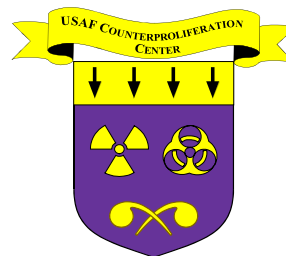


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Iraqi Officials Pledge 'Full Cooperation'

U.N. Officials Express Optimism Inspectors Will Not Be Hindered

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran, Washington Post Foreign Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Nov. 19 -- High-level Iraqi officials pledged today to provide "full cooperation and full transparency" to U.N. experts trying to determine whether Iraq still possesses weapons of mass destruction, a senior U.N. official said, raising hopes among an advance team of inspectors that their mission could be spared the evasions that plagued previous efforts to hunt for banned weapons.

The inspectors logged their first full day of work here, with about two dozen technicians starting to rehabilitate offices that have lain dormant since 1998, when the previous inspectors left Iraq. The two U.N. officials responsible for the process, chief weapons inspector Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, met with senior Iraqi officials, including Foreign Minister Naji Sabri and Gen. Amir Saadi, a presidential adviser coordinating Iraq's inspections policy.

Blix and ElBaradei said they left their meetings feeling optimistic that Iraqi officials understood the gravity of the situation and that they would attempt to comply with the rigorous inspections mandated by a U.N. Security Council resolution passed unanimously Nov. 8. Iraqi officials also promised to meet a Dec. 8 deadline set by the resolution for providing a full account of Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear facilities and programs, they said.

"Within 30 days, as the resolution says, a report from Iraq will be submitted on all the files, nuclear, chemical, biological and missile files. . . . We are hopeful. We are in fact quite sure that things will work out much better than before," Saadi told reporters here.

Although Blix and ElBaradei said Iraq's pledges can be evaluated only after spot checks begin this month, the U.N. mission has clearly commenced on far more amicable footing than previous attempts, with both sides saying they would do their utmost to work with each other. U.N. officials and diplomats here said the tenor of the comments from the Iraqi officials could mean that after years of hindering inspections, President Saddam Hussein has concluded that acceding to weapons searches, no matter how intrusive, provides him the best chance of averting an attack by the United States.

"In our meetings today, all Iraqi officials have committed to provide us with full cooperation and full transparency," ElBaradei said at a news conference with Blix.

"We heard today from the Iraqi side that they will do -- and I think I'm quoting them correctly -- that they will do everything that is humanly possible to cooperate with both organizations to move forward," ElBaradei said. "We hope that we'll see that commitment translated into reality when we start our inspections."

During the first two days of their three-day visit to Baghdad, Blix and ElBaradei have refrained from delivering public warnings to Iraq that they will not tolerate attempts to interfere with their work. Instead, they have emphasized their desire to be objective and unbiased, and they have said that compliance would result in the lifting of U.N. trade sanctions imposed in 1990, something that Iraq has long sought.

Iraqi officials have expressed a desire to have the inspections finished quickly, voicing frustration that previous rounds lasted for more than seven years without a major change in the sanctions, except for a program that allows the country to sell its oil for humanitarian supplies.

U.S. and U.N. officials have said the inspections dragged on because Iraq repeatedly lied to the inspectors and blocked their work. But ElBaradei said today, "If Iraq cooperates fully, we can foresee reporting within one year that Iraq has fulfilled the requirements" of Security Council resolutions requiring it to disarm.

Blix and ElBaradei's conciliatory approach has differed from that of the Bush administration, which is pushing for early, intrusive inspections of presidential palaces and other sensitive sites. But aides to both men said it is essential to first build trust between the inspectors and the Iraqis.

"We've told them we're on a mission of peace," said Mark Gwozdecky, a spokesman for the IAEA. "We've tried to tell them that we want a fresh start and that cooperation is the best way to achieve a peaceful resolution."

One example of the differing approaches concerns anti-aircraft fire on U.S. and British warplanes. In recent days, U.S. officials have asserted that Iraqi efforts to shoot down planes patrolling "no-fly" zones in northern and southern Iraq constitute a breach of the resolution. Iraq considers the patrols a violation of its sovereignty and frequently shoots at allied planes.

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan took issue with the Bush administration's interpretation, telling reporters in Kosovo: "I don't think the council will say that this is in contravention of the resolution that was recently passed."

Iraq's declaration of its weapons programs and civilian chemical, biological and nuclear activities was the focus of much of today's discussions between the inspectors and their Iraqi counterparts, U.N. officials said. The Iraqis questioned how comprehensive they needed to be in what they submit and whether unintentional omissions would be held against them, the officials said.

"They're saying, 'We've got chemical factories of every size, shape and description. We've got plastic factories and paint factories. How are we supposed to report on every one of these?'" a U.N. official said.

The U.N. official said Blix and ElBaradei told the Iraqis that they should direct their queries to the Security Council, not the inspectors. "We told them that only the Security Council can interpret its [own] words," the official said.

Iraq has long insisted that it no longer possesses weapons of mass destruction. But Blix suggested its officials take another look, indirectly pointing at a possible way to save face if Hussein's government feels it needs to revise its stand. "We have tried to impress upon them to look into their stocks and their stores to see if there is anything that should be declared," Blix said.

Blix said he also talked to Iraqi officials about opening a satellite office in the northern city of Mosul and expanding the inspectors' offices in Baghdad.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A12231-2002Nov19.html>

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USA Today
November 20, 2002
Pg. 12

U.S. Expects Inspectors Will Find Proof For War

United Nations and its team in Iraq hope for just the opposite

By John Diamond and Bill Nichols, USA Today

WASHINGTON — With no conclusive evidence of its own, the Bush administration is relying on United Nations inspectors to prove what the White House has been alleging for months: that Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime has chemical and biological weapons.

And because inspections could take at least until January, a decision to go to war with Iraq is now more likely months — rather than weeks — away, according to U.S. officials and U.N. diplomats.

Technically, the next major trigger for war comes as soon as Dec. 8, when Iraq is required to divulge a list of any weapons or weapons facilities. U.S. officials have warned they would check Iraq's list against their own list of known or suspected weapons sites. Iraqi omissions or outright defiance could be provocation for war.

But the absence of dramatic U.S. intelligence that would prove Iraq is lying means that even if Baghdad denies having any weapons of mass destruction next month, the Bush administration is reluctant to try to use that one event as a reason to invade.

Instead, U.S. officials say they will try to make a more powerful argument for an invasion by patiently building a case that shows an irrefutable pattern of Iraqi deceit and defiance.

U.S. officials expect Iraq to give them plenty of ammunition — by obstructing inspections, denying the existence of facilities inspectors will uncover, and continuing to fire on U.S. and British aircraft enforcing zones that are restricted to Iraqi planes after the 1991 Gulf War.

U.N. inspectors said Tuesday that Iraq has pledged to meet the Dec. 8 deadline, set in the Security Council resolution passed earlier this month as the date by which Baghdad must declare any weapons of mass destruction. Baghdad has indicated it will deny it has any chemical, biological or nuclear arms, though U.S. officials expect the Iraqis to ultimately declare at least part of their arsenal.

Next month's declaration will be a crucial signal of how Saddam plans to respond to international pressure, U.S. diplomats say. Some within the administration — particularly at the Pentagon — believe that if Iraq denies having any chemical or biological weapons, it is sufficient cause for military action.

Military experts and even some Pentagon officials have said mid-December would be an opportune time for an attack. It is the beginning of Iraq's cool season and the period immediately after the holy Muslim month of Ramadan. Even so, because inspections will only be in their early stages by Dec. 8, U.S. officials indicate it would be difficult to use Iraq's formal declaration as a basis for going back to the council to demand military action.

Though the Bush administration has threatened to go to war without further U.N. approval, U.S. officials would prefer to have broad international backing if they can get it.

For now, U.S. intelligence officials say that though they are convinced Iraq has hidden chemical and biological warheads, they lack the kind of proof needed to win international support for a U.S. attack.

