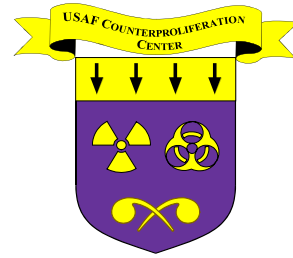


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# CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL



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Washington Post

April 15, 2003

Pg. 1

## **As Iraqis Flee To Syria, U.S. Nets Scientist**

By Dana Priest, Washington Post Staff Writer

Numerous senior Iraqi officials have fled into Syria over the last two weeks, with some moving on to two third countries and "a handful" still in hiding in Syria, a senior Bush administration official said yesterday. They include Iraq's top nuclear scientist, who turned himself in to U.S. authorities over the past several days after making his way to another Persian Gulf country.

Jaffar Dhai Jaffar, who founded and led Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons program and was one of deposed Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's three top science advisers, could provide valuable information about the status of Iraq's proscribed weapons programs. Another senior official said Jaffar is in U.S. military custody at an undisclosed location in the Gulf region.

Jaffar and Lt. Gen. Amir Saadi, an Iraqi scientist who surrendered to U.S. troops Saturday in Baghdad, "know, between the two of them, everything about the country's nuclear, biological, chemical and missile programs," said David Albright, a former U.N. weapons inspector who is now president of the Institute for Science and International Security. Jaffar, he added, "is the best scientist Iraq ever produced."

U.S. intelligence officials confirmed Albright's view of Jaffar but said he had not yet proved helpful under U.S. questioning. If he cooperates, one official said, "he could tell us the whereabouts" of prohibited weapons as well as the countries or groups that supplied Iraq with weapons components and knowledge.

U.S. troops have not found chemical or biological weapons, or nuclear weapons components, in Iraq, although the presence of such weapons was cited by President Bush as one of the main justifications for the war.

As the hunt for members of the ousted Iraqi government continued, the fate of most of them, including Hussein, remained a mystery. One senior official said yesterday that U.S. intelligence reports seem to indicate the former Iraqi president "was more dead than alive," though the official added there was no absolute evidence that would prove it. "There are all sorts of reports saying he's dead," the official said.

U.S. military teams have begun digging through a complex in southern Baghdad that was the target of an airstrike by U.S. Tomahawk cruise missiles and 2,000-pound bunker-penetrating bombs on March 20, the first night of the war. CIA officials believed Hussein and his sons were spending the night at the complex and did not exit before the bombs hit, though there were conflicting reports in the weeks that followed over whether the Iraqi leader had been killed or wounded or had escaped unharmed.

On April 7, U.S. warplanes struck a building in the upscale Mansour neighborhood of Baghdad, where intelligence officials received what they said was a reliable tip that a man who matched Hussein's description was holding a meeting with senior Iraqi intelligence officials. It remains unclear whether any Iraqi leaders were at the site.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and other Pentagon officials have charged for several days that Syria was allowing Iraqi leaders to cross the border to escape. U.S. officials yesterday were not precise about how many Iraqi officials have fled to Syria, though a defense official said Hussein's wife is believed to be among them.

The official said that a large convoy of several dozen vehicles crossed into Syria from Iraq during the first week of the war and that it is believed to have been carrying Hussein's wife and other government officials.

"There's certainly a lot of circumstantial evidence that absolutely high-level people are there," an administration official said. However, there is no conclusive list of Iraqi officials in Syria because the intelligence is inconclusive. "We have scraps of information," another senior official said.

Two weeks ago, U.S. troops began blocking the main roads out of Iraq to Syria, but the 375-mile-long border includes hundreds of small roads used for decades by smugglers to move contraband goods. "We still don't control all the back roads," said one administration official. "They could still escape that way."

The two Iraqi scientists now in U.S. custody amount to "a very good catch," said Khidhir Hamza, the head of Iraq's nuclear weapons program until he fled the country in 1994. Jaffar, in particular, "is a very well-connected member of the cabinet," he said.

In his book, "Saddam's Bombmaker," Hamza describes Jaffar as "a willowy genius" Hussein arrested and jailed in 1979 for questioning Iraq's nuclear weapons program.

"To give him a taste of what could come," Hamza wrote, "Jaffar was strapped to a dungeon wall and forced to watch as other men were tortured," including a colleague, Hussein Shahrstani. Jaffar "recanted and returned to work."

Officially, Jaffar headed Iraq's nuclear program only until 1991, when he dropped out of sight. It is believed he then "launched Iraq's underground nuclear program," Albright said.

Saadi, who worked in the Iraqi chemical weapons program in the 1980s and 1990s under Hussein's son-in-law, last year became the main liaison with U.N. weapons inspectors. Upon his surrender, Saadi told a German television network that Iraq no longer possessed weapons of mass destruction, a position he maintained before the war in his contacts with the U.N. inspection teams.

The Bush administration charged this year that Iraq had secretly reconstituted its nuclear weapons program, although the evidence it used to make its case -- mainly the purchase of special aluminum tubes to make gas centrifuges -- was disputed by other intelligence agencies that believed the tubes were mainly for civilian use.

*Staff writer Jonathan Weisman contributed to this report.*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A26442-2003Apr14.html>

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Washington Times  
April 15, 2003  
Pg. 20

## **Army Probes Buried Trailers**

*Called chemical, biological lab*

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

U.S. Army forces have discovered 11 large containers with equipment inside that appear to be elements of Iraq's covert mobile chemical and biological weapons program.

The vessels, described as modified container express, or conex, trailers, were found buried near Karbala, about 50 miles south of Baghdad. The site was near a weapons plant, defense and military officials said.

The containers, also called vans, were discovered by troops of the 101st Airborne Division. The Army's 75th Intelligence Exploitation Unit was sent to the site to examine the containers.

"Obviously this shows that they [Saddam Hussein's government] were pursuing a covert weapons program," one official said. "We still need actual proof of the weapons themselves."

Army Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, deputy director of operations for the Joint Staff, said the vans are being investigated "very seriously."

Gen. McChrystal told reporters at the Pentagon that other suspected chemical weapons found last week have not proved to be weapons. Other samples are still being investigated.

The 20-foot by 20-foot metal containers can be attached to trucks or rail cars. In addition to the containers, some 1,000 pounds of documents were discovered at the site.

"Initial reports indicate that this is clearly a case of denial and deception on the part of the Iraqi government," Army Brig. Gen. Benjamin Freakly told CNN in Karbala. "These chemical labs are present, and now we just have to determine what in fact they were really being used for."

Gen. Freakly described the containers as "dual-use, chemical and biological."

The mobile laboratories contained an estimated \$1 million worth of new equipment and were "clearly marked so they could be found again," he said.

"These chemical labs are present, and now we just have to determine what in fact they were really being used for," Gen. Freakly said.

Iraq's mobile weapons vans were an element of a highly detailed intelligence briefing presented to the United Nations in February by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, who called mobile weapons facilities "one of the most worrisome things" about Iraq's arms programs.

Mr. Powell said intelligence on the vans was obtained from several Iraqis, including an Iraqi chemical engineer in 2000 who supervised a mobile production facility for biological and chemical weapons.

