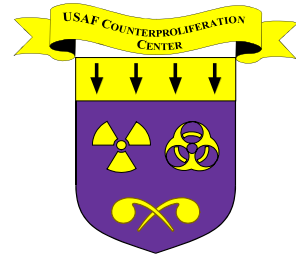


#236

4 Feb 2003

USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER

CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL



Air University

Air War College

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

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 here at the Air War College 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

CONTENTS

[Making Nuclear Bombs 'Usable'](#)

[SpaceCom Improves Ability To Dodge Scuds](#)

[Anthrax Shots Under Way On Kitty Hawk, Lincoln](#)

[U.N. Warns Of Attacks On Food](#)

[Terrorist Threats to Food \(WHO Report\)](#)

[U.S. Believes N. Korea Rapidly Seeking Stockpile](#)

[Hazy WMD Definitions](#)

[U.S. Response: FDA Wants Food Importers to Give Them 24-hour Notice](#)

[Blix Gets Aid On Iraq Missile Issue](#)

[With No Assurances Of Progress, Chief Inspectors Will Visit Iraq](#)

[Israeli, U.S. Troops Fire Patriots In Joint Exercise](#)

[US Arms Official To Visit On Mideast WMD Probe](#)

Los Angeles Times

February 3, 2003

Pg. 1

Making Nuclear Bombs 'Usable'

Pentagon wants to see whether deep bunkers can be blasted without the damage spreading.

By Richard T. Cooper, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON --The Pentagon has launched a fast-track program to develop computers that would help decide when nuclear weapons might be used to destroy deep underground bunkers harboring weapons of mass destruction or other critical targets, documents show.

The program, described in unpublished Pentagon documents obtained by The Times, seeks to design an array of high-speed computers that could take in structural and other data on a prospective underground target, calculate the amount of force needed to destroy it, then determine whether a nuclear "bunker buster" would be required.

In addition, the system -- supplemented by teams of experts -- would assess the potential for killing nearby civilians and inflicting other collateral damage, including the spread of radioactive dust thrown into the air by the nuclear device and the dispersal of toxic chemicals from weapons in the bunker.

The \$1.26-billion program is the latest step in a little-publicized campaign by some senior administration officials, members of Congress and their supporters in the defense community to press for a new generation of smaller nuclear weapons as an alternative to the huge but obsolescent strategic missiles of the Cold War.

Both the White House and the Defense Department declined to comment.

"From the start of the Bush administration, we have seen increasing interest in 'usable' nuclear weapons," said Christine Kucia, an analyst at the Arms Control Assn., a research organization that studies nonproliferation and other issues.

Defense analyst William M. Arkin, writing in The Times' Jan. 26 Opinion section, reported a decision to examine possible roles for nuclear weapons in any war with Iraq. And the Washington Times reported last week that President Bush has approved nuclear weapons as an option for responding to attacks from weapons of mass destruction -- whether against the United States or its allies.

Advocates of considering new roles for nuclear weapons say that only by developing these smaller, tactical devices and their support systems can the United States deter rogue states and terrorist groups.

Existing strategic missiles are portrayed as too massively destructive to be a credible deterrent against an adversary such as Saddam Hussein. The U.S., these advocates say, could never use "city killers" against a terrorist group or a regional foe, especially in a sensitive area like the Middle East.

Critics, on the other hand, contend that pursuing new weapons makes their use more likely, breaks down a half-century-old taboo against considering their use except in the direst emergencies, and encourages other nations to seek their own nuclear weapons.

Also, some analysts argue, recent studies show that even small nuclear bunker busters would create so much collateral damage and set off such political shock waves that they would be impractical.

Kucia, a critic of the administration's new initiatives, said nuclear devices "have been reserved for decades as the absolute weapons of last resort."

"To put them in the realm of usable weapons is to take on a whole new definition that has never been explored and, frankly, should not be explored," she added.

Although advocates of exploring new uses for nuclear weapons believe they could have broad applications, nuclear bunker busters have become the focal point of the larger debate.

The new program, described in two documents dated Jan. 29 and drafted by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, appears to reflect that focus.

"In recent years," one document says, "potential adversaries have gone to great lengths" to protect themselves against U.S. air attacks "by placing critical infrastructure and [weapons of mass destruction] in tunnels and other deeply buried locations, or by structurally hardening some buried targets."

