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. Established in 1998, the USAF/CPC provides education and research to present and future leaders of the Air Force, as well as to members of other branches of the armed services and Department of Defense. Our purpose is to help those agencies better prepare to counter the threat from weapons of mass destruction. Please feel free to visit our web site at www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/awc-cps.htm for in-depth information and specific points of contact. Please direct any questions or comments on CPC Outreach Journal to Jo Ann Eddy, CPC Outreach Editor, at (334) 953-7538 or DSN 493-7538. To subscribe, change e-mail address, or unsubscribe to this journal or to request inclusion on the mailing list for CPC publications, please contact Mrs. Eddy. The following articles, papers or documents do not necessarily reflect official endorsement of the United States Air Force, Department of Defense, or other US government agencies. Reproduction for private use or commercial gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. All rights are reserved.

New York Times on the Web
June 7, 2004

Military Wants 'Biodefense' Ties Against Attacks
SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - The Pentagon made an appeal on Monday to biotechnology scientists and executives to help the United States build a strong defense against attacks employing deadly biological, chemical and radiological weapons.
An estimated 16,000 scientists, executives, and government officials are attending BIO 2004 Annual International Convention.
U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Stephen Reeves, who oversees the Joint Program Office for Chemical-Biological Defense, called for partnerships with biotech companies to speed up the launch of new products to detect and diagnose infections and decontaminate poisoned areas.
Jim Zarzycki, technical director of the U.S. Army's Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center in Maryland, outlined a range of new technologies that could be tapped to weave molecular detection systems into the uniforms of ground troops, create "edible" vaccines, and develop lightweight but tougher body armor built around bioceramics. "Our goals are to move beyond basic research and learn how to work with bioindustry so we can aim for funding to apply new opportunities in fiscal 2006," he told a panel discussion.

Reeves said he was encouraged by new work in radar systems that can be used to scan "suspect clouds" that could contain contamination.

The call for more joint biodefense work was endorsed by Richard Hollis, chief executive officer of Hollis-Eden Pharmaceuticals Inc., a San Diego company developing a radiation-protection drug. "This is a call to arms for our industry," Hollis said, adding that the nation should develop medical countermeasures to threats such as chemical contamination or a "dirty bomb" that could spread dangerous radiation in a crowded city or an attack on a nuclear power plant.

Dozens of extra police were stationed outside downtown convention halls to keep protesters away.


(Japan Leader Calls On North Korea To Dismantle Nuclear Program)

New York Times
June 8, 2004

By James Brooke

TOKYO, June 7 - If North Korea wants Japanese economic aid and diplomatic ties, it must first dismantle its nuclear weapons program and account for Japanese abducted by its agents, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said in an interview on Monday.

"North Korea desired the normalization of relations with Japan," Mr. Koizumi said, recounting his meeting on May 22 with North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Il.

"I told him face to face, 'If you compare what you gain from nuclear weapons and what you gain from dismantlement of your own nuclear program, there would be a difference of heaven and earth,' " Mr. Koizumi, said in the interview with American and European reporters here before flying to the United States for the Group of 8 summit meeting.

Before securing the visit to Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, an envoy to Mr. Koizumi had hinted that normalization could happen in coming years, unlocking as much as $10 billion in Japanese compensation for its colonization of northern Korea in the early part of the 20th century.

Washington has enlisted North Korea's neighbors in a regional effort to persuade the North to dismantle its nuclear program. The North has said it is building nuclear weapons to protect itself from the United States and wants one-on-one talks with Washington.

"On the nuclear issue, Mr. Kim Jong Il said it is a matter between North Korea and the U.S.," Mr. Koizumi said of his talks last month with Mr. Kim. "I disagreed, and I said Japan is also involved, and he showed understanding." North Korea has an arsenal of medium-range missiles, and many Japanese feel that Japan is the most likely potential target, rather than China or Russia. The Chinese have proposed holding a round of six-country regional talks on North Korea's nuclear threat later this month. Many analysts have low expectations for such a meeting, partly because North Korea seems to be waiting for the outcome of the American presidential election.

Asked for the message he would transmit to Mr. Bush and the other leaders, Mr. Koizumi said, "I felt personally that North Korea was interested in moving forward in a positive way with the six-party talks."

After his visit to Pyongyang last month Mr. Koizumi enjoyed a bounce in the polls. He returned from the trip with five children of Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea almost a quarter century ago, which he had secured from the North in exchange for a promise of economic assistance. But a poll taken over the weekend shows that Mr. Koizumi's approval rating has dropped 10.4 points, to 44.5 percent. Touching on another unpopular issue here, the deployment of about 550 Japanese soldiers to southern Iraq, Mr. Koizumi called for more involvement by the United Nations and the Iraqi people.