"He actually was present during biological agent production runs," Mr. Powell said Feb. 5. "He was also at the site when an accident occurred in 1998. Twelve technicians died from exposure to biological agents."

At least 18 of the vans were thought to be hidden in Iraq, Mr. Powell said.

"The trucks and train cars are easily moved and are designed to evade detection by inspectors," he said. "In a matter of months, they can produce a quantity of biological poison equal to the entire amount that Iraq claimed to have produced in the years prior to the Gulf war."

United Nations weapons inspectors sent to Iraq earlier this year were unable to find any mobile facilities for banned weapons.

Weapons inspectors visited the site where the containers were found on Feb. 23. It was known as the Karbala Ammunition Filling Plant.

Chief U.N. arms inspector Hans Blix dismissed the U.S. claims about the mobile facilities on March 7.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20030415-87947820.htm>

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New York Times  
April 16, 2003

## **North Koreans And U.S. Plan Talks In Beijing Next Week**

By David E. Sanger

WASHINGTON, April 15 — President Bush has approved a plan for the United States to begin negotiations with North Korea in Beijing next week, the first talks between the countries since the government of Kim Jong Il threw out international inspectors and restarted its main nuclear weapons plant, United States and Asian officials said today.

White House officials refused to comment on the negotiations. But officials in several countries said China has promised the United States that it will act as a full participant in the talks rather than just convening them. The Chinese had hoped to conduct the initial meetings in secret, officials said.

The agreement to enter the negotiations with both China and the United States marks a major concession for North Korea and an apparent victory for President Bush. Mr. Bush's strategy of not engaging in one-on-one talks with North Korea had been widely criticized by Asian allies and by many Korea experts.

North Korea, in turn, had insisted on talking only with Washington, a reflection, experts said, of its obsession with being treated as an equal.

Mr. Bush refused, insisting that the North Korean nuclear program was a major problem for all of northeast Asia. He argued that if the United States negotiated alone, North Korea would try to split Washington from its Asian allies, who would pressure the United States to strike a deal on North Korea's terms.

But by keeping the Japanese, the South Koreans and the Russians out of the room next week, the North can make the argument that only one other nation — one that has served as the North's economic lifeline — is involved.

"This is what the traffic would bear," a senior American official familiar with the secret negotiations with the North said tonight.

The official described the participation of the Chinese as a breakthrough. "What's new here is that there is an active, bold participatory role for the Chinese," the official said. China's agreement to take on such a role began to take shape in the last days of former President Jiang Zemin's government. His successor, Hu Jintao, has continued Mr. Jiang's approach after becoming president last month.

China briefly cut off North Korea's oil last month, after what the Chinese called a technical problem. But the move was interpreted by American officials as a warning to the North about the price of intransigence.

The senior American official said tonight that the United States "reserved the right" to bring in other nations as the talks progressed. Japanese and South Korean officials, while initially unhappy at being excluded, said tonight they were promised by the administration that they would be updated daily on the talks and would help forge negotiating positions.

The negotiating position that the United States and its allies take will be an early test of America's strained relations with South Korea, whose new president, Roh Moo Hyun, has vowed to accelerate a policy of trade and engagement with the North. Mr. Roh visits the United States for the first time next month.

The American envoy conducting the talks next week will be James A. Kelly, the assistant secretary of state for Asia. Mr. Kelly visited the North's capital, Pyongyang, last October and told North Korea that United States intelligence agencies had caught the country building a clandestine uranium-production facility.

To Mr. Kelly's surprise, the North Koreans said they broke out of their nuclear "freeze" because the United States had threatened the country when Mr. Bush named North Korea as part of the "axis of evil." But the North's effort to secretly import uranium-enriching technology, intelligence officials say, began when Mr. Bush was governor of Texas.

In the six months since the United States and North Korea last met, the North Koreans ejected inspectors, withdrew from the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and restarted the plutonium reprocessing facility that was frozen under a 1994 agreement with the United States.

They also tried to force down an American intelligence-gathering plane over international waters, though the senior official said tonight that "they have made it clear we won't see that again" while negotiations are under way.

As described by officials from the United States, Japan and South Korea today, the outlines of the agreement for next week's talks were struck before the war in Iraq started. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell traveled on Feb. 24 to Beijing, where the Chinese tried to persuade him to engage in one-on-one talks with North Korea. At a second meeting at the United Nations, on March 7, "we persuaded the Chinese" that Mr. Bush would never agree to those conditions, the American official said.

The next day, a very senior Chinese official — it is unclear who — told North Korea's leaders that they had no choice but to accede to Mr. Bush's demands, several officials said.

American officials said that in their talks with the Chinese, they did not explicitly say that any deal would be impossible if the North Koreans began producing weapons. "But we said that obviously, as we go through this, the entire political environment would be totally contaminated if missiles started flying or reprocessing started," the senior official said.

American officials have gone to some lengths to keep the approaching negotiations from becoming public: both Mr. Powell and Ari Fleischer, the White House press secretary, said in separate comments today that the United States was continuing to talk to its allies.

There is no assurance that the talks themselves will succeed at anything other than slowing the North's progress. In the late 1990's it took part in multilateral talks, but withdrew..

Yet some Bush administration officials suspect that the North will not trade away its entire nuclear program, for fear that it would lose all its leverage. "They may be just testing us out with these talks," another official said. "If they don't get as much as they want, perhaps they think they can go ahead with their programs. But the environment is changing."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/16/international/worldspecial/16KORE.html>

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New York Times

April 16, 2003

## **U.S. Civilian Experts Say Bureaucracy And Infighting Jeopardize Search For Weapons**

By William J. Broad

Civilian experts recruited by the United States to hunt for unconventional weapons in Iraq say bureaucratic confusion and infighting have delayed their effort to a point that the search itself may be compromised.

The experts are part of a team of 40 to 60 people, both Americans and foreigners, whose mission is to follow the military's initial searches with more exhaustive ones. Many are scientists who formerly worked in Iraq for the United Nations and are considered experts on Iraqi arms.

So far, some of them say, the military's search efforts seem superficial and misguided. "They're going to blow it," one would-be inspector said. "That's the concern of a number of us."

This expert, and about half a dozen other would-be inspectors, spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear that they could be dropped from the team if they speak out publicly. They said they wanted to go to Iraq to help uncover illicit weapons they believe are still there, but well hidden.

Another expert called the military effort naïve. "They're reinventing the wheel," he said. "It doesn't seem to be a well-executed plan."

Defense Department officials in Washington, while conceding some missteps, defended the military hunt as sound. They said that no date had been set to send civilian inspectors in, but that the main reason for delaying them was concern for their safety. "We don't want to risk them before we know it's safe to go in," one official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

At least two kinds of military arms hunters are already at work in Iraq. Troops on the front lines have detectors to identify suspected deadly germs, chemicals and sources of radioactivity. Behind them is the 75th Exploitation Task Force, a large unit with better skills and equipment, including mobile laboratories.

