

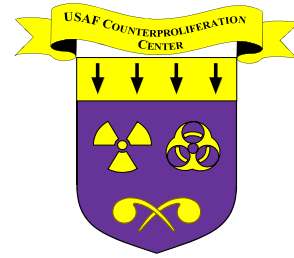
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15 Nov 2000

*USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER*

# *CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL*

*Air University  
Air War College  
Maxwell AFB, Alabama*



*Welcome to the CPC Outreach Journal. As part of USAF Counterproliferation Center's mission to counter weapons of mass destruction through education and research, we're providing our government and civilian community a source for timely counterproliferation information. This information includes articles, papers and other documents addressing issues pertinent to US military response options for dealing with nuclear, biological and chemical threats and attacks. It's our hope this information resource will help enhance your counterproliferation issue awareness.*

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## **ATP's Intellitec Division Awarded \$13.3 Million Contract for Joint Biological Point Detection Systems**

Updated 4:30 PM ET November 6, 2000

ROSWELL, Ga., Nov. 6 /PRNewswire/ -- Advanced Technical Products, Inc. (NASDAQ:ATPX), announced today that its Intellitec Division has been awarded a contract for nine Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) Joint Biological Point Detection Systems (JBPBS). The \$13,267,553 contract was awarded on October 18th by the Aberdeen Contracting Division of the Robert Morris Acquisition Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. The LRIP units will be used to conduct First Article Testing and Operational Assessment of the system. Work will be performed in Intellitec's DeLand, Florida facility and in the Columbus, Ohio facility of Intellitec's major subcontractor, Battelle. The contract also includes training, technical manuals, system support packages and Biological Agent Warning Sensors.

According to Intellitec's Mr. Ed Joiner, Director of Engineering and Programs, "This program expands our role as a leader in the detection and protection of America's Warfighters from the threat of weapons of mass destruction. We

are proud of our performance in this area and with the JBPBS program we enter into detection of biological warfare agents."

Intellitec is a leader in detection and collective protection from weapons of mass destruction. In addition, Intellitec is an industry leader in the design and fabrication of camouflage, composites components for the military and aerospace applications of the Resin Transfer Molding process, and energy and power management for specialty vehicles.

Advanced Technical Products, Inc.'s operating divisions include Marion Composites, Lincoln Composites, Intellitec and Lunn Industries. ATP designs, develops, and manufactures high-performance radomes, aircraft components, rocket motor cases, pressure vessels, fuel tanks, shelter systems and other advanced composite products utilizing various production capabilities. The Company is also a leader in the design, development and manufacture of nuclear, biological and chemical detection and protection equipment. The Company's products are used in a variety of applications in the aerospace and defense industries, as well as commercial markets.

Further information on Advanced Technical Products, Inc. is available at [www.atpx.com](http://www.atpx.com). For more information about Battelle, contact Media Relations Manager Katy Delaney at 614-484-5544 or at [delaneyk@battelle.org](mailto:delaneyk@battelle.org).

Atlanta Journal and Constitution  
November 7, 2000

## **Nunn, Turner Work On World Weapons Initiative**

By Maria Saporta, Staff

Media mogul Ted Turner is willing to commit a minimum of \$50 million a year for at least five years to help reduce the international threats of weapons of mass destruction.

That \$250 million commitment could just be the beginning.

But former U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn, who Turner has drafted to help in this effort, said there are numerous projects under consideration and that they will "let the projects dictate the funding."

Nunn spoke in an interview Monday morning after giving the keynote address at the third annual Atlanta Interfaith Business Prayer Breakfast at the Hyatt Regency.

Nunn and Turner have been working on the nuclear initiative since last spring, deciding to first work on a "scoping study" to see what role a private foundation could play in reducing the risks of nuclear weapons as well as biological and chemical warfare.

"I think there's a huge need here," Nunn said. "It's the biggest threat that we face in the world --- nuclear, chemical and biological --- the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. So I'm very encouraged that there's a lot to be done, and that there's a tremendous role for a well-funded private foundation."

