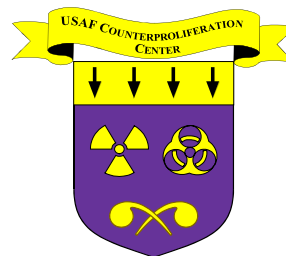


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USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER

# CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL



*Air University*

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## Trace of Anthrax Found at FCC Mail Site

Amount Discovered at Md. Facility Too Small to Sicken Workers, Officials Say

By *Jamie Stockwell*

Washington Post Staff Writer

Saturday, February 2, 2002; Page B02

Tests conducted at a Capitol Heights mail facility this week found a trace amount of anthrax, nearly four months after deadly spores were detected in a letter sent to Senate Majority Leader Thomas A. Daschle and weeks after panic over the bacterium had eased.

The anthrax, discovered Thursday at an off-site Federal Communications Commission mail-processing center in Prince George's County, was not nearly enough to cause infection, an FCC spokesman said.

David Fiske said the eight contract workers assigned to the postal facility were offered antibiotics as a precaution, but he was unsure whether any had opted to take medication. He said he had not heard of anyone falling ill.

"It's still a trace, so we have taken every precaution," Fiske said.

The facility was tested Tuesday at the FCC's request, according to a statement posted on the agency's Web site. One of 10 samples tested positive for an "amount of contamination too small to deliver an infectious dose."

Final test results from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be available Monday. Fiske said FCC officials have not learned where the anthrax spores originated.

The FCC is following precautions similar to those taken by the federal Office of Personnel Management after a single anthrax spore was detected in its mailroom Dec. 11, Fiske said. Officials have halted all mail deliveries to the Capitol Heights facility until at least Monday. The facility has been processing and screening mail sent to the FCC's Capitol Hill headquarters since late October. Letters are irradiated first.

FedEx and United Parcel Service packages will be accepted as usual, Fiske said.

The FCC's filing window at 236 Massachusetts Ave. NE, for hand-delivered papers, is unaffected, Fiske said.

He said the Capitol Heights facility would be wiped down to eliminate any other possible traces of anthrax and that the agency will continue to periodically test the facility.

Fiske said Tuesday's test was the first conducted there despite the anthrax scare that began in October, because no mail had previously been sorted there. The FCC has rented the space at 9300 E. Hampton Dr. for years to store records. After the initial anthrax scare, the commission hired contractors from the technology company Vistrionix Inc. to sort and process all of its mail there.

A spokesman for the McLean-based firm said he was unsure whether the eight employees assigned to the Capitol Heights facility were taking antibiotics.

In mid-October, a photography editor at a Florida-based tabloid died after inhaling anthrax spores, fueling fears across the country that the next wave of terrorism would be distributed in batches of the bacteria. Days later -- after spores were detected in a letter sent to the office of Daschle (D-S.D.) in the Hart Senate Office Building and after the Brentwood postal facility that processed the letter was closed -- trace amounts were detected at area post offices. Five people died before the bioterrorism scare eased, and 13 more suffered from nonfatal cases of inhalational and cutaneous anthrax.

Last week, senators and their staff members returned to the Hart Building, which had been closed for 96 days for decontamination. Until this week, anthrax spores had not been detected in the Washington region since early December.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A11764-2002Feb1.html>

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Monday, 4 February, 2002, 12:48 GMT

## Could the UK cope with smallpox?

**In researching a documentary-drama about a single act of bioterrorism leading to a worldwide smallpox epidemic, the programme-makers uncovered sobering truths about the UK's preparedness.**

Since 11 September and the subsequent anthrax scares, the prospect of bioterrorists unleashing a lethal disease can no longer be dismissed as mere science fiction.

Thus *Smallpox 2002: Silent Weapon*, a docu-drama about a fictional bioterror attack made by Wall to Wall for BBC Current Affairs, has taken on a grim resonance.

In researching the film, its makers discovered how low the UK's vaccine stocks are compared with the United States. As bioterror panic gripped the world after the 11 September attacks, the US Government stepped up its order of smallpox vaccines so as to have a dose for every American.

Yet in the UK stocks are at about the same level as in 1994, when the government reported to the World Health Organisation that it held 3.65m doses - enough for just over a fifth of the population.

That figure was based on 25 doses in each of the 146,000 vials thought to be held. At best, these vials could yield up to 100 doses each, providing almost 15m doses.

Although the Health Secretary Alan Milburn has signed an agreement with the Americans and others to share vaccines in an emergency, the UK has not brought in further supplies.

### **No immunity**

Smallpox kills a third of those it infects. There is no cure and nearly everyone is susceptible.

Vaccination stopped when the disease was declared eradicated in 1980, and just one in five of those inoculated before this retain any immunity.

As a direct result of its eradication - after which the virus was kept in just two laboratories, one in the US and one in Russia - smallpox has re-emerged as a potential threat.

In 1992 a Soviet defector, Dr Ken Alibek, revealed to American officials that he had overseen an illegal programme to develop the disease into an effective biological weapon.

Since the break-up of the Soviet Union, many of its bioweapons specialists are believed to have continued their work in other countries.

The film is made in collaboration with bioweapons experts, public health officials and survivors of the last major smallpox outbreak in Yugoslavia in 1972, and aims to raise awareness of the need to prepare for such an attack. Preview writers have compared it to the seminal 1980s dramatisations of nuclear holocaust - *Threads* and *When the Wind Blows*.

### **'Alarmist tale'**

Producer Simon Chinn says nothing seen on the news recently compares with the devastation a smallpox attack could bring.

Although the risk of such an attack is low, experts and policy makers keep coming back to the thorny question of whether we could cope with such an outbreak.

"The answer which many of these same experts come back with is 'no'," Chinn says.

Among those who recognised that the film could serve as a graphic message to policymakers worldwide was Donald Ainslie Henderson, who led the WHO's eradication campaign in the 1970s and has since been appointed the US Government's chief public health adviser on bioterror.

It is his advice that underpins much of the science behind the film.

Ken Alibek, the Soviet defector who alerted the Americans to the potential threat, also took part and appears as himself in the film.

Other scientists have said that the film is alarmist and exaggerates the dangers of a biological attack.

Nevertheless, recent events have given the docu-drama an immediacy the filmmakers never envisaged when they started their research two years ago.

**Smallpox 2002: Silent Weapon will screen in the UK on BBC TWO at 2100GMT, Tuesday, 5 February.**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/uk/newsid\\_1793000/1793862.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/uk/newsid_1793000/1793862.stm)

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## Israel discussing "very active" response to Iraqi strikes - deputy premier

BBC Monitoring Service - United Kingdom; Feb 4, 2002

Text of report in English by Russian news agency Interfax

Moscow, 4 February: Israel will retaliate if Iraq uses weapons of mass destruction against it, a senior Israeli minister said on Monday [4 February].

The Israeli government "is very seriously discussing the possibility of a scenario" in which Baghdad uses such weapons against Israel if the West launches an anti-terrorist operation against Iraq similar to the current operation in Afghanistan, Deputy Prime Minister Nathan Sharansky [Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Housing and Construction] told a news conference in Moscow.

"If that happens, we won't be as passive as in 1991."

Bowing to US pressure, Israel did not retaliate when Iraq shot about 50 Scud missiles at the Jewish state during the 1991 Gulf War.

"Now we'll be very active," Sharansky said.

Moreover, the Israeli government "is very seriously getting ready" to defend the population against possible Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, he told the conference, held at the Interfax central office in Moscow.

Sharansky, a former Soviet dissident, heads Yisrael Ba'aliya, a party representing immigrants from various parts of the former Soviet Union.

Source: Interfax news agency, Moscow, in English 1353 gmt 4 Feb 02

<http://globalarchive.ft.com/globalarchive/article.html?id=020204005341>

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## Czech chemical unit to be deployed to fight terrorism in 60 days - army chief says

BBC Monitoring Service - United Kingdom; Feb 4, 2002

Text of report in English by Czech news agency CTK

Prague, 4 February: The Czech chemical protection company will be deployed to fight against terrorism in the next 60 days, US ambassador to the Czech Republic Craig Stapleton told journalists today after meeting Chief-of-Staff Jiri Sedivy.

