, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency has conducted several workshops in which military officials imagined themselves providing support and logistics to local and state leaders, rather than running quarantines themselves. Local and state leaders tend to see things the same way. "The military is excellent at logistics," said Dorothy Teeter, acting public health director for Seattle and King County, Wash. She said National Guard troops could bring food, water, and medical supplies to people in voluntary home quarantine. "I have a very difficult time envisioning the need for armed troops with guns, in any scenario."

Teeter said that she wouldn't expect to close off whole sections of Seattle or King County anyway because, in a pandemic, avian flu would have spread so widely as to make that kind of large-scale quarantine ineffective. Seattle leaders instead plan to educate the public about steps individuals could take to try to protect themselves. The city's leaders also plan to explain how people would know whether they should report to medical authorities for either hospital care or voluntary home quarantine. In addition, Seattle would take what are called "social distancing" steps, including closing schools, churches, stadiums, and other public venues and restricting use of public transportation. "You have to ask people to stay home," Teeter said.

Of course, they might not stay home. In June 2004, public health, emergency response, police, fire, and other authorities in Charlotte, N.C., conducted a 36-hour exercise in which residents were assumed to have been infected with smallpox that had been released by terrorists. Capt. Glen Neimeyer of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department said officers already carry respirators, thanks to federal grants, so protecting the officers themselves wasn't a problem. But in the exercise, authorities played out a scenario in which thousands of people, worried that they had been infected, rushed to hospitals.

One hospital campus in the area has 157 entrances to its buildings, but usually only three or four security guards on duty. Police trying to maintain crowd control there would be quickly swamped, Neimeyer said. Because the police force doesn't have enough officers to cope with a major outbreak, he said, the military would be a great help. "They would be a fantastic resource for guarding hospitals or for plugging them in [to the security force to help with] quarantine and isolation issues," he said.

Neimeyer said use-of-force guidelines for police would be similar to those followed during curfews, such as those in the Carolinas in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Most people would comply voluntarily, he predicted. The presence of police officers would deter many other people from straying. Verbal commands from officers would take care of even more. Forcibly moving people, perhaps in handcuffs, would cover the most disobedient.

"A lot of people ask, 'Could they shoot them?' " Neimeyer said. "I guess you could come up with a scenario, if they're dripping with VX [chemical-warfare nerve agent] and their skin's falling off and they're running toward a group of people." But, Neimeyer added, most people would probably voluntarily comply with quarantine orders out of fear for their own safety.

Historically, the use of force in quarantines has made situations worse. Quarantines imposed in Muncie, Ind., and in Milwaukee during smallpox outbreaks in the 1890s led to deadly riots. Reason, rather than force, public health officials say, would be an effective tool to get people to act appropriately. Rex Archer, director of the Kansas City, Mo., health department, pointed out: "Most of the time in this country, if you educate people, most of them will do the right thing, if they understand they're protecting themselves and their loved ones."

http://govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32660&dcn=todaysnews

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