As a result, it says, the military "needs to consider and evaluate the option of using nuclear weapons against its most difficult targets."

Robert Nelson, a Princeton University physicist and senior fellow for the Council on Foreign Relations who has studied nuclear weapons as possible bunker busters, believes they are impractical. Even smaller nuclear devices would throw off enough radioactive dirt and dust to kill tens of thousands of people if they were exploded underground in an urban environment.

Moreover, Nelson said, evidence suggests that a nuclear explosion could not be counted on to destroy chemical, biological or nuclear material stored in a deep bunker.

Instead, it would probably spread such material over a substantial area, he said.

"You would end up doing exactly the opposite of what you wanted to accomplish," he said.

The problem, he said, is that earth-burrowing weapons cannot penetrate deep enough to destroy a heavily protected bunker without blowing out a large crater on the surface and leaking radioactive material into the air.

But advocates of nuclear bunker busters hold out hope that ways could be found to burrow them deep enough that no radioactive material would escape and other toxins would be destroyed. U.S. weapons designers have been studying earth-penetrating nuclear bombs since the 1950s because, if such a device can burrow even a short distance underground, the seismic power of its explosion is highly multiplied. The original goal was to build earth penetrators capable of wiping out the Soviet Union's missile silos.

Last year, congressional advocates succeeded in appropriating \$45 million for new research on a "robust deep earth penetrator." The Pentagon's new program has progressed to the point of requesting proposals from defense contractors to begin research and development on the target analysis system. At least some of the work would probably be done at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory near Oakland and at the Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico.

The new program is being carried out under the aegis of U.S. Strategic Command, or STRATCOM, a new joint command created to replace the Air Force's old Strategic Air Command and the Space Command.

The Bush administration has given STRATCOM dramatically expanded responsibilities for developing strategies and weapons systems to combat rogue states, terrorist organizations and other potential adversaries -- including the possible use of nuclear weapons.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-nukes3feb03.story?null>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Colorado Springs Gazette

January 31, 2003

Pg. 1

SpaceCom Improves Ability To Dodge Scuds

By John Diedrich, The Gazette

The U.S. military has a faster and more accurate way of spotting Iraqi Scuds and other missiles, giving soldiers more time to take cover and use missile defense systems.

Called Joint Tactical Ground Station, or JTAGS, the system is mobile, and one has been set up in Qatar, a small Persian Gulf nation that would house the U.S. command center in a war. Army Space Command soldiers from Colorado Springs operate the station in Qatar.

The system replaces the missile warning method used 12 years ago in the Gulf War.

Crews in Cheyenne Mountain Air Station tracked the 86 Scuds that Iraq launched, but they used pencils and protractors to figure out where the missiles would land. Their computers were designed to detect long-range nuclear missile launches.

The stations, developed in 1994, are designed to watch for short-range missiles and automatically compute where they'll hit, giving soldiers more time to put on chemical protective gear and launch missile defense systems.

It takes a Scud seven minutes to reach its target.

"Seconds add up when you are talking about notification on the ground," said Col. David Shaffer, a commander in Army Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base.

The command of 400 soldiers has quietly deployed troops a dozen times since the Sept. 11 attacks, sending 100 soldiers around the world. Some have been gone 290 days out of a year. Dozens of soldiers are waiting to deploy. In addition to running missile warning stations, soldiers in the command help field commanders use satellite technology, and they run the military's communication system. "Demand is high," said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Jones, part of a team that gives advice on satellite technology to commanders. "We tend to spend a lot of time on the road."

Missile warning crews from the command have kept watch in Qatar since the station was deployed in March.

Commanders are concerned about the risk Iraqi missiles pose to U.S. forces in the region, including 5,100 Fort Carson soldiers who have left or will ship out shortly.

The Iraqis are said to have a few dozen Scuds and other short-range missiles that might be able to deliver chemical or biological weapons.

The single greatest loss of American lives in the Gulf War came when a Scud hit a barracks, killing 28 troops and injuring 98 others.

During the war, crews in Cheyenne Mountain spotted all Scuds launched and warned the U.S. command, but it was agreed a system should be designed to watch for short-range missiles.

Army Space Command officials said the system provides quicker warning and gives a better impact location. They didn't offer specifics, citing security.

"It is greatly improved over 12 years ago," said Col. Kurt Story, chief of staff at Army Space Command.