"I have very strongly urged the United States to do that," he said, referring to having Washington work closely with the United Nations. "I have always mentioned very strongly that the people who can bring about the stable democratic government in Iraq is not the American people, it is not the United Nations, it is the Iraqi people," he said.

Drawing a lesson from Japanese history, he called on Iraqis to unite to form a democratic and stable government.
"People came to recognize that internal strife and confusion would render Japan a colony of foreign countries," he said, referring to 19th-century civil conflict in Japan. "By overcoming division and opening the country to the outside world, the foundation was laid for the building of the modern country of Japan."


A Test Of Leadership On Sea Island
By Sam Nunn and Michele Flournoy
The Group of Eight leaders who are meeting in Sea Island, Ga., this week face a historic test of leadership. In the wake of the Madrid bombings and warnings that al Qaeda is planning attacks in the United States, this summit must produce more than the usual photo opportunities and joint statements. Its success should be measured in large part by whether the G-8 leaders take concrete and urgent steps to reduce the risk of catastrophic terrorism.

Unfortunately, the risk that terrorists could acquire and use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons is all too real. Over time, and without our decisive intervention, al Qaeda could become the world's 10th nuclear power. The terrorist organization has made several attempts to acquire uranium that could be used to make a crude nuclear device, and documents discovered at an al Qaeda safe house in 2001 showed an understanding of nuclear weapons design. The hardest part for the terrorists is getting the plutonium or highly enriched uranium necessary to build a bomb. Making that impossible should be our goal.

At their 2002 summit the G-8 leaders launched a Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, in which they pledged $20 billion -- $10 billion from the United States, $10 billion from others -- over 10 years to reduce the risk of catastrophic terrorism. Two years after this global security breakthrough, they are $3 billion short of their pledges, and only a tiny fraction of the $17 billion pledged has been appropriated for programs. Disputes between Russia and donor countries over tax issues, liability questions and site access have slowed implementation.

As a result, less than one-quarter of Russia's nuclear bomb-making materials -- hundreds of metric tons of plutonium and highly enriched uranium (HEU) -- has been adequately secured against theft or diversion. Globally, there are still more than 130 nuclear research reactors and other facilities in 40 countries using or storing weapons-useable HEU, and many of these facilities have only the most rudimentary security measures.

The problem is not confined to unsecured nuclear materials. Millions of portable artillery shells and hundreds of missile warheads filled with deadly nerve agents await destruction at dilapidated facilities in Russia. Construction of a U.S.-funded destruction plant was delayed for three years by political and compliance disputes, and current destruction plans will take more than a decade to implement. In the meantime, one stolen shell could be used to kill tens of thousands of people in Washington, New York, London, Paris, Tokyo or Moscow.

In addition, Russian military and civilian research facilities still have deadly pathogen collections; we don't know exactly what kind they are, how many there are or how secure they are. Thousands of former weapons scientists and workers in Russia remain underpaid or unemployed, making them more vulnerable targets for recruitment by terrorist organizations.

Although significant work has begun in all these areas, projected completion dates stretch into the next decade and beyond. Given the concerted efforts of al Qaeda and possibly other terrorist groups to acquire nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, there is now a dangerous gap between the pace of our progress and the urgency of the threat. We are not accelerating these programs as if our lives depended on it. They do.

There are at least 10 steps that G-8 leaders could take at Sea Island to give us a chance of winning this race against terrorism:
1. Appoint a senior official in each government, with direct access to the president or prime minister, who is responsible and accountable for ensuring that terrorists do not acquire weapons of mass destruction. Empower this senior official to eliminate all obstacles to cooperation as quickly as possible.
2. Announce an intention to increase pledges to the global partnership above the $20 billion goal. This goal should be treated as a floor, not a ceiling.
3. Expand the global partnership to include all nations with weapons capability and weapons materials, specifically Pakistan, India, Israel and China.
4. Accelerate efforts to consolidate and secure weapons-useable nuclear materials worldwide.
5. Accelerate the demilitarization of Russia's stockpile of 40,000 tons of chemical agents and strengthen the security of all chemical weapon stocks awaiting destruction in Russia.
6. Take immediate steps to account for and secure dangerous biological pathogen collections across Russia and the former Soviet Union.
7. Initiate a global effort to combat both infectious diseases and biological terrorism.
8. Expand efforts to employ former weapons scientists and personnel in the former Soviet Union.
9. Presidents Bush and Putin should pledge to bilaterally increase the transparency, safety and security of all tactical nuclear weapons in and around Europe.
10. Bush and Putin should also announce a new initiative to make U.S. and Russian biological defense research efforts bilaterally transparent as a confidence-building measure to enable greater cooperation in the biological arena. This is not a list of impossible dreams; these are global security imperatives. Taking these steps will require the personal commitment and persistent action of the presidents of the United States and Russia, the leaders of the G-8 and other countries around the globe. The clock is ticking.

