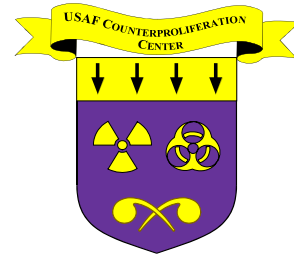


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14 March 2003

USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER

CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL



Air University

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

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

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Washington Times

March 12, 2003

Pg. 1

North Korea Prepares New Test Of Missile

U.S. fears launch of long-range arms

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

North Korea is preparing another missile test, which would break Pyongyang's moratorium on long-range ballistic missile flights, U.S. intelligence officials said.

Meanwhile, a separate test Monday of a new anti-ship cruise missile, the second in two weeks, was a failure, with the 100-mile-range missile failing to fly properly because of a guidance system problem, the officials told The Washington Times.

Recent satellite photographs of a North Korean base showed activity that appeared to be flight-test preparations, said officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"There aren't indications of an imminent launch, but it is something they might well do," one U.S. official said. "It's certainly a possibility."

A second official said the activity is being watched closely and that there are concerns that the flight test, which would be North Korea's third in recent weeks, will be of the Taepo-Dong 2 ballistic missile.

A third official at the Pentagon said, "Clearly, the potential is there for a launch with little or no notice."

U.S. officials said the missile tested Monday was a North Korean version of the Chinese-made HY-2 Silkworm anti-ship missile that has an estimated range of up to 100 miles.

The second flight test of the new missile failed because of problems with the guidance system, U.S. officials said. The missile flew about 80 miles over the East Sea/Sea of Japan.

The preparations and the cruise-missile flight tests come amid growing tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

The Pentagon is dispatching six F-117 Stealth fighter bombers to South Korea for exercises to begin next week, said Defense Department spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Davis. It will be the first time since 1993, when the first crisis developed concerning North Korea's nuclear-weapons program, that the radar-evading aircraft are moved to South Korea.

Earlier this month, 24 B-1 and B-52 bombers were sent to Guam to deter any North Korean military action.

North Korean jets also threatened an unarmed U.S. reconnaissance aircraft March 2, locking targeting radar on a U.S. Air Force RC-135 flying in international airspace 150 miles from North Korea's coast.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun yesterday called for maintaining a strong alliance with the United States.

"The staunch Korea-U.S. combined defense arrangement is greatly contributing to our national security," Mr. Roh said in a speech at the Korean Military Academy. "The solid ... alliance should be maintained even more so."

North Korea, meanwhile, repeated its call for direct talks with the United States.

"If the U.S. turns to a military option in the end, persistently turning down the [North's] principled proposal for direct talks, it will lead to a catastrophic situation," North Korea's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary.

In Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi sought to play down the cruise-missile test on Monday, telling reporters that it was "not an emergency." He said Japan would work with the United States to prevent Pyongyang from taking reckless action.

Stocks in Tokyo fell to a 20-year low after reports in the Rodong Sinmun that the test was more than a simple military drill.

Defense officials said North Korea's first two missile tests were directed at the United States. Pyongyang is trying to force the United States to negotiate directly with its communist government, something President Bush has ruled out.

North Korea's government is expected to announce a warning of the next missile test soon, perhaps as early as today, the officials said.

Pyongyang released an official notice in advance of the missile tests that happened Feb. 24 and Monday.

A major worry among U.S. officials is that the upcoming test, which would be the third in recent weeks, will be a second flight test of its new long-range Taepo-Dong 2 ballistic missile, which was flight-tested for the first time in August 1998.

The CIA said in a report made public in December 2001 that North Korea is improving the Taepo-Dong 2. The missile can carry a warhead weighing several hundred pounds up to 6,200 miles, "sufficient to strike Alaska, Hawaii and parts of the continental United States."

If a lighter third stage is used, like the one tested in 1998, the Taepo-Dong 2 could have a range of 9,300 miles. That configuration would be "sufficient to strike all of North America," the CIA said, noting that a future test of the missile could be disguised as a space launch.

The North Korean government announced after the 1998 launch that it would halt the tests.

The Taepo-Dong 2 overflew portions of Japanese airspace and created widespread security worries among Japanese defense officials.

The latest crisis with North Korea began in October, when Pyongyang admitted to having a secret program to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons.

North Korea then withdrew from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and has restarted a small nuclear reactor.

The F-117s sent to South Korea are taking part in the annual U.S.-South Korean exercises known as Foal Eagle/RSOI, for reception, staging and onward integration.

The maneuvers begin March 19 and will continue through early April, Cmdr. Davis said.

One of the exercises simulates a North Korean special-operations attack on South Korea.

Most of the 37,000 troops in South Korea will take part in the exercises, which have been denounced by official North Korean news outlets as preparation for war.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20030312-477649.htm>

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Washington Times

March 12, 2003

Pg. 1

Saddam Ready To Kill Iraqis, Blame U.S.

'Chemical Ali' in charge of keeping civilians in line

By Rowan Scarborough, The Washington Times

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is planning attacks on his own people in the event of a U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, and his top operative, a general nicknamed "Chemical Ali," has been put in charge of southern Iraq to quell any civilian uprisings, U.S. officials say.

The Pentagon is communicating with Iraqi military commanders, both through leaflet drops and private e-mails, to discourage them from carrying out Saddam's orders. The Iraqis also will be given instructions on how to surrender. "They are being communicated with privately at the present time," Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld told reporters at the Pentagon. "They will be communicated with in a more public way. And they will receive instructions so that they can behave in a way that will be seen and understood as being nonthreatening."

U.S. military officials say there are increasing indications that Saddam will kill his own people and blame the atrocities on invading American forces.

Bush administration officials reported last week that Saddam was planning to dress Iraqi forces in coalition uniforms and order them to kill innocents.

Mr. Rumsfeld suggested yesterday that Saddam is considering shelling civilians with deadly chemical weapons, as he did in 1988, killing up to 100,000 Kurds in northern Iraq.

"His regime may be planning to use weapons of mass destruction against its own citizens, and then blame coalition forces," Mr. Rumsfeld said.

He recalled that during the 1991 Persian Gulf war, authorities ordered civilians into military command bunkers. In one instance, on Feb. 13, 1991, the U.S. forces bombed the Amiriyah bunker in Baghdad.

Later, the United States discovered that Saddam's deputies had sentenced scores of civilians to their deaths by placing them on the bunker's upper level, above a command center. Baghdad displayed the dead bodies to the international press.

"When his regime begins claiming once again that coalition forces have targeted innocent Iraqi civilians, if that's to be the case, we need to keep his record in mind," Mr. Rumsfeld said.

Saddam "will seek to maximize civilian deaths and create the false impression that coalition forces target innocent Iraqis, which, of course, is not the case," the defense secretary said.

President Bush, who is weighing a decision to order an invasion of Iraq, said last month that Saddam has authorized his most loyal troops, the Republican Guard, to use chemical weapons against coalition forces.

A U.S. military official said that at least two Republican Guard divisions are believed to be armed at this moment with chemical artillery shells.

The belief among military planners is that Saddam has nothing to lose in unleashing weapons of mass destruction, as the goal of the coalition troops is to capture or kill him and oust his hard-line Ba'ath party regime.

A sign that Saddam is serious about attacking civilians comes in reports from inside Iraq that Gen. Ali Hassan al Majid, or "Chemical Ali," has been placed in charge of military activities in southern Iraq.

Considered a war criminal by human rights groups, Majid commanded the 1988 chemical weapons attacks on the Kurds.

He also oversaw the brutal occupation of Kuwait in 1990 and 1991. After the 1991 war, he commanded the Republican Guard divisions that brutally put down a rebellion by Shi'ites in Iraq's southern marshlands.