Two 5-ton trucks, a Humvee, trailers and a generator make up a station. In addition to Qatar, there are stations in Germany, South Korea, Colorado Springs and Texas.

Soldiers take 12-hour shifts inside stations, watching computers for launches.

The system gets information from Defense Support Program satellites, controlled from Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora. They detect the heat missiles produce during launch.

The mobile station's computer, nicknamed "Brenda," warns the crew in a woman's voice when a missile launch is detected. Soldiers relay the information to commanders and to Patriot missile batteries designed to shoot down Scuds and other missiles.

The mobile stations won't provide the only warning. Crews in Cheyenne Mountain watch for short-range missiles with new processing equipment and provide information to commanders.

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Pacific Stars and Stripes

February 3, 2003

Anthrax Shots Under Way On Kitty Hawk, Lincoln

By Rick Chernitzer, Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Sailors aboard several ships in 7th Fleet have begun rolling up their sleeves for anthrax inoculations.

According to Lt. Marc Boyd, a 7th Fleet spokesman, elements of the USS Kitty Hawk and USS Abraham Lincoln battle groups, currently underway in the Western Pacific, started receiving the series of shots as a precautionary measure.

"[Defense department] policy is to immunize military personnel who have the potential to be assigned to higher threat areas," he said in an e-mail reply from the 7th Fleet flagship, USS Blue Ridge, currently underway. "In order to be prepared for any mission, USS Kitty Hawk has begun administering the vaccine."

Sailors assigned to the Yokosuka-based USS Vandegrift, the USS Gary and Carrier Air Wing FIVE, embarked aboard the Kitty Hawk, also are being inoculated. Those on the USS Shiloh, USS Mobile Bay, USS Paul Hamilton, USS Reuben James, USS Camden, USS O'Kane and Carrier Air Wing FOURTEEN, aboard the Lincoln, also are being vaccinated.

The anthrax vaccine had been controversial in recent years as some servicemembers refused to take it because of safety concerns. But so far, Boyd said, "no one has refused the immunizations. A few sailors have asked for further information and educational materials, which is being provided."

Civilians aboard the ships are not required to receive the shots, he added, but they are encouraged to do so as a protective measure.

Boyd said that while some 7th Fleet sailors have received smallpox vaccinations, he couldn't discuss which units might have received it.

In a press release on the Navy News Service, Kitty Hawk's senior medical officer, Cmdr. Kris Belland, said the anthrax vaccine is only one aspect of a larger system to protect servicemembers from anthrax.

Belland, according to the release, said "the use of bio-detectors to warn of the presence of a biological attack, the donning of proper personnel protective equipment, and the use of antibiotics to treat persons who become exposed to anthrax, form the other three layers of defense against anthrax."

According to the press release, Belland said the anthrax vaccine is not experimental. Since the Food and Drug Administration licensed the vaccine in 1970, it's been used to immunize veterinarians and lab workers, including 2.1 million doses to more than 500,000 people in the past four years alone.

The vaccination consists of six shots given over an 18-month period.

But getting them shouldn't be interpreted as an indication that the Kitty Hawk Battle Group has been handed a specific mission. Boyd said the Kitty Hawk has not received a deployment order.

"The ship continues to train and perform duties as it normally would. USS Kitty Hawk is prepared for any mission it may be directed to conduct," he said.

<http://www.estripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=12314&archive=true>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

(Editor's Note: Hyperlink for referenced publication follows article.)

New York Times

February 1, 2003

U.N. Warns Of Attacks On Food

The World Health Organization warned of a serious threat to global public health from potentially "malicious contamination of food for terrorist purposes." Its report noted that already as many as 1.5 million people die each year from noncriminally contaminated food. The United Nations agency urged governments to improve their national food safety programs and recommended strengthened ties between food industries and law enforcement.

--NYT

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/01/international/01TBRI.html>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Terrorist Threats to Food Guidance for Establishing and Strengthening Prevention and Response Systems

Food Safety Department

World Health Organization

http://www.who.int/fsf/Documents/Terrorism_&_food_En.pdf

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Washington Post

February 1, 2003

Pg. 1

U.S. Believes N. Korea Rapidly Seeking Stockpile

By Glenn Kessler, Washington Post Staff Writer

Bush administration officials increasingly believe North Korea is moving rapidly to produce a half-dozen nuclear weapons, potentially tilting the nuclear balance in Asia, but they privately say they have few options to thwart the threat.

