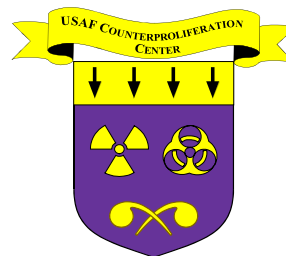


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USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER

CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL



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Washington Times

October 16, 2002

Pg. 1

Iraq Seeks Chemical For Arms From China

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

A Chinese state-run company is talking with Iraq about selling a chemical used in making missile fuel, although no transfer has been spotted, according to U.S. intelligence officials.

The covert procurement effort by Iraq was uncovered in August and is seen as a sign that Baghdad continues to work on building missiles and that Chinese companies remain key suppliers of missile goods.

Disclosure of the China-Iraq talks on a missile-related chemical comes as Chinese President Jiang Zemin prepares to visit the United States for talks with President Bush in Texas. Mr. Jiang will visit the United States from Oct. 22 to 25 before traveling to Mexico for an economic summit.

China's sales of products with both military and civilian uses to rogue states and unstable regions continues to be a problem, according to Bush administration officials.

The intelligence report on the talks was sent to senior administration policy-makers in mid-August — around the time that China announced new export controls on its state-run companies to stem dangerous arms proliferation.

On Aug. 22, China issued new export regulations aimed at limiting sales of missiles and missile-related items. A Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said that details of the controls would be issued "in the near future."

The controls were issued under pressure from the U.S. government, which has criticized China for two decades for not stopping sales of missile-related goods.

The intelligence on the talks shows that arms-related transfers by China have continued despite the announced new controls, U.S. officials said.

"Chinese arms proliferation activities to the Mideast have continued unabated," one official said.

Another official said that intelligence agencies have not confirmed any transfer of a dual-use chemical but are continuing to monitor the region.

A semiannual CIA report to Congress on global arms proliferation is overdue. The report is being held up by the Bush administration until after Mr. Jiang's visit.

The last CIA report made public in January identified China as a key arms seller. The report stated that China provided "dual-use missile-related items, raw materials, and/or assistance to several other countries of proliferation concern — such as Iran, North Korea and Libya."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said that Mr. Jiang's visit to the United States "is of great significance" and will focus on "major international issues of common concern," such as trade and anti-terrorism efforts.

The Bush administration has imposed economic sanctions against Chinese companies for missile-related sales to Pakistan and Iran.

China also assisted Iraq with a fiber-optic communications system that was used for both civilian and military communications, including Iraq's air-defense system, which continues to threaten U.S. and allied aircraft patrolling Iraqi skies.

The fiber-optic network was bombed last year during U.S. military strikes. China, however, was never hit with economic sanctions for the system, despite U.N. prohibitions on arms-related sales to Iraq.

The identity of the dual-use chemical involved in the Iraq-China talks could not be confirmed. However, one official said that it was a component used to make nitric acid, a key element for missile fuel.

U.S. and British intelligence agencies recently disclosed that Iraq has rebuilt a chemical facility destroyed during the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

Defense Intelligence Agency official John Yurechko told reporters during a briefing on Oct. 8 that the Iraqi chemical complex is known as Project Baiji, and was part of efforts by Baghdad to hide its weapons programs by using dual-use facilities.

"We have to be honest — all components and supplies used in [weapons of mass destruction] and missile programs are dual-use," Mr. Yurechko said, noting that the U.S. military is watching the plant because of its ability to make missile fuel.

A British report on Iraq's weapons programs said that the country has been building Baiji since 1992 and that "intelligence reports indicate that it will produce nitric acid which can be used in explosives, missile fuel and in the purification of uranium."

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20021016-81068264.htm>

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Israel Plans To Avoid Iraq War

But it warns it will respond to bioweapon strike

By Barbara Slavin, USA Today

WASHINGTON — Israel has promised to try to stay out of a U.S.-led war with Iraq, provided Saddam Hussein does not attack the Jewish state with biological or chemical weapons.

Israeli officials say Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will refine contingency planning for a possible Iraq war when he meets today with President Bush in the Oval Office.

The Israeli pledge is important to U.S. war plans because Israel's involvement in any attack on Iraq could antagonize Arab states that otherwise might assist the U.S. or at least stay on the sidelines.

In the past, Israeli officials have suggested they would retaliate, without making distinctions about the form of an Iraqi attack.

"We will do our best not to be involved," a senior Israeli official said. "The dilemma is if there is an unconventional attack without casualties." That — or a conventional attack with extensive casualties — would cross a line that might force Israel to respond, the official said.

During the 1991 Gulf War, Israel yielded to U.S. pressure not to retaliate, despite being hit by 39 Iraqi missiles with conventional warheads. But Israeli concerns have grown about proliferation of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons in the region, particularly in Iraq's neighbor, Iran. A failure to respond to an Iraqi chemical or biological attack would send the wrong signal to other potential foes, Israelis say.

U.S. officials have told Israelis that they will make strenuous efforts to prevent new Iraqi attacks by scouring Iraq's western desert for missiles and launchers.

Beyond reassurances on Iraq, Bush is expected to urge Israel to show restraint in trying to prevent, or retaliate for, Palestinian acts of terrorism.

A letter from Bush to Sharon last weekend criticized Israel for causing civilian casualties in raids in the Gaza Strip. Bush also urged the Israelis to do more to ease a humanitarian crisis in the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel has sealed off the territories and prevented Palestinians from seeking work in Israel to try to hamper suicide bombers. It has released only a small fraction of \$450 million in taxes collected by Israel on the Palestinians' behalf, Palestinian Finance Minister Salam Fayyad said recently.

Fayyad urged the Israelis to resume monthly payments of about \$30 million they have suspended for the past two years. The money would "inject some life into a cash-strapped economy," Fayyad said. "What people need is a sense of hope that there is a way out of this morass."

http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2002-10-15-sharon-usat_x.htm

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Bloomberg.com

October 16, 2002

U.S. Lacks Shelters For Soldiers On A Contaminated Battlefield

By Tony Capaccio

Pittsburgh -- The U.S. military says it has too few mobile shelters for soldiers seeking relief from their bulky protective suits or medical attention after an attack by chemical or biological weapons.

The shelters currently in Pentagon stocks "are too large, too heavy and represent a significant logistics burden," Michael Parker, the deputy to the commander of the U.S. Army Soldier Biological, Chemical Command told an industry symposium in Pittsburgh. "More critically, we have very few."

The U.S. Congress has authorized President George W. Bush to wage war should diplomacy through the United Nations fail to disarm Iraq of its chemical and biological weapons. The Central Intelligence Agency has said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein may use those devices if the U.S. attacks.

Parker's remarks are "the strongest Pentagon acknowledgement to date of what could be a serious war-fighting shortage," said Ray Decker, director of defense capabilities for the General Accounting Office, which reviewed chemical-biological defenses for the House National Security subcommittee.

The shelters, known as "collective protection" systems, come in two types: stand-alone units and models that include blowers, air filters and cooling systems that attach to command centers, assembly areas, hospitals or motor pools.

Limited Improvements

Protective suits and gas masks are improved from the equipment used during the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Soldiers required to wear the gear need shelters, Parker said during a forum sponsored by the National Defense Industrial Preparedness Association.

Soldiers can't "sustain operations -- especially high-tempo -- over any period of time without suffering a significant physical burden," Parker said. They suffer heat stress and lose their ability to navigate and complete complex tasks, he said.

"We need collective protection in order to pull people out and put them into an environment where they can stand down, rest, get re-acclimated and return to the battlefield," Parker said.

