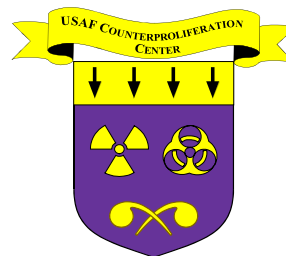


#262

23 May 2003

USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER

CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL



Air University

Air War College

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

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

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

CONTENTS

[Radiation Sickness Drug Developed](#)

[Bush's New Nuclear Push](#)

[Report Urges Bush To Negotiate Directly With North Korea](#)

[Meeting the North Korean Nuclear Challenge](#)

[A Potential Toxic Jackpot](#)

[Iran: No Biological Weapons](#)

[U.N. Atomic Chief Again Warns U.S. About Iraq](#)

[Northrop Wins Postal Bioterror Contract](#)

[Helpful Iraqis Become The Key In Coalition's Search For WMD](#)

[The Killer Strain](#)

[U.S. Analysts Link Iraq Labs To Germ Arms](#)

[U.S., IAEA Negotiate Sending Teams To Iraq](#)

[Rumsfeld Open To Letting U.N. Inspectors Into Iraq](#)

[Mandatory Anthrax Vaccine For Troops Challenged In Court](#)

[Senate Votes To Lift Ban On Producing Nuclear Arms](#)

[Perry: North Korea Threat Must Be Addressed Quickly And Multilaterally](#)

[State Dept. And U.N. To Inspect Iraq Nuclear Site](#)

[Dangerous Loot South Of Baghdad](#)

[U.S. Calls Looting From Nuke Site No Risk](#)

[Nuclear Weapons Development Tied To Hill Approval](#)

[Nunn Urges U.S., Russia To Ease Hair-Trigger Nuclear Alerts](#)

[No Nuclear Blackmail](#)

[U.N. Votes To End Sanctions On Iraq](#)

[High-Tech Project Aims To Make Super-Soldiers](#)

[CIA To Review Iraq Intelligence](#)

[Illnesses Near Nuclear Site Prompt Health Survey](#)

[U.S. Moves To Safeguard Stockpiles](#)

Washington Post
May 19, 2003
Pg. 2

Radiation Sickness Drug Developed

Military Health Officials Hope Medicine Could Protect First Responders

By John Mintz, Washington Post Staff Writer

U.S. military officials are expressing enthusiasm about an experimental drug that they say could protect the health of troops, police officers and emergency medical personnel who respond to terrorist attacks involving nuclear weapons or radiation-spewing "dirty bombs."

The drug being developed by Hollis-Eden Pharmaceuticals Inc. of San Diego appears to offer significant protection from radiation sickness, which would kill many more people in nuclear attacks than the initial blast, military officials and experts said.

"We want it on the fast track," said Navy Adm. James A. Zimble, a top military health official who is president of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda. "We've been very encouraged by the very positive results" of tests on animals, he added.

Experts cautioned that more research needs to be done to prove the drug's effectiveness and safety when administered to humans. The vast majority of new drugs that appear promising in animal studies never gain approval for humans. But radiation specialists said tests on this drug with mice, dogs and monkeys suggest that it will work in people and will not prove toxic.

Since the 1950s, military researchers have scrutinized thousands of compounds in a search for something that could protect troops in a nuclear war zone, but have failed. This drug is the first to hold such promise, said Mark H. Whitnall, a top researcher at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute in Bethesda, which is working closely with Hollis-Eden on the drug.

"My personal opinion is any agency dealing with emergency response to terrorist events should be interested" in the new drug, Whitnall said.

U.S. military officials are encouraged by results from animal studies that appear to demonstrate that the drug, called HE-2100, offers protection when administered before radiation exposure as well as a few hours after exposure, or even later. This suggests it could be given to military personnel or firefighters when it is known that they will be entering a radiated zone or as they are leaving one. Currently, there is no safe medicine to give people after they are exposed to dangerous levels of radiation, experts in the field said.

Radiation severely compromises the body's immunity to disease, so most fatalities caused by a nuclear explosion or dirty bomb blast would come from infections, including influenza and pneumonia, beginning a week to six weeks after detonation, medical experts said. A dirty bomb is a conventional explosive attached to radioactive material, which is spread when the device goes off.

HE-2100 buttresses the immune system, in particular the infection-fighting powers of bone marrow, which is most vulnerable to radiation. The drug protects the bone marrow's ability to continue creating infection-fighting cells called neutrophils even after radiation exposure. The loss of too many of these cells brings on a condition called neutropenia, which leads to infections and possibly death.

HE-2100 stimulates neutrophil production by causing cells that become neutrophils to mature and to be released into the bloodstream.

In a Hollis-Eden study completed earlier this year, monkeys who received a near-lethal radiation dose and did not receive the drug suffered severe neutropenia 50 percent of the time over the next 21 days. By contrast, monkeys given HE-2100 about three hours after being dosed with radiation, and then for the following seven days, suffered the same effects only 9 percent of the time. None of the monkeys suffered ill effects from HE-2100, the firm said. By staving off radiation-related infection and illness in the weeks after a nuclear event, HE-2100 can, it appears, "bring people over that hump in time, where, without it, they would die," said David Grdina, a professor of radiation and cellular oncology at the University of Chicago.

"There are definitely applications for homeland security in this drug," Grdina said. Even so, Hollis-Eden is pursuing the drug's development through the U.S. military, as it has for several years, rather than switching to the Department of Homeland Security.

Some civilian officials say developing medical protections against radiation is less of a priority than working on cures for bioterror agents, which they view as the gravest current terrorist threat.

In any case, Whitnall added that the fact that HE-2100 has shown such encouraging results in tests involving three different species suggests it will be successful in humans.

“It protects against radiation damage; there’s no doubt about that,” said William McBride, a radiation biologist at the University of California in Los Angeles. “The question is: How much can you give a person” before it proves toxic? “It seems non-toxic so far. It’s encouraging they got it into primates.”

The only other drug that has been shown to protect animals from radiation, ethylol, must be given before radiation exposure, and can be highly toxic. Hollis-Eden and military officials said HE-2100 is the only compound on the horizon that has its potential.

The firm estimates that an eight-day course of the drug would cost as much as \$100. Military officials said the idea is to stockpile enough doses across the country to treat both first responders and as many people in the general population as could be radiated in an attack.

The Food and Drug Administration has decided the firm can seek approval of the drug under a new set of streamlined procedures for substances believed to protect people in nuclear-biological-chemical (NBC) attacks. Because it would be unethical to irradiate human beings to determine whether the drug works, the FDA says the company can rely on the animal studies to show its efficacy, and give the HE-2100 to people to test for adverse reactions.

The drug is being developed in injection form, but Hollis-Eden is looking into developing it in pill form.

Other drugs also protect humans in radioactive crises, but only from a limited range of radioactive isotopes.

Potassium iodide pills, if given within hours of a radioactive event, can protect the thyroid gland, which is extremely sensitive to radiation damage. The World Health Organization recommends that the drug be stockpiled in homes near nuclear power plants.

A compound called Prussian blue also can be used to treat people who receive high doses of the radioactive element cesium, which terrorism experts say could be disseminated in a dirty bomb. Only one small European firm makes the drug, and the FDA has asked U.S. companies to apply to manufacture it.

But for now, military officials see the greatest possible benefit in HE-2100. “We’re a long way from having a product,” Zimble said, “but we think we can protect troops with it.”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A7257-2003May18.html>

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

Time

May 26, 2003

Pg. 23

Notebook

Bush’s New Nuclear Push

Although President Bush spends endless hours trying to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, his Administration isn’t above creating a few itself. The Pentagon is hard at work pushing to develop the first new class of U.S. nukes since the end of the cold war. Two plans are on the table: retooling existing warheads into atomic sledgehammers capable of destroying bunkers under 1,000 feet of rock, and designing new mini-size nukes ideal for targeting stockpiles of biological and chemical weapons. Congress banned work on mini-nukes for the past decade out of fear that smaller nuclear weapons might be more likely to be used. But the Bush Administration, citing the jump in what it calls hard and deeply buried targets (HDBTs) has persuaded the House and Senate Armed Services Committees to lift the prohibition. Both houses could vote on the measure as early as this week when they take up next year’s military budget. The Pentagon has included \$21 million for the two new programs as well as \$25 million to jump-start nuclear tests, if the Administration sees fit.

Why does the U.S. need new nukes? The Administration argues that the current arsenal consists largely of mammoth city blasters that can’t burrow underground where U.S. officials believe nations such as Iran and North Korea are assembling weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, Pentagon officials say, this arsenal is no longer an effective deterrent. Washington’s enemies, they say, calculate that the U.S. won’t use its existing nuclear weapons because of the widespread carnage they would cause.

But the new plans have their own detractors, including nuclear scientist and Pentagon adviser Sidney Drell, who says even a tiny 1-kiloton weapon exploding 50 ft. deep in rock would spew radioactivity across a wide swath of the planet. Arms-control advocates worry that possessing smaller and more precise nuclear weapons would scuttle

efforts to stop worldwide proliferation. Said Senator Dianne Feinstein last week: "This Administration seems to be moving toward a military posture in which nuclear weapons are considered just like other weapons."

-- **By Mark Thompson**

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1101030526-452801,00.html>

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

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

Philadelphia Inquirer

May 19, 2003

Report Urges Bush To Negotiate Directly With North Korea

By George Gedda, Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The United States should abandon its refusal to open direct negotiations with North Korea and instead seek a verifiable nuclear settlement with that country, a report sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations says.

The Bush administration, rejecting direct talks with North Korea, has pressed for negotiations with broad international participation, to include China, South Korea, Japan and perhaps others.

A start toward that objective began last month with the United States holding talks with China and North Korea in Beijing.

Declaring that the situation in North Korea poses a "genuine crisis," the panel said it believed it was increasingly likely that North Korea could and would move to produce more nuclear-weapons material.

"We cannot preclude that that is its aim and that it seeks to hold off the United States until it is successful," the report says. "The situation has drifted toward one in which the United States may have little choice but to live with a North Korea with more nuclear weapons and to find ways to prevent it from exporting its fissile material."

Asserting that the United States must try to prevent that outcome, the panel urged the bilateral negotiation of "a verifiable nuclear settlement with the North and, in return, [a] demand that America's regional partners adopt a tougher posture should negotiations fail."

It added that this option might not be available if North Korea had already processed spent nuclear-weapons fuel, which could put the country in reach of additional nuclear weapons in the coming months.

As a contingency, the report says, if negotiations fail and the North continues to pursue nuclear weapons, the United States should seek sanctions "and consider imposing a blockade designed to intercept nuclear exports and other illicit or deadly exports."

The panel rejects the administration's approach, which says regional countries must be included in any negotiating process because of the strong stake they have in whether the North possesses nuclear weapons beyond the one or two it is believed to have already.

Far from shunning nuclear weapons, as it has promised, North Korea is pursuing both uranium- and plutonium-based nuclear programs, the administration says.

According to the report, America's regional partners "fear that the United States will attack North Korean nuclear facilities and unleash war on the peninsula." It says all regional countries oppose sanctions out of concern that this could trigger a war, as the North has threatened.

These countries, the report says, all agree on the need for serious U.S.-North Korean negotiations and attach less importance to the multilateral approach favored by the administration.

The panel is bipartisan, but many of its members have Democratic affiliations or served in the Clinton administration. The Council on Foreign Relations said the views in the report were solely those of its authors.

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/nation/5892371.htm>

Meeting the North Korean Nuclear Challenge

[Morton I. Abramowitz](#)

C.V. Starr Senior Fellow for Asia Studies II

Council on Foreign Relations

[James T. Laney](#)

[Eric Heginbotham](#)

Senior Fellow, Asia Studies
Council on Foreign Relations
<http://www.cfr.org/publication.php?id=5973>

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

Baltimore Sun
May 18, 2003

A Potential Toxic Jackpot

Find: A biologist's chance discovery along the banks of Kings Creek at Aberdeen Proving Ground could spark a major cleanup.