In official statements yesterday, the administration reacted calmly to the disclosure that U.S. intelligence satellites have observed covered trucks taking on cargo at the nuclear storage facility at Yongbyon. About 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods are stored there, and the activity may be a sign that the government in Pyongyang is preparing to reprocess the rods into weapons-grade plutonium.

"Any movement of the spent fuel rods at Yongbyon would be a very serious development for the international community," said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher. "It would be another step in the wrong direction by North Korea."

But administration officials have been blunter in private congressional briefings, saying the intelligence shows the North Koreans are clearly committed to building a nuclear stockpile, congressional sources said. The administration, which is preparing to go to war with Iraq over its banned weapons, has ruled out a military strike against North Korea and is sticking firm to its position that North Korea must verifiably halt or dismantle its weapons programs before the United States will agree to a meeting.

"The ball's in their court," a senior administration official said. "We are looking for a fundamental change in North Korea's behavior."

Still, in the first indication that the Pentagon may be adjusting its posture to keep its military options open, the U.S. commander in the Pacific has requested that two dozen long-range bombers be positioned in Guam, and that eight F-15E fighter-bombers and a number of reconnaissance aircraft be added to the forces in Japan and South Korea. Pentagon officials said the request was prompted by concern that the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk might be sent from the Pacific to the Persian Gulf. The additional Air Force aircraft would compensate for the loss in carrier striking power.

The commander's request, which was first reported last night by CBS News, was not made in response to the latest intelligence, defense officials said. But they said the request, by Adm. Thomas Fargo, was being given serious consideration.

Over the past two months, the administration believes, Pyongyang has taken steps to take a plutonium separation plant out of mothballs and to prepare it for operation. The plant produces weapons-grade material in small batches

and, by one estimate, could produce enough plutonium for a bomb by the end of February. The administration has told congressional officials that, within three to six months, the North Koreans would have enough material for three to five new nuclear weapons.

Some administration officials have asserted that North Korea already has one or two nuclear bombs. The CIA, in a report to Congress this month, said that, as of the end of 2001, North Korea "probably has produced enough plutonium for at least one, and possibly two, nuclear weapons." But not all analysts are convinced that North Korea has weaponized the material.

Asked about Pyongyang's push, a senior administration official familiar with recent intelligence said: "It may be just to add to their stockpile so they could actually test one."

The standoff has heightened tensions in the region and roiled relations between the United States and its Asian allies. The administration has hinted at security assurances and economic aid if North Korea reverses its decision to restart its nuclear weapons program, but its uncompromising stance on negotiations has frustrated South Korea, which would like to engage the North in a dialogue. The administration has sought to bring the matter to the U.N. Security Council but has had to assure other nations that it will not seek sanctions first.

Once the Security Council takes hold of the matter, the official said, the administration will have little interest in pursuing a remedy solely through its allies in the region. "This is not a regional matter," he said. "It is a global matter."

Under one scenario being discussed, the five permanent nuclear powers, along with the two Koreas, Japan, Australia and the European Union, would constitute a "five plus five" forum through which the United States and North Korea might hold direct talks.

President Bush labeled Iraq and North Korea, along with Iran, an "axis of evil" last year. But despite the quickly deteriorating situation on the Korean Peninsula, the administration has refused to be deterred from its looming military confrontation with Iraq. Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage was peppered with questions by Democrats at a hearing on Capitol Hill Wednesday about the reason for the different tacks taken by the administration.

Mohamed ElBaradei, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said the administration may be setting a bad precedent through its handling of the two situations. "If you really want to defend yourself," he said, "develop nuclear weapons, because then you get negotiations, and not military action."

Since October, when North Korea admitted that it had a secret program to enrich uranium for possible use in weapons, the administration has sought to diplomatically isolate Pyongyang and to prod it to give up its weapons programs. But each step has appeared to push North Korea into even more provocative actions.

Before the October disclosure, the United States supplied heavy fuel oil to North Korea and helped build two light-water reactors under a 1994 agreement negotiated by the Clinton administration to freeze the plutonium facility at Yongbyon. After North Korea admitted to the uranium project, the United States pressed its allies to join it in suspending the fuel oil shipments. The United States also briefly seized a ship carrying North Korean missiles to Yemen.