Nunn and Turner plan to announce the results of the scoping study and the establishment of a foundation either in December or January.

"It's been a real pleasure to work with Sam Nunn," Turner said Monday through a spokeswoman. "I'm hopeful that as a team, we will be able to put together an effort that is effective in reducing the very real threat now posed to all of us by nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction."

Turner, who has become as well-known for his philanthropic efforts as his business successes with Turner Broadcasting System and CNN, already has established two foundations --- the Turner Foundation and the United Nations Foundation. His commitment to the U.N. Foundation was for \$1 billion over 10 years.

In this case, Nunn believes a major role for a new foundation will be to leverage involvement and participation from governments and businesses around the world.

In the past several months, Nunn, an attorney with King & Spalding, has been spending half his time working on this initiative. He and Turner have commissioned 16 different papers from leading experts to determine the world's greatest threats, what needs to happen to address those threats, what programs already exist and the extent of the gap between those two.

As Nunn said, the biggest question being asked by the various experts is how a private foundation can help bridge that gap.

Nunn and Turner also have been having extensive meetings and established five task forces to help define the foundation's potential work program.

The efforts could include:

Working with companies to find employment or business opportunities for nuclear scientists so they don't end up working for less-stable governments interested in creating their own weapons systems;  
Addressing the problem of 100 Russian submarines with nuclear reactors that are deteriorating, posing both security and an environmental dangers;

Creating an international early warning center for biological infectious diseases, and helping the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization establish a global surveillance system.

"We are wanting to be on the leading edge of this," Nunn said, adding, "There are about 15 other areas we are interested in."

By January, Nunn said he and Turner will have to "decide whether I'm the right one to run it." Nunn, who served as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, admitted that he knows the issues involved and would be open to running the foundation.

Asked whether he and Turner agree on the issues, Nunn answered, "I think we are on the same path."

Meanwhile, Nunn has visited with top national security officials in France, Great Britain, Australia and Russia to talk about this initiative.

He told the audience of 1,400 people at Monday's prayer breakfast of his visit at the nuclear command center in Russia, where a briefing was being held. Nunn recalled walking down the long underground corridors leading to the command center where the button existed that could wipe out the United States. He noticed that above the row of clocks on the wall was a picture.

"I was so startled that I felt compelled to interrupt the briefing to ask about the picture," Nunn said.

It was a picture of Jesus Christ, which the commander explained was an icon of world peace. "It was surreal to see that a picture of Jesus would be hanging on walls of this nuclear command center."

The threats to the world and the United States are great, Nunn said. "It's kind of like our country has gone through a major earthquake --- the Cold War, and now that its over, the place is crawling with termites. It's a problem of the heart and the soul of our nation."

From L1 News,  
Daily Express, 7 Nov 00  
Express Newspapers, 2000

## **Scandal of the British soldiers 'poisoned in MoD tests'**

BY ALUN REES AND CYRIL DIXON

Ministry of Defence scientists face criminal charges over horrifying experiments on service men and women during chemical and biological weapons tests. Detectives investigating the activities at the Porton Down research centre are considering charges which involve assault and administering poison, the Daily Express can reveal.

Police have been investigating the deaths of more than 40 "human guinea pigs" and injuries to more than 400 others at the centre near Salisbury, Wiltshire....

<http://www.lineone.net/express/00/11/07/news/n1020-d.html>

## **Biological warfare remains a threat, says speaker at Brown U.**

Updated 12:00 PM ET November 8, 2000

By Deepak Thomas  
Brown Daily Herald  
Brown U.

(U-WIRE) PROVIDENCE, R.I. -- Biological warfare may not seem an immediate threat to many Americans, but in fact the risk of this sort of human destruction is real, according to Faith T. Fitzgerald, professor of medicine at University of California-Davis School of Medicine.

Fitzgerald spoke on the potential for biological warfare and its consequences Tuesday night, in a lecture sponsored by the Brown University School of Medicine chapter of the Alpha Omega Honor Medical Society.

"This is not a happy subject, it's not upbeat, but it is something worth talking about," Fitzgerald said at the start of her lecture.

