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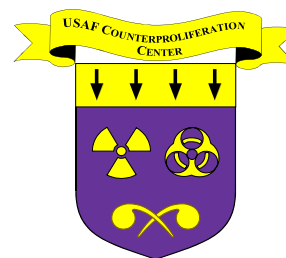
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Solving the Anthrax Case—With No Mistakes

Despite a cautious pace, FBI officials insist they are making progress

By Eleanor Clift, Michael Isikoff and Mark Miller

NEWSWEEK

July 15 issue — Amid unusually intense political pressure, FBI officials are sharply divided over the next steps in their nine-month-old anthrax investigation, law-enforcement sources say.

TWICE IN RECENT WEEKS, bureau officials have been hauled up to the Senate to give private briefings on the state of the probe—to staff members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and to Majority Leader Tom Daschle. Such briefings in the midst of an ongoing case are highly unusual, officials say. But the FBI reluctantly agreed, given that both Daschle and judiciary chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy had deadly anthrax-laden letters sent to their offices last fall.

The senators and their staffs were demanding answers in the wake of media criticism—much of it generated by Barbara Rosenberg of the Federation of American Scientists, who has charged that the bureau is dragging its feet in the probe for fear of embarrassing officials in the U.S. bioweapons program. FBI officials dismiss Rosenberg's conspiracy theories as nonsense, but some of her ideas (that the perpetrator is a U.S. researcher, for one) have support in the bio community and on the Hill. (After his own briefing, Daschle pronounced himself satisfied.) In fact, sources say, many bureau agents working the case are increasingly convinced that the culprit will be found among the relatively small number of U.S. scientists—most of them with the highest level of security clearances—who were working on anthrax and other aspects of U.S. bioweapons research. Most of these scientists have been associated with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md., an important facility for bioweapons research and home to some of the deadliest pathogens, including the Ebola and Marburg viruses and smallpox, as well as anthrax.

Investigators are working from a rolling list with anywhere from a half dozen to 20 people under scrutiny. Names stay on the list until they can be cleared, a process dubbed Operation Elimination. But the task has proven frustrating. Two weeks ago the FBI searched the apartment of one veteran researcher, Dr. Steven J. Hatfill. Authorities say he has adamantly denied any involvement in the attacks, and the search produced no evidence implicating him, causing field agents to pull back. Some agents would like to step up the pressure, but others are more cautious. "I don't want it coming to us that we created a [Richard] Jewell," said one senior law-enforcement official, referring to the man wrongly accused of planting a bomb during the Atlanta Olympics. The lack of progress has been dispiriting and some officials believe the FBI needs to start looking in other directions. But top bureau officials still insist they are making progress. "We're light-years ahead of where we were months ago," said one.

<http://www.msnbc.com/news/777067.asp>

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British News

July 08, 2002

Met may try 'dirty bomb' detectors

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

SCOTLAND YARD commanders are studying the use of radiation detectors issued to American police amid fears of an al-Qaeda attack using a "dirty" nuclear device.

New York police patrols have been using the pocket-sized detectors since September 11 and larger detectors are being set up outside buildings in the city.

US Customs has already issued 4,200 of the radiation detectors, which are the size of pagers, to its inspectors and equipped 200 vans with other detectors in an attempt to catch the smugglers of nuclear material.

Metropolitan Police officers have been liaising with the FBI and New York police since last September, evaluating how effective the American measures are and have not ruled out buying the detectors.

A Metropolitan Police spokeswoman said that the force was "vigorously planning" for a range of terrorist threats. "We are exploring a range of options and researching any new technology which might be available," she said.

Sir John Stevens, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has ordered a beefing-up of the police teams that will deal with a chemical, biological or nuclear terrorist attack.

The officers have been given training by experts, including scientists from Porton Down, the Government's biological and chemical defence centre. Military specialists provided information on nuclear attacks.

Now a regular training programme has been launched at Scotland Yard's public order and riot training centre in West London and the numbers of officers trained has increased fivefold. The £900 black radiation detection gadgets, which weigh 6oz and are about the size of a packet of cigarettes, are carried in a Velcro belt holster and are powered by two AA batteries. When they detect radiation, the devices vibrate, sound a tone and flash yellow lights.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-350239,00.html>

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Biologic agents' test data sought

An effort in Congress digs for details on a secret Navy program.

By David Whitney -- Bee Washington Bureau

Published 2:15 a.m. PDT Saturday, July 6, 2002

WASHINGTON -- Jack Alderson doesn't regard himself as a Navy hero. But at age 68 and more than three decades after retiring from the service, he is still fighting for his men.

Alderson, who lives in the historic Victorian town of Ferndale in Humboldt County when he isn't undergoing cancer treatment, is a leading force behind an effort in Congress to make the Defense Department open the files on a secret chemical and biological warfare test program in the 1960s.

The program was nicknamed SHAD, the acronym for Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense. There were 113 separate tests associated with the program, and so far, under pressure from Capitol Hill and veterans groups, the Defense Department has released only summaries of just 12 tests.

The tests had names like Autumn Gold, Fearless Johnny and Shady Grove. Alderson was the Navy's commander in charge for the Shady Grove tests done in the Pacific Ocean near Johnston Island, far from the shores of the Hawaiian Islands, in early 1965. For weeks, Navy aircraft would swoop down in the dark of night and disperse chemical and biological agents onto the five tugboats under Alderson's command.

The Pentagon insisted for decades that there were no such tests. And then it confessed that there might have been some tests but said no one had been at risk because the agents used were not that bad and the Navy personnel were adequately trained and protected.