In response, North Korea evicted international weapons inspectors, moved to restart a plutonium reactor that had been closed as part of the 1994 accord, withdrew from the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and threatened to restart missile tests. The IAEA last month gave Pyongyang "one last chance" to reverse course before it refers the matter to the Security Council.

South Korea has fought against a referral to the Security Council. But its position was weakened this week when North Korean leader Kim Jong Il refused to meet with a South Korean envoy. Yesterday, ElBaradei said he is pushing for the 35-member IAEA board to send the matter to the Security Council on Feb. 12, two days before he updates the council on the inspections in Iraq.

Staff writers Walter Pincus and Bradley Graham contributed to this report.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A8446-2003Jan31.html>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Washington Times

February 2, 2003

Pg. B4

Hazy WMD Definitions

By Alan Reynolds

Top officials of the Defense and State departments have been busy on the lecture circuit, trying to rationalize the urgency of war. But their descriptions of "weapons of mass destruction" remain hazy. Secretary of State Colin Powell alluded to missing artillery shells and bombs "capable of" carrying chemical agents, and growth material which might be used to make "biological agents," saying these "terrible weapons put millions of innocent people at risk." But how could millions be killed by undiscovered warheads or surplus growth material?

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz provided the clearest answer in a talk to the Council on Foreign Relations: "Consider that in 1997, U.N. inspectors found Iraq had produced and weaponized at least 10 liters of ricin. In concentrated form, that quantity of ricin is enough to kill more than 1 million people. Baghdad declared to the U.N. inspectors that it had over 19,000 liters of botulism, enough to kill tens of millions; and 8,500 liters of anthrax, with the potential to kill hundreds of millions."

Mr. Wolfowitz's hyperbole about Saddam having the capability of killing "hundreds of millions" was surely intended to drum up support for quick action. But it seems more likely to provoke needless panic among those who don't know better and total disbelief among those who do.

One of the 1997 U.N. inspectors, Raymond Zilinskas, wrote about "Iraq's Biological Weapons" for the Journal of the American Medical Association. He noted that in 1990 "a few 155-mm caliber artillery shells were filled with ricin [but] tests did not go well." Iraq also loaded 100 small bombs with botulism, according to Zilinskas, and 50 with anthrax. But because about 90 percent of such agents would be destroyed on impact, he explained, "their effect would have been limited to contaminating a relatively small area of ground surrounding the point of impact and exposing nearby individuals."

What matters most is not how much ricin, botulism or anthrax Iraq may have, but how and where it could deliver such agents. A recent study by Britain's International Institute for Strategic Studies noted that "the magnitude of Iraq's biological weapons threat depends on its delivery capability, which appears limited.... Assuming Iraq has retained a small force of 650 kilometer range al-Hussein missiles (the study guesses Iraq has a dozen), it could deliver BW warheads to cities in Israel, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Iran." In that case, "casualties in an unprotected area could run in the hundreds or even thousands." A risk of "hundreds" is serious, but very far from Mr. Wolfowitz's claim of "hundreds of millions."

The same British study concluded that Iraq's "chemical weapons arsenal is better known and less threatening.... Its ability to disseminate effectively [chemical] agent with missile warhead is extremely limited and unlikely to cause large casualties.... Air force capabilities are very weak."

Mr. Wolfowitz's acknowledged sources consisted of hearsay evidence from Iraq defectors and old reports from U.N. inspectors. An October 2002 CIA report on Iraq's weapons likewise relied almost exclusively on past discoveries by U.N. inspectors. That CIA report is full of references to what "most analysts believe" and the words "suggests" and "probably" — which suggests they probably believe much and know little. In any event, it is hypocritical to rely on past discoveries of U.N. inspectors as evidence for waging war while simultaneously claiming inspectors cannot possibly discover anything.

Tiresome gripes about how impossible it is to find anything in a large country — even huge missiles — are also inconsistent with satellite photos that the CIA reports showing supposedly suspicious factories (a castor oil plant might make poisonous ricin or brake fluid; a chlorine plant might make deadly gas or ordinary bleach). Since the location of these factories is known, why not simply insist they be inspected?

The administration may have painted itself into a tight corner. Defense officials moved thousands of U.S. troops into the Middle East because they imagined such a "credible threat" would persuade Saddam to help inspectors find illicit weapons or go into exile. Unfortunately, those ambitious objectives failed to allow for a graceful U.S. exit. The sheer presence of so many idle troops circling Iraq is what now makes it so difficult for the White House to be patient about inspections, or to decide against invasion. There may be plausible (though secretive) reasons to go to war, but saving face is not one of them.