Sam Nunn, a former Democratic senator from Georgia, is co-chairman of the Nuclear Threat Initiative. Michele Flournoy is a senior advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and co-director of the Strengthening the Global Partnership project.


Washington Post
June 8, 2004
Pg. 2

U.S. To Order Anthrax Vaccine
Government Also Wants Treatment, Adviser Says

By Justin Gillis, Washington Post Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, June 7 -- Despite slow action on Capitol Hill, the Bush administration is moving forward to create defenses against biological terrorism and expects to place a big new order for anthrax vaccine by late this summer, one of the government's top health experts said Monday.

Philip K. Russell, a top bioterrorism adviser in the Department of Health and Human Services, also revealed that the government plans to buy a new type of treatment for people infected with anthrax, in addition to vaccines that could be used to prevent infection. The proposed purchase suggests one or more companies in the Washington region could be in line for lucrative government contracts to produce an anthrax drug.

Among the top contenders is Human Genome Sciences Inc. of Rockville. The company has reported considerable success in laboratory tests of such a product, but until now it had been unclear whether the government would commit to buying a drug of this type. Even with Russell's pledge, it is far from certain Human Genome Sciences will land the contract, since the government is still trying to figure out which company's drug might offer the best treatment.

Congress has yet to pass Project Bioshield, a broad package of legal changes that President Bush requested in early 2003 to give the government more authority to create and stockpile drugs to combat biological terrorism. A logjam in the Senate was broken only recently, and now the House and Senate must pass identical versions of the legislation before President Bush can sign it.

Even without Project Bioshield on the books, though, Congress has been appropriating large sums for biodefense projects. The government is moving forward on multiple fronts to develop new measures to defend the nation, Russell and other administration officials said here at the annual convention of the Biotechnology Industry Organization.

Russell's remarks came as he and other officials in the Bush administration, including experts from the Pentagon, sought to enlist biotechnology companies in building a broad national defense against biological weapons. He said the government hoped by late summer to place an order for a new type of vaccine against anthrax sufficient to inoculate 25 million people. That would be enough to mount a defense in a large-scale attack, such as terrorists spreading anthrax over a city by plane. The scale of the plan had been disclosed previously, but it wasn't clear until now how fast the government would move. If an order is placed this summer, companies have said, a large stockpile of anthrax vaccine could be in the government's storerooms by next year.

Russell said the new vaccine, designed to replace an old, primitive type of anthrax shot, won't be perfect. It will have a relatively short shelf life, for instance. "I hope we get up to six years out of this product, but I can't be sure of that," Russell said.

Research will continue to develop another vaccine that might last longer, Russell said.

Russell added that plans are also moving forward to acquire a type of drug that might be used to treat victims of anthrax exposure, with bid specifications to be disclosed "in the very near future." People exposed to anthrax can be
 Scientists have said a new drug using antibodies, a type of protein produced by the immune system, might offer better treatment.


WASHINGTON POST

UNITED NATIONS, June 7 -- A number of sites in Iraq known to have contained equipment and material that could have been used to produce banned weapons and long-range missiles have been either cleaned out or destroyed, U.N. weapons inspectors said Monday.

The inspectors' report said they did not know whether the items, which had been monitored by the United Nations, were at the sites during the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

U.N. inspectors were pulled from Iraq just before the war began in March 2003, and the United States has refused to allow them to return, instead deploying its own teams to search for weapons of mass destruction.

"It is possible that some of the materials may have been removed from Iraq by looters of sites and sold as scrap," the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission said in its quarterly report to the Security Council.

UNMOVIC said its experts and a team from the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was responsible for dismantling Iraq's nuclear program, were jointly investigating items from Iraq that were discovered in a scrap yard in the Dutch port of Rotterdam.

Through photographs taken during an initial IAEA investigation, UNMOVIC said it discovered that SA-2 engines used in Iraq's banned Al Samoud-2 missile program were among the scrap.

Commission experts examined one missile engine at the site and discovered from the serial number that it had been tagged by U.N. inspectors in the past and had not been declared as having been fired.

Representatives at the scrap yard indicated that five to 12 similar engines had been seen there in January and February, and that more could have passed through the yard unnoticed, the report said.

Company staff said other items made of stainless steel and other corrosion-resistant metal alloys bearing the inscription "Iraq" or "Baghdad" had been observed in shipments delivered from the Middle East since November 2003, it said.

UNMOVIC experts determined that a number of items were composed of heat-resistant Inconel and titanium -- both subject to monitoring because of their possible dual use in legitimate civilian activities and banned weapons production, the report said. The commission said its investigation was continuing.


WASHINGTON POST

SAVANNAH, Ga., June 8 -- Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, meeting with President Bush on Tuesday before the start of the Group of Eight summit, provided a cautiously upbeat assessment of his recent discussion with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, suggesting North Korea's resolve to keep its nuclear weapons programs may be weakening, U.S. and Japanese officials said.

