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Biological/Chemical/Radiological Warfare

- Technical Hurdles Separate Terrorists From Biowarfare
- Researchers Develop New Tool To Detect Agents Of Bioterrorism

Contemporary Conflict

- How U.S. Might Disengage in Iraq
- Israel Approves Release of 900 Palestinian Prisoners

Counter-Terrorism

- Attack With Dirty Bomb More Likely, Officials Say
- Report Predicts Terrorists Will Thrive, but in New Ways
- Terrorist Nuclear Attack on Seaports: Threat and Response
- Islamist groups develop new recruiting strategies

Defence Organisation

- Pentagon Prepares to Rethink Focus on Conventional Warfare

Defence Technology

- Simulation, War's New Teacher
- US Navy outlines revolution in undersea robots
- US Army speeds fielding of armed robots to Iraq

Military Operations

- Pentagon Weigh Use of Deception in a Broad Arena

- Toward a Protected Future Force

Nuclear Weapons Proliferation

- Cat and Mouse Game Over Iran
- Tests Said to Tie Deal on Uranium to North Korea
- Iran near bomb production with nuclear trigger capacity: opposition group
- Ukraine Missile Sales are Alleged
- Nuclear Evidence Could Point to Pakistan

Regional Developments

- China Builds Up Strategic Sea Lanes
- U.S.-Russian Nuclear Rivalry Lingers

Articles that were obtained from subscriber only sites are available on request.
Révolutionnaire is edited by Joshua Ho, Research Fellow, with contributions from Bernard Loo, Manjeet Singh Pardesi and Adrienne Li.

BIOLOGICAL WARFARE

[Technical Hurdles Separate Terrorists From Biowarfare](#)

Washington Post – 30 December 2004

Hoping to hasten the doomsday their leader foretold, scientists who were members of Japan's Aum Shinrikyo cult brewed batches of anthrax in the early 1990s and released it from an office building and out the back of trucks upwind of the Imperial Palace. But the wet mixture kept clogging the sprayers the Aum Shinrikyo scientists had rigged up, and, unbeknown to them, the strains of anthrax they had ordered from a commercial firm posed no danger to anyone. Frustrated by their failure at biowarfare, they turned to a less arduous method of mass killing -- chemical attack -- and in 1995 killed 12 Tokyo subway riders by releasing sarin gas in the tunnels. The cult's experiences demonstrate just a few of the myriad technical obstacles that terrorists who might try to manufacture biological weapons could face, problems that would confound even skilled scientists who tried to help them, biological warfare experts say.

[Researchers Develop New Tool To Detect Agents Of Bioterrorism](#)

Space Daily – 11 January 2005

Scientists have developed a new "biological smoke detector" to help protect against potential bioterrorist attacks, according to a study published in the Jan. 1 edition of *Analytical Chemistry*, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society. The instrument, called the Autonomous Pathogen Detection System, or APDS, continuously monitors the air like a "biological smoke detector," says John Dzenitis, Ph.D., a chemical engineer at LLNL and corresponding author of the paper. Now, in addition to simultaneously testing for multiple agents with protein antibodies, the APDS also confirms positive results with a DNA test specific for the agent. No other field system has two independent molecular biology tests. Having two laboratory-quality tests further reduces the probability of a false alarm and gives confidence for effective response.

CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT

[How U.S. Might Disengage in Iraq](#)

The New York Times – 10 January 2005

Rumblings about disengagement from Iraq grow louder in Washington as members of Congress return from their districts after winter recess, and as Pentagon tries to figure out how Sunni Arabs and Shiites might react to election results, American presence in Iraq is costing nearly \$4.5 billion a month and putting huge strains on military; White House officials are contemplating political

costs of second term possibly dominated by nightly accounting of continuing casualties; some senior members of Pres Bush's national security team have joined conversation about disengagement, although not Bush himself; Bush aide says president intends to stick to his plan, refining strategy of training Iraqis to take over security duties from Americans and not wavering from his promise to stay until job is done; all over Washington, there is talk about new ways to define when mission is accomplished

