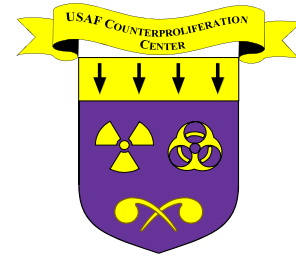


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# CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL



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**THE AMERICAS: Importers recruited to watch for weapons ANTI-TERRORISM PARTNERSHIP:**

Financial Times; Nov 28, 2001  
By EDWARD ALDEN

The Bush administration called for a new partnership yesterday between the government and US companies to ensure that incoming shipments of goods are not used to conceal terrorist weapons. Robert Bonner, the US customs commissioner, warned that there was "a real and current threat" that terrorist organisations could try to smuggle weapons of mass destruction into the US by hiding them in commercial cargo. In the war against terrorism "security of goods and the means of transporting them is as important as a ballistic missile defence system", he told a conference of US importers.

The new regime will require companies to undertake far greater responsibility for ensuring the security of the goods they ship, on the fear that any commercial shipment could be used by terrorist to conceal weapons. Such measures were previously mandated only for companies that shipped so-called "dual-use" goods that also have military applications. Companies will now be expected to have an airtight supply chain from initial loading to final delivery in order to guard against terrorist infiltration. That would include the use of electronic seals on all container shipments to guard against tampering.

Those companies that meet the anti-terrorist standards would see their goods move easily into the US but others could face delays.

Bush administration officials are clearly worried about the costs that could be imposed on the private sector by the new requirements. Paul O'Neill, the US Treasury secretary, said yesterday that the US border inspection system needed to be redesigned to reduce the cost of shipments while at the same time increasing security against terrorist action.

Since the September 11 attacks the customs services, which are responsible for the security of US borders, has proposed or implemented a series of measures aimed at better controlling the flow of people and goods into the US without unduly disrupting international trade. Mr Bonner warned 58 foreign airlines last week that they could face heightened inspections for all their passengers travelling to the US unless they agree immediately to turn over advance lists of passengers to US customs officials. That would include inspection of both hand-carried and checked baggage for every passenger on flights where the passenger list has not been provided in advance. Many airlines already provide those lists voluntarily, but Congress has ordered all airlines to provide that data as part of the aviation security legislation signed into law last week.

Mr Bonner said that customs also plans to maintain indefinitely its "Level 1" alert, which requires closer inspection of all vehicles and commercial shipments arriving in the US and 24-hour manning of all border posts.

He said that despite the initial delays created by the heightened security, wait times at the northern border with Canada were back to normal levels within a week and have remained there.

<http://globalarchive.ft.com/globalarchive/article.html?id=011128000822&query=weapons+of+mass+destruction>

## **Possible Afghan Chemical Weapons Sites Found - U.S.**

November 27, 2001 04:56 PM ET

By Tabassum Zakaria

TAMPA, Fla. (Reuters) - The United States has identified more than 40 sites in Afghanistan potentially linked with chemical and biological weapons and is testing samples found there, the regional U.S. commander said on Tuesday. Army Gen. Tommy Franks, the head of U.S. Central Command which oversees operations in Afghanistan, said there was no evidence yet of such weapons but papers and chemicals found at some of the sites were being examined in the United States.

"We have identified more than 40 places which represent potential for WMD (weapons of mass destruction) research or things of that sort," Franks said during a visit by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to the Command Headquarters.

He said chemicals and equipment had already been found but it was unclear whether it was linked with weapons or with production of fertilizers or other purposes.

U.S. officials have repeatedly expressed concern that bin Laden, believed by Washington to be behind a string of major terrorism attacks on U.S. targets around the world, was seeking to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

"We have not found something that we believe is a specific (biological or chemical weapon). That is why we are going to test them all," Franks said.

"We have found (in laboratories) a variety of chemical compositions and these sorts of things but one would also be able to associate that with the making of fertilizer or with the making of any other sort of product," he said. Franks stressed that the testing would be exhaustive and would take time, though he did not say how long. He denied reports in the U.S. media that samples of the deadly sarin gas had been found. There would be a systematic search of all suspect sites and no biological or chemical weapons would be left in the country, he said. Franks said many of the sites were under the control of the opposition Northern Alliance which, with the help of U.S. bombing, has seized major cities from the Taliban and al Qaeda forces of Osama bin Laden, wanted for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

#### TWO HOT SPOTS

He said the U.S. military was closely watching two areas near Jalalabad and Kandahar still not under opposition control and where it has been speculated that senior Taliban and al Qaeda leaders, including bin Laden, may be hiding.

"There are two areas that are very interesting to us. One of them for the leadership of the Taliban and that is in the vicinity of Kandahar, well-reported and true. The other is in the area between Kabul and Khyber to include the Jalalabad area and down toward Tora Bora," he said.

"These are the two areas that we are paying very, very careful attention to," Franks added.

Rumsfeld said, "They are not the only places we are paying attention to."

Pakistani forces also were keeping an eye on 150 to 170 small mountain passes along the border with Afghanistan that could be potential escape routes to Pakistan, Franks said.

But despite the watch on borders, some of the leaders wanted by the United States might still slip out, he said.

"That does not say that some of the forces or some of the leadership that we're after will not be able to get out of Afghanistan. It would be foolish to say that," Franks said.

"If this leadership does come from Afghanistan, it's simply a matter of continuing wherever they go until we find them," he added.

A force of 800 to 1,100 U.S. Marines being assembled at an airstrip near Kandahar would put pressure on the Taliban stronghold but were not there to attack the city, he said.

U.S. officials have said the Marines were being deployed to set up a forward base and cut main roads in the area.

Rumsfeld and Franks both said fighting was persisting near Mazar-i-Sharif, where Northern Alliance forces and U.S. bombers were trying to quell a revolt by al Qaeda prisoners.

[http://www.reuters.com/news\\_article.jhtml?type=topnews&StoryID=410080](http://www.reuters.com/news_article.jhtml?type=topnews&StoryID=410080)

## **Anthrax plan pops out of Pak scientist's cupboard**

NEW DELHI: Sketches and calculations to make a helium-powered balloon bomb filled with anthrax have been found from the Kabul office of an NGO headed by Bashiruddin Mehmood, one of the two Pakistani nuclear scientists detained in Islamabad for questioning on their alleged links with Osama Bin Laden, *The Economist* has said.

Such a balloon bomb was capable of showering deadly anthrax over areas as vast as New York or Washington. The "most chilling" items found from the Kabul premises included small bags of white powder and the "mass of calculations and drawings" of weather balloons with arrows indicating the suggested height of 10 km or 33,000 feet, said *The Economist* in its print edition.

The premises located in the "wealthiest district" of Kabul belonged to the Ummah Tameer-e-Nau (UTN), whose president is a leading nuclear scientist and a plutonium technology specialist Mehmood, who along with another scientist Abdul Majid were detained again on Tuesday in Islamabad for questioning, *The Economist* said.

The two men, who are alleged to have made frequent trips to Afghanistan and met Laden on two occasions, have denied the charges.

"Since UTN was run by one of Pakistan's top scientists, a man with close links to the Taliban and, it is said, close ideological affinities with Laden, the circumstantial evidence points to only one conclusion, the paper said.

"Whoever fled this house when the Taliban fell was working on a plan to build a helium-powered balloon bomb carrying anthrax," the journal said.

In Islamabad, Pakistani authorities ruled out any link between two nuclear scientists and anthrax attacks in the US.

"There are no linkages established at all with any anthrax-related capability between the scientists and those people (al-Qaeda)," military government spokesman Major General Rashid Qureshi told reporters.

Despite the clearance, the two scientists remained in custody on as yet unspecified charges.

Qureshi said there were certain rules retired scientists were supposed to observe, which include "prevention from making certain statements and also travelling."