The next wave, the civilian inspectors, is to be made up of the best scientists and experts the government can find. "What we're trying to set up is a more muscular organization to go in with even more talent," the military official said. "They're the high-quality expertise meant to tell the difference between Saddam's strategic talcum-powder reserve or the anthrax."

Some of the civilians attributed their delayed training and departure to bureaucratic ineptitude and infighting among the nation's military and security agencies. As a result, they say, morale among inspection team members has fallen as doubts rise about the effort's chances for success.

"It's been known for some time that this has to go and it's not moving," one expert said of the civilian effort. He added that recent reports from Iraq told of an important archive that was uncovered and its papers scattered to the wind.

"That's an important part of the picture," he said. "Now it's gone."

Several expressed frustration that the Bush administration had cited the need to disarm Iraq as the main reason for the invasion, yet so far had offered no firm evidence of chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

The civilians said the bureaucratic troubles seemed to center on two Pentagon agencies, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. At times, they said, the agencies stumbled over each other; they spoke of getting calls from a changing cast of characters, some seeming to be poorly informed.

“I said, ‘What’s the schedule?’ “ one civilian recalled. “They couldn’t answer, so I said, ‘Sorry, I’ve got commitments.’ “

Another said, “You get the impression that no one is in charge.”

Some speculated that the speed of the war may have combined with bureaucratic red tape to produce an untimely start. Members of the military can be ordered to report for inspection duty, but civilians need contracts, pay, flight schedules and logistical aid.

The civilians said a White House expert, Col. Robert P. Kadlec of the Air Force, was trying to untie bureaucratic knots and get the operation moving faster. He did not respond to a message left at his office.

Pentagon officials said the civilians were overreacting out of frustration that the military got into Iraq first. They added that the two Pentagon agencies had distinct roles: the civilian effort is organized by the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Threat Reduction Agency is in charge of destroying any unconventional arms that are discovered. For the civilian team, the Iraq Survey Group, the government is drawing mainly from the ranks of former United Nations inspectors in Iraq, including ones who worked for the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, known as Unmovic, and its predecessor, the United Nations Special Commission.

Ewen Buchanan, a spokesman for Unmovic, said it had trained more than 300 inspectors to go to Iraq and that about 110 actually went before the war started. He added that except in a few cases, his agency had no systematic way of knowing which inspectors the administration had sought out.

“There were two Americans on the New York staff who were approached and said, ‘No thank you,’ “ Mr. Buchanan recalled. The United Nations insists that it still has legal authority to disarm Iraq.

Pentagon officials said the civilian inspectors were to go far beyond the military’s efforts in hunting for chemical, biological and nuclear arms and their delivery systems. The period that civilians will spend in Iraq, officials added, will be open-ended, depending on what is found.

The idea for the civilian team originated last year when Central Command planned the war, military officials said. They added that efforts to organize it had accelerated in the last two months.

The civilians go to Fort Benning, Ga., for vaccinations and refresher training in how to conduct the hunt for Iraq’s unconventional weapons. Last Sunday, officials said, 20 civilians flew to Fort Benning, and more are scheduled to go.

Military officials said they had 30 to 40 former United Nations weapons inspectors in the pipeline for Iraq and that they were trying to locate another 20 to ask them to sign up. All told, they added, some 1,000 military personnel and civilians will probably be involved in the search.

The civilians and military officials both said foreign experts would be part of the American team. “We’re certainly looking for their help,” the military official said, adding that at the very least British experts would be among the specialists.

The official said that an advance team for the inspectors was already working hard in the Middle East to make arrangements for their arrival. “Believe me, we’re going to work them,” he said of the civilian team. “Things are happening that they’re not aware of.”

The military inspection teams have already hit the beach, he added, “and the next wave is getting ready to climb into the landing craft.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/16/international/worldspecial/16WEAP.html>

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USA Today  
April 16, 2003  
Pg. 5

## **Iraq Scoured For Signs Of Banned Arms**

*U.S. knows evidence key to credibility*

By Peter Eisler and Cesar G. Soriano, USA Today

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is pouring thousands of troops and hundreds of thousands of dollars in reward money into its effort to uncover chemical, biological and nuclear weapons in the Iraqi arsenal.

With most of Iraq firmly under U.S. control, the Bush administration faces mounting pressure to prove its claims that Saddam Hussein’s regime was stockpiling illegal weapons of mass destruction. The search for those weapons is intensifying, bolstered by new leads and additional personnel:

\*An entire artillery brigade, typically comprising 3,000-5,000 soldiers, has been retrained to secure and examine sites suspected of holding banned weapons. Soldiers work in small teams with a variety of testing equipment.

\*The Pentagon will pay rewards up to \$200,000 for help in finding Iraqi leaders or chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. Field officers may offer up to \$2,500, as well as food and other incentives. Senior officials must approve larger awards.

\*U.S. troops continue to search for and inspect facilities at more than 100 sites identified in intelligence reports as possible locations for secret weapons caches. Many of the teams include personnel with special training in chemical and biological arms.

In recent weeks, U.S. troops have found several suspected chemical or biological weapons sites. But extensive testing of materials from those sites has yet to confirm the presence of any illegal weapons.

President Bush often cited Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction as a reason for war. The administration's international credibility, particularly in Arab states and among U.S. allies that oppose the war, rests largely on proving that Iraq hid illegal arms.

U.S. officials remain certain they will find banned weapons. They note that the search couldn't begin in earnest until most of the fighting was over. And they caution that the hunt will take time, citing Iraq's history of hiding illegal weapons from international inspectors.

"We are beginning to get more and more pieces of information that have to be joined together in this mosaic ... to find out really what the picture is," Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks of U.S. Central Command said Tuesday in Qatar. "The efforts to try to hide are very deliberate, and they have been ongoing for a number of years ... so I think we have to be very patient."

One tip led a U.S. team to a Baghdad house Tuesday where they discovered weapons and a laboratory. Troops said they seized instructions for making chemical and biological agents. They also found bombs hidden in a pill bottle, a telephone and an umbrella.

But there are no guarantees that this lead will bear fruit. Last week, U.S. troops unearthed large shipping containers full of lab equipment. Tests on the buried equipment found no traces of chemical or biological agents, officials say.

The key, officials say, will be getting Iraqis to help in the search. In the past week, two top Iraqi scientists surrendered to U.S. troops: Lt. Gen. Amer al-Saadi, Saddam's top science adviser; and Jaffar al-Jaffer, a nuclear expert. It's unclear whether either is cooperating.

If evidence of chemical or biological weapons is found, samples are sent for further analysis to the Army's chemical and biological defense lab at Aberdeen, Md. Tests at the lab can take up to three days, says Miguel Morales of the Army's Soldier and Biological Chemical Command. "We have to be sure to do it right, because we want it to hold up on the international level."

The sanctity of the tests is important because of doubts, especially in Arab countries, about U.S. claims that Iraq maintained illegal weapons. United Nations officials have called for more international involvement in weapons searches.

Brooks said Tuesday that U.S. forces will continue to search independently for Iraqi weapons. "When things are found," he added, "we certainly would intend to keep that as open as possible."