"There are certain things that would blow the door off — a satellite photo of a Scud missile for example. But once you get beyond that, it does become a great deal more difficult," says Jon Wolfsthal, an arms-control expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "A picture is worth a thousand words, but there are very few pictures that outline a chemical weapons production plant so that everyone can understand it."

This difficulty in finding proof helped turn intense U.S. skepticism about the usefulness of U.N. inspections into grudging support. Inspections could be the best way — indeed they may be the only way — to show conclusively that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction.

A senior Pentagon official said the best the CIA and Defense Intelligence Agency can generate now is "circumstantial evidence" that Iraq continues to develop chemical and biological weapons, and to seek nuclear capability.

"The only way you're going to be able to prove something like that is to get in there and exploit a particular site and interview workers, take soil samples — you can do a lot of work on the ground," the Pentagon official said.

Inspections, he said, could "clear up assumptions the U.S. intelligence community has had all along."

A senior intelligence official said the evidence about Iraq's weapons must be pieced together from suggestive but inconclusive spy satellite photos, electronic intercepts, testimony from defectors and documents showing that Iraq is importing precursor materials that could be used to make weapons. Another key clue: the lack of any proof that Iraq has destroyed weapons stockpiles that remained unaccounted for in 1998, the last time U.N. inspectors were there. Security Council diplomats say that Washington has intelligence that could be persuasive as part of a broad case against Iraq, but that it could not stand on its own.

U.S. officials say they hope an obviously false declaration on Dec. 8 by Iraq will lead to aggressive tactics by U.N. inspectors that would turn up additional evidence.

The administration's strategy also has a political component. U.S. officials have concluded that it would be counterproductive to seize on one misstep by Iraq and try to use it to force action because many on the Security Council say Washington is merely looking for an excuse to attack.

Chief U.N. inspector Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, have made clear that hard proof will be needed to support either side: Iraq's argument that it has no weapons of mass destruction or a U.S. claim that Baghdad is lying.

"We are not on our side contending that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction," Blix said late last week. "We have a great many questions. We cannot exclude it. And we are not saying that all the intelligence is wrong, but we are not also confirming it." As he arrived in Baghdad this week with his inspection team, Blix made clear he hoped they would find no prohibited weapons.

That means inspections begin with the international community and the Bush administration seemingly pursuing opposite agendas: The administration wants proof of what it firmly believes; the U.N. is hoping it can declare Iraq free of proscribed weapons and so avoid a war.

<http://www.usatoday.com/usatoday/2002/11/20/4637264s.htm>

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New York Times
November 20, 2002

Suit Seeks To Block Burning Of Chemical Arms

By Jeffrey Gettleman

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Nov. 19 — An alliance of environmental and civil rights groups filed a federal lawsuit here today in a last-ditch effort to block the Army from burning tons of chemical weapons in a populated area.

The suit demands that the Army complete more environmental studies before proceeding with its plan to incinerate thousands of old shells containing nerve gas, mustard gas and other deadly agents at the Anniston Army Depot. The lawsuit contends that the plan should be halted so scientists can consider recently discovered, less risky alternatives. The Army plans to begin destroying the weapons early next year. To stop the project, one of the issues the alliance must prove is that the weapons disposal poses an "imminent danger" to the community.

"To place this burden on us is unacceptable," said Brenda Lindell, a homemaker who has been active in local causes in Anniston, a city of 24,000 people 58 miles east of Birmingham. "If there is an accident, there is no way to protect us. What about our children? What about our elderly? What about those of us who like to be outside?"

To help make Anniston residents feel better, local officials said they would pass out gas masks and duct tape to seal homes. That made most people feel worse.

"They know it's not safe or they wouldn't be doing do that," said the Rev. Abraham Woods, president of the Birmingham chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. "And I hate to play the race card, but it's always in communities with high proportions of minorities that the government is committed to using outdated, dangerous technologies."

Anniston is about half white and half black.

The Army, which houses 9 percent of the nation's chemical weapon stockpile at the Anniston Army Depot, says that its process of burning chemical weapons at 2,700 degrees is completely safe and that no fumes that could hurt the public will be released.

"The project has already safely eliminated 25 percent of the nation's total stockpile, including 38 percent of all munitions using the current technology," said Michael B. Abrams, spokesman for the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

Local officials, though, say they are not ready for the burning to begin. They are still waiting to obtain bids for gas masks and other equipment. The project has already been delayed several months.

Opponents of the plan called a news conference today on the steps of the federal courthouse in downtown Birmingham, where the suit was filed, but the turnout was sparse.

Several environmental lawyers accused the Army of taking advantage of what they called Alabama's lax environmental laws and its image as backwoods and poor.

"They're treating us like a third world country," said Byron Bart Slawson, who helped draft the suit.

There are other plants that burn old chemical weapons, including ones on Johnston Island in the Pacific Ocean and at Tooele, Utah, in the Great Salt Lake Desert. But none are in populated areas. The Anniston plant is in a hilly region surrounded by churches, parks, schools, fast-food restaurants and homes.

Despite the repeated assurances from Army officials, people here expect trouble. They have been told that a shrill whoop-whoop is the most serious of several public-address siren tones, signaling a major disaster. They have studied evacuation plans.

Army officers now acknowledge that more than 800 mortar shells and M-55 rockets are leaking, though only trace amounts, of deadly nerve gas.

The lawsuit, which seeks a preliminary injunction against the Army, is similar to suits filed in other states, including one pending in Oregon, but few have prevailed.

The Anniston suit has three parts, with the first arguing that the government is obligated, under federal environmental law, to research safer alternatives to burning weapons.

In the past few years, scientists have discovered how to neutralize weapons with chemicals, but the last environmental impact study the Army did for the Anniston plant was in 1995, before much of that research was done.

The second part of the suit says burning weapons creates "imminent and substantial endangerment to public health." The third says the Army "knowingly misrepresented and underestimated the risks and impacts" of the emissions on minority populations.

Mr. Abrams, the Army spokesman, declined to comment on the specifics of the lawsuit.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/11/20/national/20CHEM.html>

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USA Today
November 20, 2002
Pg. 11

Pentagon Official Says U.S. Missile Shield Almost Ready

Technology that is critical to a missile defense system the United States is developing has been proved effective and America's limited missile shield will be operational within five years, the Pentagon's project officer said Tuesday.

"We no longer need to experiment, to demonstrate or prevaricate. We need to get on with this, and I'm confident we will," Air Force Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish said.

The U.S. ground-based system is designed to intercept missiles that might be launched by a rogue nation. Critics say it will be too expensive and might never work.

Last month, the Pentagon scored its fourth consecutive success in testing the system. A ground-based interceptor missile launched from Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific destroyed a dummy warhead aboard a modified Minuteman II missile launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. The missile also had an unspecified number of decoys. Congress approved \$7.6 billion for missile defense in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1.

Kadish said U.S. deployment of the system might include NATO or a European country.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair supports the project in principle, and British Defense Minister Geoff Hoon has indicated that Britain might be willing to upgrade early warning systems in northern England that could be part of the missile shield.

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Washington Times

November 20, 2002

Pg. 1

Expanding NATO

NATO To Expand With New Focus On Terror Defense

By Nicholas Kravev, The Washington Times

BRUSSELS — NATO this week will transform its mission and command structure, expanding operations into countries from North Africa to the Middle East and South Asia in order to counter new threats such as terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, alliance officials say.

At a two-day summit beginning in Prague tomorrow, the officials say, NATO will move to enhance its military capabilities, invite seven new countries to join and strengthen its relations with nations as far away as the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The alliance will create teams to respond to biological and chemical attacks, as well as a response force of 20,000 able to deploy within seven to 30 days and sustain itself for up to a month. The United States will also ask its allies for support in developing a missile-defense shield, U.S. officials say.

