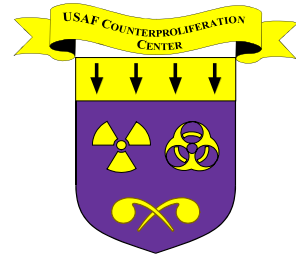


USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER

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.

Established here at the Air War College in 1998, the USAF/CPC provides education and research to present and future leaders of the Air Force, as well as to members of other branches of the armed services and Department of Defense. Our purpose is to help those agencies better prepare to counter the threat from weapons of mass destruction. Please feel free to visit our web site at www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/awc-cps.htm for in-depth information and specific points of contact. Please direct any questions or comments on CPC Outreach Journal to Lt. Col. Michael W. Ritz, CPC Intelligence/Public Affairs or JoAnn Eddy, CPC Executive Assistant at (334) 953-7538 or DSN 493-7538.

The following articles, papers or documents do not necessarily reflect official endorsement of the United States Air Force, Department of Defense, or other US government agencies. Reproduction for private use or commercial gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. All rights are reserved.

South China Morning Post
June 7, 2000

US Allows Taiwan To Test Patriots

By Associated Press in Taipei

Taiwan has obtained permission from Washington to test the US-built Patriot missiles on the island, the first time the missiles will be tested outside the United States, Taipei defence officials said on Wednesday.

The Patriots, designed to intercept incoming missiles, are an important part of Taiwan's defence against the mainland's Dongfeng-31 - a nuclear-capable missile that can reach as far as the western US.

"We already have permission from the United States to test the PAC-2 next year. We only have to sort out the details," said a military spokesman, without indicating when the go-ahead was given.

Taiwan's military has acquired 200 PAC-2 missiles, upgraded versions of the Patriots used by US forces during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Taiwan has test-fired the missiles in the United States, but the military wants to observe how they work in Taiwan's subtropical climate.

Taiwan defence chief Wu Shih-wen last week confirmed Taipei's plans to test the Patriot missiles outside the US in an effort to bolster defence capabilities against the Dongfeng-31.

The mainland will test-fire the Dongfeng-31 missiles in the near future, Chinese-language newspapers reported on Wednesday, without specifying when the timing of the tests.

It would be the mainland's fifth test of the missile, and the flight path would likely be from the northern Shanxi region toward the northwestern Xinjiang region, the China Times quoted Taiwan security officials as saying.

Taiwan defence officials said they had no information on the reports, but said the island was prepared to defend itself against any threats posed by the Dongfeng-31. Mr Wu called the Dongfeng missiles the "greatest threat" to Taiwan's national security.

Washington Post

June 7, 2000

Pg. 24

Deadly Germs From Cold War

By David Hoffman, Washington Post Foreign Service
OBOLENSK, Russia – On the third floor of the State Research Center for Applied Microbiology here, the sign warns: "Particularly hazardous infections."

Behind the door is a storehouse of some of the most lethal substances ever created, samples of germs and other pathogens developed for use in Soviet biological weapons. In an archive of freezers and test tubes, the third floor includes a repository for genetically engineered versions of anthrax and plague, as well as the lesser-known diseases tularemia and glanders.

The archive is one of the Cold War's most terrifying legacies. In the laboratories of Building No. 1, Soviet scientists worked in extreme secrecy for 20 years seeking to build ever more deadly biological weapons, even after Moscow signed a treaty promising not to develop or stockpile them.

Now, slowly, Russia is opening the door to this and some other dark corners of the once-hidden Soviet bio-weapons complex. Recently, for the first time, a sample anthrax strain was sent to the United States for analysis, the beginning of what U.S. officials hope will be a broader exchange.

As more is learned, the West is responding by pressing Moscow to tighten security to help keep bio-weapons out of the wrong hands. The United States has agreed to provide nearly \$1 million for extra guards, video cameras and other protection for what had been a surprisingly lightly guarded compound.

Journalists were taken on a limited tour of Building No. 1 late last month for the first time. Here, according to Ken Alibek, a bio-weapons expert who defected to the United States in 1992, the Soviet Union carried out some of the most ambitious biological weapons research ever attempted.

As with many Soviet-era scientific facilities, it has a decaying outward appearance. Buildings are crumbling, weeds sprouting and airlocks looked unused on the fourth and fifth floors. Only the third floor of Building No. 1 is now devoted to the most dangerous substances, but in earlier days five of the nine floors were used for research on bio-weapons.

From a glassed-in corridor atop the building it is possible to see the sprawling complex, including a 40-bed special isolation hospital built in case of accidental contamination.

In the Soviet era, Obolensk had 4,000 workers and was known as Post Box V-8724, hidden in a remote, wooded area south of Moscow. It wasn't charted on any map, its location concealed like many of the most sensitive nuclear weapons facilities.

