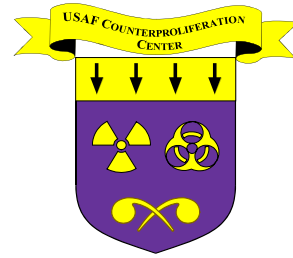


#265

9 June 2003

USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER

# CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL



*Air University*

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

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

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Bloomberg.com

June 6, 2003

# Pentagon 2002 Study Reported 'No Reliable' Data on Iraq Weapons

By Tony Capaccio

A U.S. Defense Department report in September 2002 found "no reliable information" proving that Iraq had chemical weapons, even as Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was saying the country had amassed stockpiles of the banned arms.

"There is no reliable information on whether Iraq is producing and stockpiling chemical weapons, or whether Iraq has -- or will -- establish its chemical warfare agent production facilities," a report by the Defense Intelligence Agency said in a summary page obtained by Bloomberg News.

The unreleased report said Iraq "probably" had stockpiles of banned chemicals, a more tentative conclusion than Rumsfeld was presenting in public remarks. Iraq has "amassed large, clandestine stockpiles of chemical weapons, including VX, sarin and mustard gas," he told Congress on Sept. 19.

The summary from the report suggests "substantially more uncertainty than was stated by senior administration officials," said Kenneth Katzman, a specialist on Iraq's military for the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, who was told of the contents by Bloomberg.

No banned weapons have been found in Iraq. Lawmakers in the U.S. and the U.K. are demanding to know more about the intelligence cited as a reason for invading the Mideast country in March.

## Biological Weapons

The Defense Intelligence Agency's uncertainty about Iraqi weapons extended to germ warfare programs, the summary suggests. "Iraq is assessed to possess biological agent stockpiles that may be weaponized and ready for use," its report said. "The size of those stockpiles is uncertain and is subject to debate. The nature and condition of those stockpiles also are unknown."

"The DIA report suggests that before the Iraq War, the U.S. intelligence community did not have hard evidence that Saddam Hussein possessed large stocks of chemical and biological warfare agents that posed an imminent threat to U.S. national security," said Jonathan Tucker, a senior research fellow at the U.S. Institute for Peace and former United Nations weapons inspector, also informed of the summary page contents by Bloomberg.

The Defense Intelligence Agency's findings in the report, "Iraq: Key Weapons Facilities -- An Operational Support Study," are similar to those of other reports by the agency on Iraq's suspect weapons programs, a U.S. military intelligence official said.

Existence of the study was disclosed by U.S. News & World Report in its June 9 edition.

## Judgments Defended

Rumsfeld and other U.S. officials say the weapons will be found after the allies locate people in Saddam Hussein's regime who know where they're hidden. Some officials, including Rumsfeld, have said Hussein may have shipped the weapons out of Iraq or destroyed them.

CIA spokesman Mark Mansfield said yesterday that agency director George Tenet stands by his Feb. 12 statement to Congress that "stockpiles of things he (Hussein) has not declared and weapons he has not declared," will be found. U.S. defense officials on Wednesday defended pre-war judgments, such as those in the September 2002 report, as consistent with statements made by officials in the administration of President Bill Clinton.

"It's pretty clear that the intelligence judgments concerning Iraq weapons of mass destruction did not undergo a major change between the Clinton and Bush administrations," Undersecretary for Policy Douglas Feith told reporters at a Pentagon press conference in Arlington, Virginia.

## Powell at UN

The CIA is reviewing its pre-war assessment to determine whether it overstated the threat posed by Hussein's weapons in response to "hawks" in the Pentagon, the New York Times reported Wednesday. The Washington Post said yesterday that some CIA analysts felt pressure from Vice President Dick Cheney and his top aide, Lewis Libby. Cheney's office declined to comment, the Post said.

In the U.K., Prime Minister Tony Blair is under pressure to produce evidence underpinning his claims of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Blair said yesterday that he would produce "all" that evidence and he repeated denials that he embellished it.

Secretary of State Colin Powell on Feb. 5 gave the United Nations transcripts of intercepted telephone and radio communications, satellite photographs and statements from Iraqi defectors that he said proved Iraq had an active program of banned- weapons production. The war began six weeks later.

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## U.N. Presses Bush On Iraq

### *Return of Weapons Inspectors Urged*

By Colum Lynch and Bradley Graham, Washington Post Staff Writers

UNITED NATIONS, June 5 -- U.N. Security Council members called on the Bush administration today to allow U.N. weapons inspectors to return to Iraq to certify whether it possessed secret biological and chemical weapons before the U.S.-led invasion.

The demand for renewed U.N. inspections, which was endorsed by an overwhelming majority of council members including Britain, the United States' closest military ally, came as the administration is facing charges by members of Congress and some intelligence analysts that it may have exaggerated the threat posed by Iraq to justify going to war.

It also reflected a growing consensus in the 15-nation council that the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), which carried out inspections between November and March, should test U.S. and British claims that Iraq continued to develop chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. "The disarmament of Iraq must be verified and confirmed by UNMOVIC and the International Atomic Energy Agency on the ground and in conjunction with the [U.S.-led military] coalition," French Ambassador Jean-Marc de la Sabliere told the Security Council, according to a copy of his speaking notes.

"We believe that UNMOVIC can continue to be a great help in the overall business of completing the disarmament of Iraq's WMD [weapons of mass destruction] programs," Jeremy Greenstock, Britain's ambassador to the United Nations, told reporters after the meeting.

Hans Blix, executive chairman of the inspections agency, told the council that independent inspectors would have greater credibility than U.S. or British inspectors.

Blix said he could not verify claims by President Bush and senior U.S. officials that two trucks discovered in Iraq were mobile production plants for biological weapons. But he said Iraq apparently had violated its obligation to declare their existence to U.N. inspectors. "We will make absolutely no assessment without having seen them," he said.

U.S. Ambassador John D. Negroponte said that the Iraq Survey Group, which the Pentagon recently established to hunt for arms and other evidence of Iraqi crimes, is capable of rooting out Iraq's hidden weapons on its own and that the United States envisions no role for the U.N. inspectors in the foreseeable future.

The administration has agreed to permit the Vienna-based IAEA, which was responsible for inspecting Iraqi nuclear programs, to send in a seven-member team at the end of the week. It will survey the Tuwaitha Nuclear Research Center, a nuclear storage site southeast of Baghdad.

The site, which contains several hundred metric tons of uranium oxide powder along with small quantities of low-enriched and depleted uranium, was unguarded and looted in the first 2 1/2 weeks of the war, and U.S. military teams have found high levels of radiation inside several buildings.

At a Pentagon briefing today on site conditions, defense officials said a search of the surrounding area by U.S. forces offering rewards of \$3 to local residents had yielded more than 100 metal barrels and five radiological items that may have been stolen. But the officials said other material may still be missing.

Defense officials said the amount of materials found at the site exceeded the quantity that U.S. authorities had expected to find. That may reflect faulty prewar intelligence or the possibility that Iraq moved more radioactive material there before the war. In any case, the IAEA team will conduct its own survey and compare the results to the last inventory taken in December 2002, the officials said.

The United States agreed to let the IAEA team visit the Tuwaitha site only after repeated pleas from IAEA director general Mohamed ElBaradei, who feared a radiological and humanitarian emergency after news reports of possible radiation sickness among local residents. Defense officials today stressed that the visit did not set a precedent for other U.N. weapons inspectors to return to Iraq, citing concerns about the ability of U.S. forces to ensure the safety of and provide logistical support to other teams.

*Graham reported from Washington.*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A21815-2003Jun5.html>

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Los Angeles Times  
June 6, 2003

## **Blix's Final Words To Security Council On Iraq Are Of Caution**

By Maggie Farley, Times Staff Writer

UNITED NATIONS — In his farewell appearance before the Security Council, chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix said Thursday that Iraq's failure to account for its alleged biological, chemical or nuclear weapons did not mean that it possessed them — or posed an imminent threat.

"There remain long lists of items unaccounted for, but it is not justified to jump to the conclusion that something exists just because it is unaccounted for," Blix told the council in his last scheduled report on Iraq before he retires at the end of the month. The inspectors' presence in the country, he said in his typically understated way, could have contained the threat until they determined whether Iraq was clean.

Blix's comments came amid controversy over whether the U.S. and British governments overplayed the threat posed by Saddam Hussein's regime to justify the war. But the former law professor neither forcefully validated nor disproved U.S. intelligence claims, other than saying that many CIA-provided tips "did not really square."

"We went to a great many sites, as you know, which were given to us by intelligence, and only in three cases did we find anything — and they did not relate to weapons of mass destruction. But I am not thereby excluding that they might have better finds," he said. "I wish they would."

Blix also said that his weapons experts could return to Iraq on two weeks' notice to help the U.S. teams in their search for arms. His people would bring not only experience but also legitimacy to the hunt, he said, a nod to suspicions that the U.S. might plant evidence of weapons to justify having invaded.

"Anybody that functions under an occupation cannot have the same credibility internationally as international inspectors would," he said.

U.S. Ambassador John D. Negroponte told reporters after Blix's report that Iraq's failure to account for its weapons was just one of many ways that Hussein's regime had breached U.N. resolutions and thus invited a military intervention.

