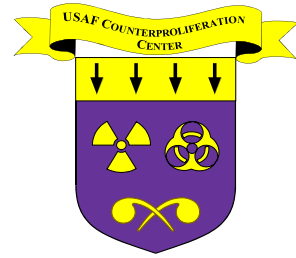


#237

7 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](http://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

[Powell To Charge Iraq Is Shifting Its Illegal Arms To Foil Inspectors](#)

[Powell Aide Promises Talks With N. Korea](#)

[Smallpox Researchers Seek Help From Millions Of Computer Users](#)

[U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell Addresses the U.N. Security Council](#) (Transcript)

[With Stream of Intelligence, Powell Makes Case to U.N.](#)

[Powell Lays Out Case Against Iraq](#)

[Powell's Case Against Iraq: Piling Up The Evidence](#)

[Drug Tested In Gulf War Is Approved For Troops](#)

[Illness from smallpox shot seen in soldiers, not civilians](#)

[Reactor Restarted, North Korea Says](#)

[Confidential Advisory Warns Of Rise In Possible Terror Threats](#)

[U.S.-Russia Atomic Arms Pact Wins Senate Panel's Backing](#)

[Despite Defectors' Accounts, Evidence Remains Anecdotal](#)

[Work on New Drones, Missiles Called Example of 'Persistence'](#)

[Scientist Interviewed In Private](#)

[Any Troops Killed In Chemical, Bio Attacks May Be Cremated](#)

[Fort Dix Drill Sets The Stage For Chemical-Attack Defense](#)

[Labs Unprepared For Chemical Attacks](#)

[Many Balking At Vaccination For Smallpox](#)

[U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#) (Web Page)

[Officials fear agri-terrorism](#)

[U.S. raises terrorism threat level](#)

[Fear of chem-bio attack grows](#)

## **Powell To Charge Iraq Is Shifting Its Illegal Arms To Foil Inspectors**

By Julia Preston with Steven R. Weisman

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 4 — Secretary of State Colin L. Powell will show the United Nations evidence on Wednesday that Iraq has worked to conceal illegal arms from international inspectors, American officials said today. Mr. Powell hopes to convince the Security Council that further action is needed to make Iraq comply with orders to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, officials said.

Mr. Powell's presentation, which is to take up to 90 minutes, will include recently intercepted communications within Iraq indicating a pattern of hiding chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs from United Nations inspectors. Mr. Powell will also rely on reports from people inside Iraq.

"You're going to have to use your mind as well as your eyes and ears to take in the complete picture," a White House official said, alluding to visual materials in the presentation. The example of hard evidence invoked frequently in this case has been the photographs Adlai E. Stevenson showed at the United Nations in 1962 to prove the existence of nuclear missile sites in Cuba.

Among the evidence the administration was considering declassifying were satellite photographs showing activity at inspection target sites shortly before inspections teams arrived, an administration official said. The photographs clearly show soldiers digging holes, moving equipment or burying things, the official said. There are also shots of tractor-trailers, which American intelligence officials believe might be mobile weapons labs.

The official said that, because of concerns about revealing too much about surveillance technology, Mr. Powell might choose to show some of the evidence in private meetings with Security Council members.

"There is a clear, concerted effort by Iraq to hide component parts, weapons sites and witnesses from the inspectors," another official said.

While President Saddam Hussein of Iraq insisted in Baghdad today that he has no prohibited weapons, Hans Blix, one of the United Nations' chief weapons inspectors, warned Iraq that it must cooperate immediately because it is "five minutes to midnight" in the countdown to war.

Mr. Blix said today he has seen no evidence to date that Iraq has tried to subvert his work, although he said he has received "reports from intelligence agencies" making such assertions.

"We have had reports for a long time about these mobile units," he said. "We have never found one. We have not seen any signs of things being moved around, whether tracks in the sand or in the ground."

The Council awaited Mr. Powell's presentation with interest and foreboding, uncertain whether his revelations would be compelling enough to persuade reluctant nations that there was no alternative but war to disarm the Iraqi regime.

In Baghdad today, the weapons inspection team said it had discovered another empty Sakr-18 chemical warhead, at the Al Taji ammunition depot north of Baghdad. The warhead was similar to one found at another depot on Jan. 16. Mr. Blix said it was still unclear whether the empty munitions were "the tip of the iceberg" of chemical warheads Iraq has not accounted for, or the "debris" of their destruction.

The impact of Mr. Powell's presentation will determine how soon the United States will go to war to disarm Iraq, and whether it will enjoy broad international support or step outside the United Nations to lead a narrower coalition into combat.

German diplomats prepared a formally structured Council meeting to begin at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, in which Mr. Powell would speak and each of the other 14 Council members would have up to eight minutes to comment. Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, Mohammed Aldouri, will be allowed to give a rebuttal at the end of the session, the German ambassador, Gunter Pleuger, announced today.

Germany is organizing the session because it holds the rotating presidency of the Council this month. The coincidence compounded the tension because the meeting will be led by the German foreign minister, Joschka Fischer, who clashed with Mr. Powell when they last met here on Jan. 20. Germany has said it will not send troops to any fighting in Iraq because "the risks by far outweigh the possible benefits," as Mr. Pleuger said.

In intensive global diplomacy, as many as 10 Eastern European nations who were recently invited to join NATO or aspire to join will present a letter of support here tomorrow for the American campaign to disarm Iraq, diplomats said. Their letter follows a similar one from eight European countries last week.

Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia are expected to sign, as well as three NATO aspirants — Albania, Croatia and Macedonia. Their support is a sign of gratitude for Washington's efforts to help them enter NATO.

President Bush spoke today for about 15 minutes with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, a permanent, veto-bearing member of the Security Council.

The administration's efforts to round up support for using force against Iraq got a boost, meanwhile from Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Arabian foreign minister, who was quoted by Time magazine on its Web site today as saying his country would encourage France, Russia and China to back a resolution authorizing force. "Should conflict come, we think it should be through the United Nations machinery," he said.

American officials have said they did not support the decision by Mr. Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei, the United Nations' chief nuclear inspector, to return once more to Baghdad.

But Mr. Blix stressed today that the meeting will be Iraq's very last chance to show that it is ready to reveal fully the status of its weapons programs. He said he wants to see clear measures by Iraq to show the Council "that it will actively seek any items that are proscribed or give credible evidence for their absence."

After flying to New York this afternoon, Mr. Powell met with George Tenet, the director of central intelligence, as well as Mr. Tenet's chief deputy, John McLaughlin, and other aides. They are expected to accompany him to the Security Council.

One official said Mr. Powell and the intelligence leaders met to refine the classified information they plan to release and to go over what to say about it "to make sure the materials are well prepared."

While preparing for the presentation on Wednesday, Mr. Powell also planned a furious round of diplomatic pressure on Security Council nations to accept the evidence as convincing enough to lead to a second resolution authorizing force in coming weeks if Iraq does not quickly cooperate in revealing its illegal weapons and permitting them to be destroyed.

The secretary met this afternoon with the Chinese foreign minister, Tang Jiaxuan.

After his presentation, Mr. Powell will meet with Security Council foreign ministers, State Department officials said.

American officials said that while they may be getting votes on the Council for a speedy resolution, France, Russia and China are crucial because only they, along with Britain and the United States, have veto power. France has been the major holdout against a quick move for a second resolution authorizing an attack on Iraq, saying that inspectors needed more time to see if they could find Iraq's weapons. That view was reiterated today by President Jacques Chirac of France after his meeting in Paris with Tony Blair, the British prime minister.

Administration officials said they were not especially worried about Mr. Chirac's reaction, since French officials say they want to see the details in Mr. Powell's presentation and signaled that their position would not change at least until then.

Mr. Powell's presentation was previewed by Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage, who told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the secretary would try to explain the basis for administration fears of an Iraqi connection with Al Qaeda. "Our fear has been, as we've tried to explain, the nexus of his weapons, his bloody-mindedness and terrorist groups," Mr. Armitage said.

Mr. Hussein, in an interview in Baghdad with a British Socialist politician, Tony Benn, for British television's Channel Four news, said, "There is only one truth, and therefore I tell you as I have said on many occasions before, that Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction."

The interview brought a curt response from Mr. Powell, who was walking to his car at the United Nations mission. "Prove it," he said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/05/international/middleeast/05IRAQ.html>

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

Los Angeles Times

February 5, 2003

Pg. 1

## **Powell Aide Promises Talks With N. Korea**

*Under pressure from anxious senators, Armitage says for first time that a direct exchange will occur.*

By Sonni Efron, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON --Facing a barrage of critical questions from senators about U.S. policy toward North Korea, Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage promised for the first time Tuesday that the Bush administration would hold direct talks with the regime in Pyongyang.

"Of course we're going to have direct talks with the North Koreans. There's no question about it," Armitage told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Pyongyang has pressed for one-on-one talks, but the United States had insisted that the regime must first abandon its nuclear ambitions.

Senators from both parties raised sharp questions about why the administration is dealing with Iraq and North Korea so differently, why it waited so long to take action to stop North Korea's nuclear program, and how it intends to repair relations with South Korea, which have been frayed by the confrontation.

The gruff, barrel-chested Armitage staunchly defended the administration's assertions that the dispute with North Korea is not a crisis, although he acknowledged it might yet become one. His remarks went beyond President Bush's offer last month to "talk" to North Korea, although the deputy secretary said the administration wants "a multilateral umbrella, of any sort, in a bilateral discussion."

And he portrayed North Korea as a rogue regime armed with biological and chemical weapons and capable of selling weapons-grade plutonium to the highest bidder.

Still, Armitage's remarks were the strongest indication yet that the administration is struggling to accommodate the South Korean and Japanese desire for immediate U.S.-North Korean talks to defuse the nuclear standoff on the Korean peninsula without appeasing Pyongyang.

Armitage argued that unlike in Iraq, where 12 years of diplomatic efforts have not produced a solution, attempts to reach a peaceful settlement with North Korea have been underway for only a few months.

He didn't cite any conditions for talks but said that before the U.S. sits down at the table, it wants a "strong international platform" to make certain that North Korea's nuclear program is handled as a threat to world peace, not merely as a U.S.-North Korea dispute. He said the administration had agreed with the South Koreans at least a month ago to hold direct talks with the North, and "it's a question of when we're going to do it and how."

Armitage's remarks, if not a policy reversal, were "at least a continued demonstration of flexibility," said Ralph A. Cossa, president of the Pacific Forum Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Honolulu think tank. The administration needs to show such flexibility, he said, "just to keep the South Koreans on board."

For months after North Korea admitted its secret nuclear program last fall, the administration refused to negotiate with Pyongyang.

But the revelation last week that North Korea might be moving its plutonium fuel rods, which could be used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons, raised alarms on both sides of the Pacific and across the political spectrum.

Several senators expressed anxiety and dismay at the news that North Korea could produce plutonium to make as many as six nuclear weapons in about six months if it begins reprocessing the spent fuel from its Yongbyon nuclear plant.