Koizumi said he stressed to Kim the economic benefits that would be available to North Korea if it gave up its weapons, and told Bush he detected that this message was beginning to get through to the mercurial North Korean.

He suggested that in advance of the next round of multination talks on North Korea, Bush stress the advantages that would flow to Pyongyang if it dismantled its weapons. Bush has repeatedly said he does not want to reward North Korea.

Buoyed by the approval of a new Iraq resolution by the U.N. Security Council, Bush also held bilateral sessions with three leaders of countries critical of the Iraq war -- Russia, Germany and Canada -- as he prepared for the start of the

high-level economic and political summit at Sea Island, off the Georgia coast. One senior official described the meeting with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder as the "warmest meeting" the two leaders have had since before the Iraq war.

All day, planes carrying the leaders landed at nearby Hunter Army Airfield, where they were whisked under tight security to the exclusive resort.

The summit, which ends Thursday, began Tuesday night with an informal dinner hosted by Bush. The leaders of Britain, Italy and France are also attending.

Reporters are being kept nearly 100 miles away in Savannah, in a massive media center on its own island. U.S. and foreign officials either shuttle back and forth to brief the media, or are piped in via teleconference from the resort.

The White House, eager to portray Bush as a leader comfortable on the world stage, scheduled a series of nonstop briefings and interviews with officials to tout agreements on stemming proliferation of nuclear weapons, expanding global peacekeeping efforts, combating diseases such as polio and AIDS, and ending poverty through private-sector initiatives.

Undersecretary of State John R. Bolton, in an interview, said the G-8 would issue an "action plan" on nonproliferation, which he expected would include agreeing to expand a program for the retraining of former Soviet scientists to include other nations that have given up their weapons such as Iraq and Libya.

Moreover, he said, the leaders appear poised to agree to a one-year suspension of new nuclear reprocessing deals with other nations as they work out an agreement on how to prevent additional countries from obtaining uranium enrichment reprocessing technology. Such technology can form the basis for weapons programs.

Bolton said there are few of these deals in a given year but "it's a very significant thing for the leaders to say we're going to set a target for ourselves for one year and in the meantime not launch any new initiatives."

During a lunch with Bush, Koizumi reported that Kim said he did not want nuclear weapons, a senior administration official said, adding that Koizumi said Kim did not include the usual language that North Korea was forced to have such weapons because of the administration's "hostile policy."

A senior Japanese official provided a slightly different version. He said Koizumi reported that Kim said his goal is the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula but he feels uneasy about the administration's attitude.

When Koizumi pressed the case that giving up weapons would be beneficial, Kim replied that "he sees the point but he feels unease about U.S intentions and the use of threatening words by the U.S., as North Korea and Kim Jong Il interprets them," the Japanese official said. Kim added that "in order to solve this lack of communication, he wants to have a direct dialogue with the United States," the official said.

Both the U.S. and the Japanese officials spoke about the Koizumi-Bush session under condition of anonymity at the insistence of their respective governments. Another U.S. official, also speaking under the same conditions, was dubious about any shift in North Korean attitudes, saying the country is a "very successful propagandist."

The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, Sen. John F. Kerry, has attacked Bush for refusing to hold direct talks with the North Koreans, except on the sidelines of multilateral talks. Kerry has pledged to immediately begin bilateral negotiations, a stance that some experts believe reduces the incentive for North Korea to strike any deal before the presidential election in November.

The U.S. official said Koizumi agreed with Bush that "we'd throw away all the leverage we have on them" if bilateral discussions were held. But the Japanese official said "the prime minister believes the United States actually judges whether it is a good idea to have bilateral discussions with North Korea. On this specific point Prime Minister Koizumi does not have any advice."


(Return to Articles and Documents List)
officials immediately hailed it as objective proof that they were winning the war on terrorism. The report is considered the authoritative yardstick of the prevalence of terrorist activity around the world.

"Indeed, you will find in these pages clear evidence that we are prevailing in the fight" against global terrorism, Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage said during a celebratory rollout of the report.

But on Tuesday, State Department officials said they underreported the number of terrorist attacks in the tally for 2003, and added that they expected to release an updated version soon.

Several U.S. officials and terrorism experts familiar with that revision effort said the new report will show that the number of significant terrorist incidents increased last year, perhaps to its highest level in 20 years.

"It will change the numbers," said one State Department official who declined to comment further or be identified by name. "The incidents will go up, but I don't know by how many."

Among the original report's highlights: The annual number of terrorist attacks had dropped to its lowest level in 34 years, declining by 45% since 2001. Overall, fewer people were being killed, injured and kidnapped, and the U.S.-led global coalition had taken the fight to Al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations with great success.

Minor terrorism events — typically those in which nobody dies — had almost disappeared, declining by more than 90% from 231 incidents in 2001 to 21 in 2003, the report said.