"To those who have questions about what has been discovered to date and what might be found, I think I would counsel patience" while teams examine documents and interview Iraqi scientists and officials, Negroponte added. Although Blix, 74, will return home to Sweden at the end of the month "to pick mushrooms," the inspectors will remain at U.N. headquarters to catalog their efforts and to be on call — if anybody wants them.

Washington has hired a number of former inspectors to join the U.S.-led search teams but has so far rebuffed the U.N. experts' offers of help, except for allowing a small team of nuclear inspectors to visit a looted nuclear facility outside Baghdad later this week.

As days go by without any discoveries in Iraq, pressure is mounting on U.S. and British intelligence services to disclose how they reached the conclusion that Iraq possessed nonconventional weapons and needed to be forcibly disarmed.

Blix, who has spent much of his career trying to prevent the spread of nonconventional weapons, was clearly disappointed that his team was not allowed to complete their mission. U.S. officials claim that Blix's team visited only 10% of the suspected sites identified by the CIA. Blix said that U.N. inspectors were able to interview only a handful of scientists.

In an interview with the Los Angeles Times published Wednesday, Brig. Gen. Alaa Saeed, one of Iraq's top weapons scientists — and the author of the 12,000-page declaration to the U.N. that Iraq was free of banned weapons — insisted that all chemical agents and many records were destroyed by 1994.

In the Security Council session, Blix noted that U.N. inspectors had discovered few weapons since 1996 and he wondered aloud why Iraq's government would refuse to cooperate with the U.N. throughout the 10 years of inspections and endure continued sanctions if the regime truly had eliminated the arms.

"The lack of finds could be because the items were unilaterally destroyed by the Iraqi authorities, or else because they were effectively concealed by them," Blix told the council.

Now that the Iraqi government is gone, he said, "it should be possible to establish the truth we all want to know."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-farewell6jun06.1.7058744.story>

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Los Angeles Times  
June 6, 2003

## U.N. Nuclear Experts Back In Iraq

*Watchdog agency team returns today to find out how much material was stolen by looters. U.S. has restricted size and scope of the mission.*

By Bob Drogin, Times Staff Writer

TUWAITHA, Iraq — After a bitter standoff with the Bush administration, U.N. nuclear experts will return to Iraq today for the first time since the war in a long-delayed effort to determine how much nuclear waste and radioactive material were stolen by looters.

The contents of dozens of barrels of low-grade uranium and other hazardous material are believed to be missing. U.S. and U.N. officials have expressed sharp concern that terrorist groups could use some of the material to build crude "dirty bombs" that use conventional explosives to spread radioactive dust and debris.

The visit comes two months after Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, sent the first of three urgent requests to Washington. He urged the Bush administration to let IAEA safety experts return immediately to confront what he called a "possible radiological emergency."

Bush administration relations with the IAEA were badly frayed earlier this year after ElBaradei told the United Nations Security Council that Iraq had no ongoing nuclear weapons program. That directly contradicted White House claims and undercut international support for the war.

Under pressure from the international arms-control community, the administration responded to ElBaradei on May 20. But it set strict conditions for the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency to return.

The U.S. has limited the size of the IAEA team and the duration of the visit, and it has restricted the team to visiting only the nuclear storage site here.

The seven-member team thus is barred from visiting six other badly looted Iraqi nuclear facilities that were monitored by the U.N. agency for more than a decade, U.S. and IAEA officials said.

U.S. authorities also initially said the team would be required to sleep in tents at Tuwaitha. That order was later reversed, however, and its members will stay at a hotel in Baghdad, about an hour's drive north.

The IAEA returns amid a growing political furor in Washington about White House claims before the war that Saddam Hussein's government had secretly built illegal weapons. None has been found so far.

The Tuwaitha storage site warehoused thousands of 55-gallon drums containing nuclear waste, low-enriched uranium, radioactive sources such as cobalt-60 and cesium-137, and about 500 tons of natural uranium ore. The IAEA built the depot after the 1991 Persian Gulf War to contain material recovered during investigations of Hussein's program to build a nuclear bomb. IAEA teams regularly monitored the sealed barrels until shortly before the latest war began in March.

"We are very anxious to get control [of radioactive sources and nuclear waste] because of concerns that this material could be used for dirty bombs," Melissa Fleming, an IAEA spokeswoman, said in a telephone interview from the agency's headquarters in Vienna.

Experts also warned that another nation could conceivably enhance low-enriched uranium from Tuwaitha to help create fuel for nuclear weapons.

"Their job will be to do an inventory to see what's missing and, if possible, to re-collect and reseal the material," Fleming said of the incoming team of experts in radiation safety and nuclear security.

ElBaradei first asked the Bush administration April 10 for permission to return to Iraq after a Los Angeles Times report of extensive looting at Tuwaitha.

Asked at a news conference Wednesday in Baghdad about the delay, Army Lt. Gen. David McKiernan, commander of coalition forces in Iraq, said time was needed "to make sure the team has the support they need." He added, "We do have the site secured."

The Tuwaitha storage facility, a walled compound of three flat-topped warehouses and offices, was not bombed in the war. But area residents say Iraqi guards fled after airstrikes hit nearby military camps. And U.S. Marines who arrived in early April inadvertently aided the looters by cutting heavy locks on steel doors to see what was inside.

"They went inside and didn't know what it was," said Dr. Husham Abdel Mulik, an Iraqi nuclear inspector who worked with the IAEA in the past. "I told them it is a nuclear storage facility and they must take care of it. After that time, they set up a checkpoint."

But scavengers had free rein even after the U.S. troops arrived, local residents said.

"People could jump the wall and go inside while the Americans were watching," said Farid Azawi, 53, a resident of Al Wardiya village, about 200 yards from the site. "They watch and do nothing."

The looters, who smashed windows and doors to break into the buildings, ransacked offices and took technical documents and sensitive equipment. They also emptied or made off with scores of warehoused drums. The sacking was so severe that U.S. nuclear safety teams have been unable to determine what is missing.

"Everybody comes and takes the barrels," Azawi said. "They empty them and use them to store water for their homes."

U.S. troops have confiscated or paid \$3 each to buy back at least 70 missing — but empty — barrels in recent weeks. They also poured concrete to cover material dumped in a farmer's field. At least one girl was hospitalized after she became sick from apparent radiation exposure.

U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division troops now guard the compound. They erected heavy concrete walls topped with razor wire last week, installed new steel gates and have bricked up broken doors and windows.

Washington's dispute with the IAEA stems, in part, from a core conflict.

The IAEA says it has the right to visit Iraq under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which the U.S. has signed, and that only the U.N. Security Council can decide if nuclear weapons inspectors should return. The Bush administration argues that, as the occupying power in Iraq, the United States is responsible for nuclear safety.

But a more poisonous atmosphere lies behind the scenes.

White House officials were furious when ElBaradei told the U.N. Security Council that IAEA inspectors had found no evidence that Hussein had revived his nuclear arms programs.

He said all of Iraq's nuclear weapons facilities and programs had been dismantled or destroyed by 1998.

ElBaradei's assertion contradicted charges by Vice President Dick Cheney and other senior administration officials, who repeatedly warned before the war that the Baghdad government was still secretly working to build nuclear weapons.

<http://www.latimes.com/la-fg-nuke6jun06.1.6265569.story>

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New York Times

June 6, 2003

## 'Chemical Ali': Is He Dead, Or Still Alive?

By New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 5 — The Iraqi military commander known as "Chemical Ali" for his role in using chemical weapons against the Kurdish minority may still be alive, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said today.

American officials had previously speculated that the Iraqi commander, Ali Hassan al-Majid, had been killed in a bombing raid in Basra in April.

A cousin of Saddam Hussein, Mr. Majid has been accused of war crimes for unleashing mustard gas against civilians in 1988.

Mr. Rumsfeld said today that he did not know the status of Chemical Ali, whom American troops had been tracking prior to the bombing.

"They attacked locations where they believed him to be," Mr. Rumsfeld said.

"There was some speculation afterwards that they thought that he had been killed. Now there's some speculation that he may be alive. But I just don't know."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/06/international/worldspecial/06CHEL.html>

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Washington Times

June 6, 2003

Pg. 14

## Moscow To Keep Helping Tehran

By David R. Sands, The Washington Times

Moscow vowed yesterday to continue its nuclear assistance to Iran even if Tehran rejects the tougher international inspections demanded by the United States, as a senior foreign policy adviser to President Vladimir Putin brushed aside U.S. criticisms of the Russian program.



"We genuinely do not understand what the Americans want from us," said Dmitry Rogozin, the influential chairman of the Russian State Duma's committee on international affairs, in an interview yesterday at the start of a visit to Washington.

Arguing that Russia would be a primary target if Iran did acquire nuclear weapons, Mr. Rogozin said, "We are not so insane as to set up a time bomb under our own chairs."

Contradicting assertions made Wednesday by senior Bush administration officials and by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko told reporters in Moscow yesterday that Mr. Putin had not pledged to halt nuclear fuel shipments to Iran until the government there agreed to a stricter monitoring program of the United Nations.

Mr. Yakovenko said Russia will require Iran to sign a bilateral accord to return all spent nuclear fuel — which could be used to produce the plutonium for nuclear bombs — from the joint program to Russia.