"We are building a new NATO, with different military capabilities and a new mission, which is to go outside the alliance's geographic borders to defend its members," Nicholas Burns, the American ambassador to NATO, said in a telephone interview.

"NATO is becoming the one organization that can integrate the entire Euro-Atlantic world, from the Western reaches of Canada and the United States all the way across to the Russian Far East."

In the largest expansion in its 53-year history, the alliance will extend membership invitations to Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, senior Western officials said. President Bush made up his mind to support those seven candidates on Friday and informed NATO Secretary-General George Robertson of his decision in a phone call.

Mr. Burns, who visited each of nine candidates, including Albania and Macedonia, three times in the months leading up to the summit, said his delegation was "impressed by their commitment to democracy, the progress they have made since the end of communism and the fact that they are like-minded with the United States."

"The majority of these countries are relatively small, but they have capable militaries and the political will to defend not only themselves but the alliance as well," he said.

Emyr Jones Parry, the British ambassador to NATO, said this round of enlargement is "better prepared" than the last one in 1997, when Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic were invited to join. After those three became members more than three years ago, the alliance issued specific requirements for new applicants in individual documents called Membership Action Plans.

The nations that will be admitted in Prague were "quite canny in responding to international events," such as NATO's 1999 war with Serbia over Kosovo and last year's campaign against the Taliban, and "genuinely started delivering," Mr. Parry said. Some of them offered use of their airspace and military bases, while others sent troops to Afghanistan.

"During the Cold War, if we added a country, there was one more to defend against the Soviet threat," a senior U.S. official said. But now, a "democratic, reforming and capable new member can be a multiplier for good in the war on terrorism."

"Countries like Bulgaria and Romania are truly capable, militarily," the official said. "The Baltic states have formed their Baltic battalion. It's a small force, but very well-trained and cohesive, and it fits well with ours." So all these contributions will "strengthen our ability to reach our strategic goal: Europe whole, free and at peace."

Mr. Burns said the United States will tell its allies at the summit that the large gap in military capabilities between them and America must be narrowed to avoid having "a two-tier alliance where we are so far ahead of our allies that we can't fight effectively together."

Even if the Europeans do not increase their spending, they "could use their existing defense euros more wisely by providing professional military units with the tools they need to carry out alliance missions, rather than retain static conscript forces," he said.

In Prague, a number of NATO's members will make commitments "to invest in certain military capabilities: strategic lift, precision-guided munitions, air-to-air refueling, sea lift and special forces."

Mr. Parry said it is up to the Europeans, including Britain, "to deliver," and "if we want the phone to ring, we have to be credible."

Although NATO invoked its common-defense Article 5 for the first time immediately after the September 11 attacks last year, the Bush administration decided not to seek the alliance's help in the anti-Taliban campaign, except for Britain's limited assistance. NATO, however, is now fully engaged in peacekeeping in Afghanistan.

In spite of earlier objections to the alliance's expansion to Moscow's doorstep, Russian President Vladimir Putin "realized that he can't prevent it," said Ahmet Uzumcu, the Turkish ambassador to NATO.

Mr. Putin will not attend the Prague summit, but the NATO-Russia Council, which was created earlier this year, will meet at the foreign-minister level.

NATO had also hoped "to announce a new step forward in our relations with Ukraine," but reports that President Leonid Kuchma "approved the sale of a Kolchuga radar system to Iraq has stopped our dialogue with him dead in its tracks," Mr. Burns said.

"Ukraine must cooperate as we respond to this problem," he said. "The U.S. believes NATO should maintain its links with reformers in Ukraine, but we cannot conduct business as usual with leaders who violate United Nations sanctions on Iraq."

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20021120-18892215.htm>

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Washington Times
November 20, 2002
Pg. 3

Chinese Missile Has Twice The Range U.S. Anticipated

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

China recently test-fired a new cruise missile with twice the range U.S. intelligence agencies initially estimated, intelligence officials say.

The test comes as Chinese Communist officials last week appointed a top general in charge of China's missile buildup to a new post within the leadership that runs the military.

China fired a YJ-83 anti-ship cruise missile from a JH-7 fighter-bomber earlier this month over Bohai Bay, off northern China.

The test results surprised U.S. intelligence officials. Until recently, the estimated range of the YJ-83 had been assessed to be about 75 miles. The new missile test showed that its range is about 155 miles.

The last time the missile was tested was July 4, when the People's Daily, the official Communist Party newspaper, announced the testing of a beyond-visual-range anti-ship missile. This weapon is believed by Pentagon officials to be part of Beijing's efforts to develop a long-range strike capability against U.S. aircraft carriers and ships.

Officials say the missile represents a new capability for the Chinese military in conducting "over-the-horizon" attacks on U.S. or allied ships in any conflict with China. The YJ-83 is believed to be a derivative of the C-801 anti-ship cruise missile but can travel at supersonic speeds, making it very difficult for ships to stop.

Defense specialists say the YJ-83, sometimes called the C-803, also has the capability to receive target information in flight

Richard Fisher, a specialist on the Chinese military with the Jamestown Foundation, said the new YJ-83 will probably be outfitted on the upgraded JH-7a fighter-bomber.

"With a range of 250 km [155 miles], it gives the PLA and its export clients a new anti-ship missile that can fire beyond the reach of U.S. Naval anti-aircraft missiles like the Standard SM-2, which will soon equip Taiwan's Kidd-class destroyers," Mr. Fisher said.

"This test also indicates that longer-range land-attack cruise missiles are just around the corner," he noted.

China announced major leadership changes last week that elevated new leaders to many Communist Party posts. However, outgoing Chinese President Jiang Zemin stayed on as chairman of the Party's Central Military Commission, the powerful organ that controls the military.

The commission was used by the late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in 1989 to bypass deadlocked government and party structures in ordering Chinese military forces to attack unarmed civilian protesters who had occupied Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Hu Jintao, who was named the new Chinese party leader, was reappointed last week as a vice chairman of the military commission.

Additionally, two generals were named commission vice chairmen: Gen. Guo Boxiong and Gen. Cao Gangchuan. Both generals are proteges of Mr. Jiang, who promoted them when he was party leader.

Gen. Cao is expected to become China's defense minister, replacing Gen. Chi Haotian, in the next several months. His appointment is viewed by U.S. intelligence analysts as a sign that China's major military buildup will increase under his leadership.

Officials said Gen. Cao's promotion within the commission is significant; as head of the General Armament Department he was the official in charge of China's missile development and other weapons-modernization programs.

Gen. Guo was an aide to Gen. Fu Quanyou, the chief of the Chinese general staff, who lost his post on the Central Military Commission. Gen. Guo is expected to replace Gen. Zhang Wannian, who ran the military commission until the recent leadership changes.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20021120-2387.htm>

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Christian Science Monitor
November 20, 2002

Arab Prepares To Lead Iraq Inspectors

As UN inspections set up in Iraq, director Mohamed El Baradei may not share Bush's 'zero tolerance' view.

By Michael J. Jordan, Special to The Christian Science Monitor

UNITED NATIONS – Mohamed El Baradei is growing frustrated with the topic of his nationality.

Mr. El Baradei, director general of the United Nations-affiliated International Atomic Energy Agency, spent the past week dashing from New York to Washington to IAEA headquarters in Vienna and then to Cyprus - all before joining the advance team of UN weapons inspectors that arrived Monday in Baghdad.

A veteran of 18 years with the IAEA, he's known for his technical expertise. But while the media are interested in how he'll apply that skill in his hunt for weapons of mass destruction, they're also throwing the spotlight on his status as an Egyptian - and the most prominent Arab within an inspections regime widely viewed in the Arab world as a pretext for US-led war against Arab brethren.

El Baradei himself shies away from that focus. "He's tired of answering questions about it," says Tracy Brown, the IAEA's public-information officer in New York. "The issue should be competence, not nationality. They're international civil servants, and their loyalty should be to the institutions for which they work, not their national governments."