About a month ago, however, the summary information on the 12 tests revealed a different story. Among the agents used in the tests were some of the most deadly on Earth -- including VX, an oily, odorless and tasteless nerve agent described in one summary as "one of the most toxic substances ever synthesized."

Other agents included sarin, the gas used in the domestic terrorist attack in a Tokyo subway, and E. coli bacteria.

In the Shady Grove tests, according to the summary, the agents included *Coxiella burnetii*, which causes Q fever in humans, and *Pasteurella tularensis*, which causes tularemia, or rabbit fever.

Alderson, still bound to secrecy because of the tests' top-secret classification, said those agents were "only the tip of the iceberg."

"I can tell you we did a hell of a lot more than tularemia and Q fever," he said.

But what is most worrisome is not what was sprayed on the tugs, but the powerful chemicals that were used to decontaminate the vessels between tests. Some now are known to cause cancer.

That has Alderson wondering about his own health. This week he began treatment for prostate cancer. It isn't his first bout with "the Big C," as he calls it. He's a survivor of the most virulent form of a skin cancer, melanoma.

"If you would have asked me five years ago if these tests had anything to do with it, I would have said no," Alderson

said in a telephone interview from his daughter's house just before heading for prostate cancer treatment in Loma Linda.

"But it is unusual to get two Big C's in your lifetime, isn't it?" he asked.

What haunts Alderson is the fate of the military personnel under his command. How many were involved in the tests is not known, but it is probably on the order of 300 or so in the Shady Grove tests alone. Alderson wonders how many are sick from the chemicals, and why the Defense Department and the Veterans Administration aren't doing anything to help them.

The Defense Department says it has been doing a records search since August 2000 to help the VA find information that could shed light on claims by veterans that their health was damaged by the SHAD test program.

"The investigation has been a slow process, partially because in the Cold War era, this kind of information was classified," the department said in a statement in May. "Also, investigators are searching through archived, poorly filed information about events that occurred four decades ago."

While 113 tests were planned, the department said many were not conducted. It vowed to continue searching the more extensive records of the Deseret Test Center, of which the SHAD program was a part, and will make information about additional tests available to the VA -- including the names of ships and personnel involved -- as it is discovered.

In the meantime, Alderson, who was the chief executive officer of the Humboldt Bay Harbor District until he retired five years ago, turned for help to his congressman, Vietnam veteran Mike Thompson. The St. Helena Democrat was a leading force behind the release of the summary information on the 12 known tests. Last week, he introduced legislation that not only would declassify information on the other 101 tests, but would direct the General Accounting Office to scour military files to identify other similar testing programs.

"Jack is the reason I did this," Thompson said. "He brought this to my attention about three years ago. I started looking into it for him -- and for the credibility of our country and out of respect for our veterans."

Information about SHAD tests is only now coming out because of this pressure. Alderson and others in the program were told when they retired that the tests were classified secrets and that they could be imprisoned for releasing any information.

The purpose of the tests was laudable. The military wanted to know how vulnerable its ships were to chemical or biological weapons attack. To find out, they sent ships far out to sea and, in one way or another, doused them with the agents. Often, particularly during training, simulants were used instead of the toxic agents. In several of the Shady Grove tests, monkeys were put on deck to take the full brunt of the agents while the crew stayed below in a pressure-sealed cabin.

After sunrise, the crew would emerge wearing cotton coveralls and gas masks to wash the decks with decontaminates. When they were finished, the coveralls would be deposited in trash cans that again were sprayed with decontaminates, and the tug would head back to the supply ship, the USS Granville S. Hall, to be restocked for the next night of tests. At its peak, when wind and sea conditions were favorable, it was virtually an around-the-clock operation.

"We were trained, and quite well," said one of the tug captains, Gerald Forstner, 66, of Chula Vista.

"We understood that the sunshine would be enough to do away with these bad agents," Forstner said. But what they didn't know, he said, is the dangers of the decontaminates.

Forstner, who has chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, believes that it may have been caused by those chemicals; he has filed a claim with the VA.

According to a September 2001 assessment by the Veterans Administration of the health implications of the test

program, obtained by the Vietnam Veterans of America under the Freedom of Information Act, the mortality rate from respiratory and cerebrovascular disease among SHAD participants is three times the expected rate. The study was based on 97 deceased SHAD participants.

Of particular concern was the use of a decontaminant called betapropiolactone. "There is evidence b-propiolactone is a carcinogen," according to VA records that have been made public.

"It causes nasal tumors in mice, stomach cancer in mice and skin lesions in laboratory animals," said Pat Eddington, associate director of government relations for Vietnam Veterans of America.

"There were studies on this as early as 1966. But they are trying to play down any connection between this and health problems," he said. "In my view this is medical malpractice and fraud. Forget the stuff that was used that we know kills people.

"This single decontaminant is carcinogenic."

Eddington praised the legislation introduced by Thompson in the House and in the Senate by Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., because he said it is the start of a new humanitarian approach to such testing by the military.

"We'd like to see a completely separate institute at the National Institutes of Health looking at what these agents do, with mandatory declassification of information that might be important to the health of veterans," he said.

Thompson said he has no objections to the military studying how to defend itself against attack.

"I'd hate to believe that our government knowingly put these guys at risk," Thompson said. "At least I will start by stipulating that."

But what they did wrong, he said, is not owning up to these tests and not working with the veterans to make sure their health needs are addressed.

"What we need to find out is who was on those ships, (and) what were they exposed to, and then give these guys that information so that they can hook up with the VA to find out if there's a relationship between this testing and their health problems," he said.