"Frankly, beyond that I am not privy to any other details."

Qureshi denied any knowledge of reports that US officials had also questioned the two scientists in custody.

"I do know that the investigation is being carried out by Pakistan authorities. I am quite sure that information is being shared if it of any value (with the Americans)," he said.

[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow.asp?art\\_id=2060894688](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow.asp?art_id=2060894688)

USA Today

November 29, 2001

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## **The Threat Of Nuclear Terror Is Slim But Real**

By Bill Nichols and Peter Eisler, USA Today

WASHINGTON — It's a scenario even more horrific than the Sept. 11 attack that destroyed the World Trade Center: Terrorists launch a nuclear strike on an American city. If a crude nuclear bomb were set off, as many as 100,000 people would be killed instantly within a 3-mile radius of the blast. Thousands more would die slowly of radiation poisoning. This nightmarish picture might be on the minds of many worried Americans in the wake of Osama bin Laden's statements that his al-Qaeda network has acquired nuclear weapons. There also have been reports that al-Qaeda members have boasted of plans for a "Hiroshima" against America.

But U.S. intelligence and defense officials have some comforting news. They don't believe that al-Qaeda, which the Bush administration and its anti-terrorism partners believe carried out the Sept. 11 attacks, or any other terrorist group has acquired or built a nuclear bomb — yet.

The more immediate worry is a lethal radiological attack. Experts say terrorists could construct a "dirty bomb" that uses dynamite to disperse radioactive material in an urban setting. It lacks the force of a nuclear blast but still could kill 1,000 people in an urban district, render the area unlivable for months and pose cancer risks for decades.

The radioactive material needed to construct a dirty bomb is more accessible than the uranium and plutonium used in nuclear bombs, and the amount needed for such a device could fit into a measuring cup. Building a dirty bomb "is not a daunting task for a terrorist," says Bruce Blair, president of the Center for Defense Information.

By contrast, nuclear weapons are extremely difficult to steal or construct. "It's really hard to get one," Iranian President Mohammad Khatami told reporters in New York this month. He should know: Iran has been trying to acquire nuclear technology for years.

So too, apparently, has al-Qaeda. U.S. military officials said Tuesday that they have found 40 sites in Afghanistan where bin Laden forces might have conducted research on chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. Earlier this month, U.S. officials said al-Qaeda papers were found in Kabul on how to make nuclear bombs, but they were crude diagrams that lacked technological sophistication.

### **An idle boast from bin Laden**

In an interview with a Pakistani newspaper this month, bin Laden declared, "If America used nuclear or chemical weapons against us, then we may retort with chemical and nuclear weapons. We have the weapons as deterrent."

U.S. officials, however, dismiss such rhetoric as an idle boast.

Mohamed el Baradei, director of the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), says the odds are slim that terrorists could obtain a ready-to-use nuclear device. Even so, after Sept. 11, he urged all eight nuclear powers to review their arsenals' security.

But el Baradei shares the concerns of many U.S. officials and proliferation experts about the possibility that terrorists could steal or purchase on the black market enough nuclear fuel or radioactive material to build a rudimentary atomic weapon or, more likely, a dirty bomb.

From 1993 through 2000, the U.N. agency, which monitors nuclear security, confirmed 153 cases of theft of nuclear materials. The thefts included plutonium and highly enriched uranium that could be used immediately as fuel for a nuclear weapon, as well as less volatile nuclear material, such as uranium fuel and wastes from nuclear power reactors, that would need high-tech processing before it could trigger a nuclear blast.

There also were 183 cases of thefts of other radioactive materials used by industry and medicine that could be converted into dirty bombs.

"The controls on nuclear material and radioactive sources are uneven," el Baradei told delegates from dozens of nations gathered for an international symposium on nuclear terrorism this month. "Any such materials being in illicit commerce and conceivably accessible to terrorist groups is deeply troubling."

### **Nuclear scenarios**

There are four leading scenarios under which terrorists could launch a strike.

#### **1. Obtaining a nuclear bomb**

Existing nuclear weapons are the most lethal threat, but the least likely to be used by terrorists. There have been reports that some Soviet warheads are missing, but Russia says its arsenal is secure and intact. So do the other nuclear states: the United States, Britain, China, France, Russia, India, Pakistan and Israel. There has never been a confirmed theft or loss of a ready-to-use nuclear weapon from any of these nations. But deep concerns remain about the theft or black-market purchase of a Russian nuclear device. This month, Russian officials revealed a frightening lapse in nuclear security.

At a U.N. atomic energy agency conference in Vienna, a high-ranking Russian nuclear official reported a previously undisclosed security violation of the "highest possible consequence" during the past two years. He did not provide details.

A report submitted to Congress in January by a task force led by former Senate majority leader Howard Baker — now U.S. ambassador to Japan — and former White House counsel Lloyd Cutler catalogues dozens of incidents of attempted theft of nuclear devices or material in Russia since the Soviet Union fell in 1991.

U.S. concern centers on small, portable nuclear weapons called "suitcase bombs." Russian officials insist that fewer than 100 of the devices were ever constructed and all have been destroyed or put under impregnable security. U.S. officials fear however that the Russians can't account for all of them.

Even if some portable devices were stolen, the sophisticated hand-held units would need expert maintenance — such as replacement of fast-decaying tritium used in triggering mechanisms — to retain their effectiveness.

#### **2. Building a nuclear bomb**

Experts fear that terrorists might obtain weapons-grade nuclear material and build a crude bomb.

It's a steep technical challenge, but not impossible, especially if former Soviet weapons scientists have sold their expertise.

The U.S. government estimates that Russia and the former Soviet republics have about 1,100 metric tons of weapons-grade uranium and 160 metric tons of plutonium at 123 sites.

Nuclear experts hotly debate how difficult it would be to build a nuclear bomb using such material. Many believe a crude device is possible using information in the public domain.

The weapon would be large, perhaps the size of a compact car, and the nuclear material would have to be shaped and packed with explosives in a precise way. Finally, the detonation process would have to be timed perfectly to trigger a nuclear reaction.

But there would still be a threat if terrorists botched the job and the bomb didn't detonate properly. It could produce a "fizzle reaction" equal to one-tenth the force of a normal nuclear device. Such a blast would approximate 1,000 tons of TNT, several hundred times the force of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

Successful detonation of a rudimentary nuclear bomb like those dropped on Japan during World War II would have the force of 10 kilotons, or 10,000 tons of TNT.

#### **3. Launching a missile**

This nightmare scenario, deemed highly unlikely by experts, envisions the seizure of a missile site or computer codes to cause an illicit missile launch.

Such concerns had focused on the former Soviet Union, which had nuclear warheads scattered at missile sites throughout its republics. The arsenal is now consolidated in Russia, however, and most experts say an unauthorized missile launch, even by a disaffected military commander, is implausible.

"It would require a lot of knowledge of launch codes," says Arjun Makhijani of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research. Although Russian missiles are no longer targeted at U.S. cities under a 1994 agreement, "the target codes can be restored very quickly, in less than a minute," Makhijani says, "but you would have to know what you're doing."

These days, experts say terrorists would be more likely to try to seize a nuclear weapons facility in India or Pakistan, the newest members of the nuclear club.

Since Sept. 11, the Bush administration has kept a worried eye on Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, estimated to contain 30 to 50 bombs or warheads. They are controlled by the Pakistani army, which contains factions that share al-Qaeda's extremist Islamic views, intelligence officials say.

Pakistan's arsenal is under tight security, experts say. Nuclear devices are kept unassembled at different locations, which makes scientific expertise essential for assembly. U.S. officials became alarmed when Pakistani authorities

detained two Pakistani nuclear scientists last month because of their contacts with the Taliban. Pakistani officials are still investigating whether the pair helped the Taliban develop weapons of mass destruction.