Providing such protection "is a chronically under-funded and under-appreciated area that's just not sexy enough. Like detectors, or high-visibility enough, like suits and masks," said Al Mauroni, author of an assessment of Gulf War chemical-biological preparedness. "The lack of (shelters) definitely created vulnerabilities during the Gulf War."

"The issue is not that we don't have the technology. We just don't have enough and don't train to deploy with them," he said. The result is that soldiers are required to wear masks and gear longer than necessary, he said.

300-Foot Inflatable

The military lacks adequate supplies of a 300-foot inflatable shelter shaped like a billowing Quonset hut that a crew of four can set up within 20 minutes. It's capable of providing shelter for basic medical operations. Several can be linked together.

The "Chemical and Biological Protective Shelter" folds and can be transported on an Army Hummer vehicle. It's meant to replace the older M51 shelter that requires a five-ton truck to transport and the Army says is largely "unserviceable."

The Pentagon in March 2000 told Congress it would start fielding the newer system within a month. To date, the Army has received 130 of the 779 it requires.

"Not that many," Colonel Christopher Parker, the Army program manager for Nuclear, Biological, Chemical equipment told the symposium. "It gets back to the priority level of where collective protection has been."

The new shelter's components are produced by Chemfab Corp., Merrimack, New Hampshire; Engineering Air Systems Inc., St. Louis; Federal Fabrics-Fibers Inc., North Chelmsford, Mass.; and, Marion Composites, Brunswick, Virginia.

The companies can accelerate production, if required, Parker said.

Mitigating Measures

The lack of newer shelters means U.S. troops in desert combat would rely more on a combination of the older M51 shelters and limited numbers of polyethylene tent wall liners, air filters and sealed entrances for individual rooms and tents, officials said.

"There are mitigating measures that can be taken," Michael Parker said in an interview after the forum. "We would rather put the new equipment out but we do have back-up systems that would give us a measure of collective protection equipment, certainly to deal with the risk at hand."

The military also has "a few" new Army-Air Force field hospitals called a "Chemically Protected Deployable Medical System," he said.

The Army as of last year had eight, according to the congressional report, and Parker said the service may have money to buy 10 to 12 more.

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Baltimore Sun
October 15, 2002

U.S. Troops Lack Equipment For Chem-Bio War, Experts Say

Protective boots, clothing, shelters are inadequate, defective, Congress told

By Knight Ridder/Tribune

WASHINGTON - If Iraqi President Saddam Hussein used chemical and biological weapons against invading U.S. forces, could American troops survive them?

U.S. defenses against chemical and biological attack have improved greatly since the Persian Gulf war in 1991 exposed major flaws. Detection equipment is better, and an array of preventive and post-attack medicines is available for most chemical and biological agents.

But protective clothing and shelters remain inadequate and defective, experts say.

"We can say things are better from a medical and prevention point of view, but we can't say they're good enough," said Brad Roberts, a researcher at the Institute for Defense Analyses, a military think tank in Alexandria, Va.

The Defense Department's annual report on chemical and biological defense and a report this month from the General Accounting Office, an investigative arm of Congress, spotlighted the problems of supplying the military with enough protective clothing and shelters.

Despite spending more than a billion dollars a year on chemical-biological preparedness, the Pentagon lacks millions of needed boots, masks, gloves and suits; provides inadequate training for chemical and biological attack; and doesn't have enough specialized medical shelters to treat the wounded on a contaminated battlefield, the analysts concluded.

"A real gap exists between the priority and emphasis given chemical and biological defense by DOD and the actual implementation of the program," Raymond Decker, GAO's director of defense capabilities, told Congress.

"Risk [to troops] will be increased unless the persistent problems in the chem-bio defense area are addressed," Decker told Knight Ridder.

The Navy is short more than 1 million protective suits and boots, according to GAO and Pentagon reports. The Air Force has fewer than half the protective suits it needs; the Marine Corps has fewer than half the required boots. In addition, about 250,000 of the military's more than 4 million protective suits are defective, but the Pentagon can't identify all the ones that won't work. Isratex Inc., a now-bankrupt company whose president was jailed for deceiving the government, sold 800,000 defective chem-bio suits to the Pentagon a decade ago. The military has found and destroyed 550,000, but officials have not been able to locate the rest.

The Pentagon might try to reduce the risk by striking faster with a smaller, more mobile invasion force, but senior military officers say they would still have to mass their troops to punch a hole in Iraq's defenses.

"And when we mass, that's when he would gas," said one officer, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Some Pentagon officials also worry that by making it clear that the goal is "regime change," unlike in the Persian Gulf war, when the goal was to drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait, President Bush has left Hussein with nothing to lose by trying a chemical or biological attack.

It's not just clothing, said Pentagon Inspector General Joseph Schmitz. The military has only 5 percent of the number of chemical-biological protective shelters that would be needed in order to provide medical treatment on a contaminated battlefield. The Army, which might need them the most, has none.

In addition, key military units have not been adequately trained to withstand chemical and biological attacks, Decker and Schmitz said in testimony before Congress.

Despite these problems, most experts in and out of government remain optimistic about the military's ability to survive chemical or biological attacks.

U.S. military forces have enough vaccines and post-attack medicines to counter most of the biological and chemical agents that Hussein is thought to have, including anthrax, botulinum toxin, smallpox and even plague, said Ronald Blanck, a former Army surgeon general. Blanck is now president of the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth.

This summer, the Pentagon resumed vaccinating military personnel against anthrax, and this month it is acquiring 1 million doses of smallpox vaccine.

In addition, the detectors that sniff the air and soil for chemical and biological attacks work fairly well, though they take about 40 minutes to find out if there has been an attack, said Richard Pilch, a scientist at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies in Monterey, Calif. The military would use them ahead of troops, which would give soldiers enough warning to don protective equipment.

"Do I believe everything is perfect? Of course not," Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar, the Department of Defense official in charge of chemical-biological warfare preparedness, told Congress. "But do I believe everything is better than it was? Absolutely, yes."

<http://www.sunspot.net/news/printedition/bal-te.chemwarfare15oct15.story>

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Research Institutes Unveil Plans For Fort Detrick Lab Expansion

High-security facilities to help devise better defenses against bioterror

By Scott Shane, Sun Staff

FREDERICK - Two of the nation's top military and civilian medical research institutes unveiled plans yesterday to work together on a huge expansion of high-security laboratories at Fort Detrick to devise better defenses against bioterrorism and emerging diseases.

The first stage will be construction, beginning in 2004, of a \$105 million laboratory equipped to handle the deadliest organisms in existence, including the Ebola virus.

The so-called Biosafety Level 4 lab will be operated by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, whose main campus is at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda.

After the NIAID lab is built, officials plan to seek roughly \$1 billion to build new laboratories for the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, the top military biodefense center.

No money has been appropriated for the reconstruction of USAMRIID, but officials say it is necessary to replace aging, overcrowded labs.

Scientific 'brain trust'

At a briefing yesterday, leaders of the two institutes said the expansion will create a "brain trust" of civilian and military scientists to develop new vaccines and drugs.

They said building a second Biosafety Level 4 lab at Fort Detrick - where the Army already has one of a handful of such facilities in the country - will increase efficiency because the labs can share security and other support services. "We're in the middle of a war," said Maj. Gen. Lester Martinez-Lopez, commander of the Army's Medical Research and Materiel Command. "We want to build the best biotechnology center in the country."

Dr. John La Montagne, deputy director of the NIAID, said, "The assets of both institutions can really come together in a unique and creative way to come up with answers to these problems."

The plans at Fort Detrick are only a small part of an unprecedented national building boom in bioterrorism research, set off by the Bush administration's decision to quadruple biodefense funding to nearly \$6 billion a year.