Ever since September 11, I have had an uneasy suspicion that excessive fascination with biological warfare was largely to blame for the failure of national security analysts to anticipate the risk of airplanes being used as weapons, even though we had ample experience with kamikaze aircraft in World War II.

Terrorists in the United States and Japan have tried using anthrax, botulism and nerve gas, yet the total number of fatalities from such "mass destruction" remains below two dozen. Deaths due to terrorist bombs, bullets and jet fuel, by contrast, are obviously much larger. Yet most of the millions the government doles out in research grants to security analysts has been devoted to hypothetical scenarios involving exotic germs and chemicals.

Administration officials may not need a "smoking gun," but they do need credible evidence that Iraq's actual weapons pose a clear danger to the United States, not just a possible threat to Iran or Israel. Invading Iraq would not remove the need for such proof — it would, in fact, make finding the assumed "weapons of mass destruction" even more essential.

U.S. leadership would be permanently discredited if U.S. occupation forces ended up discovering few if any weapons that are nearly as dangerous as administration officials have claimed. We have to uncover the assumed Iraq weapons before or after a war, and before would be better.

The administration does not need support from Germany and France to go to war with Iraq, but it does need support from the American people. A sizable majority of patriotic Americans is asking for less rhetoric and more proof. It is not an unreasonable demand.

Alan Reynolds is a senior fellow with the Cato Institute and a nationally syndicated columnist.

<http://www.washtimes.com/commentary/20030202-89423984.htm>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

U.S. Response: FDA Wants Food Importers to Give Them 24-hour Notice

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration yesterday proposed a regulation to require 24-hour notice before food imports reach U.S. shores (see [GSN](#), May 23, 2002).

Under the proposed plan, an importer must electronically notify the FDA by noon the day before the shipment reaches a U.S. port or border crossing.

FDA Officials anticipate about 20,000 notices per day.

"The more we know about the source of the food we eat the better prepared we'll be to monitor its safety," said Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson. "We are determined to do everything we can to preserve the American public's confidence in the safety and security of the food supply," he added.

The regulation will not apply to meat, poultry or egg imports that are regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or to food and beverages carried in personal luggage by individual travelers.

The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 requires prior notice of food shipments begin Dec. 12, 2003, even if the FDA regulations have not been finalized by that point. The FDA has opened a 60-day public comment period and officials said a final ruling is expected by Oct. 12 ([FDA release](#), Jan. 30).

Food importers and non-U.S. companies will most likely criticize the rule, the *Financial Times* reported (see [GSN](#), May 6, 2002).

Importers are concerned that international companies will not be aware of the new regulations and that the one-day notice rule will make compliance difficult for Mexican and Canadian exporters who transport goods by land (Alden/Bowe, *Financial Times*, Jan. 30).

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/thisweek/2003_1_31_biow.html#1

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Washington Post

February 4, 2003

Pg. 18

Blix Gets Aid On Iraq Missile Issue

Scientists to Help U.N. Determine if Weapons Violate Disarmament Pact

By Colum Lynch, Washington Post Staff Writer

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 3 -- Hans Blix, the United Nations' chief weapons inspector, will invite a panel of international rocket scientists here as early as next week to help determine whether two of Iraq's most important missile programs represent violations of Iraq's disarmament obligations, according to diplomats. The findings could strengthen Washington's case for military action against Baghdad.

The scientists will investigate whether Iraq's production of the Al Samoud 2 and Al Fatah missiles, which both have violated a U.N. prohibition on rockets with a range greater than 93 miles in tests, represent a "material breach" of Nov. 8 Security Council resolution that threatened Iraq with "serious consequences" if it refused to meet all its disarmament requirements. It could also set the stage for a confrontation with Iraq if it refuses to allow the inspectors to destroy two of its most prized missile systems.

Although the Bush administration continues its military buildup in the region, British Prime Minister Tony Blair has been trying to persuade President Bush to delay military action and give Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and Blix several more weeks to test Iraqi cooperation and to build a more convincing case in the council that Iraq has no intention of disarming. Blix's presentation could aid that case.

Blix told the 15-nation council at a closed-door meeting a week ago that he would present it with a judgment on the missile question at his Feb. 14 briefing at the United Nations, nine days after Powell shows the council intelligence that Iraq allegedly has refused to abandon its biological, chemical and nuclear weapons program.