#### 4. Building a dirty bomb

Although a radiological bomb lacks the destructive force of a nuclear bomb, experts say it poses a far greater threat because it would not require weapons-grade nuclear material. There are tens of thousands of radiation sources that would suffice, ranging from material used in nuclear power plants to isotopes used by radiology clinics and industrial machinery used to detect cracks in buildings and pipelines.

Many of the radiation sources, typically sealed in protective containers, contain only tiny amounts of material. But others hold large amounts of radioisotopes, such as cesium used in X-ray equipment, that could be very dangerous in a dirty bomb.

U.S. officials have particular concerns about a nuclear waste site in the breakaway Russian republic of Chechnya, where bin Laden has support. Chechen terrorists planted cesium in Moscow's Izmailovsky Park in 1995. The device, which contained no explosives and caused no harm, apparently was meant to warn how easily a dirty bomb could be set off.

Smuggling dirty bombs into the United States would be difficult. They probably would lack protective shields that mask radioactive emissions, and thus could be detected at U.S. ports. In recent years, U.S. customs officials have been equipped with Geiger counters that detect radioactivity.

The U.S. government has other equipment to locate a nuclear or radiological device, although officials would need an approximate idea of where to look. The Energy Department has nuclear emergency search teams equipped with special aircraft and vehicles set up with technology that can detect the presence of a nuclear weapon. That equipment's range is classified.

The most difficult challenge for authorities assessing the threat of nuclear terrorism is tracking thefts or black-market purchases of nuclear material. Worldwide inventories are grossly inaccurate, and some countries can't account for hundreds of pounds.

The IAEA's accounting standards allow for losses of up to 5% of the nuclear material that passes through some large processing facilities, in part because some countries chafed at having to track bits of material that might escape in waste streams. Despite the wiggle room, some countries still ignore the agency's reporting requirements.

"Nobody knows to this day what's gone missing because of the large uncertainty factors," says Paul Leventhal, president of the Nuclear Control Institute, an independent watchdog group.

The U.N. atomic agency "is fond of saying there's no evidence of any diversion, but there would be no way to know," Leventhal says. "If you have someone inside (a nuclear facility) influenced by bribery, extortion or ideology to get stuff out, he probably is going to be able to do it. When you talk about an industry that produces by the ton what nuclear weapons require by the pound, the arithmetic gets very, very scary."

*Contributing: Barbara Slavin*

New York Times  
November 29, 2001

## **U.S. Call Irks North Korea**

SEOUL, Thursday, Nov 29 (Reuters) — North Korea angrily rejected today American calls for inspections of its suspected weapons of mass destruction, and it threatened to take unspecified "necessary countermeasures."

A Foreign Ministry statement denounced the requests and said North Korea "cannot sit idle."

Washington Post  
November 29, 2001  
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## **A Terrorist's Fragile Footprint**

***Letter's Anthrax Spores Pose Many Obstacles to Analysis***

By Rick Weiss, Washington Post Staff Writer

Strange things happened on Oct. 15 when U.S. Army experts gathered around a microscope in a specially sealed room to examine the anthrax spores that had been mailed to Sen. Thomas A. Daschle: The tiny spores, each one less than one-twentieth the diameter of a human hair, kept leaping off the glass microscope slide as though by magic, then wafting away like weightless wisps of cigarette smoke.

When the scientists tried to weigh the sample, the spores refused to rest on the scale but again became airborne, propelled by imperceptible air movements and tabletop vibrations.

Finally the team dunked some of the spores in liquid chemicals and embedded others in wax just so they could examine and test them. That prevented further losses, but even then investigators ran short of spores long before they had done every test they had hoped to do.

Such are the problems that Army and FBI investigators face as they begin their analysis of a similar letter sent to Sen. Patrick J. Leahy -- an investigation slated to begin today or tomorrow with the meticulously orchestrated opening of the letter and examination of its contents at a military lab at Fort Detrick in Maryland.

The letter -- discovered Nov. 16 in a barrel of unopened congressional mail and leaking anthrax spores "like a sieve," according to an Army scientist -- stands today as the best potential source of clues in the unyielding mystery of this fall's bioterrorist attacks. Experts have spent two weeks devising a plan for opening the envelope so scientists can make the most of its valuable microbial contents and FBI agents can gather fibers, fingerprints or human DNA that may be inside.

In recent days, a team has conducted dry runs on a "body-double" envelope wrapped in tape like the Leahy letter, just to confirm the approach. Several experts said they knew of no previous law enforcement case in which so much planning went into so seemingly simple an act as opening a piece of mail -- an indication of how much is riding on the clues the letter may hold.

"The U.S. Army and the FBI . . . know the sample is precious," said Maj. Gen. John Parker, commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Center, which is overseeing the analysis. "They want to make every study count toward the end of linking the sample to the perpetrator."

Evidence has been hard to come by in the spate of 18 anthrax cases that started Oct. 1. Three deaths -- one each in Florida, New York and Connecticut -- have not been linked to a known bacterial source. And of the four letters containing spores that authorities have in their possession, only the letter to Leahy (D-Vt.) was obtained unopened and in pristine condition.

The letter to Daschle (D-S.D.) lost some of its contents when it was opened by an aide, and almost all the rest has been used by scientists. A letter received by the New York Post appears to have become damp before being discovered, turning the contents into something resembling "Purina Dog Chow," Army scientists said, and making analysis difficult. And so few spores remained in the letter sent to NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw after its contents were spilled by his assistant that the FBI has asked the Army to delay any analysis, Parker said.

"The Leahy letter is the most intact piece of evidence we have," said FBI spokeswoman Tracy Silberling. "It may be the only complete opportunity we have to study this stuff in detail."

Neither the Army nor the FBI has said precisely what tests are planned for the Leahy specimen, which has been locked in a low-humidity refrigerator at Fort Detrick for the past two weeks. But a detailed look at how the Army analyzed the Daschle letter offers insights.

An FBI agent delivered that letter to Detrick's Special Pathogens Laboratory on Oct. 15, doubly sealed in a pair of plastic bags. A preliminary field test had suggested the presence of the anthrax bacterium, *Bacillus anthracis*, but visual inspection by experts at Fort Detrick immediately suggested they were dealing with spores that had been processed to a surprisingly fine grade.

In the four years that the special pathogens sample test lab has existed, "this was the first time we had ever received a real impression that this is something to be very concerned about," said Col. Erik Henchal, chief of the diagnostics systems division at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, which is home to the lab.

The letter and its surrounding bags were placed inside a third plastic bag and whisked from the biosafety level two (BL-2) facility where the package had first been brought to a more secure BL-3 lab. (The highest level is BL-4.)

That is where the Army's premier anthrax expert, John Ezzell, tried in frustration to look at the powder under a microscope. As spores drifted about, Ezzell began to worry -- about the level of expertise that had apparently been brought to bear in the powder's production, and about the number of spores escaping.

So after transferring a few spores to a microbial culture dish where they could germinate and grow into colonies for genetic analysis, the team put most of the powder away and restricted further inspection to samples immersed in special fluid or embedded in thin slices of paraffin.

A battery of biological assays followed. Tests for antibiotic sensitivity indicated the bugs were not resistant to standard antibiotics. DNA tests confirmed they belonged to the Ames strain, as have all of the terrorism-related specimens. And electron microscope studies of the powder in paraffin showed that the particles were remarkably

small -- just 1.5 to 3 microns in diameter -- and consisted almost entirely of purified spores, a perfect recipe for inhalational anthrax.

But there was something else in there, too, and it would require analysis by others to say what. That job fell to a laboratory on the campus of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Northwest Washington. An aging building there is home to a device called an energy dispersive X-ray spectroscope, which can detect the presence of extremely tiny quantities of chemicals.

