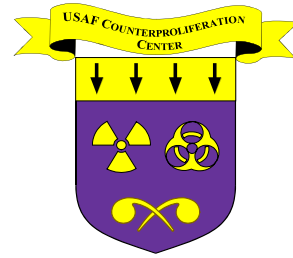


#240

21 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.*

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## **Fears Abound Along Turkish - Iraq Border**

**By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**Filed at 6:04 a.m. ET**

CIZRE, Turkey (AP) -- Nihat Burcin questions whether his flimsy Russian-made gas mask will protect him if Saddam Hussein attacks his hometown near the Iraqi border with chemical or biological weapons. Some of his neighbors are planning to tie chickens outside their windows or put birds in cages outside as a first warning against a chemical weapons attack.

"If it dies suddenly, we will understand that there is an attack," said Burcin, who owns a small store in Cizre, a town near the Iraq border.

Along the border, there is panic that any war could lead the Iraqi ruler to lash out at Turkey, NATO's only Muslim member and an ally of the United States.

Many people fled the area in 1991 at the end of the Gulf War, when Saddam's troops crushed an Iraqi Kurdish uprising, sending hundreds of thousands fleeing across the freezing mountains that mark the border.

Now, amid an economic crisis, many people on the Turkish border say they don't have enough money to flee and are preparing for the worst.

"I don't think the government will distribute gas masks or chemical suits to us," said Idris Akpinar, a grocer. "The best thing they can do is to tell us beforehand to evacuate the area, but I don't have money to go anywhere either." Burcin is worried that Iraq could use nerve or blister gases that enter the skin and are not blocked by masks.

"We're helpless if he uses such a thing," he said.

Other locals are stocking their basements with sacks of flour, sugar and water in case they have to seek shelter during a war. They're also sealing their windows with a thick, brown tape popularly called "Saddam tape" that many say will seal rooms and make them safe if there is a chemical attack.

Along the main road outside of Cizre, a town some 25 miles from the border, convoys carrying M-113 armored personnel carriers and M-60 and M-48 tanks rumble down the road as Turkey reinforces its soldiers at the border.

"We're openly going into war," lamented Ahmet Karaaslan, a grocer. "I don't want to live through a war."

Turkey has said it will send troops to northern Iraq if there is a war to prevent any flood of refugees.

Turks are overwhelmingly opposed to a war, but most political leaders believe the country has little choice but to back the United States, Turkey's most important ally.

On Wednesday, Turkey's Foreign Minister Yasar Yakis and Economy Minister Ali Babacan left for Washington to discuss plans to base tens of thousands of U.S. troops in Turkey and economic aid to cushion the impact of an Iraq war.

Washington had asked to send 80,000 troops to Turkey to open a northern front against Iraq, but Turkey wants that figure reduced reportedly to no more than 38,000.

The border area of southeastern Turkey is overwhelmingly Kurdish and many Turkish Kurds have relatives across the border. Turkey also fears that instability in northern Iraq could spread to southeastern Turkey.

Cizre was once at the center of Turkish Kurdish rebel fighting. The bullet holes that riddled walls just a few years ago have been covered up but Turkish soldiers still patrol the city streets.

And local Kurds still privately discuss the fight between Kurdish rebels and Turkish soldiers.

The rebel group, which last year changed its name from Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, to the Kurdistan Freedom and Democracy Congress, or KADEK, has warned that if Turkish troops attack their bases they will retaliate.

Mehmet Metiner, a political analyst in Istanbul, warned that the rebels, who declared a cease-fire following the 1999 capture of their leader Abdullah Ocalan, could be desperate enough to carry out suicide attacks.

The possibility of regime change in Baghdad, however, has also raised hopes for more normalcy in an area that was largely devastated by the fighting.

The end of border trade with Iraq was another huge blow to the area and many hope that a new government in Iraq would lead to a renewal of the trade.

"The border trade with Iraq is the lifeblood of this area," said Yasin Ali, an accountant. "I hope the war finishes quickly."

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/international/AP-Turkey-Border-Fears.html>

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## Humidity Test May Unmask Anthrax Spores

By Randy Dotinga

From HealthScoutNews

**Feb. 12 — Scientists who launched a research project on a lark may have stumbled upon a test to quickly detect signs of possible anthrax contamination.**

Spores in the family of bacteria that includes anthrax plump up immediately when they're exposed to humid air, says Buford Price, co-author of a new study and professor of physics at the University of California at Berkeley.

A positive humidity test could be the "first step" in warning about potential danger on the battlefield or in a post office, he says.

Scientists have been busy trying to develop rapid ways to detect anthrax since deadly spores entered the nation's mail shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Depending on the method used, current tests take between one hour and 24 hours to confirm that a substance may be anthrax, says Philip M. Tierno Jr., a germ warfare expert and director of clinical microbiology and immunology at New York University Medical Center. Another more accurate test can take 12 hours.

Rapid tests for anthrax are important because "the faster it is detected, the faster treatment of those exposed can begin," Tierno says. "There is a high death rate for those exposed and not promptly treated."

At UC Berkeley, Price and colleagues began to study bioterrorism after the anthrax-by-mail attacks and decided to investigate the spores that carry the deadly germs.

They report their findings this week in an online edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Spores are essentially tiny cocoons that protect the Bacillus family of germs, which includes anthrax, from the environment, Price says.

"The germ only has two stages," Price says. "The cell is alive and has to bring in nutrients and have some water around it in order to survive. The other form is a spore. One of these cells senses danger and starts the process of converting itself into a spore. Most biologists think the [anthrax germ] cell totally shuts down all of its energy-burning abilities and is completely dormant."

It's not clear how long germs -- including anthrax -- can remain in suspended animation in spores. "There are people who claim they could be down for a million years," Price says. "The upper limit hasn't been established."

However, the anthrax germs in spores come back to life when they sense they're in a safe location. Like, say, a human body, Price says.

Price and his colleagues found they could kick-start the wake-up process by blowing humid air over spores of the Bacillus family of germs. When viewed through a specially designed microscope-video camera device, the spores became slightly larger almost immediately. The device, used in physics, allows researchers to precisely examine movement in tiny objects.

"The spores act like the world's fastest sponge, and no one knew that until we made these observations," Price says. The humid air appears to send a signal to the cell inside the spore that "we've got water," Price says.

The humidity test currently allows scientists to only identify spores in the Bacillus family of germs. The next step is to refine the process so researchers can identify an anthrax germ, Price says.

It may be possible to distinguish different types of spores -- including those bearing anthrax -- based on how quickly they expand when exposed to humid air, Price says.

For now, though, the humidity test may help investigators determine whether suspicious spores should undergo more complete testing, he says.

Tierno, the germ warfare expert, says the findings are "promising," but more research needs to be done to determine if the humidity test will help investigators who are faced with suspicious substances.

[http://abcnews.go.com/sections/living/Healthology/HS\\_anthraxtest\\_030212.html](http://abcnews.go.com/sections/living/Healthology/HS_anthraxtest_030212.html)

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## **Iraq II: Pentagon Preparing to Secure and Dismantle WMD Sites During Conflict**

In case the United States leads a military action against Iraq, the U.S. Defense Department has begun planning to secure, and ultimately destroy, Iraq's suspected WMD stockpiles both during and after the conflict, a senior Pentagon official said Monday (see related *GSN* story, today).

"This will be a new mission for the department and for our nation," U.S. Undersecretary of Defense Douglas Feith told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "It is complex and will take place as part of military operations, continuing into the post-conflict period," he added.