By Lane Harvey Brown, Sun Staff

Biologist Jason Ebrite was inspecting the red-clay shoreline of Kings Creek at Aberdeen Proving Ground recently when he spotted something that would capture any archaeologist's imagination: worn crates of neatly stacked and packed glass bottles, some spilling from under the eroded shoreline and into the water.

The find in the proving ground's Edgewood area hinted at a dangerous past and pointed to a potential emergency. "That's clearly what this was," Ebrite said. "Chemists made a concerted effort to dispose of them in an organized manner at a time when most things went down the drain."

"They could be benign," Ebrite said, "but it's highly unlikely."

The find has sparked a project at APG, the Kings Creek Time-Critical Removal Project, which entered its second phase last week as workers prepared to peel back grass to try to determine the extent of the toxic-waste burial.

For Ebrite - a site remediation manager with private contractor General Physics - and the other researchers and scientists who work on APG cleanup projects, finding newly exposed environmental hazards is almost a daily occurrence.

Edgewood Arsenal, as the peninsula was known for decades, opened during World War I and was the Army's center for chemical weapons research and testing until the 1950s.

The Edgewood peninsula is on the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund list - a list of the nation's most hazardous sites - and is riddled with a toxic legacy that includes a roughly 1,600-ton stockpile of mustard agent, old munitions and laboratory waste dumps, and an unknown amount of unexploded ordnance.

It's a legacy that costs APG's environmental restoration program millions each year. Don Green, an APG environmental scientist, said the program spends \$24 million to \$27 million a year working on cleanup projects in the Edgewood and Aberdeen areas of the proving ground.

'A jackpot'

Though much time and effort has been put into documenting the area's history, record-keeping in the past was spotty, especially for dump sites. So finds such as the one at Kings Creek are common.

But Kings Creek is different, contractors working on the site say, because the contents of the cork-topped vials and beakers - some filled with a silvery liquid - could reveal a source of stubborn mercury contamination in the creek's sediment. And that makes this project more exciting, Ebrite said.

"This is one of the more rewarding things I've done," he said.

Cal Baier-Anderson, a University of Maryland toxicologist who works with the Aberdeen Proving Ground Superfund Citizens Coalition, said that from the community's perspective, "it's a jackpot.

"These are exactly the kinds of areas they didn't put on maps," she said. "All the planning in the world won't result in a find like this."

Dumping ground

The 500-acre peninsula around Kings Creek, which feeds into the Bush River at the southern end of Harford County, has long been known as an old dumping ground, said Green, who is the project manager for cleanup in the Bush River area.

In the 1920s and 1930s, the area was an open burning and dumping site for mustard agent and lewisite, now-banned carcinogenic blistering agents. Old munitions also were dumped in pits.

Erosion has eaten away at the shoreline at a rate of about 6 inches a year, said APG spokesman George Mercer. So, 70 years or so later, items buried well away from the water are now exposed.

In 1996, Green said, workers removed old drums of tear gas from the nearby 30th Street Landfill, and in 1998, Navy SEALs removed unexploded ordnance from shallow water off the shore.

When Ebrite found the sand-packed vials and beakers, some of which contained dry chemicals and liquids, he briefed Green, and the removal began the next week.

Workers wearing Level B protection - head-to-toe protective gear, including a mask and air tank - picked the containers gingerly out from under the foot of grass growing above it.

Green agrees that the find suggests something toxic. "You don't find things that are neatly stacked," he said. "It probably implies it was something really nasty they didn't want to just dump on the ground."

The nearly three dozen bottles pulled from the site have been sent to a lab at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center for analysis.

Meanwhile, the shoreline has been stabilized by adding about 12 feet of sand and pea gravel to it, Ebrite said, so the next phase of removal can be done more safely.

The first stage of the project cost about \$124,000, Green said, and he expects to spend a few more hundreds of thousands to complete the emergency project.

The need for expertly trained workers, protective gear and other specialized equipment adds significantly to the project cost, Green said.

Before any removal work could begin, the site had to be swept for unexploded ordnance, the ubiquitous thorn in recovery work, Ebrite said.

Workers have found 353 rounds, he said, though none were configured as explosives.

Protecting shores

The Kings Creek discovery has renewed interest in a shoreline protection plan for the Aberdeen and Edgewood peninsulas, said Rich Isaac, a project manager for the Army Environmental Center.

"Because of this, we're trying to get it done a lot quicker," he said, adding that he hopes to identify its worst areas of shore erosion and create a comprehensive plan for girding them this year.

Mercer said, "This kind of issue is theoretically possible on any shoreline on APG."

Each new find sparks a new round of theories about how work was done in Edgewood decades ago. "It's like looking at ancient civilizations," said Green.

<http://www.sunspot.net/news/local/bal-te.ha.kings18may18.story>

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

Washington Post

May 17, 2003

Pg. 21

Iran: No Biological Weapons

TEHRAN—Iran strongly denied allegations by an exile opposition group that it had biological weapons.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran charged that Tehran had biological weapons armed with anthrax and was pursuing smallpox and typhoid weapons. A senior Iranian government official said the charges were false.

"I strongly deny that we have biological weapons because we do not need any banned weapons," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Iran also denies U.S. charges of sponsoring terrorism and seeking to develop nuclear arms. It says its nuclear ambitions are peaceful and limited to producing electricity.

--Reuters

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A1509-2003May16.html>

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

Washington Post

May 20, 2003

Pg. 8

U.N. Atomic Chief Again Warns U.S. About Iraq

By Walter Pincus, Washington Post Staff Writer

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency warned the United States for the third time yesterday of the danger of radioactive contamination in Iraq because of looting at nuclear sites and called on the Bush administration to allow his safety and emergency response teams to enter the country.

In a statement, Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the Vienna-based IAEA, said he was deeply concerned that "nuclear and radioactive materials may no longer be under control" in Iraq. He said a safety and security team from the agency should be deployed immediately to avoid "a potentially serious humanitarian situation."

ElBaradei sent his first warning about the Tuwaitha Nuclear Research Center in Iraq to the administration on April 10 -- the day after Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's government collapsed. He also supplied U.S. officials with data about the nuclear material at the facility, 30 miles south of Baghdad. At that time, according to the IAEA, U.S. officials gave the agency "oral assurances" that U.S. forces were protecting the site.

The administration has been weighing for more than a month whether to allow inspectors from the IAEA or the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission to return to Iraq. A decision was first set aside until Iraq was secure enough to have the U.N. personnel return. More recently, it has been among the issues involved in internal U.S. discussions about a draft U.S.-sponsored U.N. Security Council resolution to lift international sanctions on Iraq.

Yesterday's statement from ElBaradei came after recent media stories reported on extensive looting at several Iraqi nuclear sites, including Tuwaitha. At Tuwaitha, the IAEA had stored under seal natural uranium oxide, also known as "yellow cake," low-enriched uranium and other radioactive sources. Media accounts said the materials had been spread on the ground, stolen or removed from their shielding.

Some reports said local residents had dumped yellow cake powder on the ground so the barrels could be used for storing water. That created a radiation hazard for those exposed to the powder or drinking water from the barrels.

News stories also reported that signs of radiation sickness had appeared among residents of villages near Tuwaitha.

On April 29, ElBaradei sent his second warning to the administration about the potential dangers involved with cobalt 60, cesium 137 and other nuclear waste at the facility. He said yesterday he has yet to receive a response.

The U.S. Central Command, overseeing military operations in Iraq, said Friday it would "soon" begin an assessment of Tuwaitha using an 11-member Army nuclear disablement team. Yesterday, a Central Command spokesman said he could not confirm that team had reached Tuwaitha. The group, trained in nuclear physics and radiation safety, is to "assess the quantity and condition" of the nuclear material stored at the facility, the Central Command said.

David Albright, a participant in the United Nations nuclear inspections in the 1990s, said yesterday he was contacted last week by Iraqi nuclear scientists. He said the scientists were worried about U.S. military intelligence officers using Iraqi exiles associated with the Iraqi National Congress, an anti-Hussein group that has assumed a prominent role in postwar Iraq, in their questioning.

Albright, president of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security, said he had been told the exiles provided by the INC were serving both as interpreters for the U.S. military and as messengers. In some instances, Albright said, the exiles told relatives of scientists that if they don't show up for meetings "the tanks will come and arrest you."

Since late 2001, INC head Ahmed Chalabi has produced Iraqi defectors who said they had first-hand knowledge of Hussein's weapons programs.

In December 2001, Chalabi produced a defector who said he was a civil engineer and had worked on renovations of illegal laboratories, facilities and storage sites where Iraq was hiding biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

While senior Bush administration officials later said the CIA did not trust this defector's information, he was extensively debriefed by the Defense Intelligence Agency, an arm of the Pentagon.

Apparently no sites this defector identified have been productive, since U.S. teams have yet to uncover chemical or biological weapons or their precursor components.

To carry on the weapons inspection program, Undersecretary of Defense Stephen A. Cambone is expected to announce today that the new Iraq Survey Group, which contains at least a dozen former U.N. weapons inspectors, will soon begin its work in the country.

Charles Duelfer, the chief deputy director of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) in the 1990s, has been in Baghdad for some time helping to organize the operation.

The United States in February began recruiting U.S. citizens who worked for UNSCOM and had made at least 10 trips to Iraq, according to one participant. Infighting between Pentagon officials and others has apparently delayed dispatching the former UNSCOM inspectors to Iraq, sources said.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A13249-2003May19.html>

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

May 20, 2003

IN BRIEF / AEROSPACE

Northrop Wins Postal Bioterror Contract

From Bloomberg News

Northrop Grumman Corp. received a \$175-million, 10-month contract from the Postal Service to make systems that analyze mail for biological threats.

The devices will test air samples at mail-sorting facilities nationwide for anthrax spores and other biological agents, the Century City-based company said. Northrop will serve as prime contractor using technology for testing air samples developed by Sunnyvale, Calif.-based **Cepheid Inc.**

Northrop's shares fell \$2.21 to \$88.69 on the NYSE

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-rup20.8may20.1.7044391.story>

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

London Financial Times

May 20, 2003

Pg. 10

Helpful Iraqis Become The Key In Coalition's Search For WMD

Despite fading hopes of finding smoking guns, the hunt for weapons goes on. Mark Huband reports

Saddam Hussein's presence has been neatly erased from the al-Qaim fertiliser factory.

While elsewhere in the country the former Iraqi leader's portraits have had their eyes gouged out, or been sprayed with graffiti, the employees of Iraq's largest fertiliser producer instead took a can of red paint and carefully coated the larger-than-life image which stood at the factory entrance.

For al-Qaim's remaining 250 employees, erasing the past is a duty, a necessity and an obsession. The Sensitive Sight Team Five (SST5), however, has the opposite mission.

Its role is painstakingly to go over old ground in the hunt for the evidence of Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programmes.

Today tumbleweed blows past concrete bunkers in a fenced-off inner site within which Iraqi scientists in the 1980s extracted uranium oxide - so-called "Yellow Cake" - from phosphoric acid at al-Qaim, in an attempt to set up a nuclear programme.

The "cake", if it had been produced in quantities Iraq never in fact achieved, could have been used in the development of nuclear fuel and weapons.

The bunkers were ordered to be closed and encased in concrete by United Nations inspectors after the 1991 Gulf war. UN teams regularly visited the site, most recently in early March, days before the US-led invasion.