That device found that silica, but not aluminum, was mixed with the Daschle spores -- an important finding that differentiated the sample from known Iraqi specimens in which spores were combined with bentonite, a mixture of silica and aluminum.

The spectroscope found traces of other elements, too, but there was virtually no specimen left for follow-up studies. One goal of the Leahy letter analysis, Parker said, is to conduct further physical and chemical analyses that may offer clues about the powder's provenance.

Three or four people will probably be in the BL-3 facility when the Leahy letter is opened, Henchal said. Ezzell will be among them, he predicted, and he will probably not wear a protective suit but simply don a surgical mask because he has been vaccinated against anthrax many times. An FBI forensic expert will also attend, while other agents look on through the few windows.

The FBI generally likes to photograph evidence, Henchal added, but that won't be easy. "How do you lay out the material so you can adequately photograph it? It's a real problem with something so lightweight and so fragile." It is just one of the many ironies of the anthrax murder mystery that something so consequential can be so light.

Newport News Daily Press  
November 28, 2001

## **New Task Force Commander Ready For Weapons Of Terror**

### ***Unit would respond to attacks in U.S.***

By R.W. Rogers, Daily Press

FORT MONROE -- National Guard one-star generals usually draw the same level of attention in Hampton Roads as December snowstorms do in Minnesota.

But then, most one-stars don't plan how the military would respond should terrorists use a weapon of mass destruction on the United States.

Maybe Brig. Gen. Jerry W. Grizzle, 48, should have a star-and-a-half on each shoulder. No doubt he has a job and half as the new commander of Joint Task Force Civil Support, a 2-year-old command that went from the cheap seats to center stage in one day -- Sept. 11.

"Sept. 11 brought a validity to the organization and an [increased] level of awareness," Grizzle said. "It's brought our level of visibility way up there, and it's allowed people to get exposure to us, so that now we can go in and say, 'Here, this is what we do. We are available if you need us.'"

Grizzle's new command, which belongs to the Joint Forces Command, started with 36 people in October 1999. That's when it occupied a single floor of a nondescript building in Norfolk.

Then came the September terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that changed Joint Task Force Civil Support. Before the attacks, the task force was designed to be a 103-member headquarters unit that coordinated military units at a disaster site.

Afterward, it bulked up to 170 people, with 3,700 more troops waiting in the wings, should they be needed. A continuing personnel survey might result in more people being assigned to the unit.

The 3,700 troops include units with expertise in areas such as hazardous-material cleanup, chemical weapons and other areas that would now accompany the task force when a weapon of mass destruction has been used.

Right now, most of the task-force service members are reservists pulling yearlong duty.

Several civilian and contract workers also call the former elementary school on Fort Monroe home. There are plans to expand the unit's presence on the base that's home to the Army's Training and Doctrine Command.

The command's visibility is such that its previous commander, Maj. Gen. Bruce Lawlor, is now a prominent homeland-security adviser.



Grizzle, an Oklahoma National Guardsman who took command Oct. 31, conducted a get-acquainted session with the local news media Tuesday at his Fort Monroe headquarters.

He said he knew firsthand about natural and manmade disasters, having been through the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 and a severe tornado in 1999.

He also knows how to make an organization run: Grizzle formed CD Warehouse Inc. in 1996. The company franchised and operated retail music stores that sold new and used CDs. It went public in 1997.

Grizzle is a former college football player whose taste runs toward Remington Western sculptures and Southwestern art. He said his job was to plan for contingencies that he hoped were never realized.

The key to success at his new job, he said, is to understand personalities and to mesh governmental agencies to best get the job done.

The military would only take on such a role, Grizzle pointed out, should it be asked to by a civilian agency.

Grizzle said that in coming weeks and months, the challenge would be to coordinate with the many units newly assigned to the task force. Several military exercises are planned to do that.

Inside The Pentagon

November 29, 2001

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## **CDC: Anthrax Vaccine Not Yet Proven Effective Vs. Terrorism Strain**

Medical researchers at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta cannot say with certainty that the current anthrax vaccine would be effective in protecting people against the disease strain recently mailed in terror attacks on members of Congress and the news media, CDC officials tell Inside the Pentagon. But CDC currently has studies under way aimed at determining just that.

The anthrax vaccine has been administered over the past three and a half years to more than 500,000 U.S. military personnel, according to Defense Department data.

The continued uncertainty about the vaccine's effectiveness in the face of a fifth death last week attributed to inhaled anthrax may throw yet another hook into the Pentagon's controversial effort to vaccinate all service members in coming years. Such lingering questions may also put the brakes on proposals to make the anthrax vaccine available more widely to the U.S. public, especially given military complaints about the shots' painful -- and, on occasion, quite serious -- side effects.

Past studies have shown that the vaccine triggers an antibody response in humans and lab animals that would likely protect them from infection if exposed to anthrax. But it remains unclear whether it is the small amount of protective antigen in the vaccine -- or some other factor -- that triggers this immune response (ITP, March 8, p1). Ongoing studies at CDC seek to better understand how the anthrax vaccine works -- with an eye toward shortening the current six-shot regimen over 18 months, among other things -- but this research is just getting under way this year.

The recent anthrax attacks in Florida, New York and Washington were determined to be all of the same, fairly common but relatively virulent Ames strain. At the same time, the powder in the letter to Majority Leader Sen. Tom Daschle (D-SD) appeared to be more finely milled and thus became airborne more easily than that sent to NBC's Tom Brokaw, government officials have said.

"Our current knowledge about the protective antigen for this strain suggests that the vaccine would likely protect against this strain, however further studies are in progress to address this issue," said Dr. Nina Marano and Dr. Jai Lingappa of CDC's anthrax vaccine research program, in written responses to ITP's questions.

"Knowledge of the structure of the protective antigen that is in the strain used in the recent terrorist attacks would help in understanding if the vaccine would likely protect against the disease from that strain," the researchers said. Toward that end, CDC is undertaking studies to sequence the gene that codes for the protective antigen in the Ames strain, said Marano, a veterinarian, and Lingappa, a physician. Other research is under way to learn "if the antibodies from people who have been vaccinated can attach to the protective antigen from this strain," they said. If the antibodies attach, that would help explain if the anthrax vaccine can protect against the strain used in the terror mailings, according to the two researchers.

Marano and Lingappa say medical studies to date have elicited some understanding of the anthrax vaccine, but there remain many unknowns. Among them is how many shots are really required to achieve protection against anthrax,

and how long that protection lasts. That could be of special concern to the growing number of service members whose last shot was more than two years ago, because quality control at its Michigan manufacturer has created a serious shortage in vaccine stocks and severely slowed the Defense Department's vaccination program.

Dr. Sue Bailey, then the Pentagon's top physician, in 1998 recommended that if more than two years has elapsed since a service member's last shot, the patient should restart the entire six-shot series if immunity is to be maintained (ITP, July 20, 2000, p1). The clock is ticking for many military personnel in the midst of their inoculation regimen after several major slowdowns in the Pentagon's anthrax immunization program began in July 2000. Currently very few military members are receiving the shots.

Perhaps more unsettling may be Marano and Lingappa's No. 1 "unknown" about the vaccine, namely whether the current tests researchers use to measure anthrax immunity are even "the appropriate tests to use to measure protection," they said.

Based on animal studies, the researchers believe the immune system may "remember" to fight off anthrax if a person is exposed more than two years after their last shot. Additional research is being performed to "help further refine our understanding of these additional factors contributing to protection and thereby develop the next generation of the anthrax vaccine," the two said.

Meanwhile, based on the recent anthrax scare, CDC is considering whether to recommend a change in the Food and Drug Administration label for the anthrax vaccine that would allow shots to be given more widely to the U.S. population. The labeling currently advises the vaccine be given solely to a small community at increased risk of contracting anthrax, such as those who process animal pelts or work in lab research on the disease.