The first task for the U.S. military will be to find and secure Iraqi WMD sites, Feith said. "This will have to be done in many places and as quickly as possible," he said (Federal News Service transcript, Feb. 11).

Trained members in U.S. special forces units will handle the bulk of the responsibility of handling discovered Iraqi WMD sites and materials, according to Newhouse News Service. Because Iraqi WMD sites are scattered throughout the country, however, regular U.S. forces will also probably need to secure some sites.

The risks to troops are great, one analyst said. For example, U.S. troops could attack a site that contained smallpox stockpiles and accidentally cause a release. "Then you could become the instigator of a large smallpox outbreak in the Tigris-Euphrates Valley — and that wouldn't look good in world opinion, not to mention in the Arab world," said Hal Kempfer, a military intelligence officer and expert in chemical and biological weapons.

The chances of an accidental release are augmented by uncertainty over where Iraqi WMD sites are located, according to Newhouse.

"That's the chief danger," said Joseph Cirincione, director of the Nonproliferation Project at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "The real dangers come when you don't have the intelligence, and you stumble across these weapons and you inadvertently blow up a storage facility," he added (David Wood, [Newhouse News Service](#), Feb. 12).

Once Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is overthrown, there will still remain a need to dismantle Iraq's WMD infrastructure and to redirect the country's dual-use industrial capabilities and scientific expertise to legitimate uses, Feith said Tuesday. He noted that experts from other U.S. agencies, and from our allies and international organizations, could all play a role in this effort.

Feith warned, however, that the dismantling of Iraq's WMD programs would not happen quickly.

"The task of eliminating all nuclear, chemical and biological stockpiles, facilities and infrastructure will take time," Feith said. "We cannot now even venture a sensible guess as to the amount," he added (Federal News Service transcript).

[http://www.nti.org/d\\_newswire/issues/newswires/2003\\_2\\_13.html#3](http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/newswires/2003_2_13.html#3)

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Los Angeles Times  
February 19, 2003

## **U.N. Officials Call Interview Process A Bust**

*Inspectors say efforts to speak privately to Iraqi scientists they've sought out have been hindered.*

By John Daniszewski, Times Staff Writer

BAGHDAD --When the first Iraqi scientist agreed to sit for a private interview with weapons inspectors without any official "minder" present, U.N. officials hoped that it was the beginning of an end to the dispute over interviews that had called into question Iraq's willingness to cooperate with the United Nations.

But now, nearly two weeks later, U.N. officials are becoming increasingly frustrated that Iraq is paying only lip service to the demand for private interviews. In fact, they say, they have not had one successful interview with any of the scientists that they had asked to speak to about Iraq's alleged biological and chemical weapons programs.

"There were roughly 30 attempts made to interview Iraqis in private, and three such interviews took place," Hiro Ueki, spokesman for the inspection teams in Baghdad, said Tuesday.

Each of those three individuals had been suggested by the Iraqis, he said. On the other hand, none of the scientists that the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, or UNMOVIC, has proposed for questioning have agreed to private interviews. Instead, most insisted on making a tape recording of the interview or on having a relative or friend present.

"We hope that Iraqi interviewees will eventually accept being interviewed in private under UNMOVIC's terms," Ueki said.

Three biological and chemical scientists turned up voluntarily for interviews Feb. 7-8, just when chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix and International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei were flying into the country. At the time, Iraqi officials were under intense pressure to show more cooperation with the United Nations or risk the start of a U.S.-led attack to change the Iraqi government and forcibly disarm the country of any banned weapons found.

Responding to the pressure, during early February, Iraq in quick succession offered up the first inspectors for private interviews, agreed to U-2 spy plane flights (the second of which reportedly took place Tuesday), passed a long-sought presidential decree banning weapons of mass destruction and made other promises to be more cooperative in producing lists of potential witnesses and procuring documents to show how it had disposed of past weapons.

The steps led to a fairly mild report by Blix and ElBaradei last week at the Security Council, bolstering countries, such as France and Germany, that have argued that Iraq should be given more time to let inspections work and setting back U.S. efforts to build a consensus for military intervention.

Privately, weapons inspectors say Iraq may have become overconfident that it is off the hook. One official said: "There is a sense that they can get away with anything. Only if the pressure is maintained at a high level do the inspections achieve anything."

Blix has seen private talks with scientists as a crucial tool to uncover leads to any secret biological and chemical weapons activities, if they exist.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441 -- the measure that authorized the return of inspectors to Iraq in November after a four-year absence -- required Iraq to allow private interviews with its scientists and technicians, even outside the country if necessary.

In contrast to UNMOVIC, charged with ridding Iraq of chemical and biological weapons and of long- and medium-range missiles, the IAEA has had more success in interviewing nuclear scientists. That is in part because the IAEA believes that nuclear weapons are by their nature harder to hide than chemical and biological weapons and because there are a variety of technological tools that can be used to verify that the country has dismantled its nuclear program.

Therefore, the IAEA has not been as insistent on private, candid interviews and has accepted the use of tape recorders by the scientists it has interviewed.

Saad Ahmad Mahmoud, deputy director of Al Rashid State Co., was one of the individuals who did agree to a private interview with the IAEA team about his company's missile manufacturing.

Speaking during a news conference Tuesday organized by the country's Information Ministry to highlight Iraqi cooperation with inspectors, Mahmoud said there was "no pestering, no pressure" during his three-hour private interview by five people from the IAEA, including an Arabic-speaking scientist who acted as interpreter.

Nevertheless, Mahmoud said he considered the private interview needless.

"They have come about as a result of a political decision by the United States," he complained, adding that everything he told the inspectors during the private session had already been covered with them in open meetings.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-inspect19feb19001433,1,350741.story>

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Fayetteville (NC) Observer

February 19, 2003

## **Chemical Attacks Always On Soldiers' Minds**

By Tanya S. Biank, Staff writer

KUWAIT - Pfc. Matthew Baker's biggest worry is a chemical attack.

"You think about it a little less when you're at work," said Baker. "But it's always in the back of your mind."

He and other paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division - 4,000 of them - are in a tent city in Kuwait within striking distance of Iraqi Scud missiles. The reason they are here, poised to launch an attack on Iraq, is because the United States believes Saddam Hussein has chemical and biological weapons and won't hesitate to use them.

At Camp Champion, soldiers are required to have their gas masks within arm's reach at all times: even in the bathroom or while sleeping, jogging or taking a shower.

"It's a secure feeling because of the possibility of a chemical attack," 1st Sgt. Alveno Hodge said. "I'm confident that it works."

The gas mask is stored in a green canvas bag, which a soldier wears strapped around his thigh or across his chest.

The ensemble weighs about four pounds.

"It's always on your leg and you're always thinking about it," Baker said.

On Tuesday, platoons of soldiers jogged in formation around the camp's perimeter on sandy roads wearing the masks on their faces. They also performed battle drills in them.

"A lot of soldiers say your weapon is your best friend," said Lt. Col. Chuck McArthur, the division's chemical officer. "In my world, it's your mask."

McArthur, a 1978 graduate of Terry Sanford High School, is charged with preparing the 82nd soldiers against chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

The soldiers know that Saddam has used such weapons before. Iraq employed poison gas extensively during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War. Chemical agents were also used against Iraqi Kurd civilians in 1988 to suppress a rebellion in the city of Halabja. Reports have said 5,000 people died in that attack.

The United States is massing for war because intelligence officials believe Saddam still has biological and chemical weapons - and has tried to obtain nuclear ones - despite renouncing them in the cease-fire agreement after the Gulf War in 1991.