Hearings on exposure risks from the testing programs are being scheduled in the House and Senate, with the first set for Wednesday.

<http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/story/3473820p-4502731c.html>

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Volunteers Undergo Vaccine Trials

By PAUL ELIAS

AP Biotechnology Writer

July 9, 2002, 3:54 AM EDT

SAN FRANCISCO -- With the jab of a needle, volunteers are being injected with a smallpox vaccine as part of government-sponsored experiments that come amid heightened fear of biological terrorism.

About 330 volunteers will be inoculated with diluted doses of the vaccine over the next two weeks at four sites across the nation. On Monday, the Oakland Medical Center began vaccinating 50 volunteers.

Researchers will test two vaccines. One, known as Dryvax, was made 20 years ago and consists of 15 million doses. The other is more than 70 million doses that Aventis Pasteur Inc. donated to the government, which now must

determine whether the vaccines are still useable.

For decades, Aventis' doses sat nearly unnoticed in a walk-in freezer at a remote mountainside lab in Pennsylvania. The firm thought the contents of their freezer were so worthless they were planning to destroy the stockpile.

Then came Sept. 11 and the ensuing anthrax attacks.

Suddenly the nation's available supply of vaccine for smallpox, a disease that had been declared eradicated worldwide in 1980, was deemed crucial.

"In the past year, I think we've all become more aware of the possibility of a bioterrorist attack in the United States," said Steve Black, co-director of the Vaccine Research Center at Oakland Medical Center.

"I hope we never need to use this vaccine again, but it's important to make certain that if we do it will be available and it will work," Black said. "If we can show that this vaccine stock is still effective, it will go a long way toward making a dose of smallpox vaccine available for everyone in the U.S."

Volunteers have already begun receiving the vaccine at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., and the University of Iowa. Baylor College of Medicine, in Houston, also is enrolling volunteers. Results are expected by mid-August.

The tests are part of a \$12.6 million National Institutes of Health grant awarded last year to Vanderbilt, which is overseeing the experiment and will enroll about 90 volunteers of its own.

Federal officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now are considering vaccinating as many as 500,000 health care workers and emergency personnel who would be first to see any smallpox cases. Because the vaccine carries significant risks -- including death -- officials do not want to resume mass vaccinations.

Bioterrorism experts consider the possibility of a smallpox attack one of the most frightening, albeit unlikely, threats because one infected patient could infect many others.

Health workers will inject the vaccine, the area will be bandaged and the area will be checked. Subsequent blood tests will determine whether the test subjects develop the antibodies needed to fight off the disease.

Two studies released in March by The New England Journal of Medicine found that out of the 700 previously unvaccinated young adults who received some of the Dryvax vaccine, one-third had pain bad enough to miss school, work or other activities after being inoculated. While no one in the study fell seriously ill, some experienced fever, headache, nausea, muscle aches, lesions and swelling.

<http://www.newsday.com/news/health/wire/sns-ap-smallpox-vaccines0709jul09.story>

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USA > Justice

from the July 10, 2002 edition

Anthrax case homes in on unusual suspect

The FBI narrows list of people it wants to interview to 30 scientists at two army labs.

BY FAYE BOWERS / *Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor*

WASHINGTON – The FBI has someone in mind. He is a loner, a science nerd with access to a sophisticated lab. He has a reason to be peeved, and he's familiar with the Trenton, N.J., area. This Unabomber-like person, officials say, mailed the anthrax-laced letters last fall that resulted in five deaths.

Narrowing its nine-month search in the past two weeks, the FBI has closed in on two government labs that work with anthrax, and to several scientists who have the expertise, the access, and possibly the motive to carry out the worst bioweapons attack against this country.

A government official says they are now focused "more heavily than other places" on the US Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) – the Pentagon's primary biodefense research center – and the Dugway Proving Ground in Utah. He says the FBI has narrowed the list of people it's "interested in interviewing" to some 30 people – all US-based biological warfare experts.

Jerrold Post, professor of psychiatry at The George Washington University and a former personality profiler for the CIA, says the FBI's personality sketch sounds quite accurate. But he says the perpetrator's characteristics are also what make this case so difficult to solve.

If it's a group, Dr. Post says, it's much easier to track – there are financial transactions, phone calls, and often paper trails of some sort. But when it's one troubled individual – like the Unabomber, who killed three people and injured 23 more over a 17-year period – it's very difficult to catch him unless he trips himself up (as by publishing his manifesto in a newspaper that his brother read). Everything points to "someone with technical expertise and ability," Post says.

Casting a wide net

The FBI has questioned several biodefense experts recently, and searched several private homes – with their owners' permission. They've interviewed one former USAMRIID virologist four times and searched his home twice. And they are currently administering polygraph tests to more than 200 former and current employees of these two government labs which store quantities of anthrax spores.

The government official says this is just really "a lot of tedious spade-work."

A massive sleuthing effort

But this wearisome gumshoe effort has, in fact, become the FBI's second-largest inquiry – just behind the Sept. 11 hijackings investigation. The bureau has asked most of its field offices and overseas staff to help. So far, agents have interviewed some 5,000 people, issued 1,700 grand jury subpoenas, polygraphed hundreds of people, and created 112 databases just for this case. The bottom line hasn't been tallied, but both dollars and man-hours are up in the high millions. Still, it's not clear when the FBI will make an arrest. And its effort – sometimes called plodding – is coming under attack.

"I have been puzzled by the slow pace," says Jonathan Tucker, director of the chemical and biological weapons nonproliferation program at the Washington-based Monterey Institute. "It is hard to know if it is because [the FBI has] never done anything like this before and are on a steep learning curve, or if it's merely incompetence, or if something more nefarious is going on within the intelligence community."

