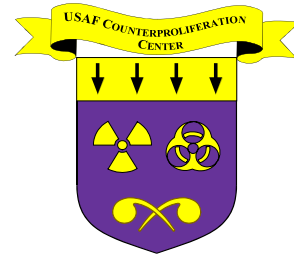


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THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ANTHRAX VACCINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM: UNPROVEN FORCE PROTECTION

106th Congress, 2d Session ----- House Report 106-556

<http://www.house.gov/reform/ns/reports/anthraxreport.pdf>

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Nuke Agency Seeks Tough Resolution

IAEA asks U.N. to 'strengthen our hand' against Iraq

From combined dispatches

VIENNA, Austria — The International Atomic Energy Agency sided with chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix yesterday in seeking a U.N. resolution with teeth before sending its inspectors to determine whether Iraq had revived a secret atomic-weapons program.

"I would like the Security Council to make it clear that we have immediate and unfettered access throughout Iraq," said Mohamed El Baradei, chief of the agency, which is based in Vienna.

"I'd like the Security Council to make it clear that noncompliance would be met with adequate response on behalf of the international community, and I think that is what the Security Council rightly is deliberating on," Mr. El Baradei said in an interview on CNN.

In 1991, agency inspectors discovered a massive Iraqi effort to build atom bombs and conceal the action when they chased down a convoy of trucks loaded with huge electromagnetic isotope separators that are used to make weapons-grade uranium.

The energy agency, a U.N. agency that monitors nuclear energy worldwide, worked side-by-side with U.N. weapons inspectors in Iraq until both groups were kicked out by Saddam Hussein in 1998.

"I would like the Security Council to strengthen our hand," Mr. El Baradei said yesterday.

The U.N. inspection team led by Mr. Blix had planned to return to Iraq in mid-October but has decided to hold off until the Security Council decides on a resolution.

In Baghdad, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein met yesterday with his top military commanders for the second time in 48 hours, Iraqi television announced.

Among those at the meeting were his son Qusay, who leads his security services, his Defense Minister Abdul Al-Tawab Mulla Huweish and top air force and air defense officials, the television broadcast said.

Saddam pledged not to let President Bush succeed "in twisting the arm of the Iraqi people."

The United States and Britain accuse Iraq of developing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and are pushing for a U.N. Security Council resolution to allow intrusive inspections of suspected Iraqi arms sites, backed by the threat of force.

France, also one of the five veto-holding members of the Security Council, favors having two resolutions, of which only the second would threaten force. Russia favors France's more cautious approach over what it considers Washington's "unfulfillable demands."

Iraq denies having weapons of mass destruction and has said it would not be intimidated into accepting a new Security Council resolution by threats of war.

Mr. El Baradei held two days of talks in Vienna last week between inspectors and an Iraqi delegation on the logistics and details of a return of the arms experts to Baghdad.

The agency will provide experts to study Iraq's nuclear capabilities, while other U.N. arms experts will look for chemical weapons, biological weapons and missiles.

The agency said yesterday that it was analyzing satellite images of Iraq released by the White House.

President Bush said in a speech Monday that he was worried that Saddam would attack the United States with chemical or biological weapons.

The White House later released satellite images that it said showed Iraq rebuilding two facilities related to Baghdad's nuclear-arms program.

"We are doing some internal follow-up to verify that the content of our photos is consistent with the images released by the White House," Mark Gwozdecky, spokesman for the agency, said in Vienna.

The agency, like the White House, has been using commercial satellite imagery to keep tabs on movements in Iraq for several years.

"Our position remains that photographs showing new construction are of great interest to us," Mr. Gwozdecky said. "However, it is only through inspections that we will be able to draw authoritative conclusions as to whether Iraq is complying with its nuclear-related obligations," he said.

After U.N. inspectors left Iraq in 1998, they said they had uncovered and neutralized Baghdad's capacity to build nuclear arms. Although there was no proof that Iraq had built an atomic bomb, it had successfully completed many steps toward making one.

On the diplomatic front, the United States and France continued to seek common ground on a U.N. resolution authorizing force if Iraq does not cooperate with inspectors.

Despite upbeat comments from Washington and Paris, the five main Security Council members were still discussing in New York "concepts" rather than detailed wording in the text, a sign that a resolution may not be introduced this week.

"Things are becoming clearer, and they could come together this week, but there is no indication yet of the movement needed," said one diplomat close to the talks, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "It's between Paris and Washington."

Yesterday, Security Council members had their monthly lunch with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and Iraq was the main topic of discussion. Later in the day, the five permanent council members with veto power — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — held another meeting.

The United States is seeking a resolution that would allow any U.N. member to conduct a military strike if it concluded that Iraq had violated new Security Council demands relating to its weapons of mass destruction.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20021009-71352390.htm>

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Washington Post

October 9, 2002

Pg. 27

Pentagon Details Iraq's Bid To Hide Arms Programs

Officials' Briefing Designed to Point Out How Difficult U.N. Inspections Would Be to Carry Out

By Bradley Graham and Colum Lynch, Washington Post Staff Writers

The Pentagon yesterday highlighted efforts by Iraq to conceal its weapons programs, providing an intelligence briefing to journalists meant to underscore the challenges facing any new U.N. inspections initiative.

The special briefing came as the United States continued to confer with other U.N. Security Council members over wording of a resolution that would authorize new inspections but also threaten Iraq with potential military action if it fails to disarm. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell reported movement toward agreement on giving more power to arms inspectors, but he and other officials indicated that the United States remained deadlocked with France over how to convey the threat of military force in a new resolution.

While President Bush has expressed a willingness to go along with a toughened U.N. inspection campaign under certain conditions, senior Pentagon officials have made clear their skepticism that resuming inspections, broken off in 1998, would uncover everything Iraq is doing in pursuit of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

The Pentagon briefing included no new disclosures about suspected Iraqi development efforts but portrayed the government of President Saddam Hussein as highly skilled in trying to obstruct the work of inspectors, fool intelligence analysts and convince world opinion that it has not been hiding anything. John Yurechko, the Defense Intelligence Agency official who conducted the briefing, said Iraq already is taking fresh steps to conceal equipment and documentation in anticipation of future inspections.

"We think they're fairly accomplished masters," said Yurechko, a specialist in what intelligence officials call "denial and deception" techniques.

He described a variety of Iraqi tactics, from concealing suspected weapons facilities in residential areas and presidential compounds to using the cover of "dual-use" petrochemical or biotech plants or public health facilities.