However, the Czech Army has not yet informed on the exact place of the deployment nor on the exact date.

"We will not provide such information of an operational character because it has to be kept secret. However, it is known that the training of the company will be in Kuwait. Our company will go there, but it has not yet been decided where exactly it will operate," Sedivy said.

About 350 members of the ninth chemical protection unit from Liberec are to take part in the Enduring Freedom operation in Kuwait where they are to protect the US headquarters and other units against chemical and biological weapons. The Czech unit will be mobile, therefore it will be able to operate anywhere.

The Czech Army offered the US help of other units as well. "We discussed a field hospital and other units," Sedivy said. However, the US government has not asked for it yet.

Sedivy and Stapleton also talked about modernization of the Czech Army. Sedivy reminded the help which the US provides. "There is a special financial project having helped training people for a couple of years in education, increasing technical capacities," Sedivy added.

The army commanding system was covered by the money and the army also mulls over using the money to re-arm [the Czech made subsonic] planes L-159.

Stapleton also mentioned the NATO summit to be held in Prague this autumn. According to Sedivy who recently met government representative in charge of the summit preparations Alexander Vondra, the army should also help providing security during the summit.

Source: CTK news agency, Prague, in English 1331 gmt 4 Feb 02

<http://globalarchive.ft.com/globalarchive/article.html?id=020204005117>

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New York Times  
February 5, 2002

## **Baghdad Aide Warns U.S. Of More 'Dreadful' Events**

By Patrick E. Tyler

MOSCOW, Feb. 4 — A senior Iraqi official warned today that the United States would face "dreadful" consequences — worse than those of Sept. 11 — if it continued to "trample whole nations" and "interfere in domestic affairs of other countries."

The official, Taha Yasin Ramadan, vice president and longtime adjutant to Saddam Hussein, made the comments in an interview published today by the Russian newspaper Vremya Novostei. He was interviewed in Baghdad, the Iraqi capital.

In strident tones, the Iraqi official chastised the Russian foreign ministry — but not President Vladimir V. Putin — for cooperating with the United States in proposing a new set of sanctions under which a trade embargo could be lifted against Iraq in return for Baghdad's agreement to submit to United Nations inspections of its weapons programs.

He warned that if new sanctions were imposed on Iraq, "Russian businessmen will be the first to be affected." That threat that was obviously intended to get the Kremlin's attention this week as United States and Russian negotiators meet in Geneva to draw up a list of nonmilitary export items that could be approved for Iraq if it agreed to allow United Nations inspectors to return.

Russia has billions of dollars in contracts for oil-related services and for weapons supplied in the 1980's, when Iraq was at war with Iran. Russian oil companies have also won new oil production contracts that await a lifting of the embargo.

The Bush administration believes that Iraq continues to develop weapons of mass destruction at sites that have been off limits since United Nations inspectors left the country in 1998. In the last year, Russia has become the crucial vote on the Security Council as China and France have joined the majority to press Iraq to comply with the disarmament terms it agreed to at the end of the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

Under the proposal for so-called smart sanctions — Mr. Ramadan called them "silly sanctions" — Iraq would be allowed to import food and other items, but listed weapons and military-related technologies would be forbidden. Inspectors would return.

"The new list will ban the import of Russian goods we get now," Mr. Ramadan said. "Large-sized wheels, heavy equipment, tower cranes, pumps, machinery — all that will be banned," he said, adding, "We do not buy tomatoes and potatoes from Russia; we buy heavy equipment."

He said that when Russia began pressing last year for a return of inspectors to Iraq, "I hurried to Moscow" and "explained to President Putin that the plan was harmful and he immediately instructed" Foreign Minister Igor S. Ivanov "to stop those activities."

The Iraqi official complained that six months later, Russian officials were again cooperating with Washington by offering another draft resolution to the Security Council for "smart sanctions" against Iraq.

"What will happen is that Iraq will not accept the draft and Russia will not be able to vote it down in the U.N. Security Council because it is a Russian draft," he said, adding that "the United States may use" Iraq's refusal to comply "as a pretext for new aggression."

Mr. Ramadan characterized the Sept. 11 attack on the United States as a "tragic" event, but added, "These tragic events should by no means be used as a cover, a pretext under which the Americans could establish their supreme reign over the world."

He said that since Sept. 11, American policy had become "even dirtier" and added: "If it continues like this, I think America will draw even stronger fire upon themselves. Something even more dreadful than the events of Sept. 11 may happen. This will be a very, very tough response."

On Wednesday in Geneva, American and Russian officials will hone the list of goods banned for export to Iraq. Russian officials asserted today that the nearly 1,000-page draft list submitted by the United States is "fuzzy and ambiguous."

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Jerusalem Post  
February 5, 2002

## **Iran Warns Israel Against Attacking Nuclear Plant**

By Arieh O'Sullivan and News Agencies

JERUSALEM (February 5) - Iran warned Israel yesterday not to consider attacking its nuclear power plant, saying it would retaliate in ways "unimaginable."

"If Israel carries out any military action against Iran, it will face a response that will be unimaginable to any Israeli politician," Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani told al-Jazeera television. He said he was not referring to a nuclear response.

He was responding to a question about what Iran's reaction would be to a possible Israeli attack on an Iranian nuclear power plant under construction by Russian experts near the Gulf port of Bushehr.

Iranian media often warn of a possible Israeli strike against the Bushehr plant similar to its air attack on an Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981.

"Iran is not a small country like Iraq. Iran has a powerful artillery, a disciplined army, and skilled air defenses," Shamkhani said.

Israel is increasingly concerned over Iranian efforts to get nuclear weapons. According to senior IDF officers, Israel's main aim is to prevent nuclear proliferation in the region. While this is mainly interpreted to mean it is pushing for diplomatic pressure on Teheran, some military analysts believe it would actually attempt to strike at Iranian nuclear sites.

Jane's Intelligence Review predicted Israel "will almost certainly launch a preemptive attack on the Iranian" nuclear and research and development infrastructure before it can generate enough weapons-grade material to make ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads. Jane's said an attack would also likely receive covert support from US forces based in the region.

Senior IDF officers are also concerned over the foothold that Iran appears to be making in the PA.

This was most recently manifested by the Iranian connection in the Karine A arms-smuggling ship affair.

"It's not the 50 tons of weapons, but the 500 of Iranian-PA ties" that concerns the defense establishment, said one senior officer. He added the Iranian leadership knew about the arms shipment.

US President George W. Bush has in the past week issued a series of warnings to Iran, along with Iraq and North Korea, accusing them of being an "axis of evil."

Iran strongly denies seeking nuclear weapons and says its atomic program is for non-military use.

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Moscow Times  
February 5, 2002  
Pg. 4

## **Nuclear Rockets**

MOSCOW (Reuters) -- Russia is deploying its advanced Topol-M ballistic missiles in its fleet of nuclear submarines, a senior general said, signalling a shift in military tactics.

General Yury Baluyevsky, first deputy chief of the General Staff, said in the weekend edition of Tribuna newspaper that priority was being given to sea-launched rather than land-based Topols.

The rockets have a range of more than 10,000 kilometers and have been designed to defeat the sort of missile defense systems that the United States is planning to build -- in the teeth of Russian opposition.

The Defense Ministry declined to comment on the report.

The first 10 Topol rockets were deployed in the Saratov region in 1998, and six to 10 more deployed in each of the subsequent two years. Cash constraints meant there was no funding for more last year.

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Wall Street Journal

February 5, 2002

## Early-Warning Bioterror Research Puts Pittsburgh On Bush's Itinerary

By Timothy Aepfel, Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

PITTSBURGH -- In the event of a bioterrorism attack, early detection could save thousands of lives.

That realization has set off a stampede to develop technology for early-warning systems, as well as to snare funds earmarked in the president's budget for the fight against bioterrorism. President Bush, visiting here to push for increased funding for homeland security, will inspect a system under development for 2-1/2 years at the University of Pittsburgh.

