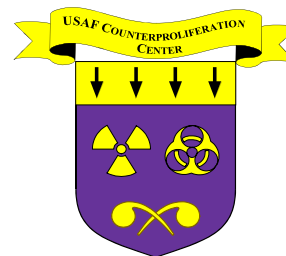


USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER

CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL

Air University**Air War College****Maxwell AFB, Alabama**

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Homeland Security: Effective Intergovernmental Coordination is Key to Success,

by Patricia A. Dalton, director, strategic issues, before the Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management, and Intergovernmental Relations, House Committee on Government Reform, House of Representatives, in Abilene, Kansas.

GAO-02-1011T, August 20.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-02-1011T>

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August 21, 2002

Journalists tour Iraqi warehouse

By Sameer N. Yacoub, Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A top Iraqi official took journalists yesterday to a site near Baghdad that Iraqis say is a food warehouse but that U.S. officials suspect may be a biological weapons facility.

A sign at the entrance to the complex, about 20 miles northwest of Baghdad, read: "The complex of al-Taji stores, the Trading State Company of Foodstuff."

Inside, boxes of milk and piles of 110-pound sacks of sugar and rice covered the floor. Writing on the sacks indicated they were imported under the oil-for-food program that allows Iraq to sell unlimited quantities of oil provided the proceeds go for food, medicine and other supplies.

Last week, U.S. officials said their intelligence agencies detected signs that Iraq may be moving material or equipment out of a suspected biological weapons facility at the al-Taji complex.

The movements were first reported by The Washington Times last Wednesday. The Times reported that a U.S. spy satellite had photographed about 60 trucks moving around at the facility once called the al-Taji Single Cell Protein Plant.

Some intelligence analysts say they believe the movements indicate an effort by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to disperse the items in anticipation of American military strikes, the officials in Washington said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh, who led the tour, told reporters that the trucks detected by U.S. intelligence were transporting large quantities of foodstuff from al-Taji to subsidiary warehouses in Iraqi provinces to be distributed to Iraqi civilians.

"Since August 4, 2,500 tons of milk and foodstuffs for children have been transported from this warehouse," he said.

"The Americans saw the operation by satellite and confirmed having seen 64 trucks. In fact, since August 4, 187 trucks, and not 64, have taken goods to Iraqi provinces," he added.

He said that if the Americans enlarged the satellite pictures of the milk boxes, which were not covered during the transfer, they would find inscribed on the golden packs "Al-moudhish" — a brand of Omani-produced milk that Iraq imports.

Mr. Saleh said U.N. staffers who supervise the oil-for-food program "visit this warehouse once a week to inspect the distribution of food rations."

According to Mr. Saleh, the warehouse, built in 1986, was destroyed in raids during the Persian Gulf war in 1991, but was rebuilt by a French company in agreement with the United Nations.

It was the second tour this month of a suspected weapons site, part of stepped-up Iraqi efforts to convince the world that the country is a victim of false U.S. charges that it is producing weapons of mass destruction.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20020821-28590261.htm>

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Moscow Times
August 21, 2002
Pg. 4

Chemical Arms Move

MOSCOW (MT) -- Russia's first plant to destroy chemical weapons is to be officially opened Wednesday in Gorny in the Saratov region.

Sergei Kiriyeenko, head of a state commission for the destruction of chemical weapons and the presidential representative for the Volga Federal District, which includes Saratov, and Hans-Joachim Daerr, the German federal commissioner for disarmament and arms control issues, are to attend. The German government contributed 40 million euros (\$40 million) for the construction of the \$266 million plant.

Russia ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention in 1997 and is to dispose of its 40,000 tons of chemical weapons by mid-2007, but the country may be granted an extension until 2012.

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Washington Post
August 21, 2002
Pg. 13

Archive Of Al Qaeda Videotapes Broadcast

Dogs Shown Dying From Toxic Vapor

By Dana Priest, Washington Post Staff Writer

A trove of videotapes unearthed in Afghanistan and spirited out recently by CNN confirms in graphic detail what U.S. intelligence officials have been saying over the last several years: that al Qaeda was learning how to make and use toxic chemical agents and that it has a disciplined, trained cadre of militants willing to kill, bomb and kidnap to meet its goals.

U.S. intelligence analysts and international experts who have tracked the al Qaeda terrorist network for years say there is little new information in the tapes that the Atlanta-based network has been broadcasting this week. But for the general public, the footage brings al Qaeda's determination, discipline and the breadth of its operations into full, tangible view.

"It's a visual confirmation of things we've believed, reported and said publicly for years," said a CIA spokesman, who said analysts at the agency have watched many of the broadcasts with interest and believe the videos are authentic.

CNN correspondent Nic Robertson said he was given the tapes -- which CNN officials have said they paid for -- by an Afghan who put him in contact with villagers who discovered the tapes by accident.

There were 251 in all and Robertson brought 64 out of Afghanistan last week. Most are numbered and appear, according to Robertson, to be an archive of training material, pronouncements by al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and documentation from al Qaeda members during operations in Burma, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and the 7th Muslim Brigade in Bosnia.

In one tape apparently filmed in Bosnia that CNN has not aired, a bloody decapitated head rolls across the grass. In others, a grinning bin Laden announces his death march against "the crusaders" and "the Jews." The most graphic tape involves the apparent death of dogs inhaling a white vapor, which CNN commentators said they believe to be sarin or other poisonous gases.

To judge their authenticity and help analyze their contents, CNN invited a dozen experts, including David Kay, the former U.N. weapons inspector in Iraq, John Gilbert, a chemical weapons specialist who advises the U.S. government, and Frederick R. Sidell, a retired Army chemical weapons expert, to view the material.

The network is also planning to give the government copies, CNN officials said.

Much of the material amounts to training films, tradecraft guides to assassinations, bomb-making, hostage-taking and blowing up bridges. One excerpt, scheduled for broadcast Thursday, shows how to make TNT explosive, Robertson said in an interview. The instruction comes with a shopping list of common items and directions on making fuses and detonators.

Today's segment will show a training film featuring a mock western city -- in canvas and stone -- on a hillside of eastern Afghanistan. The clip shows a coordinated operation and step-by-step instructions on firing a surface-to-air missile.

The tape is labeled "Exclusive Abu Hafs," the nom de guerre for al Qaeda's top military commander, Mohammed Atef, who reportedly was killed in a U.S. airstrike last year. Another tape shows recruits rappelling down the side of a cliff. When one trainee gets stuck, a voice off camera yells: "Don't let go of the rope!"

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A42150-2002Aug20.html>

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Federal Computer Week
August 19, 2002

DOD, FEMA Test Systems Link

Joint exercise focuses on homeland security

By Dan Caterinicchia

Representatives from all armed services, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other organizations recently began exploring how compatible their communications systems would be in homeland defense situations. The 2002 Joint Users Interoperability Communications Exercise (JUICE), which began Aug. 5 and runs through the end of the month, is using a mix of legacy and new technologies to support communications, command and control requirements for a deployed joint task force in simulated homeland defense scenarios.

In such scenarios, the Defense Department plays a supporting role to FEMA and other groups, said John Caruso, chief of DOD's Executive Agent for Theater Joint Tactical Networks.

"We're looking for collaborative scenarios and making sure [military] communications equipment is interoperable with FEMA's," Caruso said, which includes not only establishing links among systems, but also identifying redundancies. "We want to define the processes, methodologies and information flows that are in place."

During JUICE, systems and operational approaches are being tested, including network defense from cyberattacks.

"We're putting a network up and testing the defenses available," he said. "We'll be actively attacking our network in a controlled fashion."

Technical and military personnel in about 60 units worldwide, representing all the armed services, are participating in this month's exercise and will be manning the Joint Communications Control Center, the communications hub for JUICE.

The center, which was set up by the Army Communications-Electronics Command Software Engineering Center and the Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical at Fort Monmouth, N.J., is controlling all satellite and terrestrial communications and sensor activity during JUICE.

Air Force Lt. Col. Tom Dixon, senior military communications officer for JUICE, said the exercise enables all of the services to test new software upgrades and equipment and "work through the issues that come into play."

JUICE is being carried out in phases, the first of which — establishing links for satellite communications among the different players — is under way, Dixon said. "Once those are set up, we'll begin the proof of concept with the equipment that's online."

FEMA, which participated in JUICE for the first time last year, is playing a bigger role in this year's exercise as part of a new collaborative initiative with the military, Caruso said. FEMA Mobile Emergency Response System detachments will participate along with civil support teams from a number of states including Arkansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Texas.

Eric Hainzer, a telecommunications specialist in FEMA's mobile operations branch, said that although his agency has vast experience responding to disasters, exercises such as JUICE and others offer "opportunity training" for working with DOD in scenarios involving homeland defense and weapons of mass destruction.

Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Carl Sherblum, watch chief for JUICE, said the Defense Message System (DMS) is one of the main systems being tested during the exercise. DMS is the secure messaging system that is replacing DOD's Automatic Digital Network, commonly known as Autodin. Testing DMS during JUICE is essential because FEMA also uses a version of it, he said.

"What we're trying to do, whatever homeland security ends up being, is to have a skeleton in which to operate...and templated off to latch up the DOD and civilian communities," Hainzer said, adding that FEMA is the only civilian agency with a deployable DMS that is compatible with the defense community. "That's a critical element that's been missing for some time, that cross-connect between the two."

Participation in JUICE, which was first conducted in 1996, is voluntary and participating agencies and units pay their own way, Caruso said. "There's no centralized pot of money. People participate because there's something in it for them."

JUICE Mix

During the Joint Users Interoperability Communications Exercise, which was first conducted in 1996, members from the armed services, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Defense Department explore how compatible their communications systems would be in homeland defense situations.

This year's exercise began Aug. 5 and runs through the end of the month using a mix of legacy and new technologies to support communications, command and control requirements.

The initial focus this year is on establishing links for satellite communications among the various players.

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Washington Times

August 22, 2002

Pg. 13

Islamic Extremist Unit Draws U.S. Attention

By John J. Lumpkin, Associated Press

A new Islamic extremist group in northern Iraq is drawing increased attention from U.S. intelligence agencies for its ties to al Qaeda and interest in chemical and biological weapons, U.S. officials say.

The group, Ansar al-Islam, sent about a dozen members to training camps in Afghanistan in 1999 and 2000, where they had contact with Osama bin Laden's terror network, according to U.S. officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

A senior Iraqi Kurdish politician said yesterday that militant Islamists affiliated with al Qaeda have set up a laboratory in northern Iraq to develop poisons for "terrorist" activities.

Barham Salih of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan told Reuters news agency the militants of Ansar al-Islam were receiving external backing, but he declined to say whether the Iraqi government was providing them with direct support.

Members of the small group also have sheltered al Qaeda fighters fleeing the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan, the officials said. Many of them are moving through Iraq as they head toward home countries.

U.S. agencies recently monitored an Ansar al-Islam site in northern Iraq where chemical- or biological-weapons experiments were conducted on farm animals and at least one person, a man who died.

In particular, a biological poison, ricin, was tested.

It was feared initially that the episode might constitute a significant chemical-biological threat, but U.S. officials decided it was not serious enough to justify a military strike.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz told CBS News that al Qaeda elements are operating in regions controlled by Kurds. There are no al Qaeda forces in parts of Iraq controlled by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and Iraq does not possess nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, Mr. Aziz said in the interview Tuesday night.

In an effort to topple Saddam, the United States has courted dissidents from Kurdish-controlled Iraq. Mr. Aziz questioned why American officials have not publicly raised the al Qaeda matter with those leaders.

Ansar al-Islam was formed in December 2001, one of numerous small splinter factions in northern Iraq according to U.S. officials.

Ansar has several hundred members and broke away from another group, Jun al-Islam, which had been formed three months earlier. It is an extremist offshoot of the Islamic Movement of Kurdistan, a broad political party that controls a portion of northern Iraq.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20020822-72638466.htm>

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Newhouse.com
August 21, 2002

America Is Dangerously Vulnerable To Panic In Terror Attack, Experts Say

By David Wood, Newhouse News Service

For a year the focus of the war on terrorism has been on tightening borders, coordinating intelligence and protecting buildings, but little has been done about thwarting a more chilling terrorist goal: collapsing American society. Specialists who have studied chaos and panic say America is dangerously vulnerable.

"I am worried about terrorism causing the collapse of civil society," said David McIntyre, a terrorism expert and former dean of the National War College. "There are things we can do" to prevent such an outcome, he said. But so far, "I don't think we are doing enough."

Clark L. Staten, executive director of the Emergency Response and Research Institute in Chicago and a Pentagon consultant on disaster preparedness, agreed.

"The psychogenic aspect of this -- panic, if you will -- has been given short shrift by planners," he said. "And yet it is at the root of what terrorism is all about."

To be sure, the horrifying events of 9/11 caused little panic. On the contrary, the twin attacks on New York and Washington pulled the nation together. Defiant American flags blossomed. Thousands volunteered.

The ensuing anthrax scare was a harder test because there was little public information and authorities argued over what was happening and what should be done. But again, there was no widespread panic.

Imagine instead a prolonged series of attacks, gut-wrenching in their relentless progression. How long would it take for the concept of collective solidarity to disintegrate?

"We feel like Americans. Could that unravel? We've had one incident," McIntyre said. "Suppose we had 20 -- or 200?"

Envision small bomb explosions, say, in Hartford, Akron, Green Bay, Baton Rouge, Tucson, Bakersfield. The government seems powerless to prevent them, and while authorities assure people they are safe, wildfire rumors have the explosions spreading radioactive and maybe even germ-infected debris. People start avoiding shopping centers, ponder keeping the kids home from school.

Amid rising tensions come real outbreaks of disease, smallpox or perhaps a virulent form of measles or even West Nile virus. The Internet accelerates rumors. Hospitals are overwhelmed by patients with real or imagined symptoms. Police barricade city and state borders. Armed guards patrol quarantine lines that may divide neighborhoods and even families. Supermarkets run low on food. Authorities plead for calm as violence and looting break out.

Highways clog as people try to flee.

In this kind of arena, government officials at every level would struggle against humans' oldest survival mechanism, the cascade of powerful hormones that stimulate the body to action and appear to shut down reason and long-term planning.

"The authorities are up against several million years of evolution," said Gil Reyes, a psychologist at the University of South Dakota's Disaster Mental Health Institute. "People will follow instructions just so long as everybody else does, too."

"But when there's panic at a rock concert or a British soccer match and people are getting trampled, nobody's listening to the guy on the loudspeaker saying, 'Stop!'" Reyes said.

"So prevention is the key."

Analysts have found that two critical actions can help prevent public panic: giving people fast and credible information, and giving people something to do, allowing them even an illusion of control.

During the April 1999 shootings at Columbine High School, for instance, parents were told: Your kids are OK and are under the protection of the sheriff's department. Here is a phone number for you to call to check.

On a national level, the federal government's ability to provide fast, accurate and credible information is in doubt, experts say. Past experience suggests there will be arguments over jurisdiction and disagreements about who should provide the single, accurate, authoritative voice.

What to say in a crisis remains the subject of a struggle within the government, according to disaster planners who asked not to be identified. Officials with a counterterrorism background argue for withholding information that could possibly be of use to terrorists, while those who come from a disaster relief background argue for the fullest possible disclosure to help calm the public.

All these problems were on view during the anthrax scare last fall, when local and federal officials vied for attention and sometimes issued conflicting information.

"We were not prepared for the anthrax bioattack and the fear generated by it far outweighed the health threat," said C. Everett Koop, who was U.S. surgeon general from 1981 to 1989.

As for communicating quickly and believably to the public, Koop said, "I would not give the government high marks."

Coordination problems still bedevil emergency planning. In July, the White House scripted an evacuation plan for the nation's capital. Yet there was no public announcement and even the District of Columbia's Emergency Management Agency was unaware of the plan's details. Officials at the two White House offices involved, the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Homeland Security, each referred this reporter's inquiries to the other.

And yet there is an intense need for accurate public information to forestall widespread, blind panic. How many Americans, for instance, know the evacuation routes from their cities or towns? Clogged local roads can hamper emergency vehicles, triggering even more panic.

How many people are familiar with crude but effective decontamination techniques in event of a chemical or biological attack?

In the event that authorities do order an evacuation (or, conversely, ask that people stay home), how many Americans -- especially elderly and shut-ins -- belong to phone trees or groups that can make sure they get the word?

The Bush administration, recognizing that effective organization is a local responsibility, has tried to stimulate the formation of neighborhood watch and disaster response organizations. In July the administration released \$10.3 million in grants to help local organizations recruit and train volunteers.

But so far only 75 groups have enlisted in the Citizen Corps that Bush established in January to help local communities deal with terrorism.

Most of these groups already had deep roots in their communities and seem like effective barriers against panic. In Ponca City, Okla., where a major oil refinery fuels an underlying public anxiety about man-made disaster and terrorism, the police force of 56 officers is reinforced by 20 trained and experienced volunteers, and has 10 more about to undergo the 24 weeks of training.

"These are retirees, a stockbroker, a couple of nurses, who work crowd control and have an extremely quieting effect because they are known," said Lt. Dale Henshaw, a patrol supervisor. "When they have to get people to move, it's 'Hey, Larry, we need you to move back.' It's very effective."

