

#167

26 Apr 2002

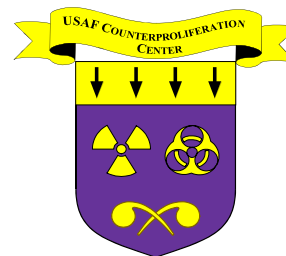
USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER

# CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL

*Air University*

*Air War College*

*Maxwell AFB, Alabama*



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

Established here at the Air War College in 1998, the USAF/CPC provides education and research to present and future leaders of the Air Force, as well as to members of other branches of the armed services and Department of Defense. Our purpose is to help those agencies better prepare to counter the threat from weapons of mass destruction. Please feel free to visit our web site at [www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/awc-cps.htm](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 Lt Col Michael W. Ritz, ANG Special Assistant to Director of CPC or 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

## USAF Counterproliferation Center Annual Conference

2-3 May 2002

**"Countering the Asymmetric Threat of NBC Warfare and Terrorism"**

held at the

**William F. Bolger Center for Leadership Development in Potomac, MD.**

Look for link to register On-Line and the proposed agenda at our web site above.

Click on **May 2-3, 2002 Conference.**

## CONTENTS

[Race Is On To Clinch Arms Cuts Pact](#)

[2nd Leak Of Anthrax Found At Army Lab](#)

[The Politics Of Mass Destruction](#)

[Russia Against Replacing Bustani](#)

[Anthrax Didn't Get Out Of Lab, Army Says](#)

[U.S., Russia Still Split Over Arms Cuts](#)

[At War College, Police Officials Will Work on Disaster Response](#)

[SRS Considered To Help Make Nuclear Weapons](#)

[Others Follow U.S. On Smallpox Vaccine](#)

[Inside The Ring](#)  
[Radar Used By Meteorologists Could Detect Chemical Release](#)  
[More Anthrax At Connecticut Mail Center](#)  
[Senator: Bioterrorism Risk Is High And Still Increasing](#)

Moscow Times  
April 24, 2002  
Pg. 3

## **Race Is On To Clinch Arms Cuts Pact**

By Combined Reports

As U.S. and Russian negotiators met Tuesday to prepare an agreement on nuclear arms cuts before next month's summit, Russia's top arms control experts spoke out against the deal, saying it would require bowing to U.S. demands.

U.S. Undersecretary of State John Bolton and a group of U.S. negotiators met Monday and Tuesday with Russian counterparts led by Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov -- the latest in a series of arms control consultations in recent months.

"The relationship between the United States and Russia has fundamentally changed. And I think that the summit will reflect that change in relationship regardless of what documents we have to sign," Bolton told Associated Press Television News on Tuesday.

"Nonetheless, we are working as hard as we can to show as much of that progress in the agreement form as we can," he said.

U.S. President George W. Bush has promised to cut the U.S. arsenal to 1,700 to 2,200 strategic nuclear warheads, while President Vladimir Putin has said Russia could go even lower, to 1,500 warheads from the current 6,000 that each country is currently allowed under the 1991 START I treaty. Bush initially favored an informal deal, but later acceded to Putin's push to formalize the cuts in a legally binding agreement. However, talks have been thorny because of Moscow's objection to the Pentagon's decision to stockpile decommissioned nuclear weapons rather than destroy them.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement issued as the talks got under way Monday, said Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell had spoken by telephone Monday about progress in securing the accord. Retired Major-General Vladimir Dvorkin, who helped prepare previous arms control treaties with the United States, warned Tuesday that a nuclear deal at mid-May's Putin-Bush summit could not be reached "without Russia making major concessions." "It would be a bad agreement if President Putin just signs under U.S. nuclear policy," he told a news conference.

Dvorkin and some other top arms control analysts advised Putin against signing an agreement on nuclear cuts in May and said that Russia must try to negotiate a better deal.

"It's better not to sign any treaty than to sign a bad one," said Sergei Kortunov of the Foreign Policy Association. Kortunov predicted that overall U.S.-Russian relations, bolstered by Putin's support for the U.S.-led war on terror, would remain strong even if a nuclear treaty isn't signed in May.

Dvorkin said the U.S. administration ignored Russian complaints about stockpiling nuclear weapons because the Russian military plans to unilaterally cut its nuclear forces below the U.S. levels with or without a nuclear arms agreement with Washington.

The plan, which Dvorkin called "mad," would significantly reduce the number of Russia's land-based strategic missiles in a fund-saving effort, making it impossible for Russia to stockpile the same number of weapons as the United States.

A compromise will only be possible if Russia drops its current nuclear doctrine and "prove its ability to stockpile its own nuclear weapons," Dvorkin said.