The system, which can set off a beeper if there is a surge in respiratory distress and skin rashes in dozens of hospitals in western Pennsylvania, is being installed in Utah ahead of the Winter Olympics. Olympic officials, sensitive to bioterrorism risks, already have installed monitors to check the air for potentially dangerous substances. The nation's inability to respond quickly to biological weapons was highlighted by the anthrax attacks last fall, in which officials seemed to respond slowly to confirmed cases of infection, even as deaths were reported. Up until then, most Americans had never heard of anthrax or considered the threat of bioterrorism urgent. But reports of random individuals dying of anthrax exposure created a near hysteria over what the administration was doing to counter and prepare for further threats.

Hospitals, for the most part, can detect an increase of certain ailments. The problem is pinpointing trends early and notifying health officials. Doctors in general are expected to notify the health department when they see public-health threats. But that doesn't always happen, or it often happens belatedly. And in the case of bioterrorist attacks, quick response is critical.

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh developed a computer-surveillance method for about 25 hospitals that represent more than half of the emergency-room visits in Allegheny County and a third of such visits in a 13-county area of western Pennsylvania.

The National Library of Medicine, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, have together provided \$700,000 in direct and indirect funding to develop the system. It monitors new cases, looking for unusual increases in flu-like symptoms, respiratory illnesses, diarrhea, skin rashes, paralysis, encephalitis and hemorrhage. A graph showing the incidence of each symptom is updated constantly and can be displayed on a computer screen. The trend line should be roughly steady. If not, an alert is automatically sent. Another click of a button can show a map with the number of incidences reported within each patient's zip code. The system identifies patients early in the disease process and then uses "brute-force computer power to find any interesting patterns among the sick individuals that would suggest that an unusual outbreak is occurring," said Dr. Michael Wagner, who developed the program, in testimony before Congress in November. By sorting patients with certain symptoms by zip code, the system can quickly pinpoint where an attack may have occurred. It doesn't require hospitals to make a special report; rather, it mines hospital computer records for relevant cases.

Speed is critical. "For an hour lost, the number of deaths can be in the hundreds or thousands. This tight coupling between detection and response is vital to stemming the numbers of illnesses and death that can occur using slower methods of detection," according to Dr. Wagner.

The University of Pittsburgh isn't the only place such technology is being developed. New Mexico has a touch-screen system installed at seven hospitals, in which staff members can enter incidences of flu-like illnesses, hepatitis and respiratory distress. The goal is to identify and link clusters of outbreaks. Boston, under a five-year \$1 million grant from the CDC, has developed an electronic system for monitoring all emergency-room and acute-care facilities and reporting real-time data to the health department. On a national level, the CDC itself has been implementing an electronic disease-surveillance system, linking the country's testing laboratories with the agency. For such technology to be useful, hospitals need computerized records. "A lot of hospitals really aren't ready to have their data mined; they're still using paper records," said Dr. Tara O'Toole, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies. "And the ones least ready are the ones you most want -- the big hospitals in urban areas."

Success depends on quick action after notification of an outbreak. Moreover, privacy is expected to be a huge concern if systems are allowed to transmit patient information widely. The system that Pittsburgh is developing gathers only limited data such as age, gender and zip code, but not patients' names and birth dates.



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New York Times

February 6, 2002

Pg. 1

## **Powell Says U.S. Plans To Work Out Binding Arms Pact**

By Todd S. Purdum

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 — Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said today that the United States expected to meet Russia's demand for a "legally binding" agreement on reducing nuclear warheads, whether that takes the form of a treaty approved by Congress or some less formal document, but he left most details unspecified and officials said they were still being worked out.

Under skeptical questioning by Senator Chuck Hagel, Republican of Nebraska, Secretary Powell also insisted that President Bush's linking of Iraq, Iran and North Korea in an "axis of evil" was "not a rhetorical flourish — he meant it." He said that Iraq's overture to the United Nations to resume talks "should be a very short discussion," because weapons inspectors should immediately be allowed back in that country without conditions.

When President Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia pledged last November to cut their nuclear stockpiles by roughly two-thirds over the next decade, administration officials resisted Russian efforts to make the agreement formal. Some White House aides argued that each side should just decide how many warheads it would retain, and then inform the other.

Detailed talks since then have led to the conclusion that some kind of signed agreement is desirable, officials said, and in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this morning, Secretary Powell said as much, in his most specific comments on the matter to date. The goal is for each side to reduce its nuclear arsenal to something between 1,700 and 2,200 warheads.

"We do expect that as we codify this framework, it will be something that will be legally binding, and we are examining different ways in which this can happen," Secretary Powell told the committee's chairman, Senator Joseph R. Biden, Democrat of Delaware. "It can be an executive agreement that both houses of Congress might wish to speak on, or it might be a treaty. And we're exploring with Russia and we're discussing within the administration the best way to make this a legally binding or codified agreement in some way."

He did not address another Russian demand, that Washington destroy any excess warheads and not simply store them as the Bush administration has proposed. After talks with John R. Bolton, the under secretary of state for arms control, in Washington last week, the deputy Russian foreign minister, Georgi Mamedov, issued a statement saying that any agreement "will be a legally binding document that provides for radical, real and verifiable cuts."

Joseph Cirincione, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, said the big remaining question was "what, exactly, are we going to codify?"

"The administration may be willing to give a legally binding agreement to reduce to a specified level, and to provide verification of those reductions, but not commit to irreversibility," he said. "What the Russians want is a legally binding, verifiable agreement to deep, irreversible reductions."

American and Russian negotiators are to meet in Moscow this month, with hopes of having an accord ready for Mr. Putin and Mr. Bush to sign in Russia this spring. On Monday, the Itar-Tass news agency quoted a Russian diplomatic official as saying: "It is quite possible to prepare quickly a new agreement on strategic offensive weapons and strategic stability," adding, "At the last round of talks, the U.S. side repeatedly affirmed its desire to reach a legally binding agreement."

Senior administration officials described the talks as going better than might have been expected, given Russia's anger at Mr. Bush's decision to proceed with development of a national missile defense system, and his subsequent abandonment of the 1972 Antballistic Missile Treaty, which bans such defenses.

"Why would the Russians accept this?" Mr. Cirincione asked. "President Putin has fundamentally reoriented his policy toward the West and is willing to accept a lot less. And the United States has just once again demonstrated its overwhelming military superiority. And No. 3, the symbolism may be more important to the Russians than the substance. A legally binding agreement has always been the coequal status symbol they seek."

In more than two hours of wide-ranging testimony on the State Department's annual budget request, Secretary Powell left little daylight between himself and the White House on any topic, and sought to reassure senators from



both parties that Mr. Bush had intended to make a deliberate statement in his State of the Union address last week that Washington would not stand by and let rogue regimes export weapons of mass destruction or terrorism. Senator Hagel, a Vietnam veteran, worried aloud that Mr. Bush might be stepping into a quagmire as Lyndon B. Johnson did in Southeast Asia.

"Now we can continue to debate that war," Mr. Hagel said, "but the point is this: When we say these things, and we set the nation on a course, and we say, 'We're going to do this, no matter what,' that makes people uneasy, because there is some expectation that falls in behind that."

Referring to Mr. Bush, Secretary Powell replied: "He did set the nation on a course. And he was trying to make the point to our friends and allies, coalition partners and like-minded people around the world that these are very dangerous regimes, and it isn't enough just to say they are dangerous regimes. That action is required doesn't mean that a war is going to start tomorrow, or that we're going to invade anybody. In fact, it may mean, in the short term, a focus on the policies that we have in place with respect to each of the three countries he mentioned, and other countries that might have been mentioned."

Secretary Powell also faced questioning from Mr. Biden, who said he feared that the interim Afghan government could not survive unless the international peacekeeping force in that country was expanded to other areas from its current focus on Kabul, with or without the help of United States troops.

A senior Republican member, Richard G. Lugar of Indiana, raised similar concerns, saying, "I really believe this is a critical moment in United States foreign policy."

Secretary Powell told Mr. Biden, "All of that is under consideration," while repeating that "the president is quite determined that we not put U.S. combat units on the ground to essentially perform military police and security kinds of functions."

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Washington Post  
February 6, 2002  
Pg. 3

## **Bush Promotes Plans To Fight Bioterrorism**

By Ceci Connolly, Washington Post Staff Writer

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 5 -- President Bush today promoted his call for a 300 percent increase in spending for bioterrorism protection, saying that without the money he may not have the confidence to say America is truly secure.