El Baradei will lead the IAEA team of 20 inspectors that is responsible for nuclear inspections. The roughly 270 inspectors of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), led by Hans Blix, will handle chemical and biological weaponry and ballistic missiles.

When the IAEA left Iraq in late 1998, it declared Baghdad's nuclear program effectively dismantled. "We believed we had taken away their nuclear capacity," says IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky. The team was withdrawn in advance of US and British airstrikes in response to alleged Iraqi intransigence related to other inspections.

Mr. Gwozdecky says the task now is to make up the ground lost over the past four years. "That's the challenge: to find out what's happened [since then]. We don't go in with the mentality that we left them with nothing; we are suspicious on principle, because that mentality makes inspections most effective."

President Bush has declared his support for IAEA. But the administration's hawks will likely remain suspicious of the 45-year-old agency, recalling the fact that it was the IAEA, then run by current UNMOVIC chief Mr. Blix, that failed to detect Iraq's secret nuclear program in early 1990, months prior to the Gulf War.

After the blow to its prestige, the IAEA revamped policies that permitted inspections only of a country's "declared" facilities. The organization, an autonomous member of the UN family that has conducted nuclear inspections for three decades, is now empowered to inspect facilities beyond what's declared, as well as to test water, air, and soil, and initiate surprise visits. The new UN disarmament resolution means IAEA and UNMOVIC will have in Iraq what is described as the broadest mandate ever, permitting inspections any time, anywhere.

Meanwhile, El Baradei is said to be widely respected in Washington. A scholar of international law and former Egyptian diplomat who once taught at New York University, he has been with the IAEA since 1984. The US endorsed his 1997 candidacy for IAEA chief over that of another Egyptian who was Cairo's official choice. El Baradei has since been appointed to a second four-year term.

"He was known as technically competent and a good manager," says David Malone, president of the International Peace Academy and a former Canadian ambassador to the UN. "I think he's someone Washington is very comfortable with. He's politically sensitive, but takes an essentially technical approach to his responsibilities."

"We're a technical organization, and we like to rely on facts, not speculation," Ms. Brown says. "That's the kind of person [El Baradei] is: he likes to work with the facts, and his inspectors will go in to find out the truth."

But El Baradei appears likely to have more nuanced views of Iraqi compliance, and not the "zero tolerance" of any "deception, denial, or deceit" that President Bush demanded last week. According to the UN, Iraqi noncompliance may be considered "material breach" - and authorize use of force. "If there is a pattern of lack of cooperation, then we have to report to the Security Council and the Security Council will decide if that is a material breach," El Baradei said last week at a nonproliferation conference in Washington. But if "there is minor omission and this is clearly not intentional," he said, "we are not running to the Security Council to say that it's a material breach."

And despite his objections, El Baradei knows his nationality does in fact matter. The 22-nation Arab League, in accepting the UN's new Iraq resolution last week, called for more Arab inspectors to be included within UNMOVIC. Only a few inspectors are reportedly Arab, though UNMOVIC declined to confirm this. Blix mentioned Monday that only Jordanians had applied to be inspectors; of the 48 nations represented in the UNMOVIC team, the three largest groups are from the United States, France, and Russia.

Gwozdecky noted that of IAEA's 20 inspectors - a figure he said will rise to 30 eventually - four of them, including El Baradei, are Arabs. "We're pretty well represented from a numbers point of view," he says. "I believe that is a confidence-builder for Arabs.... Our inspectors were never accused of being unfair to Iraq."

El Baradei himself has said his presence may lend credibility. "I think [Arabs] will probably listen to me, because I will speak to them in their own language," he told The New York Times recently.

During contentious negotiations over the new resolution, El Baradei went on Al Jazeera, the Arabic-language satellite news network, to explain: "The Arab world must understand that there is a problem in Iraq, and it is not because Iraq is an Arab country. It is because Iraq has not fulfilled its obligations with regard to disarmament."

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2002/1120/p08s01-wogi.html>

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Christian Science Monitor

November 19, 2002

Pg. 1

Lessons From Iran On Facing Chemical War

Scientists and doctors visit Iran to gain expertise on handling chemical attacks.

By Scott Peterson, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

TEHRAN, IRAN – His gas mask would not fit tightly enough, so Mohammed Akbari shaved off his thick, black beard.

The Iranian officer, fighting in 1985 on one of the most gruesome front lines in the Iran-Iraq war, thought he was ready for any chemical weapon that Saddam Hussein's forces could throw his way. Day and night, he wore a special protective suit.

"The whole area was contaminated, there was always the smell of rotten fish," says the Revolutionary Guard colonel, who is among the largest group of chemical-weapons victims in the world.

Iran's grim experience offers valuable lessons as global concern about mass terror attacks - including chemicals - remains high, and as American troops ready for possible chemical warfare in Iraq. Scientists and doctors have visited Iran to study the effects of these weapons on the survivors and learn better ways to treat victims.

Col. Akbari was exposed one night as he walked toward an artillery battery in the dark - and mustard shells found their mark.

"With chemical weapons, you hear nothing," Akbari says. He turns on an oxygen tank next to his couch at home, and slips on a respirator. "I hurried to take my mask, but I realized it was too late."

His hands were exposed to the blistering agent. His son, born years later, was diagnosed with a nervous disorder attributed to the gas. "Nothing is left of me," Akbari says, pulling at his slack pant legs. "I can't laugh or cry."

Officials in Iran estimate that during the eight-year war 100,000 people were exposed to nerve agents like Sarin and Soman, and blistering agents like mustard gas.

President Bush often lists Iraq's use of these weapons as one reason that Mr. Hussein must be disarmed - though the US helped create Iraq's deadly arsenal at the time by supplying lethal ingredients, sophisticated facilities, and a green light to fight the Ayatollah Khomeini's uncompromising Islamic regime.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague, responsible for ensuring adherence to the UN-brokered 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention, has already held four clinical courses in Iran for medical experts, and plans another next May.

Brian Davey, head of the OPCW's health and safety branch, says that since Sept. 11, "awareness has surged, as the possibility [of a chemical terrorist attack] has moved from a very low-risk, faraway event to something much more real in people's minds."

Detailed medical records here often date from the first battlefield exposure and treatment. "This provides a body of experience that really doesn't exist anywhere else," Dr. Davey says.

Besides using chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war, Baghdad used them against Kurdish cities in northern Iraq in the late 1980s, and to put down an uprising among Shiite Muslims in the south after the 1991 Gulf War.

The USSR used chemical weapons during its occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s. And US troops used powerful defoliants in Vietnam - and napalm during the Gulf War. But nowhere else has such a large population been so exposed, monitored, and now learned from as in Iran.

"What we learned from this bloody war was how to establish a system for mass disaster: How to treat cases, and how to triage them," says Dr. Hamid Sohrab-Pour, who was a leader of Iran's chemical exposure response team for a decade.

He estimates that 10,000 Iranians died almost immediately, when they came into contact with nerve gas. Of the remaining 90,000 who survived blister-agent attacks, according to official figures, Dr. Sohrab-Pour says officials collected records on 30,000.

Some 5,000 cases, like Colonel Akbari's, are regularly followed up. About 1,000 are still hospitalized frequently, often with chronic health problems.

Sohrab-Pour says he has seen a "significant increase" in lung cancer and other problems - like those found among survivors of chemical attacks in north and south Iraq - but that he can't draw conclusions yet about birth defects or other health issues.

A 1991 CIA report - labeled "not finally evaluated intelligence" - counted 50,000 Iranian casualties during the war, "including thousands of fatalities." The report noted that Iraqi use of chemicals became increasingly effective as the war dragged on: Iraq preempted Iranian offensives by striking staging areas; it integrated chemical weapons into Iraqi tactics, and used "mass nerve agent strikes as an integral part of offensives."

Iran was "not prepared to fight in a chemical environment," the CIA report said. Many soldiers lacked gas masks, and some with masks "could not obtain a proper fit because of their beards." Another CIA report estimated 8,000 casualties in a single month in 1986.