Western analysts believe that the need to consolidate post-Cold War relations and rejuvenate disarmament, stalled since the early 1990s, will probably spur both sides to overcome their differences and sign the pact next month.

"The forthcoming summit ... could become a turning point in building a new strategic relationship between the two nations, but its failure would deal a serious blow to Russia-America relations," the Carnegie Endowment think tank and Russia's Center for Political Studies said in a statement issued last week.

(AP, Reuters)

Washington Post  
April 24, 2002  
Pg. B1

## **2nd Leak Of Anthrax Found At Army Lab**

### ***Delay in Reporting Release Is Criticized***

By Rick Weiss and David Snyder, Washington Post Staff Writers

For the second time this month Army officials have found evidence of an accidental release of anthrax spores in an Army biodefense research building in Frederick, this one involving a different and relatively benign strain of the microbe.

The Army emphasized yesterday that no military researchers had fallen ill from the apparent lapses, and it offered reassurance that the public was not at risk. But an Army official also acknowledged that the discovery, which a university anthrax researcher yesterday called "highly embarrassing," indicated a failure to follow safety protocols at the high-security lab.

The Army's handling of the problem also drew criticisms from political leaders and the director of a company that does laundry for the lab, who said the Army did a poor job of communicating with the firm after it appeared that the biowarfare bacteria might have spread to the off-base laundry.

The two new contamination spots were found in Fort Detrick's Building 1425 during testing conducted last weekend, officials said. That testing, involving more than 800 swabs, had been initiated Friday after potentially deadly anthrax spores were found to have escaped from a sealed lab and spread to other areas inside the building.

The newly discovered spores, whose precise location in the building was not revealed, belong to a strain that is used in vaccine research and is not capable of causing anthrax, said Charles F. Dasey, spokesman for the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, which operates the complex at Detrick.

The previous accidental release, first suspected April 8 after researchers found an apparent spill and confirmed by the Army on Friday, involved a strain that has not been identified but definitely is not the harmless vaccine strain, Dasey said. The spores were found in a locker room and adjacent hallway.

Martin E. Hugh-Jones, an anthrax researcher at Louisiana State University who used to work at Detrick, said the twin breachings of biological security were "highly embarrassing" and evidence of a lack of leadership there. "It looks like somebody made a mess, they tried to clean it up, they didn't tell anyone and they left."

But Tara O'Toole, director of Johns Hopkins University's Center for Civilian Biodefense Studies, said that assessment was too harsh. Only four tests out of nearly 1,000 have come up positive, she noted. "That actually speaks to the excellence of their efforts."

The Army is investigating how the releases occurred but had no explanation yesterday. But Dasey acknowledged "a break in established laboratory procedure."

Scientists working in the biosafety level-3 lab, which is designed for experiments on deadly microbes, must leave lab clothing and booties behind in special refuse containers before leaving the lab. They exit directly into a shower area, where they are required to wash before entering less secure areas of the building.

The two discoveries of spores suggest that someone did not follow those procedures and tracked the microbes into unprotected areas, Dasey said. The first discovery in the locker room and adjacent hallway opened the possibility that contaminated towels may have been shipped to the laundry, where the spores could have hitched rides to other locations.

Frederick Mayor Jennifer P. Dougherty criticized Detrick officials yesterday for not telling the city that spores might have spread off the Detrick compound.

"The concern here goes beyond the gates of Fort Detrick," Dougherty said.

Army officials informed the mayor of the building's problems about noon Friday, a few hours before telling the news media, Dasey said. But they did not alert city officials of the possibility that spores might have spread to Jeanne Bussard Center Inc., a nonprofit company that employs disabled people and subcontracts with Fort Detrick for laundry services.

Moreover, though the Army told the firm's executive director Friday that it would test laundry employees for exposure, it did not make clear that it would test the physical plant as well. When the executive director was unable to reach the Army on Saturday to confirm those intentions, she grew frustrated and scared and hired a private company to test the facility immediately.

Detrick officials, who say they had been trying unsuccessfully to reach the director, had the facility tested later that day and found no traces of anthrax. But by then, the town was abuzz with talk that the Jeanne Bussard Center might have been hit by anthrax.

Del. Sue Hecht (D-Frederick) said she heard rumors about contamination at the facility while walking in downtown Frederick on Saturday afternoon. She called Dougherty, who called city and county officials. None of the local officials knew that off-site workers had been tested, Hecht said.

"We realized that nobody knew about this," Hecht said. ". . . The good news is that everything was fine. The bad news is that there was a serious lack of communication and lack of process."

As of yesterday, approximately 35 people, including seven off-base laundry workers, had their noses swabbed for evidence of exposure, Dasey said. Only one of those people -- one of the two scientists who discovered the first spill -- has tested positive for exposure. That scientist had previously been vaccinated against anthrax but is now on antibiotics as a precaution.