United Nations inspectors are scouring Iraq for poison gas, anthrax and other weapons of mass destruction. But President Bush says Saddam is not cooperating as required by U.N. resolutions, and force may be the only way to make Iraq disarm.

The soldiers who may be called on to force that disarmament fear that Saddam will use his weapons again if it comes to war.

### **Scud alert**

On Monday afternoon, horns sounded a Scud alert at Camp Champion, a signal for soldiers to put on their gas masks. The alert was an accident, not a drill. Officials said a soldier at another camp who was being trained to send alert messages hit the wrong button.

Sgt. 1st Class Scott Guillory was walking from one tent to another when the horns sounded. Guillory said he hesitated for about two seconds when he heard the horns.

"That's my first alert since being out here," he said, "and that will be my last hesitation."

The 82nd's soldiers have received extensive instruction for gas attacks in the field and at combat training centers.

"It's that confidence that's going to allow them, if need be, to undergo, withstand and overcome a chemical attack," McArthur said. "And that's the big point. We practice NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical) defense so much that if something did happen, all our actions would be conditioned responses."

Soldiers are trained to put on their gas masks in eight seconds while holding their breath and closing their eyes.

"They are getting it down to five," McArthur said.

Each soldier also has two sets of vacuum-packed chemical suits.

During Scud missile alerts in the Gulf War, McArthur said, there were times when he and other soldiers wore their suits and gas masks for as long as five hours in 98-degree weather.

### **Vaccinations**

The soldiers' other protection is inoculation. Intelligence reports say that Iraq has produced anthrax, and officials fear that Saddam may have smallpox as well.

Soldiers who were not inoculated against the diseases before leaving Fort Bragg are receiving shots from medics in Kuwait.

Baker, the private, put his M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon down long enough to get his smallpox shot Tuesday afternoon.

"I'm glad I got it because if we do get hit with something, I'm somewhat prepared," he said.

Meanwhile, he and other soldiers were still talking about the accidental Scud alert, relieved it wasn't real, but knowing the next one could be.

"We didn't know," Guillory said. "You can't take it for granted. You just never know with this."

<http://www.fayettevillenc.com/story.php?Template=military&Story=5484035>

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European Stars and Stripes

February 17, 2003

## **Medics Train For Treating Chemical-Agent Casualties**

By Joseph Giordano, Stars and Stripes

CAMP TARAWA, Kuwait — It is the worst-case scenario for battlefield medics: A chemical attack combined with a conventional assault leaves dozens of wounded U.S. troops, unable to get full medical attention until they are decontaminated.

But military medical officials in Kuwait say that will be the official triage policy in a possible invasion of Iraq.

"We will do what we can to stabilize a casualty, but we won't treat them fully until he or she is decontaminated. We would never operate on a patient contaminated with a chemical agent," said Navy Cmdr. David Daugherty, a surgeon deployed in the Kuwaiti desert with the Marine Corps' 1st Force Service Support Group from Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"We will do everything we can to stabilize patients. After they are decontaminated, we can do more."

Medical officials say the policy reaches a precarious balance between treating casualties as soon as possible and ensuring contamination from chemical weapons does not spread.

Troops say they understand the process; they also hope it never becomes an issue.

"It's out of our hands. I'm worried, but I'm also trained," said Cpl. Robert Newman, a 20-year-old with the 1st FSSG.

Newman had just completed a drill in which he donned his gas mask and protective suit.

"You never want casualties to become an issue, but I understand they can happen. I'm sure that casualties will be treated the best way the docs can."

Another chemical weapons policy that soldiers are wary of is "selective de-masking." Essentially, when the all-clear is given, the most junior soldiers in each unit will hand over their weapons, remove their gas masks and become human guinea pigs.

<http://www.estripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=12598&archive=true>

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(Editor's Note: Introduction and hyperlink for web site follows article.)

## 'Ready Campaign' Unveiled

### Ads Urge Education and Preparedness Against Attacks

By John Mintz

Washington Post Staff Writer

Thursday, February 20, 2003; Page A02

The Homeland Security Department unveiled a major new advertising campaign yesterday that uses television, radio, newspapers and billboards to urge Americans to prepare for possible terrorist attacks and educate themselves about the differences between chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

The highly polished campaign, which begins today in some cities, features New York City firefighters and police officers encouraging the public to take the terrorist threat seriously without panicking.

The campaign conveys much the same information as homeland security officials publicized at a news conference Feb. 10. But the earlier announcement generated confusion and concern because of a recommendation that people consider buying duct tape and plastic sheeting to construct safe rooms in their homes as a precaution against a chemical attack.

Last week's announcement was hurriedly scheduled three days after the government raised the terrorist threat level to "high risk," and was not as carefully scripted as the full-blown public education project announced yesterday. Called the "Ready Campaign," it was a year in the planning -- including intensive consultation with focus groups -- and will last for years, U.S. officials said.

"Terrorists seek to turn our neighborhoods into battlefields," Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said in a speech yesterday in Cincinnati announcing the ads. "That is why individual citizens have an important role to play." Ridge's agency organized the campaign with the Advertising Council, which coordinates \$1.5 billion a year in public service announcements, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, which does research on civil preparedness. Advertising industry officials said television and radio stations, as well as newspapers, billboard companies and other businesses likely will make available at least \$80 million in free advertising for the campaign.

The industry members of the Outdoor Advertising Association of America will donate \$18 million in free space, and the companies that are part of the Yellow Pages Integrated Media Association will provide \$30 million worth of advertising space in 550 million telephone directories in the next year, said Ad Council President Peggy Conlon.

A main goal of the ads is to steer Americans to the department's civil preparedness Web site, [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), or to the phone number 1-800-237-3239, where people can arrange to receive brochures.

The Web site and other literature detail how people should respond before and after various types of terrorist strikes, with sections on such topics as "Make an Emergency Kit," "Creating a Family Plan," "Deciding to Stay or Go," "In a Moving Vehicle" and "In a High-Rise Building."

The goal is to allow members of the public to take in the information at their own pace and to absorb the message that an attack is possible, but without panicking them, officials said. Ultimately, officials want Americans to outline family plans for emergencies and to feel comfortable turning to the U.S. government for advice.

"The campaign is a good thing, and it will be welcome," said Tara O'Toole, a Johns Hopkins University expert on bioterrorism preparedness and a critic of the Bush administration's terrorist planning work until now.

O'Toole, who was an Energy Department official under President Bill Clinton, added that the government's shifting of terrorist alert levels, and what she believes were U.S. officials' inconsistent comments about the 2001 anthrax attacks, have "created cynicism and anxiety in the public" that the new ad campaign might start to reduce. The TV and radio commercials -- which are 15 to 60 seconds -- were designed free by a Richmond-based ad company, the Martin Agency, which created, among other marketing campaigns, United Parcel Service's commercials that feature Mahoney, a short pants-clad deliveryman. "We were trying to strike a balance, creating urgency without creating fear," said Martin vice president Ken Hines, who designed the campaign. After heavy testing of themes and messages with focus groups, "we realized the points had to be made by people who were the most credible, and they emerged as Tom Ridge himself and also firefighters, police officers and Port Authority officers from New York, because of their experiences," Hines said. The ad people had the New York officers read prepared lines from teleprompters, and then let the cameras roll as they spoke extemporaneously about the dangers of terrorism and the need to prepare for it. Those were the moments that appear in the television and radio ads. "They felt so strongly, and got so stirred up about it, they came across very powerfully," Hines said. Homeland security officials had planned this rollout for months, but when the terrorist alert was raised to "high" Feb. 7, they concluded it would be irresponsible to withhold from the public the information in the still-evolving campaign. They held a news briefing Feb. 10 to draw attention to existing Web sites that contain some of the same advice. But a department official, relatively inexperienced with the news media, included in his list of recommendations purchasing duct tape and plastic, although most experts say these items are unlikely ever to be used and should be characterized as second-tier equipment. "I can say perhaps we could have done things slightly differently" in hindsight, one U.S. official said of the episode. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A32479-2003Feb19.html>

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## Ready.gov

is Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

### Overview

#### INTRODUCTION - What is Ready.gov all about?

Introduction | [Step 1](#) | [Step 2](#) | [Step 3](#)

Terrorists are working to obtain biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological weapons and the threat of an attack is very real. Here at the Department of Homeland Security, throughout the federal government, and at organizations across America we are working hard to strengthen our Nation's security. Whenever possible, we want to stop terrorist attacks before they happen. All Americans should begin a process of learning about potential threats so we are better prepared to react during an attack. While there is no way to predict what will happen, or what your personal circumstances will be, there are simple things you can do now to prepare yourself and your loved ones.