But Moscow has no plans to terminate its \$800 million contract to build a light-water reactor at the southern Iranian port city of Bushehr, he said, despite sharp U.S. criticisms.

Iran's Islamic Republic New Agency reported this week that Gholamreza Aqazadeh, chief of the country's nuclear programs, planned to travel to Moscow next month to nail down contracts for the completion of the Bushehr plant. U.S. officials see the Bushehr project as part of an Iranian effort to acquire weapons of mass destruction. The Bush administration has been seeking international support to force Tehran to agree to tougher inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, a U.N. watchdog group.

"The conclusion is inescapable that Iran is pursuing its 'civil' nuclear energy program not for peaceful and economic purposes but as a front for developing the capability to produce nuclear materials for nuclear weapons," John R. Bolton, undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, said at a House hearing this week.

Mr. Rogozin, in Washington for meetings with senior administration officials and lawmakers on Capitol Hill, insisted there were airtight controls of Russia's nuclear contracts with Iran. He said companies in Europe, which he did not name, were far more culpable in delivering equipment and technical aid to help Iran's weapons programs. The lawmaker said many in Russia remained skeptical of U.S. arguments for the recent war against Iraq, and the failure to discover large stocks of weapons of mass destruction there only fed Russian doubts about Iran.

"Your CIA said there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. We never thought so in Russia, and so far nothing has been found," he said.

"Now, the CIA makes the same claim for Iran. How on earth can we give them our trust one more time when they just made such a mistake?" he asked.

Mr. Rogozin said he did not expect any long-term damage to U.S.-Russian relations, despite the sharp differences over the Iraq campaign.

"My message is that we didn't disagree with your goals in the recent crisis, but we do have some real disagreements with some of your methods," he said. "I think we can always argue about individual issues, but we should not make mistakes in our relationship that are irreversible."

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20030605-094208-3046r.htm>

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New York Times  
June 6, 2003

## **Tom Ridge Agrees Terror Alerts Need Honing**

By Philip Shenon

WASHINGTON, June 5 — Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge acknowledged today that the government's much-criticized color-coded terrorism alert system needed adjustment and said his department would try to create a system that allowed for the level of alert to be raised for specific regions or industries, rather than for the whole country.

"We worry about the credibility of the system," said Mr. Ridge, an architect of the five-color alert arrangement, which was adopted in March of last year. "We want to continue to refine it, because we understand it has caused a kind of anxiety."

Mr. Ridge, in a meeting with reporters, offered no timetable for revising the system, which is supposed to warn the public and law enforcement agencies of any threat posed by terrorist groups that seek to attack on American soil. But he suggested that for now, the intelligence on terrorist movements was still too vague to allow for the sort of state-by-state or industry-by-industry breakdown that would be the goal.

"I mean right now the intelligence is fairly generic," he said. "There will come a time, I believe, that we'll have that kind of — a word they like to use in intelligence — granularity, that kind of specificity, that we'll be able to do that." The color-coded system, known as the Homeland Security Advisory System, has been a constant target of criticism from state and local government leaders, who say their law enforcement budgets have been dangerously strained whenever the national threat level is raised, and a target of ridicule from late-night television comedians and some of the public.

The system has created particular confusion in rural, sparsely populated parts of the country that appear to face no obvious terrorist threat but have been expected to step up security when the national alert is raised.

Though acknowledging flaws, Mr. Ridge has defended the color-coded system, which has bounced between yellow ("elevated risk") and orange ("high risk") since it was created last year, and is now at yellow. It has been raised to orange three times this year.

"The threat advisory system, I believe, is an essential means of communication to the citizens," Mr. Ridge said, adding that "it means that the intelligence community says at this particular period of time, we think the threat's been increased."

Mr. Ridge, who became responsible for setting the nationwide alert level shortly after he was sworn in as homeland security secretary in January, said the level had been raised only after extensive deliberations with intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

"I'm never quick to raise the level," he said. "It has not yet been a decision that was made because of intelligence gathered over a single day or even a single day or two." He said that "it's a pretty high threshold to take it from yellow to orange, from my perspective."

He said he hoped a future system would allow threat alerts to be raised for specific industries or areas that were under special threat, while leaving the level unchanged for everyone else.

"We've only had it in operation for a year, but our hope is to refine it in the months and years ahead so we can get that kind of specificity," he said.

Questioned about specific threats, Mr. Ridge said he knew of no evidence to suggest that Al Qaeda or other terrorist groups had obtained chemical, biological or radiological weapons that might have been in the hands of the Iraqi government before the fall of Saddam Hussein.

"There is no existing information of which I am aware that would suggest that the reason they haven't been located is that they have been turned over to terrorist organizations," he said.

He added that he thought that stores of such weapons would eventually be discovered in Iraq. "I believe it's a matter of time," he said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/06/national/06HOME.html>

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Washington Post

June 6, 2003

Pg. 22

## **Chinese Firm Denies Aiding Iran On Weapons**

BEIJING -- A major Chinese conglomerate denied yesterday that it aided Iran's missile program and demanded that the United States lift "groundless and unjustified" penalties imposed on the company.

U.S. officials last month accused China North Industries, also known as Norinco, of supplying Iran with unspecified materials or technology that could help in developing long-range missiles capable of carrying weapons of mass destruction. Its products, which include firearms and firefighting equipment, were banned from U.S. markets for two years.

Norinco said it supports Chinese government policies opposing the spread of weapons of mass destruction and obeys laws on the export of missile technology.

--Associated Press

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A21832-2003Jun5.html>

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Washington Post

June 6, 2003

Pg. 16



# Iraqi Detained Over Toxic Mail

By Reuters

BRUSSELS, June 5 -- Belgian police said today that they detained an Iraqi man after letters containing a nerve gas ingredient were sent to the prime minister's office, the U.S. and British embassies and a court trying al Qaeda suspects.

Police detained the 45-year-old suspect late Wednesday in the western Belgian town of Deinze, said the head of police investigation, Glenn Audenaert.

Twenty people, including postal workers and police officers, had to go briefly to hospitals after being exposed to the chemicals in the 10 letters sent earlier in the week.

The brownish-yellow powder in the letters contained phenarsazine chloride, an arsenic derivative used in nerve gas. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A21081-2003Jun5.html>

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Washington Post

June 9, 2003

Pg. 1

## Officials Defend Iraq Intelligence

*Rice, Powell Insist Threat Not Inflated*

By Walter Pincus, Washington Post Staff Writer

The Bush administration's two top foreign policy advisers yesterday said it was the judgment of the U.S. intelligence community that Saddam Hussein possessed chemical and biological weapons and that the president and others did not exaggerate the threat in the months before going to war.

National security adviser Condoleezza Rice described as "revisionist history" recent criticism that senior Bush officials starting with the president may have overstated what was known about Iraq's chemical and biological weapons leading up to the war in March.

"The truth of the matter," Rice said on NBC's "Meet the Press," "is that repeated directors of central intelligence, repeated reports by intelligence agencies around the world, repeated reports by United Nations inspectors asking hard questions of Saddam Hussein, and tremendous efforts by this regime to conceal and hide what it was doing, clearly give a picture of a regime that had weapons of mass destruction and was determined to conceal them."

She said that Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet believed Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and "the president gets his intelligence from his director of central intelligence." The key judgments of the intelligence community, Rice said on ABC's "This Week," were contained in an October 2002 National Intelligence Estimate that said flatly that "Iraq had weapons of mass destruction" and that Hussein "was continuing to improve his weapons of mass destruction capabilities, that he was hiding these from the world, [and] that there were large, unaccounted-for stockpiles."

Although those judgments of the October report were unequivocal, the backup material in a declassified version of it made public Oct. 4 was less definitive. The backup material said that "accounting and current production capabilities strongly suggest that Iraq maintains a stockpile of chemical agents" and not that it possessed such a stockpile. It also said that Iraq "probably" had concealed items "necessary for continuing its CW [chemical warfare] effort" and was rebuilding dual-use equipment that "could" be diverted to weapons production, not that Baghdad was improving its capabilities.

Rice said Tenet, who had signed off on the October paper, "runs a disciplined process that takes into account the views of different intelligence agencies . . . [and] takes into account differences about this data point or that data point." During one appearance yesterday Rice allowed that it was the "preponderance of evidence" that led to the judgments and that "his programs were active and being reconstituted."

Rice did concede that an inaccurate claim, that Iraq sought to buy uranium in Africa, was included in President Bush's State of the Union message in January. Rice said the White House believed that to be true at the time. But she said the claim, attributed in the speech to the British, was what "the intelligence community said we could say."

When asked about New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof's report in May that some intelligence officials were told in February 2002, almost a year before the president's speech, that the information on the uranium purchase was false, she replied, "Somebody may have known." But she added Iraq tried to buy more uranium and "the important thing . . . [was] the nuclear weapons program did not rest on a document that the British cited."

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, appearing on the morning talk shows yesterday, also defended the administration's prewar statements and particularly his own speech before the U.N. Security Council on Feb. 5, as representing a "good, solid assessment" of Iraq's weapons programs. And, like Rice, Powell pointed to Tenet saying that Hussein's possession of weapons of mass destruction was "the official judgment of the director of central intelligence who is the one responsible for gathering all this information."

Rice and Powell said they believed the weapons would still turn up as the search in Iraq continues. "I'm sure more evidence and more proof will come forward as we go down the road," Powell said.