The building is undergoing its second decontamination effort in four days in an effort to wipe out the newly discovered spores and also to make a second stab at killing all the spores from the first spill.

Washington Times

April 24, 2002

Pg. 19

## The Politics Of Mass Destruction

By Daniel Goure

The recent publication (in the pages of this newspaper) of classified portions of the U.S. government's Nuclear Policy Review that was alleged to be evidence of a purported shift in U.S. nuclear strategy touched off a spate of stories on the dangers of putting rogue states in America's nuclear crosshairs. In story after story, arms-control advocates and unnamed foreign officials warned of a policy that would "turn upside down" longstanding U.S. nuclear doctrines, and "make America more likely to use" nuclear weapons.

To be sure, the chance to quote from leaked passages of the highly classified National Policy Review may be news. But the policy shift these stories purport to prove is anything but new, and is very much in the tradition of the deterrence doctrine that has guided U.S. nuclear policy since the Soviets got the bomb.

According to nuclear strategist Hans Kristensen, as early as March 1991 — the month Operation Desert Storm ended — the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff suggested that nuclear weapons, until then largely trained on Soviet and Chinese targets, "could assume a broader role globally in response to the proliferation of nuclear capability among Third World nations." In fact, since the United States divested itself of chemical and biological weapons, by policy, our nuclear arsenal constitutes the sole deterrent against use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) of any kind. By 1992, in the Department of Defense Annual Report, then-Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney wrote: U.S. nuclear strategy "must now also encompass potential instabilities that could arise when states or leaders perceive they have little to lose from employing weapons of mass destruction."

Indeed, this new orientation survived the change from the first Bush presidency to the Clinton administration; in the 1994 Nuclear Posture Review, the notion that U.S. nuclear assets should target rogue states possessing such weapons was formalized into the Single Integrated Operation Plan (SIOP) that governs our nuclear target list. Proof that the Bush administration is continuing this policy — even while adjusting it to the constantly evolving efforts of rogue states to acquire WMD ("adaptive planning," in the jargon of both the Clinton and Bush II administrations) — is less a sign of shifting policy, than the extension of bipartisan continuity now more than a decade old.

But now, the problem is different. While the United States must still be able to deter a massive nuclear strike by Russia or China, its principle concern is the rogue regimes that are seeking to produce or procure nuclear weapons, and who might use them to threaten their neighbors or the United States should we seek to intervene on behalf of our allies and friends. These rogues could also channel them to terrorists. Just as we signaled the Soviets in the Cold War era, a signal today that the United States would respond with "all means necessary" to attacks involving WMD would make even the most desperate states aware of the consequences of aiding and abetting terrorists. For this reason alone, wherever rogue regimes hold sway, we ought to add known WMD storage sites and research facilities to our nuclear target list.

As a result of the war on terrorism and the nuclear ambitions of rogue states, a counter-WMD focus now shapes our nuclear posture. This is not new. The real question is: What sort of strategic force is called for? Clearly, the United States will need an arsenal large enough to execute any strike scenario envisioned, with an accent on high-accuracy land-based systems, capable of providing a diverse range of discreet targeting options. Also, to give our deterrent continued credibility, we'll need to focus on new nuclear systems, weapons with low yields but capable of destroying buried, bunkered or otherwise fortified WMD facilities.

Long-term, such considerations should shape our defense programs, the budget process and the public debate. Near-term, there's nothing wrong — and quite a lot right — with a policy that puts rogue actors on notice that using weapons of mass destruction against our people or our troops will elicit the strongest possible U.S. response. Indeed, getting that word out to America's adversaries might be so important that it might even be worth leaking the story.

*Daniel Goure is a senior fellow at the Lexington Institute and has served as deputy director of the International Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and in the secretary of defense's Office of Strategic Competitiveness.*

## Russia Against Replacing Bustani

Wed Apr 24, 6:19 AM ET

MOSCOW - Russia's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday criticized the U.S.-led ouster of the head of the world's chemical weapons regulatory agency and defended his performance.

Jose Bustani was dismissed Monday at a meeting of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in

The Hague ([news](#) - [web sites](#)), Netherlands, after the United States successfully rallied members to remove him.

"Russia spoke out against replacing Bustani, and considers that he did a great deal toward solving issues of prohibiting and destroying chemical weapons," Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko said in a statement released Wednesday.

"Thanks to Bustani's actions, the OPCW transformed itself into an independent and authoritative international organ that became one of the most important mechanisms of control over weapons and disarmament," Yakovenko said. Bustani had led the organization since it was established in 1997 to oversee the destruction of the world's chemical weapons stockpiles and production facilities.

