

FOIA(b) (1)

FOIA(b) (3)

CHEMICAL WARFARE IN IRAQ

SUMMARY

Iraq began an aggressive program to produce CW weapons after the Iraqi invasion of Iran in 1980. Iraq first used chemical weapons against Iran in mid-1983. Sufficient munitions are currently being produced to allow only periodic use. [REDACTED]

BACKGROUND

Iraq started a chemical warfare program in the 1960's. Early emphasis was on CW protective measures and protective equipment was obtained primarily from the Soviet Union. Additionally, the senior Iraqi CW officer received training in the United States and Soviet Union. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Iraq made a decision to develop and produce chemical warfare munitions. Chemical agent precursors, munitions for filling, pilot plant and full scale production plant equipment and technical expertise were purchased from firms [REDACTED]

The program was designed to develop both mustard and nerve agent munitions. The mustard program was successful, resulting in at least a small scale production capability [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The nerve agent program apparently has encountered technical problems, although small quantities of lethal nerve agent have been produced and tested. [REDACTED]

In the summer of 1982, the Iraqis used tear gas to help repulse a major Iranian offensive in the southern border sector. This use apparently was effective. [REDACTED]

Iraq initiated chemical warfare against Iranian and Kurdish forces in the Northern Iraq-Iran border region in late July and continued periodic use through late August. The decision to use mustard munitions was made by the Iraqi President, possibly to avert an Iranian battlefield success. Iraq's total mustard stockpile was expended. The Iranian response to this use included renewed efforts to provide standard CW protective equipment to its forces and public accusations of Iraqi CW use in several news releases. [REDACTED]

This Memorandum was prepared by the Office of Scientific and Weapons Research of the Central Intelligence Agency. It was coordinated with other members of the Intelligence Community.

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

NLS F1772 #33331

By LAT, NARA, Date 1/14/08

~~SECRET~~

CI BY [REDACTED]
DI CL OADR
DERIVED FM [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

Since August Iran has claimed two additional CW attacks. On 21 October, Iraqi artillery reportedly fired upon Iranian combatants. On 24 October Iraqi aircraft bombed an Iranian village causing civilian casualties. Both occurred in the northern border region. [REDACTED]

Iranian press releases reported only a few casualties and did not address the military impact. The continued Iraqi use of CW and the Iranian effort to provide protective equipment to its troops indicate at least limited success, though the Iraqis were disappointed that the effect was not greater. [REDACTED]

FUTURE PROSPECTS

We expect Iraq to continue to employ chemical weapons. Since they have no significant stockpile, the rate at which they can use them will be governed by their production capacity. When they solve their technical difficulties, we anticipate that they will use nerve agents in addition to mustard. [REDACTED]

Iran will continue to emphasize protective measures. [REDACTED]

Iran probably will accuse Iraq of using CW weapons in an international diplomatic forum sometime in the next few months. However, Iran may be having difficulty in providing convincing proof that Iraq has used CW. [REDACTED]

The US does not have sufficient unclassified information available at this time to make a comprehensive public report. [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~