Rice said only "a fraction of the [Iraqi] people who were involved" in the weapons programs have been interviewed and "we've always known that the strongest evidence . . . will come from talking to the people who were involved." Criticism, however, continued yesterday. Sen. Carl M. Levin (D-Mich.), the ranking minority member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said, "There is too much evidence that intelligence was shaded." Levin, who also sits on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said the possible or probable presence of prohibited weapons in Iraq "was turned into a certainty over and over and over again by the administration."

Levin added that if weapons are not found, "the credibility and reliability of our intelligence is going to be challenged in the future, and it's going to be much more difficult for us to lead the world."

The administration drew support from Rep. Richard A. Gephardt (Mo.), who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination and was a leader in the House when the vote was taken to go to war if necessary. Gephardt pointed out that President Bill Clinton and others in his administration had said during the 1990s that Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.

Even Levin wrote a letter to Clinton in 1998 in which he said he had no doubt Hussein had such weapons. But yesterday Levin said the situation then was different because the U.N. inspectors were not in Iraq, while they were there in March. "We should not have cut those inspections short at that time," Levin said. "We should have allowed those inspections to continue."

In 1998, Clinton decided to tighten the policy of keeping Hussein in isolation by enforcing the "no-fly" zones that prevented him from moving against his neighbors and the Kurdish zones in northern Iraq.

Levin said he expected that Congress would investigate the Iraq intelligence, and Rice said Bush would welcome it. Republican leaders, Levin said, appeared to be resisting the word "investigation, so we'd be happy to call it an inquiry."

The chairman of the Senate intelligence panel, Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), said that Tenet had agreed to provide "full documentation" of the intelligence material "in regards to Secretary Powell's comments, the president's comments and anybody else's comments."

Roberts also said he wondered what role may have been played by a small unit of analysts set up within the office of Douglas J. Feith, the undersecretary of defense for policy. Their analysis of the Iraqi weapons program went to senior policymakers.

Roberts said he had no evidence that the intelligence was shaded, but he said he has concerns and wants the committee to "do our homework first."

Using a phrase that was associated with the failure to use intelligence correctly and predict the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, Rice described putting together "hundreds and hundreds of dots about the Iraqi program" that led up to "a policy judgment that the president had to make that this was a serious enough threat that it was time to finally do something about this serial abuser of U.N. resolutions. And it is quite clear to me that he was right to do what he did."

Rice confirmed The Washington Post report last week that Vice President Cheney made numerous trips to the CIA, but said it was "simply not true" that it was done to pressure analysts to come around to the administration's viewpoint. "The director of central intelligence has said, and has assured all of us, that he has no evidence or any belief that anybody was pressured at any time to change estimates or to change their assessments," Rice said.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A32394-2003Jun8.html>

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Los Angeles Times

June 8, 2003

Pg. 1

## **Iraq Had Secret Labs, Officer Says**

*The goal was to someday rebuild chemical and biological weapons, an Iraqi general alleges.*

By Bob Drogin, Times Staff Writer

BAGHDAD — Saddam Hussein's intelligence services set up a network of clandestine cells and small laboratories after 1996 with the goal of someday rebuilding illicit chemical and biological weapons, according to a former senior Iraqi intelligence officer.

The officer, who held the rank of brigadier general, said each closely guarded weapons team had three or four scientists and other experts who were unknown to U.N. inspectors. He said they worked on computers and conducted crude experiments in bunkers and back rooms in safe houses around Baghdad.

He insisted they did not produce any illegal arms and that none now exist in Iraq. But he said the teams met regularly and put plans on paper to quickly develop weapons of mass destruction if United Nations sanctions against Iraq were lifted.

"We could start again anytime," said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he said he fears for his life. "It's very easy. Especially biological.

"The point was, the Iraqis kept the knowledge," he explained during a lengthy interview Friday in which he offered tantalizing details of secret programs. But U.S. weapons hunters "will never find anything here. Only oil."

The failure to find any weapons of mass destruction since the war has sparked mounting criticism in both Washington and London, where senior government officials have been put on the defensive to explain why both public and classified intelligence estimates now appear to have been so inaccurate.

The intelligence officer's account, parts of which could not be independently verified, gives ammunition to both sides of the controversy. He said that U.N. sanctions and inspections in the 1990s crippled Iraq's ability to build illegal weapons and that Hussein's chemical, biological and nuclear programs were effectively eliminated in the mid-1990s.

But his description of an ongoing effort to prepare for illicit weapons production programs in the future suggests that Hussein would have remained a serious threat if U.S.-led forces had not ousted the dictator.

His disclosure comes as newly reinforced U.S. weapons teams have intensified efforts to round up Iraqi scientists and officials. Three senior biowarfare experts were driven away in a van in Baghdad and have not returned home since a meeting June 1 with an American in civilian clothes who gave his name only as "John," according to witnesses.

They said John identified the three from a list titled "Taha-7," which named top lieutenants to Dr. Rahib Rashid Taha. A British-trained microbiologist known as "Dr. Germ," Taha directed production of vast quantities of anthrax, botulinum toxin, aflatoxin and other lethal germ agents in the 1980s. She was taken into U.S. custody after the war. The Iraqi intelligence officer said that the secret weapons groups were created in late 1996 and 1997 because the regime's unconventional arms programs had been dismantled or destroyed by then and that U.N. inspectors knew most of those who had worked in them.

"They changed all the [weapons] people after that," he said. "They not only changed the people. They changed the houses and buildings. They kept the program alive."

He said he had hidden some of the groups' papers to protect himself if arrested, including what he called "red orders" from Hussein and his aides authorizing the operation.

He said he chiefly had served "on the money side" since the 1980s to help fund and direct a global maze of local trading companies that were secretly run by Iraqi intelligence operatives to supply the weapons programs.

U.S. intelligence and U.N. inspectors have confirmed the use of such front companies, backed by shady arms dealers, crooked shipping agents and captains, and corrupt customs and other officials, to support Iraq's sanctions-busting procurement schemes.

### **7 Overseas Trips**

The officer said he made seven overseas trips between the mid-1990s and 2001 to help oversee the illegal purchase and transport of spare parts, raw materials and other supplies for Iraq's conventional and unconventional weapons programs. He drew money from secret regime bank accounts in Egypt, Japan, Lebanon, Switzerland and other countries.

On his last trip, in April 2001, he said he used phony passports from neighboring Arab nations to travel to Jordan, Cyprus, Morocco, South Africa and Argentina. He said he spent more than \$57 million to illegally purchase and ship towed cannons, artillery fuses, calibrating instruments and so-called "dual use" medical laboratory equipment that could be used for chemical or biological weapons.

It's possible that the officer's story contains falsehoods meant to deceive or confuse U.S. investigators. He refused to show the documents he said he had saved or to take a Los Angeles Times reporter to any of the safe houses where he said the weapons teams had operated.

But unlike many of those who have provided false weapons tips to U.S. investigators in hopes of claiming a large reward, the officer appeared highly knowledgeable about the development, production and deployment of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons and missiles in the past.

The officer offered specific details about Iraq's complex weapons smuggling networks that dovetail with U.N. investigations. The U.N. teams also were aware of what one official called "dirty tricks" laboratories run by the Mukhabarat, the chief Iraqi intelligence and secret police service.

In addition, the intelligence officer described his role getting phony documents and making payoffs to help NEC Engineering Private Ltd., an Indian trading company, smuggle banned material to Iraq between 1998 and 2001. U.S. and British intelligence later traced the chemicals and equipment to a former Iraqi poison gas factory and a missile fuel production plant. A Times report detailed the NEC scheme in January, and the officer's new details appeared to match missing pieces of the puzzle.

The Iraqi officer said he had not been contacted by U.S. and British military and intelligence teams that are supposed to scour Iraq for any evidence of poison gases, germ agents for biological weapons, or nuclear programs. He indicated that he's hiding from the Americans, but it was unclear if they are looking for him.

The U.S. special weapons teams have heard similar accounts of plans to rebuild illicit arms from other Iraqi weapons officials they have interviewed or taken into custody since the war. At least one intelligence report about the claims has been forwarded to the White House, U.S. officials said.

The interview with the former senior Iraqi intelligence officer was arranged by a family member of Lt. Gen. Hussein Kamel Majid, who was married to one of Hussein's daughters and who headed Iraq's secret weapons programs until he defected to Jordan in 1994. He was executed after he returned to Baghdad in 1995 under promises of safety.

The Iraqi officer agreed to speak to two reporters because he said he wanted them to provide a satellite telephone that would not be tapped by U.S. intelligence so he could call Iraqi spies hiding overseas.

He said he also wanted to see if he could gain access to \$600,000 he said is in a Chase Manhattan Bank account. The reporters refused.

The officer, who said he has a doctorate in aviation electronics from the University of Kiev, is a gruff, barrel-chested man with a harsh voice from chain-smoking French-made Gauloises cigarettes. Using a fake name and phony identification papers, he now supports his wife and six children as a university instructor.

In the interview, he provided several striking new details about Iraq's covert weapons programs.

He confirmed suspicions, for example, that Hussein's regime kept double sets of books on its weapons programs to fool U.N. weapons inspectors. "There were a lot of numbers that were in the government that were not given to the U.N.," he said.