But beneath a building part-destroyed by bombing in 1991, 16 blue plastic barrels still lie coated in a thin film of dust. A British specialist with the UK's Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Regiment, seconded to the US-led SST5, surveyed the barrels with an Exploranium weapons detector. Its indicator ticked rapidly and words on a screen described the contents of the barrels as "industrial uranium 238" - yellow cake.

Until a month ago, as UK and US troops advanced through the country, the find, 20 miles from Iraq's north-western border with Syria, would perhaps have been called a "smoking gun" by the excitable invaders.

But as expectations have evaporated that big WMD finds will be made at sites identified before the war, the detection of yellow cake merely led to a report being filed and a recommendation that a second inspection team find ways of disposing of it.

Frustration is palpable among the weapons hunters, as site after site fails to provide evidence of the banned weapons programmes that would provide the retrospective justification for war.

"Our best information is going to come from human sources: Iraqis, when they feel comfortable enough, will come forward," says Lieutenant Colonel Keith Harrington, the US Special Forces officer who heads SST5. "The new approach will be: piece it together from the human intelligence. We probably won't find the big smoking gun."

The first detail provided to the SST5 by Ismail Ibrahim, al-Qaim's production manager, was that the site had already been visited by other coalition troops. According to company officials, they had kicked down doors and used explosives to crack open the safes, part-destroying offices in the process.

Undeterred by the possibility that they might have travelled for several hours by helicopter only to be duplicating others' work, the 20-strong SST5 team, drawn from the US and British armies and the Royal Air Force, spent seven hours testing chemicals, photographing laboratories and examining facilities.

The team had not been provided with details of al-Qaim's activities included in previous UN inspections - some of which are available on the internet - and it was Mr Ibrahim who volunteered the information that yellow cake had once been produced at the site.

His readiness to provide details underlined both the dependence of the new WMD inspectors on well-informed Iraqis who are prepared to share information, and the risk of investigations being started from scratch when extensive information already lies with the UN. "The UN inspectors knew everything," said Mr Ismail. What the UN lacked was an environment in which people like him were able to speak frankly about the deposed regime and its alleged WMDs.

http://search.ft.com/search/article.html?id=030520000404&query=Helpful+Iraqis+Become+The+Key+In+Coalition+%3Fs+Search+For+WMD&vsc_appId=totalSearch&state=Form

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

U.S. News & World Report
May 26, 2003

The Killer Strain

By Marilyn W. Thompson

When a series of letters packed with anthrax spread terror along the East Coast in late 2001, the FBI turned to the 42,000-member American Society for Microbiology, asking scientists to seek out clues that might lead to the arrest of the bioterrorist. The bureau also turned to one microbiologist in particular, John Ezzell, then head of the special pathogens division at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) at Fort Detrick, Md., to help them understand this deadly bacterium. In this excerpt from The Killer Strain: Anthrax and a Government Exposed (HarperCollins), Ezzell confronts what he called "The Face of Satan"—the most refined anthrax he had ever seen.

John Ezzell stood by the guarded entrance to USAMRIID waiting for the FBI to arrive with the evidence, as he had so many times before during the anthrax scares. Ezzell and his team knew that this package, coming straight from Capitol Hill, would focus the eyes of the world on his Special Pathogens Sample Test Laboratory. He did not consider its danger until later, when he opened the envelope and out burst a spore powder so pure that it evaporated in midair.

An intern in the office of Senate Majority Leader Thomas Daschle, a South Dakota Democrat, had cut open the envelope around 9:45 that Monday morning, October 15. The FBI promptly called Ezzell to alert him that they were sending the evidence from Daschle's office for testing. A few hours later, the FBI team pulled into Fort Detrick's gates bearing sealed containers and layers of Ziploc bags. The containers held the rapid assays that had tested positive at the Senate site, though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had cautioned that the scientific accuracy of these tests had not been absolutely established.

Ezzell's team would have to do the next level of analysis. The most authoritative analysis required cultures that took 14 hours to process. Ezzell and his team began work under a safety hood. Wearing a mask and gloves, Ezzell had confidence in his own protection. He had been vaccinated so many times that he considered himself virtually anthrax-proof.

First, the team dealt with the sealed canisters, the assays wet with chemicals taken from the crime scene. They removed the contents and drained off some of the liquid to use for further testing. Their concern heightened when they began examining the envelope and its contents. They had all been trained to conduct risk analysis on suspicious packages and envelopes and to take extra precautions if they found anything even slightly alarming. The powdery material packed inside was shifting with movement. He told the team that for added protection they would step up laboratory safeguards before opening the letter and its inner layers of packaging.

The Ziploc bags were placed in a secure isolation chamber, known as an air lock, located outside the lab. An FBI agent guarded the bags until Ezzell and his colleagues could get inside. Ezzell removed his street clothes and pulled on green surgical scrubs. To access the lab, he had to pass through another security checkpoint by punching his personal ID number into a keypad. Once inside, he changed into lab shoes and made his way over to the biological safety cabinet. The FBI agent watched through a window.

Ezzell thoroughly cleaned the cabinet, rinsing it with bleach and distilled water. He could see the fine powder dispersed inside the plastic bags and knew that his cabinet could become contaminated unless he took special precautions. He lined its bottom with a layer of bleach-soaked paper towels to keep the spores under control.

Wearing multiple layers of latex gloves covered by sleeve protectors, Ezzell propped up the envelope against the back of the cabinet, forming a kind of artist's easel that would allow him to photograph the full image. He moved back to focus the camera. That was when he noticed it: The bleach had wicked up through the dry panels. The bottom of the envelope had become smudged with bleach solution.

“Oh my God, what have I done?” Ezzell thought. Worried that he might have tainted the evidence but unable to undo the damage, he carried on. He began slowly removing the letter from its envelope. As he worked, he noticed a bit of white powder tucked into one of the letter’s folds. Almost as soon as he saw it, the powder dispersed, spreading invisibly through the safety cabinet.

Even though he had been studying anthrax for years, Ezzell had never actually seen the bacterium in its weaponized form. This was a powder so virulent that normal laboratory rules did not apply. “After all these years of looking, here it is,” he thought. “This is the real thing.”

Ezzell kept his fear suppressed, determined to finish the job carefully. He finished pulling the letter out, then coaxed the powder back into its Ziploc bag. The letter went into a sterile baggie, and he sealed the envelope in another one. Then he wrapped both in plastic bags that had been decontaminated with bleach solution. Ezzell took the sterile bags to the lab’s glass window so FBI agent Darin Steele could photograph them. The images he snapped were seen around the globe.

To protect himself, Ezzell started antibiotics to guard against infection. He also took another precaution. He mixed a solution of diluted bleach and, bracing himself, took a deep snort. The pain that surged through his sinuses almost knocked him to the ground, but he could not stand the thought of carrying anthrax spores in his nostrils.

That night, a friend who worked for the CIA woke Ezzell from a deep sleep: His assessment—that this was indeed “weaponized” anthrax—had been passed on to the president of the United States.

Recipe. After opening the Daschle envelope, Ezzell would bolt awake in the middle of the night, worrying about what would happen if anthrax powder made its way into American households. This stuff was coming through the mail, he told himself. Everyone was vulnerable. What could the average person do to protect himself? It was well documented in the scientific literature that two hours of exposure to dry heat at 320 degrees Fahrenheit would kill spores. Ezzell, an accomplished cook, set his kitchen oven to 320. He inserted an assortment of daily mail—sealed envelopes of various sizes and types, plastic-encased magazines—and waited two hours.

Voila! The stamps were still firmly in place and the envelopes sealed, though the plastic windows showed slight shrinkage. Glossy magazines had a slightly burned appearance but were readable. Over the next few days, he perfected the technique. It worked much better if the batch of mail was placed inside a turkey-basting bag or foil container. A careful person could take the bag to the mailbox, dump the contents inside, secure with a twist-tie, and easily pop it into the oven.

Finally, after testing the oven technique in his lab, Ezzell sat down and wrote a paper called “Procedure for Killing Bacillus Anthracis Spores in Mail.” He wrote: “While there may be opportunities for fine-tuning the process, the advantages of this approach are that the process is low-tech, immediately available, and can be performed in residences or offices. It is based on firm scientific data with respect to temperature and time required for killing Bacillus anthracis spores and with respect to initial experiments which have shown that spores from Senator Daschle’s office are killed well within the two-hour heating period.” He added this disclaimer: “The author assumes no responsibility for loss of plastic items (including credit cards), fires, odors or other damage.”

Ezzell began distributing the guide to friends and fellow worshipers at his Methodist church. Someone posted it on the Internet. He was amused that, after a lifetime of scientific endeavor, studying the fine points of an obscure and mystifying bacterium, this would be his most practical contribution to the common good. Like a chef in a Betty Crocker cook-off, he had created the homemaker’s guide to baking anthrax, sealed in the U.S. mail.

From the book The Killer Strain by Marilyn W. Thompson. Copyright © 2003. Published by arrangement with HarperCollins, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers Inc.

<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/issue/030526/usnews/26anthrax.htm>

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

New York Times

May 21, 2003

Pg. 1

U.S. Analysts Link Iraq Labs To Germ Arms

By Judith Miller and William J. Broad

United States intelligence agencies have concluded that two mysterious trailers found in Iraq were mobile units to produce germs for weapons, but they have found neither biological agents nor evidence that the equipment was used to make such arms, according to senior administration officials.

The officials said intelligence analysts in Washington and Baghdad reached their conclusion about the trailers after analyzing, and rejecting, alternative theories of how they could have been used. Their consensus was in a paper presented to the White House late Monday.

“The experts who have crawled over this again and again can come up with no other plausible legitimate use,” said one senior official who examined the evidence in detail. One theory that was rejected had recently been put forward by Iraqi scientists who said one of the units was used to produce hydrogen.

Officials in Iraq and Washington emphasized in interviews that because the unit studied in greatest detail had been thoroughly decontaminated with a still-unidentified caustic agent, it was impossible to say whether it had ever produced agents for bioweapons.

“It may have, we don’t know,” a senior administration official said. “What we know is that it is equipped to do that.” The intelligence analysts’ judgment would support some of the evidence that Secretary of State Colin L. Powell presented on Feb. 5 to the United Nations in an effort to build support for the war in Iraq. But their failure to find biological agents raises continuing questions about whether Saddam Hussein’s regime had actually made germ weapons, as administration officials claimed.

The administration has come under growing political pressure in recent weeks to show clear evidence to back those claims. Officials said that they expect that the intelligence community’s conclusion about the mobile units to become a centerpiece of their argument that Iraq had a well-concealed germ weapons program. Yesterday in Baghdad a military official said that American forces would invite international experts to examine the mobile units, The Associated Press reported.

The six-page white paper, entitled Iraqi Mobile Biological Warfare Production Plants, contains a description of the three trailer units found so far in Iraq and dismisses at least three alternative explanations for their use, an official said yesterday.

The official said it describes two of the labs as production units, and the third as a biological laboratory that could be used for a germ weapons program or for peaceful purposes.

The paper called the trailers an “ingeniously simple, self-contained bioprocessing system,” one official said. The paper rejected theories that the two mobile production units were intended to make hydrogen gas for weather balloons or germs for biopesticides to protect crops, or to regenerate rocket fuel.

Repeatedly pressed to discuss the basis for these conclusions, administration officials provided photographs of one of the trailers, a schematic diagram of how experts believe it could have made deadly germs, and interviews with technical experts and other analysts who have observed the units most closely.

This trailer has been analyzed by at least three groups of allied intelligence and technical experts. After it was turned over last month to American soldiers by Kurdish forces near Mosul, three experts from a Pentagon chemical and biological intelligence support team conducted a four-day examination. Assisted by British experts, the team concluded that the trailer was a mobile biological production unit, its members said.

A second group of military and other experts from Washington was then flown to Baghdad, where further tests were conducted. In interviews, one of these experts said he too had concluded that the unit was intended to be a germ producer.