"It could be a big deal," said a Security Council diplomat. "If those missiles are found to be in breach, and therefore their destruction is ordered, it would be very difficult for the Iraqis to swallow. They put a lot of money and pride into these weapons."

Blix has so far resisted pressure from the United States to declare Iraq's production of the two missile systems in violation of U.N. rules, saying he was still weighing Iraqi claims that the two missiles would not exceed the U.N. limits once they were weighed down with conventional explosives and guidance systems.

But the Swedish arms control expert hinted during the closed-door council session last month that he was considering a finding that Iraq was in breach. "This is a serious matter," he told the council, according to a diplomat present at the meeting. "The Iraqis have invested a lot in this program. I want to be sure of my judgment."

Blix has ordered the Iraqis to freeze the two programs until he makes a determination.

The decision to convene a group of outside experts suggests that Blix is seeking an independent judgment. John S. Wolf, the Bush administration chief liaison to the U.N. inspectors, told Blix on Jan. 23 that the United States considered the missiles to be in clear violation of Iraq's obligation.

Other council members, including Britain, differed from the administration on how serious a violation of U.N. resolutions a finding of a violation of the missile restriction would constitute, particularly since Baghdad admitted in a recent declaration to the council that it had developed the rockets. "The fact that they had developed these things would not" alone represent a cause for military action, said a European diplomat. "But if they were found in breach and resisted destruction of the missiles, that would be a serious issue."

Blix told the council last week that Iraq's development of the two missile programs "might well represent prima facie cases of proscribed systems." The Al Samoud 2 -- a liquid fuel missile that has a 760mm diameter and is powered by a surface-to-air rocket engine -- traveled more than 93 miles 13 times in 40 tests, reaching a distance of 113 miles in one test. The Al Fatah has reached 100 miles in a test. But Blix said that "some further considerations need to be made before we reach a conclusion."

Former and current U.N. inspectors said Iraq was formally warned both in March 1994 and in November 1997 that it could not build a missile with a diameter larger than 600mm or with surface-to-air rocket engines because they would likely exceed the U.N.-imposed 93-mile limit.

Under the terms of the 1991 cease-fire ending the Persian Gulf War, Iraq is barred from producing biological, chemical and nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles with a range of more than 93 miles. The prohibition was designed to prevent Iraq from producing long-range missile capable of threatening its neighbors, including Israel, while ensuring it could defend itself from a foreign attack. Missile experts say the range of the two new missile programs does not significantly increase Iraq's threat to its neighbors, falling well short of Jerusalem or Tel Aviv, but it does underscore its propensity for ignoring U.N. requirements.

"This is not a militarily significant issue," said Timothy McCarthy, a former U.N. missile expert at the Monterey Institute of International Studies' Center for Nonproliferation Studies. "The issue is related to Iraqi compliance. We sent letters to the Iraqis saying you can't do this. The history goes back."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A21047-2003Feb3.html>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

New York Times
February 4, 2003

With No Assurances Of Progress, Chief Inspectors Will Visit Iraq

By Julia Preston

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 3 — The chief United Nations weapons inspectors will visit Baghdad for two days of meetings starting Feb. 8 even though they have received no assurances that Iraq will resolve several disputed issues before they go.

"There are no guarantees," Hans Blix, the chief biological and chemical weapons inspector, said here today. "We have simply indicated the issues which should be easy" to resolve, he said.

"We assume because we haven't heard from them that they are willing to accept" terms that the chief inspectors laid down in a letter sent Friday to Baghdad, said Ewen Buchanan, Mr. Blix's spokesman.

After receiving an invitation to return to Iraq last Thursday, Mr. Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei, the chief nuclear inspector, responded with a letter demanding immediate progress on three issues. They called on Iraqi officials to ensure that they could conduct interviews with Iraqi weapons experts in private either inside or outside the country, and to give permission for flights by an aerial U-2 reconnaissance plane the inspectors want to deploy.

They also insisted that Iraq take steps to adopt a legal ban on all weapons of mass destruction. Baghdad has resisted this step since it was first ordered in a 1991 Security Council resolution.

Iraq has not replied to the chief inspectors' letter. Confusion arose over the weekend as to whether the inspections chiefs would make the trip without Baghdad's written guarantee that there would be progress.