Dr. Tucker is referring to charges lodged by several biodefense insiders, but especially those by the outspoken Barbara Hatch Rosenberg, chair of the Federation of American Scientists Working Group on Biological Weapons.

Controversial claims

She claims the FBI has long had genetic evidence that points to the USAMRIID as the source of the Ames strain of anthrax sent in the letters. Dr. Rosenberg, who says she's talked with the Senate Judiciary Committee staff, as well as FBI officials, says that early in the investigation, several biodefense insiders told the FBI that there were only 50 to 100 people "with the necessary expertise and access to do the job. Of these, most could probably be readily eliminated ... leaving, in the estimation of knowledgeable experts, a likely pool no larger than 10."

"Yet they've been casting a very broad net," she says. "It makes no sense."

She points out that the FBI did not open the envelope with the anthrax intact that was sent in October to Sen. Patrick Leahy (D) of Vermont until December, and didn't collect anthrax strains from labs for comparisons until March. The testing of those samples is still not complete.

Even so, the government official says they have not ruled anything out – including someone who doesn't fit the profile, such as a foreigner, or someone who doesn't work at a biodefense lab. The FBI may be reluctant to press its case to the DOJ until it has an airtight case (remember Richard Jewell and the Atlanta Olympics as well as Wen Ho Lee).

"The FBI will need enough solid evidence to bring to the DOJ [Department of Justice]. It's the DOJ that issues warrants – when they think the FBI has enough to go on," says Peter Crooks, a retired FBI official who specialized in counterterrorism.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2002/0710/p02s01-usju.html>

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July 9, 2002

No. 355-02

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOD EXPANDS SHAD INVESTIGATION

The Department of Defense announced today an expansion of the Shipboard Hazard and Defense investigation. A team of investigators will travel to Dugway Proving Ground in mid-August to review Deseret Test Center records. "DoD has an obligation to all servicemembers - past and present - to keep them informed of any event during their military career that might threaten their health," said Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. "We are committed to providing the Veterans Administration with the medically relevant information as quickly and efficiently as possible."

The Shipboard Hazard and Defense program was a subset of Project 112, a chemical and biological weapons vulnerability-testing program conducted by the Deseret Test Center from 1963 to 1969. The tests consisted of joint exercises involving the Army's Deseret Test Center, several Army and Navy vessels and Marine Corps and Air Force aircraft. Some veterans have expressed concern that they may have been exposed to harmful substances during these classified tests. To date, DoD has published 12 fact sheets that chronicle ships and units involved in the tests, when the tests took place, and the substances to which the crews may have been exposed. So far, investigators have identified approximately 2,700 to 2,800 servicemembers involved in these 12 tests, many in more than one test. Winkenwerder says the declassification of ship and personnel information for an additional 17 SHAD tests is under way; completion and publication of additional fact sheets is expected in early fall. The work to be done at Dugway in August will complete the investigation of all Project 112 tests conducted by the Deseret Test Center.

"We plan to augment staff as needed to finish this task efficiently and quickly," he said. "We owe our SHAD veterans resolution to events that took place four decades ago."

Veterans who believe they were involved in SHAD tests and desire medical evaluations should call the VA's Helpline at (800) 749-8387. SHAD fact sheets are available on line at

http://deploymentlink.osd.mil/current_issues/shad/shad_intro.shtml .

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Homeland Security: New Department Could Improve Biomedical R&D Coordination but May Disrupt Dual-Purpose Efforts,

by Janet Heinrich, director, health care--public health issues, before the Subcommittee on

Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

GAO-02-924T, July 9.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-02-924T>

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Homeland Security: Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002,

by (Ms.) Gary L. Jones, director, natural resources and environment issues, before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

GAO-02-927T, July 9.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-02-927T>

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Washington Times
July 10, 2002
Pg. 8

Chemical Weapon Leaks During Test

TOOELE — Trace amounts of a poisonous chemical weapon called lewisite leaked from a filter stack during tests at the Deseret Chemical Depot, the Army said.

There was no danger to workers, surrounding communities or the environment at the site in western Utah, southwest of Salt Lake City, the Army said Monday.

Laboratory analysis confirmed that the leak occurred last week during a test of safe disposal methods.

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USA Today
July 10, 2002
Pg. 10

U.S. To Keep 2,400 Nukes In Reserve Despite Treaty

By Bill Nichols, USA Today

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell said Tuesday that even though a new U.S.-Russia pact reduces the nuclear arsenals of both sides to less than 2,200 warheads within ten years, the United States plans to keep another 2,400 warheads on reserve.

Critics of the accord signed in Moscow on May 24 by President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin have complained that it does not require either side to destroy any weapons. Instead, an unlimited number can be kept on reserve as long as active warheads are reduced to a range between 1,700 and 2,200. Russia and the United States each now have about 6,000 active warheads.

Powell's comments, at a hearing on ratification of the new treaty before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, were the first public indication by the administration on how large the U.S. nuclear reserve would be. He said the Pentagon envisions a maximum force of 4,600 active and reserve warheads by 2012.

Administration officials say that while Bush is committed to large-scale nuclear reductions, he wants a sizable nuclear reserve force for unforeseen events, such as a downturn in U.S.-Russia relations.

Russia has not said how many warheads it would keep on reserve status. Russian officials have said they want to destroy as many warheads as possible, given that Putin's financially strapped government has little money to provide for the upkeep of Russia's nuclear arsenal.