He noted that Iraqi authorities have become particularly adept at adjusting to international inspection methods, disabling surveillance cameras, for instance, or conducting illicit activities out of camera range.

Most of the examples that Yurechko provided were drawn from books, articles or other published remarks by U.N. inspectors or Iraqi defectors. But Yurechko also spoke of additional Iraqi concealment efforts within the past year, citing the Al Rafah/Shahiyat rocket engine plant, although he declined to elaborate.

He also suggested that the rebuilding of several weapons-related facilities bombed by U.S. warplanes in 1991 and 1998 pointed to ongoing covert Iraqi operations. Among the facilities he singled out were the Fallujah III castor oil plant, whose bean pulp residue can be used to produce the biological agent ricin; the al-Sharqat chemical production complex, built on the site of a former uranium enrichment facility; the al-Qaim phosphate plant and uranium

extraction line and the Tuwaitha nuclear complex, which Iraq says focuses on producing only pharmaceutical and agricultural products.

Anticipating new U.N. inspections, the Iraqis, Yurechko said, have trained "large numbers" of military, intelligence and other government officials in concealment and have developed extensive "alert and warning" procedures to shorten reaction times and allow for the swift removal of equipment and documents before inspectors arrive.

"They're improving on a daily basis," he said. Leadership of the whole deception effort, he said, rests with Hussein's youngest son, Qusai, who heads the Special Security Organization.

Speaking of the negotiations over a new U.N. resolution, Powell told international news agency reporters that there was "a view converging on the need for a new resolution with tough inspection standards." The major unresolved issue, he said, "is how to keep the threat of consequences . . . tied as closely as one can to the new requirements that will be placed upon Iraq."

France opposes the inclusion of any language that would explicitly authorize military force if Baghdad fails to cooperate with weapons inspectors. It also objects to some of the Bush administration's proposals for toughened inspections, including a provision for armed support for inspectors and for interviews with Iraqi officials to be conducted outside Iraq.

Russia and China back the French proposal to delay issuing any threat until Iraq has had an opportunity to demonstrate its good faith. Britain, which has indicated a willingness to consider France's two-step approach, has been seeking to broker an agreement between Washington and Paris.

Lynch reported from the United Nations.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A63353-2002Oct8.html>

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Wall Street Journal

October 9, 2002

Germans Say Iraq Acquired Long-Range Cannon Gear

Prosecutors Say Technology Could Help Make Artillery to Deliver Atomic Weapons

By David Crawford and Ian Johnson, Staff Reporters of The Wall Street Journal

BERLIN -- German prosecutors say Iraq has acquired technology to make a long-range cannon capable of delivering atomic, biological and chemical weapons, and that it came from Germany via Jordan.

The allegation is in a report prepared by German military and police agencies for prosecutors in Mannheim, Germany. A court there is preparing to hear a case in January against two Germans who bought from German companies cannon-boring equipment that allegedly ended up in Iraq.

The report and interviews with participants in the case give a glimpse into how Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein may have continued trying to rearm, pursuing weapons even in Western countries with strict export-control laws, such as Germany. Key to his effort in Germany were companies that readily accepted assurances that the goods were going only to Jordan.

"We believe we can prove that the technology was shipped to Iraq," says prosecutor Hubert Jobski. "The equipment was exported to Jordan solely to avoid compliance with the embargo on military shipments to Iraq."

The investigation was initiated in January 2001 after state auditors conducting a routine inspection discovered irregularities in the books of a Mannheim company, Alriwo GmbH. The investigation soon focused on Bernd Schompeter, a 59-year-old Alriwo employee.

Alriwo has shipped various products legally to Iraq under the United Nations oil-for-food program. Prosecutors say Mr. Schompeter used the company to buy cannon-boring equipment in 1999 and 2000 from two German companies. One was Burgsmueller GmbH, based in northern Germany, which sold Mr. Schompeter about €189,000 (\$186,000) worth of drilling equipment. The other is Iftek GmbH, from which he bought about euro50,000 worth of equipment. Prosecutors say Mr. Schompeter also tried to buy four cannon tubes in 1999 from Swiss concern Parcom AG, but backed out of the deal when the company asked for an official Jordanian document assuring it that the tubes would stay in Jordan.

The German companies, however, didn't insist on this certification, say prosecutors and one of the companies. The sales were technically a domestic transaction. But Dieter Bolle, chief executive of Iftek, said the final location of the products was clear: the Middle East.

"I was assured the drilling tools would remain in Jordan," Mr. Bolle said in a telephone interview. Mr. Bolle declined to identify the Jordanian company that received the products. "I don't reveal the names of my customers," he said. Public prosecutors haven't publicly disclosed the company, either.

Mr. Schompeter is charged with violating laws that restrict the export of weapons-making equipment. His lawyer, Guenter Urbanczyk, had no comment on the charges. Mr. Schompeter, who was convicted in the early 1990s for tax fraud, also faces separate charges for allegedly selling parts for military planes to Iraq.

Representatives of Burgsmüller and Alriwo declined to comment. One of Burgsmueller's former employees, identified by prosecutors as Willi R., is a co-defendant in the trial. Prosecutors refused to identify the man further. If convicted, each man faces 15 years each in jail.

The products had export approval from the German export-licensing authority, BAFA. A spokesman said the agency sometimes has a hard time determining if goods are really destined for a friendly country, such as Jordan, or will be shipped on. Mr. Schompeter, prosecutors say, shipped the products to Jordan between April 1999 and December 2000.

Mr. Schompeter was arrested last year and charged last month. When the trial begins in January, German intelligence is expected to show that Jordan was only a transit point for the equipment. Prosecutors say the goods were purchased by a man they identify only as Sahib al-H. They say the man is an Iraqi-born U.S. citizen, based in Amman, who shipped the goods to Iraq.

Prosecutors are also expected to draw on a report, written by Germany's Federal Office of Defense Technology and Procurement, which says the equipment that Mr. Schompeter sold is suitable for manufacturing cannon tubes for Iraq's al-Fao cannon, a 209mm weapon capable of firing a 240-pound projectile 35 miles. The report says the cannon could fire atomic, biological or chemical munitions in addition to conventional explosive shells.

Although Iraq still has missiles capable of delivering atomic, biological or chemical weapons, military experts say the artillery project has been priority since the 1980s, when the first al-Fao prototype was produced.

"Everyone talks about missiles, but missiles are very expensive," says Chris Foss, editor of Jane's Armor and Artillery. "Artillery like this is far cheaper and can be deployed much more quickly."