The expansion was prompted by the anthrax-laced letters that killed five people and shut down federal buildings last year.

In addition to the Fort Detrick plans, a consortium including the University of Maryland at Baltimore and the Johns Hopkins University plans to compete for NIAID funding to become a "Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense." The same scientists might also seek funding for a Biosafety Level 4 research facility, according to sources familiar with the idea.

Larry Roberts, a spokesman for the University of Maryland's School of Medicine, confirmed that the university's respected Center for Vaccine Development is part of the consortium. But he said officials do not want to comment yet.

"Because of the competitive situation, we can't talk about it," Roberts said.

While noting that the government's request for proposals on new Biosafety Level 4 labs came out just last week, Roberts said the Center for Vaccine Development is "going to be looking carefully at any application opportunity."

Lab at proving ground

Also in Maryland, the Army created a new Biosafety Level 3 lab at Aberdeen Proving Ground last year to study bioterror agents. While previous work with anthrax at the proving ground used harmless decontaminated bacteria, the new facility maintains stocks of 19 strains of live, virulent anthrax, according to a spokesman for the Army's Soldier Biological and Chemical Command.

Some scientists and arms control advocates have denounced the rush to create new biodefense labs, saying the boom could actually increase the danger of attacks by domestic bioterrorists who might acquire expertise or organisms from the new labs.

They note that FBI investigators apparently believe the anthrax attacks were most likely carried out by an American with ties to the existing U.S. biodefense program. Fort Detrick is the main repository of the Ames strain of anthrax used in the attacks, though it has been used in at least two dozen other labs.

In a recent article in *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, Eileen Choffnes of the National Academy of Sciences warned that the biodefense expansion could backfire.

"These laboratories might become a pathogen-modification training academy or biowarfare agent 'superstore,'" wrote Choffnes, who has studied bioterrorism for 13 years.

"It seems to me to be too much, too fast," said Edward Hammond, director of the Sunshine Project, an advocacy group in Austin, Texas, that seeks stronger controls on biowarfare. "We're proliferating the knowledge and the means to create biological weapons."

Hammond notes that new or expanded Biosafety Level 3 or 4 labs using dangerous biological agents are planned not only by the Army and NIH but also by the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy and numerous universities. By his count, at least 14 such projects are planned.

NIAID alone, he notes, is financing new Biosafety Level 4 facilities at Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Montana, the University of California at Davis, and an undetermined number of the planned "Centers of Excellence for Biodefense."

But Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of NIAID, said the rapid expansion is critical if the country is to be defended against terrorism.

"Biodefense research involves very small amounts of [dangerous] material," Fauci said. "We're trying to do research to protect the population, not to make weapons."

<http://www.sunspot.net/news/nationworld/bal-te.detrick16oct16.story>

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Washington Times

October 16, 2002

Pg. 8

Inside the Beltway

The Stakes

By John McCaslin

As deadly as September 11 and the Bali bombings were, a Heritage Foundation seminar in Colorado Springs reminds us that things could get far worse if terrorists unleash weapons of mass destruction.

Besides remarks from former CIA Director R. James Woolsey and Gen. Ralph E. Eberhardt, commander of the newly formed U.S. Northern Command, the conference featured a demonstration of computer software developed by the Defense Department that predicts casualties from nuclear, biological and chemical-warfare scenarios.

In one example, Heritage analyst Dexter Ingram showed that 200 kg (about 440 pounds) of military-grade anthrax released from an airplane over the city of New York would result in a 50 to 90 percent probability of 1.2 million deaths.

"This isn't a crystal ball, but it's a best guess based on past experience," says Mr. Ingram, a former Navy pilot who says he's the only civilian with access to the computer program called Consequences Assessment Tool Set, or CATS, which originated at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

How did he get access?

"I knew about it, and I just asked for it," he tells The Washington Times.

Asked whether such a program would be useful to a terrorist, Mr. Ingram says yes but adds, "We have a safe and we keep it locked up."

Let's hope so.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20021016-21540224.htm>

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Washington Post

October 16, 2002

Pg. E5

Firm To Do Human Tests Of New Anthrax Vaccine

By Renae Merle, Washington Post Staff Writer

DynPort Vaccine Co. said yesterday that it will begin early human testing of an anthrax vaccine that it hopes will prove safer than the current alternative.

Early clinical testing with 70 volunteers at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Rockville should begin within a few weeks, company officials said. The company doesn't expect to receive approval from the Food and Drug Administration to market the vaccine until 2010.

"Protection against potential future biological attacks continues to be a key concern of our nation's leaders," DynPort President Terry R. Irgens said in a statement. DynPort, based in Frederick, Md., is a joint venture between Reston-based DynCorp and Porton International Inc., whose U.S. headquarters is in Washington.

DynPort's proposed vaccine attempts to improve on the current version produced by BioPort Corp. of Lansing, Mich. That vaccine has been criticized by the scientific community for years, and some who have taken the vaccine have complained of severe side effects. During last year's anthrax exposures, the vaccine, which was licensed to be given before someone is exposed to anthrax, was offered to congressional staffers and postal employees already exposed, who were also taking antibiotics.

The current vaccine is made from a strain of the non-lethal form of anthrax, which some doctors believe includes contaminants that could cause side effects. DynPort officials said the company is employing a process used widely in the biotechnology industry that should impede contamination.

The early testing will begin with low doses of the vaccine given to human subjects to prove its safety, said Robert Hopkins, director of clinical research at DynPort. Tests of the vaccine's effectiveness for warding off anthrax will begin later, he said.

DynPort's efforts began in 1997 after the company was awarded a Defense Department contract to develop six vaccines against biological agents, including anthrax. Under the contract, the company is also testing a smallpox vaccine.

Separately, the Department of Health and Human Services earlier this month awarded contracts to develop a new anthrax vaccine to two companies: Avecia Ltd. of Manchester, England, and VaxGen Inc. of Brisbane, Calif. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases wants to maintain an emergency stockpile of 25 million doses of the improved vaccine.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A32135-2002Oct15.html>

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Big Question About Smallpox: What if . . . ?

By DENISE GRADY

NASHVILLE, Oct. 10 — One recent Saturday at the gym, Dr. William Schaffner looked around at all the other sweaty people working out and playing basketball in tank tops. What would happen, he wondered, if some of them had recent smallpox vaccinations? What if sweat made the dressings fall off their vaccinations and they brushed up against other people?

For about three weeks, the site of a smallpox vaccination can shed the live virus used in the vaccine, vaccinia, a relative of smallpox. Potentially, the virus can infect other people who come into contact with it, and some people can get quite sick from vaccinia.

Dr. Schaffner has been worrying about things like this for much of the past year. He is chairman of the preventive medicine department at Vanderbilt University, and one of the infectious disease experts advising the government as it considers resuming smallpox vaccination to protect against a bioterrorist attack. The United States stopped routine vaccination in 1972. Globally, the disease was eradicated in 1980.

The government has announced that half a million soldiers will be vaccinated, that many health care workers should be and that once the vaccine is approved for widespread use, perhaps by 2004, it should be offered to the public.

On Wednesday and Thursday, health officials and medical advisers will meet in Atlanta to work out the details of how to carry out vaccination programs.

Many difficult issues have yet to be resolved. The greatest concern of public health experts, Dr. Schaffner said, is that vaccinated people may inadvertently infect others who have a high risk of being harmed by the vaccine. That includes pregnant women, babies under a year old and people with H.I.V. or other immune disorders, some types of cancer, organ transplants or a history of skin conditions like eczema.

"No program is truly voluntary," Dr. Schaffner said. "We are establishing a transmissible infection, and there will be instances of transmission. People who did not volunteer, or who were excluded, will acquire this infection."