Committee Chairman Joseph Biden, D-Del., took Powell's words as a signal that the administration plans to destroy at least 1,400 of its current 6,000 warheads. "It was welcome news that they're going to destroy something," Biden said.

He added, however, that he would like to hear Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld echo Powell's figures when Rumsfeld testifies on the Moscow treaty before the committee next week.

Pentagon officials did not dispute the accuracy of Powell's comments Tuesday.

Some arms control experts, however, view Powell's comments as evidence that the administration does not plan deep nuclear cuts. "What this means is that we are managing a Cold War-size nuclear force into the foreseeable future," said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association.

Powell urged the Senate to ratify the treaty as soon as possible. He called the pact — a three-page document that puts few requirements on either country — an outgrowth of a new U.S.-Russia relationship.

"This is a different treaty in a different world than the one I knew so well as a soldier," said Powell, a retired Army general and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "Its simplicity is a reflection of the new world we live in." Most senators indicated they were likely to support the treaty. Biden said it was his "hope and expectation" that the pact would be ratified by the Senate before Congress adjourns this year.

Other members criticized the treaty's lack of detail. Concerns:

- * Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., said that while he supports the treaty, it points up the need for more U.S. financial aid to help Russia dismantle its nuclear weapons. Powell said the administration already gives Moscow about \$1 billion a year for that purpose.

- * Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., said the pact's lack of a system to verify cuts marks "a huge contradiction in this treaty." Powell said the agreement will use some verification systems from the START I nuclear treaty between the United States and Soviet Union.

* Senator Russell Feingold, D-Wis., questioned the treaty provision that allows either country to pull out of it with three month's notice. Feingold, the only committee member to suggest he might oppose the pact, said he believes a treaty can only be repealed by an act of Congress.

Contributing: Dave Moniz.

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Washington Post

July 10, 2002

Pg. 12

Democrats Question Arms Control Treaty

Pact Still Faces Few Obstacles in Senate

By Peter Slevin, Washington Post Staff Writer

Democratic senators criticized the Bush administration's approach to nuclear arms control yesterday, questioning the wisdom of a U.S.-Russia treaty that makes deep cuts in long-range nuclear arsenals but provides few verification measures and no guarantee that decommissioned weapons would be destroyed.

No significant objections emerged, however, as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee opened hearings on the agreement reached in May by President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin to reduce each country's nuclear stockpiles by two-thirds.

Committee Chairman Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D-Del.) said that while he believes the treaty does not go far enough, he will vote in favor of ratification -- suggesting that Bush's first major arms control deal faces no serious obstacles to Senate approval this fall.

"It's a good treaty. It could've been a good deal better," Biden said after the committee spent 2 1/2 hours questioning Secretary of State Colin L. Powell. Biden and other senators said they might seek further conditions or encourage a side agreement with the Russians when they make their expected ratification recommendation to Bush.

Powell spoke passionately about the treaty's promise of drastically reducing strategic stockpiles by Dec. 31, 2012.

Calling Russia an "emerging partner," he testified that verification measures are sufficient and said upcoming talks with the Russians are likely to lead to more exchanges of information.

To critics who noted that the treaty expires one day after the two countries have cut their arsenals from 6,000 warheads to fewer than 2,200, Powell said the deal likely will be superseded by more ambitious agreements.

The treaty, signed on May 24 in Moscow, is strikingly different from earlier pacts with Russia and its Soviet predecessor. In place of a thick document with definitions and caveats, the treaty fills less than two pages. While existing verification measures would cover much of the same ground, the treaty is built on the presumption that the former superpower rivals are no longer enemies.

Also, unlike earlier strategic nuclear treaties that removed delivery systems from service, the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty takes warheads out of service, but allows the United States and Russia to retain the missiles, submarines and bombers that carry them. It also does not require the destruction of decommissioned warheads.

Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), posing the most pointed questions, complained of shortfalls and "contradictions" in the treaty, and said Bush sacrificed details to reach a deal with Putin. Kerry asked Powell why the United States needs so many warheads if Russia is a friend.

"The goal of accountability, verifiability, mutual destruction of weapons . . . was completely neutered simply to arrive at some agreement that says we're going to have, in 10 years, less warheads on missiles," Kerry said.

Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) called the deal a "tremendous accomplishment." He said if the agreement had included all that its critics wanted, "it would surely have been crushed under its own weight."

During the hearing, Powell announced that he will travel to India and Pakistan before the end of the month, extending the administration's efforts to keep the peace between the two nuclear-armed countries.

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Bloomberg.com
July 9, 2002

Iran Probably Deploying New Medium-Range Missile, Pentagon Says

By Tony Capaccio

Washington -- Iran probably has deployed a new missile capable of hitting Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Israel, according to U.S. defense officials.

That would put these allies at risk should the U.S. attack Iranian targets such as the nuclear power facility at Bushehr, which the U.S. suspects is accelerating Iran's effort to acquire nuclear weapons.

Iran is one of three nations President George W. Bush has called "evil" because it develops weapons of mass destruction and "exports terror." Bush has said the U.S. will strike first to prevent nations and terrorist groups from obtaining nuclear, biological or chemical weapons of mass destruction.

The first of at least four test flights of Iran's Shahab-3 missile was in July 1998, the latest in May. "The Shahab-3 has completed development and a few missiles are likely deployed, which would allow Iran to reach Israel, most of Saudi Arabia, and Turkey," the Pentagon stated in response to questions from Bloomberg News.