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New York Times

October 9, 2002

U.S. Troops Were Subjected To A Wider Toxic Testing

By Thom Shanker

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8 — Acknowledging a much wider testing of toxic weapons on its forces, the Defense Department says it used chemical warfare and live biological agents during cold-war-era military exercises on American soil, as well as in Canada and Britain, according to previously secret documents cleared for release to Congress on Wednesday.

Sixteen of the newly declassified reports, prepared by the Pentagon, describe how chemical and biological exercises, until now undisclosed, used deadly substances like VX and sarin to test the vulnerability of American forces to unconventional attack. An additional dozen reports describe how more benign substances were used to mimic the spread of the poisons in other tests.

The reports, which detail tests conducted from 1962 to 1971, reveal for the first time that the chemical warfare agents were used during exercises on American soil, in Alaska, Hawaii and Maryland, and that a mild biological agent was used in Florida.

Pentagon officials said late today that their investigations indicated that none of the lethal chemical agents had dispersed into the general population. Some milder substances did escape into the atmosphere, with a plant fungus dispersing in an area of Florida, a naturally occurring bacteria in Hawaii and a mild chemical irritant in a remote part of Alaska.

Late today, Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said military personnel in the tests had been given protection available at the time, though he conceded that it was primitive compared with what is available today.

In May, the Pentagon disclosed that ships and sailors had been sprayed with chemical and biological agents during cold-war-era testing. Unlike the newly disclosed tests, however, those took place on the high seas rather than on American soil.

The Defense Department is working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to identify an estimated 5,500 people believed to have participated in the land and sea tests, because it remains unclear, even today, whether all the military personnel were fully aware of the nature of the exercises, and the potential risks.

"We are taking this action now," Dr. Winkenwerder said, "because we do care about veterans and we do care about service members and their health and any potential ill health effects that might have resulted from their service to their country."

Congress has scheduled hearings this week to examine the documents and the government's responsibility to any veterans suffering from ill effects. The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health meets in closed session on Wednesday to be briefed on the reports, and the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel meets on Thursday.

Representative Christopher H. Smith, the New Jersey Republican who is chairman of the House committee, demanded today that the government make assistance available to any veteran made ill by the tests, especially as the Bush administration argues that military action may be required to disarm Iraq's arsenal of unconventional weapons. "At a time when our nation may be called upon to fight a war to protect Americans from chemical and biological terrorism," Mr. Smith said, "it is tragic to learn that four decades earlier, some of America's soldiers and sailors were unwitting participants in tests using live chemical and biological toxins."

The purpose of the tests was not to study chemical and biological weapons' effects on human health. Rather, the aim of the tests on land was to learn more about how chemical and biological weapons would be affected by climate, environment and other combat conditions. Tests at sea were intended to gauge the vulnerability of warships and how they might respond to the attack while continuing to fight.

The Pentagon previously released details of 10 tests that were conducted in the Pacific during the 1960's, but the new documents describe a program that was much larger and not restricted to tests at sea.

Tests conducted together with the Canadian government used VX, and tests with Britain used sarin and VX, the documents show.

Officials say that military and medical investigators are studying reports on 35 additional tests that might have been conducted with live chemical or biological agents during this same period, but whose results remain classified. The investigation is slow because the records are on paper, stored at Fort Douglas, Utah.

The legacy of the tests puts the Pentagon in a difficult position, trying to balance the legitimate health concerns of veterans — and anger at the lack of information on possible exposure — against the record of both Democratic and Republican administrations struggling to defend the nation against the threat of chemical or biological attack.

"It is easy to look in hindsight and to conclude that things could have been done in a different or better way," Dr. Winkenwerder said.

"But it's important to understand the context and the time period," he added. "We were involved in a cold war with the Soviet Union and had great concerns about what they might do. I think history has proven that those were not false concerns in terms of the offensive program that was being developed and might have been well in place at that time."

The process of identifying affected veterans began in September 2000 under pressure from Representative Mike Thompson, a California Democrat, who was responding to claims by veterans that they had suffered health damage from the tests.

"The Department of Defense has not only subjected our own soldiers to dangerous substances, it may have put civilians it is charged with protecting at risk," Mr. Thompson said tonight. "It is appalling that 40 years have passed and this information is just now being disclosed."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/10/09/politics/09NERV.html>

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Global Security Newswire (nti.org)

October 8, 2002

Pakistan: U.S. Visit Finds Continuing Obstacles To Nuclear Cooperation

By Bryan Bender, Global Security Newswire

WASHINGTON — The first high-level U.S. military delegation to visit Pakistan in four years to discuss security cooperation failed to address possible joint efforts in the area of nuclear security, despite concerns that the country's small but shrouded nuclear weapons complex may be at risk of theft or leakage, according to U.S. and Pakistani officials (see GSN, March 18).

Undersecretary of Defense Douglas Feith and dozens of U.S. officials spent nearly a week in Pakistan in late September as part of the U.S.-Pakistan Defense Consultative Group (see GSN, Sept. 27). The group was holding its first meeting since 1998, when Washington levied sanctions on both Pakistan and India following their exchange of nuclear tests.

In seeking South Asian cooperation in the war on terrorism, Washington has renewed military ties with both India and Pakistan and has restarted arms transfers and other military assistance to both. Officials said, however, that expanding cooperation to the nuclear sphere has so far not been seriously broached, indicating the difficulty facing U.S. officials as they seek to expand nonproliferation programs to South Asia.

U.S. law currently bars substantial cooperation because neither Pakistan nor India is a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Lawmakers have proposed removing such restrictions so that U.S. nonproliferation aid can be expanded beyond the former Soviet Union to South Asia and elsewhere to meet the growing threat of nuclear terrorism (see GSN, March 20).

One proposal calls for spending up to \$50 million of unobligated Cooperative Threat Reduction funds — originally intended for nonproliferation efforts in the former Soviet Union — to reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism in other regions of the world.

Officials say the obstacles to nuclear cooperation are deeper outside the United States, however, especially in Pakistan and India, where nuclear programs are a key source of national pride and considered a critical defense against encroachment by their neighbors.

Without addressing the outstanding issues between the two countries — mainly settling the competing claims over the disputed territory of Kashmir — progress in opening up their nuclear programs to scrutiny and international cooperation will be difficult, according to government officials and private experts.

"It's a sovereignty issue," said one Pakistani diplomat. "Kashmir and the nuclear program are very central. Any compromise would be seen as strategic failure."

Others warn of the difficulty in broaching nuclear cooperation with Pakistan and India given past disagreements with Washington and the inability of the two countries to settle their disputes.