### **Double Agents**

He said some of the Iraqi defectors who were debriefed by U.S. and other Western intelligence agencies were double agents sent by Department 44, a wing of Iraq's military intelligence, to provide false information.

"They let the Americans think they were anti-Saddam," he said. "But they were still reporting back to Saddam."

He also confirmed U.S. and U.N. charges that Iraq's chemical weapons experts succeeded in weaponizing VX, a highly toxic nerve agent. Hussein's regime insisted that the liquid VX it produced was unstable and quickly deteriorated, and thus could not be used as a weapon.

He also shed new light on Iraq's recent attempts to obtain 60,000 high-strength aluminum tubes. The White House charged before the war that the scheme proved that Iraq was seeking to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons. U.N. nuclear inspectors concluded that the tubes were for artillery rockets.

The officer said the case was mostly about corruption. "We did not need this many tubes" for artillery, he said.

"Someone does this to steal the money."

Asked why Iraqi officials had repeatedly lied and sought to hinder U.N. inspectors if the regime had no weapons to hide, he cited the climate of terror under the dictator.

"We cannot correct the numbers [previously given to the U.N.], because then we will look like liars," he said. "And that will make Iraq look bad. And people will lose their heads."

He said he met Hussein three times, is convinced he is still alive and remains loyal to him. But he acknowledged that the dictator had a weakness.

"Saddam has a thick mind," he said. "He does not know science. So he believes anything the scientists tell him."

<http://www.latimes.com/la-fg-wmd8jun08,1,3600373.story>

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New York Times

June 8, 2003

Pg. 1

# Barrels Looted From Nuclear Site Raise Fears For Villagers In Iraq

By Patrick E. Tyler

TUWAITHA, Iraq, June 7 -- For Iptisam Nuri, a mother of five who was sick with typhoid, the arrival of the barrels in her home at first seemed a godsend.

When the electricity went out during the war, the water-pumping station that serves this area 30 miles southeast of Baghdad shut down, and people were thirsty. Then men from a village near here broke through the fence guarding "Location C" at Saddam Hussein's nuclear complex.

"We had to find something to bring water," said one of the men, Idris Saddoun, 23.

They say they broke into the warehouse, emptied hundreds of barrels of their yellow and brown mud, took them to the wells and canals and filled them with water for cooking, bathing and drinking.

For nearly three weeks, hundreds of villagers who live in the shadow of the high earthen berm and barbed wire fences that surrounded the labyrinth of the Iraqi nuclear program here bathed in and ingested water laced with radioactive contaminants from the barrels.

The barrels, Iraqi and foreign experts say, had held uranium ores, low-enriched uranium "yellowcake," nuclear sludge and other byproducts of Mr. Hussein's nuclear research.

Some villagers fell ill with nausea. Others developed rashes that made them itch.

Although no qualified medical experts have examined them, some contracted ailments that they now attribute to radioactive contamination. It may take years to determine the health effects from the radiation poisoning that occurred here before American military forces arrived to seal off this nuclear complex.

Questions have been raised by international inspectors about why, despite Washington's assurances that allied forces had secured this facility, an army of looters roamed here freely for days, ransacking vaults and warehouses that contained ample radioactive poisons that could be used to manufacture an inestimable quantity of so-called dirty bombs.

Tuwaitha has been the most conspicuous element of Iraq's nuclear research program since its inception in the 1970's. Twenty-two years ago today, Israeli warplanes bombed its main plutonium production reactor after Menachem Begin, then Israel's prime minister, became convinced that Mr. Hussein was determined to produce nuclear weapons.

Today, the first inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency arrived here to look into the loss of control over Iraq's nuclear program that occurred when allied forces bypassed this complex during their drive on Baghdad. Under restrictions imposed by the American and British occupation authority, the inspectors will not be allowed to survey the levels of contamination in villages like this one, where survival instincts drove the residents into a compound where radiological dangers awaited them.

"We have been disturbed about reports of looting and that these barrels that contained natural and low-enriched uranium have been looted," Melissa Fleming, a spokeswoman for the atomic agency in Vienna, told the British Broadcasting Corporation. "We are going to find out what's missing, to see if we can repackage and secure the material, so that we can account for every gram of it."

Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the atomic agency, first expressed concern about security at Tuwaitha on April 10, the day after Baghdad fell and widespread looting began.

This week, senior American defense officials said that when United States marines reached the Tuwaitha complex, on April 7, they found that looting was rampant. Since then, they said, military forces have provided continuous security.

Army officials who checked the site soon after the marines arrived encountered high radiation levels in the storage buildings and withdrew.

Ever since, atomic agency officials have pressed for access to the site, and American officials have resisted, arguing that the mandate of the agency in Iraq had expired and that allied forces were in charge.

Yet continuing reports of lax security here and the discovery that villagers were bathing from contaminated barrels from uranium storage facilities appear to have prompted American officials to relent and allow narrowly defined access for international inspectors, who examined and sealed this facility more than a decade ago.

A team of agency inspectors arrived in the Iraqi capital on Friday. Instead of billeting in their old headquarters at the Canal Hotel, they were closeted behind American military guards at the Rashid Hotel, which is off limits to visitors. When the inspectors arrived here today, they were escorted by a small column of American troops in Humvee transports.

They apparently went straight to "Location C," the warehouse compound on the southern boundary of the nuclear complex where uranium ores, yellowcake and low-level waste were stored.

American troops at the complex would not allow reporters to accompany the inspectors or follow them to the warehouses.

Local villagers said that what they were sure to find were piles of uranium dumped from barrels on the floor of the warehouse, where looters tracked the radioactive material back to their homes, adding to the contamination that came from using the barrels as water containers.

Today, a 14-year-old villager named Haider Raheen led a visitor to a marsh adjoining the village where two of the uranium barrels lay discarded in the reeds. Close by was a white storage box that may have contained some of the more dangerous radio-isotopes that were believed to have been stored in the warehouse. They are thought to have included cobalt, cesium and strontium, all potentially lethal if ingested.

More than 500 tons of natural uranium and 1.8 tons of low-enriched uranium were stored at Tuwaitha, international inspectors have said.

"We were trapped by these barrels," said Ms. Nuri, 34. "After we bathed from them, drank from them and cooked in them, we didn't know what to do."

American soldiers came about 20 days later and offered villagers \$3 each for the barrels and recovered more than 100 of them, officials said, but a complete inventory of what is missing as well as the health and security ramifications of loose radioactive material will await the full assessment of the inspectors.

An Army radiological team swept through these villages last month, carrying radiation monitors into brick houses, including Ms. Nuri's. She said she heard a lot of beeping when the monitors were placed near the floor.

But no one checked her five children, and she is now wondering why so many journalists keep coming to this village, named Al Mansiya, which means, "The Forgotten," but not doctors or aid workers to help the residents, whose food rations are almost exhausted.

It makes her think about Mr. Hussein.

"We are like a string of beads that has been cut, and all the beads are on the floor," she said. "We love the Americans, but we loved Saddam because he was our father. He was the tent over us -- he was the string in our beads."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/08/international/worldspecial/08IRAQ.html>

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Los Angeles Times

June 9, 2003

## **Army To Destroy Tons Of Chemical Weapons**

By Times Wire Reports

The Army said it plans to begin destroying more than 2,200 tons of nerve agents in Alabama next month. The munitions, remnants from the Cold War, have been stored for decades in dirt-covered concrete bunkers about 60 miles east of Birmingham.

The planned incineration at the Anniston Army Depot could be delayed by two lawsuits filed by opponents and questions about safety precautions. About 75,000 people live within 10 miles of the depot, which holds 2,254 tons of weapons loaded with nerve and blister agents, or about 7% of the nation's chemical weapons stockpile.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-briefs9.4jun09.1.7538027.story?coll=la-headlines-nation>

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Wall Street Journal

June 9, 2003

## **U.S. Forges United Front On North Korea Approach**

*Pressure Mounts on North Korea As U.S., Asia Take a Harder Line*

By Gordon Fairclough, Staff Reporter Of The Wall Street Journal

SEOUL, South Korea -- The U.S. and major Asian powers, which for months have clashed over the best response to North Korea's nuclear activities, appear to be approaching a consensus: Move steadily ahead with multilateral diplomacy -- but step up the economic pressure.



This emerging accord may not last, but after recent meetings between President Bush and the leaders of South Korea and Japan, Washington has assembled a far more united front as it seeks to force Pyongyang to abandon its atomic ambitions. Even China and Russia seem more receptive than before to a harder line against their former communist ally.

After a summit meeting in Tokyo Saturday, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun jointly declared that a nuclear-armed Pyongyang "will not be tolerated." Mr. Koizumi added in a news conference that if North Korea "makes the situation worse, we will have to deal with them that much more strictly." Even Mr. Roh, who stressed the importance of finding a diplomatic solution to the standoff, allowed that "dialogue and pressure must proceed in parallel."

Mr. Roh's words reflected those of the U.S. deputy defense secretary, Paul Wolfowitz, who on a trip to Asia last month said the U.S. and its allies should use economic leverage in addition to multilateral diplomacy to push for an end to the confrontation. North Korea, he said, "is teetering on the edge of economic collapse. That, I believe, is a major point of leverage."