Finally, experts at the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency and other national security units assessed the drawings, reviewed statements by Iraqi scientists still in Iraq and the Iraqi source of one early report that there were mobile germ factories in Iraq.

Within the past 10 days, officials said, Iraqi scientists at Al Kindi, a research and testing facility in northern Iraq, where allied forces found one of the units, told American experts that the two production units were mobile plants to make hydrogen for filling weather balloons.

But American intelligence analysts said that after exhaustively examining evidence to support this theory, they concluded it is a false story, possibly conceived to mislead them.

Each of the two trailer units contains a 2,000-liter vessel. The Iraqi scientists asserted that the vessel was used to mix chemicals together to produce hydrogen gas. But American officials said that engineering surveys and other evidence strongly suggested that the vessel is a fermenter used to multiply seed germs of anthrax and possibly other agents into deadly swarms. Face plates on the vessels show that they were made in 2002 and 2003.

Officials said they were continuing to test residue in the vessel. They said that while it has not yet been identified, it appeared to contain traces of aluminum, a metal that can be used to produce hydrogen. They said it might have been planted by Iraqis to create the illusion that the units had made gas for weather balloons.

American military officers in Iraq said they believe that Iraqi scientists remain reluctant to speak candidly about Mr. Hussein’s weapons programs because they fear they could be implicated in possible war crimes or face retribution from members of the fallen regime who are at large.

One senior administration official observed that the mobile laboratories were a violation of Security Council resolutions, whether or not they were used to produce weapons. "It was surely capable of producing biological weapons agent," he said. "Iraq never told the United Nations that it had made such units." "Why would you have a covert program for filling weather balloons?" the official said.

Late last year, Iraq stated in its formal declaration to the United Nations that the mobile facilities were "refrigeration vehicles and food testing laboratories."

American intelligence officials said that the Iraqi defector who first told Western officials about the existence of the mobile plants was shown photographs of the units found in Iraq. The Iraqi, a chemical engineer, said that the trailers appeared to be modern versions of a germ production unit he had supervised.

The big vessels in two of the units could be used to produce an estimated 500 liters of liquid anthrax and 50 liters of botulinum toxin per batch within two to three days — millions of lethal doses.

"Those are definitely more than terrorist quantities of these agents," said David R. Franz, a senior scientist and former head of the Army defensive biological lab at Fort Detrick, Md.

The schematic diagram was prepared by American experts who have closely studied the most intact production unit. Aside from the central fermenter vessel, there was a tank they believe was for germ food, a compressor to feed air into the fermenter and a refrigeration unit to cool it. The diagram shows that the factory has a system of post-fermenter processing that consists of a compressor that experts said was to remove any gases and dangerous spores and bottle them up in tanks.

Civilian experts on Iraq's program and biological weapons said this gas-capture system appeared to be a hallmark of a clandestine facility, and strongly reinforced the idea that the mobile units were for the production of biological weapons. If spores and signature gasses from the germ food escaped the unit, experts said, inspectors down wind with sensitive detectors might be able to detect the illegal manufacturing.

After being shown some of this material, several civilian experts in biological weapons agreed with the government's consensus.

"There is no doubt in my mind," said William C. Patrick III, a senior official in the United States biological warfare program decades ago. "This is a very simple production facility for an easy-to-grow organism like anthrax."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/21/international/worldspecial/21WEAP.html?th>

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

Washington Post

May 21, 2003

Pg. 20

U.S., IAEA Negotiate Sending Teams To Iraq

Agency Concerned About Nuclear Sites

By Walter Pincus, Washington Post Staff Writer

The United States has started discussions with the International Atomic Energy Agency to make arrangements for IAEA teams to return to Iraq to determine what may have been stolen from nuclear sites, a State Department official said yesterday.

The negotiations apparently began one day after IAEA General Secretary Mohamed ElBaradei issued a statement saying he was concerned that "nuclear and radioactive materials may no longer be under control" in Iraq, particularly at the Tuwaitha Nuclear Research Center 30 miles south of Baghdad. Radioactive materials were stored at the site under IAEA supervision before the war.

ElBaradei said Monday that low-enriched uranium, uranium oxide powder and other radioactive items reported stolen from Tuwaitha may have created "a potentially serious humanitarian situation." He asked the United States to grant immediate approval for the IAEA to dispatch safety and emergency response teams to the area.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld yesterday backed a return of the IAEA specialists. At a news conference at the Pentagon, he said he had discussed the issue with Army Gen. Tommy R. Franks, head of U.S. Central Command and overseer of military operations in Iraq. "And his attitude is he has no problem with their going in and that's been communicated within our government," Rumsfeld said.

The talks between the United States and IAEA, which are taking place at the U.N. agency's headquarters in Vienna, are being carried out under the IAEA's responsibilities under the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and outside ongoing negotiations in New York over a new U.N. resolution on Iraq, the State Department official said.

An IAEA spokesman said in a telephone interview from Vienna that agency teams in Iraq in January for their last survey had compiled a detailed inventory of what was at Tuwaitha. ElBaradei sent the U.S. government a letter on April 10, a day after the collapse of the Iraqi government, warning about the need to secure the site. The site was at the top of an IAEA list of nuclear sites in Iraq requiring protection.

An IAEA spokesman said ElBaradei was assured at the time by an official at the United States' U.N. mission in Vienna that the site had been secured.

In Iraq, however, a U.S. Marine engineering company a few days earlier had found the site abandoned and reported that looters were already at the facility. On April 10, a U.S. Army unit arrived and measured radiation levels that made storage buildings too hazardous to enter. Videotape of the site showed wrecked offices and storage drums that once contained either uranium oxide or low-enriched uranium. The Army group withdrew from the IAEA area of Tuwaitha after being told it should not break the agency's sealed containers.

On April 29, ElBaradei sent another letter to the U.S. government expressing his concern after news accounts of looting at Tuwaitha. The IAEA spokesman said yesterday that the IAEA teams that were being prepared to return to Iraq were trained to not only examine what remains at the site and what is missing, but also to try to determine where the missing items went.

At his news conference, Rumsfeld defended a new Pentagon intelligence unit being put together by Stephen Cambone, undersecretary of defense for intelligence, saying it is no threat to Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet. Rumsfeld described Cambone's 100-person organization as a "very small office . . . at a very senior level" that would provide a central interaction point for the Pentagon to the CIA and other U.S. intelligence agencies "in a more professional and coordinated way."

Another senior Pentagon official said the office would neither collect nor analyze intelligence and thus not threaten the CIA or the Defense Intelligence Agency, an arm of the Pentagon. Its prime roles, this official said, will be to look to possible future needs in intelligence and means of supporting the military units.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A17225-2003May20.html>

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

Dallas Morning News
May 21, 2003

Rumsfeld Open To Letting U.N. Inspectors Into Iraq

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON – The U.S. military does not object to the return of U.N. nuclear inspectors to Iraq, but it won't happen until a new Security Council resolution on Iraq is in place, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Tuesday.

Mohamed el-Baradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has said his experts must be allowed back inside Iraq to help account for radioactive materials that had been stored at looted weapons sites.

Mr. Rumsfeld said at a Pentagon news conference that having officials of the agency return to Iraq would be a good idea. He said the officials could check Iraqi nuclear sites against their inventories of what was there before the U.S.-led war, to discover what material may have been stolen or removed during the war.

That effort will have to wait until the Security Council enacts a resolution on the United Nations' role in Iraq, Mr. Rumsfeld said. U.S. officials say that vote could come as early as Wednesday.

"It's just not up to us," Mr. Rumsfeld said. "It is fine, and my guess is it'll happen."

Dr. el-Baradei said Monday that he was frustrated that his appeals to send in a team of IAEA experts had been met with silence from the Americans. Dr. el-Baradei's agency has been particularly worried about a large Iraqi facility at Tuwaitha, where tons of uranium and other radioactive materials are stored and where looters had free rein for a time.

Meanwhile, another top former Iraqi official has surrendered to U.S. forces, said Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Uglah Abid Saqir al-Kubaysi, No. 50 on the Americans' list of 55 most-wanted Iraqis, turned himself in Monday, Gen. Myers said. Mr. al-Kubaysi was a leader of President Saddam Hussein's Baath Party in southeastern Iraq.

The surrender brings to 24 the number of most-wanted Iraqis in U.S. custody, Gen. Myers said.

Mr. Rumsfeld said evidence increasingly suggests the disappearance of artifacts from the Iraqi national museum in Baghdad was "an inside job." He said that only 38 items remain missing.

About 4,500 Iraqi police officers are on duty in Baghdad, and the lawlessness that has plagued the city since its fall to U.S. troops seems to be abating, Mr. Rumsfeld said. He said that some courts are functioning and that some American troops have been asked to testify in cases against looters.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dallas/world/stories/052103dnintmilitary.b2ca8.html>

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

Washington Times

May 21, 2003

Pg. 8

Mandatory Anthrax Vaccine For Troops Challenged In Court

By Patrick Badgley, The Washington Times

Attorneys for six military officers and Defense Department personnel argued in a U.S. District Court yesterday that the Department of Defense must stop inoculating soldiers as a remedy for inhalation anthrax because the vaccine is in "investigational" stages and is being used without approval.

Appearing before Judge Emmet G. Sullivan in *John Doe, et. al. v. Rumsfeld, et. al.*, plaintiffs were seeking a preliminary injunction that would prevent the government from vaccinating military personnel unless the recipients heard an explanation of potential side-effects and gave consent, or the president issued a waiver. They said that under a federal statute such regulations are necessary for drugs under investigation.

"In some cases, they're not even told it's going to be an anthrax vaccination," said John Michels Jr., the plaintiffs' attorney.

Mr. Michels brought up the case of a woman who said she told the person administering the shot that she was pregnant and was fearful of the effects of the vaccination, yet was told that didn't exempt her.

When soldiers who reject the shot are court-martialed and punished, that is "irreparable damage," one requirement needed for a judge to issue an injunction, the defense has said.

But attorneys for the defendants — the Defense Department, and the Food and Drug Administration — said the treatment has been accepted for years for all forms of anthrax, including the inhalation variety. Although plaintiffs' attorneys maintained that it is still to be determined whether the vaccine is an acceptable treatment for inhalation anthrax, the defense attorneys said it is settled.

"There are risks with all vaccines, your honor," said Ronald Wiltsie, a Department of Justice trial lawyer, who is representing the defendants. "The risks here are no greater than a tetanus shot or MMR," measles, mumps and rubella shots.

Mr. Wiltsie also disputed the plaintiffs' claim of irreparable damage, saying punishing personnel by court-martialing them does not warrant such a description.

In the first day of oral arguments, yesterday, the lawyer also detailed a different and more informative process that soldiers go through if they are reluctant to receive the vaccination. He said they are informed about the type of inoculation they will receive and are counseled by a medical professional if they refuse. They are then given an order, and if they still refuse, are subject to discipline.

The plaintiffs "seek to undermine a key component of military readiness and defense against battlefield use of biological weapons," attorneys for the defense wrote in a brief to the court.

The Pentagon has said the anthrax vaccine is safe but acknowledged that severe harmful reactions develop in about one in 100,000 vaccinations. When inhaled, dry anthrax spores can be deadly to humans.

At least 600,000 employees in the Defense Department have received the vaccination, and officials say they plan to immunize each of the 2.4 million members of the military.

Also at issue is whether the case, which involves military parties, belonged in a federal court instead of a military one. Defense attorneys denied that the federal court should be the decision-maker in the case.

"This goes to the core of the military's ability to structure its forces and control them," Mr. Wiltsie said.

But Mr. Michels said military courts have a pattern of following rules set by the heads of the armed forces branches. "I don't believe there is a military judge anywhere ... that would step up and say, 'I'm going to stand against the secretary of defense, the secretary of the Air Force,'" he said.