At the same time - but not mentioned in the CIA document - the US was providing Iraqi forces with satellite intelligence about locations of Iranian troop build-ups, to improve targeting. Also not mentioned is that Iraq's chemical use propelled Iran to develop its own chemical-warfare program.

Survivors say they blame the US as much as the Iraqis for their suffering. "All the chemical-wounded accuse the US, because without them, Iraq couldn't have made chemical weapons," says Akbari, whose younger brother was exposed on another Iranian frontline and died last year. "It was very clear to us that they were giving this intelligence to the Iraqis."

Iran is working closely with the OPCW, and its experience is critical at a time when experts are concerned that chemical, biological, or radiological "dirty bombs" could fall into the hands of terrorists.

Iran's key experience is tackling high numbers of casualties after chemical contamination - a challenge unfamiliar to most civil defense, military, and emergency workers in the West.

"This brings all sorts of new considerations in the field," says the OPCW's Davey. "Your triage needs to be different, your management systems have to cope with it, you have to introduce a whole new concept of decontamination into mass casualty procedures." Learning such techniques firsthand from Iran is invaluable to those who have passed

through the OPCW courses here, Davey says. The courses rotate among clinics for the treatment of skin, eyes, and lungs - the three organs most affected by chemicals.

Just as important, however, the courses show the human impact of such weapons. "It brings home the reality, and moves it from a 'what if?' subject to a real subject," Davey says. "In many cases we see a change in motivation - a personal realization that to study these things and be aware is important."

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2002/1119/p01s03-wome.html>

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Jacksonville (NC) Liberty

November 21, 2002

Pg. 1

Marines Train For Biological Attack

By Peter Williams, Liberty editor

HAVELOCK – To Gunny Brent Cox, it's all about confidence.

He says Marines have to know that the equipment they are issued will protect them against chemical and biological attacks. That's why once a year they go through training in the gas chamber at Cherry Point.

Cox is chief of the Nuclear, Biological, Chemical (NBC) program for Marine Air Control Group (MACG) 28. One day last week he was running 140 Marines through the NBC training course. Every three months about 800 Marines in the unit do the same thing.

That training is something Cox has been doing for 16 years.

"There have been a lot of changes," Cox said. "There have been upgrades in the suits, upgrades in the mask. So, the training equipment we use has changed, and we've had to re-learn some things along the way, but pretty much the majority of the procedures we're using haven't changed."

Neither has the place where they train. The NBC chamber at Cherry Point is a sectioned-off part of an old Quonset hut about a mile down a dirt road from the flight line.

The chamber is a simple metal building with a concrete floor. It measures about 15 feet by 20 feet and is illuminated by a few fluorescent lights and a lone window. In the center of the chamber is a single electric hot plate, discolored from use. It's on the hot plate that chemical capsules are emptied to create the gas.

The mask confidence course isn't an option.

"From the time you graduate from recruit training or go through Officer Candidate School (OCS), you go through this training every year until you get out or you retire," Cox said.

Marines may be issued a gas mask, but it belongs to the unit.

"Once they transfer out of a unit they give up their mask and they get a new mask when they get to their new unit," Cox said.

"This is to build their confidence and let them know the mask will protect them. It's called a mask confidence exercise. When they go inside the chamber and they break that seal on their mask they will know that this mask is protecting them."

The four-hour training program isn't just about the mask, but the MOPP gear that goes along with it. MOPP stands for Mission-Oriented Protection Posture. From the outside it looks like a set of camouflaged Gor-Tex jacket and trousers with a few extra Velcro straps. It's what's inside that counts.

"The suits we had in the past, in the 1980s were the OG84s," Cox said. "They had a charcoal membrane on the inside and when you put the suit on it left black residue all over your body.

"This suit's lining keeps the charcoal trapped in there. It actually has little balls of activated charcoal in there. It's made of carbon spear technology and if a chemical agent were able to penetrate the outer barrier of the suit it would work its way in and hit this lining and it would neutralize the agent before it got to your skin."

The classroom is a set of bleachers set off in the woods. The training starts with the mask, and then proceeds to the suit, the boots and the gloves. When all the training is done the Marines suit up and do a last minute check on each other to make sure the suit is sealed.

"Don't freak out once you're inside the chamber and start mowing people down trying to get out the door," is the last advice Cox gives to a stick of 12 Marines who are preparing to enter.

Marines have to enter the chamber, take a deep breath and remove the mask. The gas attacks their mucus membranes and makes breathing hard.

They must then put the mask back on and clear it of the gas by exhaling. Some complete the task faster than others.

The MOPP gear has been criticized by some as being too bulky to work in, especially during warm weather. That wasn't a problem last week with temperatures in the 40s.

"It's called operational risk management, and it's part of what we do, it's all a part of the training," Cox said.

"I couldn't do it without all the great Marines that work with me."

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European Stars and Stripes

November 20, 2002

Studying New Ways To Give Anthrax Shots

By Sandra Jontz, Stars and Stripes

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Because Sami Hamed is legally blind, he can't serve his nation as a servicemember. So instead, the 23-year-old Congressional aide figured volunteering for medical research was the next best thing. Hamed is one of 1,560 healthy men and women nationwide who have volunteered to participate in a study that could change the way the anthrax vaccine is administered — from the number of doses to how the vaccine is injected into the body.

"I have a disability that prevents me from serving in the military, but I still want to serve my country," Hamed said Tuesday, as phlebotomist Gail Smith drew his blood into a vial. "This is an alternative way for me. There's no way I could fight on a battlefield, so I'll fight for medical research on the home front."

Military members or lab technicians involved in anthrax research cannot participate, because the control group is given a placebo, which could compromise anyone needing the vaccine.

"The main purpose of this study is to validate a new schedule for the vaccine with fewer doses," said Col. Janine Babcock, principal investigator at the Walter Reed site. "We're working to develop a schedule that gives good protection and minimizes side effects."

The study asks four questions:

- Can you switch from subcutaneous to muscle injections?
- Can the number of injections be reduced?
- Can you decrease side effects?
- Can you identify risk factors associated with adverse reactions? (e.g., race, gender, age, etc.)

The Food and Drug Administration, responsible for licensing and monitoring medications, could make a decision based on preliminary results as early as the summer of 2004 as to whether the vaccine can be given into the arm muscle instead of under the skin and if one of the doses can be dropped, Babcock said.

The anthrax vaccine isn't new. Dr. George Wright discovered it in 1954 and it was licensed two decades later. "Nobody knows why we use so many shots," Babcock said of the six-shot series. "No one knows. ... There is no documentation to support why they give the shots in the intervals they give them. All we know is that the FDA licensed it in the '70s with six doses and an annual booster."

As it stands, the second shot is given two weeks after the first, then at four weeks, six months, 12 months and 18 months, and then followed by annual boosters.

The study will determine if the vaccine is equally effective in as little as four doses as it is in the current eight-dose cycle, which includes the two annual boosters, Babcock said.

The volunteers must make 25 visits to their respective research facilities.

During the 43-month testing cycle, the volunteers are divided into six groups, with one group getting merely saltwater injections; they serve as the placebo control group.

Another group will get all eight doses under the skin, as currently prescribed, another will get all eight into the muscle.

The fourth group will skip the two-week dose, the fifth will skip the two-week, 12-month and first annual booster, and the last group will skip the two-week, 12-month, 18-month and first annual booster.

None of the participants know in which group they are assigned. Each is given a diary and asked to log their reactions.

In addition to the scheduling, volunteers receive the injections directly into the muscle, a practice scientists think might alleviate the redness, tenderness, swelling and discomfort that goes along with the current subcutaneous delivery.

"We learned in the 1970s and '80s to make better vaccines that work just as well given into the muscle and still get a good immune response," Babcock said. "And generally, they have fewer local side effects."