The United States and Russia both supported Bustani's reappointment in May 2000. But more recently, the State Department accused Bustani of mismanagement and plunging the agency into crisis.

Russia has the world's largest arsenal of chemical weapons, about 44,000 tons. Russia in 1997 committed itself to destroying the stockpile within a decade, but has complained that it cannot afford the program without foreign aid. Australian Deputy Director General John Gee will serve as acting head of the 145-nation body until a replacement is named.

[http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=ap/20020424/ap\\_on\\_re\\_eu/russia\\_chemical\\_weapons\\_2](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=ap/20020424/ap_on_re_eu/russia_chemical_weapons_2)

Washington Post

April 25, 2002

Pg. B3

## Anthrax Didn't Get Out Of Lab, Army Says

### *Official Told Post Spores Escaped*

By David Snyder, Washington Post Staff Writer

Anthrax spores found Sunday at Fort Detrick never escaped a contained laboratory, an Army spokesman said yesterday, contrary to information given to The Washington Post for an article in yesterday's newspaper.

On Tuesday, an Army spokesman told The Post that the spores had been found outside a containment area.

In fact, the microbes were still inside a biosafety level-2 lab, meaning they posed less of a risk than if they had been in an unprotected area, said Charles F. Dasey, spokesman for the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, which operates the complex at Detrick.

Dasey said the spores were outside their containers but had not left the secure perimeter of the lab. He could not explain how the error occurred.

Dasey said he "just had the facts wrong" and discovered it yesterday after checking with institute officials and learning that the microbes had not escaped the lab.

"Ideally, the spores stay in their containers and you wouldn't find them anywhere else," Dasey said yesterday.

As reported yesterday in The Post, the spores found Sunday were a relatively benign strain.

"We were thinking that non-pathogenic spore, they can't hurt anybody so maybe it's not such a big deal" that they were found outside their containers, Dasey said.

The anthrax spores found last week, and reported by the Army on Friday -- and in The Post on Saturday -- were of a more dangerous strain and had, in fact, escaped containment.

Los Angeles Times

April 25, 2002

## **U.S., Russia Still Split Over Arms Cuts**

***Negotiations: American leaves talks early. The nations differ over fate of deactivated nuclear warheads and verification of any reductions.***

By John Daniszewski, Times Staff Writer

MOSCOW -- Negotiations between the United States and Russia on an accord to dramatically cut offensive nuclear weapons hit an apparent snag Wednesday, with a top U.S. negotiator departing early from scheduled talks and a senior Russian official saying that an agreement is not a certainty.

Defense analysts here said the stumbling block was most likely the Russian military, which does not wish to see President Vladimir V. Putin making any more significant concessions to Washington.

At issue is a proposed agreement for each country to cut the number of its strategic nuclear weapons to between 1,700 and 2,200, a significant reduction from their current levels of between 6,000 and 7,000 warheads each, by 2010. Putin sought the pact because his government is hard-pressed to continue paying the cost of maintaining its vast arsenal of nuclear weapons left over from the Cold War but does not wish to be forced to make big cutbacks unilaterally.

But some retired Russian generals, who are thought to reflect the concerns of the country's military establishment, have said publicly that they are opposed to the deal because the United States intends only to stockpile, and not destroy, its deactivated weapons.

Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov, who was leading the Russian side in the current round of talks, conceded on Russian television that it was still questionable whether an agreement would be reached--particularly in time for President Bush's planned summit with Putin in Moscow late next month, as both sides had hoped.

"We can't yet say whether we will have this treaty or not, because there are certain differences in terms of accountability of the reductions [and] the methods of reduction," he told state-controlled ORT television's late-night news show Wednesday. He said the chief stumbling block was how to verify weapons cuts and ensure that they are permanent.

U.S. officials would not specify a reason for the early departure Wednesday from Moscow of U.S. Undersecretary of State John R. Bolton and his arms-reduction team after one day of talks, when two days were originally planned.

Officials noted, however, that discussions between the countries could resume as early as this weekend, when Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage visits Moscow, or on May 3, when U.S. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and Russian Foreign Minister Igor S. Ivanov are due to have their next meeting, in Washington.

Before the talks began Tuesday, Bolton sounded optimistic, saying that "the relationship between the United States and Russia has fundamentally changed" and that the new agreement would be crafted to reflect that change.

However, a lingering resentment remains in Russia, especially among senior generals, over past concessions to the United States, military and political analysts here believe.

Retired Maj. Gen. Vladimir Dvorkin, for one, told a news conference in Moscow on Tuesday that he considered it "mad" for Russia to proceed with any treaty that would leave it at a numerical disadvantage in land-based nuclear weapons, which would occur if the United States merely stored its deactivated arsenal while Russia destroyed its weaponry to save funds.