"It's money that we've got to spend," he said of his \$6 billion request. "It's money that will enable me to say we're doing everything we can to protect America."

Standing in front of a group of white-coated doctors, Bush said the money is needed to modernize hospitals, develop new drug treatments, stockpile vaccines and create state-of-the-art health surveillance systems modeled after one he saw here at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

"The best way to protect the homeland is to understand what is taking place on the homeland," Bush said, marveling at the computerized network as an "incredibly useful tool."

Although the theme was homeland defense, the president made his most vigorous remarks about the larger battle against terrorism worldwide. At one point, he chided the news media for spending so much time discussing the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden.

"He's not the issue; the issue's international terror," Bush said. Still, he seized the chance to issue one more stern warning to the al Qaeda leader: "There's no cave deep enough for him to hide. He can run, and he thinks he can hide, but we're not going to give up."

In this battle, the president reminded the crowd of several hundred health care workers, there is no middle ground. "I view this as a struggle of tyranny versus freedom, of evil versus good," he said, repeating what has become a mantra: "Either you're with us or you're against us."

The White House budget released Monday requests nearly \$38 billion for homeland defense, \$5.9 billion of that dedicated to bioterrorism preparedness.

"I want to make sure that each region around the country has proper equipment and the right amount of medicine for the victims of any attack should it occur," Bush said.

To illustrate his point, Bush and his top health and homeland security advisers visited an innovative lab here that collects emergency room data from 17 hospitals monitoring symptoms that may provide the first hint of an outbreak. The Real-Time Outbreak and Disease Surveillance System, dubbed RODS, tracks patients by Zip code, looking for spikes that often signal an oncoming wave of illness. For example, a jump in fever and respiratory illness in one neighborhood could tip off medical detectives that an anthrax outbreak has occurred.

In New York City, public health officials have long employed such a system in emergency rooms, and it provided an early warning of naturally occurring outbreaks such as the flu. Pittsburgh doctors helped create a similar network in Salt Lake City to track possible outbreaks at the Olympics.

On his tour, Bush peered into a microscope for a glimpse of *Bacillus anthracis*, the bacteria found in anthrax spores. This strain, the lab technician assured the president, was a harmless batch of spores.

Until the anthrax attacks that claimed five lives last fall, the word bioterrorism rarely passed over the lips of federal officials. Today the president marketed many of his proposals as projects that not only will protect against attacks at home but also will improve the nation's antiquated public health system.

"The monies we spend to protect America today are likely to yield long-term benefits, are likely to provide some incredible cures to diseases that many years ago we never thought would be cured," he said.

But even if the money begins flowing immediately, it will take years, if not decades, to reap many of the benefits. At the National Institutes of Health, labs would receive more than \$1 billion for research into new vaccines and treatments. But development, approval and production often take years.

And even if more communities follow the lead of the medical center here, few local or state health offices have the technology to receive and analyze the data, said Michael Wagner, director of the RODS laboratory. The Bush budget includes \$300 million to begin that work.

The White House has initiated a major marketing push this week for a budget that Congress must approve, with Bush making his case for the billions he has requested for the military and for homeland security.

Flanked by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge and Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson, Bush described his daily Oval Office ritual of reading about the latest threats on America. He said: "Every morning I'm reminded my most important job is to make our country secure, to protect our homeland."

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Baltimore Sun  
February 5, 2002

## **At APG, Odd Recipe To Destroy Mustard**

### ***Scientists, team mix activism, politics with toxic agent process***

By Lane Harvey Brown, Sun Staff

In the early 1990s, Aberdeen Proving Ground scientists Steve Harvey and Yu Chu Yang were researching how to defend soldiers from chemical attacks when the Army asked them to refocus their energies. What would be the best way, the Army wanted to know, for the United States to destroy its stockpile of toxic weapons?

Finding an answer immersed Harvey and Yang, members of an alternative technologies team of nearly a dozen APG researchers and engineers, in a volatile mix of science, activism and politics. The result was the discovery of a process that APG will use this year to destroy more than 1,600 tons of mustard agent stored at the base since World War II.

"A lot of dedicated people put their hearts into that effort for the public good," recalls Harvey, who, like Yang, still works at APG.

"It was exciting and enjoyable," Yang says. "Scientists like to see their research applied."

But it was stressful, too.

Under pressure from Congress and an international treaty to dispose of its banned chemical arsenal, the Army in the early 1990s planned to burn the materiel, including 1,621 tons of mustard agent at the Harford County base.

But people living near Aberdeen and the nation's seven other stockpile sites were outraged. Kent County residents, who would be downwind of an APG incinerator, donned gas masks and demonstrated in the streets.

Protests by community activists across the country compelled Congress to press the Army for alternatives in disposing of the chemical weapons stockpile.

"If it weren't for the public - especially if it weren't for their pressure - I don't think the Army would have developed the program," says Mickey Morales, who was spokesman for the alternative technologies program and now works with APG's Soldier and Biological Chemical Command.

In Maryland, a citizens advisory commission favored a disposal method called neutralization, in which the agent is mixed with another substance to spark a chemical reaction that breaks down the mustard.

Harvey and Yang were both experts on mustard, the blistering agent stockpiled in Maryland, and VX, a more lethal nerve agent stored in Newport, Ind.

Harvey, who came to APG in 1989, is a research biologist who lives in Fallston. Born in Baltimore in 1957, he graduated from Towson High and Towson State University and earned his doctorate in genetics from Penn State.

Yang, who joined the APG staff in 1986, is a research chemist and Bel Air resident. She was born in China in 1947, grew up in Taiwan and earned her doctorate in physical chemistry from Tulane University in New Orleans.

They and their colleagues were charged with finding a safe, cost-effective disposal method - before treaty and congressional deadlines forced the Army to begin incineration.

"I think they both did excellent work, but they certainly weren't alone," says retired Lt. Col. Steven Landry, who oversaw the alternative technologies program from 1994 to 1997.

"Steve [Harvey] was the guy that really did the bench-scale chemistry and biology that resulted in the Aberdeen process. But he required an awful lot of support. Dr. Yang did the same thing for the Newport process."

Yang and Harvey just smile and shrug while recalling the sometimes high-pitched atmosphere, especially from 1994 to 1996, when their team received funding to devise a neutralization plan and a design for the neutralization plant - simultaneously.

"It did force you to focus, to put a date on a wall on a chart and not slip it," Landry said. "We could not allow technical decisions to slide because everything else would slide."

The alternative technologies team worked long days and weekends, winnowing the dozens of alternatives for neutralizing the mustard, Landry says. Early on, scientists realized they could not use the same process to treat mustard and VX, so they had to develop separate technologies.

Private industry had been invited to submit destruction proposals, too. Among the ideas: using molten metal, gas or electricity to break the agents down.

Team members also had to meet with regulators and residents. As meetings neared, it often took all night to prepare. Yang recalls, in the midst of her research, flying to Indiana one morning, driving to Newport and talking with residents late into the night.

Morales, who accompanied Yang on that trip, likened the time to the World War II-era Manhattan Project, when a handful of researchers created the atomic bomb. "It was very stressful, but it was very thrilling," Morales said. "We had two years to come up with something different."

Disposing of the mustard would involve two steps - neutralizing it and treating the leftover material. Finding the right balance between the steps was tricky; a process breaking down the mustard might work well but leave a byproduct too difficult to treat.

Yang and Harvey were using water in the neutralizations, but hadn't considered making it the process' main component.

"We sort of stumbled on that," Harvey says.

Yang, using a "key, classic paper on mustard" written in 1949, built on the research and focused on using hot water to break down the agent. Harvey focused on treating the byproduct.

In the end, they found that a simple recipe - adding mustard to hot water, shaking and seasoning with a caustic lye-like compound - left a byproduct, hydrolysate, that could be fed to buglike bacteria for treatment. "Complex things don't work in science," Harvey says. "They never do."

Recently, the Army announced plans to accelerate the disposal of APG's mustard agent by modifying how containers are cleaned and the hydrolysate is treated. The basic neutralization method devised by Yang, Harvey and their teammates hasn't changed.

The scientists' candor with residents in the 1990s left another legacy: helping to crack a longstanding wall between the Army and the community. "The Army had a bad relationship with the public when it came to demilitarization," Harvey says. "I think we really regained a lot of trust."