The annual reports were first ordered up by Congress two decades ago as the U.S. government's reference tool on terrorist activity, trends and groups.

Since then, administration officials and Congress have come to rely heavily on the "Patterns" report in formulating counter-terrorism policies and strategies.

In recent years, the report has been translated into five languages so that U.S. allies around the world can scrutinize the hundreds of pages of data, which are based on U.S. and allied intelligence information.

On Tuesday, Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles) applauded the State Department for deciding to reissue the report, a step he requested in a letter to Secretary of State Colin L. Powell three weeks ago. But Waxman said the Bush administration so far had refused to address his allegation that it manipulated the terrorism data to claim victory in the U.S.-declared war on terrorism.

"This manipulation may serve the Administration's political interests," Waxman wrote in his May 17 letter to Powell, "but it calls into serious doubt the integrity of the report."

Several State Department officials vehemently denied their report was swayed by politics. "That's not the way we do things here," said one senior official.

Another senior official characterized the errors as clerical, and blamed them mostly on the fact responsibility for the report recently shifted from the CIA to the administration's new Terrorist Threat Integration Center.

Waxman, the ranking Democrat on the House Government Reform Committee, told Powell that the number of significant terrorist attacks since 2001 hasn't declined as the department claimed, but risen by more than 35%. And he cited an analysis by two independent experts who used figures provided by the State Department report in concluding that significant attacks actually had reached a 20-year high in 2003.

For example, the State Department report listed 190 terrorist attacks in 2003, including 169 "significant" ones. But Waxman said a review showed the report stopped counting terrorist incidents on Nov. 11, leaving out several major attacks, including bombings of two synagogues, a bank and the British Consulate in Turkey that killed 62 and injured more than 700.

Waxman said a State Department official blamed the Nov. 11 cutoff on a printing deadline.

Waxman said the steep overall decline in terrorism claimed by the State Department was based mostly on a 90% drop in "nonsignificant" attacks in two years, without providing any detail as to how or why such a decrease occurred.

Waxman asked Powell to provide by June 1 details on international terrorist attacks dating back to 1995, an explanation of procedures used in defining terrorist acts and information on whether political appointees played a role in writing or editing the report. He said he hadn't heard back.

Internationally, he added, "it feeds into the notion that the U.S. is just not a credible voice on important issues of terrorism."

A just-issued Congressional Research Service report has concluded that the statistical errors are just the latest in a series of problems that the "Patterns" report has faced in recent years.

The congressional study said that the State Department report — despite the perception of its objectivity — was unduly influenced by political and economic considerations.

Also, it said the department had failed to take into account the shift from state sponsorship of terrorism to Al Qaeda's use of a far-flung network of affiliates and cells. Though some might question the findings, the congressional report noted that the State Department appeared to be using outdated criteria to determine what constituted a terrorist incident.

For instance, the many deadly attacks on coalition forces in Iraq were not included in the "Patterns" report because
they did not meet the State Department's long-standing criteria of targeting civilians or soldiers not on duty. Potentially dozens of other terrorist strikes were left out because they were not "international" in scope, including attacks by local Al Qaeda affiliates against targets within their own countries. Taken together, such problems warrant a wholesale reassessment of the report and its mission, preferably by an independent government agency such as the National Academy of Sciences, according to the congressional study's author, Raphael Perl.

"Arguably, the report has been on autopilot and has not kept up with the times," Perl said in a telephone interview. 

(Miami Herald)

Careful Plan Aims To Destroy U.S. Cache Of Deadly Nerve Gas

By Rick Callahan, Associated Press

Workers prepare to neutralize a large supply of a Cold War-remnant nerve gas in Indiana that potentially could kill millions of people.

CHEMICAL WEAPONS

NEWPORT, Ind. -- In a cavernous, pipe-filled structure known simply as the Utility Building, Army contractors are getting ready to destroy a Cold War-era concoction so lethal it could kill millions.

After years of controversy, workers will begin chemically neutralizing 1,269 tons of the ultra-deadly nerve agent VX this summer as part of a plan to eliminate the nation's chemical weapons stockpile.

Residents near the Newport Chemical Depot are ready to see the VX go. So are activists who keep tabs on the nation's cache of weapons of mass destruction.

"One drop the size of George Washington's eye on a quarter is enough to kill a healthy, 180-pound male. It's the most lethal chemical on the planet," said Craig Williams, director of the Chemical Weapons Working Group, a Kentucky-based watchdog organization.

WASTEWATER DISPUTE

But a dispute over what will become of the project's wastewater could leave the rural community about 70 miles west of Indianapolis stuck with the nerve agent's legacy.