"Time is not on our side," said Sen. John D. "Jay" Rockefeller IV (D-W.Va.). "If [North Korean leader] Kim Jong Il is in a certain state of mind, he feels threatened.... And he's got the bomb.... It's the better part of wisdom to presume he's desperate." Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) asked whether Bush's labeling of North Korea as part of an "axis of evil" a year ago had been a diplomatic blunder. Armitage said he and Secretary of State Colin L. Powell had seen the language before Bush delivered the speech and had agreed with the characterization.

Perhaps the sharpest criticism came from former Assistant Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter, who decried what he characterized as world inaction on the standoff. The North Koreans, he said, may be trucking away fuel rods from the Yongbyon facility to a site where they can't be seen or be entombed by an airstrike.

"But as this loose-nukes disaster unfolds and the options for dealing with it narrow, the world does nothing," Carter said. "What is going on at Yongbyon as we speak is a huge foreign policy defeat for the United States and a setback for decades of U.S. nonproliferation policy."

Armitage said the North Koreans have stiffened their demands for a nonaggression pact, saying they would not accept a mere written guarantee from Bush but rather want a treaty ratified by the Senate. South Korean sources said the demand was apparently prompted by North Korea's fear that in a U.S. political system in which foreign policy shifts dramatically between administrations, a president's signature without Senate approval isn't adequate to guarantee security.

The deputy secretary said he doesn't believe the Senate would approve such a treaty with the Stalinist state if the administration presented one.

"If the president of the United States said he wanted it, I bet you a million dollars it would change," countered Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D.-Del.).

Meanwhile, an envoy for South Korean President-elect Roh Moo Hyun met with Powell on Tuesday morning and was scheduled to visit the White House in the evening to deliver a letter to Bush, who was away at a memorial

service for the Columbia astronauts. The contents of the letter were not revealed, but the envoy, Chyung Dai Chul, told reporters his government wants the U.S. to work harder for dialogue with the North Korean government. Armitage stressed the importance of shoring up the U.S.-South Korea relationship. He noted that South Korea has the 10th-largest economy in the world and has successfully played host to the Olympics and soccer's World Cup, "and they're tired of the big boys playing basketball over their heads -- whether it's China or Russia or the United States."

"So I believe we have a lot of work to do," he said, "and we're getting it done."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/la-fg-koreas5feb05001443.1.649698.story>

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

New York Times  
February 5, 2003

## **Smallpox Researchers Seek Help From Millions Of Computer Users**

By Steve Lohr

Responding to worries that smallpox could become a weapon of bioterrorism, a group of research universities and corporations and the Defense Department are announcing today a networked computer project intended to accelerate the search for a cure for smallpox.

The project is to use computing power contributed by a few million personal computer owners linked to the Internet worldwide to try to winnow the number of chemical compounds that might show promise in combating smallpox.

The goal is to use the results to develop drugs to thwart the smallpox virus after infection.

The only defense against smallpox today is preventive vaccination. The Bush administration has proposed vaccinating hundreds of thousands of American health workers, followed by millions of firefighters, police officers and ambulance workers.

The administration's plan has run into resistance from some health experts who are concerned about the side effects and efficacy of a widespread vaccination program.

The new smallpox research program is a collaborative effort of chemical and biological experts from institutions like Oxford University and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; companies with expertise in creating and using computer grids, including I.B.M., United Devices and Accelrys; and the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases.

To succeed, the project will need help from a few million people willing to contribute the unused computing power of their home or office personal computers. Their spare computer cycles will be the source of the computing firepower — more, collectively, than the world's largest supercomputer — to search for smallpox-fighting compounds.

Steady advances in processing power, network capacity and software have made it possible to assemble distributed computing networks that can be directed at a problem like smallpox. A comparatively simple but well-known distributed computing application is the SETI@home program, begun in 1999, which harnesses the spare power of millions of personal computers to seek signs of extraterrestrial intelligence.

The smallpox computing project will work similarly. A person clicks to register and download a screen saver program from a Web site, [www.grid.org](http://www.grid.org). When the machine is turned on but not in use, the program uses it as part of the computing grid.

The project will use molecular modeling and screening techniques to test how strongly a wide range of druglike compounds interact with an important enzyme used by the smallpox virus. The goal is to find molecular compounds that block the enzyme, called topoisomerase, preventing the virus from replicating.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/05/health/05SMAL.html>

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

(Editor's Note: Click on hyperlink to view entire transcript.)

## **U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell Addresses the U.N. Security Council**

This transcript includes the slides that were displayed during the remarks. They are placed in the text approximately where they were displayed in the address. To view the slides, click on the graphic (a pop-up window will appear). . . .  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/20030205-1.html>

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

New York Times  
February 6, 2003  
Pg. 1

## **With Stream of Intelligence, Powell Makes Case to U.N.**

By Steven R. Weisman

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 5 — Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, pressing the American case for a possible war to disarm Iraq, today presented photographs, intercepts of conversations between Iraqi military officers and information from defectors aimed at proving that Saddam Hussein poses an imminent danger to the world.

Among the evidence presented at the United Nations Security Council were recordings of Iraqis referring to "nerve agents," and to apparent efforts to remove incriminating material before the arrival of United Nations inspectors. Scratchy-sounding voices in Arabic saying, "We evacuated everything," "Remove," and "Forbidden ammo," echoed eerily in a chamber clearly tense over the possibility of war.

On two big screens, the secretary also showed satellite photographs of what he said were chemical and biological facilities, and drawings based on witnesses' descriptions of trucks and rail cars converted into mobile laboratories for lethal materials, allegedly intended to evade detection. He said various records and intelligence showed that Mr. Hussein was making nuclear weapons and developing rockets and aircraft to deliver all his weapons.

In the Bush administration's most explicit effort to connect the activities between Iraq and Al Qaeda, Mr. Powell suggested that Iraq's lethal weapons could be given at any time to terrorists who could use them against the United States or Europe.

"Leaving Saddam Hussein in possession of weapons of mass destruction for a few more months or years is not an option, not in a post-September 11th world," he declared. He added that Iraq had unquestionably violated United Nations resolutions, including the latest one, demanding that it cooperate with inspectors and disarm. [Transcript of the speech, Pages A18-20.]

But despite Mr. Powell's tone of urgency, it was far from clear that he had convinced his audience of the need for military action. In Europe, where polls show most citizens anxious about a war with Iraq, opinions did not seem much transformed even from those who watched the secretary on television.

In addition, envoys of France, Russia and China — veto-bearing members of the Security Council — all suggested that the evidence, while compelling, reinforced their view that the inspectors needed more time to do their work, and that Iraq should again be pressed to cooperate.

The next milestone in what many American officials regard as a march toward war is now generally understood to be Feb. 14, when the two chief inspectors, Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei, report again to the Security Council. Administration officials said they still would prefer a second Security Council resolution authorizing use of force against Iraq. If it is clear that there are not the votes for a resolution or if any nations with a veto might use it, American officials say the United States, Britain and other like-minded nations will be ready for an attack Iraq in March without United Nations approval.

On the other hand, France has still not been ruled out as an ally, administration officials said. A senior State Department official welcomed the statement today by the French foreign minister, Dominique de Villepin, that Iraq is known to possess chemical and biological weapons, that it had not cooperated with the inspectors and that war was possible as a "last resort."

Overall, the picture that emerged today in the Council — and also on television screens across the nation and around the world — was that an administration that for many weeks had tried and failed to persuade skeptics of the urgency of the Iraq problem was now getting a chance to lay out its indictment of Iraqi conduct. It came in the form of a nearly encyclopedic catalog that reached further than many had expected.

"My colleagues," Mr. Powell implored the Council members at the end of his speech, "we have an obligation to our citizens, we have an obligation to this body to see that our resolutions are complied with." Iraq has been given one last chance to avoid war but has failed to seize it, he said, adding: "We must not shrink from whatever is ahead of us. We must not fail in our duty and our responsibility for the citizens of the countries that are represented by this body."

Part of the impact of his materials was that they seemed in some ways to evoke the U-2 photographs presented by Adlai E. Stevenson in this same chamber in 1962. That presentation coincided with the most dangerous moment of the cold war, when the United States confronted the Soviet Union over the placement of missiles in Cuba.

The purpose of the presentation today seemed to be to shake the members of the Council out of what the Bush administration regards as their complacency over the Iraqi threat. European diplomats skeptical of a war against Iraq say that Mr. Hussein can be contained by the current inspections regime and, in any case, that he does not threaten those living far away.

In the last several days, Mr. Powell held hours of meetings at the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley, Va., where the director of Central Intelligence, George J. Tenet, and others went over the materials unveiled today.

The result was an extraordinary public revelation of the C.I.A.'s tools: defectors, informants, intercepts, procurement records, photographs and, unusually, comments of detainees seized in Afghanistan and elsewhere since Sept. 11. At many times, Mr. Powell said items of information from different sources corroborated one another.

For example, he said, "we have first-hand descriptions of biological weapons factories on wheels and on rails." Confirmation did not come until the year 2000, he said, when "the source was an eyewitness, an Iraqi chemical engineer who supervised one of these facilities."

It was he, Mr. Powell said, who confirmed that the production began on Thursdays at midnight, and went on through Friday, because it was believed that United Nations inspectors would not intrude during the Muslim Sabbath on Friday.

In all, he said, the weapons inspectors clearly had been unable to find biological weapons because they were being moved constantly around the country. Other evidence, he said, was stored in homes and even in cars that were also constantly on the run to avoid inspectors.

Holding up a vial of white powder, Mr. Powell said that "less than a teaspoon of dry anthrax, a little bit, about this amount" was enough to shut down the United States Senate in the fall of 2001. Then with a pause, he said that "Iraq declared 8,500 liters of anthrax," but that United Nations inspectors estimated that he could have produced 25,000 liters, or 22,700 dry quarts.

Mr. Powell's assertion of connections between Iraq and Al Qaeda were aimed especially at European thinking, administration officials said. Mr. Powell took care to show a map indicating the range, and potential range, of the rockets and aircraft that he said Iraq was developing for use in delivering chemical, biological and perhaps even nuclear weapons.

For skeptics in France and Germany, Mr. Powell noted that Al Qaeda operatives had been working in those countries, as well as in Britain, Spain, Italy and Russia. He based those assertions, he said, on testimony of informants and detainees, as well as the arrest of 116 Qaeda operatives. To drive home the point, he showed a chart of the group's network in Europe.

He also said "colleagues" of a Qaeda leader, Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi, had been identified as coming and going from Baghdad, and were active in the Pankisi Gorge in the former Soviet republic of Georgia and in Chechnya.

"Al Qaeda continues to have a deep interest in acquiring weapons of mass destruction," Mr. Powell asserted, adding that given everything that is known about Mr. Hussein in Iraq, it was not worth the risk to assume that he would never share his weapons with terrorists.

Diplomats said the most compelling information offered by Mr. Powell seemed to prove that Iraq had sanitized, cleaned up and removed incriminating information at countless sites, in many cases just before inspectors went there.