There have been several cases of U.S. soldiers refusing to take the anthrax vaccine, whether for religious reasons or for fear of breast-feeding infants or the long-term effects it could have on children they might bear.

Two Air Force officers filed a lawsuit against the Pentagon in 2002, challenging the mandatory anthrax vaccines for soldiers. One complainant received 60 days of base restriction and was fined \$21,000 for refusing the anthrax vaccine, and the other was forced to end his 14-year military career.

<http://www.washtimes.com/metro/20030520-102253-6646r.htm>

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

New York Times

May 21, 2003

Senate Votes To Lift Ban On Producing Nuclear Arms

By Carl Hulse

WASHINGTON, May 20 — The Senate agreed tonight to lift a ban on research and development of smaller nuclear weapons, rejecting Democratic arguments that any step toward such arms could spur other nations to build tactical nuclear weapons of their own.

On a 51-to-43 vote, the Senate turned down a Democratic amendment that would have preserved a 10-year-old prohibition on moving toward producing nuclear weapons of less than five kilotons. Many modern nuclear weapons have a blast force of several hundred kilotons.

The Bush administration had sought permission to begin pursuing smaller nuclear weapons. Republican advocates of easing the Congressionally imposed ban said such military alternatives might be needed in a changed international climate when adversaries can burrow deep into well-protected bunkers that conventional bombs cannot penetrate.

“In this new world, there could well be reason to have these weapons,” said Senator Jon Kyl, Republican of Arizona. But Senator Jack Reed, Democrat of Rhode Island, said that talking about low-yield nuclear weapons was like discussing a “small apocalypse.” He questioned their military value and said they “shouldn’t be confused with benign or, you know, casual weapons that we would use. These are atomic weapons.”

The change in nuclear policy sought by the Bush administration was just one of the sticking points over the first major military legislation considered since the Iraq war: a \$400 billion military spending bill. The House will take up a similar measure on Wednesday.

Senate Republicans dropped the ban in committee, and Democrats were trying to restore it. Republicans noted that any move toward production of the weapons would require further Congressional action.

Some Democrats, however, called the Senate action dangerous and a major step backward for arms control.

“To my mind, even considering the use of these weapons threatens to undermine our efforts to stop proliferation,” said Senator Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California. She said repealing the ban “actually encourages other nations to pursue nuclear weapons by emphasizing their importance.”

After their first effort failed, Democrats said they would try to limit work on such nuclear weapons to research only, bringing the Senate provision more in line with the language to be considered by the House.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said today that the administration wanted only the capability to study the issue. “We’re going to look at a variety of different ways — conceivably — to develop the ability to reach a deeply buried target,” he said.

Democrats in the House accused the Republican leadership of souring what is usually a bipartisan process by adding to the measure a new Pentagon proposal to exempt about 700,000 civilian Pentagon workers from some employment protections and enact broad exemptions to environmental laws.

Representative Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland, the No. 2 Democrat in the House, said the success of the military in Iraq is evidence there is no need to rush personnel changes.

Representative John D. Dingell, the Michigan Democrat who is an original author of the Endangered Species Act, offered a similar argument in saying that the Congressional push to exempt the military and other federal agencies from that law and one protecting marine mammals was unnecessary.

“If I understand this correctly, the Bush administration would like to send the world a message that our military is strong enough to topple Saddam Hussein, but weak enough to be bested by Yertl the Turtle,” he said.

Republican leaders said they were providing the military with the management freedom sought by the president and Mr. Rumsfeld.

“We’re trying to bring the military into the 21st century, and in order to do that, you have to have flexibility in making management decisions, not these hard and fast rules imposed 40, 50 years ago they still want to hold on to,” said Representative Tom DeLay of Texas, the House majority leader.

The Senate measure does not include much of the House approach on the personnel issues and would provide a more limited exemption from the environmental law. House Democrats planned to try to offer amendments to revise those provisions on the floor.

Despite the differences, lawmakers well aware of the public support of the military were in broad agreement over much of the huge Pentagon spending plans and hoped to see the bills adopted this week.

The bills represent an almost \$18 billion increase over last year's level and would pay for a wide variety of personnel, hardware and research programs.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/21/politics/21DEFEE.html>

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

InsideDefense.com

May 20, 2003

Perry: North Korea Threat Must Be Addressed Quickly And Multilaterally

North Korea's nuclear program poses a "far more serious proliferation problem" than any perceived danger coming from Iraq before Saddam Hussein's ousting, according to former Defense Secretary William Perry.

"Since the North Koreans still have the canned [nuclear material] left over from the 1994 crisis, the threat is imminent. These rods give them the capability of making about five nuclear bombs this year," Perry said during a Center for Strategic and International Studies panel discussion in Washington yesterday. Leading up to that crisis, the United States and allies, concerned about the bomb-making potential of the North's nuclear program, secured a series of agreements with Pyongyang to freeze work at known North Korean nuclear sites. The North also pledged its commitment to a nuclear weapons-free Korean peninsula.

But last year, the United States uncovered evidence of a secret North Korean nuclear program. In a meeting with U.S. officials, North Korean diplomats admitted it had such a program. Subsequently, North Korea decided to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and threatened to test a nuclear device and possibly export nuclear material, despite international pressure to give up its nuclear ambitions.

North Korea's existing nuclear infrastructure would allow serial production of nuclear bombs to commence next year, Perry said.

For decades, North Korea has sought to acquire nuclear weapons and now they "see a window of opportunity. They may very well pass through that window before the year is out . . . and by the time such a nightmare actually occurs we will no longer have palatable alternatives," he said.

"The North Koreans have said they could be moved to sell . . . fissile material to the highest bidder," said Robert Gallucci, former State Department ambassador-at-large and chief negotiator of the 1994 U.S.-North Korean Agreed Framework, which froze Pyongyang's nuclear program in return for energy assistance from the West. U.S. officials say the North's nuclear program is a clear violation of the Agreed Framework.

The threat of proliferation and nuclear weapon development has sparked several congressional hearings and a variety of congressional responses, such as those from Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) and Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA) urging the Bush administration to pursue negotiations with North Korea.

"I call on the president to renounce any suggestion that the U.S. is resigned to accept North Korea building nuclear weapons. . . . America ought to be confident enough of our strength to go right back to direct negotiations with the North Koreans now. Take no options off the table, but do not be afraid to pursue a path that could make us safer," Lieberman said.

South Korea, Japan and China must play a key role in negotiations and execution of any decisions regarding the North's nuclear program because "we cannot deal [with it] unilaterally," Perry said.

But such coordination could be affected by the United States being distracted with activities in Iraq, while South Korea has been caught up in the transition to a newly elected administration, according to Perry. China, for its part, has been helpful but its "interests are not congruent" with U.S. interests, Gallucci said.

Japan sees North Korea as a "real and imminent threat" to its security and as a result has begun to develop ballistic missile defense systems, Perry noted. Those systems are not sufficient to protect Japan because the North does not have to use ballistic missiles to conduct a nuclear attack, he added.

A major concern for the region is that North Korea's continued development of nuclear weapons could result in a kind of domino effect, in which South Korea, Japan and Taiwan reconsider their status as non-nuclear states and opt

to acquire their own nuclear weapons, Perry said. This, in turn, could lead other countries to acquire nuclear weapons.

-- *Prairie Summer*

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

New York Times

May 22, 2003

State Dept. And U.N. To Inspect Iraq Nuclear Site

By James Dao

WASHINGTON, May 21 — The State Department said today that it was making arrangements with the International Atomic Energy Agency to conduct joint inspections of an Iraqi nuclear research center that has been ransacked by looters.

The sprawling research center at Tuwaitha, 20 miles from Baghdad, is where Iraqi scientists are thought to have come close to developing a nuclear weapon before the Persian Gulf war in 1991.

Since the fall of Saddam Hussein, Western officials have believed looters stole equipment and broke into a warehouse containing radioactive materials. Such events raise concerns that terrorists could have obtained materials for a radiological bomb and exposed nearby residents to radioactive contamination.

Over the past month, Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency — a United Nations organization that promotes atomic energy and monitors its use in military applications — has repeatedly urged the United States to allow a United Nations team to inspect the site. On Monday, Dr. El Baradei issued another statement saying that the United States had not replied to his request.

“I am deeply concerned by the almost daily reports of looting and destruction at nuclear sites and about the potential radiological safety and security implications of nuclear and radiological materials that may no longer be under control,” Dr. El Baradei said. “We have a moral responsibility to establish the facts without delay and take urgent remedial action.”

Today, the State Department spokesman, Richard A. Boucher, said the Bush administration was talking to the energy agency to arrange “joint inspections” of the storage area at Tuwaitha.

A senior administration official said the inspections could begin as early as next week. But the chief spokesman for the atomic energy agency said details on how the joint inspections would proceed had not been worked out.

Sticking points include the scope and objective of the inspections, as well as the United States’ role, officials said.

The Bush administration wants the agency to limit its work to accounting for low-grade uranium and natural uranium that had been under seal at Tuwaitha since 1991.

“This is a responsibility that the I.A.E.A. has under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, an expertise that they have in terms of the things under seal and safeguards and the material that was there,” Mr. Boucher said. “It’s important for all of us that we ascertain what’s happened in terms of the looting.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/22/international/worldspecial/22NUKE.html>

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

Los Angeles Times

May 22, 2003

Pg. 1

Dangerous Loot South Of Baghdad

Iraqis close to a nuclear research site become ill after materials are pilfered. Doctor says symptoms point to acute radiation syndrome.

By John Hendren, Times Staff Writer

RIYADH VILLAGE, Iraq — Elifat Rusum Saber, 14, has been nauseated, tired and bleeding from the nose since her brother brought home metal and chemicals from the neighboring Tuwaitha nuclear research center two days after the fall of Baghdad.

“I used to take care of my family and my youngest sister,” Elifat, her frail figure lost in a billowing flower-print dress, said through an interpreter this week. “Nowadays I feel weak. I can’t pick up a pot.”

A few blocks away, through trash-strewn streets reeking from open sewers, Hassan Aouda Saffah is recovering from a rash that left white blotches on the dark skin of his right arm. The rash appeared the same day he took a dusty generator from the nuclear site to restore some of the electricity the village lost during the war.

Dr. Jaafar Nasser Suhayb, who runs a nearby clinic, said that over a five-day period he had treated about 20 patients from the neighborhood near Tuwaitha for similar symptoms — shortness of breath, nausea, severe nosebleeds and itchy rashes.

Suhayb is worried that the residents may be suffering from radiation poisoning since several of the symptoms are consistent with those of acute radiation syndrome.

“All of the patients live near the nuclear site,” Suhayb said. “Other cases maybe cannot reach the hospitals because of problems of security, postwar. In some cases maybe they are dead.”

Since early April, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations’ nuclear watchdog, has repeatedly requested that the U.S. secure nuclear material at Tuwaitha. This week, the Bush administration agreed to make arrangements to allow the IAEA to return to Iraq to inspect the site.

American troops are now guarding the research center, but the looting has continued, and scientists are worried that missing nuclear material could result in a slew of safety and health problems.

“We’re concerned about the health and safety of these people, and then we’re also concerned about environmental contamination and we’re also concerned that this material could be used for illicit use — a ‘dirty bomb,’ or even a nuclear bomb,” said IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky in a telephone interview from Vienna.

The agency hopes to compare the stocks of radioactive materials and chemicals stored at Tuwaitha to an inventory it took in January 2002. The most recent tally by the IAEA, which has monitored the site since before the 1991 Persian Gulf War, found 1.8 tons of low-grade enriched uranium and several tons of depleted uranium, which some scientists say could be processed into weapons-grade material.

In expressing its concerns, the IAEA has cited reports that 20% of the radioactive materials are now gone.