U.N. inspectors concluded in recent years that Iraq failed to account for large stocks of chemical agents, including VX and sarin nerve gases. They also documented Iraqi efforts to produce large quantities of anthrax and botulinum toxin. There has been far less evidence for U.S. claims that Iraq had an illegal nuclear program.

Saddam's regime had insisted its chemical and biological programs were dismantled and the arms destroyed. But it offered no proof.

*Eisler reported from Washington, Soriano from Qatar. Contributing: Wire reports.*

<http://www.usatoday.com/usatoday/20030416/5073725s.htm>

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Wall Street Journal

April 16, 2003

## The Weapons Hunt

By Therese Delpech

PARIS -- There is a famous Soviet joke about the impossibility of being right: Workers who arrived early at the workplace were accused of espionage, those who arrived late were guilty of sabotage, and those who got there on time were despised for petty bourgeois conformism.

As the war in Iraq winds down, something similar is happening in the debate over weapons of mass destruction. An early discovery by coalition forces would have proven that operational intelligence was not provided to international inspectors, late findings would show that evidence has been planted by the CIA, while no discovery of proscribed weapons would ruin the main justification of the war.

Is it worth arguing in this lose-lose situation? Yes, for more reasons than one.

The fate of Saddam Hussein's weapons stockpile is more of a strategic issue than a political one. As long as credible answers are not available to the questions posed by U.N. inspector teams over the past dozen years, there can be no confidence that Iraq is free of biological and chemical weapons. This is a problem not only for the Anglo-American coalition, but even more so for Iraq's neighbors, who are less confident than many Western observers that Iraq is "clean."

Ironically enough, the greatest pressure to find the alleged weapons stockpile now comes from people and countries that never believed in the legitimacy of the war in the first place. So any finding -- early or late -- will hardly change their views. But no finding may also harden more balanced observers into critics. Aware of the political significance, the U.S. and Britain should handle the search for these weapons and their international verification with great care.

No firm conclusions can be drawn from the results of searches made by coalition forces so far. The first priority of the military intervention was to reach Baghdad and to defeat Saddam. As a consequence, teams of experts embedded in the coalition forces and looking for weapons have been working hastily, most of the time in warfare conditions, and they were not fully familiar with all the data accumulated for more than a decade on the subject. This remains true even though some Unscm inspectors appear to be already present in Iraq.

The number of sites to be visited is said to be as large as 1,000, and only 100 have reportedly been visited so far. Where the characteristics of what has been found are unclear, the verification method is slow and cumbersome, with first analysis on site performed by mobile facilities and secondary checks in national labs.

Unconventional threats were undoubtedly part of this war. Troops had all been vaccinated against anthrax and smallpox and were wearing, in their 450-mile journey, protective suits that they would certainly have preferred to leave at home, given the heat of the Iraqi desert. Masks were available in a matter of seconds.

The stated objective being regime change, the likelihood of a no-holds-barred war was much higher than in 1991. Beyond that, Iraqi conventional forces were only about 40% as effective as they were during the Gulf War, making conventional defense all that much more difficult. But there was more to the fear than that: Iraq imported huge quantities of antidotes against nerve agents just before the war, raising obvious questions about possible stocks of Iraqi WMD.

Moreover, even the unsatisfactory declaration that Iraq submitted to Hans Blix's team on Dec. 7, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1441, acknowledged the existence of a huge chemical warfare simulation program.

This was seen by many in military establishments as a message not so much to Mr. Blix -- since such a simulation program was not barred -- as it was to the Pentagon. American troops will face unconventional attacks if they dare enter the country, the Iraqis essentially said. Also, a special chain of command used by Iraqi authorities to give orders related to unconventional weapons reportedly was activated at the beginning of the war.

In the last five months of inspections, inspectors found about 10 undeclared chemical-capable rocket warheads, a few mustard-filled bombs already declared to Unscm, remnants of about 100 R400 bombs developed for chemical and biological weapons purposes, and some undeclared drones. Associated UNMOVIC teams succeeded in destroying about 75 al Samoud-2 missiles before leaving the country. But compared to all the outstanding issues, the pace of "discoveries" was very slow indeed because of the incomplete Iraqi declaration.

Naturally, the question arises of why unconventional weapons have not been used during the war? Some experts believe that Saddam's desire to be perceived as a "victim" -- a rather difficult role for one of the bloodiest dictators in history -- led to a deliberate "no-use" policy.

But other explanations should also be considered. U.S. deterrence -- which included threatening Iraqi field commanders before the war that they would be held accountable individually in case of WMD-use -- may have worked. The coalition had contemplated a number of scenarios for possible Iraqi chemical attacks, including strikes in the early hours on troops massed in Kuwait. But the most likely scenario was always set in the outskirts of Baghdad, once the "red line" had been crossed. By the time the coalition forces breached this line, however, Iraqi command-and-control had been so fractured that no such operation could be conducted. It was simply too late.

It was always logical to try to protect allied troops in Iraq by testing air and water for unconventional weapons, and to visit whatever suspicious facility the force might have encountered. But the benefit that can be expected from this method is limited if the objective is to get a comprehensive picture of Iraqi WMD programs. In the absence of precise and timely intelligence, particularly if mobile chemical and biological facilities do exist, the best way to proceed is to keep looking at documents and budgets and to interview scientists and technicians. Many documents



may have been destroyed, but not all of them are gone. The most sensitive information may have been concealed, including in third countries, but traces and copies probably still can be found in Iraq.

As far as key Iraqi personnel are concerned, the list of those wanted by inspectors is well known. We can expect them to speak more freely now than they did in the past, when Saddam's terror apparatus was still functioning. If some prominent figures on the list are no longer in Iraq, one can ask for -- and expect -- the cooperation of the countries where they have found sanctuary.

When the dust settles, the main job will be to form at last a credible picture of the proscribed programs and weapons. International verification will be absolutely indispensable to win the confidence of the world. Multilateral teams of inspectors will now have to uncover the story of their development and, above all, what is left of them. It should be borne in mind that the most intractable problem faced by inspectors has been Iraq's unverifiable unilateral destructions, conducted after the Gulf War, in breach of the Security Council Resolution 687.

But with Saddam and his terror apparatus gone, much can be learned -- for the benefit of regional and international security.

*Ms. Delpech is the French commissioner for the U.N. disarmament commission on Iraq.*

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April 16, 2003

## **Syria Backs Middle Eastern WMD - Free Zone**

**By REUTERS**

**Filed at 7:03 a.m. ET**

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara has said his government is willing to sign a treaty making the entire Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction.

In an interview with Australian SBS television broadcast on Wednesday, Shara vigorously denied U.S. allegations that Syria had chemical weapons or had allowed Iraq to hide banned weapons on its soil during the Iraq war.

"The Syrian government is ready to sign a treaty under U.N. supervision to make the whole Middle East a zone free from all mass destruction weapons, nuclear, chemical and biological," he told SBS in Damascus.

Since the fall of the government of President Saddam Hussein after the U.S. invasion of Iraq, Washington has begun to turn its rhetorical guns on Damascus, accusing Syria of harboring Saddam's allies and of developing chemical weapons.