Opposition from Dayton, Ohio, residents scuttled the Army's plan to dispose of up to four million gallons of nerve agent wastewater, or hydrolysate, at a plant there. Now, plans to truck the waste to Deepwater, N.J., for treatment and disposal at a DuPont Co. plant are in doubt amid opposition.

The Army plans to heat the VX in chemical reactors to destroy its structure. Army officials liken the resulting hydrolysate to liquid drain cleaner, and say it will contain no detectable VX at sampling levels of 20 parts per billion.

Although VX was never used by the American military in combat, there have been human exposures -- but no deaths -- in the United States. Its lethal potential was demonstrated in 1968 when an aerial spraying test of VX at Utah's Dugway Proving Grounds went awry, killing about 6,000 grazing sheep.

The VX stockpile was produced at the 7,000-acre Newport complex between 1961 and 1968 as a doomsday deterrent. For years after production ended, containers of the nerve agent sat rusting in a field, apparently regarded by the depot's workers as just part of the landscape.

"They used to eat lunch on top of the containers," said Lt. Col. Joseph Marquart, Newport's commander. "We don't do that anymore."

The containers now sit in heavily guarded concrete bunkers built after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Since President Nixon halted the manufacture of chemical weapons in 1969, about 31,000 tons of VX, sarin and mustard nerve agent have been stored at Newport and seven other chemical depots in Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Kentucky, Maryland, Oregon and Utah.

Destruction is under way at four of the eight.

At the Newport depot, Army contractors will open the first of 1,690 VX-filled steel containers late this summer inside a building from which no air escapes without being heavily filtered. Cameras keep watch, and air monitoring equipment scans for trouble.

AIRTIGHT CHAMBERS

Inside, workers will drain the containers in airtight chambers, with technicians outside the reinforced glass using thick gloves to attach a special pumping device.

The VX will then be transferred to a steel reactor where it will be neutralized by adding it over a 36-minute period to a heated mixture of water and sodium hydroxide.
Workers will carry a VX antidote. Neutralizing all the VX should take about 2 ½ years. But where it will go from there is unclear.

DuPont wants to dump treated hydrolysate into the Delaware River. But fears that the chemical could ruin decades of river cleanup led Delaware Gov. Ruth Ann Minner and New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey to send the Army a letter of protest.


(Return to Articles and Documents List)

USA Today
June 10, 2004
Pg. 6A

**House Panel Says No To Nuke Funding**

By John Diamond and Tom Squitieri, USA Today

WASHINGTON — A House panel Wednesday rejected the Bush administration's request for money to research a nuclear "bunker-buster" bomb that critics said could increase the chances the United States would use a nuclear weapon in war.

In a sign of bipartisan unease with a plan sought by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, an Appropriations subcommittee eliminated money for the bunker bomb. It also wiped out funding for "advanced concepts" in nuclear weapons and accelerated testing.

This year's House action goes further than a move by the same panel last year to reduce, rather than eliminate, nuclear weapons research funding.

The Bush administration still can seek to restore some or all of the money in the House and Senate. The Senate is scheduled to vote Tuesday on an amendment that would cut the nuclear weapons research items from a Senate version of the defense budget.

The Pentagon sought $27.6 million for research into a "robust nuclear earth penetrator" weapon six times more powerful than the bomb U.S. forces dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. Opponents say the weapon would be designed not simply as a deterrent but to destroy deeply buried and fortified targets.

But the large sum of money involved had anti-nuclear groups and some lawmakers concerned that more was involved than simply a study.

The subcommittee also cut $9 million for long-term research into nuclear weapons designs and $30 million that could speed a return to nuclear weapons testing.

http://www.usatoday.com/usatonline/20040610/6274507s.htm

(Return to Articles and Documents List)

Washington Post
June 10, 2004
Pg. A12

**Terror Suspects Reportedly Discussed Chemical Attack In U.S.**

By Aidan Lewis, Associated Press

ROME, June 9 -- An Italian prosecutor said Wednesday that he had provided U.S. authorities with transcripts of phone calls between terror suspects, including one transcript that reportedly refers to a woman ready to carry out a chemical attack in the United States.

Two terror suspects were arrested late Monday in Milan, including Rabei Osman Sayed Ahmed, an Egyptian believed to have been behind the March 11 train bombings in Madrid, said Milan prosecutor Maurizio Romanelli.

In one of the intercepted conversations, Ahmed refers to a woman ready to carry out a chemical attack in the United States, the ANSA news agency reported.

When asked about the content of the transcripts, Romanelli pointed to news reports that mention the alleged chemical plot. He did not dispute the reports, but he said he would not comment further on the content of the wiretaps.

The wiretaps refer to "small groups ready to carry out suicide attacks," he said. In most cases, the likely location of the attacks was Iraq, he said. The prosecutor gave no further details.

Police arrested Ahmed, along with the man he was staying with, a Palestinian identified as Yahia Payumi.