Studies from the 1960's indicate that transmission rates were low, just a few cases for every 100,000 vaccinations.

But, Dr. Schaffner said, it is not clear how reliable that data is — or how applicable it is today. AIDS was unknown when the smallpox vaccine was in routine use, organ transplants were uncommon and rates of eczema were significantly lower than they are today.

Special bandages, now being used in vaccine tests, are thought to cut down on transmission. But, Dr. Schaffner said, health officials have not yet decided whether those bandages will be used when vaccination becomes more widespread.

Government recommendations call for vaccinating health care workers first. But someone has to decide which workers should be immunized, and whether they should be required to take an H.I.V. test or a pregnancy test first. Should recently vaccinated hospital workers be allowed to take care of sick patients, particularly people with lowered immunity? No one knows the answer, Dr. Schaffner said. Similarly, it is not known whether the people giving vaccinations should be required to be vaccinated first themselves.

The proportion of health workers to be vaccinated is turning out to be "a much more elaborate constellation of folks than we first anticipated," Dr. Schaffner said.

A wide range of hospital staff would have to be immunized because if there were an attack, people infected with smallpox would probably receive more complex medical care, involving more workers, than patients did in the past. Twenty-five years ago, there was not much that doctors could do for smallpox, Dr. Schaffner said, describing the treatment as "bed, fluid, T.L.C. and prayer."

But, he said, "anthrax taught us that supportive care can help."

Intensive care helped save 6 of 11 people who contracted inhalational anthrax in last year's attacks; previously, the disease was thought to be 100 percent fatal.

Today, smallpox victims would be put into intensive care units, and many people with different specialties would treat them.

Another problem is that among adults being vaccinated for the first time, 20 percent to 30 percent become ill enough to miss a few days of work. How will hospitals manage if many employees are ill, particularly when a nursing shortage already exists? And who pays for the sick time and any needed treatment? Similarly, who is liable if there are severe reactions that do lasting harm?

"There is increasing appreciation among physicians and politicians that this is an elaborately complex enterprise," Dr. Schaffner said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/10/15/health/policy/15PREP.html>

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Washington Post

October 17, 2002

Pg. 1

N. Korea Reveals Nuclear Program

U.S. Surprised by Admission

By Peter Slevin and Karen DeYoung, Washington Post Staff Writers

The North Korean government has acknowledged for the first time that it has been secretly developing nuclear weapons for years in violation of international agreements and has built "more powerful" weapons, as well, Bush administration officials said last night.

The North Koreans, who notified U.S. officials of the nuclear program during talks in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, earlier this month, said its existence nullifies a 1994 deal with the United States to halt their nuclear weapons effort in return for foreign help. One senior U.S. official said the new weapons project is a "very serious material breach" of the accord.

The Bush administration, stunned by the admission, dispatched envoys to the region yesterday to consult with allies and called on North Korean leader Kim Jong Il to halt the weapons project. The administration also has begun consultations with Congress about what to do next, officials said.

"The United States is calling on North Korea to comply with all of its commitment under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to eliminate its nuclear weapons program in a verifiable manner," a U.S. official said. "What we seek is a peaceful resolution of this situation."

The revelation from the isolated Stalinist country thrust the Bush administration into an unexpected foreign policy crisis at a time when it is seeking to build international support for confronting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and threatening to launch a military strike against Iraq if he refuses to disarm. U.S. officials have said Hussein already possesses stockpiles of chemical and biological and is trying to develop a nuclear capability.

Administration officials last night offered mixed assessments of the implications of North Korea's announcement, with some predicting it could lead to a possible military confrontation on the Korean peninsula and others saying it could be a sign of a bid by North Korea to create an opening to the United States.

President Bush in January named North Korea a member of an "axis of evil," along with Iraq and Iran. Yet the announcement by the North Korean government comes amid a string of surprising moves by Kim, long criticized for peddling dangerous weapons and oppressing an impoverished population. In recent weeks, the Pyongyang government apologized for a naval battle with South Korea in the Yellow Sea and for the abduction of Japanese citizens in the 1970s.

Briefing reporters by conference call, administration officials said North Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok Joo offered no apologies when he informed U.S. officials of the covert nuclear weapons program during an Oct. 3-5 visit to Pyongyang. He was "assertive, aggressive about it," a U.S. official said.

"It's a very serious development if a country we had thought had entered into a serious and credible negotiation to retreat from a nuclear program in exchange for generous assistance" has violated that agreement, said Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.), chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. "This is going to require a reassessment of our our commitments to North Korea."

U.S. envoys were told of the project near the end of their visit. They departed North Korea, shortened their scheduled visits to Seoul and Tokyo and returned to the United States. Since then, the administration has been engaged in intensive strategy sessions, officials said.

Despite the North Korean announcement, the administration says it does not know the full extent of North Korea's nuclear capabilities, and experts are uncertain what Kang meant when he referred to more powerful weapons. Last night, they said they assume he meant weapons of mass destruction, which typically include biological and chemical weapons.

North Korea's new nuclear project relies on highly enriched uranium, while the nuclear effort that country agreed to halt in the groundbreaking 1994 Agreed Framework was based on plutonium. U.S. officials would not answer when asked whether the highly enriched uranium had yet been turned into a weapon.

The CIA's National Intelligence Estimate, released in December, reported that North Korea had likely produced one or two plutonium-based nuclear weapons by the mid-1990s.

Administration officials have struggled with the North Korean policy since Bush took office, with some officials advocating a much more demanding approach than the engagement policy of the Clinton administration and others urging continued diplomatic flexibility.

The disclosure has not ended that debate, said one high-ranking official, who reported that some administration leaders believe "we should go to war tomorrow." He added, however, that Bush has been "very calm, cool and collected. He doesn't need another crisis."

The North Korean disclosure was "a jaw-dropper," said the official. It revealed a worrisome determination to build a nuclear device, but it also left open the possibility that Kim, who has been repairing relations with foreign rivals, unveiled the project as a way of coming clean.

The admission "represented a candor on the part of North Korean officials that we are unaccustomed to," the official said. "It has promise. It has opportunity. It has dangers."

For now, the administration is suspending its offer to engage North Korea—a pledge of an economic and political opening in return for reductions in North Korea's military posture and policies of weapons proliferation, along with an improvement in humanitarian conditions.

"In light of our concerns about the nuclear weapons program, we could not pursue that approach," a U.S. official said during the conference call. "Everyone in the region has a stake in this issue, and no peaceful nation wants to see a nuclear-armed North Korea."

Joseph Cirincione, director of the non-proliferation project at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said the administration faces two very distinct choices. "They either play 'gotcha' " and cut off relations, he said, "or they can justifiably claim that their tough approach produced exactly the change in North Korean behavior we had been seeking."

Cirincione noted that as the United States has begun its campaign against Iraq, "North Korea has taken some surprising steps just in the last three months. They are not changing regimes but they are making change in their regime."

The parallels between North Korea and Iraq are worth noting, said Henry Sokolski, executive director of the Non-Proliferation Education Center. He pointed to the administration's repeated assertions that Iraq will not be secure until Hussein is removed from power.

"If we're serious about Iraq, as we are and should be, we need to be twice as serious as we currently are about North Korea," said Sokolski, who believes the administration should be tough on Kim. "If you've got a nuclear cheater, do you give them the benefit of the doubt and coddle him? Or do you say the burden's on you to come clean?"