"He is a senior adviser to Saddam. He is known as an enforcer for the regime," said a U.S. intelligence official, who asked not to be named. "He is used to put down uprisings and maintain order."

This official said Saddam typically carves up the country into three or four regions during crises and then appoints hard-line lieutenants to maintain order.

In Majid, Saddam has a loyal commander and his own blood relation — they are cousins — to watch over the southern oil fields around Basra and stamp out any Shi'ite rebellion.

U.S. military officials report that it appears that Iraqi operatives have affixed explosive charges to southern and northern oil fields, in the same way that they sabotaged oil wells in Kuwait before fleeing the country in 1991.

Gen. Richard B. Myers, Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, said the military will install a screening process to determine which Iraqi officers harm civilians.

"The vetting process will reveal those who participated in war crimes and those who didn't," Gen. Myers said.

Also yesterday, the United States continued to negotiate a deal with Turkey to allow in American ground troops to support a northern front against Baghdad, or, at least, to let U.S. combat jets fly over Turkey.

Military analysts say it looks increasingly unlikely that the Army's 4th Infantry Division will deploy from Texas in time to open the northern front, as had been planned. Instead, Gen. Tommy Franks, chief of U.S. Central Command, will use airborne troops to attack from that direction.

"I'm not going to talk about the operational ways of doing it, but just be assured there will be a northern option," Gen. Myers said.

Gen. Myers echoed Gen. Franks' statement at the Pentagon last week that U.S. forces are ready to carry out an order to topple Saddam. He said there are more than 225,000 U.S. troops in the region. Britain has sent more than 40,000.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20030312-32976.htm>

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Washington Post

March 12, 2003

Pg. 10

In the Field: Preparing the Army's Chemical Weapons Detectives

For Unusual Task Force, An Unprecedented Mission

By Mary Beth Sheridan, Washington Post Staff Writer

CAMP UDAIRI, Kuwait, March 11 -- Sheathed in bulletproof camouflage vests and carrying rifles, the men who hauled plastic footlockers off a giant CH-47 Chinook helicopter here today looked like any of the tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers practicing for a war with Iraq.

It was an officer's barked order that gave them away.

"Weapons of mass, check! Weapons of mass, check!" he cried.

With exercises like this one, the little-known 75th Exploitation Task Force is preparing for a crucial mission: flying into Iraq on helicopters close behind advancing allied troops to document suspected weapons of mass destruction those troops encounter. The unit's specialists will take samples and whisk them away for evaluation.

"The objective of this specific task force is to prove to the world what Saddam actually has," said Army Col.

Richard McPhee, 47, the stocky, bullet-headed leader of the group.

The unit's quarry is at the very heart of the confrontation with Iraq. The U.S. government has declared that Hussein maintains extensive research and production facilities for weapons denied to Iraq by the United Nations and that war may be the only way to deal with him.

The Iraqi army used chemical weapons during its 1980-88 war with Iran and turned them to deadly effect against the country's ethnic Kurdish minority in 1988. But Iraq says it no longer has these or other illegal weapons and that the United States is using the issue as a pretext to invade.

As the military buildup in the gulf continues, the weapons remain very much on the minds of virtually every American here. Many troops arrive inoculated against biological agents. They carry gas masks everywhere and run through drills for protecting themselves against Iraqi missiles.

McPhee, a gruff veteran of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, oversees an unusual group pulled together for the current campaign. It includes members of all branches of the U.S. armed forces, as well as the British military and a host of civilian U.S. agencies. Some are soldiers barely out of high school, others are expert scientists.

"Everyone understands the importance of this," McPhee said of his team. "It's a great mission."

Not that they are eager to talk about it. McPhee declined to provide details on the task force's members, numbers, or operations -- and even asked a reporter not to publish where he is based in the United States.

The reticence extends to other members of the force. In the exercise today, all wore camouflage uniforms, but some were not military at all. One participant allowed only that he had an intelligence background and had just chopped off his ponytail.

"No one's ever done this before. We're writing doctrine for the military," said one task force member, Army Capt. Kevin Brown, 31, an Atlanta native.

In the exercise, helicopters loaded with such supplies as sensors, protective equipment and water whup-whupped in for landings at the base here and unit members scurried aboard to unload the cargo, in a simulation of setting up at a site inside Iraq.

One group of task force members was led by Army Capt. David Norris, 32, a 6-foot-4-inch native of Waterloo, Iowa. He acknowledged that the exercise looked pretty humdrum. But it's the simple things that are often the most challenging in these missions, he said -- ensuring supplies of such basics as water and batteries, checking weight and safety plans.

"This gives the newer guys a chance to learn what it's like getting into the bird. They need to feel this, too -- the sand and noise," he said, indicating the stinging desert gusts, and the loud whup-whup of helicopters. His team would spend the next day flying to sites in Kuwait to practice dry runs of their mission.

"The most difficult part about this is logistics," he added. "Everyone knows their job pretty well. We have the best equipment in the world."

U.S. government officials have said that Hussein has underground facilities for producing weapons of mass destruction, as well as mobile labs. "They have been widely dispersed into dozens and dozens and dozens of different locations," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said in a speech last fall. U.N. inspectors searching for such weapons in the past few months have not found any.

Undersecretary of Defense Douglas J. Feith has said that discovering and destroying Iraq's stocks of biological, chemical and nuclear materials will be a "huge undertaking."

"We cannot now even venture a sensible guess as to the amount of time" involved, he said last month.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A12625-2003Mar11.html>

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New York Times
March 12, 2003

Business As Usual, And On Display, At An Iran Nuclear Plant

By Nazila Fathi

BUSHEHR, Iran, March 11 — Near this port city in southern Iran, thousands of Russians and Iranians are at work in and around the beige dome of a nuclear power plant, finishing a job started by German engineers but abandoned more than two decades ago.

The holes made by Iraqi bombs during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980's have been repaired.

Gone, too, is some of the German equipment inside, as the plant design has been altered to Russian specifications.

Outside, antiaircraft artillery and missiles safeguard the compound.

Iran allowed foreign and domestic journalists to tour the Bushehr plant today.

The event was meant to demonstrate Iran's openness about its nuclear program, which it claims is all about electricity, not weapons. The United States, however, says that the plant could not be just for energy production and that Iran has a covert nuclear weapons program.

Today, as he showed off the work being done here, the director general of the plant, Nasser Mansour Sahrifloo, brushed off such accusations. "A light-water reactor cannot be used for developing nuclear weapons," he said during the tour.

The two plants here were begun by the Germans in 1976, but the work was stopped by the Iranian revolution of 1979. The Russians agreed in the mid-1990's to complete one of the plants. It is expected to begin producing 1,000 megawatts of electricity by the middle of next year.

The United States had expressed renewed concerns about Iran's nuclear program after Tehran announced in early February that it had discovered uranium deposits near the central city of Yazd, and was completing a uranium

enrichment facility in the city of a Natanz, 200 miles south of Tehran. That would allow it to provide its own fuel for plants like the one here.

While low-enriched uranium is used for fuel, more highly enriched uranium can be used in nuclear weapons.

In addition, atomic energy experts say, a reactor like the one here could be used to make plutonium, which could be used in a weapon.

During a visit in late February, Mohamed ElBaradei, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, who inspected the facility in Natanz, said that he found the progress at the facility for producing nuclear fuel "impressive."

He also said that he had urged Iran to sign an accord, known as the additional protocol, that would allow no-notice inspection by the agency's inspectors and make it harder to divert fissile material into a nuclear weapons program. But Assadollah Sabouri, deputy director of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, said today that Iran had not agreed to sign the protocol because it would impose new limits on the Iranian program. "We do not want to increase our commitments in the face of sanctions that are currently imposed on us for obtaining nuclear technology," he said. Iran has agreed to notify the atomic energy agency before it begins any other nuclear facility, he added.