Arab diplomats at the United Nations said U.S. ally Israel was the only country in the Middle East with weapons of mass destruction and added they would seek a U.N. Security Council resolution declaring the region free of such deadly arms.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Damascus said Syria was ready to propose such a resolution.

Israel is believed to have around 200 nuclear warheads not subject to any international monitoring regime.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Tuesday the United States favored a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction but linked any possible inspection of Israel's arsenal to peace with Syria and Lebanon.

"It is better for the Americans, for the Israelis, for every citizen on earth, especially in the Middle East, and it is good for the American forces in Iraq, to see that the whole Middle East is a zone free from all mass destruction weapons," Shara said.

"Also it is very useful to see this taking place because in this case no terrorist, as the Americans say and some Europeans say, no terrorists can have these mass destruction weapons with them."

Shara denied Syria, a staunch opponent of the U.S. war on Iraq, had hidden any Iraqi weapons.

"If Saddam Hussein had mass destruction weapons for so many years, as they say, he would keep them for the war," he said.

"Why should they smuggle or send them outside the country during the war?"

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

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USA Today

April 17, 2003

Pg. 4

## **Troops Raid House Of 'Dr. Germ'**

### ***U.S. says Iraqi microbiologist led lab weaponizing anthrax***

By Donna Leinwand and Laura Parker, USA Today

DOHA, Qatar — U.S. commandos on Wednesday raided the home of an Iraqi scientist known to United Nations weapons inspectors as “Dr. Germ” and left with documents that officials hope will provide clues about Iraq’s biological weapons program.

Military and intelligence officials said the house in Baghdad belonged to Rihab Taha, who Washington considers to be Iraq’s top biological weapons scientist.

U.S. troops carried out several boxes of documents and escorted out three men with their hands up. Taha’s whereabouts are unknown.

U.S. troops are scouring Iraq in search of evidence of weapons of mass destruction. None has been found.

Eliminating those weapons was a key reason President Bush gave for launching the invasion of Iraq last month.

“We’re really just in the early stages of that,” Army Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks of the U.S. Central Command said Wednesday about the search for weapons in Iraq.

Brooks said he remained confident that proof of the weapons would be found. “It’s very much putting together pieces of a puzzle, one piece at a time, and when you see the shape of the one piece, you see how it may relate to the other pieces that are out there,” he said.

Taha, 47, is the best-known of Iraq’s biological weapons scientists. A microbiologist who was educated in Britain, she headed Saddam Hussein’s government lab that weaponized anthrax during the 1990s. She is also the wife of Gen. Amer Mohammed Rashid, Iraq’s former oil minister.

Taha supposedly retired after her marriage, but U.N. inspectors say they don’t believe that claim.

Richard Spertzel, who headed the U.N. biological inspection teams in Iraq in the mid-1990s, said there’s a possibility that the documents found Wednesday can clear up many unanswered questions about the secret biological weapons program.

“What’s in the documents? Who can say? But the Iraqis are notorious record keepers,” Spertzel said. “One of the ironies of the Iraqis claiming they never had records is that I have never known anyone so preoccupied with documents and records.”

Among the many questions outstanding is how many strains of anthrax did Iraq obtain? U.N. inspectors learned of two strains, both used by the United States and Britain in biological weapons program. But the inspectors did not uncover the identities of the remaining three strains.

Taha was interviewed on a number of occasions by U.N. inspectors in the mid-1990s, but she said anthrax had never been weaponized in Iraq.

“She may or may not know about weaponization,” Spertzel said. “We believe she does, but she may not.”

<http://www.usatoday.com/usatoday/20030417/5078110s.htm>

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Wall Street Journal

April 17, 2003

## **U.S. Readies A Different Army To Search For Weapons In Iraq**

By John J. Fialka, Staff Reporter Of The Wall Street Journal

WASHINGTON -- The Bush administration, intensifying its so far fruitless search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, is preparing to send 1,000 scientists, technicians, intelligence analysts and other experts to Baghdad, a Defense Department official said.

Called the Iraq Survey Group, the largely civilian team will be led by a general and will be equipped with mobile laboratories that can do tests in Iraq. It also is developing procedures for testing in laboratories in the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

“It’s going to be a much more muscular organization,” said the official, who added that lead elements of the group are already working in Iraq. The Army’s 75th Exploitation Group, which has searched several sites in Iraq, will come under the command of the larger Survey Group and provide its transportation and logistics, he said.

Meanwhile, the head of the United Nation’s inspection team, Hans Blix, will brief the U.N. Security Council next week on his preparedness to send an inspection team to Baghdad.

“Clearly he [Dr. Blix] does think there is an ongoing job to be done and that we have the mandate for it under the existing council resolutions,” said Ewen Buchanan, a spokesman for the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, which is called Unmovic.

The moves raise the possibility of a collision of unrelated inspection teams. A U.S. official said, “We see no immediate role for Unmovic. We have other issues to deal with before we start bringing Blix back in. Nor are we convinced that Blix is the right person to lead any effort in Iraq.”

The tension comes as U.S. searches of homes, weapons sites and former terrorist training camps in Iraq have, so far, turned up no hard evidence of a substantial Iraqi chemical, biological or nuclear weapons program. This poses a difficult political issue for the Bush administration, which justified its attack on Iraq by asserting that Saddam Hussein had a robust program to develop weapons of mass destruction.

Syria, meanwhile -- which has been accused by the U.S. of experimenting with chemical weapons and charged by Israel with hiding Iraqi chemical or biological weapons -- said it would propose to the U.N. that the Middle East be declared a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. The move was pointedly aimed at Israel, which is widely believed to have nuclear weapons.

At the same time, Syria’s government Wednesday suggested relations with the U.S. were calmer than they have appeared amid harsh rhetoric in recent days. “Things are not so bad,” said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Bouthayna Shaaban. “I really take all these statements with a positive tinge to them. The objective is to engage and talk about issues, rather than to threaten.”

Wednesday, the Army’s Fourth Infantry Division found huge caches of conventional weapons at the Al Taji Army Airfield about 15 miles from Baghdad. Troops began searching the base’s large bunker complex for signs of Scud missiles and biological and chemical weapons that were once stored there.

Also Wednesday, an American military team raided the Baghdad residence of Rihab Taha, a British-educated microbiologist who is suspected of running Iraq’s biological-weapons program, and took three Iraqi men into custody and seized boxes of documents. Ms. Taha appears to have fled the country.

The disappearance of many Iraqi scientists, military leaders and other officials said to be involved with weapons programs is disturbing, according to Jonathan B. Tucker, a senior fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace, a federally funded research group.

“We know there were roughly 3,000 Iraqi scientists that worked at one time or another in these weapons programs. At least a hundred had broad knowledge of these programs. Their expertise would be of great interest to the other proliferators in the [Middle East] region.”

Mr. Tucker, author of a book on biological weapons, urged the U.S. and its allies to set up a science and technology center in Baghdad for some of these scientists to work on nonmilitary science projects, similar to centers set up in Moscow and Kiev after the Cold War.