"We saw this kind of housecleaning at close to 30 sites," he said. "We don't know precisely what Iraq was moving, but the inspectors already knew about these sites, so Iraq knew that they would be coming."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/05/international/middleeast/05cnd-nations.html>

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

Washington Post  
February 6, 2003  
Pg. 1

## **Powell Lays Out Case Against Iraq**

***Evidence Shows Hussein Foiled Inspections, Secretary Tells U.N.***

By Glenn Kessler and Colum Lynch, Washington Post Staff Writers



UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 5 -- Secretary of State Colin L. Powell presented the U.N. Security Council today with satellite images, intercepted telephone conversations and information from Iraqi defectors in a bid to convince the American public and the world that new weapons inspections have failed to halt Iraq's banned weapons programs and that the hour was approaching for a decision on confronting President Saddam Hussein with force.

Speaking before a packed council chamber, Powell cited what he called an "accumulation of facts and disturbing patterns of behavior" to charge that Iraq does not intend to comply with last year's unanimous U.N. resolution giving Baghdad one last chance to disarm and to outline new alleged links between Iraq and the al Qaeda terrorist network. While inspections may continue for some weeks, Powell warned the council that the United Nations has little choice but to act in the face of such evidence of Iraqi behavior, in effect serving notice that the Bush administration has made up its mind and is ready to launch an invasion of Iraq to force Hussein from power with or without formal U.N. backing.

"This body places itself in danger of irrelevance if it allows Iraq to continue to defy its will without responding effectively and immediately," Powell said.

As Powell addressed the Security Council, the Pentagon announced the mobilization of an additional 16,979 military reservists and National Guard members, bringing the total activated to 111,603, the largest number since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. And at Fort Campbell, Ky., the Army's 101st Airborne Division -- likely a key component of any Iraqi invasion -- stepped up preparations for what appeared to be an imminent deployment order.

In his nearly 90-minute address, Powell accused Iraq of constructing an elaborate deception scheme that enabled officials to conceal programs to produce biological weapons in mobile trucks and trains, to build prohibited long-range missiles and to construct unmanned aerial vehicles capable of spreading biological or chemical agents over vast tracts of territory.

In an effort to broaden the indictment against Iraq, Powell also detailed new evidence of apparent links between Iraq and affiliates of al Qaeda. Powell noted that some of the ties may have a role in terrorist incidents in France, Britain, Spain and Russia -- all represented on the Security Council.

Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Mohamed Douri, was invited to attend the session and he dismissed Powell's assertions as "utterly unrelated to the truth."

"No new information was provided, mere sound recordings that cannot be ascertained as genuine," he said. "There are incorrect allegations, unnamed sources, unknown sources."

But Powell's statement, which was televised live to audiences around the world, appeared to generate new support for the Bush administration within Congress, with even critics of President Bush's Iraq policy saying that Powell made a compelling case. Overseas, the reaction was more mixed. Powell's performance was widely praised, but many governments said he made a case for enhanced inspections, not war.

Powell also appeared to sway few minds on the Security Council.

Immediately after Powell spoke, the foreign ministers of France, Russia and China -- all of which hold veto power -- rejected the need for imminent military action and instead said the solution was more inspections. "Let us double, let us triple the number of inspectors. Let us open more regional offices. Let us go further than this," said French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, a vocal opponent of war, supported the French proposal to extend the inspections. But, he pointedly noted, Germany does not "hold any illusions on the inhuman and brutal nature of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship. The regime is terrible for the Iraqi people." Fischer added that he lacked the technical expertise to assess whether the intelligence presented to the council by Powell was convincing.

In a statement sure to annoy the Germans, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, in testimony before Congress today, lumped Germany with Libya and Cuba as countries that have ruled out any role in a U.S.-led attack or postwar reconstruction of Iraq. "I believe Libya, Cuba and Germany are ones that have indicated they won't help in any respect, I believe," said Rumsfeld, who last month angered the German and French governments by referring to them as "old Europe."

The foreign ministers' council statements, however, had mostly been written before Powell spoke, and U.S. officials said afterward they believe the impact of Powell's presentation will become more apparent in the days ahead. Proponents of more inspections, officials said, will need to address the evidence of Iraqi deception outlined by Powell.

"The issue before us is not how much time we are willing to give the inspectors to be frustrated by Iraqi obstruction," Powell said. "But how much longer are we willing to put up with Iraq's noncompliance before we, as a council, we, as the United Nations, say: 'Enough. Enough.' "

One U.S. official noted with satisfaction that de Villepin, who two weeks ago threatened to veto an imminent military strike, today appeared to open the door to military action. "We rule out no option, including in the final analysis the recourse to force," he said.



After lunch, Powell raced through individual meetings with 11 foreign ministers whose countries are represented on the council, reinforcing the idea that the United Nations cannot wait much longer before acting. The United States has not committed itself to seeking a second U.N. resolution authorizing military action, but Powell's speech was designed to test the waters for whether it was possible to win approval for such a measure.

Powell may have picked up support from some of the smaller countries on the council. In the meetings with Powell, Angola was very supportive of the U.S. position, while Guinea said there were "no big gaps" between it and the United States, a U.S. official said. Spain, Bulgaria and Chile -- along with Britain, the closest U.S. ally -- also expressed support for a tough line on Iraq.

"We'll see what happens after the inspectors come back from Baghdad," Powell told reporters before departing for Washington. The chief weapons inspectors are scheduled to travel to the Iraqi capital this weekend in an effort to seek more cooperation, and are due to report to the council again Feb. 14.

Powell is held in high esteem abroad, partly because of the perception that he is a reluctant warrior in an administration filled with hawks. Today, he used that reputation to bolster the administration's case. With CIA Director George J. Tenet seated behind him, Powell frequently emphasized that the facts he was presenting were his own conclusions from reviewing the intelligence.

Using large screens erected in the chamber, Powell displayed photographs, diagrams and translations from intercepts, moving quickly from the images and sounds to a detailed explanation of their meaning.

In one theatrical touch, he held up a vial with a teaspoon of simulated anthrax provided by the CIA. Less than a teaspoon of anthrax in an envelope, he noted, caused havoc in the U.S. postal system in 2001, and Iraq has not accounted for as much as 16,500 liters of anthrax, enough to "fill tens upon tens upon tens of thousands of teaspoons."

A senior State Department official said that Powell spent Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday afternoon at CIA headquarters in Virginia, which is only minutes from Powell's home in McLean. He reviewed slides and transcripts and closely questioned photo and other intelligence analysts to understand how they reached their conclusions. Some pieces of intelligence were withheld to not compromise the sources of the information or the means by which it was gathered, the official said. Powell rejected some information if he felt it was too difficult for nonexperts to understand.

The official said Powell hoped to win over his audience by the wealth of information, saying he wanted to win like the 1963 Dodgers rather than the 1927 Yankees. "We hit a series of line drives, rather than go for a big out-of-the-park home run."

One senior council diplomat said Powell had delivered a skillful presentation of the risks posed by Iraq's weapons program. But he said that key elements, particularly the communications between Iraqi officials allegedly trying to hide nerve agents and mobile biological weapons facilities, were less convincing.

Syria, the Security Council's only Arab nation, said that there was nothing in Powell's remarks that would justify military action against Iraq. Syria's U.N. ambassador, Mikhail Wehbe, faulted the administration for creating a media spectacle in the council.

Powell said that intelligence sources had described an elaborate system of Iraqi concealment, replacing computer hard drives at weapons sites, and moving documents, computers and banned weapons around the country. He showed satellite photographs allegedly showing chemical weapons bunkers and convoys of Iraqi cargo trucks preparing to move ballistic missile components from a missile facility two days before inspections resumed. "We saw this kind of housecleaning at close to 30 sites," he said.

He acknowledged differences between the United States and the IAEA over the threat posed by Iraq's ambitions to develop nuclear weapons. But he said "there is no doubt in my mind" that Iraq is seeking the ability to produce fissile nuclear fuel.

He also detailed new intelligence alleging that Iraq has been harboring the Baghdad cell of a global terrorist network run by Abu Musab Zarqawi, whom he described as an associate of Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A32103-2003Feb5.html>

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

New York Times

February 6, 2003

Pg. 1

**News Analysis**

## **Powell's Case Against Iraq: Piling Up The Evidence**

By Michael R. Gordon

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 5 — To convince allied nations that Saddam Hussein is trying to deceive United Nations weapon inspectors, the Bush administration today applied a tried- and-true strategy: it invoked the Powell doctrine. When he was the United States' top military man, Gen. Colin L. Powell was best known for his doctrine of using overwhelming force. As the United States top diplomat, Secretary of State Powell today sought to overwhelm the critics with evidence, some new, some less so.

Without a smoking gun to demonstrate that Iraq is developing weapons of mass destruction, Mr. Powell's strategy was to make as comprehensive and detailed case as he could to demonstrate a pattern of Iraqi deceit.

He provided new details about Iraq's effort to develop mobile laboratories to make germ weapons. He asserted that Iraq has sought to hide missiles in its western desert. Significantly, he cited intelligence reports that Saddam Hussein has authorized his military to use poison gas if the United States invades.

The speech was vigorously argued and revealed an administration determined to use all means to make its case. But some portions of Mr. Powell's presentation appeared stronger than others.

The secretary offered much evidence that Iraq has weapons programs to hide, the primary justification for the administration's contention that military action will almost certainly be necessary to enforce the United Nations demands that Iraq disarm.

But Mr. Powell did not appear to make an airtight case that the Saddam Hussein regime is plotting with Al Qaeda to attack the United States and its allies, a main argument for the Bush administration's contention that the Iraqi threat is so urgent that a potential military campaign cannot be delayed.

"I think he made a strong case that Iraq is not cooperating with the United Nations and is in material breach of Resolution 1441," said Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control.

But Mr. Milhollin argued that Mr. Powell had not demonstrated that the United States faced an imminent threat from Iraq.

"Just because there is a terrorist cell in Iraq," he said, "does not prove that Saddam Hussein is ready to transfer mass destruction weapons to Al Qaeda for use against the United States."

Citing foreign intelligence reports, Mr. Powell asserted that Osama bin Laden met with senior Iraqi intelligence officials. He added that "extremists" affiliated with Al Qaeda have taken up residence in Baghdad and set up a base of operations there. But a senior State Department official stressed after the speech that the Bush administration was not asserting that Saddam Hussein was "exercising operational control" of Al Qaeda.

A senior administration official argued that Mr. Powell's presentation today had greatly strengthened the administration's case that Iraq has sought to deceive the weapons inspectors. But the official conceded that the administration had deliberately refrained from presenting conclusions about the significance of Iraq's links with terrorists, an issue that has been strongly debated within the government.

"It is what it is," the senior official said of the information on Iraq's alleged terrorist links. "It is a series of facts. People will have to judge for themselves."

The case Mr. Powell presented today regarding Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, however, was remorseless. In general, Mr. Powell's task was much harder than the one that Adlai E. Stevenson faced during the Cuban missile crisis. Mr. Powell was not able to show a series of photos to settle the debate, but he did spend almost 90 minutes discussing information from intercepted calls, satellite photos, defectors and spies.