A small-scale study done in 1998-'99 by now-retired Dr. Phillip Pittman, a former senior scientist at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Infections Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md., already has shown that doses of the anthrax vaccine can be reduced and still provide equal protection, Babcock said.

But it's not enough to prove the schedule's effectiveness to the FDA because the study involved only 100 people, too small a sample number in the science world, she said.

The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Maryland is the only military site of five participating in the collaborative, Congressionally-mandated study, led by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, headquartered in Atlanta.

The other participating sites are Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, and the Mayo Clinic and Foundation in Rochester, Minn.

Volunteer and Washington resident Jackie Williams, 54, likes that she's found a way to donate of herself.

"You see, I've listed myself as an organ donor, but I don't plan on dying anytime soon," she said as she waited for a registered nurse to administer her first shot in the series. "And when I do go, who's going to want the organs of an 85-year-old? I wanted to do something good."

<http://www.stripes.osd.mil/article.asp?section=104&article=11658>

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Boston Globe

November 20, 2002

Pg. 10

Antichemical Troops Fill A Niche For NATO

By Brian Whitmore, Globe Correspondent

LIBEREC, Czech Republic - Major Jiri Gajdos surveyed his troops as they trained to deal with the unthinkable.

A soldier clad in a bright-yellow protective suit breathed heavily into his gas mask as he monitored the air for chemical and biological agents, while another took soil samples. A rescue team evacuated the injured from the "hot zone" to a specially equipped field hospital, as a decontamination squad prepared to move in.

Since returning in September from a six-month tour in Kuwait as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, the Ninth NBC Anti-Chemical Company has become the pride of the Czech Republic's armed forces as they transform from a lumbering communist-era dinosaur into a more nimble modern military.

"Without units like this, the world would be defenseless against chemical and biological attacks," said Gajdos, 40, the commander of the NBC unit that is based in this town, about 60 miles north of Prague.

The Czech effort to remake its army reflects a parallel process within NATO, which is struggling to move beyond its Cold War mission of fighting a conventional land war in Europe to meeting the more complex challenges of the 21st century. The alliance needs fewer heavy tank brigades and armored battalions and more mobile, flexible forces and specialized units like Gajdos's, which Western officials call a model for NATO.

At the NATO summit tomorrow and Friday in Prague, the 19-member alliance plans to admit as many as seven new members. At the same time, it plans to establish a 20,000-troop rapid-deployment force. But if NATO is to become more agile as it expands, officials say, the kind of specialization the Czechs are undertaking must become the wave of the future.

"They are leading the way," a senior US military official in Europe said. "Their planning is fitting well into what NATO is looking at doing, what they want to bless at the summit."

The Czechs have been so successful in filling a military niche that they are already helping NATO candidates Slovakia, Latvia, and Lithuania to do the same.

"There is a clear awareness that this is the way to go," said Michael Zantovsky, chairman of the Czech Senate's Foreign Affairs, Security, and Defense Committee. "It is a must if we are ever going to diminish the gap between Europe and the United States."

Focusing its resources into a few specific areas was a natural move for this former communist nation of 10.5 million, which joined the alliance in 1999.

"We tried to figure out how to play the best role as a small country with limited resources," said Jan Vana, director of Strategic Planning at the Czech Defense Ministry. "The idea was to specialize, but we weren't going to specialize in cooks."

The Czechs decided to create what Vana calls "centers of excellence" and "active assets" that can meet the needs within NATO. In addition to two antichemical units, these included a mobile field hospital that has been deployed to Afghanistan and a new passive radar system.

The Czech Defense Ministry pledged this week to create a new, mobile antichemical unit by 2003, which could be part of NATO's planned rapid-deployment force.

The Czech Republic's entry into NATO in March 1999, was primarily seen as a security guarantee for a country that languished behind the Iron Curtain for 40 years. It also was a political affirmation that Prague was firmly embedded in the West.

But NATO has been going through an identity crisis. The Sept. 11 attacks underscored the alliance's need to become more nimble and require its newest members to contribute.

The Czech decision to focus on antichemical warfare capabilities, something the country excelled in as part of the pro-Soviet Warsaw Pact, couldn't have been more timely, with war looming in Iraq. If the United States or its allies come under chemical or biological attack, there is a good chance that a Czech antichemical unit will come to their rescue.

Vana and other officials stressed, however, that joining any US-led war on Iraq would require approval by the Czech Parliament.

While the Czech antichemical unit has won widespread praise, much of the nation's armed forces remain unreformed and inefficient, officials say. The air force, once a source of national pride, has struggled to replace an aging fleet of Soviet-made MIG fighters with supersonic jets. Unable to protect their own airspace during the NATO summit, the Czechs made an agreement with the US to allow American F-16 fighters to patrol the skies.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, Czech troops deployed to Prague to protect the Radio Free Europe headquarters, a US-funded program. But en route from their barracks, the tanks broke down in full view of journalists.

A popular joke making the rounds in the Czech capital at the time asked: "What do the Czech and American armies have in common?" The answer: "They can both get to Prague in one day."

Since taking office in May 2001, Defense Minister Jaroslav Tvrdik has pushed to overhaul the armed forces. The government plans to phase out the draft by 2006 and reduce the country's armed forces from 50,000 soldiers, half of whom are conscripts, to an all-volunteer force of 35,000. It also plans to reduce the number of civilian employees in the military from 20,000 to 10,000 and close half of the nation's 150 bases.

"Some generals are afraid of losing clout and jobs," Zantovsky said. "But there is no way to put these sardines back in the box."

http://nl3.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_action=doc&p_docid=0F76E7925F35DCCE&p_docnum=1

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Wall Street Journal
November 22, 2002
Pg. 1

Washington Wire

By Jackie Calmes, Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

Bush Orders New Measures To Keep Weapons From 'Axis'

His classified executive order, signed last month, covers shipments to Iraq, Iran and North Korea, as well as terrorist groups trying to make weapons of mass destruction. Officials say they envision more use of military special-operations forces to interdict such materials.

Mr. Bush signed off about the time his administration announced it had confronted North Korea with evidence that the country was covertly acquiring nuclear technology. The National Security Council will oversee the intercept effort.

It's a victory for hard-liners who favor more special ops.

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New York Times
November 22, 2002

Missile Shot Down In Test

The military successfully shot down a dummy missile during its ascent over the Pacific, the first in a series testing the Pentagon's plans to defend against short- and medium-range missiles. The missile was launched from a Navy range on the Hawaiian island of Kauai and was intercepted within four minutes by a missile launched from the cruiser Lake Erie about 155 miles from the island. A military spokesman said it was the first time in the program that a missile had been intercepted as it rose.

--Associated Press

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Washington Times

November 22, 2002

Pg. 1

North Korea Can Build Nukes Right Now

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

North Korea could build several plutonium bombs right away and add one every year until about 2005 if the 1994 Agreed Framework collapses, a CIA analysis says.

By the middle of the decade, however, North Korea could begin producing enough plutonium to make up to 50 bombs a year, the CIA revealed in an unclassified estimate released to Congress.

The estimate for plutonium bombs does not include additional bombs that could be made under Pyongyang's covert uranium-enrichment program, which could begin producing enough fuel for one to two uranium bombs per year beginning in 2005.

In Pyongyang, North Korea's Foreign Ministry announced yesterday that the 1994 agreement had collapsed because of the decision last week by the United States to halt fuel-oil shipments to North Korea.

"Now that the U.S. unilaterally gave up its last commitment under the framework, the [North] acknowledges that it is high time to decide upon who is to blame for the collapse of the framework," a ministry spokesman said in a statement carried by the official news agency, KCNA.

Japan's government said on Wednesday that it remains committed to building two nuclear reactors in North Korea despite Pyongyang's covert nuclear-arms program. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda said in Tokyo that the government continues to back the Agreed Framework.

The CIA statement shows that it would take North Korea five to six years after jettisoning the 1994 arms-control pact before it could begin large-scale production of nuclear weapons.