John Nunn, part of the Maryland citizens advisory commission since it was formed in 1992, says changing the Army's mind about incineration couldn't have happened without the scientists' help.

"There were people there who were willing to stick their necks out," he says. "Some of them, I think at times, took some heat for us."

And that sometimes meant talking directly with local activists, flouting the Army's channels of communication.

Landry says the free exchange caused some friction. "There were times when I was irritated ... but those times blew over," he said.

"We just told people the truth," Harvey says. During his research, he lived in Edgewood and his son attended Riverside Elementary, one of several schools about a mile from the stockpile. That proximity made finding a quick solution even more compelling.

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CNN.com

February 4, 2002

## China Tests Shield-Busting Missile, Report

HONG KONG, China -- In a sign that Beijing is actively seeking ways to penetrate a future United State's missile defense shield, China is reported to have tested a ballistic missile capable of delivering multiple warheads. Citing diplomatic sources, the report in the Japanese Yomiuri Shimbin newspaper, said the test conducted last month failed when the Dongfeng-31 (DF-31) rocket, with a range of 8,000 km (5,000 miles), exploded in mid-flight. The missile was equipped with multiple independent re-entry vehicle (MIRV) capacity, the report said. MIRVs enable a single rocket to launch several warheads in space simultaneously directed to different targets. Such technology would boost the striking power of China's intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and submarine-launched missiles, the paper added.

The test -- which has not been independently confirmed by CNN -- follows Washington's decision in December to withdraw from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty and build a so-called National Missile Defense network. MIRV capability would potentially enable Chinese missiles to overwhelm the proposed U.S. missile shield, which at present is only designed to knock out a very small number of incoming warheads.

### Single warheads

China's present ICBM arsenal is capable of hitting the United States but consists entirely of single warhead missiles. A December 2001 U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) report, said that China had 20 operational silos with CSS-4 (DF-5A) missiles. The CSS-4 has a range of 15,000 km.

It said that China planned to boost its arsenal of ICBM several fold to 75 to 100 by 2015.

China has had three new mobile strategic missiles in development since the mid-1980s, including the road-mobile DF-31, a DF-31 follow-on, and a submarine launched equivalent, the JL-2, the CIA report said.

All of these could be in service in the next decade, the report added.

### 'Baseless'

Dismissed by Beijing as "merely baseless speculation," the CIA report stated that China was committed to expanding its ballistic missile program.

"China's leaders calculate that conventionally armed ballistic missiles add a potent new dimension to Chinese military capabilities, and they are committed to continue fielding them at a rapid pace," the CIA report said.

Analysts say Beijing will see an expanded ICBM force as key to overcoming any U.S. missile shield and maintaining effective deterrence.

U.S. military planners insist any defense shield is designed to defeat small-scale strikes by "rogue states" identified by Washington to include Iran and North Korea.

But observers say it might also be sufficient to down all 20 of China's current ICBM fleet.

However, if Beijing added MIRV-carrying missiles to its nuclear arsenal, analysts say that such a shield would be largely ineffective in the event of a nuclear strike launched by China.

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## Al Qaeda Still Able To Strike U.S., Head Of C.I.A. Says

By James Risen

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 — George J. Tenet, the director of central intelligence, said today that Al Qaeda was trying to reconstitute itself and remained capable of another large-scale attack against the United States.

While many Al Qaeda leaders are still at large, nearly 1,000 operatives have been arrested or detained since Sept. 11 in about 60 countries, seriously disrupting the network, Mr. Tenet said in his first public Congressional testimony since the terrorist attacks. That figure is much larger than officials have stated previously.

But Al Qaeda is now trying to rebuild its network and resume its operations, Mr. Tenet warned. While a number of Al Qaeda plots have been disrupted, he said American intelligence officials knew that Al Qaeda had considered attacks against high-profile landmarks, government targets, airports, bridges, harbors and dams. The network also has plans to attack American and allied targets in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Southeast Asia, he said.

"Operations against U.S. targets could be launched by Al Qaeda cells already in place in major cities in Europe and the Middle East," Mr. Tenet said. "Al Qaeda can also exploit its presence or connections to other groups in such countries as Somalia, Yemen, Indonesia and the Philippines." [Excerpts, Page A14.]

"I must repeat that Al Qaeda has not yet been destroyed," he said.

In Afghanistan, Mr. Tenet said, the United States had recovered documents that showed that Osama bin Laden was pursuing a sophisticated biological weapons research program. He said the group was also trying to acquire dangerous chemical agents and toxins, as well as a weapon that would disperse radioactive materials.

He said that he was uncertain whether Mr. bin Laden was still alive, but that the Central Intelligence Agency believed that Mullah Muhammad Omar, the Taliban leader, was alive.

Mr. Tenet also told the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence that some Al Qaeda members were seeking refuge in Iran, while elements of the Taliban, along with pockets of Arab fighters still in eastern Afghanistan, continued to threaten the interim government of Hamid Karzai and international efforts to rebuild the country.

The counterterrorism chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Dale Watson, appeared with Mr. Tenet and other intelligence officials before the intelligence committee in a wide-ranging review of terrorism and other threats to the United States.

Mr. Watson said the F.B.I. had found evidence that Richard C. Reid, the British citizen arrested in December after he tried to ignite explosives in his shoes while on a trans-Atlantic flight, was an associate of Zacarias Moussaoui.

Mr. Moussaoui, a French citizen, was detained in Minnesota in August, after a flight school raised suspicions about him with the F.B.I. Mr. Watson also said the evidence now suggested that Mr. Reid was affiliated with Al Qaeda.

In what amounted to a warm-up for future Congressional hearings on the government's failure to predict or prevent the Sept. 11th attacks, Senator Richard C. Shelby of Alabama, the ranking Republican on the intelligence panel and Mr. Tenet's most vocal Congressional critic, pointedly asked the C.I.A. chief to explain what he called an intelligence failure on the scale of Pearl Harbor. "The U.S. has an intelligence community today, and a director of central intelligence, in large part because of the Pearl Harbor disaster of December the 7th, 1941," Mr. Shelby said.

"The fear of another Pearl Harbor provided the impetus for our establishment of a national-level intelligence bureaucracy," he continued. "This system was created so that America would never have to face another devastating surprise attack. That second devastating surprise attack came on September the 11th."

He added, "All of us, I think, owe the American people an explanation as to why our intelligence community failed to provide adequate warning of such a terrorist attack on our soil."

Mr. Tenet challenged the assumption that there had been an intelligence failure. "We welcome the committee's review of our record on terrorism," he said. "It is a record of discipline, strategy, focus and action. We are proud of that record."

He added that "when people use the word 'failure,' 'failure' means no focus, no attention, no discipline, and those were not present in what either we or the F.B.I. did here and around the world."

Mr. Tenet added that the C.I.A. received numerous reports last spring and summer about possible attacks against American interests, and suggested that the reports might have been related to what turned out to be the World Trade Center attacks. "Intelligence will never give you 100 percent predictive capability on terrorist events," he said.

Mr. Tenet also said Mr. bin Laden did not believe that the United States would respond to the Sept. 11 attacks by attacking Afghanistan. He "did not believe that we would invade his sanctuary," he said, adding: "He did not know about the collection and operational initiatives that would allow us to strike with great accuracy at the heart of the Taliban and Al Qaeda. He underestimated our capabilities, our readiness and our resolve."

In Mr. Tenet's review of other global threats, he described Iran — one of three nations identified by President Bush in his State of the Union address as points on an "axis of evil" — as the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. Mr. Tenet said that the reformist political movement in Iran seemed to be losing momentum, and that Tehran's security forces, under the control of fundamentalist clerics, appeared "bent on countering the U.S. presence," in Afghanistan.

He also said Iran's involvement in a shipment of arms to the Palestinian Authority, seized by Israel, "probably was intended to escalate the violence of the intifada and strengthen the position of Palestinian elements that prefer armed conflict with Israel."

Iraq, also cited by Mr. Bush, continues to pose a threat to the United States as it develops chemical and biological weapons. "Baghdad is expanding its civilian chemical industry in ways that could be diverted quickly to chemical weapons production," Mr. Tenet said. "We believe it also maintains an active and capable biological weapons program."