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling a supply kit and developing a family communications plan, are the same for both a natural or man-made emergency. However, as you will see throughout the pages of **Ready.gov**, there are important differences among potential terrorist threats that will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. With a little planning and common sense, you can be better prepared for the unexpected. . . .

<http://www.ready.gov/>

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Washington Post  
February 20, 2003  
Pg. 9

## U.S. Explores Developing Low-Yield Nuclear Weapons

By Walter Pincus, Washington Post Staff Writer



The Bush administration is reviving interest in developing low-yield nuclear devices that could be used to destroy targets, such as reinforced bunkers holding chemical or biological weapons, with less damage to the surrounding area than today's giant warheads, according to administration officials and government scientists.

The program is based on views within the nation's nuclear weapons laboratories that as the United States reduces its stockpiles of larger nuclear weapons, it should replace them with smaller numbers of low-yield bombs. Low-yield nuclear weapons have much less explosive power than the large nuclear bombs that comprise today's strategic arsenal. Nuclear weapons strategists believe low-yield weapons would be a more credible deterrent against outlaw states and terrorist organizations with weapons of mass destruction. Since the bombs would inflict much less damage to the area outside the target than high-yield devices, the threshold for using them presumably would be lower.

Low-yield nuclear weapons have been controversial since the late 1970s, when the Army tried to introduce neutron artillery shells and warheads with its forces in Europe. The explosion of the neutron weapon created enormous radiation, while its blast and heat -- though still powerful -- were smaller than traditional nuclear bombs. This made the weapon attractive to military officials planning for a possible war against the Soviet Union in Europe's densely populated areas.

Described as effective at killing people while leaving buildings standing, the neutron weapons were deferred by President Jimmy Carter after a public uproar in Europe and the United States. President Ronald Reagan revived the weapons, but President George H.W. Bush eliminated them as part of an agreement to reduce tactical nuclear weapons overseas.

Discussion of developing low-yield weapons returned in the 1990s when officials studied the possibility of creating high-altitude low-yield weapons to produce an electromagnetic pulse that could wipe out enemy communications and electronics.

The low-yield weapons being considered now would be designed to penetrate reinforced bunkers housing chemical or biological weapons and detonate underground, concentrating their explosive power and heat on the chemical or biological agents and reducing or eliminating radioactive fallout in the atmosphere, scientists say.

Officials from the Defense and Energy departments met at the Pentagon on Jan. 10 to discuss plans for a conference on the future of the U.S. nuclear stockpile, an Energy Department spokesman said. The idea of reviving the low-yield nuclear weapons development program was among the subjects to be discussed at the conference, scheduled for August at the Omaha headquarters of Strategic Command, the Pentagon command responsible for the country's nuclear arsenal.

"Requirements for low-yield weapons," including neutron or enhanced-radiation weapons that create less heat and minimize explosive effects, along with "agent defeat weapons" designed to neutralize chemical and biological weapons, were put on the agenda for a Future Arsenal Panel at that conference, according to notes from the Pentagon planning session. The notes were released this week by the Los Alamos Study Group, a New Mexico-based organization that tracks U.S. nuclear weapons activities.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld was asked about the notes at a Pentagon news conference yesterday. "I don't believe there is anything currently underway by way of developing new nuclear weapons," he said.

He added that the notes "referred not to the development of specific weapons, but the analysis that would go into determining whether or not something might or might not make sense."

The Future Arsenal Panel at the August meeting will discuss computer modeling for possible new nuclear devices and what type of testing, if any, would be needed, the notes say. The notes add that consideration of the new weapons is being prompted by the Nuclear Posture Review completed by the Bush administration last year.

The Nuclear Posture Review called for the reduction by two-thirds of the country's 6,000 operational nuclear warheads and bombs over the next 10 years. It provided for keeping several thousand warheads in a strategic reserve and allowed for the development of new weapons based on changed security requirements.

Under an arms control treaty reached by President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin last May, Russia committed itself to wholesale reductions in its strategic nuclear arsenal as well.

One of the most controversial features of the Nuclear Posture Review is that it seemingly left the door open to using nuclear weapons for a preemptive attack on a threatening foreign country. The new study of low-yield nuclear devices would be compatible with that provision.

Another matter before the August conference will be the prospect of resuming nuclear testing, the notes said. The conference also will study the impact of a resumption of testing on public opinion in the United States and abroad. "They are going to discuss not only weapons and testing policies but the politics to get them approved," said Greg Mello, director of the Los Alamos Study Group. "It's rare that so many details about the nuclear weapons agenda of the Bush administration would appear in one document."

The August conference comes on top of the administration's 2004 budget request, which seeks money to continue refurbishing and modernizing thousands of deployed nuclear warheads. It also calls for study of a "robust earth penetrator," a nuclear device that would destroy buried, hardened underground bunkers for command posts or weapons storage.

The Nuclear Security Administration, which runs the nation's nuclear weapons complex at the Energy Department, is requesting \$6.4 billion next year, an increase from this year's \$5.9 billion and almost \$1 billion above the last budget presented by the Clinton administration. The new request calls for \$15 million for the earth penetrator and \$21 million for two of the nation's national nuclear weapons laboratories, Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore, to assemble design teams to study advanced nuclear concepts. The teams are being created so that the United States has the expertise to build new weapons or change existing ones, senior Energy Department officials said.

Last week, a House Republican policy committee recommended that the Pentagon's Nuclear Weapons Council revitalize advanced nuclear weapons development and that Congress consider repealing a 10-year ban on research on low-yield nuclear weapons, those whose explosions are less than 5 kilotons, the explosive equivalent of 5,000 tons of TNT.

"It allows the United States to have teams of scientists and engineers working on emerging threats and potential problems before they become severe," the GOP policy committee report said.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A32530-2003Feb19.html>

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Time.com

February 19, 2003

## The Chicken Defense

*U.S. troops will be using poultry to detect chemical attacks in Iraq*

By Simon Robinson, South of the Kuwait-Iraq border

A war against Iraq will see the debut of some of the most sophisticated weaponry ever used. But U.S. troops will also rely on one of the most low-tech detection devices around: chickens. Worried that the pollution from blown oil installations will clog up complicated detection equipment and make it difficult to pick up deadly chemicals and nerve agents, U.S. marines and soldiers will drive into battle across the dusty plains of Iraq with caged chickens atop their Hum-Vees.