In Port Deposit, Md., just downstream from the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant, a church group has organized a search and rescue team of 21 volunteers. Training for Nehemiah's Watchmen came from the federally funded Community Emergency Response Team program.

"It's been hard to keep people motivated" through the long hours of training, said Jill Lee of the Pleasant View Baptist Church. "But if there were a crisis, people would be there."

She acknowledged that their training would help fend off panic.

"Panic is a natural reaction, but the more training you get like this, if something were to happen you would go into the mind-set you've trained for," she said.

"A lot of older folks, they kind of depend on the government to take care of them. But that's not going to be the case. We have to take care of ourselves."

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New York Times
August 22, 2002

Russia: Accord On Fuel From Iranian Reactors

The government said it had signed an agreement with Iran guaranteeing the return of spent fuel from two nuclear reactors Russian engineers are building in the Iranian port of Bushehr. The atomic energy minister, Aleksandr Rumyantsev, said the accord makes academic the complaints that Iran will use the plants to make nuclear weapons or so-called "dirty" radioactive bombs. The fuel "will not fall into anybody's hands but Russia's," he told the military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda. The United States has argued that the reactors, ostensibly being built to generate electricity, will aid Iran's secret nuclear arms programs.

--Michael Wines (NYT)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/22/international/europe/22BRIE2.html>

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New York Times
August 22, 2002
Pg. 1

Anthrax Study May Yield Remedy

By Nicholas Wade

A novel agent that could help detect an anthrax attack and serve as an antidote to the deadly disease has been developed by biologists at Rockefeller University.

The agent was isolated from a virus that preys on the anthrax bacterium and replicates inside it. When the virus particles need to escape, they order the synthesis of a special enzyme called a lysin that chews through the bacterium's cell wall.

Though designed to pierce the wall from the inside, the lysin enzyme can also crumble it from outside. Doses of lysin injected into mice infected with a close relative of anthrax saved most of the animals from a certain death, according to a report in today's issue of *Nature* by Dr. Raymond Schuch, Dr. Daniel Nelson and Dr. Vincent A. Fischetti.

The Rockefeller scientists, whose work was financed by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, say the lysin could be used like an antibiotic to treat people who may have been exposed to spores in an anthrax attack. If injected quickly enough, the lysin would destroy the anthrax bacteria in the bloodstream before they had multiplied and released overwhelming amounts of toxin. Attack strains of anthrax can be made resistant to antibiotics, but not to lysin, Dr. Fischetti said.

Much research remains before the enzyme could be used as a drug. But the scientists have a prototype of a lysin-based anthrax detector.

An important feature of the lysin is that it attacks only anthrax and a rare strain of a closely related bacterium, the scientists say. This allows the lysin to be a quick and sensitive detector for anthrax spores that might be used in an attack.

Dr. Schuch said the team had developed a hand-held detection device that would accept an air filtrate or environmental sample. Any anthrax spores are first made to germinate from their protective coat. The lysin is applied to the emerging bacteria, making them spill out their contents. An ingredient of the ruptured cells activates a sample of a firefly enzyme, luciferase, and the flashes of light are amplified for detection.

Dr. Keith Ward, an expert on biological weapon sensors at the Office of Naval Research, described the Rockefeller work as a novel and exciting approach and one that could be extended to other biowarfare agents.

An antibody-based anthrax detector is already in use, but antibodies are hard to make and variable in quality. "We would like something that is faster and more sensitive," Dr. Ward said. The lysin-based method can detect a sample of 2,500 spores in 10 minutes or as few as 100 spores after an hour's reaction time.

Lysins for other dangerous microbes could be added to the sensing devices. The Rockefeller team is already working on lysins from viruses that attack cholera and *Yersinia pestis*, the agent of plague.

Dr. Fischetti, who has several patents on the lysin method, said it would work for many other species of bacteria because each has its own set of viruses that produce lysins specific for their target bacteria. Lysins could thus provide a whole new class of antibiotics, in his view, and one to which bacteria could not develop resistance.

Resistance is a matter of particular concern to biowarfare experts who fear that attack microbes could be made more lethal by first making them resistant to common antibiotics. The anthrax strain used in last year's attacks was virulent but susceptible to the usual antibiotics. A resistant strain would probably have caused many casualties.

Bacteria can evolve resistance to antibiotics, small chemicals that interfere with various aspects of metabolism. But they cannot evade the lysin, Dr. Fischetti believes, because the attacking virus, over millions of years of evolution, has selected for its target a component the bacterium cannot change.

"The phage has through evolution found the Achilles' heel of every organism," Dr. Fischetti said, using the name for a virus that attacks bacteria.

Dr. Stephen Leppla and Dr. M. J. Rosovitz, two anthrax experts at the National Institutes of Health, said in a commentary in *Nature* that the lysin approach might help cure infection by an antibiotic-resistant strain of anthrax, although it would need to be injected very quickly before lethal levels of toxin had built up.

A government laboratory is repeating the Rockefeller experiments using the Ames strain of anthrax bacteria, Dr. Schuch said. For convenience, he worked with a special strain of a closely related bacterium, *Bacillus cereus*, that does not require elaborate safety precautions.

Many steps remain before a usable therapy can be developed from the lysin. The mouse experiments need to be repeated in rabbits and in monkeys, Dr. Schuch said. The lysin would be tested for toxicity in people and could then be stockpiled for use in an attack.

A lysin-based anthrax detector is closer at hand. The Rockefeller team is working with New Horizons Diagnostics, a company in Columbia, Md., to develop a commercial model.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/22/science/22ANTH.html>

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San Diego Union-Tribune

August 21, 2002

Sailors Sprayed With Chemicals In Test Are Skeptical Of Promise

By Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – Sailors who were sprayed with chemicals aboard a Navy ship in the 1960s received assurances yesterday that the government is actively trying to determine whether the tests caused their health problems.

But crew members of the destroyer Power, who were at a reunion in Annapolis, said they doubted the promises as well as the claims that the chemicals used were not generally harmful to humans.

"The fact of the matter is we were subjected to tests without our knowledge, without our consent and without protection," said John Ekman of Portland, Ore., who has suffered respiratory problems since leaving the Navy.

The Power was off the coast of Newfoundland in 1965 when it was sprayed with a bacterium and with zinc cadmium sulfide in an exercise called Copper Head, government officials say.

The tests were part of a series conducted by the military and were known as Shipboard Hazard and Defense, or SHAD. The tests were meant to help the Pentagon determine how to protect ships from biological and chemical warfare.

Dr. Michael Kilpatrick of the Defense Department's Deployment Health Support Directorate said yesterday there is no evidence in defense files that SHAD participants were told they were being subjected to chemical tests though they were supposed to know in advance.

Officials said the Department of Veterans Affairs has 28 requests pending from veterans involved in the SHAD tests who claim they suffered permanent damage to their health. The officials promised that the VA will process those claims as quickly as possible.

http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/uniontrib/wed/news/news_1n21sailors.html

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Washington Post

August 23, 2002

Pg. 1

Risky Stash Of Uranium Secured

U.S., Russia Remove Weapons-Grade Nuclear Material From Yugoslavia

By Joby Warrick, Washington Post Staff Writer

U.S. and Russian officials whisked away 100 pounds of weapons-grade uranium from an aging nuclear reactor in Yugoslavia yesterday in a dramatic, military-style operation described as the first of a series of preemptive strikes against the threat of nuclear terrorism.

The uranium -- enough to make up to three nuclear bombs -- was spirited out of Belgrade's Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences before daybreak with an escort of Yugoslav army helicopters and 1,200 heavily armed troops.

With U.S. officials looking on, the uranium was loaded onto a plane and flown to Russia to be converted into a form that cannot be used in weapons.

The mission, planned in secrecy over a year, was organized to eliminate what many weapons experts regarded as one of the world's most dangerous nuclear repositories -- a large and unusually vulnerable stash of the kind of weapons-grade uranium that would be prized by the governments of Iraq, Iran and North Korea and terrorist groups such as al Qaeda.

The extraction was hailed by the Bush administration and nonproliferation groups as one of the most significant actions since Sept. 11 to prevent nuclear proliferation. It also was described as evidence of a new level of

cooperation with Russia, the original source of the material decades ago. Moscow had previously resisted calls to accept responsibility for Soviet-era nuclear material now stored at dozens of facilities around the world.

"This stuff is the raw material for catastrophic terrorism," said former Democratic senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, a longtime advocate for safeguarding nuclear stockpiles who helped secure Yugoslav approval of the operation. "This is exactly the kind of work that countries of the world have to come together on."