Discussing the historical context concerning this type of warfare, Fitzgerald invoked laughter from the crowd with her first example.

"We can see biological warfare first used with God versus the Egyptians," she said. "Frogs, vermin, locusts, and flies are perhaps a kind of macro-biologic warfare -- but does anybody know what murine [mentioned in Biblical texts] is? It's an infectious disease [involving] cattle."

But this initial humorous mood of her lecture soon yielded to a more serious tone.

"The effects of biological warfare don't have to be intentional," she said.

"In 1979, in Sverdlovsk [a Russian city], there was an epidemic in which 66 Russians died from the inhalation of anthrax."

The epidemic arose as a result of an accident in a nearby research facility, she said. The affected people were men who were in the streets near the facility where the hazardous material was located.

"It was later found that these men had the same work cycle and attended the same bar, and that the time at which this bar closed and the men entered the streets corresponded to the release" of the hazardous substance, she said.

There were also other incidents of biological warfare use when the Japanese invaded Manchuria in the 1930s, between the Russians and the Germans in both World Wars, and the English against the Native Americans in the French and Indian Wars, Fitzgerald said.

"The true conquistadors weren't the soldiers with armor, but the diseases they carried with them," she said.

"Smallpox-tainted blankets were used to kill off the [Native Americans]. The conquest of the Americas had little to do with Cortez or Pizarro, but more to do with the measles and smallpox."

She mentioned that there was "smart-bombing in Iraq because for certain they were making biological weapons, namely smallpox and anthrax."

Fitzgerald explained modes of transmission, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatments of anthrax.

"This is basically a very bad disease," she said.

This comment drew nervous laughter from the audience.

"As long as there are people out there who are crazy, as long as there are people who live in Montana, we will have to be concerned about this," she said.

Fitzgerald listed 23 potential viruses for biological warfare, and of these she stated that smallpox and the 1918 influenza virus prove the most likely for harm.

Fitzgerald addressed the potential sources of threat concerning biological weapons.

"When this outbreak occurred, there were people who were buried in the [Russian] tundra, and so the viruses are cryo-preserved," she said. "There are actually people looking for and digging up these bodies trying to find living viruses."

"This outbreak scares me most," she said, adding that it killed 20 to 25 million people in the 16 months after its outbreak.

"The person who gets this could hold the key to ruling the world," she said. Fitzgerald said that an outbreak could result from a nation's effort, or it could result from an individual effort. The care with which scientists study the potential for biological warfare is frightening, she said. "And what's worse is that doctors will help them, because they'll believe that certain people are pathogens -- that they are viruses upon the state, cancers on the state," she said.

"Doctors will have no more difficulty in killing than they would an actual virus, because they will truly believe that the state is the patient."

## **Barringer Technologies Inc. Signs Development Agreement for Rapid Pathogen Detection**

Story Filed: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 1:18 PM EST

WARREN, N.J., Nov 8, 2000 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Barringer Technologies Inc. (Nasdaq: BARR), the world's leading drug and explosives trace detection company, today announced that it has signed an agreement with Lipoxen Technologies, Ltd. of London, England for the development of a new technique for the rapid screening of pathogens. As previously announced, Barringer filed a patent application covering this concept on September 9, 2000.

As part of the agreement with Lipoxen, Phase I concept testing will begin immediately and will be completed by year end. Phase II will concentrate on optimization and specialization studies for a variety of food pathogens. Stanley Binder, Chief Executive Officer of Barringer Technologies stated, "We are pleased to be working collaboratively with Lipoxen Technologies, the pioneering world leader in Liposome technology. Our ultimate objective is to develop and commercialize a detection technique, using our IONSCAN(R) detector and leading edge liposome technology. This method, when perfected, is expected to detect pathogens in food, water and/or air in real time. If successful, this technique would not only have a revolutionary impact on the food processing industry, but among other industries as well. In addition, we believe this approach will provide the capability of quickly detecting a military or terrorist biological attack in a matter of seconds and also provide rapid post-attack identification." Mr. Binder continued, "The agreement with Lipoxen further advances Barringer's entry in the life sciences field as we are already working with our IONSCAN(R) technology for the detection of pathogens through our agreement with the University of Connecticut. UCONN chose our technology to help detect bacterial species, such as Listeria, E. coli, and Serratia marcescens, which are typically found in pathogenic contaminants in food and water. We continue to explore and capitalize on opportunities within this market."