Trying to marshal the strongest evidence, Mr. Powell began his discussion of Iraq's weapons program by talking about biological arms, about which the United States has the most information. The administration had given Iraq's suspected efforts to acquire nuclear weapons more emphasis until the International Atomic Energy Agency began to challenge some of Washington's evidence.

Providing new details, Mr. Powell said that Iraq had developed seven mobile laboratories to make germ weapons. Most are hidden inside trucks but a few are on rail cars, he said. Mr. Powell displayed a drawing of the interior of one of the labs, saying it was based on information from several Iraqi informants.

Significantly, he said, Iraq has developed a technique for making dry biological agents. Addressing potential delivery systems, Mr. Powell disclosed that Iraq has an unmanned drone that flew 500 miles in one test. He also said that Iraq last fall moved rocket launchers and missiles warheads with biological agents from the Baghdad area to western Iraq to hide them.

Mr. Powell did not repeat the C.I.A.'s previous charges that Iraq has resumed the production of poison gas, but he argued that Iraq still had such weapons.

One informant, Mr. Powell said, had witnessed an experiment in the mid 1990's in which Iraqi prisoners were tied to beds and used as guinea pigs for poison gas tests. On nuclear weapons, Mr. Powell noted that some skeptics have challenged the Bush administration's claims that Iraq is striving to develop nuclear weapons. But he presented new details to buttress the administration's case. Presenting new information, he said that the United States has

intercepted aluminum tubes that had a special coating that would make them useful for making centrifuges to enrich uranium.

Iraq, he said, has also approached Romania, India, Russia and Slovenia, trying to purchase a factory to make magnets weighing 20 to 30 grams, the same weight as the magnets used in its centrifuge program before the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

"I think what he did today was to buttress in great detail the basic argument been making from the beginning, that this is the last chance for Saddam to comply, that he has not taken it and that this is something we need to confront," a senior administration official said.

Even the skeptics had to concede that Mr. Powell's presentation had been an important milestone in the debate. Critics may try to challenge the strength of the administration's case and they will no doubt argue that inspectors be given more time.

But it will difficult for the skeptics to argue that Washington's case against Iraq is based on groundless suspicions and not intelligence information.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/06/international/middleeast/06ASSE.html>

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

New York Times  
February 6, 2003

## **Drug Tested In Gulf War Is Approved For Troops**

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.

The Food and Drug Administration gave final approval yesterday to a drug used to help protect troops against one type of nerve gas that might be used in any war with Iraq.

The drug, pyridostigmine bromide, was used, on an experimental basis, in the Persian Gulf war in 1991, and some groups argued that it could have been a cause of gulf war syndrome. The syndrome is vaguely defined, but veterans complained of fatigue, rashes, headaches, muscle pains and memory loss.

But an F.D.A. spokesman said several postwar studies "all assert that you can't attribute any aspects of gulf war syndrome to this drug."

Much higher doses of the drug are used to treat myasthenia gravis, a neuromuscular disease, the spokesman, Dr. Robert Temple, said, adding that the drug does not pass the blood-brain barrier, which protects the brain. It was approved for myasthenia gravis in 1955.

At the front, pyridostigmine bromide is taken in tablets three times a day by troops in danger of being exposed to soman nerve gas. Soman is one of several nerve gases that kill by paralyzing the breathing muscles. The drug does not protect against sarin, a better-known, slower-acting gas in the same family.

The pills protect the periphery of the body. If troops are exposed to gas, they must immediately stop using them and inject themselves with atropine and pralidoxime, drugs that can reach the central nervous system and that already have F.D.A. approval. Troops are also supposed to wear gas masks and chemical protection suits.

In the gulf war, pyridostigmine bromide was considered an investigational drug. Yesterday's agency approval was based on tests in guinea pigs and monkeys. The drug cannot ethically be studied in humans because they would have to be exposed to nerve gas.

F.D.A. rules issued last June allow for approval of drugs for humans based on their effectiveness in animals when it is not feasible to do human tests, Dr. Temple said.

Because of the possibility of war with Iraq, "there was interest in having the drug approved," he said.

Dr. Mark B. McClellan, the F.D.A. commissioner, said the approval would "help protect American troops and others from nerve agent attacks."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/06/health/06NERV.html>

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

USA Today  
February 6, 2003  
Pg. 4

## **Illness from smallpox shot seen in soldiers, not civilians**

By Anita Manning, USA Today

WASHINGTON — Two soldiers have had potentially serious reactions days after receiving the smallpox vaccine, but no problems have been reported among more than 400 civilian health workers immunized in the past two weeks, a health official said Wednesday.

The soldiers are the first known cases of severe reactions among thousands being vaccinated as part of the president's bioterrorism preparedness plan. Both men are recovering. Under the first phase of the plan, 500,000 military personnel will be immunized. About 450,000 civilian public health and hospital workers are being offered the vaccine. They would care for the first victims if terrorists unleash the virus.

The Defense Department says that as of Jan. 31, 3,665 military health care workers had been vaccinated. The Pentagon has declined to disclose the total number of military personnel vaccinated so far. One 23-year-old Army soldier developed encephalitis (brain swelling) eight days after being vaccinated. He is expected to be released soon from the hospital. A 30-year-old Army soldier suffered "generalized vaccinia," a widespread rash that is caused by the virus used in the smallpox vaccine. He is back at work. Their names are not being released.

Most of the military personnel are being vaccinated for the first time, and are therefore more likely to suffer reactions than people who were vaccinated as children. Routine smallpox vaccinations ceased in the USA in 1972. "It's gone surprisingly well, much better than we expected it would," said Greg Martin, assistant dean at Uniform Services University in Bethesda, Md. "We've had lots of mild reactions."

No severe reactions have been reported among civilian health workers vaccinated so far, said Joseph Henderson of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Henderson, associate director of the CDC's Terrorism Preparedness and Response Program, spoke Wednesday to state and local public health officials at a meeting sponsored by the National Governors Association. He said:

\*Forty-three states had requested 368,700 doses of vaccine; 221,700 have been shipped to 30 states and the city of Los Angeles.

\*Vaccinations have been given to 432 people in 11 states.

The program has met with resistance, especially from hospitals and nurses' groups who are concerned about what they see as inadequate liability coverage for those administering the vaccine and compensation for people who become ill or miss work as a result of vaccination. Initially, 3,600 hospitals expressed interest in taking part in the vaccine program, but "that number has gone down a bit," Henderson said.

In Virginia, more than half of the 88 hospitals with emergency services have declined to take part until liability and compensation issues are resolved, said Lisa Kaplowitz, state deputy commissioner for emergency preparedness.

*Contributing: Laura Parker*

<http://www.usatoday.com/usatoday/20030206/4842897s.htm>

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

Washington Post  
February 6, 2003  
Pg. 31

## **Reactor Restarted, North Korea Says**

### ***Plutonium Could Be Used for Bombs***

By Doug Struck, Washington Post Foreign Service

SEOUL, Feb. 5 -- North Korea said today it had carried out its vow to restart a small nuclear power plant that U.S. officials suspect will be used to produce plutonium for weapons.

In an announcement carried by its state-run news agency, North Korea said the plant had resumed "normal footing" operation. The government earlier evicted international inspectors who had watched the plant since it was closed under an agreement with the United States in 1994.

Today's move was another sign of defiance by the government in the capital, Pyongyang, which has reacted to pressure from the Bush administration by declaring itself the first nation to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and resuming work that foreign analysts say is aimed at developing nuclear weapons.

"We are now increasingly on a slippery slope away from negotiations and toward potential confrontation," said C. Kenneth Quinones, a former State Department specialist who helped oversee the plant's closing in 1994.

"I don't see anything being put in place to slow that process," he said today in a telephone interview from Virginia. "Pyongyang is certainly not slowing it. And the Bush administration right now is in a very hard-nosed stance."

The North Korean statement said the small research plant at Yongbyon, 55 miles north of the capital, would produce electricity for the power-starved nation. But experts say the five-megawatt plant is not large enough to provide any meaningful electrical power.

By their account, its main purpose would be to irradiate natural uranium rods to produce plutonium that could be used in nuclear weapons. Experts say it would take about one year of operation for the small plant to produce enough fuel for a bomb of the size dropped on Hiroshima.

More immediately worrisome for the analysts is the disposition of about 8,000 fuel rods produced when the nuclear plant was operating and stored at the site since it was closed. That material can be processed at a reopened plant nearby into weapons-grade fuel in two to four weeks, nuclear experts said.

U.S. officials said last week that satellite reconnaissance has observed North Korean trucks that may have been moving the fuel rods from a storage pool to the eight-story reprocessing plant a half-mile away. There has been no confirmation that reprocessing has begun, which Quinones said would be "a red line" for the United States that might bring "forceful action."

Nancy Beck, a State Department spokeswoman, said the North Korean reports, if true, would be a serious development that would only serve to further Pyongyang's "international self-isolation." She said the administration called on North Korea to "reverse this action and other steps it has taken in violation of its international commitments."

North and South Korea, which have slowly upgraded their ties since the 1994 agreement, marked another milestone today when construction officials inspected a new road leading across the Demilitarized Zone, which has separated the peninsula since the end of the Korean War in 1953.

The road is only the second route for overland passage -- the other is at the Panmunjom truce village in the DMZ where delegates from North and South have periodically met for talks. The new road stretches 18 miles over the DMZ along its easternmost section and connects the South to Mount Kumgang, a historic scenic destination in North Korea.

Later this month, the road is scheduled to open to carefully monitored trips by South Korean tourists, who now must take a lengthy trip by ferry to reach the resort.

While South and North Korea take reconciliatory steps, the Japanese government is considering sending two destroyers equipped with the Aegis air defense system to the Sea of Japan to watch for North Korean missile launches, Kyodo news service reported.

The report said Japan is becoming convinced that the communist state may resume test-firing ballistic missiles as part of brinkmanship diplomacy in the nuclear impasse. Deploying the destroyers would be an unusual show of military activity by Japan.

*Staff writer Peter Slevin in Washington contributed to this report.*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31745-2003Feb5.html>

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

New York Times

February 6, 2003

## **Confidential Advisory Warns Of Rise In Possible Terror Threats**

By Eric Lichtblau and David Johnston

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 — American authorities have spotted a recent upsurge in possible terrorist threats and are warning law enforcement officials to be alert to the prospect of attacks by Al Qaeda in the United States and abroad as early as within several weeks, officials said today.

The C.I.A. is concerned that Al Qaeda "plans to launch major attacks" against Americans in the United States and in the Middle East "as early as mid-February 2003," law enforcement and intelligence officials were warned by a confidential advisory circulated this week.

Based on what was deemed "reliable information" from recent intelligence reports, officials said they were concerned that a wave of terrorist attacks could be timed to coincide with the end of hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, and the approach of a possible war with Iraq.

The rising concern also reflects new assessments of Al Qaeda's interest and ability to produce radiological or chemical weapons. In particular, investigators have expressed concern about Al Qaeda's ability to strike with a "dirty bomb," a device that would use conventional explosives to spew radioactive material into the air.