The chickens, which were otherwise destined for Kuwaiti dinner tables, will work in the same way as canaries in coal mines used to. Small traces of poisonous gases or chemical agent will kill the birds and warn troops to put on their gas masks. "A sky full of oil can mask some chemicals," says Warrant Officer Jeff French, a nuclear, biological and chemical officer for a marine battalion in Kuwait. "Using chickens may sound basic but it's still one of the best ways we have of detecting chemical agent."

Dubbed Operation Kuwaiti Field Chicken (KFC), the use of chickens is sure to enrage animal activists. But chickens were used to detect for chemicals during the first Gulf War and, says French, consider that the alternative may be dozens of dead troops. Consider too that marines and soldiers will face nerve-racking moments with or without chickens. U.S. troops in Kuwait have been training to fight and live in their protective suits but at some point after a chemical attack they will have to take them off.

After testing for chemicals, one or two men — usually of different sizes and races — will remove their masks in a "selective unmasking." Those who keep their masks on will study the skin and pupils of the unmasked for symptoms of lingering airborne chemicals. "Using chemicals is a really unfair way of fighting," says French. "The best way to describe it is if I blindfolded you and came and kicked you in the groin as hard as I can. It's just not fair. But whatever Saddam throws at us, we'll be ready."

Chickens willing ...

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Washington Post

February 20, 2003

Pg. 31

## Group Alleges New Nuclear Site In Iran

*Facility Said to Be Used to House Equipment to Enrich Uranium for Use in Weapons*

By Glenn Kessler, Washington Post Staff Writer

As international inspectors prepare to visit two recently discovered nuclear sites in Iran this weekend, an Iranian opposition group plans to reveal today details of a new site that they say houses equipment for enriching uranium for possible use in nuclear weapons.

Citing sources within Iran, the opposition group also plans to allege that Iranian officials have removed sensitive equipment that was installed at one of the sites, at Natanz, that will be the subject of the visit by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The opposition group, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, disclosed the existence of the nuclear sites in August and often has revealed reliable information about Iran's efforts to obtain weapons of mass destruction. Iranian officials have denied the plants are part of a weapons program, arguing they were necessary to wean Iran from its dependence on its vast oil and gas reserves for energy. But the United States has viewed Iran's nuclear program with deep suspicion and has pressed foreign governments -- especially Russia, which is helping to build a reactor at a nuclear plant on the Persian Gulf coast at Bushehr -- to end cooperation with Tehran.

Earlier this month, the Iranian government announced it was planning to develop its own nuclear fuel, a step that could also provide material for weapons. The Russian involvement had previously been considered a safeguard, as Moscow has demanded the return of all spent fuel.

Alireza Jafarzadeh, Washington representative of the opposition group, said the group has information indicating that Chinese and North Korean experts have assisted the Iranian program. About 50 Chinese experts have been observed at a uranium mine at Saghand, and North Korean and Chinese experts supervised the installation of the centrifuge equipment to enrich uranium at a facility near Isfahan, on a road toward a town called Roshan-dasht, he said.

Jafarzadeh said the testing of the centrifuge systems was conducted near Tehran by a front company called Kola Electric Co. at a facility that was officially registered as a watch factory. The facility contains two large halls, each about 4,500 square feet, he said.

Jafarzadeh said the Iranian government in recent months appears to have stepped up its nuclear program in hopes of building a nuclear device between 2004 and 2005. "Their aim is to shift the balance of power in their favor in the region," he said.

Until recently, Iran had rebuffed efforts by the IAEA to examine the two sites. But Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, will travel to Iran on Saturday and Sunday and urge Iranian officials to sign an "additional protocol" that would permit regular monitoring of Iran's nuclear operations. ElBaradei and a team of experts will visit plants at Natanz, in central Iran, and at Arak, in the southwest.

The Natanz project, started two years ago, is spread over 25 acres, with sections 25 feet underground and protected by eight-foot-thick concrete walls. The Arak facility was started in 1996 and appears designed to produce heavy water necessary for plutonium's use in weapons. The Arak facility, along a river near the central Iranian city, appears to be 87 percent completed and ready for testing in April. The group has information that the government will contend that the Arak plant is designed to produce heavy water for industrial use.

The Natanz site is too large for a country's first enriched uranium facility, experts have said, indicating that Iran may be operating a smaller pilot plant. That could be the new facility near Isfahan disclosed by the group.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A32368-2003Feb19.html>

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Washington Post  
February 20, 2003  
Pg. DZ6

## **Military Matters**

By Steve Vogel

### **A New Base For Developing Chemical, Biological Defenses**

In a new laboratory nestled among 92 acres of wetlands and forest near Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, research will soon be underway on ways to better protect military personnel and civilians against chemical or biological warfare.

The Battelle Eastern Region Technology Center, a \$20 million, 78,000-square-foot facility with 16 chemical and biological laboratories and 200 employees, has been completed and is set to open with a ribbon-cutting next month.

Battelle, founded 70 years ago, is one of the largest nonprofit research and development firms in the world. In recent years, Battelle has helped develop the first fully functional automatic pathogen detectors and has provided technical support for destroying the military's chemical weapons stockpile, which includes a large stock of mustard gas stored at Aberdeen Proving Ground's Edgewood Area.

Among other work, the new lab at Aberdeen will research ways to improve the detection of chemical and biological weapons, according to C. Warren Mullins, vice president of business development for the facility.

Fear of chemical or biological attack has created a burgeoning market for Battelle's services in the District, Northern Virginia and suburban Maryland. Battelle already has inspected more than 100 buildings in the Washington area and made recommendations on how to better protect them against chemical or biological attack, Mullins said.

The company has a contract with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) in Arlington to develop the "building of the future," Mullins said.

Battelle has been involved in the development of a mobile early warning detection system now being used around the Washington area.

Called the Joint Biological Point Detection System Vehicle, the system has been put in vans that can move to different locations in the Washington area to monitor air for biological agents.

A new generation is being developed, and one mounted in a Humvee was on display outside the new Battelle laboratory during a recent press briefing. The system had been undergoing vibration testing at Aberdeen, riding in the Humvee on off-road trails at the sprawling base on the Chesapeake Bay.

Mullins said Battelle chose to put the new laboratory in Aberdeen in part because of its proximity to the chemical and biological defense work being done by the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

"If you had to pick one spot on Earth where more of it's done, you'd have to say Edgewood and Aberdeen," Mullins said.

Work at the lab will include research with dangerous pathogens, possibly including anthrax. The facility includes a bio-safety level III laboratory certified to handle some dangerous organisms.

"To do the kind of work we're doing, you have to have a lot of protection for the environment and a lot of controls," Mullins said.

Much of the work at the laboratory will be classified, he added. Said Mullins, "Some of our clients don't want their names mentioned."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A30678-2003Feb19.html>

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Moscow Times  
February 20, 2003  
Pg. 4

## **Chemical Weapons**

MOSCOW (AP) -- Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said Wednesday that the disposal of Soviet-era chemical weapons remains a priority for Moscow, but extensive international support is needed to speed up the giant task.

"We are interested in constructive cooperation ... so that we can honor all of our commitments," Interfax quoted Ivanov as saying during a meeting with Rogelio Pfirter, director general of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Russia has been trying to convince other nations of the seriousness of its efforts to destroy its chemical weapons arsenal, which at nearly 40,000 metric tons is the world's largest.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/stories/2003/02/20/031.html>

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## **Pentagon to Issue Escape Masks to Employees**

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 2003 -- Every person on the Pentagon reservation will receive "escape masks" in the event the building is attacked again, DoD officials said today.