Until Iran can produce enriched uranium of its own, the reactor here will use fuel from Russia, the first shipment of which is to arrive in May. Mr. Sabouri said Iran was still planning to return the spent fuel back to Russia, although an agreement on the matter between the countries had not yet been signed. Russian law currently bans the return of nuclear waste.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/12/international/middleeast/12IRAN.html>

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Philadelphia Inquirer

March 12, 2003

U.S. Fund To Help Nations Prevent 'Dirty Bombs'

By Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria - The United States announced yesterday that it would help developing countries track down loose radioactive materials on their soil - the kind of step the chief U.N. nuclear watchdog said was urgently needed to foil terrorists bent on building "dirty bombs."

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said the United States would spend \$3 million in the next year to help poorer governments secure high-risk radiation sources that could be used for terror weapons.

"The threat requires a determined and comprehensive international response," Abraham told the opening session of the first high-level global conference on dirty bombs, technically known as radiological dispersal devices.

Although at odds over Iraq, the U.S. and Russian governments joined as cosponsors to bring together hundreds of scientists and government officials for the three-day gathering.

Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, said that before the Sept. 11 terror attacks, concerns about radiation sources - the cesium, strontium, and other isotopes used in medicine and industry - had focused on prevention of accidental exposure.

But now the threat of a dirty bomb - a conventional bomb packed with some radioactive material - presents "a difficult and complex challenge," he told the conference. "It is clear that additional security measures are urgently needed."

Such a device has yet to be detonated anywhere, but the al-Qaeda network is reported to have been interested in trying such a terror weapon.

The worry is not that a large number of people might die immediately but that the radiation might cause panic and make sections of cities unlivable for years.

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/nation/5369894.htm>

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Washington Post

March 12, 2003

Pg. 15

IAEA Director Warns Of 'Dirty Bomb' Risk

By Louis Charbonneau, Reuters

VIENNA, March 11 -- The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency said today that stricter security measures were urgently needed to keep radioactive material out of the hands of terrorists, who could use it to spread havoc with "dirty bombs."

Mohamed ElBaradei, the International Atomic Energy Agency chief, made the call on the opening day of an international conference on dirty bombs, which are made by attaching radioactive material to a conventional bomb to spread it over a wide area.

ElBaradei said the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States showed that terrorists would not be afraid to handle deadly radioactive material to construct such a bomb.

"Given the apparent readiness of terrorists to disregard their own safety, the personal danger from handling powerful radioactive sources can no longer be seen as an effective deterrent," he said.

While there has never been a dirty bomb attack, ElBaradei said recent reports about terrorist plans to use dirty bombs were worth taking seriously and that countries should spend time and money to beef up nuclear security.

"Our database of cases of smuggling . . . gives an indication that there is a market and there is an effort to obtain radioactive sources, and the obvious question is why," he said.

Britain said in January it had evidence that Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network, blamed by the United States for the Sept. 11 attacks, tried to develop a dirty bomb in the late 1990s.

But some counterterrorism experts and even officials within the IAEA argue that such bombs are generally of little interest to such groups as al Qaeda because they are less effective than more easily accessible weapons.

Russia's atomic energy minister, Alexander Rumyantsev, told reporters that Russian security services had "no indication that terrorists have come to possess dirty bombs."

ElBaradei said that though a dirty bomb might not necessarily kill its victims, the most severe impact would be "panic and social disruption associated with exposure to radiation, the very purpose of an act of terror."

There have been more than 280 confirmed cases of criminal trafficking of radioactive material, though the IAEA chief said, "The actual number of cases may be significantly larger than the number reported to the agency."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A12629-2003Mar11.html>

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(Editor's Note: For photo and more information on referenced vehicle, see hyperlink following article.)

Tampa Tribune

March 11, 2003

New Humvee Protects Against All Chemical, Biological Warfare

By George Coryell

TAMPA - Though it won't be ready for U.S. troops poised to invade Iraq, Northrop Grumman has built a Humvee that will sniff out bugs, germs or nuclear weapons so soldiers can stay safely away.

"This will protect you against all field concentrations of known chemical and biological agents," said Tim O'Connor, a missions system analyst with Northrop Grumman. "It will filter out the fallout from a nuclear blast."

The Joint Service Lightweight Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Reconnaissance System is a longer Humvee, the standard military vehicle, with an enclosed cabin containing cutting-edge detection tools.

It is expected to cost more than \$1.5 million, but the company hopes to bring out lower-cost versions for cities worried about homeland security.

The Humvee could be used at bases in the United States, such as MacDill Air Force Base, to monitor for a chemical or biological attack.

The gadget-laden truck is one of a number of exhibits at the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Technet 2003 conference at the Tampa Convention Center this week. The show is not open to the public, but government employees interested in homeland defense technology can attend.

The first units could be with the Marines in 15 months. The Marines wanted a lighter vehicle than the Army's 20-ton "rolling lab" Fox armored vehicle. The Humvees weigh about 6 tons, so they can be loaded off C-130 cargo planes or carried more easily by helicopters.

"Central Command would very likely be a high-priority player in buying these," said Wayne Whitten, Tactical Systems Division program development manager with Northrop Grumman in Tampa.

The Humvee's cab and cabin are enclosed, with two generators providing pressure to push contaminants out. The truck is fitted with a pair of enclosed gloves extended from the rear undercarriage so the surveyor in back can take

samples from the ground. The roof-mounted revolving sensor can find particles that are five kilometers, about three miles, away.

A driver and commander sit in the forward cab, linked through satellite to their headquarters so it can be immediately warned if contamination is found. The Humvee could then mark the boundaries of the contamination. The Humvees can be updated as the technology improves, but at the moment they are as good as it gets, said O'Connor, a former weapons of mass destruction specialist with the Marines.

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Joint Service Lightweight Nuclear Biological Chemical Reconnaissance System (JSLNBCRS)

MISSION

Provide field unit commanders with real-time point and standoff intelligence for real-time field assessment of nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) hazards. . .

<http://www.ddn.com/progprof/army/jslnbcrs.pdf>

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Washington Post

March 13, 2003

Pg. 12

Iraqi Officials Proudly Exhibit A Disputed, Dinged-Up Drone

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran, Washington Post Foreign Service

AL-TAJI, Iraq, March 12 -- Seeking to rebut U.S. allegations that its newest and largest remote-controlled airplane can disperse chemical or biological weapons, the Iraqi government showed off the device today, revealing a makeshift contraption with wooden propellers, duct-taped wings and a dinged-up fuselage.

Perched on a stand at a military research complex north of Baghdad, the black-and-white drone appeared to have been fashioned from cannibalized aviation parts and standard craft-shop fare. The body was built with a torpedo-shaped fuel tank from a larger plane. The wings were constructed with cloth-covered balsa wood. Patches of aluminum foil were used for reinforcement.

The words "God is Great" were hand-painted in red ink on both sides.

"It's only a prototype," said the director of the drone project, Brig. Imad Abdul Latif.

Under normal circumstances, the Iraqi government would not have invited several dozen foreign journalists inside a military research facility to gawk at such an inelegant flying machine. But today, lack of sophistication was the point.

In a report released Monday, U.N. weapons inspectors stated that Iraq had not declared the drone as required under two separate Security Council resolutions. The Bush administration promptly seized upon the statement to bolster its argument that Iraq had been flouting U.N. disarmament rules. John D. Negroponte, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, suggested that the drone could travel beyond U.N.-imposed limits, while Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said it could dispense biological and chemical weapons and "should be of concern to everybody."