From the hard-liners' viewpoint, Russia in the last year has been too docile--eventually accepting the announced U.S. withdrawal from the 1972 Antiballistic Missile Treaty and giving a cautious green light to a U.S. military presence in Central Asia and Georgia, former Soviet lands that many here still regard as part of Russia's strategic sphere of influence.

Putin's decision last year to withdraw the remaining Russian troops from Soviet-era bases in Vietnam and Cuba without getting any specific concessions from the United States in return also has rankled some in the military establishment.

"Despite the political will to sign this new reduction agreement, there is a lot of resistance to it among the Defense Ministry top brass and Foreign Ministry diplomats who don't quite appreciate such a close cooperation between Russia and the United States in this sensitive sphere," said Pavel Felgenhauer, an independent defense analyst who writes for several Russian newspapers.

He said the generals therefore were looking for "mostly minor technical points to make a fuss about and thus snag the talks."

Resistance is stiff in the military, agreed Viktor A. Kremenjuk, deputy director of the USA-Canada Institute, a Moscow think tank. "President Putin is a commander in chief of the armed forces. But what can he do when the generals on the general staff and the Defense Ministry tell him that we can't go on with such reductions and concessions? Fire them all?"

Even though the president remains popular, "part of the society and the political establishment wonder whether Putin is not sick with Gorbachev and Kozyrev disease," Kremenjuk said. He was referring to former Communist leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev and President Boris N. Yeltsin's former foreign minister, Andrei V. Kozyrev, both of whom have been vilified by nationalists in Russia as having caved in to the West.

New York Times

April 25, 2002

## **At War College, Police Officials Will Work on Disaster Response**

By Al Baker

Taking a page from the military, the New York Police Department will send some of its top leaders to the Naval War College, in Newport, R.I., next month to play out a variety of disaster situations and improve their ability to respond to a terrorist attack.

Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly said yesterday that in the aftermath of Sept. 11, the department must be prepared to respond to cataclysms like biological or chemical attacks or a "dirty" bomb, in which radioactive material is wrapped around a traditional explosive device.

"This is something that the military does on a regular basis and we will be doing more of," said Mr. Kelly, who will attend the drills.

"What they do there is they train senior-level officers," he said. "And one of the things they do is run exercises. How do you react to this? How do you react to that? And they do it very well."

David C. Ausiello, a spokesman at the college, said that military strategists typically developed war games or situations specifically for the agencies they train.

"It would be tailored for what their job requires," he said. "The type of things it could look at is how they communicate and how these games will help them respond to crises and events they deal with."

About 30 members of the executive staff, including some deputy commissioners and chiefs and their top aides, will attend the college classes over two weekends, Mr. Kelly said.

Strategists from the Naval War College trained 50 New York Fire Department chiefs at a two-day session last winter at the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y., said David Billig, a Fire Department spokesman.

"They participated in scenarios that would help identify their ability to operate in extreme conditions," Mr. Billig said. "You can never be too well trained."

Columbia (SC) State

April 23, 2002

Pg. 1

## **SRS Considered To Help Make Nuclear Weapons**

By Sammy Fretwell, Staff Writer

The Savannah River Site is under consideration by the federal government for a factory to make key components of atomic weapons, records show.

SRS would be part of a "large-scale" plutonium pit production system that would begin work by 2018, according to a 2001 high-level waste system plan.

The federal document says SRS would assemble nuclear components for plutonium pits certified for use in war. The plutonium pit manufacturing mission would create up to 33,600 gallons of high-level nuclear waste annually, the report said.

Several details about the proposal were unavailable Monday, including who must approve the factory and what would happen to the nuclear waste.

If the factory is built, it would mark a new era in production of atomic weapons grade materials at SRS. The site formerly produced plutonium during the Cold War.

Department of Energy spokesman Joe Davis and U.S. Rep. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said the production plant would only be built if the U.S. needed to begin large-scale production of nuclear weapons.

At this point, Graham said that is unlikely.

The U.S. is reducing the number of nuclear warheads, and the federal government already is committed to a pit production facility at Los Alamos, N.M, he said. That plant could produce smaller amounts of plutonium pits, said Graham, whose district includes SRS.

Plutonium pits are spherical, metallic objects needed for atomic weapons.

"In case there is a need to ramp up in a major way, a place like Savannah River would be more capable" of producing large-scale weapons components than Los Alamos, Graham said. "But for this to happen, the whole world situation would have to change. The world situation now is we are reducing the number of warheads."

Still, anti-nuclear activist Tom Clements said the Department of Energy's interest in SRS for plutonium pit production shows it wants to concentrate much of the government's future plutonium work in South Carolina.