"(Secretary Rumsfeld) is concerned about the safety of this office building, this command center, this place we call the Pentagon," said Ray DuBois, director of Washington Headquarters Services, which oversees the 208-acre Pentagon reservation.

DuBois and acting director of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency John Jester spoke about the steps taken to protect the employees in the Pentagon and the 40-plus leased buildings that WHS services.

DuBois said the need to protect the Pentagon was brought home on Sept. 11, 2001.

"With everything that is going on in the world, it's probably reasonable -- and certainly sensible -- to assume we may be targeted again," he said. "No one really knows when or how or under what circumstances. But we do know that if such an attack has a level of probability, then we all have an obligation to know what to do."

Between 23,000 and 24,000 people work on the Pentagon reservation. Because it is the nation's military command center in addition to being an office building, it is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Washington Headquarters Services has bought 80,000 escape masks. Force protection employees will train people on how to wear the masks and start issuing them to employees by the end of February.

Employees will keep the masks in their desks. Thousands of other masks will be stashed strategically around the building for those who are away from their offices when an incident occurs and for visitors. Others will be stockpiled outside the building for contractors working on the Pentagon Renovation Project.

DuBois and Jester went over other changes made in Pentagon force protection and talked about the changes yet to come. The biggest change was establishing the Pentagon Force Protection Agency and beefing it up with people and money.

Jester said the Pentagon police force launched an ambitious new hiring program and expects to jump to 900 officers, up from 300 before Sept. 11. He said the Pentagon force salary and benefits are competitive with any police force in the Washington area, and the agency is already training 75 new recruits.

Second, the chief discussed the layered defense that has been put in place since Sept. 11. Defense begins at the roads leading to the Pentagon, continues at the parking lots and subway and bus stops, and includes a new ring around the building now manned by a battalion of Army military police.

He said changes have been made at the entrances to the Pentagon and special response teams have been added.

Jester spoke specifically about the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Response Teams that monitor the atmosphere of the Pentagon and are ready to respond if such an event occurs.

Communications plays a huge role in any response. DuBois said the agency has learned from the events of Sept. 11 and has placed a public address system in all 17 miles of corridors in the Pentagon and outside the building.

The agency also has a computerized warning system that flashes on personal computers throughout the building.

DuBois said it is important for employees to heed that communication. In this new world, it's not like the fire drills of the past, he said. In some instances, it may be appropriate to stay put and take shelter in place. In others, people on one side of the building may have to evacuate to another portion. In still other cases, evacuation outside may be the best bet. In any case, the public address and computerized warning systems will direct people what to do.

Other changes are under way. Virginia Route 110, which now runs under the Pentagon Parade Field, is being rerouted away from the building. Other projects include adding a new secure access to the Pentagon's remote mail delivery facility and changing Virginia Route 27 to accomplish that.

Some other issues are not under consideration. For example, Pentagon employees will not receive smallpox or anthrax vaccinations. Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant defense secretary for health affairs, said he's confident that, in the event of an attack with such biological agents, health care officials in the building would be ready to treat everybody in the Pentagon within 24 hours.

DuBois said employees with suggestions or questions should send them by e-mail to [PFPA@PFPA.mil](mailto:PFPA@PFPA.mil).

[http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Feb2003/n02202003\\_200302202.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Feb2003/n02202003_200302202.html)

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Washington Post  
February 21, 2003  
Pg. 25

## **Pentagon Buys Escape Masks For Local Use**

By Vernon Loeb, Washington Post Staff Writer

The Defense Department has purchased 80,000 "escape masks" to protect employees and visitors against chemical and biological attacks and will begin distributing them next week at the Pentagon and 46 other leased buildings in the area, defense officials announced yesterday.

Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said the Survivair Quick 2000 masks, which cost \$150 apiece, would enable employees, contractors and visitors to safely make their way out of a building or area that has been attacked with poisonous chemicals or biological toxins. The masks, which come packed in a vacuum bag, would not be reusable.

Davis said everyone working at the Pentagon and leased buildings would receive training when they are issued a mask, which they will have to sign for. The Defense Department will distribute about 500 masks a day, starting next week, he said. Caches of masks will be stored throughout the Pentagon for use by visitors.

The masks, manufactured by Quick Protective Systems Inc. in Stuart, Fla., have been tested at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

The Quick 2000 is a hood that covers an individual's head and fastens around the neck. It has a breathing cartridge made of military grade carbon and "provides protection against a wide range of deadly particles and gases," according to Quick Protective Systems' Web site.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38196-2003Feb20.html>

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Bloomberg.com  
February 20, 2003

## Pentagon Speeds Production Of Protective Suits, Aldridge Says

By Tony Capaccio

Washington -- The U.S. military has accelerated production of chemical and biological protective suits ahead of a potential war with Iraq.

The U.S. expects Iraq to use chemical and biological weapons if attacked. Lawmakers, including Representatives Christopher Shays, a Connecticut Republican, and Joe Baca, a California Democrat and Army veteran, have said that as many as 250,000 of the more than 1 million older, bulkier standard-issue protective suits might be defective. Production of lighter, more durable suits increased to 90,000 a month in December from 79,000, Pentagon Undersecretary for Acquisition Edward "Pete" Aldridge said. Each U.S. soldier going to the Persian Gulf region has two of the new suits in hand, he said. There are about 150,000 troops there now.

"As the inventory builds up, they will be given more, but that's sufficient for the time being," Aldridge said. "I don't know what more we can do. We'd like them to have four."

The Defense Logistics Agency and Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar, the deputy assistant for chemical and biological defense programs, have said repeatedly that none of the defective suits have reached Army units overseas, even as they can't assure the suits were purged from inventory.

Johnson-Winegar promised Shays during an Oct. 1 hearing that the Pentagon would provide only the new models to deploying troops.

### Defect Concerns

The Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology, or JSLIST, suit is a two-piece jack-and-trouser set with an integrated hood. The ensemble can be worn over combat clothing for up to 45 days and six cleanings. Once contaminated, the suit provides 24 hours of protection.

Five private contractors make the suits at a cost to the U.S. of about \$208 per suit. The older bulkier suits cost about \$100 apiece and were last made in the mid-1990s.

The Pentagon as of Jan. 30 had taken delivery 1.8 million of the JSLIST suits. That's up from 1 million delivered by Sept. 30 2001 and 1.5 million as of January 2002.

Not every suit is earmarked for the Persian Gulf region because of U.S. military commitments elsewhere, including Korea.

Fifty percent of the suits go to the Army, 20 percent each to the Navy and Air Force, and 10 percent to the Marines. "The Department of Defense has taken positive steps," Shays said in a statement to Bloomberg News. Issuing the newest suits "will enhance (chemical-biological) preparedness by providing deployable forces with the best available equipment."

### Older Back-Ups

The Pentagon intends to "surge the production higher over the coming months" as it accelerates replacement of the older, suspect suits, Aldridge wrote to Shays on Jan. 10, referring to the increase to 90,000 a month.

Soldiers in the Gulf will get the older suits as an emergency backup and only after they've been carefully inspected, Aldridge said in an interview.

``Those suits aren't going to last as long" and ``are good for training," he said.

A New York City firm named Isratex that was convicted in 2000 for knowingly selling about 780,000 defective suits. About 530,000 of them were located but the remaining 250,000 aren't accounted for.

The new JSLIST suits are produced by five primary contractors: South Eastern Kentucky Rehabilitation Industries, Corbin, Kentucky; Group Home Foundations, Belfast, Maine; Creative Apparel Associates, also of Belfast; Peckham Vocational Industries, Lansing, Michigan; and National Center for the Employment of the Disabled, El Paso, Texas.