Mr. Binder concluded, "These new Life Science applications complement our existing core products and have given us considerable leverage not only in the bacteria detection market, but also in the pharmaceutical and specialty chemical industries and the chemical warfare market."

Lipoxen Technologies, Ltd. is a drug delivery company, based upon the world-renowned research of Professor Gregory Gregoriadis, Head of the Centre for Drug Delivery Research at the School of Pharmacy, University of London.

Lipoxen possesses intellectual property and know-how in the area of general liposome technology, targeted delivery of DNA vaccines using liposomes, and polysialylation, a platform technology for the extension of the half-life of systemically delivered proteins, peptides and small molecules.

Headquartered in Warren, New Jersey, Barringer Technologies Inc. is the dominant provider of trace detection equipment for drug, explosive, and chemical detection for security and industrial applications. The Company is now entering Life Science markets through the development of new applications for its IMS Technology. The Sabre 2000(R), the IONSCAN(R), and the Sentinel(R) are the Company's proprietary trace particle drug and explosive detection units.

Savannah (GA) Morning News  
November 9, 2000

## **Air Force Researches Bomb Dropped Off Tybee Island**

*After nearly 50 years, officials don't plan to make a quick decision on what to do with it.*

By Noelle Phillips, Savannah Morning News

Maj. Donald Robbins, deputy director of the Air Force's Nuclear Weapons and Counter Proliferation Agency, stood before a Black Hawk helicopter assuring the media that a bomb dropped off Tybee Island was not nuclear capable. His agency is in charge of safety and reliability of the nation's nuclear stockpile. The bomb in question was accidentally dropped in Wassaw Sound nearly 50 years ago.

Even so, Robbins said the Air Force came to Savannah Wednesday to research the bomb's possible whereabouts. He and his staff met with oceanographers, geologists and engineers from other government agencies to learn about the personality of the Atlantic Ocean floor.

It's a trip made in large part to answer questions from the public and U.S. Rep. Jack Kingston, R-Ga. "We are concerned with safety and want to assure them it's a safe condition," Robbins said.

The Air Force maintains the bomb was not nuclear capable when a pilot jettisoned it from his airplane off the coast of Tybee in 1958. The bomber collided with a fighter jet on a training mission and had to ditch the weapon to safely land.

Because it was a training mission, the bomber would not have been loaded with an active nuclear weapon, Robbins said.

Finding the bomb would be a tough chore. The Navy, Air Force and other services unsuccessfully searched 11 weeks after it was dropped. And the ocean floor changes constantly off Savannah's coast.

Col. Joseph Schmitt, commander of the Savannah District Army Corps of Engineers, used Tybee Island's beach to illustrate the changes. This year, the Corps of Engineers finished a \$9.5 million project to add more sand to the beaches.

"Just think how fast that sand moves," Schmitt said.

Korea Herald  
November 9, 2000

## **Iranian Diplomats Flatly Deny Missile Deals With N. Korea**

By Kil Byung-ok, Staff reporter

The Iranian government has never bought North Korean missiles and will not do so in the future, said a press officer at the Iranian Embassy in Seoul yesterday.

"Iranian missile technology is superior to that of North Korea and the Iranian government has not cooperated with Pyongyang in any of the latter's missile programs," said Mortaza Soltanpour, a secretary for public relations at the embassy.

The Iranian government does not want to allow such a "distorted piece of information" to ruin the healthy bilateral relations between South Korea and Iran, as demonstrated by the countries' two-way trade of \$2.3 billion, said the embassy official.

"The allegation that Iran is a North Korean missile purchaser is irresponsible, and the mass media overseas should refrain from making such unfounded claims," Soltanpour said.