"India and Pakistan have for many years taken a combative stance with regard to the Nonproliferation Treaty, branding it a discriminatory document in international forums and resisting policies developed on its basis," Rose Gottemoeller, senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said last month. "In this context, the United States has often seen New Delhi or Islamabad as a kind of adversary in nonproliferation policy." She said that new cooperation would be difficult without addressing other underlying issues. For example, India is likely to seek a resolution of its long-standing concerns with the nonproliferation regime — perhaps to allow it to buy reactors for its civilian nuclear program (see GSN, April 30).

"In other words, the new cooperation will disturb the long-standing policy status quo in a complicated and not wholly predictable way," Gottemoeller testified Sept. 24 before the House Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations.

As a result, discussions about security cooperation with both Pakistan and India have remained in the traditional spheres of arms sales and military training.

In the recent consultation in Pakistan, which ended Sept. 30, U.S. officials focused on enhancing assistance to the Pakistani military to continue its crackdown on the al-Qaeda terrorist network, believed to be operating in its western border region with Afghanistan, while jumpstarting discussions about long-stalled Pakistani requests for new and upgraded military equipment, including F-16 fighter jets.

As for India, the United States has also discussed new arms sales and other transfers of military equipment, while expanding collective training. Last week 85 Indian soldiers and airmen landed in Alaska to participate in the Geronimo Thrust '02 exercise with U.S. forces, the first of its kind in North America. The exercise, to last until Oct. 11, follows a weeklong exercise last month in which the U.S. and Indian navies participated in joint maneuvers.

Experts worry, however, that nuclear cooperation is much too important to pass up, despite the apparent hurdles.

"Concerns have ... been raised about the safety of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal," according to Rensselaer Lee, a Congressional Research Service international affairs consultant. "Little public information exists on how well or poorly that country's nuclear protective regime functions."

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has repeatedly said that "there is an excellent command and control system in place and there is no question of their falling into the hands of any fundamentalists."

Lee believes, however, that al-Qaeda terrorists and Taliban sympathizers may be present in the Pakistani nuclear complex, as they are in other spheres of Pakistani society. "Hence, the possibility of ideologically motivated thefts of nuclear assets cannot be excluded," she said. "And, of course, an unanticipated regime change would create a whole new host of problems."

Gottemoeller said that ways must be found to overcome the obstacles to nuclear cooperation in South Asia.

"At a minimum, countries such as the United States, India and Pakistan have each amassed individual experience over the years in protecting nuclear assets," she said. "Such experience can be shared in a way that could benefit others. If the United States worked separately with India and Pakistan to share information on protection and control of nuclear assets, the United States would be taking the first step toward transformation of these countries from adversaries to partners in the nonproliferation arena."

Still, resistance will not be easy to overcome. Even offers of simple cooperation, such as providing Pakistan with permissive action links that prevent the unauthorized use of nuclear weapons have had little effect (see GSN, Nov. 5, 2001).

"We register and are cognizant and sympathetic on nuclear proliferation concerns," the Pakistani diplomat said.

"Thanks but no thanks, we can take care of ourselves."

http://nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2002/10/8/4s.html

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Los Angeles Times

October 10, 2002

Pg. 1

Cold War Bio-Weapon Tests Included California

Defense: Secret trials in six states, from '62 to '73, were to track dispersal patterns, officials say.

By John Hendren, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON -- The Pentagon sprayed biological and chemical agents off the coast of San Diego during the Cold War, part of a series of previously undisclosed tests in several states that exposed troops and perhaps thousands of civilians to the compounds, defense officials said Wednesday.

In all, 27 newly disclosed secret tests were conducted in California, Alaska, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland and Utah, officials said. The tests, conducted from 1962 to 1973, were also carried out in Canada and the United Kingdom. In February 1966, a Navy vessel in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of San Diego was sprayed with methylacetoacetate, or MA, a chemical that irritates the eyes, skin and respiratory tract but is not considered hazardous by the Environmental Protection Agency.

In a second test in the summer of 1968, MA and *Bacillus globigii*, or BG, were released in the same waters. A bacterium related to anthrax, BG was later found to infect people with weak immune systems. No civilians are thought to have been exposed to harmful agents in those tests because they were carried out over the ocean. It was the first time the Pentagon has acknowledged that it used the agents on U.S. soil and that civilians may have been exposed during the tests. The Defense Department previously revealed that 10 tests were carried out during the Cold War on U.S. ships to determine how they would perform under chemical or biological attack.

The Defense Department released the information at a House Veterans Affairs Committee meeting Wednesday; some elements were leaked to reporters Tuesday.

Military officials insisted that none of the agents used near civilians was thought at the time to be dangerous, although some—including *E. coli* bacteria—were later found to be harmful, even deadly.

In 21 tests on land and six newly reported tests at sea overseen by the Desert Test Center at Ft. Douglas, Utah, live biological agents and lethal chemicals—including sarin and VX—were sprayed not only in the six states, but at or near military facilities in Puerto Rico, Canada, the United Kingdom, the Marshall Islands, Baker Island and over international waters in the Pacific Ocean.

The 37 tests disclosed so far affected about 5,000 service members at sea and 500 on land from 1962 to 1973, defense officials said. The Pentagon has notified about 1,400 of those soldiers about the secret testing regimen, dubbed "Project 112."

The Desert test center reported that four people were infected at the time and successfully treated. Veterans Affairs officials said they were studying the phenomenon; 53 veterans have filed health claims since the 1990s. The claims blame what they say was their exposure to the chemical or biological agents for a variety of ailments, including muscular, skeletal, digestive, hearing, skin and cardiovascular disorders.

Defense officials said the Pentagon has no process for notifying civilians who may have been exposed in the U.S., including those possibly numbering "into the thousands" on Oahu, Hawaii.

Pentagon officials believe local authorities were notified of the tests at the time, said William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant Defense secretary for health affairs, but most citizens apparently were not. Veterans advocates said lower-level soldiers also were unaware, although defense officials insisted the soldiers were protected by chemical gear and masks.

"We're making this information available so that anyone who believes there may have been some ill effect could come forward," Winkenwerder said.

Civilians were not believed to have been affected in California because the four tests conducted there—including two first reported Wednesday—were all conducted off the San Diego coast in the Pacific Ocean, according to the Pentagon analysis.

Defense officials insisted that civilians were exposed only to live biological agents that simulated more deadly agents in the way they spread, but were themselves believed to be harmless. However, the simulated substances included E. coli and other agents that were later found to be harmful or fatal to young children, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems.