Now, with all but one of the five inhaled anthrax fatalities affecting those over 50 years of age, some say older Americans whose immune systems may have weakened should receive the anthrax vaccine. Such proposals are highly contentious, though; several members of Congress are sure to raise concerns about whether the risks of the current vaccine merit the benefits of protecting the very few who might be exposed to this lethal -- but potentially treatable -- disease. A couple recent victims of inhaled anthrax have recovered and were released from the hospital after timely and aggressive treatment with common antibiotics.

CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices "has been working closely with CDC to review the data from the recent anthrax letters received in several U.S. cities, in order to determine whether a change in the recommendations [on who may receive the vaccine] would be appropriate," Marano and Lingappa said.

The anthrax vaccine labeling also does not yet reflect government officials' belief that it provides immunity against inhaled anthrax; the label accounts for protection against solely the skin form of contracting the disease. But FDA in 1997 allowed the Defense Department's massive immunization program to go forward based on concerns that an enemy bomb or crude weapon could disperse an aerosolized form of anthrax over U.S. troops (ITP, Feb. 17, 2000, p1).

"While there is a paucity of data regarding the effectiveness of anthrax vaccine for prevention of inhaled anthrax, the current package insert does not preclude this use," wrote Dr. Michael Friedman, FDA's lead deputy commissioner at the time. He went on to give his tacit approval for the Pentagon program.

As of the end of October, almost 523,000 service members had received at least one dose of the anthrax vaccine, Lt. Col. John Grabenstein of the Defense Department's Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program told ITP earlier this month. "Almost all" of those military personnel had received their last shot within the past two years, said Jim Turner, a Pentagon spokesman. But Grabenstein said just 75,000 of those who started the 18-month regime had received all six shots. Annual boosters are also recommended to maintain immunity.

-- *Elaine M. Grossman*

New York Times  
November 29, 2001

## **U.S. Confirms Anthrax In Chilean Letter**

By Clifford Krauss and Andrew C. Revkin

Federal health officials yesterday confirmed the presence of anthrax in samples Chilean authorities said they had taken from a letter from Florida. But the anthrax was not the strain that had killed five Americans and was most likely to have originated in Chile, officials said.

In the search for a source, Chilean public health officials said they had found no traces of anthrax in the offices and other environs of Dr. Antonio Banfi, the pediatrician in Santiago who received the letter two weeks ago. They said

they planned to provide American investigators with the letter, a solicitation from a medical publishing company in Orlando, Fla., for further analysis.

American law enforcement and health officials had expressed frustration in recent days that they did not have the letter, but only bacteria grown by Chilean officials from spores said to be taken from the letter. Because of that, they said, it was possible that the anthrax came from laboratory contamination.

Chilean public health officials yesterday discounted the possibility that the letter could have been contaminated in their laboratory.

The letter, carrying a subscription slip for a journal on infectious disease, did not follow the pattern of the other known tainted mailings, received by two senators and Tom Brokaw of NBC News. Those letters were postmarked in Trenton, did not have real return addresses and were written in rough block letters.

The letter in Chile was sent in a business envelope, from an actual business and had a typed address, rather than handwritten one. Also, unlike the others, the letter in Chile did not contain powder.

American and Chilean officials say as they dig deeper, nothing quite adds up.

"There is no doubt about it, the anthrax is confirmed," said Jeanette Vega Morales, director of the Institute of Public Health, the official Chilean national disease laboratory that conducted the first tests. She said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told her yesterday of their test results.

Dr. Banfi, a 56-year-old pediatrician, said that on the afternoon of Nov. 13 he received a letter at his clinic that appeared suspicious because of the strange combination of postal markings. Although the return address was Orlando, the postmark was Zurich, Switzerland. In fact, the letter was sent via DHL, which used a Swiss bulk mail shipper in New York and a Swiss postmark.

Dr. Banfi said he put the letter unopened in a plastic bag, sealed the bag with tape, and called the police.

The bag was in police custody for several hours before the police handed it over to the Institute of Public Health.

Ms. Vega Morales said the letter was sealed when it arrived at her offices, and it was immediately taken to a high-security laboratory for testing.

"There's no chance of contamination in the lab," Ms. Vega Morales said. "And we do not believe that the envelope was deliberately contaminated with anthrax spores in Chile."

Ms. Vega Morales said the laboratory was outfitted with air filters and sanitized, compartmentalized work stations and staffed by technicians who wore protective clothing. She said there had not been a single accidental contamination in the laboratory where the tests were performed since it was built in 1997, and that no case of anthrax had been reported in Santiago since 1994.

No powder was found in the letter, but its insides were swabbed by technicians reaching into a sanitized cabinet with protective gloves. The specimen was stored and cultivated in a petri dish, tested positive for anthrax, and then sent up to the United States for further testing.

Ms. Vega Morales said that the disease-control centers had said that the strain of anthrax found in Chile was similar to strains that had been found in Turkey.

She said no contamination had been found in Dr. Banfi's office.

There was a brief rash of newspaper articles about the local anthrax scare, but Chileans have shown far more interest in tremors that some fear may mean that an earthquake is on the way.

Public medical authorities say Dr. Banfi's private practice has suffered greatly from the scare.

Dr. Banfi says he will take some time to adjust to his sudden fame, and he is taking the drug Cipro as a precaution.

He is a soft-spoken man with an easy smile, whose small office is decorated with art posters and whose hobbies include tennis, swimming and reading poetry.

"It was random," Dr. Banfi said of the contamination. " 'Send it to a doctor and see what happens' is what someone probably thought if it was an act of terrorism."

Dr. Banfi said he had undergone hours of questioning by the Chilean police about his politics and potential enemies, but added that he had neither strong political views nor enemies. "I'd prefer not to have the world's attention," he said. "I just want to attend to the children in peace."

**Thursday November 29 2:59 PM ET**

## **Experts Sure Iraq Has Bio-Weapons**

*By DAFNA LINZER, Associated Press Writer*

NEW YORK (AP) - International experts are certain that Saddam Hussein ([news - web sites](#)) has a biological weapons program but without weapons inspectors on the ground, there is no way to know whether Iraq is resuscitating nuclear or chemical capabilities.

By the time Iraq halted U.N. weapons inspections in 1998, inspectors believed the country's nuclear facilities had been destroyed and chemical materials dumped.

But that was three years ago, and even then, inspectors were convinced that Iraq - which had invaded neighboring Kuwait and fired missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia - was hiding the truth about its biological weapons program and its plans to build an atomic bomb.

"The biological dossier was the one that raised the largest question mark, and with every year that passes, it is all the more worrisome," said Hans Blix, director of the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission for Iraq.

The Bush administration officials in recent days have accused Iraq of developing a germ warfare program.

National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice called the Iraqi president "a threat to his own people, a threat to the region, and a threat to us because he is determined to acquire weapons of mass destruction."

Asked Monday about Iraq and potential military targets beyond the Afghanistan ([news - web sites](#)) war, President Bush ([news - web sites](#)) said: "If they develop weapons of mass destruction that will be used to terrorize nations, they will be held accountable."

Richard Butler, an Australian who ran the U.N. inspection program until it was forced out of Iraq in 1998, criticized the White House's stance and called for a tougher line in dealing with Iraq.

"I fail utterly to understand when the president of the United States says 'If we find they're developing weapons, we'll take action.' It's well established that they have weapons of mass destruction. The question is how much longer the U.N. Security Council will allow this to go on," Butler said.

Security Council resolutions enacted after the 1991 Persian Gulf War ([news - web sites](#)) mandated that Iraq "unconditionally accept the destruction, removal or rendering harmless," of all chemical and biological weapons, components and manufacturing facilities, and all ballistic missiles capable of reaching beyond Iraq's borders.