The removal of nearly 6,000 ingots, or "slugs," of highly enriched uranium was carried out over 17 hours by a cast of hundreds -- predominantly Yugoslav scientists and government officials with technical support from the U.S. departments of State and Energy, Russia's Ministry of Atomic Energy, or Minatom, and the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency. A private U.S. group, the Nuclear Threat Initiative, provided much of the financial backing.

Although they were aware of no specific threat, the planners said they feared the uranium might be hijacked in transit. Yugoslav scientists locked down the 44-year-old reactor late Wednesday as the uranium was loaded into a truck. In the predawn hours yesterday, three trucks -- two of them decoys -- left the facility with heavy military escorts and headed for Belgrade's international airport. Police sealed off several of the city's major highways for hours and positioned marksmen on rooftops to guard against a possible attack, according to State Department officials familiar with the operation.

At the airport, U.S. Energy Department and Minatom officials supervised the loading of the nuclear cargo onto a Russian plane. At 8:04 a.m. the aircraft departed for Dimitrovgrad, about 520 miles southeast of Moscow, home to a Russian processing plant that specializes in converting weapons-grade uranium into the variety used by commercial nuclear power plants.

State Department officials praised the Russians for their role. Minatom not only worked closely with its American counterparts over many months of planning, but it also quickly agreed to accept the uranium, something Russia had been unwilling to do previously.

For instance, Moscow offered no such help in 1994, when the Clinton administration quietly removed 1,320 pounds of nuclear fuel from Kazakhstan in an episode later dubbed Operation Sapphire. That uranium was also originally supplied by the Soviet Union.

"There has been a sea change," said Janet L. Bogue, deputy assistant secretary of state for European affairs. "The Russians were eager to get this done. They are just as acutely aware of the risks as we are."

Minatom officials could not be reached for comment.

Russia's and Yugoslavia's willing participation also raised hopes that other vulnerable nuclear stockpiles around the world can be dealt with in a similar fashion, she said.

"This was a ground-breaking event," Bogue said.

The nuclear reactor at Vinca is one of nearly 350 research reactors in 58 countries that use highly enriched uranium fuel. A study last spring by Harvard University's Project on Managing the Atom described such reactors as one of the gravest and most under-addressed proliferation threats, because they are vulnerable to theft.

Matthew Bunn, a nuclear proliferation expert and co-author of the report, said security at the reactors "varies widely, from excellent to appalling.

"In some cases security is provided by a single sleepy watchman and a chain-link fence. Yet, vulnerable nuclear material anywhere can be stolen and made into a terrorist bomb."

Vinca's uranium stockpile was near the top of Bunn's list of most vulnerable targets. Not only was it unusually large, but it also was of a type that is especially easy to convert for use in weapons. The 11-inch-long ingots were also unusually accessible, stored in their original metal shipping crates in a decaying, civilian-run institute guarded by a handful of lightly armed security officers, according to U.S. officials familiar with the site.

When it was built, in 1958, the Vinca reactor was envisioned as the cornerstone of an ambitious Yugoslav program that would ultimately produce nuclear weapons. Secret weapons research was reportedly carried out over decades under the instructions of dictator Tito. "We must have the atomic bomb. We must build it even if it costs us one-half of our income for years," he told aides in 1950, according to histories of the period.

A Yugoslav bomb never materialized, but Tito's nuclear program left several troubling legacies in addition to the unused uranium fuel lying around after the Vinca reactor stopped operating in 1984, said William C. Potter, director of the Center for Nonproliferation Studies in Monterey, Calif.

"You still have at Vinca many of the scientists who had been involved in this covert nuclear weapons program," Potter said. "Whatever technical know-how is needed for a weapon, you have that in spades at Vinca."

Western governments had long worried that both the uranium and the scientific expertise at Vinca could be misused or commandeered by rogue elements within Yugoslav's armed forces; that concern eased only slightly after Slobodan Milosovic's removal as Yugoslav president in October 2000. Outside Yugoslavia, a number of foreign governments and groups had become interested in the uranium, according to Belgrade press accounts -- including

Iraq's Saddam Hussein, who sent numerous emissaries to Belgrade during the waning years of the Milosovic government.

Acutely aware of the rising interest in the uranium, both Yugoslav's newly pro-Western government and Vinca's nuclear scientists had begun publicly expressing an interest in getting rid of it.

"By disposing of the hazardous material, which could be used to make nuclear weapons, Vinca is no longer a potential target for possible terrorist attempts to get hold of this fuel," a Yugoslav government spokesman said in a prepared statement after the uranium-laden plane departed Belgrade for Russia.

Despite more than a year of planning and negotiation, the cost to the U.S. government was small: about \$2 million used to pay for transportation and related expenses.

But in an unusual twist, State Department negotiators turned to a private group to provide millions of dollars needed to close the deal. The Nuclear Threat Initiative, a nonprofit group co-founded by Nunn and Ted Turner, the media entrepreneur from Atlanta, agreed to pledge \$5 million to help Yugoslavia clean up environmental problems stemming from the reactor's operation -- including more than two tons of radioactive waste. Some of the money will help keep Vinca's scientists employed.

State Department officials were forced to seek outside funding because of a congressional directive that strictly limits how nonproliferation money can be used.

Nunn recalled that his group was approached with the funding request last summer and given a five-day deadline to decide whether it could provide the money. The matter was settled within a few minutes in a three-way phone call among Nunn, Turner and Charles Curtis, president of Nuclear Threat Initiative and a former Energy Department undersecretary.

"Ted's first question was, 'Why can't the government pay for this?' " Nunn recalled. "I explained the situation and he readily understood. He just said: 'Sign us up.' "

Correspondent Peter Baker in Moscow contributed to this report.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A51269-2002Aug22.html>

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USA Today
August 23, 2002
Pg. 10

Finding Saddam, 'Chem-Bio' Arms Slows U.S.

By John Diamond and Dave Moniz, USA Today

WASHINGTON — Gaps in U.S. intelligence about Iraq's chemical and biological weapons are complicating planning for potential military action to oust Saddam Hussein, U.S. officials say.

The United States has a clear picture of Iraq's conventional military but is trying to develop better information on the possible location of chemical and biological weapons and missile storage sites. Pentagon planners are particularly concerned that airstrikes that target weapons facilities, or inadvertently hit caches of chemical or biological weapons, could spread a deadly plume through urban areas and cause thousands of Iraqi civilian casualties.

In addition, the Pentagon and CIA are struggling with the problem of finding Saddam himself. During the 1991 Gulf War, Saddam is believed to have used look-alikes to mislead U.S. intelligence and conceal his movements. The United States has built a computerized database of his travels in an attempt to detect patterns of behavior, a Defense official said.

Locating Saddam, and the weapons of mass destruction he might deploy in desperation, represent two of the biggest challenges facing U.S. military and intelligence officials planning ways to depose the Iraqi dictator.

President Bush reiterated this week that he supports "regime change" in Iraq, but he has made no decision on using military action to achieve that goal. Bush has said that no attack is imminent and that any decision to invade Iraq would be based on the latest intelligence reports.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said recently that the United States will never have perfect intelligence on any potential enemy and suggested that such information gaps are inevitable.

Perhaps no country on Earth has been more closely watched by U.S. intelligence over the past decade than Iraq. U.S. warplanes have patrolled the northern and southern reaches of the country since the Gulf War ended. Also, the CIA has operatives in northern and southern Iraq in regular contact with Arab and Kurdish groups opposed to Saddam. The air patrols have yielded a trove of data. Spy satellites track Iraq's efforts to rebuild bunkers, bases and other military and industrial complexes damaged in the 1991 conflict or in several more recent air attacks.

One key finding is that the Iraqi military has spent huge sums since the Gulf War rebuilding and reinforcing its air defenses. The Pentagon is confident it can quickly dismantle that network, a senior defense official said. Nevertheless, U.S. officials suspect that Iraq's chemical and biological weapons would be difficult to find, even by ground troops. United Nations' weapons inspection teams left Iraq four years ago and have not returned, creating a gap in timely knowledge of weapons of mass destruction.

The U.N. inspections determined that Iraq at one time had large stockpiles of mustard gas, nerve agents, and artillery shells to launch chemical weapons. Some of the sites are well known and have been targeted in past air raids on Iraq. But as many as 10 Scud missiles remain unaccounted for, and Iraq is known to have produced chemical weapons in at least three sites — Samarra, Al Habbaniyah and Salman Pak — outside of Baghdad, an unclassified report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies determined. The chemical plants were damaged during the Gulf War but are believed to have been rebuilt.

Vince Cannistraro, a former CIA counterterrorism official, described the U.S. intelligence on Iraq as "murky." Cannistraro said the United States knows a lot about Iraq's military, but "we don't know if we have good fix on chem-bio."