He also said the government of Saddam Hussein had "never abandoned" its efforts to develop nuclear weapons. North Korea, the third member of Mr. Bush's "axis," is exporting components and completed ballistic missiles to other countries, Mr. Tenet said, adding that it was using the profits to support its own missile program, and probably covert efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction. It can then turn around and "generate new products to offer to its customers, primarily Iran, Libya, Syria and Egypt," he said.

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Korea Times  
February 7, 2002

## **NK Tests New Engine For Taepodong II**

By Sohn Suk-joo, Staff Reporter

North Korea, which is accused by the U.S. of proliferating weapons of mass destruction, tested a new engine for its long-range missile system several times last year, defense sources said yesterday.

"An American surveillance satellite detected traces left by the engine tests, which are presumed to have been for a Taepodong II, at a missile testing site in Musudan-ri, Hwadae-gun, North Hamgyong Province," a defense official said, asking to remain anonymous.

He said North Korea has conducted the engine test every year, in an attempt to lengthen the range of its missiles, since August 1998, when it alarmed the region by test-firing a long-range missile that flew over Japan into the Pacific Ocean.

The Taepodong missile system has a range of up to 6,700 km, according to the official. The North reportedly has a powerful missile that U.S. experts say could reach Hawaii or Alaska.

North Korea's ballistic missile inventory consists of 500 Scuds that could threaten the entire Korean peninsula.

The North increased the engine tests from one or two times in 1998-2000 to three or four times last year, putting North Korea on a special watch list of the U.S., according to the official.

In a report to Congress, which was followed by President George W. Bush's State of the Union address, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency said that North Korea has been developing missiles and exporting missile component technology to Iran, Syria, Libya and Egypt.

U.S. officials say the North is armed with long-range missiles and up to 5,000 tons of biochemical weapons and possibly a few crude nuclear devices.

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New York Times  
February 7, 2002

## Russia Praises U.S. Stand On Arms Pact, But Differences Remain

By Michael Wines

MOSCOW, Feb. 6 — Senior Russian officials heaped praise on the Bush administration today for consenting to be legally bound by a future nuclear arms agreement, and one said a pact dictating sweeping cuts in the two nations' nuclear arsenals was now likely within months.

Yet both American and Russian experts cautioned that the sides remain sharply divided over important elements of any deal, from the form of the accord to whether scrapped nuclear warheads would be warehoused or dismantled. President Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia hope to reach agreement on significant cuts in their strategic nuclear forces by late May, when Mr. Bush is scheduled to visit Moscow.

The American decision to accept a binding arms agreement, after months of indicating the opposite, was a tactical victory for Mr. Putin, who had insisted that the Kremlin would never reduce its national defenses on a handshake. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday that the White House understood Mr. Putin's concerns and that it was studying options for an accord, including a treaty or an executive agreement that Congress would approve.

Today, the first deputy chief of staff of the Russian armed forces, Col. Gen. Yuri Baluyevsky, said Secretary Powell's remarks paved the way for an agreement by the time of Mr. Bush's arrival in Moscow.

"We can prepare an agreement that would satisfy both sides and receive understanding of the world community," he was quoted as saying by the Interfax-Military news agency here.

Foreign Minister Igor S. Ivanov, offering a more restrained assessment, called Secretary Powell's words "an important signal indicating that the two major nuclear powers will continue to seek understandings in the area of arms control."

Later, a senior Foreign Ministry official was even more sober, saying that significant differences remain. Daryl Kimball, the executive director of the Arms Control Association, in Washington, said tonight that he shared that view.

The contemplated cuts are sweeping: from more than 6,000 warheads each, Russia has proposed to reduce its strategic nuclear forces over several years to no fewer than 1,500 warheads, while the United States would cut its force to between 1,700 and 2,200 warheads. Both sides would retain thousands of smaller tactical nuclear arms.

Mr. Kimball said discussions with Russian and American experts suggested that there was no agreement yet over issues as basic as whether the arms cuts would be irreversible.

Mr. Putin has insisted that any weapons removed from the nuclear forces be destroyed. The White House has said it wants to warehouse decommissioned nuclear warheads.

Nor does the United States agree with a basic Russian premise: that any cuts in strategic nuclear forces are tied directly to America's ballistic missile defense program.

"The Bush administration will at all costs avoid any limits on missile defenses," Mr. Kimball said. "The Russians' bottom line is that they want to establish a kind of firebreak between where we are today and some future deployment of weapons in space, which they view as an even greater threat."

The two sides have yet to agree on how each would verify the others' weapons reductions. Moreover, it is not yet certain that Moscow will accept as legally binding the form of a final arms control accord proposed by the United States.

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(Editor's Note: [Hyperlink for referenced study follows article.](#))

Washington Times

February 7, 2002

Pg. 6

[Inside the Beltway](#)

## **Sending A Signal**

By John McCaslin

"After purchasing an old Soviet suitcase nuclear weapon in Central Asia, a terrorist smuggles it into Mexico to detonate it near the U.S. border. Traveling by car, the suicide bomber makes his way to El Paso.

"Ten miles outside the Eagle Pass port of entry, he pulls into the vehicle-inspection line and detonates a 3 kiloton nuclear bomb, equivalent to 3,000 tons of dynamite. El Paso is devastated, even though the bomb exploded on the other side of the border.

"At the center of the blast, everything is vaporized by temperatures reaching millions of degrees Fahrenheit. Casualties outside the center include severe burns, radiation, and multiple injuries from the flying debris of collapsed buildings. Prevailing winds from the Southwest send the radiation up to San Antonio. Authorities do not know whether this was a single attack or the precursor to other attacks. All major cities are evacuated and air-traffic control systems are severely degraded. Mass hysteria and looting forces the federal government to activate the National Guard and establish martial law."

If you think the above scenario is unfathomable, the anticipated devastation from a small nuclear bomb strapped beneath a tour bus on the Canadian side of the border near Buffalo is worse. More scary are expected mass casualties from the airborne release of anthrax over Detroit or San Diego — where no one is aware that anthrax had even been released.

Don't think it could happen?

"The threat of a new terrorist attack on civilians is real," warns a new study, "Defending the American Homeland," prepared by the Heritage Foundation's Homeland Security Task Force, which is chaired by former State Department Counterterrorism Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III and one-time Attorney General Edwin I. Meese III.

Containing recommendations from dozens of military, security, emergency and law enforcement experts, the report says that by intentionally targeting civilians in major U.S. cities, the terrorists of September 11 "were sending a signal: Their war against America would no longer be confined to such overseas targets as embassies, or to U.S. servicemen on ships like the U.S.S. Cole."

"Instead, they would take their war to America's heartland, killing as many innocent civilians as they could with any means at their disposal — first to change U.S. policy, and ultimately to destroy American and Western civilization." The silver lining is that the terrorists put America on notice that it is "dangerously vulnerable" and "ill-prepared" to respond to or prevent a terrorist attack using weapons of mass destruction — chemical, biological, radiologic or nuclear.

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## **Defending the American Homeland**

The Heritage Foundation Report

<http://www.heritage.org/homelanddefense/welcome.html>

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## War And Health

By George F. Will

War is unhealthy because of its violence, but also because of diseases spread by mass movements of men, often weary and sick, through disordered societies. Diseases arising from camp life, social disruption and unhygienic field hospitals have killed far more soldiers than has battle.

But modern war has driven dramatic improvements in public health, from Florence Nightingale's professionalization of nursing during the Crimean War to advances in surgery and control of infectious diseases. Because of today's war against terrorists, tomorrow's Americans will live better and longer.

That is the cheerful implication of the otherwise ominous fact that President Bush's budget asks Congress to more than quadruple spending -- from \$1.4 billion to \$5.9 billion -- on bioterrorism. Last week Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was unspecific in saying "it is likely" terrorist attacks "will grow vastly more deadly" than those of Sept. 11. But budgets often make government's thinking clear, and the bioterrorism money may imply Rumsfeld's meaning.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, says this infusion of money will accelerate our understanding of the biology and pathogenesis of microbes that can be used in attacks, and the biology of the microbes' hosts -- human beings and their immune systems. One result should be more effective vaccines with less toxicity.