“Radiation is cumulative,” Gwozdecky said. “It’s been 40 days since the looting began. That’s why we need to act.”

U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Tuesday that he had “no problem” with the IAEA inspecting Tuwaitha since “they probably have inventories of all of that and would be in a position to know what was there.”

The Tuwaitha center, a complex of more than 100 buildings, is just south of the Tigris River, about 15 miles from central Baghdad.

Built in the 1960s for Iraq’s Atomic Energy Commission, it housed Hussein’s secret effort to build a nuclear bomb.

A nuclear reactor complex at Tuwaitha was bombed by Israel in 1981, but uranium not yet enriched for nuclear weapons has remained there. Since the material was not weapons-grade, it was not banned or removed under U.N. resolutions after the Gulf War, but it was checked regularly by the IAEA.

The main gates at Tuwaitha, once one of the highest-security locations in Iraq, were stolen by looters shortly after Baghdad fell to U.S. troops April 9.

The entry guard posts are now windowless and vacant but for a family of squatters whose children bathe in murky brown water.

Inside a 10-foot-high chain-link fence, a platoon of U.S. troops guards the remains of the nuclear reactor destroyed by the Israelis.

Army Staff Sgt. Robert Gasman says his job is to keep looters out, but with a platoon of just 40 men and a fence that runs as far as the eye can see, he admits it’s a losing battle. Looters break through nightly; they are often released within a few hours of being caught.

“There’s no way we can catch them all,” said Gasman, from the 3rd Infantry Division’s 1st Brigade. “For all I know, there are looters back there now.”

Initially, thieves merely cut through the fence. Recently, they have stolen portions of the fence itself.

At first the looters took furniture, air conditioners and office equipment. Then they took what was left.

Elifat, for example, said her 16-year-old brother, Malik, arrived home one day with chemicals and pieces of metal.

Most looters have been more interested in the containers on the site than in the radioactive material inside them, and they dumped the contents on the ground, residents said.

Since the health problems began, some people have been returning stolen items to the nearby Al Hudaa Mosque. A large green machine labeled “G24 Environmental Incubator Shaker” and other looted equipment are gathering dust in the courtyard.

Residents are afraid to enter a nearby school, where equipment from the nuclear site is stored, saying the proliferation of dead flies proves it is lethal. Religious leaders at the mosque, which also functions as a kind of town hall, want U.S. forces to pick up the material.

At the research center, the U.S. security force doesn't even bother with squatters such as Fathyla Tharib Shala, who says she was forced to take refuge in the guard post because of poverty typical in the mainly Shiite region, which was neglected by the Hussein regime and where problems have intensified since the war.

She has lived in the post with her husband, three sons and 11 grandchildren since she was evicted for failing to pay rent two days after Baghdad fell.

Blankets cover the windows and doorways stripped by looters. Even the main electrical line of the facility was severed and presumably sold.

Shala's 70-year-old husband and their three sons, one recently disabled, are out of work. Because candles are costly, they sit in the pitch dark at night.

Across the street, grandson Yasser Satar Abed Karim, 9, amuses himself by submerging his body in a 2-foot-square hole in the ground filled with murky water, which residents fear may be contaminated.

Despite the health concerns, Shala uses the water for cooking.

"Even though this site is dangerous, because it's a nuclear reactor site, I don't care about that. Because I have a place to keep my family together," said Shala, 55. "If the water's polluted, I don't care. It's the only water I can use."

<http://www.latimes.com/la-fg-iraqnuke22may22.1.530849.story>

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

Washington Times

May 22, 2003

Pg. 1

U.S. Calls Looting From Nuke Site No Risk

By Paul Martin, The Washington Times

BAGHDAD — U.S. military inspection teams have concluded that material looted from Iraq's main nuclear facility at Tuwaitha poses little or no danger to the people who stole it and cannot be converted into an effective "dirty bomb."

After cleaning up two small areas of spillage outside the facility, the Washington-based Nuclear Disablement Team determined that the radiation level was no more than double the dosage every human absorbs daily, officials said. The group even camped and slept for three nights less than 100 feet from one of two main storehouses for yellow-cake uranium, team members said.

U.S. and British newspaper reports have suggested that residents of the area were suffering from severe ill health after tipping out yellow-cake powder from barrels and using them to store food.

Other reports said the missing material could be used by terrorists to produce a powerful radiological weapon.

But Col. Tim Madere, the 5th Corps officer in charge of coalition forces' chemical, biological, radiation and nuclear weapons search teams, rejected both contentions yesterday.

Looters had broken open the doors of the yellow-cake facility by the time Marines arrived, Col. Madere said in an interview.

Elevated radiation readings "kept soldiers outside the facility, but they still continued to guard it without going inside," he said, noting that the facility had no perimeter wall and eased entry for looters when its Iraqi guards fled. He said a huge troop deployment would have been needed to avoid plunder in other parts of the Tuwaitha complex, which sprawls over almost 6 square miles.

Col. Madere said some isotopes of cesium or cobalt or similar substances apparently used for industrial processes had gone missing from one part of the complex, and that these were "much more suitable than yellow cake" for use in any dirty bomb, in which a conventional explosion is used to spread radioactive material.

He said, however, that the radiation from the material stolen is likely to do less damage to life than the conventional explosives used in the blast.

Yellow cake — a raw form of thick radioactive powder that can be processed into plutonium — is too heavy to spread in the air and is, therefore, a poor ingredient for a dirty bomb, he said.

In one of the two yellow-cake storage areas, only one of 280 barrels had been opened, he said. He showed a reporter photographs of rows of apparently undamaged 55-gallon drums. The opened drum revealed transparent plastic sacks of the yellow material.

Workers had replaced the barrels periodically, and it was the empty drums stacked outside the facility that were easier for looters to carry away.

The storage of foodstuffs inside these barrels — while strongly inadvisable — would be dangerous to health only if continued for an extended period, a health official with one of the investigating teams concluded.

U.S. officials have been buying back the looted metal containers at \$3 a barrel. Tests on these recovered barrels showed “very low radiation — so low people could drink out of them many times and not get sick,” Col. Madere said.

Statistical findings by the U.S. teams showed one radioactive “blip” from a small spillage near the facility’s door, which registered less than twice the level of radiation humans get from day-to-day living and “far less than you get from an X-ray,” the colonel said.

A much stronger blip was the result of a radioactive substance that was out of its container, he said. It was then collected into a new container.

Col. Madere said the U.S. research teams had not been given comprehensive lists prepared by the International Atomic Energy Agency of what the Tuwaitha complex had housed. He would not speculate on whether that was the fault of U.S. authorities or the nuclear agency, which operates under the aegis of the United Nations.

The agency has requested access to the facility, which it regularly inspected after the 1991 war that led to the expulsion of Iraq from Kuwait. Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld says he will allow IAEA inspectors access to the site.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20030522-120239-8668r.htm>

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

Washington Post

May 22, 2003

Pg. 5

Nuclear Weapons Development Tied To Hill Approval

Senate Democrats Fight Administration’s Effort to Build ‘Mini-Nukes’ and ‘Bunker-Busters’

By Helen Dewar, Washington Post Staff Writer

The Senate agreed yesterday to require President Bush to win approval of Congress before ordering full-scale development of a new generation of battlefield nuclear weapons but turned back a Democratic drive to retain a decade-old statutory ban on such work.

Democrats vowed to continue fighting what they described as a determined effort by the Bush administration to produce new nuclear weapons, arguing that it would undermine U.S. efforts to curb the spread of nuclear weapons, prompt a new arms race and invite nuclear war.

“We are in this for the long haul,” said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), suggesting Democrats will try again to halt the weapons development when spending bills are debated this summer and fall.

In response to Democratic attacks, Republicans said the administration is interested only in research at this point and argued that the new weapons could prove critical in modern warfare, especially in dismantling chemical and biological weapons. It makes no sense not to explore all options, they argued.

At issue were two systems: low-yield “mini-nukes” of 5 kilotons or less that Congress put off-limits in 1993; and high-yield, burrowing nuclear “bunker-busters” that target underground military facilities or arsenals.

Funds to continue studies on the bunker-busters and language lifting the mini-nuke ban were included in legislation to authorize \$400.5 billion in military programs for next year, an increase of nearly \$18 billion over current spending.

A comparable bill before the House would remove the ban on research but retain it for other steps in the process and continue to fund the bunker-buster project. Differences between the two bills will have to be resolved in a conference between the chambers.

Although Senate Democrats conceded defeat in failing to retain the ban on smaller nuclear weapons, they claimed credit for prompting Republicans to strike the compromise requiring congressional authorization before full-scale development.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.), one of the leaders in the fight against the administration plans, said the compromise did not go as far as many Democrats wanted but was an improvement over the administration’s proposal for repeal of the ban. “It’s better than nothing but nowhere near as good as a prohibition” would have been, said Sen. Carl M. Levin (Mich.), ranking Democrat on the Armed Services Committee.

Yesterday’s votes came a day after the Senate voted to lift the ban that Congress imposed in 1993 on all future work on low-yield nuclear weapons of less than 5 kilotons, or one-third the force of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima at the end of World War II. The ban was originally levied because nuclear scientists wanted to use low-kiloton

weapons against deeply buried targets such as Saddam Hussein's bunkers. Studies showed that much higher yields would be needed.

Democrats tried to retain the ban but failed on a largely party-line vote.

As a fallback strategy, Democrats yesterday offered an amendment to permit research but retain the ban on further steps toward development of the weapons. Armed Services Committee Chairman John W. Warner (R-Va.) headed off the Democratic initiative with a counteroffer requiring congressional approval for advanced work on the weapons. The Warner plan was approved, 59 to 38.

Warner argued that his proposal would "put Congress entirely in control of this program . . . every step of the way," a claim described as "preposterous" by Sen. Byron L. Dorgan (D-N.D.), who said the Pentagon does not work that way. "I can't think of a more destructive public policy than to continue this nonsense," Dorgan said.

In a subsequent 56 to 41 vote, the Senate decided to keep a \$15 million allocation for continued research on the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, or bunker-buster, that Levin said could explode with as much as 70 times the force of the Hiroshima bomb. But it also imposed the same conditions as it did for the low-yield weapons.

Staff writer Walter Pincus contributed to this report.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A22910-2003May21.html>

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

Washington Post

May 22, 2003

Pg. 23

Nunn Urges U.S., Russia To Ease Hair-Trigger Nuclear Alerts

By Walter Pincus, Washington Post Staff Writer

The United States and Russia could take thousands of strategic nuclear warheads off hair-trigger alert by introducing an early warning system of sensors that monitor each other's land-based intercontinental missiles, according to former senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), who once was chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Nunn said President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin, who are to meet in St. Petersburg next month, should "order their defense and military leaders . . . to devise changes in the operational status of their nuclear forces."

Nunn spoke to reporters yesterday as he introduced a study by the Rand Corp. on a phased approach for improving nuclear safety between the two countries.

The monitoring system, being developed by Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico and Kurchatov Institute in Moscow, is being used on a test basis to monitor stored nuclear materials taken from dismantled weapons. The sensors transmit data to a central monitoring center in one country, which transmits the information by satellite to the other country.

Kurchatov scientists have proposed adopting the system for early warning purposes, according to the Rand study, which was sponsored by the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a think tank where Nunn is co-chairman.

Despite the improved relations between Moscow and Washington and a treaty a year ago to reduce strategic warheads to below 2,000 each, Nunn said each country keeps about 4,000 warheads on alert. "Twelve years after the end of the Cold War, what requires us to continue to live with the risk of an accidental or unauthorized nuclear launch?" he said.

Nunn said that there has been no change, because "as long as Russia can launch nuclear ballistic missiles on short notice against the U.S., the U.S. must maintain a similar capability against Russia."