The other great uncertainty is how difficult it would be to find Saddam and how fiercely his inner circle would defend him, probably under urban warfare conditions. Saddam is said to be paranoid and frequently on the move. He has ruthlessly purged the top layer of his government of anyone displaying even a hint of disloyalty. At least twice, according to U.S. intelligence, he has foiled coups before they began.

"People have plotted against him, but before the tanks roll, usually heads do," a U.S. official said.

An internal Pentagon analysis of Saddam's Ba'ath party and his most loyal soldiers, a group that may number as many as 100,000, predicts they would fight a U.S. attack doggedly.

"Desperation may drive some to change sides or flee, but others may fight with a vigor not seen during the first Iraqi-American confrontation," according to the memo written by a senior Defense Department analyst, a copy of which was obtained by USA TODAY. "A long series of foiled and failed coup attempts have probably depleted the ranks of senior officers and officials who are anything but loyal to the Ba'ath regime and the Hussein clan."

http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2002-08-22-intel_x.htm

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Washington Post

August 23, 2002

Pg. 1

Israelis Brace For Fallout Of Attack By U.S. On Iraq

By Molly Moore, Washington Post Foreign Service

JERUSALEM, Aug. 22 -- An estimated 15,000 Israeli emergency and health workers are receiving vaccinations against smallpox. Thousands of families are lining up at neighborhood distribution centers to stock up on gas masks. And the military is scrambling to expand a new missile defense system.

In this terrorism-weary country, every headline from the United States forecasting an attack on Iraq brings a wave of anxiety about a smorgasbord of potential threats. The dangers Israelis see include missiles delivering destruction and deadly diseases, nuclear annihilation, or perhaps death by nerve agents.

"We are trying to do the impossible," said Boaz Lev, director general of the Israeli Ministry of Health. "We decided to prepare ourselves for every possible situation."

Lev said hospitals and emergency preparedness teams are practicing drills covering a long menu of potential disasters, including a conventional missile assault, chemical and biological attacks and nuclear catastrophe. This in a country that already has been engaged in nearly two years of violence and terrorism in the Palestinian uprising. Adding to the angst is the warning from the country's leadership that, unlike in the Persian Gulf War in 1991, Israel will not refrain from launching its own attack against Iraq if President Saddam Hussein unleashes missiles or other weapons against Israel.

"We will be one of the main targets," Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said in a recent interview with the mass circulation daily newspaper Yedioth Aharonoth. "What I told the Americans, and I repeat it: 'Don't expect us to continue to live with the process of restraint. If they hit us, we reserve the right of response.'"

During the Gulf War, the United States pressured Israel to remain out of the fight, even though Iraq launched 39 Scud missiles at Israel, for fear of losing the support of Arab allies in the military coalition against Iraq. But Israeli

officials say that rationale does not apply this time because the United States is unlikely to line up an Arab coalition for an attack against Iraq.

"I don't think America will ask us to hold our fire this time," said a senior adviser to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"America understands there is no real need for a wall-to-wall coalition because it will never have the support of the Arab world for an attack on Iraq."

In recent weeks, as rhetoric from Washington has intensified, virtually every medical and security decision about how to brace Israel for a potential defense against Iraq has become embroiled in emotional political debate. On Wednesday, the Israeli security cabinet decided to vaccinate about 15,000 emergency workers against smallpox, a disease that the World Health Organization determined had been eradicated by the start of the 1980s. Now some scientists say Iraq may have the ability to resurrect the disease, which is extremely contagious and can kill up to one-third of the people it infects.

But with that decision came a vitriolic debate among politicians and medical experts that ended in the resignation of the Health Ministry's top epidemiological adviser. He was enraged that the ministry did not accept his task force's recommendation to inoculate the entire Israeli population.

"This is a tricky thing, trying to explain why you are doing this or why you haven't done that," Lev said.

At the moment, Lev said, much of the fear over smallpox is hypothetical. He added, however, that when the ministry determines there is even "a very minimal threat, then the right thing to do is immunize everybody."

Lev and other medical experts warn that the vaccinations can have dangerous side effects. Among the 15,000 people being vaccinated, several could be expected to die and hundreds could become ill. "Every such thing has its price," Lev said.

During the Gulf War, Iraq did not arm its missiles with chemical or biological agents, as the Israeli and U.S. militaries had feared. But millions of Israelis were outfitted with protective masks. Of the 74 Israelis who died during the missile attacks, only two were killed by Scuds. Four suffocated from improper use of their gas masks, and 68 died from heart failure or heart attacks attributed to war-related stress, according to the National Insurance Institute.

As the talk of an attack against Iraq has escalated in recent weeks, the 30 distribution centers across the country have been fielding about 5,000 requests a day for new masks, known here as Atomic, Biological and Chemical Protection Kits, or trade-ins on kits that have expired since they were issued for the Gulf War.

Newspaper headlines and television reports have carried scare stories warning of Iraq's possible unleashing of everything from nerve gas to anthrax and the Ebola virus.

"War is very close, I can feel it," said Tami Haver, 31, a piano teacher who joined a short line of citizens at the military's Home Front Command distribution center at Jerusalem's upscale Malha Mall. "It will be more serious than it was the last time. . . . I hope that the gas mask will help. I rely on it. Okay, not 100 percent, but I do rely on it. I have to."

Nadav Caspi, an unemployed accountant waiting in the same line with his wife and 4-month-old daughter, was far more skeptical.

"This whole gas mask thing is like giving aspirin to somebody who is suffering from a terminal disease," said Caspi, adding that he was getting new masks only at the urging of his wife. "In the army we get a full body suit. These [chemical] agents don't just enter through breathing, but through the skin, and these masks won't help at all. They just make people feel better."

The Israeli government is also planning to add iodine capsules to mask kits now in production as a potential antidote to fallout from radioactive weapons. The pills are intended to minimize reaction to radioactive fallout by boosting the capabilities of the thyroid gland.

Meanwhile, the military is making its own preparations, honing a new, high-technology antimissile battery in the center of the country. The Arrow-2 system, which Israel is developing with the United States, has been deployed for about three years in the southern Negev desert, according to military officials.

But even that program has encountered controversy. The system recently was put into operation about six miles from the central Israeli town of Hadera, despite protests from some residents fearful that the system's early warning and fire control radar could pose a health hazard.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A51195-2002Aug22.html>

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Los Angeles Times
August 23, 2002

U.S. Feared A Nuclear Argentina

Policy: Hoping to win the regime's support for a ban in the 1970s, America curbed its opposition to the 'dirty war,' documents show.

By Paul Richter, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON -- U.S. efforts in the late 1970s to pressure Argentina to end the torture and killing of leftists were restrained in part by an American desire to keep the military junta from developing a nuclear bomb, newly declassified U.S. government papers show.

A State Department intelligence report from 1978 said that even while the Carter administration was stepping up pressure on the Argentine regime to curb the "dirty war" against dissidents, U.S. policymakers worried that pushing too hard could jeopardize efforts to convince the junta to join a treaty banning nuclear weapons in Latin America. "Argentina's nuclear status and capabilities have forced the United States to examine carefully the possibility that human rights initiatives could be detrimental to continued U.S. influence in the nuclear area," said the report from the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. "The U.S. human rights approach to Argentina has always been tempered by Argentina's potential as a nuclear proliferator."

The report was among 4,677 documents from 1975 to 1984 that were declassified and released by the State Department this week. The information had been requested by the families of the regime's victims, human rights groups and governments that are considering prosecuting Argentine officials they accuse of human rights abuses. Documents disclosed earlier this week suggested a clear difference between the Ford and Carter administrations in their policies on Argentina. The earlier documents indicate that leaders of the military regime believed that the Ford administration, which was in office when the junta took power, was not sincerely concerned about rights abuses. The papers show that the generals repeatedly dismissed expressions of concern from the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, saying they knew from personal visits to Washington that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger did not object to their campaign against the leftists.

The military government cracked down on insurgents beginning in March 1976 in an effort to end political violence that had racked the country since 1970. Thousands of Argentine citizens disappeared in the campaign, which the regime viewed as a war on terrorism.

When Jimmy Carter took office in 1977, he stepped up pressure on the Argentines to halt what his administration saw as gross human rights abuses. The U.S. cut back on military and economic aid and began collecting information on incidents of kidnapping, torture and killing.

By early 1978, Carter administration pressure had brought relations between the two countries to a "nadir," the intelligence report notes. While U.S. officials continued to press on human rights issues, their desire to bring the junta around on the nuclear issue complicated the effort.

The report notes that the nuclear arms issue was a major item on the agenda when Carter met Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla in September 1977, and when Secretary of State Cyrus Vance visited Buenos Aires two months later.