The resolutions called for on-site searches of all facilities by U.N. inspectors and members of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, which used to be run by Blix.

By the end of the Gulf War, IAEA assessments indicated Saddam was six months away from building an atomic bomb. Inspectors discovered that the oil-rich nation had imported thousands of pounds of uranium, some of which was already refined for weapons use, and had considered two types of nuclear delivery systems.

Over the next six years, inspectors took custody of the uranium, destroyed facilities and chemicals, dismantled over 40 missiles and confiscated thousands of documents and plans.

At the end of 1998, the IAEA wrote that it had "no indications to suggest Iraq was successful in its attempt to produce nuclear weapons," or that there remains "any physical capability for the production of amounts of weapons-usable nuclear material of any practical significance."

Butler's findings, which centered on the biological, chemical and missile capabilities, were not as definitive. Iraq had used chemical weapons twice in the 1980s against its Kurdish population and during the Iran-Iraq war.

"I entered a final report showing that not all their weapons of mass destruction had been accounted for," Butler said. It was Iraq's refusal to cooperate with Butler's team that prompted punishing U.S. and British airstrikes in December 1998. As a result, Iraq would not let weapons inspectors back in to the country and has argued that it has fulfilled its U.N. obligations.

In an Oct. 5 report to the Security Council, IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei wrote that "for nearly three years, the agency has not been in a position to implement its mandate in Iraq. As a consequence, it is not able at present to provide any assurances that Iraq is in compliance with its obligations."

[http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/ap/20011129/us/attacks\\_iraq\\_s\\_weapons\\_1.html](http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/ap/20011129/us/attacks_iraq_s_weapons_1.html)

Thursday November 29 10:26 AM ET

## Hart Building Readied for Fumigation

By JOHN HEILPRIN, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Environmental workers installed chemically resistant pipe and barriers Thursday to fumigate the Senate's Hart Office Building despite a lack of confidence among some senators about the government's broader plan on anthrax.

"We're getting ready for fumigation. ... We're still on track," said Richard Rupert, the Environmental Protection Agency ([news](#) - [web sites](#))'s on-scene coordinator for the Capitol Hill anthrax cleanup.

Workers plan to begin using chlorine dioxide gas over the weekend to disinfect the suite of offices in the Hart building used by Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., the majority leader. Outside, two of the EPA's three specially equipped vans have been humming with crews of scientists, air-monitoring gear and computers.

"The goal is to, as much as possible, make the Daschle suite gas-tight," Rupert said.

Senators with offices in the Hart building were skeptical of EPA's handling of the unprecedented series of anthrax scares, however. EPA has lead responsibility for issues related to environmental cleanup of hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction but gets help from more than a dozen other federal agencies along with state and local emergency responders.

"The Environmental Protection Agency doesn't have very much expertise on this," Sen. Pete Domenici ([news](#) - [bio](#) - [voting record](#)), R-N.M., said Wednesday at a hearing on the progress of the cleanup. "They don't. They need experts."

Sen. Barbara Mikulski ([news](#) - [bio](#) - [voting record](#)), D-Md., who chaired the hearing, told EPA Administrator Christie Whitman the agency should set clear standards for determining when the building and other Senate office locations would be rid of anthrax spores.

Mikulski also said she was troubled by the lack of a central federal command to oversee and coordinate the government's response to the anthrax scares that spread from Capitol Hill to the U.S. Postal Service. It was the deaths of two Washington postal workers who inhaled spores from mail they were handling that spread dread across the nation.

Whitman told the panel her agency's goal is to return Capitol Hill buildings to a condition with "no viable anthrax spores" left in them. She added there "might be a feeling that, in fact, there are levels at which it might not be a threat" if minute traces of anthrax remained.

So far anthrax has killed five people and sickened others since it was diagnosed in early October as the cause of a Florida photo editor's death. Its first appearance in the Hart building was shortly afterward in a letter to Daschle. Decontamination of Daschle's suite could begin by Friday night, Lt. Dan Nichols of the Capitol Police said Wednesday. Rupert said the building could be reopened in two to four weeks.

At a church across the street from the Senate buildings, both officials tried Wednesday night to assure residents of the area that the weekend cleanup will not harm them.

"I don't see the need for anyone to leave the area. The air outside these buildings is going to be monitored very closely by the EPA," Nichols told an hourlong gathering of about 100 people.

Gerald Pitalo, a NASA ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) physicist whose town house is three blocks from the Hart building, said he hopes EPA will be "detailed enough and careful enough" but said they seemed to know what they are doing.

Still, he worries about air leaving the Hart building through ducts.

"I walk by this building every day, and I'd like to know that everything in it that's supposed to be killed will really be dead," Pitalo told officials at the meeting.

Cleanups using liquid or foam decontaminants already have begun in some of the 13 other senators' offices - all but two in Hart, where half the Senate's 100 members have offices - where traces of the deadly bacteria were found.

"No one's going into the books; no one's going into the papers; no one's going into the drawers; so how can we be sure (spores are) not there?" Sen. Ted Stevens ([news](#) - [bio](#) - [voting record](#)), R-Alaska, demanded of Whitman on Wednesday.

Under such grilling, Whitman's tone grew increasingly icy. She repeatedly explained that everyone was in uncharted territory.

"It is the biggest challenge we've ever faced," she said. "We are writing the book as we go along. ... We have been as comprehensive as we believe is necessary."

[http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/ap/20011129/us/congress\\_anthrax\\_3.html](http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/ap/20011129/us/congress_anthrax_3.html)

## **N. Korea slams calls for arms inspections**

November 29, 2001 Posted: 4:28 AM EST (0928 GMT)

**SEOUL, South Korea -- North Korea has spurned U.S. calls for arms inspection and threatened to take "necessary countermeasures" against the superpower.**

"The U.S. is unreasonably demanding the DPRK receive an 'inspection' just as a thief turns on the master with a club," the North Korean foreign ministry said in a statement carried on state-run Korea Central News Agency (KCNA).

DPRK is the acronym for North Korea's official name -- the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

On Monday, U.S. President George W. Bush hinted Iraq could be its next target in his war on terrorism, and urged North Korea to allow inspectors to determine whether it has been producing weapons of mass destruction.

Bush said North Korea should allow the inspections if it wanted better relations with the United States.

But North Korea dismissed U.S. statements urging it to do more to cooperate against terrorism as "quite nonsensical".

Earlier, U.S. Undersecretary of State John Bolton told a conference in Geneva that the North was a leading violator of the international treaty banning biological weapons.

North Korea is believed by Western and South Korean experts to have some 5,000 tons of chemical weapons and an unknown stockpile of germ warfare agents, including anthrax and smallpox.

### **Missile Defense**

Pyongyang also protested over U.S. intentions to establish a missile defense system and implications that the communist north is proliferating its missile technology.

"It is preposterous for the U.S., styling itself a 'superpower', to claim that it should establish the missile defense system for fear of the DPRK's missile [program] solely meant for self-defense," the North Korean foreign ministry said.

North Korea said the claim is a "blatant challenge and a despicable plot" by the United States to divert international resentment to the north.

"The groundless charges brought by the U.S. against the DPRK over the issues of 'terrorism' and 'missile threat' go to clearly prove that its talk about an unconditional dialogue with the DPRK is nothing but hypocrisy and it is, in fact, not interested in the dialogue and improved relations."

"Under this situation the DPRK cannot sit idle but is left with no option but to take necessary countermeasures," it said, without elaborating.

### **Cross-border fire**

North Korea has also blamed the United States for escalated tension in the Korean peninsula.

It said it refuse to engage in talks with Seoul due to the presence of U.S. soldiers in South Korea.

On Tuesday, North and South Korea have briefly exchanged fire across their heavily armed De-militarized Zone.