Viviana Bossi, defense attorney for the two suspects, said Wednesday that her clients were unclear about the exact charges against them. "They deny they are terrorists," she said.
Authorities say Ahmed is a key suspect in the Madrid attacks. Investigators have blamed the bombings, which killed 191 people, on Islamic radicals with possible links to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network. Italian officials suspect that Ahmed was planning further attacks, and they tipped off Belgian counterparts who arrested 15 people late Monday and early Tuesday in coordinated raids. At least one of the 15 -- most of them Palestinian, Jordanian, Moroccan and Egyptian -- had been in contact with Ahmed, Romanelli said. The AGI news agency reported Wednesday that the suspects might have been planning an attack on the Paris subway system. Ahmed was recorded asking one of those arrested in Belgium about the Paris Metro and security there, AGI said, citing police sources. Asked about a report in the Milan daily Corriere della Sera that the suspects were planning an attack against a NATO base in Belgium, Romanelli said investigators had no information on specific targets.

In Spain, police arrested six Spaniards in the northern Asturias region Wednesday and accused them of supplying the dynamite used in the Madrid attack. The suspects included the security guard of a coal mine from which the 440 pounds of explosives used in the bombings were stolen, Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso said.


New York Times
June 10, 2004

**Bomb Would Have Been Dud, Scientists Say**

By Associated Press

The "dirty bomb" that the terror suspect Jose Padilla has been accused of planning would have been a dud, not the radiological threat federal authorities described last week, scientists say.

At a June 1 news conference, the Justice Department said Mr. Padilla, who it contends is an associate of Al Qaeda, hoped to attack Americans by detonating "uranium wrapped with explosives" to spread radioactivity. But uranium's extremely low radioactivity is harmless compared with high-radiation materials, like cesium and cobalt isotopes used in medicine and industry that experts see as potential dirty bomb fuels.

"I used a 20-pound brick of uranium as a doorstop in my office," Peter D. Zimmerman, an American nuclear physicist at King's College in London, said to illustrate the point.

Mr. Zimmerman, who co-wrote an expert analysis of dirty bombs for the United States National Defense University, called the government announcement "extremely disturbing because you cannot make a radiological dispersal device with uranium." He added, "There is just no significant radiation hazard."

Other specialists agreed. "It's the equivalent of blowing up lead," said Ivan Oelrich, a physicist with the Federation of American Scientists.

The Justice Department did not respond directly when asked this week whether it had consulted with experts and knew that uranium would not make a dirty bomb.

Instead, a spokesman, Mark Corallo, said Mr. Padilla's statements, in view of his Qaeda links, made clear that he was "willing to cause devastating harm to innocent Americans."


London Financial Times
June 10, 2004

**Turks And South Africans 'Helped Libya's Secret Nuclear Arms Project'**

By Stephen Fidler and Mark Huband

Suppliers from Turkey and South Africa played important roles providing Libya's secret nuclear weapons programme with nuclear technology and expertise, an international investigation into a Pakistani-led clandestine supplier network has found.

The investigation by the International Atomic Energy Agency into the supplier network led by the disgraced Pakistani scientist Abdul-Qadeer Khan has been helped by interviews with Libyan, Iranian and, more recently, Pakistani scientists and officials.