Though the South American nation does not possess nuclear weapons, analysts say it came close to developing them while the military ruled from 1976 to 1983. The prospect of a nuclear-armed Argentina was especially unnerving to U.S. officials because of the country's rivalry with neighboring Brazil.

The report says the Argentines had not sought to use the nuclear weapons issue to win concessions from the U.S. in the human rights debate. Nonetheless, it says, they "undoubtedly appreciate the bargaining power of their nuclear chip," and predicts that the generals "may attempt to inject it directly into human rights discussions."

Carlos Osorios, an analyst at the National Security Archive, a nonprofit research organization that gathers declassified national security documents, said the report shows that the proliferation worries were a "very, very important factor" in shaping U.S. policy at the time.

F. Allen "Tex" Harris, a retired foreign service officer who was closely involved with the "dirty war" issue while at the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires in the late 1970s, said in an interview that the Argentine nuclear program "was a major concern of the Department of State and the defense establishment" at the time.

Even so, the biggest issue generating debate among U.S. policymakers, he said, was whether the policy should be shaped by the desire to influence Argentina's human rights practices or whether the U.S. should take "a long-term view that it had to maintain good working relations with the military as the only stable entity in the country."

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London Daily Telegraph
August 26, 2002

Saddam To Be Target Of Britain's 'E-Bomb'

By Michael Smith, Defence Correspondent

The Pentagon is planning to use a British weapon that can disable electronic and electrical systems without killing anyone to attack Saddam Hussein's chemical and biological weapons sites.

The "radio frequency weapon", or E-Bomb, developed at a secret site in south-west England, sends out a high-intensity radio wave with similar effects to the electromagnetic pulse from a nuclear blast.

It is also able to penetrate the underground bunkers where Saddam's chemical and biological weapons are stored as protection from allied bombing. The radio pulse will travel easily down the bunkers' power and ventilation ducts.

One of the biggest problems facing allied troops if they were sent into Iraq would be that, with any attack aimed at removing him from power, Saddam knows he has nothing to lose in using his weapons of mass destruction.

Bombing the sites would only spread the chemical or biological agents, killing innocent Iraqi civilians and threatening invading forces.

By using the E-bomb to cripple the plants' refrigeration and computer systems, the allies would ensure that the weapons could not be used in any effective way.

Although the weapon is still in the final stages of development, American defence sources said they were interested in acquiring it for immediate deployment in any attack on Iraqi chemical and biological weapons sites.

The E-Bomb can be made to have a limited range and be delivered by cruise missile, by smart bomb, or by one of the unmanned aerial vehicles which proved their effectiveness during the campaign in Afghanistan, one British official said.

As it approaches its target, an array of aerials spring out and its capacitors discharge themselves, sending out a burst of high-powered microwave energy to disable electrical and electronic systems.

The weapon was developed by the novel technology department of Matra BAe Dynamics. It gives credence to the nightmare scenario of a high-technology war when the enemy could disable the radio, radar, and computer systems on which modern defences depend.

The weapon can also bring civil infrastructure to a standstill, closing national electricity grids, stopping telephone, radio and television systems.

The discovery that Russia was close to producing the E-bomb sparked a race to build similar weapons and counter-measures to protect against them in which Britain has become the world leader.

MI6 has told ministers that Iraq may still possess tons of chemical warfare agents, the necessary materials to produce thousands of litres of biological agents and as many as 10 Scud missiles with which to deliver them.

Iraq has admitted that before the Gulf war it manufactured 100 botulinum bombs, 50 anthrax bombs, and seven aflatoxin bombs. Five missile warheads were filled with anthrax, 16 with botulinum, and four with aflatoxin.

The Iraqi chemical warfare arsenal is known to include:

The nerve agents Sarin and VX. Colourless and tasteless, they cause death by respiratory arrest in one to 15 minutes.

Blister agents such as mustard gas. Severely incapacitating, they damage tissue, causing extensive large blisters.

Psychoactive agents such as Agent 15. Symptoms include dizziness, vomiting and hallucinations lasting for days.

Biological warfare agents produced by Iraq include:

Anthrax. Symptoms initially resemble that of a common cold and are only identifiable in the fatal phase. Once this begins, vomiting, severe head and joint pain, and respiratory distress will lead to death in one to three days.

Botulinum. Causes botulism. Symptoms include nausea, diarrhoea, paralysis of the throat and convulsions, followed by death due to respiratory arrest.

Aflatoxins. Poisons produced by fungi and mould, they have the capacity to cause liver cancer.

Ricin. Inhalation leads to weakness, fever and pulmonary oedema within 24 hours followed by death.

Clostridium perfringens. A bacterium which causes gangrene.

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China Issues Rules On Missile Exports

By Philip P. Pan, Washington Post Foreign Service

BEIJING, Aug. 25 -- China issued new regulations today to control the export of missile technology, meeting a longstanding demand by the United States in a move apparently aimed at improving relations with the Bush administration before President Jiang Zemin visits Washington in October.

The publication of the export rules seemed a significant concession in arms control talks that have been stalled for months, with China denying U.S. charges that it sells missile technology to countries such as Pakistan and Iran and condemning the United States for its own weapons sales to Taiwan.

Chinese diplomats had previously said they would not publish the regulations until the United States lifted sanctions barring U.S. companies from launching satellites on Chinese rockets. The Chinese government had also objected to sanctions imposed on specific companies accused of exporting missile-related technology.

But the Bush administration has expressed little flexibility on these issues, at least in public, and last month, the State Department announced new sanctions against nine Chinese companies that allegedly transferred sensitive equipment to the Middle East.

Beijing's decision to publish the rules appeared intended to further strengthen ties with the United States that have been improving since China backed the U.S.-led war on terrorism after the Sept. 11 attacks. U.S. officials have made it clear that weapons proliferation is a "make-or-break issue" in relations with China, and President Bush pushed for new commitments from Jiang during his visit here in February.

The new regulations were announced as Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage arrived in Beijing to discuss Jiang's upcoming visit, reinforcing the sense that the decision is tied to the summit. The trip could be Jiang's last to the United States as China's president, and he is said to be eager to ensure that it is a success.

The new rules do not explicitly ban any items from export, but they require companies that transfer technologies specified on a "control list" to obtain licenses and seek government approval for each transaction. They also require the companies to obtain guarantees from their customers that the technology will not be misused or resold.

U.S. arms negotiators have urged China to publish the regulations, as well as the list of items subject to the rules, to make it easier to press for stricter controls. When Chinese companies export sensitive equipment, U.S. officials want to be able to say whether the companies are violating China's laws or whether those laws need to be tightened to include other equipment.

The official New China News Agency published the text of the regulations but did not release the list of items subject to the rules. It was unclear whether the control list would be provided to the United States.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said the regulations demonstrate that China "stands against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems" and meets its international obligations.

China promised to publish the regulations as part of a deal in November 2000 in which it agreed not to help countries build missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons. In return, the Clinton administration lifted sanctions preventing U.S. companies from launching satellites on Chinese rockets. Those sanctions were reimposed after evidence surfaced indicating China had violated the agreement.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A60846-2002Aug25.html>

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Cloud Over Russia's Poison Gas Disposal

Withholding of U.S.-Promised Funds Delays Start of Planned Destruction

By Susan B. Glasser, Washington Post Foreign Service

GORNY, Russia -- The aging steel barrels with their contents of Cold War-vintage poison gas are nowhere to be seen at the brand-new factory here on the empty steppe. But while they are politely hidden from view, reminders of their presence are everywhere, from the moon-suited rescue workers on duty to the gleaming production lines whose only job will be to destroy the lethal gas the Soviet Union once created.

Soon, the barrels will become the first deadly chemical weapons destroyed by Russia, marking the long-delayed start of a multibillion-dollar program that will take at least another decade to complete. Every year since 1997, Russia has failed to meet its international promise to destroy chemical weapons such as the ones stored at Gorny, pleading poverty and the resistance of such donors as the United States, which vowed to help but didn't cough up the cash.

Given that record, and with a stockpile big enough to kill every person on the planet, even the ceremonial opening of the facility here this week seemed like a small miracle, "the first small step," as German Ambassador Hans-Joachim Daerr put it midway through a tour of the buildings paid for with more than \$60 million from Germany.

Starting late this year under terms of the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention, the Russians will use the plant to destroy over a planned 2 1/2 years an estimated 1,200 tons of lewisite, or arsine, an arsenic-based gas, and yperite, or mustard gas; both are classified as "schedule one" chemical weapons, the most lethal. They are Russia's oldest chemical arms, and many of them have been sitting in steel barrels here that are less than a half-inch thick since the early 1950s.