[Israel Approves Release of 900 Palestinian Prisoners](#)

Washington Post – 3 February 2005

Israeli Cabinet ministers approved the release of 900 Palestinian prisoners and a military pullout from the West Bank town of Jericho within days in overtures intended to improve the climate ahead of next week's Mideast summit. The ministers also approved an earlier decision by the army chief to halt the targeted killings of wanted Palestinian fugitives and agreed to form a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee to decide what to do about them. Palestinians and Israelis both said they expect next week's summit in Egypt to produce a truce ending more than four years of violence. A joint declaration of a cessation of violence is one of the first requirements in the internationally backed "road map" peace plan, which calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state this year. Sharon and Abbas on Wednesday accepted an Egyptian offer to attend a regional summit next week, raising hopes for a breakthrough in Mideast peace efforts. Jordan's King Abdullah II will also attend. The summit would mark the first Sharon-Abbas meeting since the Palestinian leader won a Jan. 9 presidential election. It also will be the first time Sharon and Mubarak meet.

COUNTER-TERRORISM

[Attack With Dirty Bomb More Likely, Officials Say](#)

Washington Post – 29 December 2004

Often called a weapon of mass disruption, not destruction, a dirty bomb -- which uses conventional explosives to spread radioactive material -- causes far fewer casualties than a nuclear explosion. But because such devices are easier to assemble and the ingredients are readily available, government officials and terrorism experts consider a dirty-bomb attack more likely than a terrorist nuclear strike. "You would need a stick of dynamite and the kind of radioactive source you find in a common smoke detector," said Charles D. Ferguson, co-author of "The Four Faces of Nuclear Terrorism." "Any person who could build a car bomb or suicide bomb, like the ones we've seen in Iraq or other places, could couple that to radioactive materials and that is it," Ferguson said. Such an attack can be carried out by detonating a small conventional bomb that spews the radioactive material and radiation across a small area.

[Report Predicts Terrorists Will Thrive, but in New Ways](#)

Washington File – 14 January 2005

Terrorist groups will continue to use conventional weapons and explosives in future attacks -- adding new creative destructive twists while adapting constantly to elude counterterrorist efforts, according to a newly released intelligence forecast. "Terrorists probably will be most original not in the technologies or weapons they use, but rather in their operational concepts -- i.e., the scope, design, or support arrangements for attacks," the forecast, issued January 13 by the National Intelligence Council, says. Strong interest in acquiring chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons increases the risk of a major terrorist attack involving these kinds of weapons, the council's report says.

"Our greatest concern is that terrorists might acquire biological agents or, less likely, a nuclear device, either of which could cause mass casualties. Bioterrorism appears particularly suited to the smaller, better-informed groups," the report says. Terrorists can be expected to continue to conduct cyber attacks designed to disrupt critical information networks like computer systems and communications systems, and -- even more likely -- cause physical damage to information systems, it says.

[Terrorist Nuclear Attacks on Seaports: Threat and Response](#)

CRS Report for Congress – 24 January 2005

A terrorist nuclear attack on a U.S. seaport could cause local devastation and affect the global economy. Terrorists might obtain a bomb in several ways, though each poses difficulties. Ability to detect a bomb appears limited.

The United States is using technology, intelligence, international cooperation, etc., to try to thwart an attack. Issues for Congress include safeguarding foreign nuclear material, mitigating economic effects of an attack, and allocating funds between ports and other potential targets.

[Islamist groups develop new recruiting strategies](#)

Jane's Intelligence Review – 1 February 2005

Developments in propaganda and recruitment by Islamist groups are having an effect on the composition of new members joining radical movements in the West and elsewhere. Analysis of recent trends in the recruitment of members into militant Islamist groups suggests several significant developments that are having an impact on the composition of jihadist cells. These developments include the use of passive and active propaganda to spread the idea of jihad, an increase in the number of members 'joining' versus being 'recruited', the strategic importance of Western operatives and the increasing use of female operatives.