Consider smallpox, one of the diseases at the top of the grim list of bioterrorist threats. The last U.S. case of smallpox was in 1949, but general vaccination of children continued until 1972. However, among every million people vaccinated, one or two died, so the vaccine was killing more than was the disease. Military vaccinations continued until the early 1990s, but now are restricted to special operations troops who might go places where bioweapons might be found.

The last recorded case of naturally occurring smallpox was in 1977 in Somalia. In 1979 the World Health Organization declared the world free of this scourge. But, says Fauci, it is "nonsense" to assert that the only remaining smallpox stocks are securely held in Russia and at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. He says the Soviet Union made "vats and vats" of smallpox, some of which could have fallen into terrorists' hands.

Now, imagine something far more frightening than 20 hijackers flying planes into buildings. Imagine 20 fanatics willingly infected with smallpox and infiltrated into America. From history and from a contemporary experiment we have two appalling pictures of what might happen.

The picture from history is presented by historian Elizabeth Fenn's book "Pox Americana: The Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-82," published a few weeks after Sept. 11. Her subject is a war-driven epidemic -- notice that it coincided with the American Revolution -- that killed 130,000 and maimed many more, from Massachusetts to Mexico.

In 1775 the crucial determinant of vulnerability to smallpox was prior exposure to it. In England's congested cities, exposure was constant, so most adults were immune. Not so in thinly populated America. Before Washington was driven to inoculate his forces, immunity was concentrated among the affluent, such as John and Abigail Adams, who could afford inoculation. Washington's army was composed largely of poor men, so the British army was at first much less susceptible than Washington's. And Fenn says there is strong evidence that the British waged biological warfare, attempting to spread the disease in American ranks.

Fenn's history, with its stomach-turning descriptions of the disease's ravages, is particularly terrifying because America today, with urban congestion and no smallpox vaccination, is even more vulnerable to an epidemic than America was two centuries ago, when travel was not able to spread the opportunistic microbes across the continent in five hours.

Less than three months before Sept. 11 some national security specialists tried thinking the unthinkable. An exercise named Dark Winter postulated a smallpox attack in Oklahoma City. Smallpox has a 12-day incubation period during which infected people have no symptoms. For a few days following that, before definitive signs of the disease, the person is highly infective. So it can be spread widely before its existence is known. Dark Winter concluded that in just three months the attack would have caused a million deaths in 25 states.

The exercise indicated that the health care system lacks vaccines and other elements of a "surge capacity" to cope with mass casualties, and the political system lacks adequate plans for allocating care, imposing quarantines, controlling panic, etc. The president's proposed \$5.9 billion is a bargain. It will improve public safety immediately and public health eventually.

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Hartford Courant  
February 5, 2002  
Pg. 3

## **Pentagon Explores Other Vaccine Options**

By Thomas D. Williams, Courant Staff Writer

Despite recent approval of renewed use of the anthrax vaccine to protect all 2.4 million military service members against biological warfare, the Pentagon says the vaccine will be used on a limited basis temporarily while officials study other options, including developing a new vaccine.

The department is collaborating with other agencies to develop new vaccines and treatments for bioterrorism agents, William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said lastweek.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, who has said he believes the vaccine has not been proved safe or effective, said Friday that he takes President Bush at his word when he said in his State of the Union address last week that the administration would develop a new, effective vaccine.

"I am concerned that the [federal vaccine] testing is just a stopgap so that some vaccine is available in an emergency in the absence of an effective vaccine," Blumenthal said.

More than 511,000 service members have been vaccinated with more than 2 million doses of the vaccine since March 1998, when the vaccinations became mandatory. Some of the inoculations triggered adverse reactions, ranging from swollen arms and minor rashes to long-term autoimmune disorders. About 400 service people have refused to take the vaccine and have been disciplined or expelled because of that stance. Hundreds of pilots in the National Guard and reserve units have resigned rather than take the shots.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration last week allowed the manufacturer, BioPort Corp. of Lansing, Mich., to begin shipping three lots of its own vaccine to be used for only specially designated military units. Before the approval, BioPort had been using controversial lots it purchased from the former manufacturer, the Michigan Biologics Products Institute, part of Michigan's health department.

For now, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not recommend vaccinations for the general public, despite the scare created by anthrax mailed to congressional and national news offices. The anthrax contaminated some congressional offices and U.S. postal facilities. Five people died and 13 were sickened by tainted letters. Some of the vaccine was offered on a voluntary, experimental basis to postal and congressional workers already exposed to anthrax spores.

Michigan Biologics Products Institute, which held the license for the vaccine since its first approval in 1970, halted production in January 1998 to begin a comprehensive renovation of its facility. In September 1998, the facility was sold to BioPort.

Less than a year later, Pentagon officials approved a controversial application to more than double the price of the vaccine, from \$4.36 a dose to \$10.64, and to offer the company an \$18.7 million interest-free advance payment.

That increased the price of producing the vaccine for all troops from \$25 million to \$49 million. The Defense Department has spent about \$125 million in assisting BioPort.

The deal drew fire from some members of Congress, military watchdogs and vaccine users. One of BioPort's owners is retired U.S. Navy Admiral William Crowe.

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Birmingham (AL) News  
February 6, 2002

## **Incinerator Mask Safety In Dispute Again**

By Mary Orndorff, News Washington correspondent

WASHINGTON -- Federal officials who advise against residents around the chemical weapons incinerator using respirator masks in an emergency are planning one more pitch to talk Calhoun County leaders out of the multi-million dollar idea.

Alabama officials from Anniston and Washington on Tuesday warned of an uphill battle, especially because the Pentagon already has agreed in writing to pay for the masks.

"Of course they want to change the agreement, so I told them they need to meet with the people who are most at risk," Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., said.

One Calhoun County commissioner said the panel was willing to listen, but he was skeptical members would change their minds. "I don't know I'm interested in going with another dog and pony show with FEMA," Robert Downing said Tuesday.

Shelby, Sen. Jeff Sessions and members of Rep. Bob Riley's staff told federal officials Tuesday they were welcome to take their case back to Alabama, but the congressmen would insist that the November deal for masks and other items be enforced.

"This is not a negotiation. We have an agreement," said Dan Gans, chief of staff for Riley, R-Ashland.

The U.S. Army and the Federal Emergency Management Agency together run the response plan for the community around the Anniston Army Depot, where 2,254 tons of nerve agents are stored awaiting destruction. A major conflict lingers over how best to protect residents should a leak occur.

FEMA has argued the protective hoods are unnecessary and residents would be safe by sheltering inside their homes. The Calhoun County Commission and local emergency management experts have insisted the government give the closest residents protective masks and advice on how to equip their homes as temporary shelters.

The stalemate appeared settled when a top Pentagon official agreed to provide \$5 million for the masks and \$35.5 million for other safety measures requested by Calhoun County.

On Tuesday, U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison told the Alabama delegation he had an alternative to the masks, which other FEMA officials have said are complicated and dangerous if misused. Those in the meeting declined to discuss the alternative.

"(FEMA and the Army) should in no way underestimate the knowledge the local officials have on this subject," Sessions said afterward. "They better be prepared that if they expect them to accept a change, they're going to have to present a very persuasive case."

A FEMA spokesman said Paulison would not comment on the substance of the meeting, saying only that it was "productive."

Last week, FEMA announced it was releasing \$25 million of the \$40.5 million promised. The remaining \$15.5 million, which includes money for the masks, was expected soon, "as FEMA continues to work with Alabama emergency management officials to ensure the entire allocation will be used for proven protective measures," according to FEMA officials.

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## **Bush Asked To Reconsider Providing Nuclear Reactors To North Korea**

Three senior House lawmakers wrote to President Bush this week requesting that the White House reconsider plans to provide North Korea two light-water nuclear reactors, which critics say could be used to help Pyongyang make nuclear weapons.

"We want you to know that we share your concern over the threat posed to the United States and global security by the efforts of nations like North Korea [to obtain] nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction," states the Feb. 5 letter, signed by Reps. Christopher Cox (R-CA), Benjamin Gilman (R-NY) and Edward Markey (D-MA).