Even soldiers and sailors exposed during the tests "may not have known all the details of these tests," Winkenwerder said.

"Most of these people didn't have a clue what they were part of," said Kirt Love, a veterans advocate with the Desert Storm Battle Registry who contended that in many cases only senior officers were aware of the tests. "These were not safe agents at the time."

After the report was released of the House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing, it was detailed at a Pentagon briefing. Defense officials said the tests were conducted for potential offensive use against U.S. enemies and for defense against the Cold War biological and chemical weapons arsenal amassed by the Soviet Union.

The Navy trials tested the ability of ships and sailors, clad in chemical defense gear, to perform under a chemical or biological attack at sea. The land-based tests were done to evaluate how the agents dispersed, officials said. Desert tests such as those in Utah helped the Pentagon amass much of the information the military has on how chemical and biological agents would perform in desert areas such as Iraq, said Anna Johnson-Winegar, the Pentagon's assistant secretary for chemical and biological defense.

"The purpose of these operational tests was to test equipment, procedures, military tactics, etc., and to learn more about biological and chemical agents," Winkenwerder said. "The tests were not conducted to evaluate the effects of dangerous agents on people."

The United States ended its biological weapons program in the 1960s and in 1997 signed a treaty agreeing to destroy all of its chemical weapons. Funding and disposal issues have delayed much of that process, leaving stores of lethal chemicals at several military sites throughout the nation.

Today, defense officials insist that the only testing of toxic and biological agents in the United States is given to chemical specialists among the armed services at a tightly contained testing facility at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. So-called stimulants still are used elsewhere.

The disclosures are unlikely to be the last from Project 112. The military had planned 134 tests; 46 were conducted, 62 were canceled and the status of the remainder is unclear. The newly disclosed tests used a variety of agents under various conditions.

Tests in the late 1960s in Porton Down, England, and Ralson, Canada, used tabun and soman, two deadly nerve agents.

In the 1965 Oahu test, BG was sprayed in a simulated attack called "Big Tom." Near Ft. Greely, Alaska, researchers tested how deadly sarin gas, the toxin members of the Aum Supreme Truth cult used in 1995 to kill commuters in the Tokyo subway, would disperse after being released from artillery shells and rockets in dense forests in a test dubbed "Devil Hole I" in 1965. A year later, VX agent, which lingers like motor oil in deadly pools, was released by artillery shells in "Devil Hole II."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-chemtest10oct10.0,2139987.story?coll=la%2Dhome%2Dtodays%2Dtimes>

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Washington Post
October 10, 2002
Pg. 29

U.N. Arms Inspector Seeks U.S. Intelligence Assistance

But Blix Warns No Quid Pro Quo in Iraq

By Colum Lynch, Washington Post Staff Writer

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 9 -- Hans Blix, the chief U.N. weapons inspector, has appealed to senior Bush administration officials to substantially increase U.S. intelligence assistance to U.N. inspectors operating in Iraq, saying it is "crucial for the success of the inspections," according to U.S. and U.N. diplomats.

Blix, executive director of the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), made the request in a meeting Friday with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul D. Wolfowitz. He also asked the administration not to "micromanage" the information it provides or to expect the United Nations to return the favor by supplying the United States with intelligence gathered in the course of its inspections.

Blix's appeal for new evidence of Iraqi efforts to conceal its weapons comes as the Swedish disarmament expert is urging Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to permit the United Nations to use U.S. intelligence equipment in Iraq. In a letter Tuesday to Gen Amir H. Al-Saadi, a senior adviser to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Blix said he may need clearance for American U2 and French Mirage surveillance aircraft. He also said the United Nations would use advanced sensors, surveillance cameras and communications equipment, including satellite telephones.

The pursuit of new intelligence assets underscores the inspection agency's dependence on foreign intelligence, especially from the United States, to ensure credible inspections of Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs. But it also points to Blix's challenge of enticing U.S. intelligence agencies to cooperate with the inspectors while ensuring they do not compromise the agency's reputation for impartiality.

The debate over the role of intelligence in the inspections has already led to friction between Blix and the Bush administration.

While Blix has welcomed Washington's effort to strengthen his inspection mandate, he has expressed reservations over a provision in a U.S. draft resolution that would allow the United States and other permanent members of the 15-nation Security Council to direct inspections, tailor interviews and request confidential reports on Iraqi activities. Blix has also voiced concern about a U.S. proposal that would compel Iraq to allow the inspectors to interview Iraqi witnesses outside the country.

Blix's concerns that these initiatives could compromise his agency's integrity are shared by key Security Council members. France told representatives of the council Monday that it would oppose any new resolution that granted new privileges to the United States and other permanent council members. Britain, which is seeking to broker a deal on inspections, is urging the United States to drop some of the most controversial proposals opposed by Blix.

France, along with Russia, also strongly opposes a provision in the U.S. proposal authorizing the automatic use of force by member states if Iraq does not cooperate with a new inspections regime. Bush called French President Jacques Chirac today in an effort to overcome French resistance, but there was no indication progress was made during the 25-minute conversation.

A White House spokesman said Bush stressed that a strong resolution would increase the likelihood that "this matter can be resolved peacefully." Chirac spokeswoman Catherine Colonna said that Bush repeated what he said in a Monday speech that military action was neither "imminent nor unavoidable." But while Chirac told Bush that France supported "inspections that are as effective and strong as possible," Colonna said, he said it "could not accept" any resolution that included an automatic use-of-force trigger.

Since his appointment in March 2000, Blix has sought to enhance the inspection agency's independence and assure the Security Council that it would not repeat its predecessor's venture into espionage to thwart Iraqi deception. The U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), which led the hunt for Iraq's weapons from 1991 to December 1998, was dismantled in 1999 after disclosure that U.N. inspectors had used American eavesdropping equipment to listen in on Iraqi government communications. Some former U.N. inspectors maintained that UNSCOM was manipulated by U.S. intelligence to collect evidence on Hussein's whereabouts.

Blix has tried to bolster the new agency's intelligence-gathering capacity, purchasing satellite imagery from private French and American firms and employing analysts at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies at Monterey, Calif. But Blix has pledged that the inspection agency would never employ electronic espionage, or engage in any information trading with governments. "It is in everybody's interest that UNMOVIC is in nobody's pocket," Blix said.