Iraqi officials dismissed those comments as untrue, arguing that the drone was included in a weapons declaration submitted to the inspectors, that the aircraft's range is significantly less than the 93-mile limit and that it is not able to spread chemical or biological agents.

"He's making a big mistake," Latif said of Powell. "He knows very well that this aircraft is not used for what he said."

U.N. officials acknowledged today that the drone was mentioned in a semi-annual arms declaration that Iraq submitted in January. The U.N. officials also said they were not sure whether the aircraft could exceed range restrictions or carry prohibited weapons. One official privately cast doubt on those possibilities, noting that the drone did not appear to have guidance and cargo technology sophisticated enough to do those things.

Air Force Gen. Ibrahim Hussein said the radio-controlled drone had never flown more than two miles. Although its wingspan of 24.5 feet has prompted concern that it could fly long distances, Latif said the remote-piloted aircraft

could not be guided from more than five miles away and needs to be close enough to be seen by ground controllers. He said the exact range could be determined only after more testing.

Hussein said the drone was designed to be used for "reconnaissance, jamming and aerial photography."

"These are common uses all over the world," he said. "We have full rights to do this."

He insisted that the Iraqi military had not considered using the device to distribute biological or chemical weapons, which Iraq claims it does not possess. "We have not even thought of this issue," he said.

The controversy over the drone erupted when the U.N. inspection commission released a 173-page document on its Web site Monday titled "Unresolved Disarmament Issues, Iraq's Proscribed Weapons Programs," which had been provided privately to Security Council members on Friday. The document stated that "recent inspections have also revealed the existence of a drone with a wingspan of 7.45 meters [24.5 feet] that has not been declared by Iraq."

U.N. officials conceded today that the statement was inaccurate. They said Iraq declared the drone in question but listed the wingspan as about 13 feet, not the actual 24.5, which probably prompted some confusion among the people writing the report.

Hussein said the error was a typo that was corrected in a Feb. 18 letter to the inspectors. "When a man is to prepare a lot of documents or to write a lot of things, it is quite natural that he makes some kind of typing mistakes," he said.

It was not clear why Iraq did not also include the drone in a Dec. 8 weapons declaration that was supposed to provide a full, final and complete accounting of its weapons programs.

Although the inspectors paid a visit on Feb. 10 to the military research complex here, known as the Ibn Farnas State Company, they did not see the drone, said Hiro Ueki, a spokesman for the inspection operation in Baghdad. The inspectors were looking for other, smaller drones during that visit. It was not until Feb. 17, during a search of the Samarra East flight-test facility in the town of Al-Mutassem, that the inspectors first saw the large drone, Ueki said. He said the inspectors measured the device.

The following day, Iraq sent the letter correcting the wingspan.

On March 4, the inspectors returned to Ibn Farnas to seek more information on the 24.5-foot drone, known as an RPV-30A, and two smaller drones. The next day, they went to the flight-test site, where they found the two small drones, and two even smaller devices called Pigeons, in addition to the RPV-30A, U.N. officials said. The RPV-30A was being dismantled when the inspectors arrived, the officials said, which fueled concern that the device was going to be destroyed or hidden from inspectors.

But U.N. and Iraqi officials said today that dismantling drones is a standard practice. The RPV-30A, which was put back together for the benefit of journalists today, was quickly disassembled after the presentation, according to a CNN reporter who arrived at the site late.

U.S. officials accused the chief U.N. weapons inspector, Hans Blix, of playing down the drone in an oral update to the Security Council on Friday. Blix and other inspectors said the issue was not given more prominence because it was under investigation and no firm conclusions have been reached.

The inspectors have asked Iraq to provide "credible evidence" about the drones, including the names of scientists who worked on them and foreign suppliers involved in the project, as well as details about their engines and guidance systems. Latif said he is willing to answer any questions the inspectors ask him.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A17650-2003Mar12.html>

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Washington Post
March 13, 2003
Pg. 18

Envoy: Iran To Continue Its Nuclear Power Effort

U.S. Claims of Weapons Program Called 'Untrue'

By Colum Lynch, Washington Post Staff Writer

UNITED NATIONS, March 12 -- Iran intends to continue expanding its civilian nuclear energy program despite U.S. allegations that it is a cover for a secret nuclear weapons program, a senior Iranian official said today.

Javad Zarif, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, said his government has no intention of developing nuclear weapons but that it would seek to aggressively develop its nuclear power industry because of fears the United States may persuade foreign suppliers, including Russia, China and Ukraine, to stop shipments of nuclear components to Iran.

"You don't expect Iran to sit still," he said in an interview at the Iranian mission to the United Nations. "We don't have any confidence that two years down the road, three years down the road, the pressure by the United States may

or may not work on our suppliers. We have to create a source of self-sufficiency, which will include a fuel cycle program."

The Bush administration has said it suspects Iran is enriching uranium for nuclear weapons at a facility near the town of Natanz in central Iran. The existence of the nuclear facility was made public in August by an Iranian opposition group, the National Council of Resistance of Iran. U.S. officials assert that when the project is completed in 2005, it will be capable of producing several nuclear bombs a year.

Zarif denied the charge. He said Tehran did not initially disclose its efforts to develop the Natanz nuclear "fuel cycle" plant because of concerns the United States would pressure foreign suppliers to withdraw from the project. But he insisted that Iran's representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency informed the nuclear watchdog of the country's nuclear activities in June, more than a month before the facility's existence became public. A spokesman for the Vienna-based IAEA, reached by telephone tonight, said he could not immediately confirm the Iranian envoy's claim.

"We have nothing to hide; we played a very straightforward, transparent game with the IAEA," Zarif said. "If the United States did not follow this policy of simply trying to deny Iran access to nuclear technology for any purpose, I don't think you would have had all these scenarios that we are confronting. Unless the United States changes its behavior, we will see more of the same."

As a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran is permitted to develop nuclear energy under the supervision of the IAEA. Under the terms of the agreement, Iran is allowed to enrich uranium. It is under no legal obligation to declare the facility until it began enriching uranium.

"The United States does not believe in the IAEA," Zarif said. "The United States wants Iran not to have nuclear power, period."

The IAEA's director general, Mohamed ElBaradei, visited Natanz on Feb. 21. He found a fully operational plant with 160 gas centrifuges for enriching uranium. When completed, the facility is expected to hold 5,000 centrifuges, enough to produce at least two nuclear bombs a year. The discovery has prompted the agency to renew pressure on Iran to sign a 1997 protocol that would allow international inspectors greater authority to conduct inspections on short notice and to take advanced environmental sampling. Iran has declined to ratify the protocol.

The IAEA board of governors is expected to review a report on the agency's investigation into the Iranian facility. "I believe once this report is out, it will be clear that all these fictions . . . will prove to be untrue," Zarif said.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A17893-2003Mar12.html>

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New York Times
March 13, 2003

Kurds Plead For Protection Against Gas

By David Rohde

BARDARASH, Iraq — Dr. Baravan Saidullah sits in his barren clinic each day and tries not to think about the Iraqi soldiers on a hilltop a mile away. If they lob chemical weapons into this town surrounded by a sea of wheat fields, the young doctor's instructions to civilians are simple: run.

"The only preparation is evacuation," Dr. Saidullah said. "If there is war, we don't believe anyone will escape."

Kurdish officials here say that the United States has failed to respond to repeated requests for gas masks and chemical weapons suits for the people of Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq. Local officials say only a few dozen antiquated gas masks are available in the region, which is home to 3.8 million people.

Leaders of the Kurds, a group whose gassing by Saddam Hussein's forces has been invoked by Washington as one justification for war, say they are defenseless against a chemical attack. An estimated 5,000 Kurds were killed in Iraqi attacks believed to involve nerve gas and blister agents like mustard gas in the late 1980's, according to Kurdish medical researchers. In all, 60,000 Kurds died in a campaign by the Iraqi military to put down a Kurdish insurgency.