In a recent re-evaluation, intelligence analysts have concluded that Al Qaeda may be closer to developing a dirty bomb than was thought after the arrest last May of Jose Padilla, an American convert to Al Qaeda, who the authorities said plotted to build such a device. Mr. Padilla, who was arrested as he arrived in Chicago on a flight from Pakistan, was believed to have lacked the technical knowledge or organizational skills to have organized a credible plot. After his arrest, counterterrorism officials seemed to play down the threat.

But since then, interviews with detainees like Abu Zubaydah, one of Al Qaeda's chief recruiters, and a fuller examination of materials seized in Afghanistan have led the authorities to suspect that a dirty bomb might well be within Al Qaeda's grasp. It was Mr. Zubaydah who initially confirmed the existence of a dirty bomb plot and acknowledged that someone had been recruited to oversee the project, in which radioactive material would have been wrapped around a conventional explosive and detonated in the United States. Concern about terrorists' potential use of ricin has also been growing since small amounts of the deadly poison were found in Britain in an apartment rented by four Algerians.

Some American and British officials suspect there is a link between the discovery of the poison and Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi, whom Secretary of State Colin L. Powell described today as a Qaeda operative and poison expert at the center of terror ring based in Iraq.

The recent surge in intelligence information about possible attacks has not pointed to any specific targets, officials said.

Nonetheless, law enforcement officials said the Federal Bureau of Investigation was likely to alert local police in coming days to be on guard.

With hostilities in Iraq heating up, "people think this is a good time for a reminder that the threat is up and the chatter is up, but there's nothing we can act on," said an F.B.I. official who demanded anonymity.

Since the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, officials in Washington have sought to monitor intelligence leads aggressively and to make periodic warnings to avoid the type of missteps and communication breakdowns that preceded the Sept. 11 attacks.

Some local police officials around the country complain that the warnings are too vague to be of much use and have only fanned public fears. A Justice Department official said today that the authorities were mindful of the need to strike a balance between informing and alarming the public.

The official, who demanded anonymity, cautioned that while intelligence "chatter" has in fact climbed in recent days, it has not reached the heights seen in prior periods, such as in the weeks before the Sept. 11 attacks, or before July 4, 2002, when officials urged "increased vigilance" because of the symbolism of the Independence Day holiday. "Nobody's getting ready to raise the threat level," the official said, referring to the nationwide alert system instituted last year by the White House. The alert status now stands at yellow, or an "elevated" threat level, which is in the middle of the five-tier system.

Next week, the F.B.I. plans to deliver to Congress its first National Threat Assessment, and officials said it was expected to conclude that Al Qaeda remains a potent terrorism force.

Robert S. Mueller III, director of the F.B.I., and George J. Tenet, director of central intelligence, are also expected to appear before members of Congress to update them on the terrorist threat and to discuss continuing changes.

Officials said their remarks were likely to reflect the urgent tone that each man had taken in recent public appearances.

In a December speech, Mr. Tenet said Al Qaeda had continued to prepare for terrorist attacks even after the loss of several important leaders who were killed or captured. "We would be foolish to take these threats in any way other than with utmost seriousness," he said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/06/politics/06TERR.html>

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

New York Times  
February 6, 2003

## **U.S.-Russia Atomic Arms Pact Wins Senate Panel's Backing**

By James Dao

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously endorsed a treaty today that obliges the United States and Russia to cut their strategic nuclear arsenals by two-thirds over the next 10 years, granting President Bush a long-delayed foreign policy victory.

The 19-to-0 vote sends the treaty, which was signed by Mr. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin in Moscow last May, to the Republican-controlled Senate, which is expected to approve it later this month.



Along with the administration's withdrawal last year from the Antiballistic Missile Treaty of 1972 and its decision to build a missile defense system, the arms reduction accord is a centerpiece of Mr. Bush's efforts to redefine American-Russian relations.

The pact, known as the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty, will reduce Russia's and America's deployed nuclear arsenals to between 1,700 and 2,200 warheads, from about 6,000 each.

Mr. Bush has argued that the two countries are no longer enemies and therefore no longer need cumbersome treaties involving detailed verification programs to keep their nuclear arsenals in check. Mr. Bush vowed to cut the American arsenal even if Russia did not match the reductions.

But Russia did agree to cuts, provided that they were enshrined in a treaty. The result was an extraordinarily simple three-page pact that gives both countries wide latitude about how and when they dispose of their warheads, just as Mr. Bush insisted. The Start I treaty signed by President Bush's father and President Mikhail S. Gorbachev of the Soviet Union in 1991 ran more than 700 pages.

The new accord does not require the actual destruction of the warheads. Instead it allows both sides to keep the weapons in storage, so they can be reactivated and reinstalled on missiles or bombers on relatively short notice. The Pentagon has said it intends to keep a bit more than 2,000 warheads on "active reserve," in case of new nuclear threats, and nearly 5,000 inactive weapons that would take longer to redeploy.

Unlike past arms control pacts, the treaty does not set out a timetable for cuts, requiring only that the total number of strategic weapons does not exceed 2,200 on Dec. 31, 2012. The treaty expires on that day if the two sides do not choose to renew it.

In addition, both countries reserve the right to terminate the agreement on three months' notice, half the notification period of most previous arms control treaties.

"The Moscow Treaty recognizes that the U.S.-Russian relationship has turned the corner," said Senator Richard Lugar, the Indiana Republican who is the Foreign Relations Committee chairman. "Our countries are no longer mortal enemies engaged in a worldwide cold war. Our agreements need not be based on mutual suspicion or an adversarial relationship."

Though the treaty's approval has never been seriously in doubt, Democrats had held up its approval last fall, when they still controlled the Senate. Republicans accused them of seeking to deny Mr. Bush a legislative triumph before the November elections, but they insisted that they merely wanted to strengthen some of the treaty's provisions. In fact, the resolution that gained committee approval today does include several provisions intended to expand the treaty's reach.

Those include conditions requiring the administration to send to Congress annual reports describing progress toward weapons reductions in both countries and outlining the status of programs to help Russia dispose of its weapons. The resolution also includes six nonbinding declarations that urge the administration, among other things, to make cuts as quickly as possible and to assist the Russians in securing their nonstrategic nuclear weapons.

But Democrats and many arms control groups still criticized the treaty as too bare-boned. They said it would have been far more effective if it had included procedures for verifying reductions, required the destruction of weapons and placed more weapons on low-alert status.

"This treaty doesn't do anything," said Christopher Paine, a senior analyst with the Natural Resources Defense Council, which will fight against ratification.

Senator John Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat, accused the administration of "lofty rhetoric and little real accomplishment," and questioned whether Russia could effectively safeguard its arsenal. But he voted to send the treaty to the Senate floor.

Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware, the ranking Democrat on the committee, said the treaty should be followed with more stringent follow-up accords. And Senator Russell D. Feingold, a Democrat from Wisconsin, said he would offer an amendment to the treaty requiring Senate authorization before a president can withdraw from it.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/06/international/europe/06MOSC.html>

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

Washington Post  
February 6, 2003  
Pg. 28

## **Despite Defectors' Accounts, Evidence Remains Anecdotal**

By Joby Warrick, Washington Post Staff Writer



U.N. officials have suspected since the late 1990s that Iraq possesses mobile bioweapons facilities, some disguised as ordinary trucks to shield them from U.N. inspectors and spy satellites. But Secretary of State Colin L. Powell yesterday reached into the U.S. intelligence dossier and disclosed for the first time significant details of what he called "biological weapons factories on wheels."

"These are sophisticated facilities," Powell said, referring to diagrams purportedly showing the interior of one such lab. "They can produce enough dry biological agent in a single month to kill thousands upon thousands of people." At least seven of the mobile labs are on trucks or in rail cars in Iraq, and all were deliberately designed for stealth, Powell said. But lacking photos or other hard evidence, he based the claim on reports by at least four human sources -- defectors or other "eyewitnesses."

The descriptions of the facilities were sufficiently detailed that several independent weapons experts said the existence of such facilities was plausible, though some of the points in Powell's presentation drew skepticism. The truck-mounted biological weapons labs were not captured on camera but were presented in artists' renderings. "It was the strongest case the administration has made that there has been significant biological weapons production since 1998," when the previous round of U.N. weapons inspections ended, said Jonathan Tucker, a former weapons inspector and currently a senior fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace. "But the sources apparently were defectors, who have not always been reliable or credible. . . . I would be more comfortable if there were photos."

The mobile labs were the highlight of a presentation on biological weapons that otherwise yielded little new information.

The rest of Powell's report focused on much-debated discrepancies in Iraq's accounting for munitions and materials it produced before the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Powell criticized Iraq, for example, for failing to account for hundreds of 400-pound bombs that it has admitted filling with anthrax bacteria.

"The Iraqis never accounted for all the biological weapons they had admitted they had, and we know that they had," Powell said. Noting that a single teaspoon of dry anthrax spores shut down the Capitol in October 2001, he said Iraq had the capacity to "fill tens upon tens upon tens of thousands of teaspoons."

The mobile labs depicted in Powell's diagrams could potentially enhance that capability, according to weapons experts who reviewed the evidence. The drawings showed an assembly line for bioweapons -- starting with the growth of large quantities of cells to the drying and refining of lethal spores for bombs -- fitted into three tractor-trailers of average size.

A key intelligence source, described as an Iraqi chemical engineer, helped supervise one of the labs and knew intimate details of the project, Powell said. For example, Powell added, Iraqi scientists would often begin producing pathogens on Thursday nights and complete the process on Fridays, believing that U.N. officials were unlikely to conduct inspections on the Muslim holy day, Powell said.

But such anecdotes did not ring true with some weapons experts. Raymond Zilinskas, a microbiologist and former U.N. weapons inspector, said a 24-hour production cycle was insufficient for creating significant amounts of pathogens such as anthrax. "You normally would require 36 to 48 hours just to do the fermentation," said Zilinskas, director of Chemical and Biological Weapons Nonproliferation Program at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. "The short processing time seems suspicious to me."

Zilinskas and other experts said the schematic presented by Powell as an example of Iraq's mobile labs was theoretically workable but that turning the diagram into a functioning laboratory posed enormous challenges -- such as how to dispose of large quantities of highly toxic waste.

"The only reason you would have mobile labs is to avoid inspectors, because everything about them is difficult," Zilinskas said.

"We know it is possible to build them -- the United States developed mobile production plants, including one designed for an airplane -- but it's a big hassle. That's why this strikes me as a bit far-fetched."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31744-2003Feb5.html>

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

Washington Post  
February 6, 2003  
Pg. 29

## **Work on New Drones, Missiles Called Example of 'Persistence'**

By Bradley Graham, Washington Post Staff Writer

Describing Iraqi efforts to develop missiles and aircraft for delivering chemical or biological warfare agents, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell made two new allegations. He disclosed that Iraq had flight-tested a drone that could fly 310 miles. And he asserted that Iraq was attempting to build a liquid-fueled ballistic missile with a range of 745 miles.