Staff writer Glenn Kessler contributed to this report.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A37481-2002Oct16.html>

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UN Deeply Concerned by N.Korea Nuclear Admission

Thu Oct 17, 2:08 PM ET

By Louis Charbonneau

VIENNA, Austria (Reuters) - The United Nations ([news](#) - [web sites](#))' nuclear watchdog said on Thursday it was deeply concerned about North Korea ([news](#) - [web sites](#))'s reported acknowledgment to the United States that it had a secret nuclear weapons program and wanted more information.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said the assertions, if true, meant Pyongyang had been misleading the United Nations about what it had always portrayed as a peaceful atomic power program but which Washington says was intended to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons.

"We are urgently seeking information from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in response to this report, as well as information from the United States that will allow us to follow up on this very serious allegation," said IAEA Director General Mohamed Elbaradei.

Under Pyongyang's agreement with the Vienna-based watchdog, North Korea should have declared the existence of any nuclear facility to the IAEA and placed it under the agency's safeguards, Elbaradei said in a statement, expressing his "deep concern" about the U.S. report.

Senior U.S. officials said on Wednesday that North Korea had acknowledged operating a secret nuclear weapons program in violation of a 1994 bilateral agreement under which Pyongyang had promised to freeze any nuclear arms development.

"North Korea has been in non-compliance with their Safeguards Agreement for many years and we've not been able to have the cooperation we need to verify their initial declaration of nuclear material back in 1992," IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky told Reuters.

U.S. officials said special envoy James Kelly had presented the North Koreans with documentation about their activities during an Oct. 3-5 visit to Pyongyang and that they had finally acknowledged a secret nuclear weapons program.

Washington said the North Korean project centered on a uranium-enrichment program that had been under way for several years. Fissile highly-enriched uranium or plutonium are necessary ingredients for an atomic bomb.

A NOT-SO-PEACEFUL NUCLEAR PROGRAM?

Although the IAEA has been carrying out limited inspections in North Korea since the 1990s, it has never been allowed to conduct the kind of intrusive inspections under the Safeguards Agreement needed to flush out a clandestine weapons program.

When the 1994 pact between the United States and North Korea was signed, the IAEA was asked to carry out full-scale inspections, including a hunt for signs of a secret weapons program. But it has not been allowed to begin this task.

Although the U.S. statement came as a surprise for the IAEA, the agency hopes the revelations could lead to the commencement of intrusive inspections in North Korea.

"We're ready to go there," said Gwozdecky, though he said that it would take the inspectors three to four years to verify whether North Korea's 1992 declaration was correct.

Gwozdecky also said that over the last decade Pyongyang had never admitted to running a weapons program.

"They declared a number of nuclear facilities and showed us less than 100 grams of plutonium they said had been extracted from damaged fuel rods," he said. "They claimed this was a peaceful program."

The RAND Corporation, a U.S. security think-tank, says a country which got hold of just 11 pounds (five kg) of plutonium or 33 pounds (15 kg) of highly-enriched uranium could theoretically build a fully-fledged nuclear bomb in just a few days.

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&cid=574&ncid=721&e=1&u=/nm/20021017/wl_nm/korea_un_nuclear_dc

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U.S. Not Certain If North Korea Has The Bomb

By David E. Sanger

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 — Confronted by new American intelligence, North Korea has admitted that it has been conducting a major clandestine nuclear-weapons development program for the past several years, the Bush administration said tonight. Officials added that North Korea had also informed them that it has now "nullified" its 1994 agreement with the United States to freeze all nuclear weapons development activity.

North Korea's surprise revelation, which confronts the Bush administration with a nuclear crisis in Asia even as it threatens war with Iraq, came 12 days ago in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. A senior American diplomat, James A. Kelley, confronted his North Korean counterparts with American intelligence data suggesting a secret project was under way. At first, the North Korean officials angrily denied the allegation, according to an American official who was present.

The next day they acknowledged the nuclear program and according to one American official said, "They have more powerful things as well." American officials have interpreted that comment as an acknowledgment that North Korea possesses other weapons of mass destruction.

Administration officials refused to say tonight whether the North Koreans had acknowledged successfully producing a nuclear weapon from the project, which uses highly enriched uranium. Nor would administration officials who briefed reporters tonight say whether they think North Korea has produced such a weapon.

"We're not certain that it's been weaponized yet," said another official, noting that North Korea has conducted no nuclear testing, which the United States could easily detect.

The idea of a North Korean nuclear arsenal immediately alters the delicate nuclear balance in Asia and confronts the Bush administration with two simultaneous crises involving nations developing weapons of mass destruction: one in Iraq, the other on the Korean Peninsula.

"We seek a peaceful resolution to this situation," a senior administration official said tonight, briefing reporters as news of the North Korean program began to leak. "No peaceful nation wants to see a nuclear-armed North Korea." Yet the administration's demands on North Korea tonight were muted. "The United States is calling on North Korea to comply with all of its commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to eliminate its nuclear weapons program in a verifiable manner," an American official said. There was no discussion of the consequences if that appeal was ignored, even though the announcement came only hours after President Bush issued some of his toughest and most ominous-sounding warnings yet to Iraq.

Mr. Bush said nothing about North Korea today. Instead, the State Department dealt with the issue tonight through a statement issued by Richard A. Boucher, the state department spokesman, and through briefings by midlevel officials. Mr. Boucher said Mr. Kelly and Under Secretary of State John R. Bolton had been dispatched "to confer with friends and allies about this important issue." He also said, "This is an opportunity for peace-loving nations in the region to deal, effectively, with this challenge."

At a meeting Tuesday of the National Security Council, President Bush and his aides decided to handle the North Korean declarations through diplomatic channels, a senior official said.

Both Japan and South Korea, now in the midst of a presidential election campaign, wanted to avoid confrontation, according to several officials.

But American officials said that there was no early indication that North Korea would admit inspectors or give up its program. One senior official characterized the North Korean attitude at the Pyongyang meeting as belligerent, rather than apologetic, even while it admitted violating the 1994 accord to freeze its nuclear weapons development.

The strongest action the administration announced tonight was the cessation of talks that could lead to economic cooperation. "The United States was prepared to offer economic and political steps to improve the lives of the North Korean people," Mr. Boucher said in his statement tonight, "provided the North were dramatically to alter its behavior across a range of issues," including its weapons programs, its past support for terrorism, and "the deplorable treatment of the North Korean people."

But in deciding on a very measured response, the White House was also implicitly recognizing the reality of how North Korea differs from Iraq. It may already have nuclear weapons and it has a huge army and conventional weapons capable of wreaking havoc on South Korea.

Moreover, even the prospect of military action against North Korea, conducted at the same time the administration is considering an attack on Iraq, would mean that the Pentagon would be confronted by the prospect of fighting a two-front war.

Deeply impoverished, with its military might waning, North Korea has long sought nuclear capability. It pursued an aggressive nuclear weapons program in the 1980's and 1990's that resulted in a major confrontation with the Clinton administration in 1994. Officials who served at the time said they believed that the dispute nearly veered into war.

At one point in 1994, President Bill Clinton ordered Stealth bombers and other forces into South Korea to deter a pre-emptive North Korean strike.

But a deal was struck, partly with the intervention of former President Jimmy Carter. The result was a 1994 agreement under which North Korea committed to halting its nuclear work, and the United States, Japan and South Korea, among others, agreed to provide the country with fuel oil and proliferation-resistant nuclear reactors to produce electric power.

While ground has been broken on the project, the reactors have yet to be delivered, and now that agreement appears dead, officials said tonight.

Around the time that the Clinton administration negotiated the 1994 accord, the Central Intelligence Agency estimated that the country's nuclear weapons facilities at Yongbyon, a program that was based on reprocessing nuclear waste into plutonium, had already produced enough material to manufacture one or two weapons.