"That is why we believe that now is the time to reconsider" those reactor plans, they write. "These efforts, initiated during the Clinton administration and continued by your State Department, need to be re-evaluated in light of the threats" mentioned in last month's State of the Union speech.

The lawmakers say they concur with the president's identification of North Korea as part of an "axis of evil" that threatens world peace. They applaud Bush's comment that the United States will work diligently with allies and friends to prevent the spread of WMD and delivery systems to terrorists.

The United States promised to help North Korea obtain light-water reactors under a 1994 nonproliferation deal called the Agreed Framework. In signing the framework, Pyongyang pledged to freeze its nuclear program and come into compliance with International Atomic Energy Agency nonproliferation safeguards.

In the early 1990s, North Korea was building nuclear reactors that Western officials believed would help Pyongyang build a nuclear arsenal. At the same time, North Korea refused to give IAEA inspectors access to those nuclear sites, considered a violation of the country's responsibilities under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Agreed Framework -- which also calls on the United States to supply heavy fuel oil to the North until the light-water reactors come on line, possibly in the next decade -- provided a mechanism for getting North Korea to live up to its nonproliferation obligations and averted war on the Korean peninsula, according to former Clinton administration officials.

However, some critics raise the possibility that a deal could have been brokered with an alternative to building light-water reactors. The LWRs would give Pyongyang access to sensitive U.S. nuclear technology and the fissile material needed for a nuclear weapons program, they say.

The Clinton administration, for its part, maintained that the technology used in LWRs is "proliferation-resistant." In addition, enough safeguards were built into the Agreed Framework to detect illicit use of the reactors, its officials said.

"Critics emphasize how these plants could help make nuclear weapons material and worry that the United States would be left with few options if it ever detected illicit use. Proponents emphasize the difficulties of using LWRs in a weapons program and hang their hopes on detection being a deterrent itself," Henry Sokolski, executive director of the Washington-based Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, told Inside the Pentagon Feb. 6.

After a review last year of U.S. policy toward North Korea, the Bush administration endorsed the Agreed Framework, but its officials emphasize that Pyongyang must come into compliance with the IAEA before key reactor components can be sent there. And because it could take at least three or four years for the IAEA to do its work, North Korea must let inspectors into that nation now to keep the reactor project on schedule, they add.

Pyongyang, however, has refused to do so, while questioning the U.S. commitment to the Agreed Framework.

"We are writing to urge you to take the necessary steps to ensure that North Korea does not obtain access to sensitive U.S. nuclear technologies or materials, at least for so long as it is in violation of its international nonproliferation obligations," Cox, Gilman and Markey write in their letter.

The lawmakers say the administration is considering the release of additional funding for the New York-based Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), which is responsible for building the Agreed Framework reactors and shipping heavy fuel oil to North Korea.

Under existing law, those funds cannot be released until the president certifies that North Korea is abiding by the Agreed Framework and has no "covert" nuclear weapons program, the letter states. The president, though, can waive those requirements.

"In light of your strong statement in your State of the Union address regarding North Korea, we suspect that the facts do not support your making this certification," the letter states. "Accordingly, [we] urge you not to follow the practice in past years of waiving applicable certification requirements [for KEDO funding], at least for so long as North Korea continues to deny the [IAEA] full access to suspected nuclear facilities and other information on North Korea."

The lawmakers also urge Bush to give further consideration to whether North Korean access to LWRs is consistent with U.S. national interests. They say more consideration should be given to replacing LWRs with alternative, less expensive means for energy production.

The letter asks the president to consider the following, as he mulls the certification requirements for KEDO funding:

\* Recent press reports that North Korea has a secret uranium processing site that could be used for a covert weapons program.

\* North Korea's position that it will not let IAEA inspectors see suspect nuclear sites in that country "until after a 'substantial portion' of the reactor project is completed and demanding additional compensation not called for in the Agreed Framework for not completing the project by the projected target date."

\* "Concerns that prior to the laying of concrete foundations [for the LWRs] this August, North Korea will not agree, as required by Article III of the [1995] KEDO Supply Agreement . . . to a protocol laying out the schedules for the light-water reactors' construction and meeting the nonproliferation requirements of the Agreed Framework."

\* Other concerns about the economic viability of using LWRs in the North, given the country's abysmal economic state and its antiquated electric power grid. Those concerns raise suspicions that Pyongyang wants the LWRs "to acquire the technical expertise, infrastructure, training and technology that would facilitate a covert nuclear weapons program."

-- *Keith J. Costa*

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## **73 Senate Workers Report Illness**

### ***Advisory Issued to D.C. Federal Employees on Handling Irradiated Mail***

By Spencer S. Hsu, Washington Post Staff Writer

Seventy-three employees of the U.S. Senate have reported health problems including headaches, eye irritation and skin rash after handling irradiated mail, and the government has issued a cautionary advisory to 180,000 federal workers in the District.

The figure was disclosed yesterday by Senate officers in response to a query by Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) and at a closed-door briefing to concerned Senate staffers. The meeting was held by a task force set up by Senate officers to investigate health concerns arising from the Hart Senate Office Building anthrax cleanup.

In addition to the mail, some senators question whether their staff members are feeling ill from chemicals used to decontaminate the Hart building. Senate officials are still trying to get a tally of complaints from Hart workers about health issues related to that building.

The mail advisory was issued last Thursday by the General Services Administration. While mail "does not contain any residual radiation or radioactivity," the bulletin said, "a small number of federal employees within the D.C. metro area have experienced problems."

The agency said government workers may "minimize" potential problems by wearing nonlatex, powder-free gloves or asking others to open their mail if they have sensitive skin; after handling mail, using moisturizer after washing hands; and storing and opening mail in a ventilated area to disperse vapors left over from irradiation.

Senate staffers who attended a 90-minute briefing in the Russell Senate Office Building said it was contentious. Workers tried to press representatives of the Office of the Attending Physician of the Capitol, U.S. Postal Service, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the EPA about the cause of employee complaints.

"The doctors and scientists running the meeting said everyone who is having ill-health effects should go to the Capitol physician's office and be examined, but they also said, 'Well, it's flu season,' " said one aide, who asked not to be named. "There was a strong implication that the mail should not be making people sick, but then people were complaining that it is."

Briefers reportedly told Senate workers that 73 complaints from three Senate office buildings that employ 4,000 people is not extraordinary.

Grassley said in a statement that government officials have told him that the mail should be safe because the dosage at which mail is irradiated was lowered by 40 percent in mid-December, and treated mail is increasingly ventilated to disperse chemical residue.

The alerts mark the latest step in the government's trial-and-error recovery from October's anthrax crisis, when letters packed with deadly microbes were sent to two senators, and traces of spores were found in two dozen local government and postal locations.

Mail delivery to Congress was stopped Oct. 15 and resumed in late November. Mail to District government offices with Zip codes that begin 202, 203, 204 and 205 is now shipped to facilities in Lima, Ohio, and Bridgeport, N.J., for

irradiation. The GSA notice said that government-bound correspondence takes about eight days from mailing to delivery.

Employee complaints increased when senators and staff members reoccupied the Hart building Jan. 19 after a \$20 million Environmental Protection Agency decontamination.

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) said yesterday that 16 employees in his office have complained of headaches, burning eyes and breathing problems from a "very heavy odor" of chlorine, which was used to fumigate portions of the building.

Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-Calif.) has asked for independent environmental testing from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. EPA Ombudsman Robert J. Martin has asked the agency for test results showing that the building was safe to reopen.

Richard Rupert, EPA on-site coordinator, said that daily tests taken since Jan. 1 have shown no concentration of chlorine dioxide over 100 parts per billion, the federal workplace safety standard. More sophisticated tests last weekend found that none of 15 samples exceeded 5 parts per billion.

"We haven't seen any chlorine dioxide to have a link" to reported symptoms, said Rupert, who said the agency welcomed comment from the Livermore lab. "There is no pattern."

EPA spokesman Joseph Martyak said new carpeting, walls, adhesives and cleaners have been used extensively to prepare Hart for reopening, and that air circulation has been a concern of the building's managers.

Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Alfonso E. Lenhardt, who created the legislative mail task force, also welcomed Livermore's assets. A spokeswoman added that as mail treated at lower levels of radiation arrives, "We do expect symptoms will be reduced, but we've got to wait and see."

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