There are nearly 15 subcontractors, including Tex-Shield, of Washington, D.C., which supplies the fabric used to line the suits. Tex-Shield gets the raw fabric from Blucher GmbH, a German company. The Kureha Corp. of Japan provides the absorbent carbon material embedded in the fabric.

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Miami Herald  
February 21, 2003

## Officials Say Reactions To Smallpox Shots Rare

By Herald Wire Services

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- No serious reactions have occurred so far from the smallpox vaccinations given to more than 4,000 American civilians, federal officials said Thursday.

In the military, where more than 100,000 people have been vaccinated, there have been five serious reactions.

The civilian program, intended to vaccinate close to 500,000 public health and hospital emergency room workers, is now being administered in 27 states and large cities, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. As of Wednesday, officials had inoculated 4,213 people.

None has had a reaction considered potentially life-threatening, severe or moderate, the CDC said. There were seven people who had reactions that included fever, rash, malaise, itching, hypertension and inflammation of the pharynx. The Pentagon is not disclosing precisely how many personnel have been vaccinated, but says the total is "well over 100,000." All five men who have experienced serious reactions -- four in the Army and one in the Air Force -- are in good condition, officials said.

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/nation/5228096.htm>

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Miami Herald  
February 21, 2003

## Specially Trained Unit In Kuwait Ready In Case Chemical Weapons Fly

By Juan O. Tamayo

KUWAIT CITY - It's called the Combined Joint Task Force for Consequence Management -- an innocuous name that conceals a grim purpose: preparing for the ghastly prospect of a nuclear, chemical or biological attack in Kuwait.

"Our main concern now is terrorism, to reduce the consequence of weapons of mass destruction," said Lt. Col. Ivo Musil, part of a 400-member Czech army battalion trained to detect such attacks and decontaminate victims.

But if President Bush orders a U.S. invasion of Iraq, the Czechs could well be on the front lines, sniffing the air with their state-of-the-art detection vehicles and washing down allied troops and vehicles.

Of that possibility, "We do not speculate on operations," Musil said during an exhibition of his unit's nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) capabilities for Kuwaiti armed forces.

His government reportedly told Washington that in a war its former Communist and now NATO-member armed forces would help to disarm Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Musil's unit has grown to nearly 400 troops -- making up the bulk of the Consequence Management force, rounded out by U.S. commanders and German NBC units.

Czech and German troops are world leaders in NBC detection. "In the Cold War we were the front lines . . . the most endangered countries," said Musil.

### **Busy Training**

So they were called to Kuwait early last year to help protect local troops and civilians and foreign soldiers stationed here from NBC attacks by terrorists or Iraqi forces. Germany's NBC troops are not expected to join a war in Iraq. The Czechs have had no alarms so far, so they spend most of their time training, some in canary-yellow "moon suits" with a scuba-like air supply designed to explore highly dangerous environments, some in olive-green suits and gas masks used by decontamination workers.

Using an odd combination of domestically developed, Soviet-era and Western equipment, they look for nerve agents such as Sarin and VX, mustard gas and lewisite and biological agents such as anthrax.

If it comes to war, they will also look for a bland-sounding danger -- TIX, or toxic industrial chemicals -- which Iraqi troops may use as part of booby traps. U.S. military field detectors cannot sense TIX, but the Czech equipment can.

Their detection equipment is mounted on Soviet-designed armored vehicles and British-made Land Rovers. A three-tent field decontamination station that can be deployed in 40 minutes is carried aboard Czech-made trucks.

### **Served in Gulf**

All vehicles are air-tight and equipped with air filters as well as compressed air tanks in case of emergencies, and one 8-ton truck packs a fully equipped biological laboratory to test unusual materials.

Czech units deployed in the Gulf War reported the presence of VX near one U.S. position, but Pentagon officials later said it was probably a false alarm caused by smoke from burning Kuwaiti oil fields.

Musil disagreed. "I am convinced our VX measurements were correct," said the officer, who joined the former Czechoslovak army in 1980.

As giant U.S. Air Force C-5 cargo planes landed on a nearby runway with supplies for American troops, Musil said he didn't find it strange to be working alongside his former Cold War nemesis.

"It's a profession," he said with a shrug, ever the professional, before launching on a more personal tale.

His father, he said, was a Communist Party member in the Moravian town of Brno until he joined the 1968 rebellion against Soviet military occupation that came to be known as the Prague Spring.

As the son of a political outcast, Musil recalled, "my only opportunity for an education was the army."

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/world/5228092.htm>

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Washington Times

February 21, 2003

Pg. 10

## **Inside The Ring**

By Bill Gertz and Rowan Scarborough

### **Terror threat**

U.S. intelligence officials said the danger of a major attack by al Qaeda remains high. There is, however, a lack of specific information on where or when it will occur.

Terrorists associated with al Qaeda have gathered all the materials needed to carry out a strike with chemical-, biological- or nuclear-related weapons, according to a CIA assessment of the threat.

The intelligence community believes that the major attack will be al Qaeda's first using deadly unconventional weapons, such as nerve gas, anthrax or another toxin. A nuclear-related strike could involve a radiological bomb — a conventional explosive laced with radioactive material.

An intelligence report from last year indicated that al Qaeda operatives were sent to the United States without weapons. They were to purchase radioactive material on the U.S. black market and build a bomb. The attack was thwarted by the May arrest of al Qaeda member Abdullah al-Muhajir, who was born Jose Padilla.

"The reporting is that [al Qaeda terrorists] have everything needed for a weapon-of-mass-destruction attack," an intelligence official told us.

The terrorist threat is based on human agent reporting, including from imprisoned al Qaeda members, and other technical intelligence data, the officials said.

President Bush raised the national threat-alert status to Code Orange on Feb. 7. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said the status could be lowered if intelligence indicates the danger has subsided.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20030221-68198620.htm>



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Dallas Morning News  
February 20, 2003

## Gearing Up For Bio-Battle

*Protective suits might be put to test in Iraq*

By David McLemore, The Dallas Morning News

FORT HOOD, Texas – Nobody laughs at the awkward movements as soldiers in Kevlar helmets and camouflage fatigues wrestle themselves into baggy protective suits and gas masks that seem straight out of science fiction. There's nothing funny about it. With the increasing likelihood of war in Iraq, these troops of the 1st Cavalry Division must become proficient in all the deadly possibilities of encountering nerve gas or killer pathogens as weapons.

So they learn the differences between attacks involving VX gas and anthrax. They practice climbing into a biochemical protective suit in eight minutes or less. They are trained to deal with the stifling heat of the protective suits. They are taught just how much warfare has changed. For soldiers of the 1st Cav, it's just another day at the office.

The 1st Cav, the Army's premier armored cavalry division, could go into combat should war begin.

"If it happens, it happens," said Pfc. Victor Hernandez of San Bernardino, Calif. "We train every day so we'll be ready if it does happen."

Training is constant, said 1st Sgt. Alexander Figueroa, a divisional nuclear-biological-chemical warfare trainer. Every day, about 300 troops train and retrain on what to do in a gas or biological attack.

"Everyone goes through the training, from commanding general on down," 1st Sgt. Figueroa said. "Nobody is left out."

At the heart of the military's protection against chemical and biological attack is the JSLIST (Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology) suit, which includes an improved mask, boots and a camouflage-design decontamination package that's lighter and more protective than its predecessor.

The suit, which the Pentagon began buying for all services in 1997, starts with a jacket and pants made of chemical-resistant synthetic fibers.