Both President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair made clear they thought the trip was a ploy by Baghdad to string out the inspections. Mr. Bush said it would be inappropriate for the arms chiefs to "negotiate" with Iraqi officials.

But Mr. Blix and Dr. ElBaradei said they were willing to give Iraq another chance to clarify a long list of unanswered questions about its past illegal weapons programs.

Baroness Emma Nicholson, a member of Britain's House of Lords, said here today that she had given Mr. Blix new evidence she said she had obtained in Iraq from Iraqis whose names she had promised not to divulge. She said her information included locations of two sites where citizens said Iraq was hiding illegal weapons and a recent "order form" for some "tubing," which she said appeared suspicious.

Mr. Blix said his team had not yet had time to examine the information.

Diplomats confirmed that the Iraqi ambassador, Mohammed A. Aldouri, had requested permission to speak Wednesday to the Security Council, where Secretary of State Colin L. Powell is expected to present previously classified evidence of Iraq's weapons programs and possible ties to terrorists.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/04/international/middleeast/04NATI.html>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

New York Times on the Web

February 4, 2003

Israeli, U.S. Troops Fire Patriots In Joint Exercise

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Israeli and U.S. troops fired Patriot missiles in a joint exercise Tuesday as the Jewish state prepared for the possibility it may come under Scud missile attack if the United States attacks Iraq.

Loud explosions were heard in Israel's southern Negev desert as the Patriot missiles were fired in a test to simulate their effectiveness against incoming ballistic missiles.

Trying to play down the missile test, the Israeli army said it was part of joint Israel-U.S. exercises planned two years ago as part of ongoing cooperation between the two countries.

About 200 U.S. soldiers have been in Israel since mid-January as part of the joint maneuvers code-named "Juniper Cobra," a biennial event that has been tailored this year to anticipate any U.S. operation against Iraq.

During the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq fired 39 conventional Scuds at Israel. But Israeli officials fear that Saddam Hussein might this time launch Scuds tipped with chemical or biological agents if he believes he is about to be ousted.

The Patriot batteries tested Tuesday were upgraded models of those used in 1991 which proved largely ineffective at intercepting Scuds missiles.

Israel has also deployed its new multi-billion dollar Arrow missile killer, which is the only operational weapon capable of intercepting ballistic missiles outside the Earth's atmosphere.

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/news/news-israel-usa-patriots.html>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Jerusalem Post
February 4, 2003

US Arms Official To Visit On Mideast WMD Probe

By Janine Zacharia

US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton plans to meet with senior officials in Israel Wednesday and Thursday to discuss the pursuit of weapons of mass destruction by Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Libya.

He is also to brief Israeli officials on his consultations in Asia regarding North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programs.

Bolton is to hold consultations with a variety of officials, including Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and National Security Adviser Ephraim Halevy. The discussions will take place as Secretary of State Colin Powell presents fresh evidence to the United Nations Security Council of Iraq's attempts to hide its weapons-of-mass-destruction program.

Bolton plans to inquire about Israeli assertions that Damascus is hiding weapons of mass destruction transported there from Iraq. The US has so far been unable to confirm such transfers independently.

"We've heard reports of it, but whether it's actually happened or not is not clear," a senior administration official told The Jerusalem Post on Monday.

After reports that Russia planned to help Iran construct two nuclear reactors in addition to the one at Bushehr, the senior official said the US has received assurances that Russia intends to complete only one reactor. The US and Israel say Iran is using Bushehr as a cover and pretext for obtaining sensitive technologies to advance its nuclear weapons program.

Bolton and the Israelis "will talk about the Iranian nuclear weapons program," the senior US official said. "A lot of the focus will be thinking about how to deal with weapons-of-mass-destruction proliferation post-Saddam Hussein." The US plans, with the help of coalition forces, to locate and destroy Saddam's WMD stockpile rather than turn the function over to an international agency like the UN.

The Bush administration hopes, too, after it leads a coalition to oust Saddam, to learn about the black-market networks Iraq has used to procure chemicals, dual-use items, and weapons systems in violations of the UN sanctions regime. The official said that could help shed light on techniques employed by the Syrians, Iranians, and Libyans. "A lot of what we learn from the Iraqis [post-regime change] I think we will share with the Israelis and with others," the official said.

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=JPost/A/JPArticle/ShowFull&cid=1044246924008>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)