But Gorny is hardly the success the Russians envisioned when they first agreed with the Germans to build the factory a decade ago. Plagued by delays, safety concerns and political disputes that continue, it serves instead as a reminder that Russia's commitment to destroy the lethal wastes from the Cold War is still little more than an unfulfilled promise.

"It's dragged on and on and on," said Horst Reeps, director of verification at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the international agency based at The Hague set up to monitor compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention. "It's important for the Russians to finally show some results. This program has gone on for 10 years already."

And Gorny was supposed to be the easy part. The chemicals stored here, while lethal, are not in weapons form and represent only a small part of the 40,000 metric tons stockpiled by Russia in six other sites around the country. Two other factories meant to destroy far more dangerous nerve gases are nowhere near completion -- and may never be built if the United States doesn't come through with hundreds of millions of dollars it has promised but refused to deliver because Russia has not complied with congressional conditions.

All of which had Zinovy Pak, the head of the Russian Munitions Agency, fuming instead of celebrating this week as he guided three busloads of foreign dignitaries and Russian officials through the Gorny factory on a sunny, vodka-soaked afternoon.

"They love money themselves; they can't bear to give it away," he said, not entirely jokingly, of the Americans. Pak, the official in charge of the chemical weapons destruction program, said he's no longer sure the United States will ever hand over the funds it has pledged. "Either you're helping or you're not helping, and if you're not helping, you should just step away," he said.

An energetic figure with a shock of gray hair and a gray suit to match, Pak is widely credited with revitalizing the stalled Russian program since he took it over from a reluctant military two years ago. But he said the project cannot proceed without the American funding. "We need the spoon during dinner, not after it's over," he said. And even if all the money were received, Pak said, delays have already been so lengthy that "there's no way" Russia can meet the 2007 deadline to destroy its entire chemical weapons stockpile.

"I wish he wouldn't say things like that," said Thomas E. Kuenning Jr., director of the congressionally created Cooperative Threat Reduction Program at the Pentagon and the only senior American at Wednesday's plant opening. During the 1990s, the United States spent some \$260 million on Russian chemical weapons destruction, but Congress, seeing no appreciable results, called a halt. Now, Kuenning said, millions of dollars for the Russians are on hold -- \$34 million from last year's budget and another \$113 million in this year's appropriation -- because Russia has failed to conform to the conditions set by Congress for receiving the money.

In particular, he said, Russia has failed to give Congress a "full and accurate accounting" of the size of its chemical weapons stockpile, which many experts believe is bigger than the 40,000 tons Russia has declared. The other unmet condition concerns Russia's long-term plan for the destruction of the weapons, which is contradictory in parts and unclear on such matters as funding and whether deadly nerve gases will be transported across the country, he said. "The onus is on them to satisfy these concerns," Kuenning said. If the Russians are unable or unwilling to do so, he added, "they should find other money so they can live up to their obligations."

Here in Gorny, it's taken 10 years just to get to this point. Back in 1992, the Germans first agreed with then-president Boris Yeltsin to build the chemical weapons destruction facility, but virtually no work was done until two years ago. In addition to the German money, the European Union contributed \$6 million to the Gorny facility.

Even now, there is a sense of incompleteness to the place, which is more than 500 miles south of Moscow and a bumpy three-hour drive from Saratov, the regional center on the Volga River. Cranes still hover over the factory, and it's not clear when weapons destruction will actually begin. As recently as a few months ago, the Germans were

told it would start this summer; now the promise is to begin by December. "It's a fair chance," Daerr said, "but I wouldn't bet my head on it."

At least in part, that's because the local politics of chemical weapons are almost as complicated as the international ones.

In recent weeks, the governor of the Saratov region, Dmitri Ayatskov, has waged an intense public relations campaign against the plant's opening, noting that serious safety issues remain unresolved and complaining in particular that no one has decided what to do about the "reaction masses" -- the toxic byproducts that will be left over once the poison gases are destroyed. Despite promises that they will all receive gas masks, local residents are also fearful about the plant's imminent opening.

"We ought not to hurry because this matter concerns the health of hundreds of people," Ayatskov told Russian reporters last week. He was conveniently out of town for this week's ceremony at the facility, and his aide who did attend, Yuri Radyushkin, made clear that local leaders have not yet relented on safety questions. "All these problems must be addressed before we start work here," he said.

Most of Gorny's international funders are sanguine about the governor's campaign, viewing it as a political ploy to wrest more money for his region from Russia's cash-strapped central government. "He is trying to put pressure on the center to get more benefits for the local population," said one Western diplomat. "He wants to present it as more dangerous than it is."

But few doubt that Gorny's long-suffering population of several thousand is worried about the facility's imminent opening. "There has not been enough attention to local concerns," said Sergei Baranovsky, president of Green Cross Russia, an environmental group that works closely with the government. "The people are misinformed, and they are in principle against the destruction of chemical weapons."

In the early 1990s, he recalled, Russia had actually built and prepared to open a chemical weapons destruction facility in the Samara region, but local residents took to the streets in protest and it never opened. "It can happen here, too," Baranovsky said. "It can happen anywhere."

Standing at the epicenter of the Gorny plant, white-coated Alexander Smetanin expressed his fury at concerns.

"Ignorant people only are nervous," he said, shouting to be heard above the din of the machine he was testing for the visiting dignitaries.

Smetanin, the director of production at a plant whose job is to un-produce, was showing off the machine that will actually take the barrels with lewisite and extract the lethal contents. First, a hole will be drilled in the barrel, then the gas will be taken out by vacuum. The full cycle, he said, takes about an hour. The poison will then be mixed with water in a process known as hydrolysis. The leftovers will be highly toxic -- hence the governor's concern -- but will no longer be usable as weapons.

Smetanin and others here who have spent a lifetime working with chemical weapons claim to be thrilled that they will now be destroying them. "It will help get you into heaven, this work," he said.

But like the long-delayed program itself, the Gorny factory is being greeted with ambivalence by some top Russians. "I feel myself very happy today," said Viktor Petrunin, considered by many to be the father of Soviet chemical weapons and still head of the main Russian government agency that does research on such matters. Despite his outwardly cheerful demeanor as he clambered busily around the Gorny plant, Petrunin has often expressed bitterness at being forced to destroy the weapons he helped create.

"I've had many sessions with him where he laments the fact of chemical weapons destruction," recalled the Pentagon's Kuenning, "where he complains that we're getting rid of all this good stuff."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A55096-2002Aug23.html>

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Washington Post

August 24, 2002

Pg. 17

Legislators Want Action On Nukes

After Yugoslav Success, Control of Other Stockpiles Sought

By Joby Warrick, Washington Post Staff Writer

Legislators from both parties called yesterday for dramatically increased efforts to rid the world of dangerous nuclear stockpiles and offered a chorus of praise for Thursday's multinational operation that removed 100 pounds of weapons-grade uranium from an aging Yugoslav reactor.

State Department officials who led the planning of the mission near Belgrade revealed, meanwhile, that as many as two dozen research reactors in 16 countries were being considered as potential targets for similar missions.

"We want to get at all of them, and some of them are going to be a lot more pernicious than others," said a senior official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The high-quality Yugoslav uranium -- enough to make between two and three nuclear bombs, according to weapons experts -- was whisked out of Yugoslavia's Vinca Institute for Nuclear Sciences early Thursday by an international team composed of officials from the United States, Russia, Yugoslavia and the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency. The extraction, planned in secret for more than a year, was aimed at eliminating a vulnerable nuclear stockpile that could be used by terrorists to make weapons.

Republicans and Democrats praised the U.S.-led initiative yesterday, though several expressed concern about bureaucratic obstacles that delayed the operation and forced U.S. officials to ask private groups for money to help carry it out. The Washington-based Nuclear Threat Initiative, a nonprofit group founded by media entrepreneur Ted Turner, donated \$5 million to cover much of the cost of the action.

"The [Vinca] mission further underscores the need for a plan to secure the materials that could fall into the wrong hands," said Sen. Jean Carnahan (D-Mo.), a cosponsor of bipartisan legislation passed by the Senate this year to expand U.S. nonproliferation programs abroad. "We know Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein have both attempted to get their hands on nuclear material. We must do everything possible to see that does not happen."

A spokesman for Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) called for eliminating restrictions that have contributed to extensive delays in past efforts to secure stockpiles of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

"Next time you may not have a year," said Andrew J. Fisher.

An amendment passed as part of the Senate version of the fiscal 2003 defense spending bill, would give U.S. agencies more money and greater flexibility to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. A House-Senate conference committee is expected to take up the measure after Congress returns next month.

Nonproliferation groups yesterday said Russia's participation in the Vinca operation suggests that an opportunity exists to address threats at dozens of similar facilities around the world.