"The U.S. government is now saying that the Shahab-3 is no longer experimental, no longer just a 'program,' but it is now a weapon that needs to be factored into U.S. planning," said Kenneth Katzman, a Middle East policy analyst for the non-partisan Congressional Research Service. "It reflects a ratcheting up of official concern about Iran's weapons-of-mass-destruction programs."

Israel's Assessment

The Pentagon puts the Shahab-3's range at 1,300 kilometers (806 miles). The range may be closer to 3,000 kilometers (1,860 miles), Ephraim Halevy, head of the Israeli secret service, Mossad, told NATO's North Atlantic Council last month, according to the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz.

A 3,000-kilometer missile could reach Tel Aviv and Cairo as well as Athens and Istanbul. Iran has particularly strained relations with Israel, having opposed the U.S.-led Middle East peace process since its inception.

Iran also provides material support to the Hezbollah terrorist group in Lebanon and Palestinian militant groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

The Shahab-3 is the first new missile fielded by any of the three countries Bush labeled an "axis of evil" in his State of the Union speech in January, Katzman said. The other two countries are Iraq and North Korea.

The deployment occurred "about a month ago," Representative Curt Weldon, a Pennsylvania Republican and strong advocate of fielding a U.S. missile defense system, told Bloomberg News.

"From what I can tell, we are now convinced that Iran has mastered the Shahab-3 program and is moving on to the longer-range Shahab-4 which threatens all of Europe," Weldon said.

Russia's Role

The Shahab-3's design is based on the North Korean No Dong missile and it incorporates Chinese and Russian technology, according to unclassified reports.

"Iran is acquiring Russian technology which could significantly accelerate the pace of its ballistic missile development program," said the Pentagon report.

Deployment of the missile might complicate U.S. efforts to enlist Russia to join in research, development and possible production of a global missile defense network.

Russia's continuing assistance to Iran is "at odds with so many other aspects" of Russia's new relationship with the U.S., Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz told Bloomberg News.

'Little Sense'

"What the Russians are doing makes so little sense from their point of view: to be putting that type of equipment in the hands of people who could potentially be a major problem for Russia."

The assistance "hasn't terminated as it should have," Wolfowitz said.

The U.S. must continue to press Russia and to find ways to force it to crack down on companies, state-sponsored research institutes and individuals suspected of assisting Iran, he said.

"There's no way we can cooperate with them on missile defense if the technology goes out the back door to countries like Iran," Wolfowitz told the House Armed Services Committee June 28.

The Pentagon's "evaluation is a little hard to believe," said Joseph Cirincione, an analyst with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace who's written extensively about possible exaggerations of the ballistic missile threat.

"It is a stretch to say that they have 'completed development,'" Cirincione said. "More likely is that Iranian defense officials, anxious to show some progress in the troubled program, have fielded a few missiles while development

continues. Whether or how they will perform is unknown, not just to us but probably to the Iranians as well," he said.

"The Shahab-3 has had a very troubled test program with two of three or possibly four flight test missiles exploding during their boost phase," he said. "Previous intelligence estimates had stated that some could be deployed on an emergency basis. That more cautious estimate seems closer to reality."

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New York Times
July 10, 2002

Cleaning Up Deadly Soviet Debris

Russia, Norway and the European Union agreed on a \$1.78 billion plan to clean up Soviet-era nuclear debris in the Baltic and Barents Seas. Hundreds of rusting nuclear submarines and old nuclear reactors lie abandoned, mainly on the Kola Peninsula near the border of the union's northernmost member, Finland. The debris poses an environmental threat to all countries in the region, the union's external relations commissioner, Chris Patten, warned.

Paul Meller (NYT)

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Washington Times
July 11, 2002
Pg. 7

Pentagon Concedes Weapons Neglect

By Associated Press

Pentagon and Veterans Affairs officials acknowledged yesterday they have been slow to investigate chemical and biological weapons tests of the 1960s and to notify soldiers who may have been exposed.

"We could have and should have done better," VA benefits official Daniel Cooper told the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

The Defense Department conceded for the first time in May that some of the tests involved spraying U.S. ships in the Pacific with the nerve agents sarin and VX and a biological toxin that causes flulike symptoms. The Pentagon has so far identified about 2,800 military personnel involved in the tests.

But the VA has sent letters to only 622 of them, Mr. Cooper said, because finding the veterans has been difficult.

The VA has to match the names with Social Security numbers and then ask the Internal Revenue Service for current addresses, Mr. Cooper said. The VA sent another 800 names to the IRS this week, he said.

Senators on the committee were furious with the delays.

"This is about the Department of Defense attitude," committee Chairman John D. Rockefeller IV, West Virginia Democrat, told Pentagon officials. "Do you guys care? I'm not sure. ... You've got some explaining to do."

Dr. William Winkenwerder, the Pentagon's top health official, said he could not explain why it took three years for the military to begin investigating the weapons tests after a request from the VA in 1997. Dr. Winkenwerder said he does care about veterans and has made investigating the tests a top priority.

"The public and our veterans need to know what went on, and I'm very committed to that," Dr. Winkenwerder said. He said the Pentagon hopes to release the details of another 27 tests within a month.

The tests were part of Project 112, a series of more than 100 experiments meant to evaluate chemical and biological weapons and U.S. defenses against them.

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Aerospace Daily
July 11, 2002

Cosumano: DOD Needs To Focus On Cruise Missile Defense Development

While agreeing that the United States should develop its ballistic missile defense capabilities, the head of Army Space and Missile Defense Command said cruise missile defenses are not getting enough attention from the Defense Department.