Raymond Zilinskas, a former U.N. inspector, suggested that one reason the U.S. hasn’t turned up more evidence of weapons of mass destruction is that Iraq’s weapons program “may not be on the scale that the Bush administration posited before the war.”

Because U.N. inspectors were working in Iraq up to a few hours before the war started, he said, they “would have created a real logistics hassle” for Iraq’s military. The military would have had to retrieve hidden caches of materials, put them in weapons and deploy them as bombs were falling over Baghdad. “For all these reasons, I don’t think they had any [weapons of mass destruction] ready to go,” said Mr. Zilinskas, who currently directs the chemical and biological nonproliferation program for the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, Calif.

On the outskirts of Baghdad, meanwhile, a Marine unit found a terrorist training camp where, it said, conventional bomb-making apparently was taught.

-- *Yochi Dreazen at Al Taji Airfield in Iraq contributed to this article.*

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Washington Post

April 17, 2003

Pg. 30

## **Syria Built Arsenal As ‘Equalizer’**

*Israel’s Arms Spurred Fear*

By Walter Pincus, Washington Post Staff Writer

Syria's current arsenal of chemical warheads and Scud missiles to deliver them was started more than 30 years ago to counter Israel's development and possession of nuclear weapons, according to present and former U.S. intelligence officials.

"They have been developing chemical weapons as a force equalizer with the Israelis," a former senior intelligence analyst said yesterday. "Hafez al-Assad, the present president's father, saw chemicals as a way to threaten the Israelis and an equalizer for their nuclear program." Assad knew, the former analyst said, that "military aid from the Soviets would never be able to match what Israel developed in the nuclear field and received from the U.S."

Despite recent denials from Damascus that it has such weapons, the CIA has reported for the past two years that Syria has "a stockpile of the nerve agent sarin, but apparently is trying to develop more toxic and persistent nerve agents." It also reported that Syria "remained dependent on foreign sources for key elements of its CW [chemical weapons] program," and the agency believed it "highly probable that Syria also is continuing to develop an offensive BW [biological warfare] capability."

The CIA report also said Syria continued assembling -- "probably with North Korean assistance" -- liquid-fueled Scud C missiles, purchased from the Pyongyang government, that had been arriving since the early 1990s.

Syria's possession of chemical weapons was an important part of the Bush administration's recent, week-long verbal offensive against Damascus. But it also has brought attention briefly to another highly sensitive issue: the impact that Israel's nuclear arsenal has had on its enemies in the Middle East.

The consensus from Middle East experts is that almost every country in the region has pursued weapons of mass destruction programs -- and they have done so primarily because of the arsenal that Israel has built up, said Joseph Cirincione, head of the nonproliferation program of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "You can't get rid of chemical or biological or nuclear programs in Arab countries unless you also address the elimination of Israel's nuclear and chemical programs," Cirincione said yesterday.

Although the Jerusalem government has not officially acknowledged having nuclear weapons, U.S. intelligence has long been aware that its program began in the late 1960s, with the first crude weapons reportedly ready early in the 1970s. Recent U.S. estimates have put Israel's force at about 300 nuclear bombs and missile warheads.

The Defense Intelligence Agency has reported that Syria's program to develop chemical offensive weapons began in the early 1970s "as a result of a perceived Israel threat." Damascus obtained its first chemical weapons from Egypt just before the war in October 1973, according to a CIA historical paper.

In 1999, when Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was facing enormous U.S. pressure to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention, he refused to do so until Israel signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). "Why do Israelis talk about Egypt's military power and do not talk about the development of their [Israel's] defense?" Mubarak was quoted as saying at the time.

Neither Egypt nor Syria has signed the chemical treaty; Israel signed it in 1993, but has not ratified it. And Israel has not signed the NPT.

The first Syrian reaction to complaints about its chemical weapons was to focus on Israel's arsenal. Last week, when Israeli officials repeated claims by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon that former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein had transferred biological and chemical weapons to Syria, a Syrian spokesman said Sharon's aim was "to divert attention from the nuclear, chemical and biological arsenal that Israel possesses."

U.S. officials have been hesitant to publicly discuss Israel's nuclear program in the context of disarming other countries. On Tuesday, when Secretary of State Colin L. Powell was questioned about Syria and its weapons, he was asked by a reporter if Israel should submit to "international inspection for weapons of mass destruction." He said, "We believe that the entire region should be free" of such weapons.

Yesterday, Syria appeared to be in sync with Powell. It introduced at the United Nations a draft resolution to the 15-nation Security Council that would establish a "zone free of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons," in the Middle East.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A42104-2003Apr16.html>

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New York Times

April 17, 2003

## **Bush Takes No-Budge Stand In Talks With North Korea**

By David E. Sanger

WASHINGTON, April 16 — President Bush has instructed the team that will negotiate with North Korea that the United States will not settle for another freeze on the country's nuclear program. Instead, senior administration

officials said today, Washington will insist that the North dismantle both of its major nuclear weapons projects as part of any larger bargain with the United States.

In interviews today, the officials said they had relatively low expectations for the first round of talks, scheduled to take place next week in Beijing. The talks, which some American officials fear could be delayed now that news of them has become public, would be the first between the two countries in more than six months.

Mr. Bush approved the overall plan for the negotiating strategy at a meeting Tuesday with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, the officials said. He told Mr. Powell that he was not ready to discuss any kind of treaties with the North — something the country has demanded — until the nuclear threat is dismantled.

American officials said, however, that they were seeking new and creative ways “to assure the North Koreans that we are not looking to overthrow them, to take them out,” a senior official said. Mr. Bush has issued several such assurances in recent months, but American officials believe the Iraq war may have prompted fears in the North Korean leadership that they are next as Mr. Bush addresses threats.

Today, in his first public comments on the talks, Mr. Powell said that the United States was “placing no conditions” on the negotiations, and he told The Associated Press that the North would have an “opportunity to present their positions, to come into this trilateral meeting and speak candidly in front of the United States and the Chinese.” It was China’s intervention that created the compromise leading to the negotiations. North Korea had insisted on direct talks with Washington, but Mr. Bush had insisted on broad talks involving China, Japan, South Korea and Russia.

Administration officials said the initial talks would involve only the United States, North Korea and China. But a State Department spokesman, Philip T. Reeker, said today that the United States hopes to expand the talks in later rounds. “We are looking for the early inclusion of Japan and South Korea,” he said.

Privately, South Korean officials have told the United States that they would not agree to any financial commitments to the North that were made when they were not participating in the negotiations.

When American officials first confronted North Korea with evidence that it was cheating on a 1994 agreement to freeze its nuclear weapons program, several officials said no talks could take place before the North began dismantling its facilities. But in recent months they have backed away from that precondition, and next week’s talks, if they go forward as scheduled, will occur with the North proceeding with two separate programs that could produce weapons within months or years.

“There’s an outward calm people are trying to project about this,” one senior intelligence official said. “But the fact of the matter is that if these talks don’t work out, we would be faced with a North Korea with six or eight nukes pretty soon, rather than two possible weapons now.”