He was referring to allegations of North Korea's missile and technology sales to Iran, adding that a top Iranian envoy confirmed the Iranian government's position to Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency last week.

The U.S. and Israeli governments have claimed that North Korea is the world's top exporter of missile equipment and technology to Iran, Pakistan and other nations in the Middle East.

The U.S. government has also said North Korea provided its Nodong missile technology and components to Iran, and noted such transfers would be a violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime, which neither Iran nor North Korea has signed.

The Nodong missile is an updated version of the scud missile used by Iraqi forces in the 1991 Gulf War and has a range of about 1,300 kilometers, meaning it could strike targets in Israel, Saudi Arabia and Turkey if launched from Iran.

North Korea indirectly revealed its earnings from missile sales without specifying the direction of its arms transfers when it demanded \$1 billion annually for three years as compensation for halting missile exports during its missile talks with the United States.

"The Iranian government had bilateral relations with North Korea during the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988) in response to the West's support of Iraq, but since then has maintained no military relations with Pyongyang," said Soltanpour. South Korea established diplomatic ties with Iran in 1962 and North Korea normalized relations with Iran in 1980.

## **HOW MUCH FOR A CRUISE MISSILE? IT IS POSSIBLE TO BUY TODAY A ROCKET IN KAZAKHSTAN IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO BUY IT**

Trans-Caspian Project

We cozily sat on a real cruise missile near the yurta. Drank tea, talked about life with Ustyurtsk shepherds. The Desert seeming like a freshly removed camel skin surrounded us and the Aral Sea seemed like a shadow transparent pool above it.

- Oops, it flied and fallen, - the shepherd slowly spoke, - praise to Allah, it did not hurt anybody. No, we do not fear, we have got used for such things from a long time. As to the iron felling from the sky, well it can be useful somehow\*

It was in those years, when the legendary Capyar simply threw its combat missiles somewhere as far as possible. Their farewell funeral course usually lied from Capustin Yar to the Southeast. It was probably considered for the military that there was nothing ever alive there and it cannot. Innumerable rockets, which charges were certainly blank, felled on the Western coast of Aral Sea. Moreover, an atomic explosion, though of the most small power, took place on the Eastern coast as a training maneuver for a carrier during its battle duty.

Kazakhstan, in the USSR period, was considered not only as a testing ground, but was also a real dump for every possible military-space waste generously falling from the skies both day and night. The beloved reservation for the USSR ministry of defense was the west part of the republic. The military department forbid the oil industry to work in the Northwest of Mangyshlak peninsula not in vain, on the generous strata of Kalamkas and Karazhanbas. Of course! Those places were a genuine paradise for shooting highly flying targets: A pilotless plane was launched from Krasnovodsk, when it reached Kalamkas it was shot by different types of weapons including the anti-air defense artillery and all its debris dropped into the moor, in the local "dump". The debris disappeared during a day without a track, sinking simply in the shaky local soil.

When rockets were launched from Baikonur, the third stage of the carrier felled in different degrees of integrity in Bet-Pak-Dal, in the legendary Tengyz or in the central lake of the famous Kurgaldzhyno reservation, where even the UNESCO is proud of the most northern colony of pink flamingoes. Kurgaldzhyno is very close to Astana. Having transferred there the capital of Kazakhstan, president Nazarbayev asked the Russian "launchers" last spring to move Baikonur's launching route. The Russians fulfilled the request of the Kazakh president in April. A "Proton" rocket exploded on July 5 at 180 kilometers from Karaganda and at 400 kilometers from the Kazakh capital. Moreover, another "Proton" exploded in autumn, safely having passed large Kazakh cities on the new route\*

Well, even Sarai-Shagan - the terrain located west of Balkhash Lake, near the top-secret Pryozyorsk city - was as though it was created by nature for the experiments with laser weapons.

As to the Semipalatinsk nuclear polygon - this is a whole and separate sad story.

Now that time changed. The multi-km prickly strand isolating the Soviet military secrets from the Kazakh became rusty and gradually scattered in ashes. The owners of "special terrains" transmitting them to the republic did not clean anything. Moreover, a real new Kazakh business selling different kinds of metals for all the desirers aroused on the weapon wreckages.