The situation has been made worse by the growing vulnerability of Russian forces and increased accuracy of U.S. weapons, according to Rand. The study notes that Russian early warning space satellites, which once watched for launches from U.S. ICBM silos 24 hours a day, have declined to only seven hours a day. Russia has not launched an early warning satellite since 1998; a fire in the satellite control center in May 2001 further degraded the system, Rand said.

Russian ground-based early warning radar systems have developed significant gaps, because two second-generation radars were never built and the one being constructed at Krasnoyarsk was torn down as a violation of the now discarded Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty. As a result, the United States could launch nuclear missiles from a Trident submarine through a known coverage gap, and the launch could not be detected until the warheads exploded less than 10 minutes later in Russia, Nunn said.

In a May 2000 campaign speech, Bush said the United States “should remove as many weapons as possible from high-alert, hair-trigger status,” Nunn said, adding, “Bush had it right in his statement three years ago.”
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A22911-2003May21.html>

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

Wall Street Journal
May 22, 2003

No Nuclear Blackmail

By Mohamed ElBaradei

The standoff over North Korea’s alleged nuclear-weapons program adds stress to a nuclear-arms-control regime already in a delicate state. More than 30 years have passed since the treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was put in place, but we have yet to achieve its objectives fully. Several thousand nuclear weapons, armed and ready, continue to exist. More countries—at least eight by the last count—possess nuclear weapons, and other countries, as well as subnational terrorist groups, are suspected of working to acquire them.

Projected onto this scenario, we have the defiance of North Korea—which surely has the capability to produce fissile material and launch nuclear weapons, whether or not we accept the intelligence estimates that it has already produced enough plutonium for one or two weapons, or the on-again, off-again reports of its admission of actually possessing such weapons. After a decade of noncompliance, North Korea has simply walked away from the NPT, and now, it is obvious, believes that its alleged weapons capability can be used as a bargaining chip—for security guarantees, for humanitarian aid, and possibly for raising its stature as a regional power. But at this bargaining table, the stakes are high. In seeking to defuse a volatile situation, the international community must not inadvertently legitimize the possession of nuclear weapons as a currency of power for would-be proliferators—a precedent that could jeopardize the future of the nuclear-arms-control regime.

The recent history of efforts to come to grips with North Korea’s nuclear program is worth considering. North Korea joined the NPT in 1985, but took seven years to sign its obligatory verification agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Shortly thereafter, in May 1992, IAEA inspectors discovered plutonium discrepancies in North Korea’s nuclear-waste streams—indicating nuclear activity that had not been reported. When a more intrusive inspection was refused, the IAEA declared North Korea to be in noncompliance and alerted the U.N. Security Council.

In 1994, some progress in resolving the situation was seemingly made in the form of an “Agreed Framework” established between North Korea and the U.S.—an agreement under which the U.S. would provide light-water reactors for electricity generation in exchange for North Korea’s dismantling of its proliferation-sensitive nuclear program. But the Agreed Framework, unfortunately, did not insist on prompt, comprehensive verification by the IAEA. In fact, North Korea used the framework as a means of delaying compliance with its comprehensive verification obligations under the NPT, and—as now seems apparent—continued its clandestine pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Last December, this progression of events came to a head when the IAEA made repeated requests for North Korea to confirm the accuracy of new reports that it had established an undeclared program for uranium enrichment. In the weeks after, North Korea responded by cutting all IAEA seals on its nuclear facilities, blocking IAEA surveillance cameras, ordering the immediate departure of IAEA inspectors from the country, and announcing its withdrawal from the NPT. Since that time, despite intensive diplomatic efforts and the involvement of the Security Council, no clear resolution has been achieved.

The international community is fully aware of the intricacies of this standoff—including North Korea’s security concerns and the impact of its nuclear activities on regional stability. And all parties appear to agree on the goal: a peaceful resolution in which the Korean Peninsula is free of all weapons of mass destruction, and in which North Korea’s security, economic and humanitarian issues are addressed.

The problem lies in the sequencing. It is vital—not simply for North Korea, but for other countries watching closely as the scenario unfolds—that “nuclear blackmail” does not become a legitimized bargaining chip. We must not send the message that the threat of acquisition of nuclear weapons is a recognized means of achieving political or security objectives, or that it affords special status or preferential treatment.

It must therefore be incumbent on North Korea to make the first move by a demonstration of good faith—by accepting its obligations for nuclear nonproliferation. One way to take that step is through the IAEA. North Korea’s relinquishing of its alleged nuclear weapons program will only be credible if it is willing to accept intrusive international verification—a process that the IAEA can provide, and in fact has been insisting must be in place for

all countries with significant nuclear programs. Once North Korea has demonstrated its good faith, all other components of a comprehensive settlement should fall into place. It is encouraging that the U.S. has made clear its readiness, as part of a settlement, to address North Korea's sense of insecurity through security assurances, and that Japan and South Korea stand willing to provide economic and humanitarian assistance.

All the pieces of the puzzle are thus known; what remains is agreeing on how to fit them together. The key will be the recognition by North Korea that nonproliferation is a serious concern, and that the manner in which a settlement is achieved has broad international implications. Conversely, other concerned parties should also recognize that some aspects of the standoff will be best resolved through bilateral or regional measures—and it is not beyond creative diplomacy to develop a scheme under which bilateral and multilateral negotiations can take place simultaneously, with the aim of reaching a comprehensive settlement.

The settlement, however, must carry a clear message: that while the international community is ready to address seriously North Korea's security concerns and other needs, it will not be blackmailed through nuclear intimidation, and it remains steadfast in its position of zero tolerance for nuclear proliferation.

Mr. ElBaradei is director general of the IAEA.

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

Los Angeles Times

May 23, 2003

Pg. 1

U.N. Votes To End Sanctions On Iraq

By John J. Goldman, Times Staff Writer

UNITED NATIONS — The Security Council voted 14-0 on Thursday to immediately end sanctions against Iraq, setting the stage for oil exports to resume quickly and allowing the U.S. and Britain to retain power during the nation's transition to a freely elected government.

"The United States and its coalition partners will remain in Iraq as long as necessary to help Iraq on the path toward democracy," President Bush said after the vote.

U.S. Ambassador John D. Negroponte called the lifting of sanctions "the turning point of a historical page that should brighten the future of a people and a region."

Other ambassadors said the vote signaled the healing of wounds on the Security Council, which had been bitterly divided over the U.S.-led military action to topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"The council has come back to the path of dialogue and unity," said Martin Belinga-Eboutou, Cameroon's U.N. ambassador.

"This is a good day for the United Nations," agreed Jeremy Greenstock, Britain's U.N. ambassador. "It is a good day for the Security Council."

Syria, the only Arab nation on the 15-member council, sat out the vote.

Syrian leaders in Damascus were weighing a decision when the vote took place, said Fayssal Mekdad, Syria's deputy permanent representative to the U.N.

"I am sure they were looking at the TVs when they saw the council making a decision," he said.

France had also raised the prospect of abstention but dropped its objections after the measure was revised to increase the U.N.'s oversight role.

"It is a compromise. It is give and take," said Jean-Marc de la Sabliere, France's U.N. ambassador.

He called the final document "a good outcome of a long negotiation."

During negotiations, France, Russia and Germany — which opposed the U.S.-led war — complained that the resolution did not contain language limiting the time the United States and Britain would occupy Iraq.

The Bush administration and Britain firmly turned down time limits.

But in an important last-minute concession, they agreed that the Security Council could review implementation of the resolution and "consider further steps."

Greenstock said the Iraqi people would live under occupation "as short a time as possible."

"Only the Iraqis can decide their own political future," he said. "Not even the United Nations wants to do that. We, the powers on the ground and the United Nations, are both there to facilitate the process of returning Iraq exclusively to the Iraqis."

The sanctions, imposed as punishment after Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, hobbled Iraq's economy by denying it full access to the world market for crude oil. U.S. officials in Iraq said the country could begin exporting oil again

within days, first by draining storage tanks and pipelines full of unsold crude and eventually by restoring production at wells that were shut down during the war.

"We expect to be able to export by the first of June," said Army Corps of Engineers spokesman Steve Wright in Basra. "From the get-go, there's 7 million barrels of oil in storage. That's a start."

The resolution lifting sanctions, drafted by the U.S. and Britain, also allows U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to select a special representative to oversee the transition to democracy in Iraq. U.S. and British representatives agreed to strengthen the representative's role in coordinating humanitarian aid and in selecting an interim Iraqi government. "I know you are all anxious to know when I will name my special representative," Annan said after the meeting. "I will do it shortly, and he will go to Iraq as soon as possible."

Annan was asked whether the resolution gives the U.N. more than a face-saving role.

"I think the resolution does give a role to the United Nation," he said. "Obviously, the occupying power has a responsibility for the welfare and effective administration of the territory, and we have to work with them and the Iraqi people in implementing the mandate that we have been given."

"We hope that we will be able to work in partnership," he added.

In Los Angeles, British Charge d'Affaires Anthony Brenton said it was "very important that Kofi Annan appoints someone we, the occupying powers, can work with."

Brenton said Britain was pleased with the U.N. resolution, saying it gives firmer legal footing for U.S.-British reconstruction work in Iraq, starts oil exports and gives a framework for other countries to offer troops to help. Diplomatic sources have said many nations, particularly Eastern European countries and other newer members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, wanted to offer forces but were not comfortable doing so without diplomatic cover.

The resolution also establishes a development fund for Iraq, to be maintained by the country's central bank. Oil revenue would be deposited in the fund and disbursed at the direction of the U.S.-British authority in consultation with Iraq's interim government.

The "oil-for-food" program, through which Iraq was able to obtain food, medicine and other essentials, will be phased out over the next six months. The resolution gives the U.N. oversight of the repayment schedule for countries still owed money by Iraq under the program.

Iraq was producing as much as 2.5 million barrels of oil a day before the war, but its wells were shut down by U.S. and British forces as a precautionary measure. Production has since been restored to about 350,000 barrels a day, not quite enough to satisfy domestic needs.

U.S. and Iraqi officials say they should be able to pump as much as 1 million barrels a day within a month or so.

Exports would probably resume first from Turkey's port of Ceyhan, where storage facilities are full of crude oil that could not be sold since March because there was no recognized Iraqi government to sign contracts with buyers.

In the south, contractors have not finished repairing damage to the 48-inch pipeline that carried crude oil from Iraq's prolific southern fields to tanker terminals in the port of Al Faw. The vital export artery was severed by an explosion at an aboveground valve near Basra. Officials said they were not sure whether the damage was caused by a coalition bomb or an act of sabotage.

At the pipeline repair site, a massive, \$1-million replacement valve was being welded into place Thursday by blue-helmeted employees of Kharafi National, a Kuwaiti subcontractor hired by KBR, the Halliburton Co. subsidiary in charge of rebuilding Iraq's oil infrastructure.

"We should be done by the end of the Friday evening late shift," said KBR project manager Phillip Pritchard, who said he was in no position to assess the strategic importance of the pipeline link to potential oil exports.

"I'm just doing the work that's in front of me," Pritchard said.

Times staff writers Warren Vieth in Basra and Marjorie Miller in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-iraq23may23001430,1.6036236.story?coll=la%2Dheadlines%2Dworld%2Dmanual>

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

USA Today
May 23, 2003
Pg. 6

High-Tech Project Aims To Make Super-Soldiers

By Fred Bayles, USA Today

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — It was once the stuff of science fiction movies: soldiers equipped with high-tech gear that made them stronger, swifter and smarter — invulnerable to bullets and able to survive the harshest conditions. On Thursday, the U.S. Army and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology unveiled a joint project that generals and scientists said could make fiction a reality within this decade.