A dispute between hawks and doves within Mr. Koizumi's government looks to be tipping toward the hawks. Mr. Koizumi, whose foreign minister in March stirred controversy when she declined to call North Korea's kidnapping of Japanese in the 1970s terrorism, told parliament on Thursday that abduction "is a great threat to the lives and safety of Japanese citizens, which means you can call it terrorism."

The U.S., Japan and South Korea are scheduled to meet this week in Hawaii for further discussions. In Europe last week, Japan and the other seven leaders of the Group of Eight industrial countries -- including Russia -- called on North Korea to "visibly, verifiably and irreversibly dismantle any nuclear-weapons programs."

The standoff began in October, when the U.S. says Pyongyang admitted to pursuing a nuclear-weapons program. Pyongyang wants security guarantees, in the wake of the American invasion of Iraq, and economic aid. Washington wants, at the least, a nuclear-free North Korea.

The U.S. has been calling for stepped-up efforts to cut off the hard-currency flows that sustain dictator Kim Jong Il by blocking the North's missile exports and alleged drug sales. In a broader effort to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Washington is also determined to prevent Pyongyang from shipping nuclear weapons or radioactive material out of the country.

Although differences remain, notably with China, Asia's leaders all fear that a nuclear-armed North Korea will spark a regional arms race, overturn the security order and destabilize the area. North Korea's continued bellicosity has weakened the hand of those pushing for continued diplomatic engagement.

It isn't clear, though, how another round of challenges from Pyongyang would affect the new like-mindedness. U.S. intelligence analysts aren't yet sure Pyongyang is reprocessing spent fuel into nuclear weapons material, despite its claims to have done so. There is also concern that Pyongyang may resume testing of ballistic missiles. Either step would almost certainly draw a harsh response from Washington -- and it is hard to predict whether it would intimidate North Korea's neighbors, splitting them from the U.S., or draw them closer.

Seoul, which has had an official policy of reconciliation with North Korea for years, is now saying that continued aid and economic cooperation depend on Pyongyang's willingness to dismantle its nuclear program. Japan has taken a harder line, suspending food aid over the kidnappings and indicting a company suspected of shipping electronic components to North Korea for use in its weapons program.

One sign of how the stakes have been raised is Pyongyang's suspension yesterday of the only regular ferry service between North Korea and Japan. Japanese authorities had planned an unprecedented security operation for Monday, when the North Korean passenger ship *Mangyongbong* was to arrive in Niigata. Japan suspects the vessel of serving as a conduit for weapons technology and spies, as well as tens of millions of dollars in cash taken to the North by pro-Pyongyang Korean residents of Japan.

China, which provides North Korea with essential supplies of food and fuel, is eager to forestall any U.S. military intervention and might be willing to accede to action the United Nations Security Council took on the matter -- something it has resisted -- if Pyongyang continues to behave provocatively. If such resolutions or sanctions "become inevitable," said a Chinese scholar with ties to the military, "the only rational, smart thing for China to do" is accede.

North Korea has reacted angrily to the American diplomatic gains. Pyongyang Sunday accused the U.S. of trying win the support of the industrialized nations for a blockade of North Korea. A foreign ministry spokesman, quoted by the official state news agency, said that the country would take "an immediate physical retaliatory measure" if it felt that its sovereignty had been violated.

The U.S. is keeping up the pressure, both diplomatically and economically. On the latter front, government officials point to Australia's seizure in April of 110 pounds of heroin, worth an estimated \$48 million, on a North Korean

ship. "You take that away," said a Defense Department official, referring to such large drug sales, "and they have a fundamental problem. Every little bit hurts."

-- Charles Hutzler in Beijing and Sebastian Moffett in Tokyo contributed to this article.

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New York Times

June 9, 2003

## North Korea Suspends Its Passenger Ferry Link With Japan

By James Brooke

SEOUL, South Korea, June 8 — North Korea suspended service today on its lone passenger ferry link with Japan, in response to a new Japanese and American policy of subjecting all North Korean shipping to intensive inspections. On Monday, 1,900 inspectors and police officers were to meet the ferry boat on the docks of the Japanese port of Niigata. Transport Ministry officials were to check for safety violations. Health Ministry officials were to check passengers and crew for infectious diseases. Officials from the Justice and Finance ministries planned to check for immigration and customs violations.

These inspections are being extended this summer to North Korea's cargo ships — rusting freighters that docked in Japan a total of 1,415 times last year.

In addition, the United States is using satellites to monitor all ship traffic from North Korean ports, intelligence that facilitated large drug seizures this spring in Australia, Japan and South Korea.

Without provoking North Korea with formal penalties or a naval blockade, North Korea's neighbors seek to pressure it to drop its clandestine nuclear weapons program.

"We are going to keep a really severe eye on the North Korean ships," Taro Kono, a governing party member of Japan's Parliament, said in an interview. "We are not going to allow narcotics to come into Japan. We are not going to allow missile parts to go back to North Korea."

Separately, on two occasions in the last week, South Korea's navy has fired warning shots at North Korean crab boats that have ventured south of a sea border claimed by South Korea. Since May 25, the start of the lucrative crab fishing season, South Korea says North Korean fishing boats trespassed into South Korean waters eight times. North Korea noted that the new maritime policies followed two meetings President Bush had in the United States in mid-May, one with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan, and a second with President Roh Moo Hyun of South Korea.

"If this means a beginning of `sanctions' against the D.P.R.K. touted by the U.S. and its followers, it will push the situation to an unpredictable phase and bring about catastrophic consequences," North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said today, using the initials for the country's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In a dispatch transmitted as North Korea indefinitely suspended the ferry service to Japan, the news agency said a Foreign Ministry spokesman accused Washington of seeking to establish an institution to inspect ships and aircraft for equipment that might be used in North Korea's missile and nuclear programs.

Last month, many Japanese were incensed to read the testimony of two North Korean defectors who told a United States Congressional committee that about 90 percent of the parts for North Korean missiles aimed at Japan were imported from Japan, many on the Mangyongbong-92, the ferry to Niigata.

In Japan, anger is high against North Korea for using boats to smuggle drugs and kidnap Japanese citizens. North Korea has only admitted to abducting 13 Japanese, but a citizens' group made public this week a list of 143 possible abductees. In this atmosphere, the ferry boat's usual supplier of fuel oil said this week that it would no longer sell fuel to the North Koreans, and 800 conservatives prepared to converge on Niigata to mount a protest.

"I have never seen anti-North Korea sentiment in Japan so high," William T. Breer, Japan chair of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said in an interview here, adding that he had been visiting Japan since 1959.

In the past, the ferry carried cash to North Korea, which does not maintain diplomatic relations with Japan. Last week, a State Department official testified before Congress that cutting off cash remittances from Japan would cripple North Korea's nuclear bomb and missile development programs.

Main money sources are "remittances from illegal and quasi-illegal activity outside the country from, basically, organized criminal networks in Japan and elsewhere," John R. Bolton, undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, told the House International Relations Committee.

With American satellites closely tracking North Korean shipping, three major drug arrests have taken place this spring.

In March, Japan's Coast Guard seized a Japanese fishing boat that was returning from North Korea with a load of methamphetamines. In April, the Australian authorities impounded a North Korean cargo ship and arrested its 30-man crew after the police said the ship transported about 110 pounds of heroin. Last week, the South Korean police said they found a similar amount of methamphetamines aboard a Chinese ship that had stopped in North Korea on its way to Pusan, South Korea's southernmost port.

Since 1976, North Koreans have been implicated in more than 50 arrests or drug seizures in more than 20 countries, William Bach of the State Department's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs testified last week at an Australian Senate hearing.

At the hearing, a former high-ranking North Korean official who spoke on condition of anonymity, estimated that state-run farms and laboratories produced a ton of heroin and a ton of methamphetamines monthly. American military officials in Seoul estimate that North Korea is the world's third-largest producer of opium, the raw material for heroin.

A week ago, a Tokyo maritime museum placed on display the wreck of a North Korean spy boat that, according to the State Department's International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, was "perhaps identical to D.P.R.K. vessels suspected of being engaged in drug smuggling." Japan spent \$50 million to recover the vessel, which sank on Dec. 22, 2001, after a shootout with the Coast Guard.

Japan contends that the boat was caught while returning from delivering methamphetamines to Japan and that one of the ship's cellphones contained telephone numbers for Japanese organized crime figures. Since 1999, about a third of methamphetamines seized by the Japanese police have come from North Korea.

Visible from one of suburban Tokyo's busiest commuter train lines, the boat promises to become a blockbuster museum show. After Tokyo television stations ran features on the boat, an average of 10,000 people a day have visited the exhibit, 10 times the normal daily flow for the Museum of Maritime Science.

"I just saw that the little boat can go 93 kilometers an hour, that's as fast as a car," Fumi Kubo, a 52-year-old homemaker, said after inspecting a boat equipped with three 280 horsepower outboard motors that was recovered from the "mother" spy ship. "That kind of racing is not for the purpose of fishing, not for the purpose of peace." Her husband, Hidemichi, 54, a commercial airline pilot, agreed, saying: "This boat symbolizes all our problems with North Korea. I think Japan should defend itself more strongly."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/09/international/asia/09KORE.html>

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Washington Post

June 9, 2003

Pg. 17

## **Iran Says It Imported Uranium In 1991**

By Associated Press

TEHRAN, June 8 -- Iran acknowledged today that it failed to inform U.N. authorities that it had imported a small quantity of uranium 12 years ago, but said that failure did not violate the international nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Gholamreza Aghazadeh, Iran's nuclear energy chief, also urged the International Atomic Energy Agency to widely publish the report it released to member nations last week on Iran's nuclear program.