The Bush administration suspended fuel-oil shipments to North Korea last week after a senior North Korean official disclosed in an October meeting with U.S. officials that Pyongyang secretly was building uranium-based weapons.

The administration was debating whether to abandon the treaty, which required that the United States, Japan and South Korea build two nuclear-power reactors in North Korea in exchange for Pyongyang's ending its nuclear-arms program.

Some officials favor keeping the agreement while others say the North Korean violations show that the communist government, which President Bush has said is part of an "axis of evil," cannot be trusted.

Incoming Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard G. Lugar, Indiana Republican, said last week that the agreement should be kept. Mr. Lugar told The Washington Times that "we need a construct that stops the production of more weapons by North Korea."

The CIA estimate, obtained by The Times, states that the North Koreans could begin producing highly enriched uranium in the next three years.

"We recently learned that the North is constructing a plant that could produce enough weapons-grade uranium for two or more nuclear weapons per year when fully operational — which could be as soon as mid-decade," the CIA said.

The plutonium-based nuclear-arms program used fuel from three reactors to produce enough for up to two bombs before 1992, the CIA said.

That program was supposed to have stopped under the Agreed Framework, which was hailed by the Clinton administration as a major arms-control breakthrough.

Signs that North Korea was continuing to develop nuclear arms were identified by U.S. intelligence as early as 1999, U.S. officials have said.

Under a section headed "If the Framework collapses," the CIA said North Korea could begin reprocessing plutonium again if it abandons the Agreed Framework.

"Reprocessing the spent 5 megawatt-electric reactor fuel now in storage at Yongbyon site under [International Atomic Energy Agency] safeguards would recover enough plutonium for several more weapons," the CIA stated in a brief unclassified statement.

"Restarting the 5 megawatt reactor would generate about 6 kilograms [of plutonium] per year," it said. "The 50 megawatt-electric reactor at Yongbyon and the 200 megawatt-electric reactor at Taechon would generate about 275 kilograms per year, although it would take several years to complete construction of these reactors."

Arms specialists said about 5 kilograms of plutonium is required for one bomb, making the bomb-production rate about 55 weapons per year after the reactors are completed.

The CIA stated that despite the agreement to halt plutonium production at the Yongbyon facility, "we have assessed, however, that the North has continued its nuclear weapons program."

Regarding the uranium-bomb program, the CIA said it had been suspicious about Pyongyang's work on enrichment for several years.

"However, we did not obtain clear evidence indicating the North had begun constructing a centrifuge facility until recently," the CIA said. "We assess that North Korea embarked on the effort to develop a centrifuge-based uranium enrichment program about two years ago."

Last year, procurement agents for North Korea "began seeking centrifuge-related materials in large quantities," the CIA said, noting that the North Koreans "also obtained equipment suitable for use in uranium feed and withdrawal systems."

The CIA stated that assessing North Korea's nuclear program is difficult to gauge accurately because of the closed communist system and "the obvious covert nature of the program."

Henry Sokolski, director of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, which first obtained the CIA analysis, said the report indicates that North Korea will not be able to build more nuclear weapons rapidly outside of the Agreed Framework until five or six years.

"The North Koreans cannot break out with a large amount of plutonium bombs very quickly beyond what they already have," Mr. Sokolski said.

Critics, including members of Congress, said the Agreed Framework was killed by the North Koreans. A senior North Korean official told Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly in early October that the agreement was nullified, U.S. officials said.

"The era of negotiation with North Korea is over because negotiations have failed categorically," said one congressional aide.

"North Korea is going to try to build bombs no matter what we do," the aide said. "Their goal is to have nuclear weapons. Our goal should be to stop as many dual-use exports to this regime as we can."

Mr. Sokolski notes: "All this suggests that trying to fine-tune an agreement for plutonium or uranium is a mistake. We've got to change the regime."

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Washington Post
November 22, 2002
Pg. 36

N. Korea Claims U.S. Oil Cutoff Nullifies Nonproliferation Pact

SEOUL -- North Korea said yesterday that the United States had nullified a landmark nuclear pact with its decision last week to cut oil supplies to Pyongyang over its atomic weapons program.

On Nov. 14, Washington and its allies decided to stop vital fuel-oil aid to penalize North Korea for breaking a series of nuclear nonproliferation pledges, including the 1994 Agreed Framework, by operating a covert uranium enrichment program. Pyongyang confessed to the enrichment program last month.

The isolated communist state's first response to the decision was that the oil cutoff meant "it is high time to decide upon who is to blame for the collapse of the Framework."

"It is well known to the world that the U.S. has violated the Framework and boycotted the implementation of its commitments," a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

Under the 1994 Agreed Framework, the North promised to freeze its nuclear weapons program in return for fuel oil, paid for by Washington, and two light-water reactors that cannot easily be converted to produce atomic weapons material.

Pyongyang's statement called the oil cutoff, which takes effect as North Korea's sub-zero winter sets in next month, a "wanton violation" of the pledges of allied energy aid for North Korea.

It asserted that the United States had broken the pact because the light-water reactor construction is behind schedule and because Washington had threatened Pyongyang by branding North Korea part of an "axis of evil" with Iran and Iraq.

--Reuters

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(Editor's Note: Hyperlink for reference GAO Report follows article.)

InsideDefense.com

November 21, 2002

GAO: Military Must Improve Force Protection For Deployments Through U.S. Seaports

By Daniel G. Dupont

The Defense Department should improve its force protection process for deployments of troops and equipment through domestic seaports, the General Accounting Office states in a new report.

DOD has identified 17 U.S. seaports as "strategic" because, in the event of large-scale military deployments, it will transport "more than 95 percent" of all equipment and supplies by sea. And, as the October 2000 attack on the destroyer Cole in Yemen illustrates, unconventional threats to U.S. ships are a reality.

However, GAO states, the "strategic environment at strategic seaports remains uncertain because comprehensive assessments of threats, vulnerabilities and critical port infrastructure and functions have not been completed, and no effective mechanism exists to coordinate and disseminate threat information at the seaports."

These factors compound the tricky task of protecting deploying forces "and increase the risk that threats -- both traditional and nontraditional ones -- may not be recognized or that threat information may not be communicated in a timely manner to all relevant organizations."

The Coast Guard, Transportation Security Administration and other agencies have begun to address many weaknesses, GAO allows, singling out the Coast Guard's vulnerability assessments of port infrastructure and its establishment of more seaport security teams.

However, GAO identifies two major weaknesses with military port security. First, the report states, DOD lacks a "central authority" responsible for force protection measures undertaken by defense organizations that move forces through domestic seaports. Second, DOD sometimes transfers custody of its military equipment to non-DOD entities, "including foreign-owned ships crewed by non-U.S. citizens."

GAO recommends better threat information coordination at strategic seaports, oversight and coordination of force protection efforts and control over in-transit equipment.

Specifically, the report calls on DOD to designate a single authority, such as the recently established U.S. Northern Command, to oversee force protection for forces and equipment from the time they leave domestic installations to when they enter their areas of operation -- including their trips through domestic seaports. DOD concurs with this recommendation, noting that NORTHCOM and the U.S. Transportation Command "will work closely" to examine security for deployments through domestic seaports.

DOD only partially concurs with GAO's second recommendation on improved security over equipment transported by non-DOD carriers. "It must be understood that DOD has, for decades, relied upon the commercial sector to provide a large portion of the nation's strategic sealift capability in both peacetime and during contingency," DOD states in its reply. "This reliance is borne out of necessity and for cost reasons."

The Pentagon does, however, state that Northern and Transportation commands will take steps to improve the security of DOD cargo moved by commercial carriers. "Satellites tracking cargo and vessels, as well as increased

use of Supercargos (security personnel aboard vessels), are two methods that we are moving forward with," the response concludes.
--Daniel G. Dupont

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Combating Terrorism: Actions Needed to Improve Force Protection for DOD Deployments through Domestic Seaports.