"This operation shows that we can do a lot more, faster," said Joseph Cirincione, director of the nonproliferation project at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "Russia is more willing to cooperate. If the United States is willing to put the money and muscle into this, we can solve a huge part of the world's proliferation problems within a decade."

The Reuters news agency contributed to this report.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A60846-2002Aug25.html>

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Homeland Security: Effective Intergovernmental Coordination Is Key to Success,

by Paul L. Posner, managing director, budget issues, before the Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management, and Intergovernmental Relations, House Committee on Government Reform, in Iowa City, Iowa; and in Golden, Colorado.

GAO-02-1012T, August 22.

GAO-02-1013T, August 23.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-02-1012T>

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-02-1013T>

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FBI to renew anthrax search at Florida building

August 26, 2002 Posted: 9:06 AM EDT (1306 GMT)

BOCA RATON, Florida (AP) -- The FBI wants to take another look at an anthrax-infested building owned by tabloid publisher American Media Inc., where an employee was fatally infected last fall.

It would be the first search of the building since November, FBI spokeswoman Judy Orihuela said Sunday. She declined to comment further, pending an FBI news conference Monday to announce additional details.

American Media spokesman Gerald McKelvey said Sunday that the FBI has notified them of the new searches, but he gave no more information.

The building has been under federal quarantine since October, when photo editor Robert Stevens died after becoming infected at his desk. He was the first person to die during the anthrax attacks last fall, which killed five people.

While transmission through the mail was suspected, investigators have never determined how anthrax spores were sent to the building. Spores delivered by mail also hit media outlets in New York and a congressional building in Washington.

Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., said last week he would introduce legislation to require the federal government to help clean the building, fearing a hurricane could spread spores.

AMI publishes six supermarket tabloids, including The National Enquirer, Globe and Weekly World News.

<http://www.cnn.com/2002/US/08/26/anthrax.florida.ap/index.html>

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Health Workers Await Official Smallpox Policy

By LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN

More than two months after a national advisory panel recommended vaccinating thousands of health care and emergency workers against smallpox as a precaution against a bioterrorist attack, state and local health officials are waiting for the government to announce its official policy. No vaccinations have taken place.

The advisory panel's recommendations are routinely forwarded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the secretary of health and human services. A spokesman said on Friday that Tommy G. Thompson, the secretary, had made no decision.

The government has never rejected or significantly modified any recommendation from the panel, known as the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, C.D.C. officials said.

In responding to a federal government request, the advisory panel sped up the end of its deliberations to June from October. Now "it's a hurry up and wait" situation, said the panel's chairman, Dr. John F. Modlin of Dartmouth Medical School.

Responsibility for carrying out any plan and approving who gets the vaccine will fall on state and local health departments. But no state can begin until the federal government, which owns all stocks of the vaccine, releases it. On June 20, the panel unanimously rejected a proposal to offer vaccine to every American and recommended immunizing only about 15,000 "first responders" — the health care and law enforcement workers who would be most likely to respond to a biological attack.

But in early July, some federal officials said that they would soon vaccinate 500,000 first responders.

Jerome M. Hauer, acting assistant secretary for emergency preparedness at the Department of Health and Human Services, said at that time that the agency hoped to send planning documents on how best to conduct mass vaccinations to cities and states within two weeks.

Officials now say that announcement was premature.

"Jerry was jumping the gun" and the material has not been sent, said William Pierce, a spokesman for the department. The decision has been slowed in part by the vacation period and is expected within weeks, Mr. Pierce said.

Bush administration officials have debated whether to offer smallpox vaccinations to all Americans, as some people have advocated, or to limit them as the committee recommended.

President Bush faces a health issue that is believed to be a first — weighing the risks of administering a dangerous vaccine to protect against a disease that exists only as an unquantifiable threat.

Last month, Mr. Bush said that in considering his options he was concerned about calling for a national vaccination program that could cause death.

Smallpox vaccine can lead to serious and potentially fatal complications, especially in people with impaired immune systems. The virus from which the vaccine is derived, a cousin of the smallpox virus, can spread from recipients to people with whom they come in contact and can cause life-threatening complications among them.

Because the United States stopped routine smallpox vaccinations in 1972, tens of millions of younger Americans have never been vaccinated against a disease that can kill up to 30 percent of its victims. It is unclear how well protected those people who received vaccinations decades ago are.

The World Health Organization declared smallpox eradicated in 1980 and has allowed the United States and Russia each to freeze a stock of smallpox virus. But because the former Soviet Union is believed to have weaponized smallpox virus, the fear is that terrorists or a few countries like Iraq have obtained the virus.

In light of the new threat, Bush administration officials have recently taken a fresh look at data concerning the complications from vaccinations when they were routine in this country. The focus was on the risk of a vaccine recipient inadvertently transmitting the virus to other people, and the data were both reassuring and disconcerting. The review showed that adults who were vaccinated rarely transmitted the vaccine virus to other people. But experts say they do not know how valid the findings are today when many more people are vulnerable to such infection because they have impaired immune systems from treatment for cancer, H.I.V. infection and other conditions. More disturbing were the data concerning risks among people with a common skin condition, eczema. People with it, or who have had it, are at higher risk of complications from the smallpox vaccine. The rate was one case of complications per 100,000 vaccinations, a figure that exceeds the risk of paralysis from the oral polio vaccine. The government stopped oral polio vaccinations because it considered the risk too high.

Now state officials want "what amounts to political clearance" before vaccinating health care workers, said Dr. J. Michael Lane, a retired C.D.C. smallpox epidemiologist who now consults with the agency's bioterrorism defense program. "Everyone says we don't want to be the first, but we don't want to be the last" to begin, Dr. Lane said. Dr. Marcelle Layton, the assistant commissioner of the New York City Department of Health for communicable diseases, said that "it's hard to plan at the detail level until the federal decision is made" and that "it's not going to be a simple thing to do regardless of what the numbers are."

Dr. Layton said her department had begun to work with its advisory panels and with the Police and Fire Departments and emergency medical services to identify the groups of workers to vaccinate. The list includes a core group of Health Department staff members who would investigate the first calls about a case of suspected smallpox and who would trace their contacts.

The list is also expected to include some medical specialists who would be the most likely to see a case — emergency room staff members, ambulance workers, dermatologists, infectious disease doctors, nurses, laboratory workers and support staff members.

No consensus has been reached, largely because until health departments learn how much vaccine they will receive, they cannot make more detailed plans, Dr. Layton said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/25/politics/25SMAL.html>

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Potential biological weapons in Iraq concern U.N. inspectors' chief

August 23, 2002 Posted: 7:03 PM EDT (2303 GMT)

NEW YORK (CNN) -- While U.N. weapons inspectors are concerned that Saddam Hussein is trying to develop all types of weapons of mass destruction, their biggest question is whether Iraq has already developed biological agents, the U.N. chief weapons inspector said Friday.

"There are open questions in all the dossiers certainly, but the greatest number are in the biological sector," said Hans Blix, the head of the U.N.'s new weapons inspection agency, UNMOVIC.

In an interview on CNN, Blix said inspectors "have been ready to go in for some time," but are awaiting an offer.

"We need a direct invitation that we can come back, and we are ready to follow up on that," Blix said. "They certainly have not made any solid offer to inspection."

He added, "We want to talk about practical arrangements and nothing else."

Among those arrangements could be where the inspectors would land and what type of vehicles they would use.

"We know what our rights are, but we'd like to go through it with them to make sure the Iraqis look at it in the same way," he said. "We do not want to have clashes once we come in."

As the head of UNMOVIC, Blix would lead the delegation that would check to see whether Iraq is developing chemical or biological weapons. A separate team from the Atomic Energy Agency would inspect any suspected nuclear site.

Iraq has sent conflicting messages on whether inspectors would be allowed to return to the country. U.N. inspectors left Iraq in late 1998 ahead U.S.-British airstrikes and have not been allowed to return.

Earlier this week, a senior Iraqi official said it would be "foolish" for Iraq to allow inspections to resume, charging that the U.N. team would contain spies for the U.S. government.

This official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the only way any inspections would be conducted is if a U.S. congressional delegation accepts Iraq's invitation to visit Iraq for a brief period to look at suspected weapons sites.

However, the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations, Mohammad Al-Douri, said Iraq is still willing to discuss the issue.

"Iraq is ready to discuss weapons inspections, including future work," he said.

President Bush said his administration is continuing to explore "all options" on how to deal with Iraq, including diplomatic solutions.

But he again made clear his position on Iraq's leader, saying, "Saddam Hussein is a threat." And he said regime change is "in the interest of the world."

<http://www.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/meast/08/23/iraq.inspections/index.html>

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Nonproliferation R&D: NNSA's Program Develops Successful Technologies, but Project Management Can Be Strengthened.

GAO-02-904,

August 23.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-02-904>

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