The Chinese were, certainly, pioneers among the clients. Hundred trucks with hieroglyphs signs on it and filled with "iron and steel scrap" crossed the boundary post "Khorgos" heading to Urumchy. The barrier for these bright caravans closed in one day. It closed, when a simple idea has come to the Kazakh mind: We are not worse then the Chinese, so why should we loose such a fortune? The districts Hakims were fascinated with the discovery of such crop not demanding ploughing or sowing. When under the Kazakh-American program "Nanna-Lugara" the rocket mines were bated in Semipalatinsk, motors of bulldozers and cranes already rattled behind the wreckages. The wreckages had not time to crumble; the vehicles moved to the funnel - metal, cables and everything that was possible to fill! A little bit for the budget, what it is left for the crew\*

Although the Kazakh steppe is great, it was emptied fast. Only a few amount of wreckage was left today for the inhabitants living ten years under the routes of combat missiles. Nevertheless, this amount is capable to support the shepherd families in the years of abrupt changes.

The best "metal detector" is still a cut leg of a sheep and the best partner is a driver from the district center. Now, by leasing an old car and inevitably giving a cut for the local heads, such driver with cross the steppe with a full load of "metal".

The local authorities have closed their eyes on such things from a long time ago. You see the death of cattle and desperate boys in undiscovered rocket-military waste is rare. Moreover, the steppe will be cleaner and the people will earn some money - what is bad in that?

It became bad, naturally, for the state, when the uncountable collectors of military and Baikonur's ferrous scrap have thought, got in taste and having evaluated the poor field: you see the power transmission wires, which is not guarded in Kazakhstan is from "aluminum" too!

The power transmission wires in the steppe are disappearing in huge quantities. Moreover, those who full fill such a dangerous work have skill members in their crews that "cut out" and if it is necessary to simply bring down a mighty bearing. Having purchased a state district power station in Ekybastuz, the Americans hired light airplanes for guarding the power line wires. However, such measures are not effective, as the airplanes cannot hang all day long over the wires\*

The collectors have their own security system, explorers, "cover" and, certainly, their point of sales.

The Virus of this business moved from the desert already to the cities. In the suburban dachas - from Aktau up to Almaty - any metal from any locks dissapeared. Points of "metal reception" were stretched, as if, guarded terrain near the famous Muslim cemetery "Kensay" near the southern capital. "Kensay" is "bombarded" with special ecstasy - there is enough "metal" there, as the fences above the graves of great people are made almost from gold.

Once the Kazakh government - in many structure - attempted to make order in this sphere. Alas, many influential people are connected to the big money in this business.

In addition, that rocket, on which I once drank tea in Ustyurtsk, - certainly, is remolded from a long time. It was well visible. However, there are still few rockets and it is possible to buy them cheaply.

You should only know where to buy it\*

Oleg KVVYATOVSKY

Washington Times  
November 10, 2000  
Pg. 6

## **Inside The Ring**

By Bill Gertz and Rowan Scarborough, The Washington Times

### **Secret Arms Deal**

President Clinton's search for a legacy is leading to another questionable arms-control agreement with Russia. Pentagon officials tell us arms negotiators are feverishly working on an agreement designed to prevent Russia from accidentally nuking us the next time Norway fires off a scientific rocket. That's what happened in January 1995 when jumpy Russian strategic-warning monitors told Russian President Boris Yeltsin the Norwegian weather rocket was a U.S. submarine-launched missile headed for the Kremlin men's room.

The warning prompted Mr. Yeltsin to turn on his nuclear "football" used to push "The Button" in ordering an all-out nuclear attack on the United States. Some intelligence officials said the incident was closer to a nuclear missile exchange than the Cuban Missile Crisis. Luckily, the Russians figured out they weren't under attack and stood down. "It looks like the Clinton administration is determined to deliver one more arms control agreement before it leaves office in January," a defense source told us. The pact is being called a "presidential agreement" to avoid having to submit it to Congress, where skeptics are likely to see it as more an attempt at a presidential legacy than boosting national security.