DEFENCE ORGANISATION

[Pentagon Prepares to Rethink Focus on Conventional Warfare](#)

Washington Post – 26 January 2005

The Pentagon has drafted terms for an ambitious reshaping of U.S. forces that would put less emphasis on waging conventional warfare and more on dealing with insurgencies, terrorist networks, failed states and other nontraditional threats, according to senior defense officials and others familiar with the confidential planning. This proposed shift in strategic focus stems partly from a recognition that U.S. forces were inadequately prepared for the insurgency in Iraq and the wider hunt for terrorists around the world. But officials said it also grows out of a heightened perception of other potential threats. The new thinking has emerged in a classified document being readied for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's signature by the Pentagon's policy branch in coordination with the Joint Staff and service representatives. The document, called the "Terms of Reference," sets the framework for the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), which Congress has mandated to compel a comprehensive look at U.S. military strategy at the start of each presidential term.

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

[Simulation, War's New Teacher](#)

Washington Post – 9 December 2004

You are the young commander of an Army brigade deployed to a war zone on the other side of the world. Major combat has ended and your new mission is to take control of an entire village, a task you were never really trained to perform. Many of the villagers seem to hate you and your soldiers. There are nightly attacks on your makeshift barracks, and morale among the troops is fading fast. With limited resources, which task do you make the priority for your unit? Restoring electricity for the village or increasing security for your soldiers.

It's not an easy decision and there isn't one right answer, but it's a situation that would sound familiar to many veterans of the war in Iraq. The important thing, say some military officials, is that the lessons U.S. soldiers learned during the war are not allowed to go to waste. So the Army has called on a small company that operates out of an old home in Potomac. For the past year, Will Interactive Inc. has been working on a simulation program designed to replicate the experiences of soldiers in Iraq. The company is part of a prospering crop of Washington area firms trying to sell interactive training and simulation technologies to the military.

[US Navy outlines revolution in undersea robots](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 28 January 2005

The US Navy envisages developing a range of undersea robots to perform everything from tracking enemy submarines to firing weapons at distant targets and jamming enemy communications networks, a recent service report states. The Unmanned Undersea Vehicle (UUV) Master Plan, publicly released on 21 January, describes how the navy hopes these vehicles will be developed and deployed in coming decades to become a central part of its undersea warfighting force.

[US Army speeds fielding of armed robots to Iraq](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 2 February 2005

The US Army is working to quickly field an armed robot to Iraq, even before mid-2005, to patrol dangerous areas. The Special Weapons Observation Reconnaissance Detection System (SWORDS) is based on the Foster-Miller Talon robot, previously used in Iraq and Afghanistan for explosive ordnance removal. This version incorporates either an M249 5.56 mm light machine gun, an M240 7.62 mm medium machine gun or an M107 .50 cal Barrett sniper rifle. It uses the Telepresent Rapid Aiming Platform (TRAP), manufactured by Precision Remotes, to remotely interface with the guns. The system could be used for "danger-area reconnaissance" and will be able to travel at about 7 km/h. It is equipped with AN/PVS-14 night-vision goggles.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

[Toward a Protected Future Force](#)

Parameters - Winter 2004-05, pp. 55-70.

A significant challenge facing planners of America's future ground forces is the question of how to think about survivability. With a great deal of emphasis placed on strategic mobility—both in speed of deployment and in logistical efficiency—the manned ground vehicles of the US Army's Future Combat Systems (FCS) will be considerably lighter than the tanks and infantry fighting vehicles currently fielded in Army units. The US Army thus plans to introduce its next-generation ground force quickly, starting with an experimental battalion by the end of the decade and a full brigade—called a Unit of Action—in 2014. The Future Force, formerly called the Objective Force, is anticipated to be a highly mobile, light armoured force with previously unheard-of intelligence-surveillance-reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities, emphasizing manoeuvre and stand-off precision firepower to eliminate enemy forces from long range.