In a letter to President Bush on Feb. 13, two Kurdish leaders, Jalal Talabani and Massoud Barzani, expressed alarm over the lack of equipment.

"There is a growing anxiety at the inability to deliver on pledges of help to our region," they wrote in the letter, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times. "We have yet to receive any of the protective equipment promised by your officials to deal with the very real risk of chemical or biological weapons attack."

A senior American official said in a telephone interview that the Pentagon was addressing the problem. He said Turkey's recent blocking of the deployment of American troops had complicated the situation.

"There was one set of circumstances when American forces were coming in a big way through Turkey," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "If they don't come through Turkey then the issue is different. We are very much focused on that issue."

Officials in Washington have cited other possible obstacles to providing equipment to the Kurds, including restrictions in United Nations resolutions and United States law on sending supplies to Iraq.

Bardarash illustrates how vulnerable the Kurds are to attack. The bustling community of 11,000 people sits on a broad plain. Nearby, on rolling green hilltops, Iraqi soldiers occupy bunkers that can be seen over roofs.

There is little sense of panic here. On a recent afternoon, two dozen Kurdish youths played soccer in bright white and royal blue jerseys as Iraqi soldiers sat on the hilltops. Through binoculars, the Iraqi soldiers could be seen lounging on the grass without their rifles, or sitting and chatting with one another.

"We know the U.S. will protect us," said Idris Yisin, the amiable, middle-aged coach of one of the soccer teams. "But if they don't, what can we do?"

Even if American cruise missiles and airstrikes destroy Iraqi missiles and rockets in an initial attack, Iraqi soldiers could fire artillery or mortar rounds with chemical warheads into the town. The nearby Kurdish-controlled cities of Erbil and Dohuk are only 10 to 15 miles from Iraqi forces and lie within rocket and artillery range. The two cities have a combined population of well over one million.

In interviews, most Kurds expressed an odd combination of calm and fatalism. They said they trusted the United States to protect them and expected Iraqi soldiers to simply surrender should there be war. But victims of past chemical attacks expressed alarm. They asked how, 14 years after they were gassed, the United States and other countries could have failed to provide them with protective gear.

"I'm worried to an extent that I can't go on studying," said Dhahir Mahmood Ahmed, 23, a college student who survived a 1988 Iraqi gas attack on the city of Halabja that killed at least 4,000 people, including his uncle and 12 cousins. Asked what he would do in the event of an attack now, he said, "I will wait for death."

Dr. Saidullah, a wiry 30-year-old general practitioner, said he had no protective suits and no antidotes to treat victims. The only chemical weapons training he had received, he said, was a one-day course taught by Kurdish doctors who received their information from the Internet and books. In an attack, he said, civilians are to cover their mouths with a wet cloth that includes a piece of charcoal if possible and flee to higher ground.

He asked why Kuwaiti and Israeli civilians were well equipped while the Kurds had nothing.

"You in the U.S. are responsible for what happens here," he said. "Pray for us."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/13/international/middleeast/13CHEM.html>

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St. Petersburg Times

March 12, 2003

Dispatch from the 101st

Masks Can't Conceal Concern

Bullets are always a worry in war, but soldiers must prepare to be hit by the chemical weapons that are why they are there in the first place.

By Wes Allison

CAMP UDAIRI, Kuwait - Spc. Alan Davidson and Pfc. Kevin Hayles were smoking cigarettes in the swirling dust outside their tent when soldiers in a nearby motor pool suddenly donned their gas masks.

Five seconds later, theirs were on, too. They ran back to their tent to warn the men in their unit to pull on their masks as well.

During a lunchtime drill Tuesday, soldiers across Camp Udairi took shelter in sandbagged bunkers, dove under 5-ton trucks and hit the ground, another round of practice for a common nightmare: a chemically loaded Scud missile attack by Iraqi forces.

"Everybody's really quick about it because they know at anytime it might not be a drill," said Davidson, 24, of Port Charlotte. He and Hayles work on helicopters for the 8th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division.

"Everybody's afraid of a biological or chemical attack that could screw you up for the rest of your life," Hayles, 25, added.

"Or end it," Davis interjected. "We're all trained to handle it, but you never really know."

Officers and sergeants assigned to prepare their units for nuclear, biological and chemical attack - known as NBC - say they have faith in the gas masks, protective suits and detection devices designed to safeguard U.S. troops.

But almost without exception, American soldiers at desert posts along the Iraqi border say they fear chemical or biological weapons far more than Iraqi bullets, artillery or even mines. And unlike with conventional weapons, those at the rear are at as much risk of being gassed as those at the front, if not more.

"With a bullet they can do surgery and pull it out and stitch you back up," said Pvt. Garland Anderson, 22, of Richmond, Va., a computer networker with the 101st Airborne. "With NBC, they scrub you down and hope they got all of it."

The soldiers' list of fears runs long:

They won't know they've been hit until too late.

Their masks and hooded rubberized suits won't work well enough, or they won't get the suits on in time.

And even if they survive an attack and seem uninjured, they will suffer health problems for years to come. One sergeant related how his grandfather survived a mustard gas attack during World War I, but died of complications at 43.

"If I'm going to die, I'd rather be shot quick," said Pfc. Derek Vasquez, 18, of Buffalo, N.Y., a rifleman in the 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry. "Who wants to be nuked? Who wants to be chemically burned?"

Vasquez said he feels as prepared as possible and has faith in his training, but he believes surviving an attack ultimately will depend on the soldier and the conditions.

"If you've got headphones on or you're not really paying attention, if you're near a generator or something and you can't hear 'gas, gas, gas,' a soldier may not react in time, he said.

The Army is trying to combat these fears and protect its troops with frequent training, good equipment and high-tech, early warning devices.

At the camps along the Iraqi border - Udairi, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Virginia and Victory - the gas mask is given the same priority as the gun. Repeatedly, soldiers practice donning it in nine seconds or less, the Army standard. Men keep clean-shaven so facial hair won't interfere with the seal between their skin and the rubber mask.

"You will carry your mask indefinitely," Sgt. 1st Class Daniel White, the NBC coordinator for the Airborne's Division Support Command, told his soldiers during a recent training session.

"The only time you take it off is when you're showering or when you're sleeping, and then it will be within arm's reach."

All soldiers, except those with medical exemptions, have been vaccinated against smallpox and anthrax. Meanwhile, several mobile biologic detection units are stationed at each U.S. camp in Kuwait and will join soldiers in the field if the United States attacks.

Each unit is essentially a small lab on the back of a Humvee, where technicians test the air for anthrax, smallpox and other biological dangers.

The Army also has six-wheeled vehicles called the Fox, which look somewhat like an armored personnel carrier.

The Fox roams the desert and accompanies convoys, sniffing for nerve gas and other chemical agents.

The Fox crews also can take air and soil samples, and find routes around contaminated areas.

Most units travel with portable detection devices that work somewhat like smoke alarms: If they detect the presence of nerve or blister agents, they scream.

U.S. military planners do have cause for worry. The Iraqi army has used chemical weapons with deadly effect, including during the Iran-Iraq war and against the Kurds in northern Iraq.

The United States contends Iraq still has supplies of blister and nerve agents, which Iraq denies. The existence of these weapons of mass destruction are at the center of the dispute between the two countries, and United Nations inspectors began searching Iraq for evidence last fall.

Staff Sgt. Truck Carlson, a mental health counselor at the 86th Combat Support Hospital at Camp Udairi, said almost one-third of soldiers who seek treatment are stressed over the prospect of chemical and biological weapons.