Today, scientists here carry out civilian biotechnology projects. They are trying to fight drug-resistant tuberculosis and preparing to manufacture high-grade insulin, which is still in short supply in Russia.

The institute opened itself up recently for an unprecedented three-day international conference for about 200 microbiology experts from Russia, the United States and Europe. The theme of the conference was biological and ecological safety -- held in the same auditorium where Soviet scientists once discussed how to create the most devastating biological weapons ever conceived.

Nikolai Urakov, director of the institute, said in an interview, "Scientists today are the people who must create the system of resistance to biological weapons and to biological terrorism." Tall, with a head of white hair and a shoulders-back military posture, Urakov knows of what he speaks. According to Alibek, Urakov, a general, won a Soviet prize for development of a "Q fever" weapon. Q fever is a rare disease contracted from animals that can cause pneumonia and other disorders. Later, Urakov also oversaw a project, code-named "Bonfire," which involved genetically engineering new versions of diseases such as plague.

The KGB was especially interested in a new class of weapons that could damage the human nervous system and alter moods, Alibek recalled in his memoir, "Biohazard."

"Victims would appear to have died of natural causes," Alibek wrote. "What intelligence service would not be interested in a product capable of killing without a trace?"

A Soviet-era biological weapons accident at a top-secret military laboratory in Yekaterinburg in 1979 is believed to have caused the world's most serious known outbreak of human inhalation anthrax; the official death toll was 66.

The bio-weapons effort is not just history. Many of the pathogen samples remain in storage, and in recent years there has been growing apprehension in the West about the possibility they could be stolen and used by terrorists.

The laboratory here had just a single guard at the front door, and another at the gate of the fenced compound in which it is located. It was not nearly as heavily guarded as Russian nuclear facilities, which typically have guard patrols, dogs, surveillance cameras and other perimeter controls.

The Cold War put priority on controlling nuclear weapons. Today they are limited by treaties, and millions spent to tighten security of nuclear materials. Likewise, the United States is helping Russia prepare to destroy some of its aging chemical weapons stocks.

But biological weapons have been a far more elusive target for disarmament than nuclear weapons. A fine line exists between research to create offensive biological weapons, and to defend against them; as a result, work on offensive weapons can be concealed under the cover of defensive research to develop vaccines.

Moreover, until the last few years, the Soviet biological weapons complex was a mystery. From defectors and other sources, it was known the weapons effort was concealed under a structure known as Biopreparat, created in 1973 to provide civilian cover for advanced research on biological weapons.

Biopreparat had laboratories and production facilities spread across the Soviet Union. Samples of the deadly pathogens that were developed are still stored in freezers and test tubes from Obolensk to Kazakhstan. (The U.S. government said it stopped its biological weapons program in 1969. The Soviet Union signed the Biological Weapons Convention in 1972 but almost immediately set about violating it.)

In 1997, representatives of the Iranian biological weapons program made an attempt to obtain technology, pathogens and expertise from the institute here, and from another bio-weapons laboratory, Vector, in the Novosibirsk region, which worked on viral weapons. Andrew Weber, special adviser for threat reduction policy in the U.S. Office of the Defense Secretary, said that the Russian labs refused the Iranian overtures; and the United States "dramatically" increased funding and cooperation with them.

Meanwhile, money from the Russian government has dwindled. Urakov said he is pleading with Moscow for about \$3 million a year to keep the laboratory functioning. Along with new grants just announced, the total Western assistance to scientists, and for improved security at Obolensk, will come to about \$4.5 million a year.

Earlier attempts at using diplomacy to curb the possibility of biological weapons proliferation ran into a dead end. A joint U.S.-British-Russian effort was frustrated by disagreements over mutual inspections. Some Russian military microbiology labs are still off-limits.

But at Obolensk, the West is making headway, sending in scientists for cooperative research with the Russians.

"They are making a change -- cultural, scientific and economic -- and it is a huge transformation," said Randall Beatty, deputy executive director of the International Science and Technology Center, a joint U.S., European and Japanese project to help Russian weapons scientists work on civilian projects.

The project is devoting about \$50 million this year to biotechnology laboratories. As dozens of U.S. scientists have come to Obolensk, and the Russians to the United States, a window has opened on the true scope of the colossal Soviet biological weapons effort.

At Obolensk, the Westerners found the largest set of anthrax and tulameria samples in the world. Elsewhere, Western scientists have discovered that the Soviet Union had a separate biological weapons program -- outside of Biopreparat -- designed to create agents that would kill livestock and crops on a mass scale. Little is known about it, but one official said that the Soviet efforts were "weaponized," meaning that not only did they experiment with such pathogens, but tested them and developed ways of delivering them. Inside Russia, research institutes developed weapons that would, for example, spread foot and mouth disease or African swine fever; the testing ground was in Kazakhstan.