U.S. intelligence agencies are concerned that classified information passed to the United Nations may not be secure, according to U.N. sources. It will likely take some time, they said, to restore trust between U.S. officials and the U.N. agency's intelligence unit, which is headed by a former Canadian intelligence official. The United States may require that the inspectors cede some of their independence in exchange for help.

"No one is going to give information for free. It's not the way it works in the real world," said Timothy McCarthy, a former U.N. inspector and consultant to UNMOVIC at the Center of Nonproliferation Studies. "They'll want to

make sure they are comfortable with the people who are receiving and using the information and they will want to get feedback. There is always a two-way street."

Staff writer Karen DeYoung in Washington contributed to this report.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A3771-2002Oct9.html>

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Washington Post

October 10, 2002

Pg. 2

Military Reveals Testing Of Nerve Agents In Md.

1960s Open-Air Trials Also Done in 4 Other States

By Steve Vogel, Washington Post Staff Writer

The U.S. military conducted secret open-air tests of highly lethal nerve agents in Maryland at the Army's Edgewood Arsenal in the 1960s, one of a series of chemical and biological tests across the nation that Department of Defense officials disclosed yesterday.

While the Maryland tests may have exposed military personnel in protective gear to the chemicals, Pentagon officials said they do not believe the agents would have affected residents near the Harford County military installation along the Chesapeake Bay.

"They were not inhabited areas," said Michael Kilpatrick, a senior Pentagon health official. "They were open areas."

The disclosure about the tests in Maryland, which included VX and sarin nerve agents, came as the Pentagon acknowledged for the first time that the military had conducted land-based tests of chemical and biological weapons. The Pentagon disclosed earlier this year that it had conducted such tests involving some of its ships at sea.

Outdoor land tests also were conducted in Alaska, Florida, Utah and Hawaii, as well as in the United Kingdom and Canada in conjunction with those countries' governments, Pentagon officials said yesterday.

Moreover, civilians in Hawaii -- and possibly in Alaska and Florida -- were exposed to "simulants," biological agents believed at the time to be harmless that were used in the place of deadly ones. Thousands of civilians may have been exposed to such simulants during one exercise on the island of Oahu. The simulants contained live bacteria, such as E. coli, and some could have caused problems for people with damaged immune systems, officials said.

The records released yesterday do not show any testing of biological agents at the Army installation in Maryland, now known as the Edgewood area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. Officials said that they do not know the exact location of the nerve gas tests at Edgewood but that they likely took place on land bordering the water. The airborne gases would have lasted little more than a day, officials said.

Details of the tests were revealed at a hearing on Capitol Hill and a media briefing at the Pentagon.

As many as 5,500 members of the U.S. military, including about 5,000 at sea and 500 on land, were involved in the tests. While most would have known they were participating in such tests, some may not have been fully informed, officials said.

The Pentagon and the Department of Veterans Affairs is trying to contact the veterans to warn them about possible health effects, but finding all of them has been difficult, officials said.

Thus far, more than 50 veterans have filed claims of health ailments related to the testing. Pentagon officials said no positive connection has been established between any health problems and exposure to the agents.

The land and sea tests were not medical experiments aimed at measuring the effect of chemical and biological weapons on troops, but rather operational tests designed to assess procedures, equipment and tactics, officials said.

Rep. Mike Thompson, a California Democrat who led the push for disclosure of the testing, called the Pentagon's behavior "deplorable" at a hearing held yesterday by a House Veterans Affairs subcommittee. Thompson said that when he initially asked about the matter several years ago, Pentagon officials told him the testing "never happened." Later, he was told the testing did occur but "not to worry, they only used simulants."

"It's taken a long time to get this far, and quite honestly, I don't think we're there yet," said Thompson, who said the Pentagon needs to aggressively urge the veterans to get tested.

Jack Alderson, a retired Navy officer who was in charge of some transports used in the sea-based testing, said illnesses that claimed the lives of several shipmates in recent years may have been related to the testing.

"I'm relieved it's coming out," Alderson said after the congressional hearing. "I am angry that so many of my guys have died."

The chemical and biological testing in the 1960s stemmed from a review of the U.S. military ordered by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara in 1961. One of the initiatives, dubbed Project 112, was a program for researching, testing and developing chemical and biological weapons in response to concerns about similar programs in the Soviet Union.

Nerve agents were first used at Edgewood in 1965 in a test called Elk Hunt II, involving 11 trials between Oct. 27 and Dec. 17 of that year. Army vehicles were used to trigger mines loaded with VX nerve agent, a liquid that can cause death within 15 minutes of exposure.

A second series of tests, DTC Test 69-12, took place at Edgewood in the spring of 1969. It involved four nerve agents, including VX and sarin. The latter is a deadly agent that was used in the 1995 subway attack in Tokyo. The two other nerve agents, tabun and soman, are also lethal. Soman is a persistent agent that can easily remain in an area for a day or longer, according to the Pentagon.

Only three of 54 scheduled trials in the second series were completed before the program was suspended because of the imposition of restrictions on open-air toxic testing.

State health officials have been briefed on the tests by the Pentagon and were told that "there were no reports of health side effects at that time," said J.B. Hanson, a spokesman for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

John O'Neill, the Harford County administrator, said the local government had not received any information about the testing and was not prepared to comment on it.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A3806-2002Oct9.html>

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New York Times
October 10, 2002

Defense Dept. Offers Details Of Toxic Tests Done In Secret

By The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9 — The Defense Department gave them colorful names, including Green Mist, Red Cloud and Rapid Tan. Some borrowed from nature, as in Tall Timber and Swamp Oak. Others were ominous: Devil Hole and Night Train, for example. A few were stark, even cryptic, as in Deseret 69-75.

They were all military exercises conducted in the cold war to assess how well American forces could fight while under attack from chemical or biological weapons.

Some tests used benign substances meant to simulate the spread of the toxins. But many used live chemical and biological agents, including some of the most poisonous in the arsenal.

The Defense Department today released more than two dozen reports on previously classified exercises conducted between 1962 and 1973, revealing that chemical and biological agents were used in tests carried out on American soil and not just at sea as previously disclosed.

Among the chemical weapons used in the tests were VX, sarin, soman and tabun, dispersed by rocket, artillery shell and land mine.

The biological agent *Bacillus globigii*, in the same family as anthrax, was sprayed in some of the tests. At the time, it was considered harmless, but in the intervening years medical experts determined that it could cause acute infections in people with weakened immune systems.

The departments of Defense and Veterans' Affairs are looking for 5,000 former military personnel who participated in the tests at sea and 500 more who participated in the tests on land. Congress has scheduled hearings this week to urge government aid to any veteran suffering ill effects from exposure in the tests.