Cruise missiles are "relatively cheap" and "simple to build," Army Lt. Gen. Joseph Cosumano, the head of SMDC and Army Space Command, said July 10, at a missile defense forum in Washington. While about 75 percent of the world's cruise missiles are anti-ship missiles, he said, "It seems to me and others that look at this that there has been a shift to land-attack cruise missiles over the last few years."

Learning from the United States' success with land-attack cruise missiles, potential enemies are building up their own capabilities, he said, and these missiles could pose an increasing threat to the continental United States.

"As we look at our programs, we ought to balance our capabilities to defeat both ballistic missiles ... and the increasing threat of cruise missiles," he said.

Part of the problem, he said, is that the organization most closely associated with cruise missile defense, the Joint Theater Air and Missile Defense Organization, was never given the oversight responsibilities it needed to act as a focal point for research and development. JTAMDO, which according to some analysts has languished since it was created in 1996, has been somewhat more active since Sept. 11. Over the past year, JTADMO has taken a leading role in developing a homeland air defense architecture and an integrated missile defense strategy.

Cosumano said the Pentagon should centralize research and development activities for cruise missile defense in one organization, the way the Missile Defense Agency handles ballistic missile defense. "You need a focal point to pull it all together, like we've done for missile defense," he said. He declined, however, to specify which organization or service should play that role, saying the Pentagon leadership would have to make that decision.

A number of recent think tank and government reports have pointed to the increasing risk to U.S. security posed by cruise missiles and the need for greater investment in defensive capabilities (DAILY, July 2). A July 3 report issued by the Congressional Research Service said the key barrier to cruise missile defense is the cost of protective systems.

However, Cosumano said "the type of technology to put together a fairly effective cruise missile defense is readily available," pointing to existing Army programs such as the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensors (JLENS) program. The Army is developing the JLENS system, which uses tethered aerostats to provide sensor coverage.

In other areas, Cosumano said the Army is looking to develop new capabilities, such as a proposed advanced concept technology demonstration for high-altitude airships equipped with sensors to detect cruise missiles. The high altitude airship ACTD was approved by the Joint Staff and has been selected to receive fiscal year 2003 funding, according to an SMDC spokesperson.

-- *Sharon Weinberger*

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UPI.com
July 10, 2002

Saddam Hussein's War Plan

By Arnaud de Borchgrave, UPI Editor-at-Large

WASHINGTON -- If President Bush doesn't have a war plan on his desk to unhorse Saddam Hussein -- maybe he doesn't allow the New York Times to touch his desk -- the Iraqi dictator most assuredly has one on his desk.

It will include everything in Iraq's arsenal, according to what Hussein told his inner circle of advisers and two sons during a five-hour meeting last month that was leaked to a Saudi newspaper. "Everything" in this instance means weapons of mass destruction. Iraq is known to possess both chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. Hussein made clear to his acolytes he would wait for the United States to throw the first punch -- and then hit back with everything he's got, both on the battlefield and "all other fronts." This presumably means the activation of "sleepers" cells in the United States

The beneficiary of the Iraqi leak was Saudi newspaper Al-Watan-Al-Arabi, which quoted sources close to the ruling family in Baghdad. Present at Hussein's war council were two new officials "who were recently assigned by (Hussein's son) Qusay to organize intelligence cells abroad." It's a safe bet that "intelligence cells" in this instance is Iraqi jargon for "sabotage of U.S. targets of convenience."

Referring to the green light Bush gave the CIA to "assassinate or arrest me," Hussein, according to the leaker, said the U.S. president "has left Iraq no room to be tolerant ... His war on us is now declared and he is publicly leaking information today that he gave orders to use all means and weapons to violate Iraq's sovereignty and international law by assassinating me in Iraq."

Hussein then told the participants he wanted to hear their views and analysis "calmly without getting emotional." That is asking the impossible of people whose culture is hyperbole. So one after another, they emoted from the same sheet, working up to a crescendo to take the war to America.

The first to speak was Ali Hasan al-Majid, a presidential cousin who is widely known as Chemical Ali and is accused of being responsible for the massacres in the south following the 1991 uprising at the end of the Gulf War, "Mr. President, the Iraqi people have tolerated the intolerable from these Americans ... has the time not come to take the fight to their own homes in America? They wanted this to be a war on all fronts, so let it be a war on all fronts and using all weapons and means."

Samples from the others:

-- "The Americans must know that the heroes of Iraq can become human bombs in the thousands, willing to blow up America in particular."

-- "With a simple sign from you, we can make America's people sleepless and frightened to go out in the streets ... I swear upon your head, sir, that if I do not turn their night into day and their day into a living hell, I will ask you to chop off my head before the brothers present."

-- "I am confident that our entire nation will be set aflame (by the Americans) and they must know that the entire region will turn into rubble with Israel at the forefront."

-- "If (Osama) bin Laden truly did carry out the September attacks as they claim, then as God is my witness, we will prove to them that what happened in September is a picnic compared to the wrath of Saddam Hussein."

After five hours of "fiery elocution," all agreed "on the need for a strong response to the now public hostile U.S. plan and the importance for Iraq not to wait or hesitate."

All except Hussein, that is. He said the United States is using "all its dominion and tyranny not just to humiliate Iraq, but ... every Arab in the land of Arabs and every Muslim in the land of Islam ... just as (Bush) rejected (Palestinian Authority President) Yasser Arafat, he will reject Saddam Hussein, and tomorrow (Syrian President) Bashar al-Assad, and after that another Arab leader until U.S. dominion reaches the rights, wealth and destiny of the Arab ... Bush, his gang and his intelligence bodies should know that as soon as they start this battle or we get wind of its beginning, Iraq will turn from reaction to action ... At that moment everything will be handed over to Qusay Saddam Hussein to directly oversee the retaliation plans ... using all the weapons and fronts available."