"There is a collection of highly dangerous pathogens all over the former Soviet Union," said one official involved, "and we are just in the process of getting a handle on what's out there."

Washington Times
June 9, 2000

Inside The Ring

By Bill Gertz and Rowan Scarborough

Nuclear threats

The Defense Intelligence Agency has for the first time disclosed its estimate of who could be the next nuclear-armed rogue states: Iran and Iraq. In written answers to questions posed by the Senate Armed Services Committee early last year but released to us this week, the DIA was asked to specify the rogue states likely to get the bomb.

"The Middle East will become the region of greatest concern in terms of nuclear weapons over the next 10 to 20 years," the DIA said. "If international nonproliferation efforts are not successful, we judge Tehran and Baghdad will be able to begin stockpiling nuclear weapons in the next two decades; much sooner if either are successful in purchasing fissile material, or even complete weapons."

Friday, June 09, 2000

CSIS warns of threat to Canada's bio-secrets

Rogue states seek materials for 'poor man's A-bomb'

Stewart Bell

National Post

Canadian companies have been identified as a possible source of materials and expertise for rogue states, such as Iraq and Libya, that are trying to develop biological weapons -- the "poor man's atomic bomb" -- according to a new report by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

The report names eight other nations as possibly possessing biological weapons and warns that Canada's drug and bio-tech industries might offer them a tempting target. Canada is unlikely to be attacked by biological-warfare (BW) agents, but its peacekeeping troops are at risk and Canadian companies are considered a possible source of the deadly weapons.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/printer.asp?f=000609/312971>

European Stars and Stripes
June 10, 2000

Pg. 3

DOD: Vaccine Program Won't Come To A Halt

Troops in high-risk areas to receive smaller doses until more lots OK'd

By Chuck Vinch, Washington bureau

WASHINGTON —The Defense Department will not bring its anthrax vaccine program to an abrupt halt next month as previously expected, but will gradually scale down the size of that effort if more lots of the drug are not approved soon by the Food and Drug Administration, a Pentagon official said Thursday.

For months, the military has said that it had enough vaccine to continue the mandatory inoculation program only until July because of the slow pace of gaining FDA approval for a new production plant and for additional lots of the drug that were produced in recent years. But Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, a Pentagon spokesman, said the military likely will "do some sort of a necking-down process" in which the dwindling vaccine supplies would be used to inoculate gradually smaller number of people deploying to the high-threat areas of the Middle East and Korea for extended periods.

Production of the vaccine has been stalled for months since the nation's only manufacturer, a state-subsidized facility in Michigan, was sold to the private company BioPort. The company did an extensive overhaul of the plant but has not been able to resume production because FDA inspectors still are running down their lengthy safety and manufacturing checklist for the facility. BioPort also has had problems getting approval to release batches of the

vaccine that were produced before the state-run facility went private because the FDA must test the lots for purity and potency.

"It is still very important that the troops most at risk for weaponized anthrax be protected from that threat," Quigley said. "There are several lots of the vaccine at various points in the FDA inspection process, and we hope that testing will be successful so we can continue on" with the program.

David Oliver, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for acquisition and technology, acknowledged in April that even under the most Pentagon estimates, BioPort will not meet all federal requirements until August, and it will take another month or two for the FDA to review the data and give final approval.

"There is no question that we underestimated the difficulty in transferring this from a state facility to a commercial facility," Oliver said.

Pentagon officials now say it looks as if the plant will not begin producing new lots of the vaccine until late this year. The military services have been running through about 75,000 doses of the anthrax vaccine each month. Each servicemember requires six shots over an 18-month period to be fully inoculated against the deadly biological agent.

San Diego Union-Tribune
June 10, 2000

Marines Brace For Terrorism In U.S.

By Stephen Green, Copley News Service

FORT BRAGG, N.C. -- The notorious Osama bin Laden was on the minds of the Marines waiting in the midday sun on this sprawling Army base.

The leathernecks, deployed here from their barracks 100 miles away at Camp Lejeune as part of a training exercise, soon would confront a mock attack by the Saudi millionaire-turned-terrorist.

But the action they braced for would come on American soil, not in the Middle East.

Marines training to deal with domestic terrorism instead of landing on foreign beaches signifies another new role for the military now that the Cold War has ended. It is partly a response to the shocking attacks on the World Trade Center in downtown Manhattan and the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

With the Clinton administration increasingly concerned about terrorists using weapons of mass destruction, especially in the United States, the 360 members of the Marines' Chemical Biological Incident Response Force already have been dispatched to several locations around the country where attacks have been feared.