[GAO-03-15](#),

October 22.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0315.pdf>

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Ariz. Practices for Bioterror Threat

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filed at 8:06 a.m. ET

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) -- Two men burst into a banquet room and spray guests with a white gas. Preliminary findings indicate the substance is anthrax. Antidotes from the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile are flown in.

It was all playacting Wednesday, but with a serious purpose: The surgeon general, Arizona Gov. Jane Hull, public health officials and thousands of volunteers were practicing for one of the nation's worst nightmares: a bioterrorism attack on U.S. soil.

Tucson officials launched a three-day drill that will include mock attacks, emergency evacuations and medication airlifts to test how well the nation is prepared for a biological attack.

"It's fitting that this exercise is starting the day after the Homeland Security bill passed," Hull said. "The new reality requires a collective need to protect and defend our communities and our nation from a strange, new kind of warfare."

U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona said federal officials are eager to learn lessons from the exercise, one of the nation's biggest bioterror drills since the Sept. 11 attacks.

"Build the resiliency, the capability into the American public that most people don't believe is there yet," he told participants at the Tucson Convention Center.

The Tucson drill had been planned since spring 2000, and similar exercises will be staged across the country, Carmona said.

The simulations will test the ability of local, state and federal emergency and public health agencies to coordinate their response.

After the mock assault at the convention center, 500 participants, mainly public health officials, discussed how to respond to such an attack.

Later Wednesday, Hull requested an aid package from the national stockpile. As the three-day drill continued, a 6-ton training package of equipment and mock medications was to be shipped from one of 10 secure sites around the country to the Arizona Air National Guard. Local health officials will use the contents to practice immunizing about 1,000 volunteers.

In a real attack, the package would be a 50-ton emergency package containing antibiotics, antidotes, vaccines, syringes and other supplies. It would be delivered within 12 hours of the attack.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/national/AP-Bioterrorism-Drill.html>

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U.S. Response: DARPA Leads Push for New Drugs

By David McGlinchey

Global Security Newswire

WASHINGTON — As the threat of biological terrorism has become more immediate and concern about new strains of pathogens has increased, the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency has responded by accelerating efforts to find new medicines that will reduce — and perhaps eliminate — the threat of anthrax and many other dangerous agents, scientists and U.S. officials said recently (see [GSN](#), July 16).

An array of five DARPA-supported initiatives have the potential “to take anthrax off the table as a weapon because we can treat it and prevent it,” said **John Carney**, program manager for DARPA Unconventional Pathogen Countermeasures, which oversees the initiatives.

Although the program is intended to develop medicines that would primarily protect soldiers, the general U.S. population could face the same pathogens and benefit from the same initiatives, officials said.

“Somebody who is serious about an attack using biowarfare drugs could, and probably will, engineer resistance to our major antibiotics,” said **David Perry**, chief executive officer of Anacor — one of the five companies involved in the DARPA program. “It’s not that hard, frankly. The bacteria they use will be resistant to the antibiotics we have on hand. The government’s emergency policy is to have a basket of antibiotics stockpiled.”

Agency officials have told Congress that they hope to submit several investigational new drugs for Food and Drug Administration approval within two years, Carney said. The agency is also closely considering the possibility of developing a single antibiotic to defeat several pathogens.

“One drug for all bugs,” Carney said.

For example, one antibiotic Anacor is developing might be a “triple-header,” said **Lucy Shapiro**, director of Stanford University’s Beckman Center for biomedical research and an Anacor cofounder. The drug has shown promise for use against the plague, tularemia and anthrax, she said.

Initiatives and Goals

While the pathogen countermeasures project began before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, officials are now trying to speed the process.

“Timelines are difficult to predict in pharmaceutical work,” Carney said. He noted, however, that “the urgency is greater now” and that the agency is “being aggressive.”

Another participant echoed Carney’s assessment.

“I think certainly DARPA feels a sense of urgency that is reflected down to the scientific level,” said **Stephen Benkovic**, the other Anacor cofounder and a Pennsylvania State University professor.

Anacor is building on the work of Shapiro and Benkovic, whose research has led to a new class of drugs that inhibit certain pathogenic enzymes, including those found in anthrax and tularemia. The two scientists, who also sit on the company’s scientific advisory board, believe that the recently founded company is making good progress toward developing a single drug that could defeat several dangerous agents.

“We began to accelerate as the situation darkened,” Benkovic said, referring to the terrorist attacks and the U.S. war on terrorism. “We would like to take it as far as we can, as quickly as possible,” he added.

Anacor announced a \$21.6 million contract Oct. 29 — from DARPA and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command — to develop antibiotics for use against anthrax, tularemia and other infectious diseases. After initial success with test-tube experiments, the company’s researchers are currently taking their enzymes into animal testing.

Vince Fischetti, a professor who specializes in bacterial pathogenesis and immunology at New York’s Rockefeller University, is in the second year of another leg of the DARPA-sponsored effort to develop an enzyme that will target anthrax without causing side effects in other systems in the human body. He has worked with the agency before and has sat on its scientific advisory board for four years.

DARPA is funding a clinical trial to test the new enzyme in animals, Fischetti said. Researchers plan to finish animal testing within a year, and if it is successful, human testing could be complete in two years, he said.

If all goes well, the government could have this medicine stockpiled in under five years, and Fischetti said he imagines that it could happen “in three to four.”

DARPA is also working with Genesoft in the San Francisco Bay area and PharmAthene and Critical Therapeutics in the Boston area.

Though the five initiatives work toward similar goals, they are not in a competition, Carney said. Each has sufficient funding and its own milestones to reach, he added.

“At the end of the day, they will either succeed or fail on their own characteristics,” Carney said.

Academia Meets the Military

The pathogen countermeasures contracts represent a significant infusion of top scientific minds into the world of national security, according to Shapiro.

“DARPA was very instrumental in taking this out of academia and into a real corporate setting ... neither Steve [Benkovic] or I had the ability or desire to run a company,” she said.

Shapiro applauded the risks that the program has taken to support fledgling scientific efforts. Anacor, which grew from the research of Shapiro and Benkovic, is now well poised to produce important new medicines, Carney said. The antibiotics being developed in Anacor's Palo Alto facility in California might become the first new class of antibiotics since 1978, according to Perry.

While Anacor officials said they anticipate that a commercial application will emerge from their work — the compound has also proven effective against common bugs such as streptococcus and staphylococcus — Shapiro said they hope to develop a drug that is “much more effective” than Cipro in treating anthrax.

“If you want to break barriers and develop the new penicillin, you have to take chances,” Shapiro said. “I’m not telling you we have penicillin — we don’t — but we might,” she added.

Keeping in Touch

Mixing scientists and national security experts is not always a completely smooth process, Carney said. It is important to not merely fund the projects and walk away, he said.

Each week, agency officials conduct either a phone conference call or a face-to-face meeting with representatives from each project. The agency also hosts annual meetings to bring efforts together and share ideas and research. The annual meetings “bring all of the projects together as a forum — it creates a community,” Carney said. The meeting of the different scientists creates a useful “social network” and offers participants “different vantage points on how to attack a problem,” he added. Representatives from the Pentagon and the FDA as well as alumni from former DARPA projects have attended the meetings in the past. The most recent meeting was held in February, and the next is scheduled for April 2003.

During the meetings, academics are given a slot of time to present their work, and Carney asks them to pay attention to practical applications as well as general scientific progress. Because some scientists are unaccustomed to displaying the practical facets of their work, Carney has mandated that the first five slides of every presentation focus on real world application and business matters.

Although DARPA's efforts are not conventional, they are needed to provide new solutions to urgent concerns, Carney said. The agency's mandate is to “disruptively” change the way technology is used and to look “far forward into the future,” he added.

The scientists involved in the project agreed that novel treatments must be found for chemical and biological agents. “If the next attack is a resistant organism, we would have no way to kill that organism,” Fischetti said. “It’s a capability we don’t have right now,” he added.

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/newswires/2002_11_21.html#5

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