If the North Korean assertions are true — and administration officials assume they are — the government of Kim Jong Il began in the mid- or late-1990's a secret, parallel program to produce weapons-grade material from highly enriched uranium. That does not require nuclear reactors, but it is a slow process that the United States may have discovered through Korean efforts to acquire centrifuges. That is also the process that the administration believes the Iraqis are undertaking.

"We have to assume that they now have the capacity to build many more weapons, and they may have already," said a senior official who has seen the intelligence.

It was unclear today why North Korea admitted to the weapons program. Only last month, Kim Jong Il admitted that North Korean agents had kidnapped Japanese decades earlier, and he apologized. Some of those kidnapped returned to Japan for visits only this week.

But one official who was in the room on Oct. 4 when the North Korean deputy foreign minister, Kang Sok Joo, described the existence of the nuclear program, said, "I would not describe them as apologetic."

The administration's decision to keep news of the North Korean admission secret for the past 12 days while it fashioned a response appears significant for several reasons. Mr. Bush and his aides have clearly decided to avoid describing the situation as a crisis that requires a military response at a time when dealing with Iraq is the No. 1 priority.

"Imagine if Saddam had done this, that he had admitted — or bluffed — that he has the bomb or is about to have one," one senior official said. "But there's been a decision made that the system can take only so much at one time." The response also has much to do with the vulnerability of America's allies. Every American administration that has considered military action against North Korea has come to the same conclusion: it is virtually impossible without risking a second Korean war, and the destruction of Seoul in South Korea. North Korea maintains a vast arsenal of conventional weapons and hundreds of thousands of troops.

But dealing with the problem diplomatically will be a tremendous challenge, at a time when the administration is already at odds with many of its closest allies over how to deal with Saddam Hussein.

American officials used the past dozen days to formulate a common response. At a press conference in South Korea on Thursday morning, local time, Lee Tae Sik, deputy minister for foreign affairs, urged North Korea to abide by a series of agreements it now clearly violates: the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the 1994 agreement, and a "joint declaration" signed with South Korea to keep the Korean Peninsula nuclear-free.

"All the issues including the North's nuclear program should be resolved through peaceful methods and by dialogue," Mr. Lee said.

Tonight, senior administration officials said that inside the White House, theories have sprouted about what North Korea hoped to gain from its declaration.

According to one theory, discussed widely in the Pentagon and the State Department, North Korea's leaders want to demonstrate that they cannot be bullied by the United States. "Here they are declaring they have the stuff to make a nuke," one official said. "Whether they have one, or they are bluffing, we don't know for sure. But the message is, 'Don't mess with us.'"

Another theory holds that North Korea is seeking attention, as it has done many times before, hoping to trade its nuclear capability for economic aid. That worked in 1994, according to this theory. But it could backfire now, in a post-Sept. 11 environment.

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Defense Daily
October 17, 2002
Pg. 5

Wolfowitz Reinforces Threat From Iraqi Chem-Bio-Carrying UAVs

Iraq possesses unmanned aerial vehicles capable of delivering chemical or biological agents, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz yesterday told a conference audience in Washington, D.C.

"The president spoke about Iraq's growing fleet of unmanned aerial vehicles that could disperse biological and chemical weapons...and about [Iraq's possible plans for] using these UAVs for missions targeting the United States," Wolfowitz told a luncheon audience attending the 2002 Institute's for Foreign Policy Analysis Fletcher Conference.

Bush noted the threat from Iraqi UAV technology during an Oct. 7 speech in Cincinnati.

Other observers have noted that Iraq's plan for developing chemical and biological weapons delivery capability, specifically UAV systems, was observed around the time of the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

The Iraqis bought in the 1960s 78 L-29 Delphin jet trainers made by the Czech Republic's Aero Vodochody, with a follow-on purchase of 91 L-39s in the 1980s, according to Theresa Hitchens, vice president of the Center For Defense Information, a Washington, D.C., think tank.

"They [the Delphins] don't have much bomb-carrying capacity--two 100 kg [220 lb.] bombs or rockets. But there has been suspicion that Iraq has modified this plane to fly as a UAV," she told Defense Daily.

"In 1998 there were rumors a UAV had been developed to deliver chemical or biological weapons. The British dropped a bomb on an Iraqi hangar during Operation Desert Fox in 1999 and observed 12 UAVs with spray nozzles and [storage] tanks. A couple years later some pictures emerged of Iraqi L-29s undergoing flight tests. The CIA...recently said they thought Iraq could deliver biological weapons in this manner."

L-29s cost about \$100,000 each. The aircraft's range is 840 miles.

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Pacific Stars and Stripes
October 17, 2002

This Time, DOD Keeping Tighter Control Over Who Will Get Anthrax Shots

By Mark Oliva, Stars and Stripes

CAMP LESTER, Okinawa — Servicemembers will begin rolling up their sleeves once again for the anthrax vaccine, but this time around the shot might not be for everyone.

The Department of Defense abandoned its original plans for mass vaccinations for all uniformed servicemembers. Instead, it's adopted a threat-based vaccination program. Now, only those headed to areas considered high risk, such as the Middle East or South Korea, are getting the shot.

"What changes between the way we did things in the past and the way we're going to do things now is there's going to be better control about who gets it and who needs it," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Dale Baker, Director for Community Health at the U.S. Naval Hospital here. "As a result of that, many of the groups have dropped off now because the mass immunization that we once thought was necessary, the folks have gone back and decided that probably might have been overkill."

Anthrax spores infect people by exposure to the skin or when inhaled into the lungs. The spores migrate to the body's lymph nodes, change into bacteria and multiply. The bacteria produce toxins that cause internal bleeding and destroy organs.

Symptoms include virus-like aches and pains, fever, cough and chest discomfort followed by severe difficulty breathing. Symptoms can take one to six days to appear. Anthrax is not contagious. Anthrax vaccines were suspended in June 2001 because of a lack of vaccine when the manufacturer, BioPort, in Lansing, Mich., still was awaiting Food and Drug Administration approval to produce the doses. BioPort failed FDA inspections in 1999 and 2000, mostly for packaging problems. Approval finally came on Jan. 31, when BioPort passed all FDA inspections and immediately began production of the anthrax vaccine. BioPort is the sole manufacturer of anthrax vaccine in the United States. Still undecided: exactly who gets the shot and who doesn't. Each of the services — the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines — were told to devise a vaccination plan. This time around, each service will decide who needs the shot. But those plans still aren't final — and hospital officials here are ready to begin shots.

"In an interim, we already have guidance from the Department of Defense," Baker said. "I can go ahead and administer vaccines right now if I needed to. I don't need to wait for the service-specific stuff." Baker said the interim guidance states that any servicemembers going for 15 days or more into a high-risk area for anthrax will get the shot.

The shot regimen remains the same. The first three shots are given in three-week intervals; the final three, in five- to six-month intervals.

Servicemembers who already began their series will pick up where they left off, Baker added. Annual booster shots will be given to maintain immunity.

The U.S. Naval Hospital has enough vaccine to immunize the entire 3 Marine Expeditionary Force should an order to deploy come immediately. Marines and sailors would receive initial shots on Okinawa and follow-up shots where they're deployed.

"The FDA has come up with some military-specific requirements that we're able to exercise, get those people vaccinated in very short period of time safely so that they can go feet-dry to their AOR and be protected," Baker said. "You put enough pre-positioned vaccine to pick those people up and then finish up the rest of their doses. The bottom line is, they report in-country safely immunized."

Of the 22 reported cases from last year's anthrax terror attacks, 45 percent of victims who inhaled the spores died. Defense officials estimate that anthrax infection is deadly 99 percent of the time without vaccination or follow-up treatment.

Baker said the anthrax shot is safe for servicemembers. All doses on hand at the hospital now are post-FDA approval lots and meet the same standards as any other vaccine the hospital administers.