Organized after the 1995 nerve-gas attack on the Tokyo subway system, the battalion-size detachment served at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. The response force also mobilized for the pope's visit to St. Louis and the last two State of the Union addresses in Washington.

"I hope we're never deployed for a real attack," said Col. Carlos Hollifield, commander of the response force, "but if we are, we have to be prepared."

The unit, which must be ready on three hours' notice to deploy across the country or around the globe, will move permanently later this year to a base outside Washington, D.C. It is one sign of the administration's concern about chemical and biological terrorism.

Others include the FBI assigning some 1,400 agents to counterterrorism, the Pentagon planning 26 National Guard units to help state and local officials respond to biological or chemical attacks, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stockpiling medications for mass casualties.

As concern about terrorism increases, so has federal spending for preparedness -- from \$6.45 billion in 1998 to about \$10 billion.

"Terrorism challenges rational people to come to grips with the irrational -- to think about the unthinkable," said Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., chairman of the House Subcommittee on National Security.

Even the exercise facing the Marines at Fort Bragg probably would have been all but unthinkable before the bombings of the World Trade Center and the Oklahoma City federal building shattered any illusions of U.S. immunity from terrorism.

The training scenario called for the Marines to deploy to Fort Bragg, where they waited for an attack by bin Laden. At 1:35 p.m., the call came: A stadium two miles away had just been struck by chemical weapons.

Although moving with a sense of urgency, it was 20 minutes before the first Marines arrived at the "hot zone."

"You want to rush in and help the victims, but you have to move very cautiously," Hollifield said. "If the responders become casualties, you haven't helped at all."

About 30 soldiers from Fort Bragg, playing the role of casualties, lay scattered around the stadium as the first contingent of Marines, wearing protective suits and masks, entered with stretchers.

Just outside the stadium, Marines readied a portable decontamination device to spray victims with a purifying liquid. Others prepared a portable lab for detection of chemical and biological agents. Physicians and other medical personnel waited to examine victims to determine who should be hospitalized.

"This is the only unit in the military that can do all this under a single command," said 2nd Lt. James Jarvis, spokesman for the response force, which also has personnel trained in search-and-rescue operations and travels with a robot used in disarming explosives.

The Clinton administration became especially interested in boosting defenses against chemical and biological attacks after federal officials played a strategy game to determine what would transpire in a bio-terrorism attack along the Southwestern border.

The 1998 game ended with officials unable to limit mass deaths from a smallpox hybrid.

Whether the government has overreacted to the potential threat has been the subject of debate.

"Much of the discussion has focused on vulnerability . . . while neglecting a careful assessment of the threat," said Jonathan B. Tucker, an expert on chemical and biological weapons at the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Dr. Robert F. Knouss, emergency preparedness director of the Public Health Service, said the impact of such terrorism "is very high, but the probability that such an event will occur in any specific community is very low."

For that very reason, officials say, the Marine response force is needed.

"Many local communities can't afford to devote money and resources to something like this, which may never strike their area," Hollifield said.

While the commander and his officers generally praised their troops' performance at Fort Bragg, there was one major snafu that would have proved disastrous had the Marines been responding to the real thing.

"The decontamination unit was contaminated," said consultant Bob Massie, a former Marine expert in unconventional warfare, who wrote the scenario for the exercise.

The problem occurred when members of the decontamination unit stripped off their protective clothing in a location that would have been contaminated by the chemical agent.

For Hollifield, these kinds of mistakes are part of learning. "The more frequently we practice, the better-organized we become," he said.

Mystery mailer sends radioactive material to Japanese government offices

June 12, 2000

Web posted at: 7:18 PM HKT (1118 GMT)

TOKYO (AP) -- Envelopes containing small amounts of radioactive powder were mailed anonymously last week to the Japanese prime minister's residence and other government agencies, officials said Monday.

At least one of the envelopes, dated June 6, contained a message warning that radioactive materials were being sent from Japan to North Korea, a police official said. Another government official reported getting a letter containing a sand-like substance.

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/ASIANOW/east/06/12/bc.japan.radioactivelett.ap/index.html>

Washington Post

June 14, 2000

Pg. 34

U.S., Pakistan To Meet On Nuclear Issues

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan--Pakistan and the United States will resume talks on nuclear and security issues in Washington this week, and Pakistan said it could consider any reciprocal nuclear restraint with arch-rival India.

A Foreign Ministry statement said Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar would meet U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott on Thursday. It will be the first nuclear and security talks between the two countries in 16 months.

State Department spokesman Philip Reeker confirmed the meeting, saying security and nuclear nonproliferation "remains a subject of great importance and interest to the United States."

(Reuters)