The arrival in March this year in Tripoli of a container of Turkish-made components ordered for Libya's uranium enrichment programme has also provided clues about the Turkish end of the network. Libya, which renounced its
nuclear weapons programme in December, declared to the IAEA the arrival of the parts, which have been transported with the rest of the equipment to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the US. Diplomats said the container had been aboard the BBC China; a German ship seized in October on its way to Tripoli from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. The ship was seized under the US-sponsored Proliferation Security Initiative. It carried Malaysian-made centrifuge components that the US and UK intelligence services knew were on board. The Turkish-made parts were even more sophisticated than those made in Malaysia. According to diplomats, Turkish manufacturers supplied motors for centrifuges used to enrich uranium and frequency converters, which regulate the power supply to hundreds of centrifuges. That the container was allowed to continue to Libya was mentioned in a confidential report about Libya to an IAEA board meeting to be held next week. The report did not say the components were made in Turkey. An intelligence officer with detailed knowledge of the Libyan programme said yesterday that the container was allowed to reach Tripoli because of the difficulties of searching the entire ship. "There were some containers on the BBC China about which the US and the UK were certain. These were the ones that were taken off the ship. But there was one other - which was the one that got to Tripoli - about which we weren't certain," he said. The IAEA report also said that foreign experts provided training for Libyan scientists in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and south-east Asia. Libyan engineers studied a set of equipment for 10,000 centrifuges "during a training visit to another African country". This country, diplomats say, was South Africa. Other countries in which training and manufacturing are known to have taken place are Malaysia and Dubai. David Albright, president of the Washington-based Institute of Science and International Security, said the discovery showed how the network had sidestepped export controls by assembling the most sensitive elements in countries with weak export-control regimes. These components were assembled from less sensitive parts exported in turn from other European countries, he said, indicating a need for European countries to tighten further their export-control regimes. Two Turks were named as suppliers to Libya in a public report into the Malaysian end of the network, published in February. The report does not allege they knew of the ultimate destination of their exports. The Malaysian inspector-general of police said a Turkish national called Gunas Jireh, said to have formerly worked for Siemens of Germany, "is alleged to have supplied aluminium casting and dynamo to Libya". It said that these items, ordered for a machine shop by which Libya sought to develop its own centrifuge manufacturing capacity, were shipped to Dubai and then Libya aboard the BBC China. The other man was named as Selim Alguadis, said to have known Mr Khan, the scientist, since the 1980s. The report said Mr Alguadis was "alleged to have supplied electrical cabinets and power supplier-voltage regulator to Libya". These items, the report said, were shipped to Dubai and then on to Libya after the BBC China was seized. An assistant to Mr Alguadis said by e-mail that his boss was "astonished" to learn that he had been mentioned in the report. His company, EKA, had never exported products to Libya. Nuclear experts say the descriptions in the Malaysian report are non-technical and which components they describe is unclear. The Malaysian report was released after the police interviewed Bukhari Sayed Abu Tahir, a Sri Lankan described by President George W Bush as the network's chief financial officer and main money-launderer. Mr Tahir, who helped to set up the Malaysian company that manufactured the Libya-bound centrifuge parts, was detained last month by Malaysian authorities. They had previously cleared him of breaking Malaysian law. His arrest was under a law that allows indefinite detention without trial. It is an apparent result of US pressure on foreign governments intended to ensure that the main suppliers to the network should not go free. Pakistan's work with the IAEA has been quiet. Pakistan is not a signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and is sensitive to suggestions that its sovereignty is being compromised.
UNITED NATIONS, June 9 - Equipment and material that could have been used to produce banned weapons and long-range missiles have been emptied from Iraqi sites since the war started and shipped abroad, the head of the United Nations inspectors office told the Security Council on Wednesday. Demetrius Perricos, deputy to the former chief weapons inspector Hans Blix and now the acting executive chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, told a closed session of the council that many of the items bear tags placed by United Nations inspectors as suspect dual-use materials having capabilities for creating harmless consumer products as well as unconventional weapons.

Mr. Perricos accompanied his briefing with a report showing satellite photos of a fully built-up missile site near Baghdad in May 2003 and the same site denuded in February 2004. His spokesman, Ewen Buchanan, said that items removed from the site included fermenters, a freeze drier, distillation columns, parts of missiles and a reactor vessel - all tools suitable for making biological or chemical weapons.

"It raises the question of what happened to the dual-use equipment, where is it now and what is it being used for," Mr. Buchanan said.

He said that a fermenter was a good example of a dual-use item that was potentially dangerous if it fell into the wrong hands. "You can make all kinds of pharmaceutical and medicinal products with a fermenter," he said. "You can also use it to breed anthrax."

Another photo showed an engine from a banned SA-2 surface-to-air missile that had been tagged by the United Nations in Iraq in 1996 and recently discovered in a scrap yard in Rotterdam, the port city in the Netherlands. The report said that workers there had told inspectors from the monitoring commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency that as many as 12 such engines may have passed through the yard in January and February this year and that additional items made of stainless steel and other corrosion-resistant metal alloys with the inscriptions "Iraq" and "Baghdad" had been observed since November 2003.

"This is only a snapshot," Mr. Buchanan said. Two inspectors, he said, acting on information from the Netherlands, went to scrap yards in Jordan last week and found 20 more such engines in addition to tagged processing equipment such as chemical reactors, heat exchangers and a solid propellant mixing bowl.

"The problem for us is that we don't know what may have passed through these yards and other yards elsewhere," he said. "We can't really assess the significance and don't know the full extent of activity that could be going on there or with others of Iraq's neighbors." Inspectors are hoping to check scrap yards in Turkey, he said.

Last month, The New York Times reported that large quantities of new reconstruction equipment and sensitive military material is being plundered in Iraq and trucked to Jordan to be sold as scrap. Mohamed El Baradei, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, warned the Security Council in April that nuclear facilities were unguarded and that large amounts of material, some of it contaminated, were being smuggled out of the country. The United Nations inspectors were removed from Iraq just before the war broke out in March 2003 and, the report says, have been ignored by the American-led Iraq Survey Group that has been searching for arms since then.

In the negotiations leading to Tuesday's passage of a Security Council resolution on Iraq, Russia pressed for inclusion in the measure of language promising to reinvigorate the United Nations inspectors, but the final version simply pledged to "revisit" their mandate.

http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/10/international/middleeast/10nati.html

(Return to Articles and Documents List)