"This is not about assigning blame for what happened 40 years ago," said Senator Max Cleland, the Georgia Democrat who is chairman of a Senate Armed Services subcommittee that will hold hearings on Thursday.

"It is about what is right and fair now," he said. "Until that information is released and the affected veterans get the health care they need, we are as guilty today as when the tests were originally conducted."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/10/10/politics/10NERV.html>

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Aid To Iran Seen Diluting U.S. Effort

Bolton says support for Tehran's nuclear program foils G-8 agenda

By David R. Sands, The Washington Times

Russia's support for Iran's nuclear program could undermine a \$20 billion U.S.-led effort to help dismantle the former Soviet Union's vast military arsenal, the State Department's proliferation chief said yesterday.

John R. Bolton, undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, said at a Senate hearing that the Russia-Iran link complicates U.S. efforts to rally international support for President Bush's 10-year plan to contain and destroy Russian chemical and nuclear weapons stocks.

The effort was first announced at the Group of Eight (G-8) summit in Canada this summer.

"Iran is seeking all elements of a nuclear fuel cycle, from mining uranium to enrichment to production of reactor fuel," said Mr. Bolton, adding that there was "no economic justification" for the program, given Iran's vast domestic energy resources.

"The inescapable conclusion is that Iran is building a nuclear fuel cycle to support a nuclear weapons program," he said, with Russia providing critical technology and expertise despite repeated U.S. complaints.

"Concerns about Russia's performance on its arms control and nonproliferation commitments have already adversely affected important bilateral efforts, and unless resolved could pose a threat to new initiatives," including the G-8 accord, Mr. Bolton said.

Moscow has provided massive assistance for a nuclear power facility being built in the southern Iranian town of Bushehr, and Bush administration officials were caught off-guard when Russia announced in July plans for expanded cooperation with Iran on future nuclear power sites.

Russian and Iranian officials contend that the nuclear plants in question are intended solely for civilian energy needs.

Mr. Bolton told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the administration is working hard to implement promises made at the G-8 meeting.

Under the "10 plus 10 over 10" formula, the United States would provide \$10 billion over the next decade, to be matched by the leading European powers and by Japan, to dismantle chemical arms, nuclear weapons material and decommissioned nuclear submarines, and to employ weapons scientists.

To date, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan have pledged just half of the expected \$10 billion, but Mr. Bolton said that many are still negotiating their contributions. France, which hosts the G-8 summit next year, also has pledged to make the program a top agenda item for the meeting.

But problems with the program have arisen in both Russia and the United States.

The Russian government has yet to provide guarantees on liability, taxation, access to sensitive sites and other matters that have hampered outside nonproliferation efforts.

"Millions of dollars previously committed by G-8 members remain [unspent] at present due to these problems," Mr. Bolton said. It is hard to get national legislatures to agree to spend more in such a situation, he added.

Congressional skeptics of Russia's commitment to disarmament programs have resisted an administration-backed provision to give the country a permanent waiver to receive nonproliferation funds. The stalemate has halted work on a high-profile chemical weapons destruction facility at Shchuchye, Russia.

"Things are not on track," said Sen. Richard G. Lugar, Indiana Republican and co-author of the 1991 legislation that established the first program for dealing with former Soviet weapons sites.

Mr. Lugar warned that U.S. delays only help "worker bees" deep in the Russian military bureaucracy who want to undermine President Vladimir Putin's promises on disarmament.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20021010-393783.htm>

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Anthrax Alert Still Echoes, One Year Later

By Steve Sternberg, USA Today

A year has passed since one or more bioterrorists sifted anthrax spores into four ordinary envelopes and mailed them. Four envelopes with a terrifying toll: five dead, 22 people sick, thousands exposed and millions worldwide afraid to open their mail.

No one knows who carried out the anthrax attacks or why. Whoever is at fault — and whatever the motive — the envelope attacks accomplished something that had frustrated health experts for years. The scare prompted the government to launch an unprecedented \$1.6 billion overhaul of the nation's neglected public health system.

The anthrax crisis caught the government off guard, experts say, with outdated guidelines for treating anthrax, short supplies of vaccine and no notion that an envelope could be turned into a bioweapon.

More than 2,000 federal, state and local health officials responded to outbreaks in Florida, New York, Washington, D.C., New Jersey and Connecticut. Scientists in a federally funded laboratory network tested more than 1 million specimens for anthrax. A national drug stockpile distributed nearly 4 million doses of Cipro and other antibiotics, according to the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. Neither the lab network nor the drug stockpile existed three years earlier.

"You couldn't buy Cipro in Florida, because everybody was taking it," says Larry Bush, the physician at JFK Medical Center in Atlantis, Fla., who diagnosed the first case and alerted the nation to the attack. "There was a black market for it."

If President Bush was appalled by public reaction to the attacks, he was alarmed by the response of an expert at the state laboratory who resisted making a diagnosis even after the diagnosis was obvious. "I don't want to call it anthrax because of the implications," the lab worker said.

Since then, such reservations have vanished. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now uses an emergency-operations approach for all major epidemics, including the West Nile virus, using them as dress rehearsals for a bioterror attack. As part of this effort, the CDC has built a multimedia communications network to supply information to journalists, doctors and the public. CDC has also expanded its lab network to nearly 100 — with labs in each state — and funneled nearly \$1 billion into state and local terrorism preparedness. Yet disturbing questions remain: Could the system deal with contagious germs? Could hospitals handle mass casualties?

Just 24 days after the Sept. 11 attacks — with the World Trade Center destroyed, the Pentagon battered, war brewing and millions of Americans trying to recover from the shock — the anthrax attacks reinforced a new sense of national vulnerability.

They also transformed the widely accepted view of public health. Once taken for granted by many as a piece of America's social safety net, public health is now viewed as a key to national defense.

"Now more than ever, public health plays a key role in homeland security," says Secretary Mary Selecky of the Washington State Department of Health.

But some experts express misgivings about how the bioterrorism money will be spent. They wonder whether it can correct fundamental weaknesses in the nation's ability to respond to bioterror attacks, including a desperate shortage of trained personnel, public health training programs that churn out experts who have never looked into a microscope, and a deep schism between public health experts, practicing physicians and hospitals.

"There's all this money going out, spread through so many agencies, with no plan to make sure it's being spent appropriately," says Van Blackwood, a bioterrorism expert for the Federation of American Scientists (FAS).

Whether public health agencies are up to the challenge is an open question. Most state health departments, which have carried much of the burden of public health, have had their hands full with more ordinary challenges.