Information on the JSLIST suit sounds like a strange TV ad. Styled in four-color green woodland camouflage or three-color desert style, the JSLIST suit is durable up to 45 days, can be laundered up to six times and will provide 24 hours of protection against liquid and vapor chemical agents.

The gas mask and shoulder-length hood allow each soldier to breathe safely in a contaminated area.

Newly designed rubber galoshes – known as multipurpose overboots, or MULO – fit over combat boots, and rubber gloves cover the hands.

The new-generation M40 mask has a larger filter, is easier to change and is quicker-sealing than its predecessor.

The troops say that the eyepieces don't fog up and that, with a special adapter, they can sip water from a canteen.

### **\$183, and very hot**

The JSLIST suit, which costs about \$183, isn't comfortable. Temperatures can rise to 110 degrees on a hot day, and it's awkward to move around in.

"Wearing chemical protective clothing while under enemy fire in a hot ambient temperature is a stress of the very highest order," said Bernard J. Fine, a retired scientist from U.S. Army Natick Laboratories, in a report by GlobalSecurity.org, a nonprofit public-policy organization based in Alexandria, Va., and keyed to defense, space and intelligence issues.

As the existing supply of older-version protective suits becomes obsolete by 2007, there is a looming shortage of biochemical suits, according to GlobalSecurity.org, in part because the supply of new suits, boots and masks is not entering the inventory as quickly as planned.

With 1.5 million JSLIST suits for use in military units and civilian agencies, national defense analysts don't anticipate any immediate shortfalls for the about 180,000 troops deployed to Iraq or on alert to go.

Still, the suits represent a challenge, analysts say.

"In my judgment, engaging an enemy who, whether by actual use of or feigned use of chemical or biological agents, forces our military personnel to don chemical protective clothing puts us at a disadvantage so severe as to require a great deal of forethought," Mr. Fine said.

Other critics, such as syndicated columnist and retired Col. David Hackworth, aren't convinced that the Pentagon has given young soldiers all the necessary training and techniques they need against an enemy willing to use chemical and biological weapons.

"Desert Storm showed us that Saddam Hussein is more than willing to use weapons of mass destruction," Col. Hackworth said. "My big concern is whether the training and equipment provided will do the job."

In October, the General Accounting Office reported that 250,000 suits were defective and unaccounted for in the Army's inventory system.

The Defense Logistics Agency confirmed that 80,000 gas masks with the wrong gaskets had been issued to the armed forces, primarily the Navy and Marine Corps. About 19,000 remain in circulation, the agency said.

The report angered Congress.

"When we go into Iraq, the Pentagon needs to be absolutely certain no one will be told their mask can't be fixed because the [Defense Department] bought the wrong-size gasket," said U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., national security subcommittee chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform.

At the 1st Cav, which has been fully equipped with the JSLIST suits for two years, senior noncommissioned officers say they are happy with their gear.

"It can be hot and uncomfortable, but it's still a marked improvement over the older ... suits we had," 1st Sgt. Figueroa said. "They're much lighter and easier to move around in."

Motivation is a key to successful training, he said. Among troops, there is a keen awareness that use of chemical-biological agents on the battlefield is a reality.

"Every soldier that leaves this training sees it as a lesson that could save his life," 1st Sgt. Figueroa said. "Everyone leaves happy. They're glad they came."

Biochemical training calls for four levels of increasing protection, known as Mission Oriented Protective Posture, based on different configurations of mask, boots and gloves with the JSLIST suit. Maximum protection, MOPP-4, is what the troops are training for this day.

Suddenly, a training sergeant signals "Go!" A squad of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment scrambles into its suits.

#### **8 minutes to suit up**

"They get eight seconds to put on the mask and eight minutes to get fully suited," trainer Sgt. 1st Class Celestine Blake said. "That includes their field gear and Kevlar body armor. We want them to act like it's second nature when the alarm goes off."

Soldiers move in a blur of green, juggling helmets as they pull on the mask. The camouflaged JSLIST suit goes on in two pieces.

Troopers help each other tighten straps while others struggle with unwieldy-looking gloves and rubber boots. The sergeant ticks off the time remaining. Two minutes.

One soldier has trouble fitting his combat boots into the MULO overshoe. One minute.

A buddy, safely in his gear, gives him a hand but the MULO won't accept his foot. Three. Two. One.

The sergeant blows a whistle. "Sorry," she says. "You're dead."

The training moves on to new horrors.

Soldiers learn decontamination techniques, using pads impregnated with charcoal. They train to differentiate between biological agents, such as anthrax, and liquid agents, such as nerve or blister gas. They are taught how to inject themselves with atropine, a nerve agent antidote.

No one smiles.

"We take it very seriously," said Spc. Joe Pidgeon, 23, of Flint, Mich. "We can't predict the future, so this is something we have to know, regardless of the state of the world today."

#### **THE NEW SUIT**

\*Lighter and less bulky than previous chemical protective garments

\*Durable for 45 days

\*Can be laundered up to six times and provides 24 hours of protection against liquid and vapor chemical challenges.

**Protective mask/hood** -- The newer version of the gas mask, the M40, has a larger filter than its predecessor, and has lenses designed to prevent fogging.

**Upper overgarment** -- Waist-length coat has an integral hood, a slide fastener front concealed by a flap with hook and loop closure, enclosed extendable elasticized drawcord hem with jacket retention cord, full-length sleeves with hoop and loop wrist closure adjustment tabs, and an outside bellows pocket with flap on the left sleeve.

**Gloves** -- Made of protective butyl rubber

**Lower overgarment** -- Bellows-type pockets, high-waist, adjustable suspenders, and adjustable waistband

**Boots** -- Multipurpose rain/snow overboot (MULO) to be worn over standard combat boots.

## **THE OLD SUIT**

Some personnel in the military will still have the older version of MOPP gear. The hood and mask are not as integrated as they are in the JSLIST, and the foot protection is a flat piece of rubber that is wrapped around the foot and secured with laces.

*SOURCES: GlobalSecurity.org; Dallas Morning News research*

<http://www.dallasnews.com/dmn/news/stories/022003dntexcbw.5a3b1.html>

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Moscow Times

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Pg. 3

## **Nuclear Security Hiked Against Chechen Threat**

By Moscow Times

The chief of Russia's nuclear safety watchdog said Thursday that security is being shored up at nuclear facilities across the country, with special attention being given to two nuclear power plants near Chechnya.

"Every so often [Chechen warlord Shamil] Basayev and others declare that attacks on nuclear facilities are inevitable. Information from the power agencies indicate that there have been attempted attacks," Gosatomnadzor head Yury Vishnevsky said at a news conference in which he presented an annual report on nuclear safety in Russia. The so-called power agencies include the Interior and Defense ministries and the Federal Security Service.

Vishnevsky said security has been raised at nuclear facilities since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, with his agency more closely screening employees. Starting last year, each employee who operates equipment at nuclear enterprises has been required to pass a series of tests and obtain a license from Gosatomnadzor.

Gosatomnadzor remains cautious about security and is looking to increase safeguards at the Rostovskaya and Novoronezhskaya nuclear power plants in southern Russia, Vishnevsky said.

He refused to say whether every gram of nuclear fuel is safe and accounted for, noting that many enterprises still lack dependable systems for monitoring nuclear materials.

He said Gosatomnadzor carried out 11,449 inspections last year and uncovered 12,294 violations. He said the figure was less than in 2001 but did not elaborate. Seven of last year's violations were serious enough to prompt Gosatomnadzor to ask prosecutors to open investigations. Vishnevsky stressed, however, that none of the violations could be considered grave.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/stories/2003/02/21/014.html>

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