The pact is known as the Pre and Post Launch Notification System (PPLNS). There are real fears within the Pentagon that "national security may be undermined instead of enhanced by the PPLNS," we are told.

"In the intervening years since the PPLNS was first conceived, it has been altered to the point where it doesn't address the very incident that started the process," one official said.

Senior defense officials have been considering whether the agreement in its current form is worth signing. The military services and intelligence community have discreetly raised objections to many provisions. But they have been muted by the haste to secure the agreement before the administration leaves office.

The notification system would give away important U.S. military and intelligence secrets that would help the Russians to defeat U.S. strategic-warning systems. That's what happened the last time the Russians were invited to monitor U.S. missile-warning systems in Colorado during the year 2000 rollover.

Moscow's ground forces launched Scud missiles against Chechnya so the Russians watching the launch on monitors in Colorado Springs could measure the sensitivity of the U.S. system, a key step toward fooling it or defeating it.

Defense officials also sought to keep private their concerns about the dangers of the U.S.-Russian PPLNS secret before the presidential election.

InsideDefense.com

November 14, 2000

## **GAO: Chemical And Biological Defense Training Should Be Improved**

The military services should require realistic chemical and biological defense training in exercises that adhere to "realistic wartime scenarios," according to the General Accounting Office.

In a report released today, GAO evaluates the readiness of early-deploying U.S. forces to operate in a chemically or biologically contaminated environment, focusing on three Army divisions, two Air Force fighter wings and one Marine Corps expeditionary force. The specific units evaluated are unnamed to keep the report unclassified.

While the units reviewed are better equipped than they were in the past, work done by GAO and the Defense Department inspector general's office has shown commanders are not integrating chemical and biological defense into unit exercises, the report states. "For example, we were told by Marine Corps officers responsible for chemical and biological defense training at the unit we reviewed that commanders are not fully integrating chemical and biological defense into unit exercises, as required by Marine Corps policies, because operating in protective equipment is difficult and time-consuming," GAO states.

This, Marine officials told auditors, decreases the number of combat-essential tasks its units can perform during exercises and limits "offensive combat operations."

As for training lacking realism, GAO offers this anecdote: During one exercise, "Marines who were simulating operations during a chemical attack were required to wear protective masks but not protective gloves because it was too cumbersome to work in the gloves."

GAO also points out personnel shortages in key areas and suggests the current system of reporting the readiness of service units does not adequately take into account chemical and biological equipment on hand, or training readiness.

Accordingly, the GAO report contains two principal recommendations: Include chemical and biological defense training in realistic exercises and change the "Status of Resources and Training System" by including in chemical and biological readiness ratings the condition of chem-bio equipment.

DOD, in its response to the report, concurred with the first recommendation but disagreed with the second. "It stated that revising the current system further by adding additional reporting requirements for equipment condition is unnecessary and would place redundant requirements on unit commanders," GAO said.

GAO, however, continues to believe the system requires the "separate reporting of both on-hand equipment levels and the serviceability of this equipment because during this and prior reviews, we were told of and observed equipment that was unserviceable and yet reported as being on hand for readiness reporting."

-- *Daniel G. Dupont*

## **Vaccine Maker Not Fully Investigating Anthrax Complaints**

By Deborah Funk

The sole maker of the anthrax vaccine, BioPort Corp., has not fully investigated whether reported physical complaints are related to its vaccine, according to federal regulators.

Food and Drug Administration officials, who visited the Lansing, Mich., facility from Oct. 10 to Oct. 26, reported that:

\*\* BioPort has not looked for trends in possible adverse reactions to the vaccine, as required. Under FDA guidelines, the company is supposed to look for any pattern of "adverse events" that may be "associated with the use of a biological product ... whether or not considered product related."

\*\* The company also "has not investigated adverse events for anthrax vaccine that are different from those stated in the package insert," inspectors wrote. Among the possible symptoms of adverse reactions not investigated are nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, double vision, dizziness, memory loss, shortness of breath and blackouts.