Unlike most doctors, who treat one person at a time, public health experts view whole populations as their patient. Their goal is prevention, not cure. They combat epidemics; fight vaccine-preventable childhood diseases; work to prevent injuries and occupational illnesses; oversee food safety; and educate people about the risks of obesity and heart disease, among other things.

Long treated as a taxpayer-financed stepchild of curative medicine, public health programs must somehow stretch scarce resources to provide this dizzying array of services.

"We can't divert resources to bioterrorism and stop dealing with tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases and chronic conditions that are killing us," says Pat Libbey, executive director of the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

States rely on the CDC in Atlanta to oversee the public health piece of the security effort. The agency serves as the command center of a state-run nerve network that tracks infectious diseases and issues alerts nationwide.

But public health is a state responsibility. Without a state invitation, the CDC has no authority to investigate outbreaks. That limitation has long produced tension between a federal agency with ample resources and struggling state health departments.

Another factor is the CDC's Atlanta location, which has long insulated the agency from the hurly-burly of Washington politics.

Michael Osterholm, one of Health and Human Services secretary Tommy Thompson's key biodefense advisers, says the anthrax attacks and a host of emerging infectious diseases have yanked the agency from relative "isolation," chasing smaller outbreaks, into a more complex and challenging role.

Problems in the nation's public health system are not new. In 1988, the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine (IOM), a quasi-public think tank financed by Congress, issued a call for reform. Called "The Future of Public Health," the report asserts, "This nation has lost sight of its public health goals, and the health of the public is unnecessarily threatened as a result."

Peter Hotez, chairman of microbiology at George Washington University, says: "The irony is that all of the failures that occurred were predicted 14 years before. Things have not only not gotten better, they've gotten worse."

A follow-up IOM study, called "The Future of the Public's Health," supports this view. The report, delayed to assess the public health response to 9/11 and the anthrax attacks, isn't due until November. But one of the report's proposed working titles — "Coming Up Short: America's Health Readiness in the 21st Century" — suggests how much work must be done.

Some of the problems date to the roots of modern medicine, when patient care diverged from public health. The division still exists today.

"The problem we faced before the anthrax outbreaks is that when we tried to raise the issue of bioterrorism, the hospitals wouldn't talk to each other because they were competitors," says Harry Hull, Minnesota's state epidemiologist. "If we have a jumbo jet that crashes here and most people survive, we don't have enough hospital beds. We can't handle 500 people. What are we going to do when we get one of these massive bioterrorism attacks?" Another challenge is recognizing bioterrorism when it occurs. Most health department surveillance depends on calls from alert doctors.

Yet few practicing physicians or nurses have ever seen a case of smallpox or other A-list threats. "You're talking about literally millions of people who need training," says Blackwood of FAS.

Hotez notes that few of the nation's public health schools even teach courses in infectious diseases. "I was astonished at how poorly trained students are," he says. "Public health students don't learn how to use a microscope."

One potential remedy to the disease-detection problem is a computer-based early-warning system called syndromic surveillance.

The CDC announced last week that it had awarded \$1.2 million to a vast consortium of researchers for a system that will constantly sweep 20 million outpatient records in all 50 states for clusters of symptoms linked to infectious diseases and bioterror agents.

Minnesota's Hull challenges the need for such a system and says the record sweeps take 24 hours to sound an alarm. By then, he says, "our emergency rooms would be overwhelmed."

Marcelle Layton, chief of infectious diseases for the New York City Department of Health, says her agency also uses a syndromic system that makes it possible to go through "every admission at every hospital every day to make sure we're not missing something. We detect flu each year that way."

Layton says New York City, a target in both the 9/11 and anthrax attacks, takes the threat of bioterrorism seriously — so seriously that the health department began canvassing hospitals for cases of anthrax as soon as she learned about the Florida case.

Layton's bigger concern is keeping the momentum going to face the public-health challenges of the future.

"If nothing happens, will the interest in sustaining this effort go away?"

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/usatoday/20021010/en_usatoday/4522957

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Russia urged to reduce stockpile of weapons

By Harry Dunphy, Associated Press, 10/10/2002

WASHINGTON - The United States and other industrialized democracies are urging Russia to speed efforts to reduce its vast, poorly secured stockpile of nuclear and chemical weapons, a State Department official said yesterday.

John Bolton, undersecretary of state for arms control, arned the material could find its way to terrorists or countries such as Iraq.

The Senatate committee chairman said that a major part of a meeting last month in Canada of those industrial powers dealt with problems that have hindered an initiative to stop the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction.

The participating countries - the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan - have pledged to spend at least \$20 billion over the next 10 years on the effort.

President Bush committed the United States to providing half of the \$20 billion at June's G-8 summit in Canada when he proposed the initiative. President Vladimir Putin of Russia has pledged to take actions to help achieve the program's goal.

Bolton told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that among the priority concerns in Russia, the G-8 countries specifically named the destruction of chemical weapons, disposition of fissile material, and dismantlement of decommissioned nuclear submarines.

"For the global partnership to be successful," Bolton said, "the Russian Federation will need to take concrete action to resolve outstanding problems. ... We pressed the Russians hard on this issue [at the September meeting in Canada]."

Bolton said the other G-8 countries were more than half way in meeting their \$10 billion commitment, including \$1.5 billion from Germany and \$1 billion from the European Commission. He said some countries have not publicly announced pledges or decided on their amounts.

Bolton welcomed bipartisan legislation, proposed by the committee chairman Senator Joseph Biden, a Delaware Democrat, and Senator Richard Lugar, an Indiana Republican, that expands the president's authority to reduce Russia's debt in exchange for nonproliferation programs.

"Nothing poses a more clear or present danger to our security," Biden said, than the vast repository of nuclear, chemical, and possibly biological weapons still in Russia more than a decade after the Soviet Union's collapse.

"Our greatest concern remains that groups like Al Qaeda or states like Iraq will steal or illicitly purchase poorly guarded stocks of weapons of mass destruction in Russia."

He said the United States has provided billions of dollars in aid to reduce the threat posed by Russia's possession of these weapons. But, he said, there remain roughly 1,000 metric tons of highly enriched uranium, 40,000 metric tons of chemical weapons, including 2 million artillery shells containing nerve gas at one of Russia's facilities alone, and an unknown supply of biological pathogens.

This story ran on page A13 of the Boston Globe on 10/10/2002.

http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/283/nation/Russia_urged_to_reduce_stockpile_of_weapons-.shtml

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