One senior administration official said today that it now appears that North Korea’s leaders decided as early as 1995 to attempt a clandestine program to produce weapons from highly enriched uranium. Over the next few years North Korea secretly gathered technology from Pakistan and other nations.

At the core of Mr. Bush’s concern now, his aides say, is a fear that the United States may never be able to verify that the North has given up all of its nuclear projects, even if a deal can be reached. The main plutonium-production plant at Yongbyon is relatively easily monitored, officials say. But American officials are uncertain where the uranium project is, or whether there is more than one.

Mr. Bush has often discussed his distrust of Kim Jong Il, the North Korean leader, a man he has said he detests for starving his own people. Today the United Nations commission on human rights overwhelmingly passed a resolution condemning the North for “all-pervasive and severe restrictions on the freedoms of thought, religion, opinion, expression, assembly and association” and for “torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment” of its citizens, including “imposition of the death penalty for political reasons.”

With Saddam Hussein disposed of, some administration officials who did not want to deal with North Korea for fear of distracting attention from Iraq are beginning to focus anew on the country. That could place pressure on Mr. Powell and his assistant secretary for East Asia, James A. Kelly, to show that the negotiations are making progress. But Mr. Powell said today that he expected “this is a beginning of a long, intense process of discussion.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/17/international/asia/17KORE.html>

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Baltimore Sun

April 17, 2003

## **Top-Secret Lab In Md. Hunts ‘Smoking Gun’**

*Scientists at Aberdeen are studying samples of suspected chemical agents*

By Joe Nawrozki, Sun Staff

If a "smoking gun" is found to support President Bush's assertion that Iraq possesses weapons of mass destruction - a primary justification for the current war - it might be discovered in a tiny glass tube inside an obscure brick building labeled E-5100, 25 miles north of Baltimore.

It is there, at Aberdeen Proving Ground's Forensic Analytical Center, that scientists are studying samples of suspected nerve and blister agents found by soldiers from the Army's 101st Airborne Division this month near Karbala, 50 miles south of Baghdad.

Typical of the top-secret laboratory, officials confirm only that the samples are there. They will not say if, or when, their findings will be made public. Any announcement, they explain, is likely to come from the White House. Usually, test results on suspected agents can be produced at the center's lab in 72 hours. But these are not "usual" times, officials say.

That is evident from the overwhelming environment of secrecy at the center.

"We take security very seriously here ... we have to," said Dennis Reutter, chief of the Forensic Analytical Center. Reutter, who has been at the Soldier Biological Chemical Command since 1994, earned his doctorate in physical chemistry from Duke University and taught forensic science at the FBI.

Other scientists working at the center are singular experts and international authorities in their fields, military officials said.

Security concerns are symbolized not only by the silence of the experts in white laboratory coats, but also by the military personnel deployed at the sprawling post in Harford County.

At the main gates, soldiers with loaded M-16 automatic rifles check cars and their drivers. Trained dogs sniff vehicles for explosives, and anyone who enters the post must pass an identity check.

### **Tight gets tighter**

At the Forensic Analytical Center building, security is even tighter. Visitors must again produce identification to enter the area, which is surrounded by a double chain-link fence topped by swirls of razor wire. Snapping photos of the building's exterior is forbidden.

A tour this week of the facility by two journalists was carefully monitored by a member of the Army's security section.

While the building appears faded - it was built in 1969 for \$2.3 million and at the time was the government's only quality-assurance chemical testing laboratory - its interior is brimming with state-of-the-art computers, nuclear magnetic resonance equipment, chromatographs and, of course, video cameras and alarms.

Any chemical or biological agents being examined or simply used for comparison analysis at the center are stored in a vault-like room that requires two people to open it with separate keys and codes. Inside the room are two more security checks that must be passed to reach the interior, part of which is a freezer.

Officials said that the material in the custody of FAC scientists was brought to Aberdeen Proving Ground from Iraq by the elite Technical Escort Unit, a low-profile group based at Aberdeen that has handled dangerous materials since 1943.

A strict chain-of-custody process that could pass legal muster is enforced with all materials submitted to the laboratory because they could be evidence in a court trial, Reutter said.

The chemicals found by the paratroopers near an Iraqi agricultural center could be nothing more than pesticides. Or, as others suspect, the chemicals could be proof of Saddam Hussein's suspected stockpile of biological and chemical weapons.

Officials in Iraq have insisted for years that all banned weapons were destroyed.

### **Predating modern era**

While extensive attention has been focused on the so-called weapons of mass destruction, chemical and biological warfare predates the modern era.

In the 5th century B.C., Spartans used bombs made of sulfur and tar to overcome the enemy. During medieval times, soldiers catapulted bodies of plague victims over the walls of besieged cities or dropped them into water wells. And during the French and Indian wars, blankets used by smallpox victims were given to American Indians.

The first deadly man-made gas attack came in April 1915 when the German army dropped chlorine gas over the Allied trenches in Belgium.

Since then, superpowers have dedicated millions of dollars and the best of their scientific talent to discover new methods of creating and understanding new pathogens or defending against attacks by nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

Methods of detecting agents are also an important task at the FAC lab. Engineers and other experts designed and developed a mobile lab and detection vehicle that has been used at events such as the Olympics.

While the shooting war has cooled in Iraq, experts such as Reutter don't play down the constant dangers posed by chemical and biological threats. Reutter also remains concerned about the ease with which someone with little formal training can manufacture deadly agents.

"There is a certain ease to doing that," Reutter said.

"But," he added, "the biggest problem in manufacturing nerve agents is not dying in that very process."

<http://www.sunspot.net/news/nationworld/bal-te.apg17apr17.story>

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Washington Times

April 17, 2003

Pg. B1

## **Bio-Terror**

*U.S. seeks ways to prepare public for attacks when weapons are chemicals, bacteria, other toxins*

By Christian Toto, The Washington Times

The nation has read all the headlines about bio-terrorism and watched the terrorist threat level jump from yellow to orange and drop back again.

Much of what might happen in the future will be out of our control, but experts in bio-terrorism say we can take several key steps to prepare for a stateside bio-terror assault.

Bio-terrorism refers to the release of potentially deadly chemicals, bacteria or other toxins in the air, food or water supply. Tiny amounts of anthrax or smallpox, two of the better-known agents, could kill hundreds, if not more, and cause considerable panic.

Chemical weapons such as mustard gas are instantly detectable because of their fast-acting nature and can inspire panic in the populace.

Other weapons are far less obvious initially. It may take several days, if not weeks, for people to show symptoms from exposure to smallpox.

Nerve agents, man-made poisons such as sarin and VX, typically are odorless and tasteless.

Keith Holtermann, associate dean of George Washington University's School of Medicine and Health Sciences, says the stealthy nature of some bio-weapons makes them uniquely dangerous.

The 1995 sarin attack that killed 11 in a Tokyo subway "was an in-your-face event; we know it occurred," Mr.

Holtermann says. Biological attacks from, say, smallpox, would make themselves known in a different fashion.

"In a biological type of event ... we may have a couple of days or so of lag time," he says. That delay, combined with the mobile nature of American society, could spread disease far and wide before anyone realized an attack had happened.