He tries to ease their concerns by explaining that the desert is an inhospitable environment for chemical and biological agents: The winds should blow them away, while the heat and sun quickly break them down.

Carlson also reminds them the only Iraqi weapon capable of delivering gas is a Scud missile, because Saddam Hussein has no air force. Each U.S. base has Patriot missile batteries that exist solely to shoot down incoming Scuds. Many of his patients are senior noncommissioned officers who aren't comfortable with the NBC equipment, but don't want their young troops to sense their fears.

"Until you've done it, there's always that fear in the back of their mind: Will this (equipment) really work?" Carlson said.

At the same time, medics and NBC officers aren't stingy with the worrisome truth about chemical weapons, especially Vx, a nerve gas U.S. officials say Hussein has.

During a recent training session on how to use the Vx antidote issued to each soldier, Airborne soldiers were told how nerve gas works: It disrupts the central nervous system, and mind loses control of body. Eventually the lungs fill with fluid.

Even to career veterans such as Sgt. Maj. Lenton Vining, the command sergeant-major of the Airborne's Division Support Command, its largest brigade, the prospect is troubling.

"You can protect yourself from a bullet. NBC, no," Vining said. "All you can do is prepare for it. And that bullet takes out one person. NBC takes out a lot."

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Jerusalem Post
March 13, 2003

Should Saddam Lob Chemical Weapons At Nuclear Vessels, Troops Will Be Prepared

By Janine Zacharia

ABOARD THE USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT, EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN--Deputy Control Chief Michael Hutson, 31, of Maryland spent several weeks becoming an expert on some of the world's nastiest chemical and biological agents.

Now he is in charge of making sure the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt has adequate protection in the event of an attack on the ship with a non-conventional agent. The main threat of this nature is against US troops in the Persian Gulf.

But the carriers are also potential targets. Al-Qaida has made no secret of its desire to try to attack nuclear-powered American vessels such as the carriers. The ship's admiral and captain both said this week that security against a terrorist threat is a top priority, especially in the wake of the USS Cole bombing.

Here in the Mediterranean Sea the threat level is low, what they call Mission Oriented Protective Posture 1, or MOPP 1. Still, the ship has 6,000 protection suits and gas masks on board, enough to outfit the entire crew plus 25 percent. I was fitted for mine shortly after arrival. Before coming, I had prescription inserts made for the goggles, on the Pentagon's recommendation.

Around the clock, the Improved Point Detection System, or IPDS as it is known, sucks in air samples around the ship and feeds them into computers which monitor them for evidence of chemical agents such as VX or blister agents, or biological agents such as anthrax.

Should intelligence reveal that a threat is possible, the threat level on the ship would rise to MOPP 2. Then everyone on board would be required to carry gas masks with them. MOPP 3 would signal that an attack is probable and everyone would have to don their suits, boots, and masks. Sailors would seal the ship closed and start wetting down the ship's decks so that, if any agent struck the ship, it would sit on top of the water instead of seeping in, and be washed off later.

At MOPP 4 signaling that an attack is about to take place or already has a wash-down system would be activated. Then a bleaching solution would be applied.

To deal with biological threats, all the sailors and airmen on board have been vaccinated for small pox and anthrax. Still, says Deputy Control Chief Hutson, the chances of Saddam Hussein being able to hit the ship with a non-conventionally tipped missile are "slim to none."

"We're trying to do a whole lot of jobs, a whole lot of things, trying to coordinate all our efforts. Meantime, the bad guys are looking at us and trying to look for a particular chink in our armor," Capt. Gene Sullivan said.

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=JPost/A/JPArticle/ShowFull&cid=1047445631113>

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(Editor's Note: Hyperlink for press release and referenced report follows article.)

New York Times
March 13, 2003

Report Says Plan To Safeguard Nuclear Material Is Lacking

By Jennifer 8. Lee

WASHINGTON, March 12 - The United States lacks a comprehensive plan for protecting the world's supply of nuclear material from terrorists, according to a report issued today by Harvard University researchers. The report, titled "Controlling Nuclear Warheads and Materials," is part of a three-year research project commissioned by the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a Washington foundation, to create a report card on nuclear security around the world.

The nations of the former Soviet Union present the biggest risk, the report said, given their vast supply of nuclear material and deteriorating financial state. There were reports today that the police in Tajikistan, a former Soviet republic, had seized nine pounds of radioactive mercury and arrested two people they said were trying to sell it. Twelve years ago, the United States began a program sponsored by Sam Nunn, the former Georgia senator, and Senator Richard G. Lugar, an Indiana Republican, to protect the material and knowledge needed for nuclear weapons. Mr. Nunn and Mr. Lugar warned today that the pace and approach were inadequate, and they called for a high-level federal official to coordinate efforts full-time.

"Until you have someone who has day-to-day authority over this, things will fall through the cracks," Mr. Nunn said.

The report said that about 37 percent of the potentially vulnerable nuclear material in the former Soviet Union is being protected by initial security upgrades, and only 17 percent of the supply is protected under long-term security plans.

Some 80 percent of senior nuclear weapons scientists from the former Soviet Union receive salaries to lessen the economic incentive of cooperating with terrorists.

The report said the amount of nuclear material needed to create a bomb was insignificant compared with what is available worldwide. The report says that with enough highly enriched uranium, terrorist groups could create a crude nuclear bomb. With a more sophisticated design, the report says, terrorists would need only a baseball-size amount of plutonium or a softball-size amount of highly enriched uranium. The amounts are modest enough to be smuggled out of facilities by employees.

The report's authors, from the Project on Managing the Atom, at Harvard, gave a loose estimate of \$50 billion needed to protect the supply of nuclear weapons worldwide. Last June, the leaders of the world's largest economies pledged \$20 billion over 10 years toward the effort.

The report compiled a list of military security breaches from the Russian media in the last five years, many of which have not been reported in the American press. The report highlights efforts by Chechen terrorist groups, many of which have ties to Al Qaeda, to obtain nuclear material. It says that four incidents of Chechen reconnaissance of nuclear warhead storage and transport facilities in 2001 and 2002 have been confirmed.

Also, in April 2000, the Georgian police arrested four men who had about two pounds of highly enriched uranium. The chief of the Russian customs service reported the detection of more than 500 incidents of illegal transportation of nuclear and radioactive materials across the Russian state border, and the International Atomic Energy Agency has recorded 18 confirmed incidents involving the seizure of stolen plutonium or highly enriched uranium.

Mr. Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said tension between the United States and Russia over Iraq was not helping the efforts.

"Russia has got to be a partner," he said. But he also had a list collected over the last 11 years showing international inspectors had been rebuffed by Russian officials.

"The reason Iraq nuclear inspectors won't ever find anything is that the Russians perfected long ago how to obscure all of this," he said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/13/international/asia/13NUKE.html>

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Controlling Nuclear Warheads and Materials

"The gravest danger our Nation faces lies at the cross-roads of radicalism and technology. Our enemies have openly declared that they are seeking weapons of mass destruction... History will judge harshly those who saw this coming danger but failed to act."

— President George W. Bush, National Security Strategy of the United States of America, September 2002

The possibility that nuclear weapons or the materials needed to make them could be stolen and fall into the hands of terrorists or hostile states poses among the most urgent threats to U.S. and international security. Immediate action is needed to forestall this danger, through a global cooperative effort to ensure that every nuclear weapon and every kilogram of nuclear material is secure and accounted for, wherever they may be. Fortunately, a nuclear bomb cannot be made without nuclear material, and making such material is beyond the reach of terrorists. Hence, if all of the existing stockpiles can be effectively guarded, nuclear weapons terrorism can be prevented: no material, no bomb. . .
http://www.nti.org/e_research/cnwm/overview/cnwm_home.asp

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Washington Post
March 14, 2003
Pg. 19

U.S. Rejects Gulf Battlefield Cremations

By Reuters

The Pentagon has decided against battlefield cremations of any U.S. troops who might be killed by biological agents in a war with Iraq, and it would instead ship such bodies home for burial, a senior defense official said yesterday. "There are no plans for cremation, or incineration, or deep-pit burial, or anything of that sort," Assistant Defense Secretary William Winkenwerder told reporters. "It is our policy that all such service members would be transported back to the United States."