The rest of Powell's remarks about Iraqi missile and drone development echoed what U.S. and British intelligence analysts have reported in recent months, according to defense specialists. But mention of the drone was especially intriguing to experts, who said it represented a significant advance for Iraq and appeared to provide concrete evidence of the potential danger Iraq poses to its neighbors.

"This is the kind of thing that Iraq could use to attack Israel with," said Joseph Cirincione, a weapons proliferation specialist with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "It is a very effective example of the persistence of Iraq's efforts."

Iraq's work on ballistic missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs, is important to the administration's case that Iraq constitutes a threat to its neighbors and potentially to nations far beyond its borders. By all accounts, Iraq still lacks a delivery system that can reach beyond Iran, Turkey, Egypt or Saudi Arabia. But U.S. officials have been concerned about Iraq's determined pursuit of longer-range UAVs and its ability to rebuild missile-producing facilities bombed by U.S. warplanes.

The development of an effective drone would appear to present the most immediate threat, analysts said. Although much less sophisticated than ballistic missiles, UAVs offer the most efficient way to disseminate chemical or biological weapons over large, distant areas.

Powell's discussion of Iraq's experimentation with UAVs began with previously cited evidence, attempts over the past decade to design drones by modifying two manned aircraft, the Russian-made MiG-21 and the Czech-made L-29, a light trainer jet. But Powell then reported that Iraq had moved away from these attempts and focused more recently on developing smaller UAVs. He showed a photograph of one provided by U.N. inspectors.

He also produced U.S. intelligence collected on June 27 that he said "graphically and indisputably demonstrated" Iraq had lied about the range of its UAVs. In its Dec. 7 declaration to the U.N. Security Council, Iraq listed drones with ranges limited to 50 miles. But Powell said the United States had detected "one of Iraq's newest UAVs" performing a test flight that went 310 miles "un-refueled and on autopilot."

He displayed an aerial photo of the Samarra East airfield where the flight took place. On the photo was drawn a racetrack pattern, eight miles long and five miles wide, that Powell said the UAV had flown.

"That was a nice graphic, and the most up-to-date information that the government had released on the subject of Iraq and UAVs," Cirincione said.

On Iraqi missiles, Powell cited "numerous intelligence reports over the past decade from sources inside Iraq" indicating that Iraq has managed to hide "up to a few dozen" variants of the Scud missile used during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, with ranges of 390 to 540 miles. He also repeated earlier intelligence findings that Iraq had violated a U.N.-imposed, 93-mile limit on the ranges of two missiles, which he identified as the al-Samoud 2 and the al-Fatah. The reference to the al-Fatah puzzled some experts, who said that no weapon by that name is listed in published intelligence reports about Iraqi missiles. The other short-range missile in addition to the al-Samoud 2 cited in those reports is the al-Ababil.

Powell mentioned evidence reported by U.N. weapons inspectors that Iraq had imported 380 SA-2 rocket engines -- some as recently as December -- for extending the range of the al-Samoud. He echoed previous assertions by U.S. and British intelligence officials that Iraq was trying to produce even more powerful missiles, with ranges in excess of 600 miles.

But he went further by citing a liquid-fueled missile that some U.S. analysts believe Iraq is designing to fly 720 miles. Defense officials said this was a reference to a program that Iraq began in the late 1980s and was set back by U.S. airstrikes in December 1998.

As evidence, Powell showed a picture of a new test stand at the Al Rafah Liquid Engine Test Facility. The stand, Powell noted, has an exhaust vent five times longer than an older stand nearby that was used for testing the shorter-range al-Samoud. Similar photos have appeared in previous published U.S. and British intelligence reports.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31968-2003Feb5.html>

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

## Scientist Interviewed In Private

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran, Washington Post Foreign Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Feb. 6 -- An Iraqi biologist acquiesced to a private interview with U.N. weapons experts tonight, becoming the first scientist linked to the country's arms programs to agree to confidential questioning sought by the Bush administration and the United Nations' top inspector, U.N. and Iraqi officials said.

The concession, one day after Secretary of State Colin L. Powell assailed Iraq for hindering the inspectors and flouting U.N. resolutions, appeared to be an effort to gain the confidence of the chief weapons inspector, Hans Blix, who is scheduled to deliver a report to the Security Council on Feb. 14. Although Powell argued that inspections were not working, Blix's assessment could prove crucial in determining whether countries such as France and Russia, permanent members of the council, support a new resolution authorizing war or insist the inspections continue.

A senior U.N. official involved in the inspections said Blix has been led to believe that President Saddam Hussein's government will soon relent on two other key issues: a guarantee that Iraq will not try to shoot down U-2 reconnaissance aircraft flying over the country at inspectors' behest and a commitment to enact legislation permitting a long-term presence of inspectors. The official said Blix is hoping to announce agreement on those issues after meetings with Iraqi officials in Baghdad this weekend.

"Blix is coming here with the hypothesis that the three items are already there," the senior official said.

Blix is still seeking information that will be crucial to his assessment, including additional evidence that would better explain Iraq's weapons program and support its contention that it destroyed tons of biological and chemical warfare agents produced in the 1980s, officials said. "He expects the transparency to go beyond these [three] items. . . . He wants evidence," the official said.

Speaking in London after meeting British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Blix said: "We hope at this late hour they will come to a positive response. If they do not, our reports next Friday will not be what we would like them to be." The chief U.N. nuclear inspector, Mohamed ElBaradei, said Iraq must make a "drastic change" in its level of cooperation with the inspectors.

U.N. and Iraqi officials did not release many details about the scientist questioned tonight, but they suggested he was not one of Iraq's senior arms specialists. Gen. Amir Saadi, Hussein's top weapons adviser, said that the scientist's name was Sinan and that he was involved in past biological weapons programs. The senior U.N. official said the scientist now works with Iraq's National Monitoring Directorate, which serves as a liaison to the inspectors.

The interview, which was conducted at a Baghdad hotel where the inspectors are staying, lasted three hours and 32 minutes, a U.N. spokesman said. U.N. officials refused to characterize the session.

"The importance of this particular interview is that they finally started giving in on something under the pressure that was put on them," the senior U.N. official said. "We don't know if this is just one attempt and afterwards we will get stuck again or [if] this is a precedent."

The Nov. 8 Security Council resolution authorizing the latest round of inspections requires Iraq to provide "private access" to anyone the inspectors wish to interview. But every scientist inspectors approached insisted on having a government official present. Iraqi officials said the scientists were worried about having their testimony mischaracterized.

U.N. and U.S. officials contend Hussein's government prevented scientists from speaking in private out of fear they might spill secrets about banned weapons programs. Although Iraqi officials had promised in January, during Blix's last trip to Baghdad, to encourage scientists to speak in private, inspectors still were unable to conduct confidential interviews.

Before today, the inspectors' request for private interviews had been rejected by more than 20 scientists, including the one questioned tonight. But this morning, the general in charge of the weapons monitoring directorate called inspectors and said a scientist had agreed to speak in private.

"Due to the circumstances that are now prevalent . . . some of our scientists came back and said, 'We do not insist on witnesses,'" Saadi said. He said other scientists also have expressed a willingness to speak privately.

"We are waiting for them to be called," Saadi said.

Despite U.N. officials' belief that Iraq will relent on the surveillance planes, Saadi insisted that Baghdad's position on U-2 flights has not changed. He said the government cannot guarantee safety for the high-altitude American planes unless U.S. and British warplanes cease their patrols over Iraq's northern and southern "no-fly" zones. In the mid-1990s, the Iraqi government provided guarantees for the inspectors' U-2s despite the patrols, as long as a flight plan was submitted in advance -- something Blix also has offered to do. This was seen as a possible avenue of agreement for Blix's meetings here.

Saadi and a senior Foreign Ministry official, meanwhile, assailed Powell's presentation at the Security Council during a lengthy news conference. Saadi accused Powell of quoting reports out of context, playing fabricated recordings, using unreliable sources and mischaracterizing documents seized from the home of an Iraqi scientist. He denied Powell's contention, based on intelligence sources, that weapons were moved from presidential palaces before the inspections and that missiles equipped with biological warheads have been scattered in Iraq's western desert. "He says, 'Our sources, our sources,' without any convincing evidence," Saadi said. "As if that is enough to convince the world."

Saadi also disputed Powell's characterization of a missile-testing facility, insisting the building has a large exhaust vent not because it was designed to test long-range missiles, as Powell alleged, but because the missile engines are tested in a horizontal position. "He forgets to mention that the inspectors have been there and seen it for themselves," Saadi said.

He called the presentation "a lot of fiction."

Saeed Mousawi, a senior Foreign Ministry official, dismissed as "totally baseless" Powell's allegation that Iraq has been harboring a terrorist cell run by Abu Musab Zarqawi, whom Powell described as a member of the al Qaeda network. Mousawi said that Iraq has no record of Zarqawi entering the country but that last week it obtained information indicating he was in a part of northern Iraq not controlled by Hussein's government.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38187-2003Feb6.html>

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

Los Angeles Times

February 7, 2003

## **Any Troops Killed In Chemical, Bio Attacks May Be Cremated**

By Esther Schrader, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON --The Pentagon is considering cremating the remains of any U.S. troops killed by biological or chemical attacks in Iraq rather than bringing them home for burial, defense officials said Thursday.

The measure would be designed to prevent the spread of chemical or biological agents from contaminated bodies to people on the home front, the officials said.

The Pentagon has for decades gone to great lengths in an attempt to recover for burial the body of every U.S. soldier, sailor and airman killed abroad.

"This would be a first," said Lt. Col. Cynthia Colin, a Pentagon spokeswoman. "At this point, we believe it's a prudent step for the department to re-look at the policy and make sure we have considered a variety of scenarios that could play out, including chemical and biological agents, and make sure we give commanders a variety of options. Cremation is one of the options being considered."

U.S. intelligence officials believe that Saddam Hussein's regime possesses chemical and biological agents, and the Pentagon is bracing for the possibility that his forces might employ them against American troops. Soldiers, sailors and airmen are being trained to respond to such attacks and are being outfitted with protective gear.

But the issue of how to deal with the possibility that the corpses of Americans killed in action could become health hazards is controversial and fraught with emotion.

Pentagon officials declined to go into detail Thursday on the substance of the review, saying only that cremation is among the options being considered "if remains pose a hazard to the health and safety of the living."

During the 1991 Persian Gulf War, plans were reportedly in place for mass burials and cremation of any troops killed by chemical or biological agents, but they never had to be implemented.

The current review, which began last month, is being conducted by officials of the Army's Mortuary Affairs program, which is charged with the recovery of all service member remains, and by health and safety officials from all four branches of the military, Colin said.

Since the repatriation of remains became a political rallying point during and after the Vietnam War, the military has sought to immediately return the remains of personnel killed overseas. Bodies typically are sent back to the U.S. for burial within seven days, according to the Army.

In earlier wars, fallen soldiers were often buried in makeshift cemeteries near where they were killed. In the two world wars, more than 307,000 American soldiers were buried overseas. Of those, more than 47,000 were later returned to the U.S. for interment.