The Bush administration has accused Iran of seeking to build a nuclear bomb and wants the U.N. agency to declare it in violation of the treaty. Iran says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes.

Aghazadeh said on state-run television that the IAEA report did not support U.S. claims that Iran was violating international atomic protocols. On Friday, a diplomat from an IAEA member state said the report indicated Iran had imported some nuclear material and processed it without declaring it to the agency.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A32351-2003Jun8.html>

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New York Times

June 7, 2003

Pg. 1

## **Some Analysts Of Iraq Trailers Reject Germ Use**

By Judith Miller and William J. Broad

American and British intelligence analysts with direct access to the evidence are disputing claims that the mysterious trailers found in Iraq were for making deadly germs. In interviews over the last week, they said the mobile units were more likely intended for other purposes and charged that the evaluation process had been damaged by a rush to judgment.

"Everyone has wanted to find the 'smoking gun' so much that they may have wanted to have reached this conclusion," said one intelligence expert who has seen the trailers and, like some others, spoke on condition that he not be identified. He added, "I am very upset with the process."

The Bush administration has said the two trailers, which allied forces found in Iraq in April and May, are evidence that Saddam Hussein was hiding a program for biological warfare. In a white paper last week, it publicly detailed its case, even while conceding discrepancies in the evidence and a lack of hard proof.

Now, intelligence analysts stationed in the Middle East, as well as in the United States and Britain, are disclosing serious doubts about the administration's conclusions in what appears to be a bitter debate within the intelligence community. Skeptics said their initial judgments of a weapon application for the trailers had faltered as new evidence came to light.

Bill Harlow, a spokesman for the Central Intelligence Agency, said the dissenters "are entitled to their opinion, of course, but we stand behind the assertions in the white paper."

In all, at least three teams of Western experts have now examined the trailers and evidence from them. While the first two groups to see the trailers were largely convinced that the vehicles were intended for the purpose of making germ agents, the third group of more senior analysts divided sharply over the function of the trailers, with several members expressing strong skepticism, some of the dissenters said.

In effect, early conclusions by agents on the ground that the trailers were indeed mobile units to produce germs for weapons have since been challenged.

"I have no great confidence that it's a fermenter," a senior analyst with long experience in unconventional arms said of a tank for multiplying seed germs into lethal swarms. The government's public report, he added, "was a rushed job and looks political." This analyst had not seen the trailers himself, but reviewed evidence from them.

The skeptical experts said the mobile plants lacked gear for steam sterilization, normally a prerequisite for any kind of biological production, peaceful or otherwise. Its lack of availability between production runs would threaten to let in germ contaminants, resulting in failed weapons.

Second, if this shortcoming were somehow circumvented, each unit would still produce only a relatively small amount of germ-laden liquid, which would have to undergo further processing at some other factory unit to make it concentrated and prepare it for use as a weapon.

Finally, they said, the trailers have no easy way for technicians to remove germ fluids from the processing tank. Senior intelligence officials in Washington rebutted the skeptics, saying, for instance, that the Iraqis might have obtained the needed steam for sterilization from a separate supply truck.

The skeptics noted further that the mobile plants had a means of easily extracting gas. Iraqi scientists have said the trailers were used to produce hydrogen for weather balloons. While the white paper dismisses that as a cover story, some analysts see the Iraqi explanation as potentially credible.

A senior administration official conceded that "some analysts give the hydrogen claim more credence." But he asserted that the majority still linked the Iraqi trailers to germ weapons.

The depth of dissent is hard to gauge. Even if it turns out to be a minority view, which seems likely, the skepticism is significant given the image of consensus that Washington has projected and the political reliance the administration has come to place on the mobile units. At the recent summit meeting with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, President Bush cited the trailers as evidence of illegal Iraqi arms.

Critics seem likely to cite the internal dispute as further reason for an independent evaluation of the Iraqi trailers. Since the war's end, the White House has come under heavy political pressure because American soldiers have found no unconventional arms, a main rationale for the invasion of Iraq.

Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, who also used Iraqi illicit weapons as a chief justification of the war, has been repeatedly attacked on this question in Parliament and outside it.

Experts described the debate as intense despite the American intelligence agencies' release last week of the nuanced, carefully qualified white paper concluding that the mobile units were most likely part of Iraq's biowarfare program. It was posted May 28 on the Internet at [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov).

"We are in full agreement on it," an official said of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency at a briefing on the white paper.

The six-page report, "Iraqi Mobile Biological Warfare Agent Production Plants," called discovery of the trailers "the strongest evidence to date that Iraq was hiding a biological warfare program."

A senior administration official said the White House had not put pressure on the intelligence community in any way on the content of its white paper, or on the timing of its release.

In interviews, the intelligence analysts disputing its conclusions focused on the lack of steam sterilization gear for the central processing tank, which the white paper calls a fermenter for germ multiplication.

In theory, the dissenting analysts added, the Iraqis could have sterilized the tank with harsh chemicals rather than steam. But they said that would require a heavy wash afterward with sterile water to remove any chemical residue - a feat judged difficult for a mobile unit presumably situated somewhere in the Iraqi desert.

William C. Patrick III, a senior official in the germ warfare program that Washington renounced in 1969, said the lack of steam sterilization had caused him to question the germ-plant theory that he had once tentatively endorsed. "That's a huge minus," he said. "I don't see how you can clean those tanks chemically."

Three senior intelligence officials in Washington, responding to the criticisms during a group interview on Tuesday, said the Iraqis could have used a separate mobile unit to supply steam to the trailer. Some Iraqi decontamination units, they said, have such steam generators.

The officials also said some types of chemical sterilization were feasible without drastic follow-up actions.

Finally, they proposed that the Iraqis might have engineered anthrax or other killer germs for immunity to antibiotics, and then riddled germ food in the trailers with such potent drugs. That, they said, would be a clever way to grow lethal bacteria and selectively decontaminate the equipment at the same time - though the officials conceded that they had no evidence the Iraqis had used such advanced techniques.

On the second issue, the officials disputed the claim that the mobile units could make only small amounts of germ-laden liquids. If the trailers brewed up germs in high concentrations, they said, every month one truck could make enough raw material to fill five R-400 bombs.

Finally, the officials countered the claim that the trailers had no easy way for technicians to drain germ concoctions from the processing tank. The fluids could go down a pipe at its bottom, they said. While the pipe is small in diameter - too small to work effectively, some analysts hold - the officials said high pressure from an air compressor on the trailer could force the tank to drain in 10 or 20 minutes.

A senior official said "we've considered these objections" and dismissed them as having no bearing on the overall conclusions of the white paper. He added that Iraq, which declared several classes of mobile vehicles to the United Nations, never said anything about hydrogen factories.

Some doubters noted that the intelligence community was still scrambling to analyze the trailers, suggesting that the white paper may have been premature. They said laboratories in the Middle East and the United States were now analyzing more than 100 samples from the trailers to verify the intelligence findings. Allied forces, they noted, have so far failed to find any of the envisioned support vehicles that the trailers would need to produce biological weapons.

One skeptic questioned the practicality of some of the conjectural steps the Iraqis are envisioned as having taken to adapt the trailers to the job of making deadly germs.

"It's not built and designed as a standard fermenter," he said of the central tank. "Certainly, if you modify it enough you could use it. But that's true of any tin can."

The reporting for this article was carried out by Judith Miller in Iraq and Kuwait and by William Broad in New York. Her agreement with the Pentagon, for an "embedded" assignment, allowed the military to review her copy to prevent breaches of troop protection and security. No changes were made in the review.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/07/international/worldspecial/07TRAI.html>

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Washington Times

June 9, 2003

Pg. 1

## **Germ Research Gets Urgent**

By Tom Ramstack, The Washington Times

Continuing bioterrorism scares are breathing new life into obscure scientific projects as the nation gropes for a way to defend itself from deadly microbes.

The sudden interest in microbiology is fueled by revelations such as the discovery of a mobile bioterrorism laboratory that traveled Iraqi highways.

A few thousand miles away, a South African court is revealing details of an apartheid-era contingency plan to use anthrax on black communities.

The U.S. government is waging an uphill battle against the tiny and nearly untraceable microbes of bioterrorism. "If you can brew beer, you can make a bug," FBI spokesman Bill Carter said, recalling a warning from an FBI scientist on manufactured viruses.

The elusiveness of the bacteria spores and microscopic viruses is turning bioterrorism research into big business. Companies that focused on cures for cancer and Alzheimer's disease are finding bigger profits in vaccines, antidotes and other bug-fighting tools.

But the bioterrorism scare also is creating new fears for researchers, both in terms of safety and criminal liability.

### **Good for business**

Concerns about bioterrorism are resulting in the kind of device Army scientists demonstrated at a recent biodefense conference in Baltimore.

The handheld "microarray" system tests white blood cells to detect viruses within 36 hours of exposure, sometimes even before victims know they are sick.