The DOE is embroiled in a debate with Gov. Jim Hodges over federal plans to store and process excess plutonium so that some of it can't be used for nuclear bombs. Hodges wants a court-approved, federal guarantee the material will be shipped out of South Carolina if a processing plant doesn't get built, as planned by the DOE.

But the fuel processing plant would take only about 34 metric tons of excess plutonium out of a national stockpile of about 100 metric tons, Clements and DOE officials acknowledged.

That leaves plenty of material available for use in building new nuclear weapons, said Clements, a senior campaigner with the Greenpeace environmental group.

"There is the risk that once Savannah River Site becomes the plutonium storage site, then the possibility of it becoming the site for the new bomb factory is going to be much easier for DOE to carry out," Clements said.

Without mentioning SRS specifically, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham told the House Armed Services Committee last month that the country needs a contingency plan for a modern plutonium pit production facility.

Plans for the facility "will provide the nation with the means to respond to new, unexpected or emerging threats in a timely manner," he said.

Plutonium pits were formerly made at the Rocky Flats nuclear facility in Colorado with plutonium that came from SRS. Rocky Flats stopped producing pits in 1989 and environmental crews are cleaning up the site.

Excess plutonium left at Rocky Flats is destined for use in mixed oxide fuel (MOX) to be made at SRS. If a new pit production plant were built at SRS, it would replace the process that occurred at Rocky Flats during the Cold War, according to plans.

Jay Reiff, a spokesman for Hodges, said the governor isn't necessarily opposed to a new plutonium pit production factory at SRS. But the governor wants to make sure any of the toxic metal that comes here also leaves the state in some form.

The governor's office is "familiar with the proposed plans, but that is all speculative at this point," Reiff said of the plutonium pit proposal. "The governor just wants to ensure this state is not a permanent storage area for weapons grade plutonium."



A small-scale plutonium pit production plant at the Los Alamos nuclear site in New Mexico wouldn't be enough to handle the load if the nation needed to build up its nuclear arsenal substantially, records show.

A 1997 DOE report stamped "not for public dissemination" said the Savannah River Site and a nuclear site at Oak Ridge, Tenn., provided the best options for a modern pit production system. The two facilities would work in combination to make the plutonium pits, according to the document obtained by The State.

The report said intact plutonium pits would be shipped to SRS from the Pantex nuclear site in Texas.

Once in South Carolina, SRS would disassemble the pits and recast them. Pit castings would then be shipped to Oak Ridge for finishing before being shipped back to Pantex. Leftover residues from Oak Ridge would be sent to SRS, the document said.

The report said SRS officials aggressively pursued the new mission. "SRS takes the position that, given enough money, anything can be accomplished in five years," the report said.

A second, less desirable proposal would be to have SRS do all the work, rather than doing so in combination with Oak Ridge, records show.

"SRS is the only technically feasible single-site option," the report said.

What is plutonium?

Plutonium is a silvery, white metal used to make nuclear weapons. Trace amounts occur naturally, but large-scale levels are made by humans. It is dangerous when inhaled as small particles.

What is being proposed?

The federal government is considering SRS for a plutonium pit production plant to produce plutonium for use in nuclear weapons.

How far along is the plan?

The idea is only on the drawing board and would be done only if the U.S. needed to rebuild its nuclear arsenal, Rep. Lindsey Graham, R.-S.C., said.

When would plutonium pits be made at SRS?

Pits, which are metal objects used for nuclear weapons, would not be manufactured at SRS until 2018 at the earliest. Isn't there another program at SRS?

The federal government also wants to ship weapons-grade plutonium not be needed for atomic bombs to SRS to be made into mixed oxide fuel. MOX would be used in commercial nuclear power plants near Charlotte.

New York Times

April 25, 2002

## **Others Follow U.S. On Smallpox Vaccine**

By William J. Broad and Judith Miller

Israel, Britain and other countries are moving to acquire stocks of smallpox vaccine as the United States and Russia weigh proposals to begin vaccinating parts of their populations against the disease, according to American and Russian officials and health experts.

The moves are prompted by fears that rogue states or terrorist groups could acquire the smallpox virus and use it as a weapon.

Until the World Health Organization declared the disease eradicated in 1980, smallpox was considered one of the greatest scourges of humanity. It killed about a third of those infected.

The United States began a crash effort to vastly increase its vaccine supplies after anthrax-tainted letters last fall killed 5 people, sickened 17 and prompted thousands of Americans to take antibiotics.

Officials say dilution of existing supplies, a recently discovered stockpile and newly manufactured vaccine will leave the government with enough on hand by next year to vaccinate all Americans. But the vaccine has its own risks of potentially serious side effects, so there is a lively debate about whether it should be used, and by whom.