Under current policy, soldiers often risk their lives to retrieve fallen comrades and bring them back to their families. In the case of plane crashes and other catastrophic events, teams scour the site for remains and personal effects. The military pays for mortuary services but leaves the question of whether to bury or cremate the body to the family. "We return the remains as expeditiously as possible, while maintaining the dignity, respect and care of our deceased," Colin said. "We want to bring the remains back, that's our goal. But we have to do it safely, and we have to make sure we consider the health and medical concerns that may arise if chemical and biological agents come into play."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-cremate7feb07004433.1.2650265.story>

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

Philadelphia Inquirer

February 7, 2003

## **Fort Dix Drill Sets The Stage For Chemical-Attack Defense** *In a simulation, Army reservists practiced treating victims. The unit will soon head to the Middle East.*

By Edward Colimore, Inquirer Staff Writer

FORT DIX - The "casualties" memorized their symptoms from cue cards.

Some were victims of a mock biological attack, others of a chemical attack. And all had to be decontaminated - quickly.

A team of soldiers in gas masks and protective gear rushed onto the Fort Dix Army Airfield yesterday, placed the stricken soldiers on stretchers, and sent them through a kind of decontamination assembly line.

Clothes were cut off, bodies washed, and jumpsuits provided.

The troops of the Army's 300th Chemical Company knew they were taking part in a drill. They also knew they could be taking part in the real thing in the coming weeks.

Their company, which is headquartered in Morgantown, W.Va., and includes Pennsylvania reservists, is leaving soon for "the box" - the term soldiers use to describe the area where hostilities might break out in a war with Iraq.

"We can't say for sure what will happen, because we never had to do the real deal," said Staff Sgt. Michael Bittner, 35, of Johnstown, Pa., who took on the role of a victim.

"But we have become confident that we can do the job because of our training."

Speaking through a voice amplifier in his gas mask, First Lt. Anthony Abraham said he had become more concerned about the prospects of chemical and biological attacks after hearing Secretary of State Colin Powell's speech Wednesday at the United Nations.

"There's always an element of concern when you know there's the possibility you could run into something that could kill you almost instantly," said Abraham, 32, of Baltimore. "But we know we will be good to go."

Yesterday morning, with the temperature at 18 degrees, more than 100 members of the company prepared for the unthinkable. Thirty-two were casualties in the mock disaster.

One by one, they were helped by soldiers in full protective gear who assessed the conditions of the patients with a physical examination and questions.

"Do you know your name?" a soldier asked a victim. "What's your name?"

"Mark," said the patient.

"Do you feel pain when I do this?" the soldier asked, pushing on the patient's chest, then applying pressure to his left leg.

The casualty lay in a stretcher while his outer uniform was cut off with scissors. He was then taken inside a tent where a preliminary diagnosis was made: exposure to a nerve agent and a broken left femur.

In a second tent, he was rolled along a conveyor line, where soldiers pretended to douse him with soap and water before he was transferred to the final tent to receive a jumpsuit. Medical attention would follow at another location.

"Typically, we can run anywhere from 50 to 60 soldiers per hour through this system," said Capt. Matthew Adams, 32, commander of the 300th Chemical Company, who lives in Wellsburg, W.Va.

The victims of a real attack would have to be completely stripped of clothing and washed down.

But subfreezing cold prevented such a realistic exercise. Uniforms were cut off to reveal another uniform underneath. Water and soap were not used, though wands were used to detect chemical agents.

"If soldiers are really hit with [chemical or biological weapons], if we don't get to them in a certain amount of time to decon those soldiers, that's a bit of concern," said Abraham, who looked otherworldly in his protective gear. "You can't waste any time."

He said the gear was "not uncomfortable. The mask is very snug to my face. The [gear] is just cumbersome. You have to be careful that you don't break your seal."

The 300th Chemical has been training for about a year, said Maj. Dave Kemnitz, operations officer for the Homeland Defense/Homeland Security Division of the Army Reserve Command.

Though the company is heading overseas, he said it could be called on for assignments at home. "We have 25 of these companies to provide support to civilian authorities," he said. "This is a part of the homeland security mission."

Kemnitz said the unit could decontaminate large numbers of people to take the pressure off local medical facilities. "Fifteen people injured in a bus accident is a mass-casualty event for a hospital," he said. "With 100 to 200 people with the same problem, a hospital is likely to be overwhelmed."

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/5125008.htm>

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

Washington Post

February 7, 2003

Pg. 2

## **Labs Unprepared For Chemical Attacks**

### ***Most State Facilities Rated at 4 or Below on a Scale of 1 to 10***

By Ceci Connolly, Washington Post Staff Writer

The nation's public health laboratories are woefully unprepared to handle chemical weapons agents such as sarin or mustard gas that could be used in a terrorist attack, according to a 50-state survey released yesterday.

On a scale of 1 to 10, 37 state labs rated their chemical response capability at or below a 4, while nine others gave themselves scores of 5 or 6, according to the Association of Public Health Laboratories, which conducted the survey last month. Only eight labs have chemical response plans. There are no national protocols for testing or shipping suspicious chemicals.

"We have almost nothing in place if an event occurred tomorrow," said Scott Becker, executive director of the association.

Since the anthrax attacks of 2001, public health labs have raced to upgrade their bioterrorism units, purchasing equipment, hiring specialists and tightening security. But few have the expertise or technology needed to identify some of the 150 most hazardous chemical agents.

"The big fear in the lab community is the unknown sample somebody cooked up that may contain multiple agents," said Jim Pearson, director of Virginia's division of consolidated laboratory services. "You could have a powder that somebody says is anthrax, and here it's some chemical agent that blisters. It affects your staff and puts you out of business."

Lab directors and terrorism experts across the country say they dread scenarios such as the release of a mysterious gas in a subway or basketball arena. Soon people would begin coughing, fainting or reporting other symptoms.

"In our state, within the first 30 minutes, the mayor of Salt Lake City or the governor of Utah would be asking: What is it?" said Charles Brokopp, the Utah state lab director.

But even after elaborate preparations for last year's Olympics, Brokopp said he still would have to send chemical samples to a federal lab and wait 18 to 24 hours for results. "Timing is very important, because that information can be vital to the physicians and emergency departments involved in treating these individuals," he said.

However, Randall Larsen, a retired Air Force colonel and director of the ANSER Institute for Homeland Security, said release of the deadliest chemical agents would not require lab confirmation because people would die rapidly. He cautioned against spending precious homeland security dollars on preparing state labs for situations they may never encounter.

The government has focused on biological threats in large measure because deadly germs such as anthrax are obtainable by terrorists and small quantities are easily concealed.

Armed with millions in federal aid, state labs have rapidly improved their capability to detect biological agents, said Steve Hinrichs, director of the Nebraska Public Health Lab. But asking a microbiologist to conduct chemical analysis is akin to hiring a car mechanic to fix an airplane, he said.



"One of our concerns is a terrorist would be smart enough to do a dual attack," he said. "They'd use a chemical agent on top of a biological agent."

Five states, including Virginia, have received money from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to test clinical samples such as blood and urine for dangerous chemicals in the event of an attack. This year, CDC hopes to add 10 more labs to that effort, said Dayton Miller, associate director of the lab division at CDC's National Center for Environmental Health.

"We're all very much aware of the need to expand chemical lab capacity," he said. "We're working very hard to do our part to make that happen." But the CDC program focuses only on human specimens, while state labs encounter much more.

A portion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport was closed for several hours recently until the state lab officials could determine that a strange coating of grease on an abandoned suitcase was curry butter and not something hazardous, said lab director Norman Crouch.

"That gives you an idea of what state laboratories are expected to do," he said. "When something happens, we are called in."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38145-2003Feb6.html>

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

New York Times

February 7, 2003

Pg. 1

## **Many Balking At Vaccination For Smallpox**

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.

President Bush's plan to vaccinate 500,000 health care workers against smallpox is getting off to an unexpectedly slow start as hundreds of hospitals and thousands of nurses across the country say that they will not participate.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said today that only 687 volunteers in 16 states had been vaccinated since the program began two weeks ago, though it has shipped 250,000 doses of vaccine to 41 states.

A nationwide survey of state health officials by The New York Times this week found about 350 hospitals that declined to participate. Hundreds more have not yet decided.

The vaccination plan is part of the Bush administration's preparation against a terrorist attack or a war on Iraq, but the White House seemed unfazed by the slow start.

Scott McClellan, a White House spokesman, said the program was "still very much in the early stages."

"We are confident that more than enough health care workers will answer the call so that we are prepared to respond to protect our fellow Americans in the event of any attack," Mr. McClellan said.

Smallpox experts said they were surprised at the low turnout.

"Given the media attention, I thought people would be much more eager," said Elizabeth Fenn, a history professor at Duke University who has traced the disease's history. However, she said, health professionals might be more wary of the vaccine. When it was last used in the 1960's, it caused up to 52 life-threatening complications and two deaths for every million vaccinations.

No serious reactions have occurred among those vaccinated in the past two weeks, the disease centers said. Dr. William J. Bicknell, a smallpox expert at the Boston University School of Public Health who favors vaccinating 10 million people as quickly as possible, blamed the centers, saying the agency had let potential volunteers develop exaggerated fears, failed to assure them that they would be protected in case of bad reactions, and did not publicize the Israeli and United States military vaccination campaigns, which have had few problems.

On the other hand, Dr. Paul Offit, chief of infectious diseases at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and a member of the president's advisory panel on smallpox vaccination, said he was "surprised," adding, "People are voting with their arms."

Dr. Offit was the only member of the panel to vote against nationwide vaccination, and his hospital was quick to back out because it had so many children with immune systems weakened by cancer treatment or organ transplants. Public-health and hospital officials concede that they are struggling to find volunteers. Many health workers say they are skeptical that an attack is imminent and fear having a bad reaction to the vaccine or infecting a patient or relative with it.

Many also fear they will not be compensated, whether they lose a day's work to fever or end up near death from encephalitis.



A number of local health officers, charged with overseeing the vaccinations, said the vaccinations would sap already tight health budgets. They said the federal government had seriously understated the real cost of smallpox vaccinations, which require extensive training, screening and follow-up. "It's not like lining people up for flu shots at the mall," said Patrick M. Libbey, director of the National Association of City and County Health Officials, which has argued that the vaccinations cost \$200 to \$400 per person, while the disease centers have estimated it at as little as \$13.

Sounding defensive in a telephone news conference yesterday, the centers director, Dr. Julie Gerberding, urged reporters not to concentrate on the low participation.

"Our goal is achievement of a preparedness capacity, not achievement of a number," Dr. Gerberding said. "We recognize that concerns about compensation are causing people to be slow to volunteer because they're afraid they'll fall through the cracks."

She declined to say how the issue would be addressed, and some said that could fuel the frustration of nurses associations that have called for the plan to be delayed.