Winkenwerder was responding to questions about recent Pentagon discussions over whether to cremate corpses contaminated by possibly contagious biological agents in any attack on U.S. troops.

The United States says Iraq has stockpiles of chemical and biological agents and might unleash them in any invasion. Baghdad says no such stocks exist.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A23117-2003Mar13.html>

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Wall Street Journal
March 14, 2003

Wonder Land

Terror's Truth: Saddam Will Shop Till He Drops

By Daniel Henninger

"I believe the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction presents the greatest threat that the world has ever known. We are finding more and more countries who are acquiring technology -- not only missile technology -- and are developing chemical weapons and biological weapons capabilities to be used in theater and also on a long-range basis. So I think that is perhaps the greatest threat that any of us will face in the coming years."

Who said that? Donald Rumsfeld? Dick Cheney? Richard Perle? Rush Limbaugh?

No, this Cassandra was Bill Cohen, the moderate par excellence, at his 1997 confirmation hearings to be Bill Clinton's defense secretary.

"Proliferation" -- that word, and what it means, is arguably the central character in this grand drama called the war with Iraq. Learn what there is to know about proliferation and one will never doubt Bill Cohen's warning about "the greatest threat the world has ever known." Saddam Hussein's Iraq, since the 1980s, has defined proliferation.

Simply put, proliferation is the desire by someone to buy and the willingness of someone else to sell one piece of the great many pieces needed to create a weapon of mass destruction. But no matter how mortal the danger, it is an activity about which the broad public has little if any awareness. Proliferation, though real, exists like an alternative universe of public policy, a province of concern inhabited only by the nerds and gnomes who track its progress, and then testify to Congress about the civilized world's failure to stop it.

In our so-called Information Age, someone has grossly failed to inform. Were the who, what and how of global WMD proliferation as well known as what is on the mind of the French foreign minister, the average person would be better able to decide whether he or she truly opposes militarily disarming Iraq, sooner rather than later.

Proliferation, for all its lethality, flies beneath the radar screen because its component parts have virtually no major news value. It never shows itself as some great dramatic act, like Pakistan or India conducting a nuclear test

explosion, which galvanizes the world's (temporary) interest. The proliferation of a single weapon of mass destruction occurs slowly, silently and largely unfelt, like throat cancer.

For an Iraq, Iran, Sudan or Syria to build a nuclear weapon or create biological weapons, it needs contacts across the illicit world-wide market in diamond-cutting tools, powder-metallurgy production lines, plasma spray machines (to prevent corrosion of a nuclear weapon's parts), "clean rooms" for assembly, O-rings, sealing rings, gyroscopes, accelerometers, turbopumps, injectors -- and know-how. It's a full-time job to buy, steal and smuggle every last piece of physical equipment or substance needed for Ph.Ds threatened with death to assemble these doomsday machines.

The Clinton Defense Department, in its 1997 proliferation report (largely restated by the Rumsfeld DoD in a similar 2001 report) said, "North Korea operates a complex, integrated network of trading companies, brokers, shippers, and banks that facilitate NBC [nuclear, biological, chemical] weapon and ballistic missile-related trade. This trade involves complete systems, components, manufacturing and test equipment, and technology." China and entities in the chaotic former Soviet Union also proliferate means and knowledge.

So does Ukraine. Ukraine was in the proliferation game with Iraq a mere two years back. In April 2001 Interfax-Ukraine described the "Iraq-Ukraine New Millennium" exhibition in Kharkiv. According to the report's awkward translation, the two sides explored the sale of "turbine supplies and construction of turbine manufacturing plant, boiler supplies, deliveries of tires, fertilizers and other." And: "Physicians who were among the delegation have shown the scope of Ukraine-made medical equipment." A Ukrainian official said none of the agreements violated U.N. sanctions. "This was a huge humanitarian and political action," said Ukraine's point man, Yuri Orshansky. In testimony to the U.S. Senate in 2001, Jonathan Tucker of the Monterey Institute of International Studies said, "Evidence from open sources indicates that roughly 13 countries are actively seeking biological weapons and closer to 20 are pursuing chemical warfare capabilities."

At ground level, proliferation works as you might expect, and was described in a 2001 paper, published in Commentary, by the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control. "Here is how the system works. Suppose an Iraqi site needs a new computer-controlled machine tool, one especially capable of making the high-precision parts needed for long-range missiles or nuclear weapons. Since such a purchase would be vetoed at the United Nations, the order goes instead to a middleman in Jordan. The middleman contacts the manufacturer, who cannot export to Iraq without the approval of the U.N. but is perfectly free to export to Jordan, unhampered by any embargo. The machine goes to the free-trade port of Aqaba, where the middleman -- listed falsely as the final user -- loads it on a truck and illegally sends it to Iraq." The same paper also reported on a Ukraine-like parts mission from Iraq to Belarus in 1995, whose purchases also transshipped through Aqaba. Iraq also hooked up with proliferation sources in Romania.

"Contain" Iraq? Contain the tides. Even the White House misleads the American people by suggesting that if Saddam "fully" disarms, there will be no war. It knows the truth about proliferation's global addictions. Saddam will re-arm, and re-arm again, so long as oil flows beneath his feet.

The reality and implications of WMD proliferation are difficult to come to grips with. Do nothing? No serious person suggests that. Plug the dikes? It will merely roll forward a very dark day. The pre-emptive, overwhelming elimination of this functioning, relentless proliferation empire would inform Iran, North Korea, China, Russia and Saddam's two primary suppliers in the 1980s, Germany and France, that even in a world of cynicism and fear, there is a point beyond which you may not go. And that there remains one country willing to say so, convincingly.

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Washington Times
March 14, 2003
Pg. 1

Problems Persist In Iranian City Hit By Mustard Gas In '87

By Joyce Howard Price, The Washington Times

Hundreds of residents of Sardasht — a city of 12,000 in northwestern Iran — still battle breathing problems as a result of exposure to Iraqi sulfur mustard warheads more than 15 years ago, according to a new report by Iranian researchers published in a U.S. medical journal.

The researchers examined the immediate as well as the long-term effects of an Iraqi chemical attack on a small town in Iran in July 1987, when the two nations were at war.

The report, which appeared this week in the Journal of Burns, an online publication, comes as the United States prepares to go to war with Iraq to remove Saddam Hussein and all chemical and biological weapons in his country's possession, as well as any nuclear weapons it may be developing.

There are concerns that the Iraqi dictator, who also led his country during its conflict with Iran in the 1980s, might use chemical agents or other weapons of mass destruction to retaliate in the event of a U.S.-led strike.

Dr. Stephen Milner, editor of the journal, said in a telephone interview that there were several reasons for publishing the peer-reviewed study, which can be found online at www.journalofburns.com.

"We're trying to publish articles that are relevant," said Dr. Milner, given that war with Iraq appears to be inching closer.

In addition, "This was the first time since World War I that there had been a long-term study of the effects of mustard gas. So this study is very significant," said Dr. Milner, who also is an associate professor of medicine at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

The Iran study, conducted by four researchers at the Baqiyatallah Medical Science University in Tehran, is titled: "Public Health Status of the Civil Population of Sardasht 15 Years Following Large-Scale Wartime Exposure to Sulfur Mustard."