Other nations are following America's lead. Bill Pierce, a spokesman for the Department of Health and Human Services, said the agency has been talking with representatives of foreign governments about the wisdom of obtaining stocks of vaccines, and expects a round of purchases. "We've had discussions with them," he said.

In Britain, officials announced on April 12 that they had placed an order with a British company for 30 million doses. American experts said Israel had recently ordered six million doses, enough to vaccinate its entire population, and France three million doses.

The March issue of "The CBW Conventions Bulletin," a Harvard journal on chemical and biological weapons that is regarded as authoritative, reported that Germany recently ordered six million doses, Ireland 600,000 and Greece 150,000.

In most cases, where they would obtain their vaccine was not specified, but companies around the world are gearing up to make it.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon has said that the Defense Department and its counterpart in Canada signed an agreement in March to collaborate on developing a new generation of smallpox vaccine for their militaries.

Recently the Russian press reported that Moscow had decided to revaccinate its entire population. But in interviews this week, Russian officials and health experts denied those accounts.

Lyubov Voropayeva, a spokeswoman for the Russian Health Ministry, said no decision could be made until the World Health Organization determines in May the fate of the world's two remaining declared stockpiles of the virus — one in Atlanta and the other in Novosibirsk, Siberia.

After the smallpox virus was declared eradicated from human populations, a debate arose over plans to destroy the officially declared virus stocks. But today the United States and Russia oppose destroying the viral stocks for now, saying that studying the virus can help produce new drugs, vaccines and other medical defenses.

The Russian spokeswoman said that if the health organization decided to preserve the virus, "then the question stands of whether the population will be vaccinated or not, who will be vaccinated and what vaccine will be used." Sergey V. Netesov, the deputy director of Vector, Russia's official repository and one of the world's largest viral research centers, said, "This issue is still under discussion."

But Russian interest in revaccination worries some American officials, given the former Soviet Union's development of smallpox weapons, and concerns that some of Russia's own stocks may have slipped into unfriendly hands. Scientists in the former Soviet Union are known to have made large quantities of smallpox powder, and its fate — and that of the scientists who made it — is unclear.

In 1994 the Defense Intelligence Agency cited an unidentified source as saying that Russia in the early 1990's had shared smallpox technology with Iraq and North Korea.

In Washington, public debate is intensifying over the possibility of voluntary immunizations of emergency health officials and other so-called "first responders." Experts are planning public meetings in the next few months to discuss the issues.

So far, at least, most health officials are arguing against mass inoculations.

Though the smallpox vaccine uses vaccinia virus, a relatively benign cousin of the smallpox virus, it can cause potentially serious health problems and occasionally death. The officials argue that the health risks from widespread vaccination outweigh the risk of a smallpox attack, which most experts consider unlikely.

Also, other countries might assume that any country that vaccinated its people was preparing to use smallpox as a weapon. Even if that assumption were false, experts say, a widespread vaccination could have serious unintended military repercussions.

But others, especially in the American and Russian military, argue that revaccinating selected populations, like soldiers and "first responders," is the only sensible thing to do. If there is an outbreak of the disease, they warn, millions might die, given the increasingly mobile and global world before an epidemic could be contained.

But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said that in case of a smallpox outbreak, it will send immunized health workers to vaccinate people around the site of the outbreak in an effort to contain it.

Washington Times

April 26, 2002

Pg. 7

## Inside The Ring

By Bill Gertz and Rowan Scarborough

### **Bear H intercept**

Two Russian strategic nuclear bombers flew within 37 miles of Alaska recently in a rare probe of U.S. air defenses, according to U.S. intelligence officials.

The Tu-95 Bear H bombers were part of a group of four bombers that deployed recently to the military air base near Anadyr, a port in the northern Far East of Russia. The bombers can carry up to 16 Kh-55 strategic cruise missiles, which are equipped with 200-kiloton nuclear warheads.

The bombers flew north along the coast of Alaska. The Air Force scrambled two F-15 jet fighters to intercept the propeller-driven bombers. The F-15s shadowed the bombers for a short distance and then broke off.

It was the first time since September 11 that the Russian military made a run at U.S. air defenses. Russian military forces in the Far East were involved in strategic nuclear forces exercises when the terrorist attacks occurred. They halted the maneuvers, which U.S. military intelligence expected would have included air defense probes like the one that occurred recently.

The Russian bomber probe took place as U.S. and Russian officials in Moscow failed to reach the terms of a new accord on strategic arms reduction. It also took place amid recent criticism by officials in Moscow of U.S. intelligence-sharing on terrorism.