The new Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies at MIT will use a five-year, \$50 million grant from the Army to develop tiny machines that are the size of molecules to give U.S. military personnel an edge on the battlefield. Some of the ideas being explored include battle suits that are embedded with tiny devices that can seal against chemical attack, administer immediate medical care and even — no joke, scientists say — give soldiers the power to leap small buildings.

The growing field of nanotechnology draws from the worlds of biochemistry, physics, materials science and electrical engineering to create devices no bigger than a few molecules. The devices are linked in the same way that computer chips are wired together to perform tasks, from changing the color of a fabric to changing shape and size. "There is a lot of nanotechnology research being done around the country, but nothing as concentrated as this new facility," said A. Michael Andrews, the chief scientist for the Army's Office of Acquisition, Logistics and Technology.

The opening of the eight-story research center had the flavor of a trade show combined with a convention of *Star Trek* enthusiasts. Soldiers modeled simulations of what future uniforms might look like, and exhibition booths displayed the latest in body armor, night-vision technology and micro-medical devices to monitor a soldier's vital signs during combat.

MIT researchers showed off some of the projects they have been working on since the grant was awarded last year. In one lab, visitors saw a process that wraps polymers around individual fibers in fabric to make clothing impervious to water. In another, visitors saw a muddy liquid containing metal molecules that turn solid when exposed to a magnetic field.

Ned Thomas, a materials scientist who is director of the nanotechnologies institute, said the material could be used to create a lightweight body armor as thin as paper but as strong as steel. It could replace the 40-pound flak jackets that troops now wear.

Among the projects:

*Tiny sensors embedded in helmets and clothing that could give soldiers the ability to sense an enemy sneaking up from behind.

*Miniscule sensors and drug dispensers in uniforms that could sense a soldier's condition and treat injuries.

Scientists are also developing microscopic coatings that would protect soldiers from chemical and biological weapons.

*"Hinge molecules" that open and close like a door hinge when given an electric current. Material made from them, called exomuscle, can contract with 10 times the power of human muscle. Scientists talk of possibly putting the material in gloves, uniforms and boots to give soldiers superhuman strength to leap over high walls.

<http://www.usatoday.com/usatoday/20030523/5185264s.htm>

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

Washington Post

May 23, 2003

Pg. 13

CIA To Review Iraq Intelligence

Questions of Accuracy, Bias Spur Studies

By Dana Priest and Walter Pincus, Washington Post Staff Writers

The House intelligence committee, expressing concern about the failure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, asked Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet yesterday "to reevaluate U.S. intelligence" used by the Bush administration before the war to describe Iraq's proscribed weapons programs and its links to terrorist organizations such as al Qaeda.

The administration based its argument for going to war against Iraq on the dangers posed by Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs and its alleged ties to al Qaeda.

The CIA, at the suggestion of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, has an unusual study underway that will compare intelligence given to President Bush and other policymakers before the war to information now being gathered in Iraq from the ousted Iraqi government's files and interrogations of former Iraqi government personnel, according to senior intelligence officials.

The CIA review, coupled with the letter sent to Tenet by the House intelligence panel, follows criticism that the Defense Department, particularly a new Pentagon intelligence office, and other parts of the Bush administration manipulated intelligence to make the case for war in Iraq. Some members of Congress and intelligence officials are questioning the accuracy of the intelligence describing Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction and connections to al Qaeda.

One official who has read a draft of the CIA study said, "There is no question there was a lot of pressure on analysts to support preconceived judgments." But, he added, "the analysts' record is not bad when you consider you have strong policymakers pushing analysts for information that supports their specific views."

Neither the agency's study nor the committee's request address how accurately top policymakers, in particular Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, portrayed the classified intelligence and advice they received in their public statements. The committee, though, wants to know what intelligence conclusions about Iraq were provided to Rumsfeld, who repeatedly asserted that Iraqi weapons and links to al Qaeda posed an imminent threat to U.S. security.

"Since some questions have been raised and it is taking a long time to find out the WMD [weapons of mass destruction], we think this is prudent to ask for," said Rep. Jane Harman (Calif.), the panel's ranking Democrat. "This could conceivably be the greatest intelligence hoax of all time. I doubt it, but we have to ask."

The letter, signed by Harman and Rep. Porter J. Goss (R-Fla.), the committee chairman, states that their goal is "to ensure that the intelligence analysis relayed to our policymakers from the intelligence community was accurate, unbiased, and timely -- in light of new information resulting from recent events in Iraq." Both lawmakers are ardent supporters of the CIA.

The committee wants to know "how the intelligence picture regarding Iraqi WMD was developed" and asks the CIA to answer questions on issues such as the amount and quality of the information provided to administration officials and whether "dissenting views" were "properly weighed."

The committee also wants to know whether the analysis of the threat from weapons of mass destruction and the links to al Qaeda changed "over time." This is an apparent reference to the fact that some top intelligence analysts had said a year ago that the links between Iraq and al Qaeda were tenuous but that senior U.S. officials expressed the opposite view as the war approached.

Sen. Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV (W.Va.), ranking Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, called the CIA's estimates about possible weapons of mass destruction "wholly unimpressive." Rockefeller is also asking the inspector general's offices from the CIA and Pentagon to investigate the fact that documents the CIA suspected to be forged were used by administration officials to claim that Iraq had tried to purchase uranium oxide from Niger for use in weapons production.

In October, Rumsfeld first suggested that Tenet conduct an inquiry because of the disagreements between the Pentagon, the CIA and the State Department over intelligence on Iraq.

"I'm sure a lot of people in the Defense Department see this as a scorecard, but Secretary Rumsfeld believed it was a way to learn about the [intelligence] process, including the policymaker's role in it," said one official aware of the details of the study. "He [Rumsfeld] wanted to compare what we find there [in Iraq] and see what we got right and wrong," another official said.

The four retired senior CIA analysts conducting the study, which was first reported in yesterday's New York Times, have completed a 100-page draft review of the analysis put out by the CIA as well as estimates from the National Intelligence Council. The council is made up of representatives of the 12 U.S. intelligence agencies. The draft has been sent out for comments to some CIA analysts intelligence agencies.

The committee, which oversees the intelligence budget and operations, asked for a report by July 1.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A28492-2003May22.html>

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

Boston Globe
May 23, 2003
Pg. 22

Illnesses Near Nuclear Site Prompt Health Survey

By Patrick Healy, Globe Staff

BAGHDAD - Iraqi and foreign doctors will conduct a major health survey in the neighborhoods around the Tuwaitha Nuclear Research Center after people became sick from stolen radioactive material from the facility, Iraq's Health Ministry announced yesterday.

Neighbors of the nuclear plant said there was rising panic in the community, and the emergency survey appeared to address the concern among Iraqis over several issues: insufficient security, looting, and health problems.

"People are sick now - what is being done to help people right now?" said Bashir Abdul Majeed, 45, a resident of the Mansia village 20 feet from the Tuwaitha facility, a well-fortified complex of buildings where scientists once tried to develop nuclear weapons and stored nonweapons-grade uranium.

After the war, people living near the complex stole dozens of storage barrels that had contained facility waste, as well as metal, tin, and steel that were believed to be contaminated, US soldiers at the site said yesterday. Most of the looted material has been collected by US forces, but some Iraqis have suffered from rashes, nosebleeds, and nausea, among other symptoms.

"One woman took home a metal sign and used it to flatten bread," said Staff Sergeant Jamie Wells of the Third Infantry Division that is guarding the site, 10 miles south of the capital. "We've taken as much of that away as we could find."

Edris Mandoub Sadoon, 23, took home four barrels that he described as covered with red, brown, and black dust. His family used the barrels to store water for washing clothes. No one drank from it, he said, but a radiation sensor recently indicated that one of his shirts seemed to be contaminated.

"I feel all right now," Sadoon said.

"But we're not sure who will get sick and who will not."

The United States, meanwhile, in hopes of tightening security - and protecting its own troops - yesterday sent veteran peacekeepers with the Army's First Armored Division into Baghdad, one day after a US armored vehicle was hit by a grenade during an ambush in Fallujah, 30 miles west of here.

No US soldiers were injured, but two Iraqi civilians were reportedly killed in an ensuing firefight.

Also yesterday, General Tommy R. Franks, the American commander of coalition forces, ordered all full members of Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath Party to register with the US military in Iraq and discontinue any covert Ba'athist activity.

The United States has banned the political party and has decreed that many former full members may not hold power in the next Iraqi government.

The order, broadcast over a US radio channel here, apparently does not apply to low-level former Ba'athists, who have returned to work at schools, universities, and some Iraqi ministries.

Their reemergence has sparked some resentment among Iraqis, as well as revenge killings, US officials say.

Hundreds marched in Baghdad yesterday, calling on the US civilian administration here to address their concerns and return power to Iraqis.

United Nations officials in Baghdad, meanwhile, sought to lift Iraqis' spirits on another important front yesterday - electricity. At a news briefing yesterday, UN Development Program advisers expressed optimism that electricity lapses that now darken Baghdad for much of the night - making sleep difficult without air conditioning - would improve shortly.

While most power plants are functioning, many transmission lines that were damaged during this spring's war have still not been fixed, said Maurice Albert, chief adviser for the UN Development Program. In the long term, he added, billions of dollars will be needed to modernize the nation's energy system.

"I expect the situation to improve very soon," Albert said.

Another UN official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said some parts of Iraq's energy grid had been repaired, only to be left unprotected at night - most UN workers follow a 6 p.m. curfew - and then damaged again by looters.

Material from the Associated Press was used in this report.

http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/143/nation/illnesses_near_nuclear_site_prompt_health_survey+.shtml

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

Moscow Times

May 23, 2003

Pg. 2

U.S. Moves To Safeguard Stockpiles

By Reuters

The United States is speeding up efforts to help Russia safeguard radioactive material that could be used to make a so-called dirty bomb, following 30 to 40 cases of theft of such matter, a senior U.S. Department of Energy official said Thursday.

Security at Russian military bases storing nuclear weapons is generally tight, but Washington is concerned terrorists might obtain radioactive material from poorly guarded civilian sites, the official said.

Countries including Iran and North Korea were also likely to be in the market for the material, the official said.

"There is some highly radioactive material that is not very well secured," he said.

"I think the Russians have a very good handle on where all their weapons are," he said. "The more you get down to materials, that is inherently harder."

Russian officials had no immediate comment.

The U.S. official, in Moscow for regular discussions of those projects, said they were going well despite continuing problems with access to some sensitive sites. But the biggest problem now was at civilian sites, such as nuclear power and food sterilisation plants, where radioactive material was often stored in several different buildings, making it hard to guard, the official said.

He said there had been 30 to 40 cases of theft of small amounts of radioactive material in Russia in the last five years or so. There was no evidence that there were large amounts missing but the thefts proved there was a market, he said. "What we know is that there are persistent documented cases of attempts to sell terrorist organizations nuclear materials," he said.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/stories/2003/05/23/016.html>

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

United States Department of Defense

News Release

CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

The Department of Defense announced today that it has released and published its annual report on chemical and biological defense capabilities.

The report is published as a two volume set. In volume one, chapter one, the report provides information on the recent re-organization of the department's chemical and biological defense program management and oversight structure. Chapter two is an overview of research, development, and acquisition plans and programs. Chapter three is an overview and assessment of chemical and biological defense logistics. Chapter four is an overview of doctrine, training, and readiness. Chapter five lists the department's activities in supporting the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Volume two of the report is the Chemical and Biological Defense Program performance plan. In addition, the annexes include detailed information on systems' descriptions, program funding, and logistics data.

The report can be located and downloaded from the web at: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/cp> under the "Reports" section.
http://www.defenselink.mil/news/May2003/b05222003_bt360-03.html

http://www.defenselink.mil/cgi-bin/dlprint.cgi?http://www.defenselink.mil/news/May2003/b05222003_bt360-03.html

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