The device is supposed to be an early warning system against biological bombs. It was developed by the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research for the malaria soldiers might encounter in other countries.

"In many cases the products of that research apply to public health," said Chuck Dasey, spokesman for the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

The Army plans to refine the system to detect anthrax, smallpox and other diseases.

Before the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Silver Spring researchers worked largely in isolation to develop cures for malaria, hepatitis, dengue fever and common battle injuries.

The terrorist attacks, anthrax in letters a month later and the risks of a biochemical war unleashed on the United States refocused their attention.

Now, the military and its private contractors in the biotechnology industry have decided that what's good for business is good for the country.

"It appears that private investments in bioterrorism research are believed to be more likely to bring near-term payback," said Sau Lan Tang Staats, chief executive officer of Phoenix Science & Technology Inc.

The Elkton, Md., company produces disposable equipment for biotechnology research.

Before the attacks, the company had difficulty finding financial backers and customers. Now its equipment is being tested by the Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground, which houses a biochemical defense laboratory in Northeast Maryland.

In addition, the Maryland Technology Development Corp., a public-private venture that encourages technology business in Maryland, is interested in investing \$50,000 in the company.

Gaithersburg biotech company GenVec Inc. is using malaria vaccine technology it developed with the Navy to work on a SARS vaccine. SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, is a virus that started in China in November and has been spreading around the world.

Chief Executive Paul Fischer said similar technology could be a safeguard against bioterrorism.

"The core technology is essentially the same," Mr. Fischer said. "That same kind of technology could be available in the future for these unknown events."

Cell Works Inc. in Baltimore wants to develop a blood test for anthrax, similar to a system for cancer cells it produces.

"It's something that companies like ours can incorporate into our diagnostic technology," Vice President Peter Rheinstein said.

Biodefense projects "create new technologies, the spin-offs of which can be commercialized into some pretty good things," he said.

Biotech companies along the Interstate-270 corridor in Montgomery and Frederick counties also have turned their attention toward defense projects:

\*Human Genome Sciences Inc. of Rockville is developing a drug that may prevent and fight anthrax by bolstering the body's defenses against the germ. It says it expects to begin clinical trials later this year.

\*The Department of Defense has hired DynPort Vaccine Co. of Frederick to research as many as 17 vaccines, including a next-generation version for anthrax.

\*Igen International of Gaithersburg makes five field diagnostic tests for biological agents. The company's biodefense-related sales jumped to about \$2 million in the final quarter of 2002, after the Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick asked Igen to custom-make the tests.

\*It's just a matter of time before the Institute of Genomic Research, a Rockville research firm, makes a contribution to bioterrorism defense. The company already has published its research to read the anthrax genome. Understanding the genome was a first step toward new drugs and vaccines.

However, other companies are having trouble cashing in on bioterrorism.



One of them is Columbia-based Cylex Inc., which has won FDA approval for its test to screen immune-system function for organ transplants. It wants the government to buy the system to screen out immune-compromised people likely to be sickened by a smallpox vaccine. So far, the government has not expressed an interest.

### **BioShield ups the ante**

A debate in Congress over President Bush's proposed Project BioShield is ensuring that more companies will vie for government money.

Mr. Bush proposed the huge project to protect the nation from bioterrorism during his State of the Union address.

The House and Senate agree BioShield is needed, but not on the amount to spend.

Mr. Bush wants no cap on funding, preferring instead to spend whatever is needed for specific projects. The House and Senate proposals run between \$5 billion and \$5.6 billion over the next 10 years.

With such large sums available, the direction microbiology research companies will follow for the next decade is clear.

"They tend to follow what can be funded," said Steve Fritz, president of the Maryland Technology Development Corp. "What would have been done instead, I can't say."

Needless to say, BioShield is popular with microbiologists.

"I think the BioShield legislation is clearly an effort to streamline the process of acquisition for getting the drugs and vaccines we are going to need," said Tom Inglesby, deputy director of the Johns Hopkins University Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies. "I think the administration should be commended for this."

BioShield is merely an addition to the biodefense effort already operating in overdrive since the anthrax letters started circulating in October 2001.

The National Institutes of Health's bioterrorism budget increased 500 percent this year to \$1.3 billion.

"I don't believe there was bioterrorism in the NIH budget prior to 9-11," spokesman Don Rabolvsky said.

Some scientists say the new bioterrorism research adds to other advances in biology rather than diverting from more traditional projects.

"A rising tide raises all ships," said Gillian Woollett, vice president of science and regulatory affairs at the Biotechnology Industry Organization trade group.

### **Opportunity beckons**

The bigger budgets are lifting hopes for scientific breakthroughs.

"Most scientists who work in the area of infectious disease feel that the new funding will not only benefit the needs of the Homeland Security Department but also basic science in better understanding host-pathogen relationships, expedite much-needed new human and animal therapies and delivery systems for vaccines," said Jennie Hunter-Cevera, president of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute.

Bioterrorism threats are making projects possible that would have been ludicrous only a few years ago.

For example, a crop duster released a mixture of grain alcohol, clay dust and water and polyethylene glycol over central Oklahoma March 24. The Army and the Environmental Protection Agency were testing whether radar could detect a bioterrorist attack.

Ultimately, they hope to develop computer technology for a nationwide bioterrorism detection program. The EPA has done similar tests in Maryland, Utah and Florida since 2001.

At least three sophisticated national laboratories will be built with federal money.

The most dangerous research is done at government Biosafety Level 4 labs, also known as BSL-4. NIH operates one of them in Bethesda, and another at the U.S. Army's Medical Research Institute on Infectious Disease at Fort Detrick, Md.

Much of NIH's budget increase for this year will be spent to build more BSL-4 labs.

Scientists wearing airtight suits will use them to handle the world's deadliest germs.

Therein lies the risk.

### **Scared of new rules**

Congress responded to the October 2001 anthrax scare by passing the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, known as the Biopreparedness Act.

Anthrax-laced letters shut down the Hart Senate Office Building and killed postal workers at the Brentwood mail distribution center. Other anthrax letters arrived at media organizations and private homes in New York, Florida and Connecticut.

The Biopreparedness Act created new restrictions on who can handle dangerous microbes, which ones they can handle and how and where they can be used. In addition, industry must follow stricter procedures to prevent contamination of food and water supplies.

Businesses and academia are confused and upset by the government intervention, which is common for many new regulations.

The Food and Drug Administration used the Bioterrorism Act to require the \$500 billion food-processing industry to register facilities and give prior notice of any imports companies accept. The agency also increased its inspections of foods that could be contaminated with anthrax or other toxins.

The new regulations "would pose a significant burden to industry in terms of both cost and operational facilities," the National Food Processors Association said.

Other provisions of the Biopreparedness Act impose criminal penalties on unauthorized handling of organisms and chemicals, some of which are commonly used in academic research.

"There certainly is fear in the microbiology community," said Ronald Atlas, president of the American Society of Microbiology.

The FBI is checking the backgrounds of researchers, while potential criminal penalties for mishandling microbes are having a "chilling impact on life-science research," Mr. Atlas said.

In addition, foreign scholars are excluded from some projects.

"A significant number of visa applications have been declined," Mr. Atlas said.

#### **Cures from deadly sources**

He has testified to Congress that medical treatments depend on access to potentially deadly cultures. Natural disease creates more risk than bioterrorism.

Among the prohibited items are viruses for Ebola, yellow fever and Marburg, the anthrax virus, and toxins for botulinum and ricin.

All of the agents can cause serious illness. Until now, thousands of laboratories used them for research.

"So many university labs in the past have worked with these agents and never reported them since it was not really required, nor did federal agencies such as CDC or the USDA have enough staff to actually go out and do checks on a regular basis," said Mrs. Hunter-Cevera of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute.

"Industry has organized central culture depositories where everything is inventoried, monitored and documented. Academia will now have to catch up to industry standards."

However, biologists warn that the legal restrictions limit the experimentation that could result in new drugs or chemicals.

Botulism, for example, would be a deadly scourge if it spread unaltered through food and water supplies. With chemical modifications, it is used as a key ingredient in botox, the material used in cosmetic surgery to eliminate wrinkles.

E-coli, an organism sometimes found in rancid meat or contaminated water, is being studied as a cure for cancer.

A University of Connecticut graduate student was charged with violating the Patriot Act after FBI agents found anthrax vials stored in his laboratory freezer. A professor verified the student obtained the specimens from a malfunctioning storage freezer, which he was cleaning out.

#### **The Patriot Act**

The Patriot Act, which Congress passed overwhelmingly a month after the September 11 attacks, consolidated federal law-enforcement authority to investigate and detain persons with suspected terrorist links.

Although the Connecticut graduate student said he did not realize he was doing anything illegal, he accepted a plea bargain that will require community service and visits to a probation officer.

In another incident, infectious disease researcher Thomas Butler at Texas Tech University was arrested in January.

He had lied to cover up the fact he failed to properly document destruction of vials of plague bacteria.

<http://www.washtimes.com/business/20030608-111149-8211r.htm>

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## **Gulf War Illnesses: Preliminary Assessment of DOD's Plume Modeling for U.S. Troops' Exposure to Chemical Agents,**

by Keith A. Rhodes, chief technologist, before the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations, House Committee on Government Reform.

GAO-03-833T, June 2.

<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d03833thigh.pdf>

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