"We have nurses calling us from all over the state with questions that we still don't have answers for," said Clair Jordan, executive director of the Texas Nurses Association, which has advised its 5,000 members not to volunteer. Nurses unions in California, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and parts of Pennsylvania have also advised members not to volunteer.

"There's problems with protecting my family," said Linda Condon-McMahon, 43, an emergency-room nurse at Brockton Hospital in Massachusetts, "and protecting the patients till the site scabs over. Slapping a little bandage on it isn't going to protect them — somebody trips and falls, grabs your arm, and there goes your bandage."

Of the roughly 350 noncooperating hospitals found by The Times, 175 are in Texas, which, unlike most other states, last month pressed all of its 550 acute-care hospitals to make a decision.

The high refusal rate "is not surprising at all, nor is it important, as long as all of our communities will be adequately protected," said Dennis Perrotta, the Texas epidemiologist.

One of the first hospitals to balk was St. Vincent Infirmiry Medical Center in Little Rock, Ark.

Margaret Preston, a spokeswoman for Catholic Health Initiatives of Erlanger, Ky., which owns St. Vincent's, said vaccinating workers "puts the patients at risk, and the risk outweighs the benefits."

Hospital chains have followed suit. The five-hospital Providence Health Systems in Washington State said it would not want vaccinated employees at work during the three weeks they could shed virus, and could not afford the resulting staff shortage.

In Richmond, Va., the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System said it would not vaccinate until one confirmed case of smallpox appeared in the world.

Dr. Richard Wenzel, the system's head of internal medicine, who treated smallpox decades ago in Bangladesh, called the decision "purely a medical risk-benefit assessment."

New Jersey has vaccinated the most so far — 97 health workers and police officers on Jan. 31.

The state's relative success is due to "very robust" communication with health workers, said Dr. Clifton R. Lacy, the state health commissioner. Also, he said, "New Jerseyans see themselves as somewhat vulnerable to bioterrorism.

We were the epicenter for the anthrax event, and we still have post office buildings closed down."

Colorado vaccinated 19 people on Jan. 31 and planned to vaccinate 1,100 soon, said Dr. Ned Calogne, the state's chief medical officer.

Dr. Calogne was having his third smallpox vaccination, having had one as a child and one as a teenager going abroad.

Asked about the many volunteers backing out, he said with a laugh: "Maybe some are just waiting to see if the rest of us survive. I'm kidding, kidding."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/07/health/07SMAL.html>

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

## **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

Hyperlink for Web Site below

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>

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

## Officials fear agri-terrorism

Thursday, February 6, 2003 Posted: 9:54 AM EST (1454 GMT)

### **LAS CRUCES, New Mexico (AP) -- Could terrorists be lurking in fields and behind barns, ready to poison the plants and animals that provide the source of the nation's food?**

It's not an outlandish scenario, says Michael Harrington, executive director of the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors.

"Nobody thought anybody would crash a plane into the World Trade Center, either," Harrington said. "If someone were intent on attacking the agricultural and food system it could be done."

Agri-terrorism could damage the economy, kill people or make them sick, and cause the kind of upheaval the nation went through when anthrax was found circulating through the mail, he said.

"You don't have to be a rocket scientist," said Harrington, who gave the keynote address Tuesday at the 2003 International Chile Conference. "You don't have to have access to nuclear materials."

Harrington said there have been at least five acts of agri-terrorism in the United States and 17 worldwide.

In one attack, he said, a radical group claimed responsibility for releasing Mediterranean fruit flies in California. The quarter-inch Medfly attacks more than 250 varieties of fruits, nuts and vegetables.

In 1997, a Medfly infestation threatened Florida's nearly \$7 billion agricultural industry.

Agriculture accounts for about \$1 trillion in economic activity each year in the United States, he said. As an example, he said, destruction of New Mexico's chili industry could cause a local economic impact of at least \$250 million.

Arturo Jurado, a Las Cruces pepper farmer who is chairman of the New Mexico Chile Commission, said the long-term impact would be at least 10 times greater.

"We have to be prepared for it," he said. "The best thing is information ... knowing neighbors, know what they're doing and when they're doing it."

Other vulnerable areas include processing and transportation of food, Harrington said.

"The United States has had and continues to have the safest food supply in the world, so people are a little nervous talking about this, including myself," he said.

Concern over terrorist acts has caused the U.S. Agriculture Department to invest \$328 million in agri-security, he said.

Researchers are developing animal vaccines and looking at breeding animals and plants with resistance to some toxic agents. Agricultural extension service agents are developing emergency plans and educating themselves about potential risks.

Harrington said the USDA and state agricultural schools are forming another emergency response network.

Some see endless possibilities for farm- and food-related terrorist acts.

"I think one of the biggest places to start is the international foods coming in," said Wes Eaton, who works at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces and attended the conference. "We need to guarantee that it's not laced with something."

<http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/02/06/agriculture.terror.ap/index.html>

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

## U.S. raises terrorism threat level

Friday, February 7, 2003 Posted: 2:01 PM EST (1901 GMT)

### **'Soft targets' focus of threat**

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- The federal government on Friday raised the national terrorism threat level to "orange," indicating a "high risk of terrorist attacks."

The move is only the second time since the September 11 terror attacks that the level has risen above "yellow," or elevated risk.

Attorney General John Ashcroft, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and FBI Director Robert Mueller made the announcement at a Washington news conference.

Ridge outlined how the public might be affected by the heightened security level.

"...increased security personnel at points of entry," Ridge said. "In fact, limited points of entry and exit, enhanced identification checks, restrictions to travel around federal facilities and airports ... will be implemented."

Ashcroft described the threat. "Recent intelligence reports suggests that al Qaeda leaders have emphasized planning for attacks on apartment buildings, hotels and other soft or lightly secured targets in the United States," he said.

In addition, the heads of the nation's military branches on Friday were considering raising security levels at bases across the country.

"There is a large spike in threat reporting that shows al Qaeda cells are possibly close to attacks," a senior military official told CNN.

Also, state security officials said security will be increased at major bridges and tunnels. The officials said they would be calling authorities in the private sector and asking them to heighten security at key pieces of infrastructure such as nuclear power plants, railroad lines, and ports.

State Department officials told CNN that arrests of suspected terrorists in Britain with the chemical agent ricin, in France with cyanide compounds and in Spain with other chemicals prompted the caution.

#### *Decision follows days of debate*

Earlier sources told CNN that U.S. government officials had recommended to the president that he raise the threat level, following several days of debate within the government about whether to take such an action.

Counterterrorism officials have said they are more worried about a possible terrorist attack due to several factors, including an increase in the so-called "chatter" level.

Worldwide chatter prompted the State Department on Wednesday to issue a new worldwide warning that cautions Americans to be vigilant and aware of their surroundings. The chatter concerned possible a chemical or bioweapons terror attack against the United States.

The stepped-up chatter indicates a greater amount of intelligence coming in about a possible attack, especially by al Qaeda, the culmination beginning this weekend of the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and the continuing confrontation with Iraq, according to officials.

"Recent reporting indicates an increased likelihood that al Qaeda may attempt to attack Americans in the United States and/or abroad in or around the end of the Hajj, a Muslim religious period ending mid-February 2003," Ashcroft said.

#### *Ridge called governors*

Sources said that Ridge had been calling state governors and emergency preparedness officials to brief them on the threat, telling them that the level of chatter was at its highest level since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Ridge has also contacted officials in 13 sectors of private industry which control 85 percent of the critical infrastructure in the nation, including the energy, finance and transportation sectors. The officials said they were particularly concerned about chemical, biological and radiological threats.

On Wednesday, sources told CNN that the FBI is closely watching a "handful" of people believed to be Iraqi intelligence officers in the United States. There is also surveillance of at least several hundred Iraqi nationals living in the United States who are thought to be supporters of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Also worrisome to U.S. officials is increased intelligence from a variety of sources in recent weeks suggesting a possible future attack in the United States that could include chemical or biological weapons.

The information does not single out any specific chemical agent or target, but officials said they are mostly concerned about the vulnerability of so-called "soft targets," such as apartment buildings, sports arenas and amusement parks.

Since the inception of the color-coded threat level system -- officially called the Homeland Security Advisory System -- in March 2002, the status has been yellow the whole time except for a short period around July 4 when it was raised to orange.

*CNN's Kelli Arena and Jeanne Meserve contributed to this report.*

<http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/02/07/threat.level/index.html>

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

## **Fear of chem-bio attack grows**

Friday, February 7, 2003 Posted: 10:25 AM EST (1525 GMT)

**WASHINGTON (CNN) -- Information regarding possible chemical or bioweapons terror attacks has government officials increasingly concerned.**

Officials said Thursday there is an increased level of terror-related chatter but emphasized that this information is not specific in terms of material that could be used or about possible targets. There is increased concern, however, because similar information is coming in from a variety of sources, both domestic and international.

The State Department warned U.S. citizens around the world Thursday of the "heightened threat" of terrorist acts against Americans. The "worldwide caution" warned of suicide bombings, assassinations, and the "growing threat" of the use of chemical and biological agents.

Government officials said Wednesday they are concerned that al Qaeda, Iraqi agents or individuals could launch an attack coinciding with a U.S. strike against Iraq. There has been debate about putting out an alert warning or actually raising the national threat level, but the threat level will remain at yellow, or elevated, sources told CNN.

Officials later said they are most concerned about terrorists using ricin and sarin. Both are easily produced, and the items needed to produce them are easily attainable.

In the United Kingdom on January 5, seven men were arrested in a London raid where traces of ricin were discovered. It was the first in a series of terror-related arrests in the country.

There is also concern that smallpox and anthrax could be weaponized but officials note that those materials take some knowledge to work with and are harder to procure.

While there is no specific information regarding targets of a possible chemical or bioweapons attack, officials say their concerns are focused on "soft" targets in the United States.

These include hotels, shopping malls, schools, apartment buildings, amusement centers and sporting events. It would not include, for example, something like the Super Bowl or this weekend's NBA All-Star game, because the level of security would make the events a "hard" target.

Overall, officials say, threat information is pouring in from worldwide sources. In the last 15 months, the FBI has pursued more than 3,000 terror threats.

Heightened concern prompted the FBI to prepare for two contingencies. Agents have been instructed to pack three days of clothes and personal items for a short deployment, and a bag for at least a one-month deployment, sources said.

The FBI will deliver a National Threat Assessment to Congress next week which will describe how al Qaeda continues to adapt and will say that a major concern is the threat of chemical and biological agents.

The State Department issued its warning Thursday because of increased fears of terror attacks abroad.

"Private Americans should remain vigilant with regard to their personal security and exercise caution," the notice said. "The Department of State reminds Americans that U.S. citizens and interests are at a heightened risk of terrorist attacks."

Warnings are often issued for travel in specific countries. Thursday's global travel warning replaces a worldwide caution issued in November.

The warning says that because of tightened security within the United States, terrorists may target U.S. interests overseas, focusing on "softer targets." Those targets include places where Americans and Westerners are known to congregate -- such as clubs, restaurants, schools, places of worship, hotels and beaches -- where security is not as tight."

<http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/02/06/terror.warning/index.html>

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