North Korea did not comment on the incident, but its state media said the South had "committed a military provocation by introducing two combat armored cars into the De-militarized Zone."

South Korea and the communist North are still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean conflict, which ended in an armed truce.

<http://www.cnn.com/2001/WORLD/asiapcf/east/11/29/nkorea.inspection/index.html>

New York Times

November 30, 2001

## **North Korea Threatens U.S. Over Demand For Arms Inspections**

By Don Kirk

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov. 29 — North Korea threatened "countermeasures" today against the United States because Washington insists on "raising questions over our human rights record and religion, and demanding an inspection of weapons of mass destruction."

The threat, issued by a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman in a broadcast monitored here, increased fears of a complete breakdown of the peace talks engineered by President Kim Dae Jung over the last year and a half. North Korea's threat was just as nonspecific as President Bush's warning on Monday that both North Korea and Iraq would be "held accountable" if they developed "weapons of mass destruction that will be used to terrorize nations." While neither the United States nor North Korea has gone so far as to suggest military action, the exchange contributed to an overall sense of unease here that has been building ever since the breakdown of North-South ministerial-level talks earlier this month.

Many commentators blamed the United States for increasing tensions unnecessarily.

"United States pressure is disturbing," said Kim Jae Il, a spokesman for President Kim's Millennium Democratic Party. "The situation is building toward a crisis."

JoongAng Ilbo, a major daily newspaper that is often critical of President Kim's efforts at reconciliation with the North, said, "The United States should not drive North Korea into a corner with strong words or tactics."

The defense minister, Kim Dong Shin, sought to allay fears of an outbreak of hostilities, telling the National Assembly, "The United States will not try to stage an independent war against North Korea."

The tension was heightened on Tuesday when North Korean soldiers fired two or three shots across the demilitarized zone between the two countries. The defense minister, accusing the North of adopting "a military-first policy," blamed the shooting on North Korea, which ignored requests by the United Nations Command in Seoul to discuss the incident.

Against this background the unification minister, Hong Soon Young, warned of "a sense of crisis" among North Korea's leaders as a result of the seemingly hard-line American position.

Mr. Hong's remarks reflected his first-hand experience in negotiating with North Koreans for five days this month at a resort area just north of the DMZ. He broke off the talks after the North refused to relent in its demand that South Korea call off the military alert ordered by President Kim after the United States opened its military campaign in Afghanistan.

The break was a severe blow to President Kim, who had hoped the two sides could resume a dialogue that began with his meeting in Pyongyang in June 2000 with North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Il.

The dialogue was suspended in March after President Bush expressed "skepticism" about the good faith of Kim Jong Il and questioned whether it was possible to verify any agreement with him, then resumed in September.

As a sign of its possible ambivalence, the North signed United Nations treaties this month that outlaw financial support for terrorism and the use of hostages as pawns in negotiations. The North also condemned the attacks of Sept. 11 as "very regrettable and tragic" soon after they happened.

Washington Times  
November 30, 2001  
Pg. 19

## **North Korea Signs 2 Anti-Terror Pacts**

SEOUL — North Korea, eager to get off a U.S. list of countries that sponsor terrorism, signed two U.N. treaties designed to stem terrorism, South Korean officials said yesterday.

North Korea's representative to the United Nations, Ri Hyong Chol, signed the treaties on Nov. 12, said Kwon Seiyong of South Korea's Foreign Ministry.

Soon after signing the treaties, Mr. Ri — in an expected change — was replaced by Park Kil Yon as the North's U.N. mission chief.

Washington Post  
November 30, 2001  
Pg. 1

# Ames Strain Of Anthrax Limited To Few Labs

By Steve Fainaru and Joby Warrick, Washington Post Staff Writers

Since the mid-1980s, the U.S. Army laboratory that is the main custodian of the virulent strain of anthrax used in the recent terrorist attacks distributed the bacteria to just five labs in the United States, Canada and England, according to government documents and interviews.

Two of the labs -- both in the private sector -- received the strain this spring, only a few months before letters tainted with anthrax spores were mailed to New York and Washington, the records show.

The documents, obtained by The Washington Post, offer the first official accounting of how the microbes, known as the Ames strain, were originally disseminated. They show that the distribution of Ames was much narrower than recently thought, and a top anthrax researcher said the strain may be limited to a dozen labs.

The five original labs also provide a starting point for investigators trying to determine how the Ames strain fell into the hands of a terrorist or terrorists.

Col. Arthur Friedlander, senior military research scientist at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) at Fort Detrick, Md., said the Ames strain was distributed by the military for research purposes under strict controls to "legitimate workers in the field."

FBI spokesman Mike Kortan said yesterday that the agency's anthrax probe had moved "way beyond" the short list of labs that received the Ames strain from Fort Detrick. A government official who asked not to be named said the five labs were used to guide investigators trying to trace the movements of the strain to other researchers and institutions.

Transfer records obtained by The Post under the Freedom of Information Act show that USAMRIID, which is located in Frederick, shared the Ames strain last March with scientists at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, an Albuquerque research institute, and in May and June with the Battelle Memorial Institute, a Columbus, Ohio, corporation involved in anthrax vaccine research.

No records were available before 1997, when a new federal law required researchers to report the transfer of dangerous pathogens to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But USAMRIID officials said the other labs to receive Ames were the Defence Research Establishment Suffield, a Canadian biodefense institute that received Ames in 1998; the U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground, a test facility in the Utah desert that received the bacteria in 1992; and the Chemical Defence Establishment at Porton Down, a British biodefense institute near Salisbury, England, which received the Ames strain in the mid-1980s.

"This is not a cavalier thing that one does," Friedlander said. "When anyone isolates strains, they are shared through the scientific community. That's how research gets done. It follows a long tradition of collaboration with people that we are well familiar with."

The Ames strain, a virulent form of anthrax bacteria, is named for the Iowa city in which it was originally isolated. It was used in suspected terrorist attacks that have killed five people and infected 13 in Florida, New York, Connecticut and the District, according to investigators.

When the anthrax attacks began in early October, many experts believed that the Ames strain, because of its use in vaccine studies, had been distributed to thousands of researchers worldwide. But that number has been reduced considerably in recent weeks. Friedlander estimated yesterday that the labs in possession of virulent anthrax strains, including Ames, probably numbered "no more than a dozen."

In addition to the five labs that received Ames from USAMRIID, others known to have the Ames strain are Martin E. Hugh-Jones, an anthrax researcher at Louisiana State University, and a lab at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. Jones recently said he received the Ames strain in the late 1990s from microbiologist Peter Turnbull, then at Porton Down. Turnbull, confirming the transaction in an interview last week, said Porton Down shared Ames with "very few" researchers, whom he declined to name.

Scientists have identified USAMRIID as the primary distributor of Ames. Much of the history of that distribution since the 1980s is spelled out in a few dozen pages of transfer forms that scientists are required to fill out whenever certain kinds of dangerous microbes change hands.

The records document the delivery of Ames bacteria to at least 10 establishments, but only five received Ames in a virulent form that make people sick.

The first agency reported to have received the Ames strain from Fort Detrick was the Chemical Defense Establishment, which used the bacteria to test vaccines for troops.

Porton Down scientists previously acknowledged sharing the bacteria with the agency's public health branch, the Center for Applied Microbiology and Research. CAMR officials in turn have acknowledged distributing the bacteria to a small number of private researchers.



Fort Detrick's documents record several exchanges of Ames bacteria between USAMRIID and the Dugway Proving Ground, the Pentagon's primary chemical and biological defense testing center, which is located in Utah's Great Salt Lake Desert.

Dugway, the site of several biological weapons tests in the 1950s and 1960s, has continued to use live anthrax spores in experiments that test the durability of military equipment under a simulated biological attack.