Viktor Komogorov, deputy director of Russia's Federal Security Service, formerly the domestic branch of the Soviet KGB, said Russia provided the CIA with 100 reports in February but received only 50 from the agency, the Interfax news agency reported. He criticized the CIA report as "bare facts" and said Russia's reports included terrorist plans and intentions. "This is not the kind of cooperation in resisting international terrorism that we had counted on," he said, noting that Russian requests for more U.S. intelligence were denied.

Baltimore Sun

April 25, 2002

## **Radar Used By Meteorologists Could Detect Chemical Release**

By Lane Harvey Brown, Sun Staff

Radar used by television meteorologists and the National Weather Service could play a critical role in detecting the airborne release of lethal chemicals in a terrorist attack, say researchers at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

In tests last week using a crop-duster over the Gulf of Mexico, the Army found four types of radar systems that can detect simulated chemical and biological agents released into the air, said Robert Lyons, a civilian team leader in the Army's Office of the Project Manager for Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defense Systems. The office is based at the proving ground.

The results were promising, Lyons said yesterday. "We feel pretty confident that there are radar available in this country that can do this mission," he said.

The discovery is important because radar systems blanket the country. The National Weather Service has 153 Doppler radar sites, each with a range of 25 miles. If these and other systems could be equipped to detect lethal agents accurately, the country would gain an extensive early-warning system, researchers said.

Lyons said the radar computers would need only a software upgrade. Evaluation of the data from last week's tests is expected to take four months, he said. After that, researchers can design the software needed to refine the radar's tracking ability.

The goal is to have a basic chemical-biological detection system in place around the country within 18 to 24 months, Lyons said, with upgrades to follow over several years.

The C-Band system, a type of radar commonly used by TV weather forecasters, showed the best preliminary results, he said. "We were really pleased with the performance of this system. You could see the plane fly in and the cloud being released at 19 miles away," he said.

Lyons said the clouds emerged on the radar as Level 3 weather events, or severe thunderstorms. But the simulated-agent clouds appeared and disappeared quickly on the radar - a phenomenon easily distinguished from storms, he said.

The experiment also tested the effectiveness of the four radar systems for drug interdiction and ground surveillance. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency participated in the tests off the Florida Keys, flying the crop-duster and providing the simulants, Lyons said. Ethanol, diluted polyethylene glycol (found in eye drops and cosmetics), powdered egg whites, clay dust and irradiated vegetable spores were used.

Who will monitor the data and other operational matters have not been decided, said Col. Christopher J. Parker, project manager.

"A lot of things have to be worked out yet," he said. "We're very confident the technical side is there now."

The Office of the Project Manager for Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defense Systems also develops protection devices for soldiers such as gas masks, agent-detection monitors and pressurized tents that medical units can use for surgery on agent-contaminated battlefields.

New York Times

April 26, 2002

## **More Anthrax At Connecticut Mail Center**

By The Associated Press

WALLINGFORD, Conn., April 25 — Anthrax spores have been found for a second time at a postal sorting center that serves a large portion of Connecticut, including the town where a 94-year-old woman died of inhalation anthrax in November, officials said tonight.

Three of 103 samples taken at 71 locations inside the southern Connecticut processing and distribution center tested positive for anthrax, said William Gerrish, a spokesman for the State Department of Health. "What we feel is that these probably represent residual spores from contamination occurring last October," he said. "These largely undisturbed spores don't pose an immediate threat to the health and safety of the employees or the public."

The 350,000-square-foot complex was tested six times last year after the death of Ottilie W. Lundgren on Nov. 21.

The Wallingford center is the largest in the state, handling nearly all its incoming mail.

The center was tested again on Sunday and the positive samples were found in the ceiling above three of the four sorting machines that were contaminated last fall. The Postal Service said in a news release that the samples were taken before a routine cleaning. Postal union members and federal safety regulators monitored the testing; union officials had criticized the decision not to close the center during testing, which the union said could stir up spores. The postal service said today that the center would remain open, with the locations of the positive samples isolated and work transferred to other locations in Connecticut and the Northeast during decontamination.

USA Today

April 26, 2002

Pg. 11

## **Senator: Bioterrorism Risk Is High And Still Increasing**

Biological terrorism remains a serious threat to America, Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., warned. "The risk is real. The risk is increasing. Our vulnerability remains high," Frist said at a briefing in an office building closed for months following last fall's anthrax-by-mail attacks.

Frist, a transplant surgeon, said the anthrax attack "was very successful...and as far as we know, this person's still out there." More than 20 people were infected and five died after anthrax tainted letters were mailed from New Jersey.

Frist also said 11 to 17 countries either have stockpiled biological weapons or have bioweapons programs, but nine out of 10 public health departments in the USA don't have anyone trained in combating bioterrorism.