### **Getting the word out**

Government and health groups have been working for months on ways to educate the public on bio-terrorism.

Monica Schoch-Spana, senior fellow with the Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, says the medical community created a priority list of potential bio-weapons in the weeks following September 11.

Researchers identified 30 to 40 agents with some historical significance as potential weapons. They decided to focus their work on six agents that posed the greatest risk to the populace for their deadly nature and ease in dissemination. These "Class A" agents are anthrax, smallpox, botulism, plague, tularemia and viral hemorrhagic fevers, a group that includes the ebola virus.

"They used those pathogens [as the basis] for building a response system," Ms. Schoch-Spana says.

She says the medical community didn't release information to the public on various bio-terror weapons until several weeks after the attacks.

"All of us ... were caught unaware by 9/11 and had to go into reactive mode," she says. The health community in particular wasn't used to dealing with instant threats like police departments routinely do.

"In the medical and public health communities," she continues, "there's a strong emphasis on being accurate on the scientific details and also to be careful not to foment fear where there's no cause to. You find a reticence to speak in black-and-white terms."

Her center created a "frequently asked questions" link on its Web site ([www.hopkins-biodefense.org](http://www.hopkins-biodefense.org)).

The public, too, has to come to terms with a new way of thinking regarding possible attacks.

"The answer for dealing with bio-terrorism doesn't come individually packaged," Ms. Schoch-Spana says. "We have to change our thinking to realize it's about collective protection, not individual families being prepared."

People would be well-advised to create an emergency kit to help them in case the worst should happen. J.B. Hanson, deputy director of public relations with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, says a practical “grab and go” kit should take all family members into consideration, even pets.

That first-aid-style kit can include traditional medicines such as aspirin as well as specific medications for family members, such as pills for diabetics. Part of the preparation must include plenty of water that can be used for drinking, cleaning, cooking and keeping pets in good health.

“Animals drink more water than people do,” Mr. Hanson says.

Other crucial items include fresh batteries, about four days’ worth of nonperishable foods and a small tool kit to deal with any unexpected contingencies.

Extra clothing can be important should a family member’s clothes be exposed to a toxin. In that case, the person should immediately strip down and place the clothing in a sealable plastic bag. A quick soap-and-water shower should follow, which can cut down on chemical irritation and transmission to others.

Much has been made about securing gas masks for a measure of protection. Mr. Hanson cautions that this simple step could be deadly.

“You need to know how to operate a gas mask, and you need to know the proper fit,” he says. “You can’t just order them over the Internet.” A person could suffocate if his or her gas mask were used incorrectly, he says.

No matter how well-prepared a family may be for an emergency, plans may collapse without a successful meeting plan. Parents should decide on a contact person outside their hometown whose location can serve as a meeting place, a call center or both. An out-of-state grandparent or aunt could serve such a role, allowing all family members to check in or leave messages at a single phone number.

Mr. Holtermann says parents also should work with their local school districts to make sure their children will be safe in case of an attack.

The schools “need to instill confidence in the parents that they have an action plan,” he says.

Should a biological attack occur, experts say it would be nearly impossible to prepare because such an assault would be quiet and give no detectable warning signs. Should a chemical attack happen, the public should stay indoors, shut off all ventilation systems, close all doors and wait until an “all clear” signal is given via the media.

### **Prevention and preparation**

While people mull the best way to deal with a crisis, government officials are working on ways to prevent and prepare for the worst.

At last week’s 28th annual American Association for the Advancement of Science Colloquium on Science and Technology Policy, held in the District, researchers and public officials spoke to scientists about work being done to prevent and prepare for future atrocities.

Dr. John Killen, assistant director for biodefense research at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, says progress is being made to prepare the public for a bio-terrorist attack.

Nearly \$6 billion is allotted in NIH’s 2004 budget for bio-terror, a dramatic increase from the \$40 million to \$50 million set aside for the same cause in 2000.

“This is all-new money coming to NIH and the Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases,” Dr. Killen says. Part of that funding will go to creating “next generation” vaccines that don’t have the significant side effects that existing vaccines such as the one for smallpox have.

Meanwhile, researchers have found that the drug Cidofovir, normally used for HIV patients, helps reduce the side effects from the smallpox vaccine. Dr. Killen also says Harvard researchers are working on antibodies that help inhibit smallpox growth in mice.

Another looming breakthrough involves a diagnostic tool that would screen people for various biotoxins in their systems before telltale symptoms emerge.

“That’s the kind of technology we’re on the verge of having available,” Dr. Killen says.

Complicating matters is that the current medical health system already is under considerable stress from a lack of resources and constant demand, so a bio-terror attack would have severe ramifications, Mr. Holtermann says.

Still, there is only so much that can be done to prevent or prepare for an unconventional attack.

“So much of this ... we’re learning as we go along,” Mr. Holtermann says. The information we have right now “is not much. But it’s the only way we can empower us as individuals.”

<http://www.washtimes.com/metro/20030417-19333096.htm>

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April 16, 2003



# UN Nuclear Inspectors Get Silent Treatment from U.S.

By REUTERS

Filed at 4:57 a.m. ET

VIENNA (Reuters) - The U.N. nuclear watchdog agency has met with silence after calling on the United States to let U.N. nuclear inspectors return to Iraq after the war to resume their hunt for Baghdad's alleged atomic arms program.

"We have not been contacted and we have not been informed," a nuclear expert close to the IAEA told Reuters on Wednesday on condition of anonymity.

U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohamed ElBaradei said on March 31 and again on April 8 that only his agency had a mandate to search out and destroy any nuclear weapons or parts of a nuclear weapons program found in Iraq.

Washington has made it clear it would hunt for Iraq's weapons itself and that the IAEA and UNMOVIC monitoring and inspection agency, charged with finding chemical, biological or ballistic arms, could have only limited inspection authority in post-war Iraq.

However, ElBaradei said he plans to return to Iraq with the full authority granted the IAEA by the U.N. Security Council and on the basis of the 1968 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) banning the spread of nuclear weapons, which Iraq has signed.

The IAEA has said legal experts support ElBaradei's view that only the IAEA has the right to verify NPT compliance.

On Monday, the New York Times quoted Thomas Graham Jr., general counsel of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency during the Carter, Reagan and first Bush administrations, as saying there was no question that the United States had to let in IAEA inspectors in after the war.

"If we didn't, we'd be accessory to a violation," he said.

The U.S. has reportedly assembled its own inspection teams, despite calls from the U.N. and countries opposed to the U.S.-led war on Iraq to let the U.N. handle arms inspections.

IAEA inspectors returned to Baghdad late last year after a four-year hiatus to look for signs President Saddam Hussein had revived his nuclear weapons program. The IAEA found no signs Iraq had revived the program in three months of inspections.

Although UNMOVIC inspectors found some banned missiles, they were never able to verify Iraq's guilt or innocence regarding the possession of chemical or biological weapons.

The U.S. army has yet to find proof Iraq has weapons of mass destruction, though Washington insists the weapons are there.

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

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