Once a servicemember receives all six shots, he or she is completely immunized against anthrax infection through both cuts and inhalation. The FDA recommends people exposed to anthrax receive 100 days of antibiotic treatments.

"They may change it once there's an actual event but ... once you're immunized, you shouldn't need any other attention," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Annette Von Thun, head of population health at the U.S. Naval Hospital.

Still, some side effects are associated with the shot, Von Thun added.

"Anthrax vaccine is associated predominantly with local inflammation," Von Thun said. "Sometimes they'll have soreness, redness or a series of knots that can decrease over time. Sometimes there are permanent nodules."

And the FDA still is recommending that pregnant servicemembers not take the shot. The effects on unborn children aren't known and studies are still ongoing. If servicemembers have adverse reactions to the shot, doctors have the ability to discontinue the series for them.

Additionally, vaccinations are being tracked more closely now. Each lot number and each individual shot is recorded and logged.

"Basically, every single shot is accounted for," Baker said. "We know exactly who got it, and how many, and it will be electronically monitored."

That's happening right now. Baker said the hospital has dispensed some doses of anthrax vaccine, but couldn't elaborate as to what units received it or when the doses were given for security reasons. He said he's ready to continue, if needed, for every servicemember who needs it.

"I consider the anthrax program today a very routine thing for us to administer here, just as routine as any other immunization program," Baker said. "Procedurally, now that I've got the rule book coming down from the folks at the Department of Defense I know exactly what I need to do and so do the other services. I'll remind you that the service-specific policies are not a show stopper for us to administer the program to date. We can do that right now, today."

For more information in the DOD's anthrax vaccination program visit the U.S. Naval Hospital's Web site at: www.oki.med.navy.mil.

<http://www.estripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=11046>

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New York Times

October 17, 2002

The Pact That The Koreans Flouted

By James Dao

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 - The nuclear agreement signed by President Clinton and North Korea in 1994 was reached after many months of fitful negotiations that came after North Korea had threatened to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and had halted international inspections of a nuclear reactor.

At the time, the United States and its allies feared that North Korea was diverting materials from the reactor to a weapons program, and they threatened to impose economic sanctions - and considered military action - to force Pyongyang to readmit the monitors.

When North Korea agreed in October 1994 - just three months after the death of its long-ruling dictator, Kim Il Sung - to allow full inspections and dismantle its nuclear program over 10 years, the Clinton administration hailed it as a major diplomatic breakthrough.

"This agreement will help achieve a longstanding and vital American objective - an end to the threat of nuclear proliferation on the Korean Peninsula," President Clinton said in announcing the accord.

The complex agreement called for three phases under which the United States and its allies would finance a huge aid program for North Korea in exchange for its freezing and ultimately dismantling much of its nuclear program.

In the early phase of the agreement, North Korea promised to shut down its five-megawatt nuclear reactor at Yongbyon - a source of fuel for its nuclear weapons project - and stop building two larger reactors that could potentially produce fuel for hundreds of weapons.

Fuel rods that had already been removed from the Yongbyon reactor were put in special containers and subjected to regular inspections.

In return, the United States and its allies were to build two light-water reactors, at a cost of more than \$4 billion, that would be financed mainly by South Korea and Japan. The United States contended such reactors were less useful for producing bomb grade plutonium than North Korea's graphite reactors, although some experts disagreed.

While those light-water reactors were under construction, Washington and its allies also promised to provide free fuel oil to help North Korea's meet its energy needs. Work began on the first of those reactors just last August, kicked off with a ceremony in North Korea that was attended by a Bush administration envoy.

In the second phase of the agreement, North Korea pledged to allow monitors to inspect two waste sites that had been off-limits to inspections and send their fuel rods to a third country. In the third phase, North Korea was to dismantle its old graphite reactors and the most important part of its nuclear complex: a reprocessing plant that can convert spent nuclear fuel into weapons-grade plutonium.

The accord contained loopholes that were quickly attacked by critics, including many hawks in Congress. The agreement, for example, allowed North Korea to keep spent fuel rods from the Yongbyon reactor for an unspecified number of years, meaning that it could break its agreements and quickly produce nuclear weapons.

That provision also made it difficult for inspectors to determine how much weapons-grade plutonium the North had already produced and had perhaps converted into a primitive nuclear weapon.

Critics also said that the agreement failed to take into account the very kind of enriching program that Pyongyang has now admitted to operating. They also warned that North Korea could still use materials from the light-water reactors built by the international coalition to produce new supplies of bomb-grade plutonium.

Henry Sokolsky, who was deputy for nonproliferation policy in the Pentagon during the first Bush administration, said the United States should immediately suspend construction on the light-water reactor and stop fuel oil shipments to North Korea until it conclusively demonstrates that its nuclear weapons program has been dismantled. "If they are building an enrichment facility, they would have a capacity to make many bombs worth of materials," Mr. Sokolsky said. "You don't give nuclear cheaters the benefit of the doubt by trying to coddle them with incentives to behave when they aren't behaving. It's like dealing with an alcoholic."

But Wendy R. Sherman, who was the Clinton administration's North Korean policy coordinator, warned that scrapping the agreement could create more problems than it solved. She noted, for example, that North Korea could build nuclear weapons even faster if it unsealed spent fuel rods that had been placed in containers under the 1994 accord.

"One has to be careful, or you may end up in a circumstance that could be more precarious than you began with," Ms. Sherman said. "The administration ought to be multilateral, deliberative and very thoughtful about how we proceed here, because it is serious."

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USA Today
October 17, 2002
Pg. 7

Forest Service Lags In Review Of Security At Bases

The Forest Service has reviewed security at fewer than one-third of its air-tanker bases despite a warning seven months ago that firefighting planes were inviting targets for terrorists to use to drop biological or chemical weapons. Many of the 51 large air tankers, owned and operated by private companies, are based at Forest Service airfields in remote areas. The Forest Service had money and resources to assess the threat at 14 of 52 air tanker bases, said Tim Melchert, the presidential management intern hired for the security reviews.

"We have taken all due precaution and more," the service's Tom Harbour said, but "if somebody's really determined, I couldn't guarantee that one of these aircraft wouldn't be hijacked."

Among the precautions at service airfields: using closed-circuit cameras and listening devices, removing aircraft batteries, deflating tires and locking airplane doors and wheels.

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Cleveland Plain Dealer
October 15, 2002
Pg. B5

Clinic Seeks Funding To Develop Biological Agent Detector

By Regina McEnery, Plain Dealer Reporter

Cleveland Clinic researchers are seeking federal funding for a project that could dramatically change the way hospitals and the military identify dangerous biological agents.

The Department of Defense, which is willing to pay for the research, included the project in its budget for fiscal year 2003, which began Oct. 1. The House signed off on the bill last week and U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula expects the Senate to approve the bill and President Bush to sign it. Regula, a Navarre Republican, sits on the House Appropriations Committee and pushed to have the \$1.8 million project included in the bill.

The project is part of a larger research effort at the Clinic's Lerner Research Institute. Seizing on the growing interest surrounding bioterrorism, a team of biomedical engineers at the institute wants to develop a miniature device that can identify pathogens accurately in a matter of minutes.

Say you take a million cells from a person and you want to determine if anthrax is causing their flu-like symptoms. The cells are mixed with an antibody cocktail that can check for anthrax and a host of other germs, including *E. coli*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. The antibodies contain magnetic handles that attach to cells, so if anthrax is present, the anthrax antibody will find it and drag it to the side. Similarly, if *E. coli* is present, the *E. coli* antibody will find it.

If there is no anthrax in the cells, the antibody gets flushed out.