The symptoms of adverse reactions mentioned in the package insert include only swelling, soreness and small lumps at the injection site or in the arm, and systemic reactions such as malaise, lethargy, chills and fever.

\*\* The company has not probed the reported death of a military member who received the anthrax vaccine, nor did it report the incident to the FDA within 15 days of receiving the information, as required.

Army Sgt. Sandra L. Larson, 32, died June 14, three months after receiving her sixth anthrax shot at Fort Riley, Kan. The cause of death is reported as aplastic anemia, which is a bone-marrow disease, and invasive aspergillosis, an infection of tissues or mucous membranes marked by inflammatory lesions. Her sister, Nancy Rugo, testified before Congress Oct. 3 that she believes anthrax vaccine was the cause.

BioPort spokeswoman Kim Brennen Root said the company had not reported the death because the company was notified about it through a federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System report while FDA inspectors were on site. "It's not as if we sat around with that VAERS report in our hands," she said.

The Anthrax Vaccine Expert Committee, which the Department of Health and Human Services convened at the request of the Defense Department, has been reviewing VAERS reports to look for trends related to military use of the anthrax vaccine. It may become the role of the company's medical affairs staff when that department is developed, Root said.

The observations are among 18 noted by FDA inspectors in last month's review of BioPort's operations. Many of the problems were noted in the "filling suite," where vials are filled with the vaccine.

The inspectors noted that its "design and construction ... environmental monitoring, cleaning and employee practices do not assure sterility of products filled in the suite."

BioPort officials say they are planning to hire another company to fill the vials with the vaccine.

Another area of concern is BioPort's documentation. Reports, records and testing documents are not always complete or accurate, inspectors noted.

In one case, for example, BioPort's records showed that two lots of anthrax vaccine were destroyed, but the lots were actually in the inventory that had been quarantined.

BioPort acknowledges documentation "is a weakness" and is working to improve it, Root said.

## **A Vaccine Compromise**

It's been three years since Defense Secretary William Cohen declared his intention to inoculate every man and woman in uniform against the deadly anthrax virus. But ever since, the program has been mired in controversy and plagued with supply problems.

Today, the military is at a crossroads.

On the one hand, its stockpile of vaccine is running out. Worse, the outlook for a renewed supply anytime soon is doubtful. BioPort Corp., the vaccine's Michigan manufacturer, continues to miss deadlines in its quest to be certified by the Food and Drug Administration.

As a result, the Pentagon had to scale back its ambitious anthrax inoculation plan. Instead of giving the shots to everyone, only those deploying for more than 30 days on the ground in identified threat regions are being inoculated.

This means that troops are routinely sent to those regions without being protected by anthrax inoculations. Sailors aboard ships, for example, don't get the shots. Nor do reservists doing their two-week active training stints in, say, Saudi Arabia (ground zero to the likes of Saddam Hussein).

The attack on the USS Cole is a case in point on how silly the policy really is: Had the attackers been packing an anthrax weapon along with their C-4, they just might have killed the entire (unvaccinated) crew. Think about it. Yet, at the same time, the military continues to drum out pilots, Rangers and other troops because they refuse to take the shots. In one of the more ludicrous elements in the whole anthrax debate, Pentagon officials insist that troops should not have a choice in getting the shots because their decision not to be inoculated could have an impact on whether a comrade lives or dies in combat.

This is a noble reason. But the truth is, those comrades may well not be inoculated anyway. Terrorists and the like won't only go after troops deployed for more than 30 days, after all.

It is virtually inevitable the Pentagon will be forced to suspend the inoculation program in the coming months. Vaccine stores will be out by spring.

When supplies run out, troops will deploy without the shots, and without choice in the matter. It makes no sense to continue to enforce the program with the blunt force of courts-martial and discharges. Those troops who refuse should be required to sign an informed-consent waiver, acknowledging the risk associated with their choice not to be inoculated.

This way, the services don't lose valued, trained talent. And what little vaccine is left is saved not only for more people who may need it, but, perhaps more important, for those who really want it.