Michael Cast, a spokesman for the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command, which oversees Dugway, said the agency could not comment on specific biological agents in its possession. But he said the security measures at the West Desert Test Center, where Dugway scientists test everything from protective suits to armored vehicles, are "very stringent."

In 1998, the Canadian government requested the Ames strain for its Defence Research Establishment Suffield, Ottawa's counterpart to Fort Detrick. According to documents prepared by DRES scientists, Ames was one of 11 strains of *Bacillus anthracis* bacteria given to Canada by USAMRIID. Among the others was Vollum 1B, the strain used by the Pentagon in its biological weapons program in the 1950s and 1960s.

The Canadians studied Ames in experiments that tested the effectiveness of antibiotics against various bacterial strains, documents showed.

DRES chief scientist Kent Harding said the anthrax spores were closely guarded against theft. "We're talking several locked doors and 24-7 monitoring," he said.

Two research agencies received Ames bacteria from Fort Detrick this year, in shipments that predate the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington. Battelle Corp., a major government contractor that manages Energy Department laboratories and operates the Chemical and Biological Information Analysis Center for the Defense Department, was planning to use the strain in developing vaccines.

Spokeswoman Katy Delaney said she could not comment on Battelle's anthrax research, but she said officials were unaware of security problems at its facilities. "We know of no instances of safety or security breaches in our biodefense research," Delaney said.

The records also show that USAMRIID shared Ames with the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center last March. The center operates a Pentagon-funded lab that evaluates potential treatments and protections against biological weapons.

A university spokesman declined to comment on the specifics of the research. "As a matter of prudence, we do not discuss which specific organisms we have in our labs," said Sam Giammo, director of public affairs for the Health Science Center.

While initial tests have suggested that the anthrax spores used in the terrorist attacks were of the Ames strain, further genetic testing is needed to establish conclusive proof. Some scientists have suggested the terrorists' strain could be an "Ames-like" variation, unknown until now.

"The evidence suggests it's the same strain," Friedlander said. "But there is the possibility that it is not."

The new documents shed little light on the early history of the Ames strain, which remains somewhat murky despite the recent attention.

The U.S. biological weapons program had been officially dismantled for more than a decade when Fort Detrick received the strain around 1980 from Department of Agriculture researchers in Ames, Iowa. At the time, interest in anthrax was intensifying because of reports that the Soviet Union was secretly developing biological weapons.

"We were requesting strains from different labs, and we received this strain. It wasn't named Ames then," Friedlander said.

Fort Detrick researchers were drawn to the novel strain because it appeared more resistant to vaccines, he said. A vaccine that could protect against Ames would offer the highest protection for troops exposed to deadly germs on the battlefield.

The fact that relatively few labs appear to have worked with Ames could narrow the search for the person or group behind the deadly attacks, Friedlander suggested.

"The world of anthrax researchers is quite small. There isn't a large group of people working with fully virulent strains," he said. "Obviously, if there were 1,000 labs it would be a different order of magnitude than if there were only a handful."

*Staff writer Dan Eggen contributed to this report.*

# Health Officials Put Cost Of Germ-Warfare Defense At Almost Twice Bush Plan

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29 — As Congress debates how much to spend to bolster the nation's defenses against bioterrorism, two leading federal health officials today put the figure at roughly \$2.8 billion, almost twice the \$1.5 billion the Bush administration has proposed.

The officials, Dr. Jeffrey P. Koplan, the director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, provided detailed estimates to a Senate subcommittee this morning when lawmakers asked how much their agencies would need to prepare for a germ attack.

In response, Dr. Koplan ticked off a list of expenditures, including \$1.05 billion for state and local public health authorities and \$628 million to buy and maintain a stockpile of smallpox vaccine.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, the administration asked for \$115 million and \$509 million for such efforts, respectively. Dr. Fauci, meanwhile, asked for \$293 million for research on vaccines and treatments to protect against biological agents, \$200 million more than the administration's request. He said part of the money would be used to build a high-containment laboratory where scientists could conduct research on dangerous pathogens.

The new figures prompted complaints about the White House proposal from Senator Tom Harkin, Democrat of Iowa, who led the session of the Senate subcommittee responsible for health appropriations.

"I think the administration is really low-balling this and is not facing up to the professional judgment of the people who are running these departments," Mr. Harkin said after the hearing.

Dr. Koplan and Dr. Fauci report to Tommy G. Thompson, the secretary for health and human services, who has negotiated with lawmakers in recent weeks about how much the administration is willing to spend to prepare for bioterrorism. In keeping with the views of President Bush, Mr. Thompson has said that spending for bioterrorism cannot push overall terrorism spending beyond the \$40 billion Congress allocated in September.

Bill Pierce, a spokesman for Mr. Thompson, said today that the figures Dr. Koplan and Dr. Fauci gave did not contradict the White House's plan.

"He was asked for his professional judgment in a kind of vacuum, a kind of wish list," Mr. Pierce said of Dr. Koplan. "That's different from what we in the administration do. We have to balance all of the competing interests." The central difference between the administration's proposal and Dr. Koplan's is the amount each would spend on state and local public health preparedness. State and local health departments are considered the weak link in the nation's defense against bioterrorism, and experts say they must take a range of steps to improve readiness, including increasing their laboratory capacity and hiring more epidemiologists to track disease.

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives passed a spending bill that included \$115 million for state and local preparedness, the amount the White House requested. Next week, the Senate is expected to consider its own spending bill. Senator Harkin said he would press his colleagues to allocate at least \$1.05 billion for state and local preparedness, a figure in line with estimates from associations representing health officials around the country.

"It doesn't come close to meeting all the needs, but it's a very reasonable number and we support it," said Tom Milne, executive director of the National Association of City and County Health Officials.

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## Russia Hails UN ABM Treaty Support

By DEBORAH SEWARD, Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) - Russia on Friday welcomed a U.N. vote supporting the Anti-ballistic Missile treaty and said it was evidence of growing international support in the 29-year-old pact, the focus of a persistent dispute between Russia and the United States.

The U.N. General Assembly on Thursday voted 84-5 with 62 abstentions in favor of maintaining the 1972 U.S.-Soviet treaty, which governs American and Russian missile defenses.

The United States voted against the nonbinding resolution, which calls on Washington and Moscow to exert renewed efforts to preserve and strengthen the treaty through strict compliance and says any measure undermining the pact could threaten world peace.

The United States claims it faces a threat from ballistic missiles that could be launched from so-called "rogue states" and wants to test missile-defense technologies that the ABM treaty bans. Russia insists that the treaty is a cornerstone of international security and opposes changes.

"The results of the vote testify to the growing support in the world for this treaty and a striving not to allow its destruction," Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko said in a statement.

The statement said Russia would continue to aim to "adhere to this unique treaty, which it said helps ensure strategic stability in the world while allowing for cuts in nuclear weapons.

The United States plans this weekend to test part of its missile defense program by trying to shoot a mock warhead out of the sky with an interceptor rocket. The Pentagon ([news - web sites](#)) says the test is designed to stay within the limits of the ABM treaty.

The Interfax news agency quoted a senior Russian military official as saying Friday that Russia believed the United States may abandon the ABM treaty and that Russia was prepared to take reciprocal action. He did not specify how Russia might respond.

"We are inclined to continue consultations with the United States on ABM, but I do not rule out that Washington could unilaterally leave this document," said Yuri Baluyevsky, first deputy head of the Russian General Staff. But he said he had no reason to believe the United States intends to take actions that would violate the treaty in the immediate future.

President Bush ([news - web sites](#)) and Russian President Vladimir Putin ([news - web sites](#)) failed to reach an agreement in their dispute over ABM treaty during a summit in the United States in mid-November.

Bush has said that unless he reaches an arrangement with Russia that accommodates his missile defense program, the United States will withdraw from the treaty, which it is permitted to do with six months' notice.

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