Dr. Aaron Fleischman, the biomedical engineer heading the research, said the device, about the size of a cellular telephone, would be valuable to medics on the battlefield. But he says it also could be useful to doctors and public health officials who would first respond to a domestic attack.

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October 16, 2002

Defense spending bill creates chem-bio research fund

By Bryan Bender, [Global Security Newswire](#)

Congress this week plans to approve the largest defense spending increase in a generation, earmarking billions of dollars toward combating weapons of mass destruction, including new research funding to establish a "Chem-Bio Defense Initiatives Fund."

House and Senate negotiators have reached final agreement on a \$355.1 billion fiscal 2003 defense appropriations bill. The legislation was approved late last week by the full House of Representatives and is awaiting Senate passage this week before being sent to President Bush for his signature.

The legislation provides \$7.4 billion for missile defense programs, \$43 million less than the White House had requested, and represents the Bush administration's first formal attempt to develop new anti-missile technologies free of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The United States withdrew from the treaty in June.

One setback for the administration in the spending bill, however, was lawmakers' refusal to approve a \$10 billion war contingency fund requested by the Pentagon to fund unforeseen expenses tallied up as part of the international war on terrorism.

Despite the difficulty in predicting the military's operational expenses between now and October 2003, legislators were unwilling to provide what some critics charged would be a blank check. Instead, the Pentagon will likely have to continue requesting emergency funds to cover unforeseen war expenses, officials said.

The legislation, however, marks widespread support across the government in substantially beefing up U.S. counterproliferation programs and developing a host of new technologies and defensive tools to address the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

House and Senate conferees, responsible for ironing out differences between the House and Senate versions of the defense appropriations bill, took the added step of establishing a new research fund, totaling \$25 million, that gives the military a freer hand in researching novel technologies.

"The conferees agree to establish a "Chem-Bio Defense Initiatives Fund" within the Department of Defense's Chemical and Biological Defense program, and provide an increase of \$25 million for this purpose," according to the conference report. "The secretary of Defense is directed to allocate these funds among the program proposals listed below in a manner which yields the greatest gain in our chem-bio defense posture."

Program proposals to be considered for the new research funds include a variety of efforts to enhance the Pentagon's ability to detect a chemical or biological attack and prevent harm to U.S. personnel.

In addition to these new funds, the defense spending bill allocates hundreds of millions of dollars in procurement and research and development funds to address the threat of weapons of mass destruction from a variety of approaches. For example, of the nearly \$2 billion in applied research on what are called "defense-wide" programs, nearly half is earmarked for weapons of mass destruction-related efforts.

One technology in particular, a Pentagon proposal to develop a nuclear-tipped bunker buster weapon to defeat hardened and deeply buried targets such as biological weapons facilities, was provided with the requested \$15.5 million. Lawmakers conditioned the money, however, on receiving a Bush administration report outlining how the funds would be used and whether there are conventional alternatives to a nuclear penetrator.

The legislation also earmarks nearly \$1.5 billion for the Army to continue destroying the U.S. stockpile of chemical arms, as required under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Meanwhile, the bill calls on the Pentagon to provide a status report on the military's anthrax vaccination program, including the potential need for new production. The report should "assess the immediate and short-term preparedness and potential future total biowarfare defense need for the [Food and Drug Administration]-licensed anthrax vaccine, the potential need for expanded production capacity to meet that need, and the need for a separate production capacity to mitigate risks of an event which could result in a halt to current vaccine production."

<http://207.27.3.29/dailyfed/1002/101602gsn1.htm>

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Customs Service: Acquisition and Deployment of Radiation Detection Equipment

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

GAO-03-235T, October 17.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-235T>

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Iranian War Victims Still Suffering

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filed at 2:09 p.m. ET

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) -- To understand the unending nightmare of an Iraqi chemical barrage, there's ward 10-D. The patients -- all veterans of Iran's 1980-88 war with Iraq -- shuffle about in plastic sandals and pale yellow hospital pajamas. They talk little. Even a shallow breath can be painful.

In the special wing at Baqiatallah Hospital, run by the powerful Revolutionary Guards, the reality of Saddam Hussein's chemical weaponry is evident.

Doctors do what they can for some of the thousands of soldiers exposed to Iraqi poison gas. There are no cures. Just ways to lessen the ailments: scarred lungs, ravaged bowels, disorientation, welts and blisters.

About once a week, Iranian newspapers carry small items about another veteran succumbing to chemical-related disorders.

"I feel just half alive," whispered Jalal Taqvi, whose right side is numb and partially paralyzed. "The day I breathed the poison gas was the day I started to die."

He recalls every moment of the attack near the southwestern Iranian border city of Abadan in 1987. Soldiers started to wheeze and gasp. They were blinded by uncontrollable tears. And everywhere was the smell of onions -- a characteristic of mustard gas.

If U.N. weapons inspectors return, a prime objective will be to discover what -- if anything -- remains of Iraq's chemical arsenal.

Iraq insists it has abandoned its chemical, biological and nuclear arms programs. But U.S. authorities claim Iraq still has stockpiles of chemical and biological agents, which they fear could slip into the hands of terrorists.

In 1997, the year before the United Nations suspended operations in Iraq, the former head of the U.N. inspections team, Rolf Ekeus, said he believed Saddam maintained a "strategic capability" with chemicals.

Backed by the West during the eight-year war against Iran's Islamic regime, Iraq unleashed dozens of chemical attacks, according to international monitors. Two main Western-developed formulas were verified by U.N. investigators: mustard gas, an oily liquid first used in World War I whose vapor can remain deadly for days; and tabun, a nerve gas that causes convulsions and paralysis before death.

Estimates of Iranian battlefield deaths from chemical attacks range from hundreds to as many as 5,000. Thousands more were stricken but survived.

"Sometimes I feel fine. Then the problems return. Every breath becomes painful," said veteran Rashid Imani, who also lost his right foot in a mine blast. "They burned our clothes after the attack. But they could do nothing for us. The demon of the chemical was inside us."

One of the ward's physicians, Dr. Kamran Zamanian, said nothing can reverse the damage.

"We just try to make them comfortable and take away some of the pain," he said. "For a doctor it is frustrating. You can never cure this."

Near the end of the war in March 1988, a poison gas attack on the Iraqi Kurdish town of Halabja killed an estimated 5,000 people. Iranian soldiers about six miles away entered Halabja before the gas had fully dissipated, veterans said.

"I should be dead by now," said Haji Reza Rahimi, who was in the first wave. "The doctors gave me five years to live after I was exposed. I don't know what keeps me going. There are days it's so hard to breathe that I just wish I would die."

Rahimi, who said he has severe respiratory problems and chronic infections, spends most of his time at a self-help center set up by chemical attack veterans in northern Tehran.

Bowls of fruit and vegetables, a traditional Iranian gesture, rest on tables.

“I would give anything just to eat them again,” said Ali Khalaj, whose infantry division was gassed in 1986. Portions of his intestines and colon have been removed.

“I hate what they did to me. But, you know, I can't really blame the Iraqis,” he added. “I blame the Western countries that gave the Iraqis these evil weapons.”

In Tehran's huge main cemetery, near the tomb of the Islamic Revolution leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Yasser Mahmoudi often visits the graves of chemical attack victims. He said he left high school in 1986 to join a basiji, or volunteer, corps. Within weeks he was on the front-line.

“I remember looking for a gas mask, but we didn't have them. I fell to the ground and started to cough blood,” said Mahmoudi, 32, who had a lung removed.

“One day, I know I will be unable to breathe anymore,” he said. “We are all just waiting to die.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/international/AP-Iran-Chemical-Veterans.html>

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