The researchers say sulfur mustard (SM) is a "chemical weapon which has been employed with devastating results against both military and civilian targets, most recently by Iraqi forces in campaigns against their own civilian population."

They describe SM as a compound that can harm cells even at low exposure levels. They say the genetic damage it can inflict, in the form of mutations and chromosomal alterations, has been demonstrated in an insect study, and that "substantial carcinogenic potential [has been] revealed by animal studies."

They say SM was used by Iraq in its aerial attack on Sardasht. "Four 250 kg bombs [each 551 pounds] with sulfur mustard warheads [released by MiG fighter-bombers] impacted in the city center causing numerous deaths and long-term chronic illnesses among survivors," they said.

An estimated 4,500 people — more than a third of the city's population — was exposed to the toxic chemical.

Volunteers and local medical teams initiated rescue efforts as soon as the attack ended.

"Unfortunately, the emergency medical response had been under way approximately two hours prior to the decontamination of the area by the Iranian military. Hence, many of the rescuers also sustained SM exposure," the researchers revealed.

They said their study examined incidences of disease and mortality rates "among a representative cross-section of mustard-exposed subjects, including 355 survivors and 108 deceased individuals."

Records confirming level of exposure and medical complications of survivors were available for 735 survivors, but only 355 participated in the study.

Of the 108 exposed victims who died, 93 died in the first month of exposure, they said. "The majority of victims succumbed during the first two weeks, with some residual deaths during the next 13 years," the authors wrote.

They said all deaths in the first two weeks after exposure were from "respiratory failure caused by the pulmonary effects of sulfur mustard and [blood infection] secondary to infections resulting from chemical injury to lungs and other tissues."

Among the 355 survivors who participated, pulmonary impairment was the "most common complication," the research paper said. All survivors had long-term respiratory problems: 75 percent had mild, 15 percent had moderate and 10 percent had severe respiratory illnesses, according to the report.

The researchers said studies of U.S. servicemen exposed to mustard gas during World War I also found that respiratory disorders were the most common chronic health problem among survivors. Difficulties included shortness of breath, coughing, chest tightness and bronchitis.

But Dr. Milner, also director of the regional burn unit in Southern Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky, also noted that mustard gas can do severe damage to the skin and eyes. He said that the researchers intend to focus on those problems in a follow-up report.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20030314-89227400.htm>

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Iraq to Submit VX Report on Friday - Source

By REUTERS

Filed at 2:30 p.m. ET

BAGHDAD, Iraq (Reuters) - Iraq will send a report on its disposal of VX nerve agent to chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix on Friday and will submit a report on anthrax a few days later, a diplomatic source said. With the U.N. Security Council still bitterly divided over U.S. and British war plans, Iraqi technicians destroyed three more banned al-Samoud missiles Thursday as U.N. weapons inspectors watched, taking the total scrapped to 61.

But a U.N. inspector with a chemical weapons team died after his car collided with a truck as he returned from a separate mission south of the capital Baghdad. U.N. officials said there was "nothing suspicious" in the accident. "The Iraqis are sending the report on the VX to the United Nations chief weapons inspector tomorrow," the diplomatic source told reporters in Baghdad. "The anthrax report will be submitted in a few days by the Iraqis." Blix asked Iraq to submit full reports on VX and anthrax to support their assertions that the weapons were destroyed after the 1991 Gulf War.

The United States and Britain, which have threatened to invade Iraq, say Baghdad has failed to account for all its VX and anthrax production.

Baghdad denies possessing weapons of mass destruction, and says it is cooperating fully with the United Nations. Hiro Ueki, spokesman for U.N. weapons inspectors in Baghdad, had no immediate information on the VX report. The United Nations has been unable to account for VX and anthrax Baghdad says it destroyed. Iraq has said it lost documentation on the destruction, and asked inspectors to estimate the amounts from the size of the contaminated areas.

The inspectors asked Iraq to provide documents to back up its claims, and for interviews with all scientists and workers present at the destruction sites.

The diplomatic source said one of the scientists was interviewed by inspectors with the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, or UNMOVIC, on Wednesday.

MORE MISSILES SCRAPPED

U.N. inspectors supervised the scrapping of three more missiles in a program Washington has denounced as a charade.

Iraqi officials said U.N. inspectors traveled to eight suspect arms sites, including Taji military base 25 miles north of Baghdad, where 61 al-Samoud missiles have been destroyed since March 1.

Ueki said Iraqi technicians destroyed three more missiles, seven warheads and 22 fin-shaped tails. More components were destroyed at the al-Aziziyeh site, he said.

The inspectors visited other sites and were granted immediate access despite the Ashoura Muslim public holiday. Before the destruction began, Iraq had an estimated 120 al-Samoud missiles with a range exceeding U.N. limits. Iraq, meanwhile, rejected British proposals to set Iraq disarmament tasks, dismissing them as "an aggressive plan for war."

Foreign Minister Naji Sabri said the proposals, an attempt to rally the Security Council behind an ultimatum to Iraq, sought to "personalize" the standoff by demanding action from Saddam in person.

France, one of many states saying the inspectors should have more time to disarm Iraq peacefully, dismissed the proposals.

Britain said on Thursday it might drop a demand that Saddam should say on television he would give up hidden weapons of mass destruction, if that would secure agreement.

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/international/international-iraq-inspectors.html>

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Posted 3/13/2003 9:46 AM

Researchers: Bio-terror sensors show promising results

TULSA (AP) — Preliminary tests of a sensor cluster that could detect biological, chemical and explosive agents has shown promising results, researchers at Oklahoma State University said Wednesday.

The university recently tested a "multinose" sensor for the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism at Nomadics, a Stillwater-based technology and research firm partnering with OSU, Dr. Ken Clinkenbeard told the *Tulsa World*.

"The explosion detection is good and the chemical detection is good, but the biological sensor needs work even though it worked," Clinkenbeard said of the triple-sensing feature of the experimental device.

Clinkenbeard, a faculty member of the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine, who is leading one of several research teams, cited security reasons for not commenting on the type of biological agents being tested.

Nomadics program manager Robert Hilley said the OSU-Nomadics team is testing surrogate agents that effectively reduce the risk in handling such agents while still maintaining a molecular structure that can be detected by the experimental sensors.

"At this point we are proving the concepts of our research and the device is detecting levels (of agents) well below what would be a lethal dose of any chemical or biological agent," Hilley said of the accuracy of the biosensor. The experimental test sensors are enclosed in an 18-inch, oblong box with openings for the sensors to do their work. While the experimental model can be handheld, researchers are working on a smaller version of the device, which could give OSU a competitive edge in the nationwide race to produce the next generation of biosensors, said Nomadics researcher Martin Leuschen.

"The complaint that we have heard the most often is that first responders don't want to cart around multiple instruments or bulky instruments," Leuschen said.

Founded in 1995, Nomadics employs 71 people and has an annual revenue of about \$7 million, Hilley said.

Nomadics focuses on the creation of small, lightweight, portable instruments and related products.

A usable biosensor that would aid the U.S. government in its efforts to thwart terrorist acts is still two years away, Clinkenbeard said.

Congress has increased research funding for its homeland security initiative in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The initiative includes money for sensors that can be used in airports, train stations, water sources and air ducts.

OSU is slated to get \$19 million in state funding that will be matched with federal funding for bio-sensor and explosives detection research. OSU is on course to garner about \$40 million in antiterrorism funding that reaches back to the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

OSU has taken a multidisciplinary approach to the development of biosensors and products that can stop or mitigate a chemical or biological attack. In addition to veterinary medicine, OSU researchers from physics, chemistry and various engineering disciplines are also involved.

http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techinnovations/2003-03-13-bio-sensor_x.htm

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