Hussein's son Uday, according to the leaked minutes in the Saudi paper, still insisted Iraq should launch preemptive attacks against the United States. The dictator reminded him "so far the U.S. has done nothing except take a decision on paper. A number of officials know from experience that implementation will not be easy. (The Americans) have taken many decisions over the past 12 years and we have foiled them all. What's important today is to wait for the U.S. to throw the first punch and then we will not just react, but will act and take actions."

At the very least, concluded an anonymous top security official in a large Arab state -- widely rumored to be Saudi Prince Turki, the retired chief of Saudi intelligence who held the job for 25 years -- what will happen between Bush 43 and Hussein will be larger and more dangerous than what happened between Hussein and Bush 41.

Hopefully the U.S. Senate will get to debate war powers for the commander-in-chief for Gulf War II before the battle of leaks transmogrifies into an alliance between Hussein and bin Laden -- weapons of mass destruction and terrorism in the United States.

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New York Times

July 11, 2002

TV Review: 'Wide Angle'

Seeking To Link Iraq To Poison Gas And Bin Laden

By Caryn James

Many people were collapsing around us and dying," says a Kurdish man who survived a poison gas attack. "The gas smelled of garlic and rotten apples." As he recalls that day, we see videotape shot immediately after the attack. The gas — a combination including the nerve gas sarin and cyanide — caused paralysis and death so fast that the stonelike corpses littering the ground look flash-frozen, fists clenched, one child's arm still lifted in the air.

The attack, launched by Saddam Hussein in 1988 in his own country, hit the town of Halabja and was meant to punish the Kurds for their resistance to his control. That story is only one part of tonight's extraordinary documentary "Saddam's Ultimate Solution," the timeliest possible beginning to "Wide Angle," a 10-week PBS series on varied international issues. Only last week Iraq once again refused to let United Nations weapons inspectors into the country, and much front-page news has focused on the Bush administration's possible plans to topple Mr. Hussein and on the role the Kurds might play in such a move.

In this hourlong film, its reporter and producer, Gwynne Roberts, travels to Iraqi Kurdistan searching for links between Mr. Hussein and Osama bin Laden. He is accompanied by a doctor studying the long-term effects of poison gas on the towns and villages (more than 200 of them) attacked by Mr. Hussein in the late 1980's. The Hussein-Bin Laden connection is the more explosive subject. The claims are chilling if true, but while the evidence is convincing it remains unproved here. The effects of the poison gas, however, are viscerally, undeniably horrifying. On both counts the narrative and the images in "Saddam's Ultimate Solution" are as gripping as any drama.

The documentary includes black-and-white videotape taken immediately after Mr. Hussein's first known chemical attack in April 1987 on a village called Scheich Wassan. Taken by a Kurdish mercenary working with the Iraqis, the tape shows a huge cloud hanging in the air, people helplessly throwing buckets of water on the smoking ground, villagers wailing. Color video from 1991 shows skulls and remnants of clothing being unearthed from a mass grave for victims of that attack. Today the film shows shells from the missiles lying in a school playground, a residue of poison gas still on them.

In Halabja the film captures an old woman's wizened face and body. Mr. Roberts then tells us she is 16 years old; she was 3 when the poison gas hit. A man who was a healthy 9-year-old at the time now has curvature of the spine. There is an increase in babies born with cleft palates, Down syndrome and other disorders. A sign over a large burial ground reads, in imperfect English, "The Graveyard for Halabja Chemical Martyr."

While in Kurdistan, Mr. Roberts's investigation of the Hussein-Bin Laden tie focuses on Al Ansar al Islam, a militant Islamic group (the Iraqi counterpart to the Taliban in Afghanistan) with widely reported links to Mr. bin Laden's Queda. Only one source faces the camera: Barham Salih, the prime minister of the Kurdish Regional Government, who survived an assassination attempt. One of the captured suspects claims to be a member of al Ansar and says he was recruited by Al Queda agents in Jordan.

Two other men are filmed with their backs to the camera or lurking in shadows. A man who is now a prisoner of the Kurds claims he was an Iraqi intelligence agent and says that Aymar al Zawahiri, Mr. bin Laden's second in command, met with Mr. Hussein in Iraq in 1992.

Even more alarming claims come from an Iraqi whom Mr. Roberts tracks down in Turkey, his identity disguised by a jittery camera in a hotel room that shows his hands, his feet, never his face. He says he worked in a chemical weapons factory near Baghdad and that he actually saw Mr. bin Laden visit a terrorist training camp in Iraq in 1998, when Al Queda members were about to "graduate" from its program. "Saddam's Ultimate Solution" carefully couches all this information in phrases like "if these claims are true," but it has a cumulative credibility when added to similar stories from many other sources.

The trappings of the series are less successful. After each film either James Rubin, a former spokesman for former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, or Daljit Dhaliwal, the former anchor of "World News for Public Television," will interview an expert on the documentary's subject. Mr. Rubin's guest on tonight's program is Richard Perle, a former assistant secretary of defense in the Reagan administration. Mr. Perle offers an argument rather than analysis when he says an American operation in Iraq will be "quicker and easier than many people think," a matter of weeks not months. Mr. Rubin questions what he calls this "optimistic scenario," but because it's not his role to take a position, the Perle interview is the lopsided half of a debate. Still, in a television landscape where network news is dominated by tiny sound bites and cable by shouting heads, "Wide Angle" has a distinct and valuable place.

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