Pentagon Weighs Use of Deception in a Broad Arena

The New York Times – 13 December 2004

Pentagon said to be engaged in bitter, high-level debates over how far it can and should go in managing or manipulating information to influence opinion abroad; missions, if approved, could take deceptive techniques endorsed for use on battlefield to confuse adversary and adopt them for covert propaganda campaigns aimed at neutral and even allied nations; critics say such program would shatter Pentagon's credibility; question is whether Pentagon and military should undertake official program that uses disinformation to shape perceptions abroad; efforts under consideration risk blurring traditional lines between public affairs programs in Pentagon--whose charter calls for giving truthful information to media and public--and world of combat information campaigns or psychological operations; critics see proposal as Pentagon's effort to resurrect its Office of Strategic Influence, short-lived operation to provide news items, including false ones, to foreign journalists in effort to influence overseas opinion; office was closed by Defense Sec Donald H Rumsfeld under intense criticism

NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION

Cat And Mouse Game Over Iran

Space War – 26 January 2005

The U.S. Air Force is playing a dangerous game of cat and mouse with Iran's ayatollahs, flying American combat aircraft into Iranian airspace in an attempt to lure Tehran into turning on air defense radars, thus allowing U.S. pilots to grid the system for use in future targeting data. The flights, which have been going on for weeks, are being launched from sites in Afghanistan and Iraq, and are part of Bush administration attempts to collect badly needed intelligence on Iran's possible nuclear weapons development sites, these sources said, speaking on condition of strict anonymity. To collect badly needed intelligence on the ground about Iran's alleged nuclear program, the United States is depending heavily on Israeli-trained teams of Kurds in northern Iraq and on U.S.-trained teams of former Iranian exiles in the south to gather the intelligence needed for possible strikes against Iran's 13 or more suspected nuclear sites, according to serving and retired U.S. intelligence officials. The administration's fear is that by possessing a nuclear weapon, Iran will gain a new stature and status in the region strengthening its determination to remove the U.S. presence from the region and making its hostility seem more credible, U.S. officials said.

Tests Said to Tie Deal on Uranium to North Korea

The New York Times – 2 February 2005

Scientific tests have led American intelligence agencies and government scientists to conclude with near certainty that North Korea sold processed

uranium to Libya, bolstering earlier indications that the reclusive state exported sensitive fuel for atomic weapons, according to officials with access to the intelligence. The determination, which has circulated among senior government officials in recent weeks, has touched off a hunt to determine if North Korea has also sold uranium to other countries, including Iran and Syria. So far, there is no evidence that such additional transactions took place. Nonetheless, the conclusion about Libya, which is contained in a classified briefing that has been described to The New York Times, could alter Washington's debate about the assessment of the North Korean nuclear threat. In the past, some administration officials have argued that there is time to find a diplomatic solution because there was no evidence that the government of Kim Jung Il was spreading its atomic technology abroad.

[Iran nears bomb production with nuclear trigger capacity: opposition group](#)

Space War – 3 February 2005

Iran has obtained the materials and expertise to make the triggers for an atomic bomb, bringing closer its goal of acquiring nuclear weapons later this year, the main Iranian opposition grouping said in Paris Thursday. Citing secret sources inside Iran's nuclear development programme, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) said that Tehran has produced or bought from abroad quantities of polonium-210 and beryllium -- two elements required for building a "neutron initiator." It has also developed the know-how to make a "neutron generator" which is another key part of the neutron initiator, the NCRI said. The NCRI, which is headed by Maryam Rajavi, accuses European governments of running a "policy of appeasement" towards Tehran.

[Ukraine Missile Sales are Alleged](#)

Boston.com – 3 February 2005

A senior legislator called yesterday for Ukraine's prosecutor general to investigate alleged sales of nuclear-capable cruise missiles to Iran and China in violation of international nonproliferation treaties. The appeal, by Hrihory Omelchenko, follows allegations he made in a letter to new President Viktor Yushchenko. Omelchenko is a Parliament member allied with Prime Minister-designate Yulia Tymoshenko and is a reserve colonel in the intelligence service.

[Nuclear Evidence Could Point to Pakistan](#)

Washington Post – 3 February 2005

The Bush administration's claim this week that North Korea appears to have been the supplier of converted uranium to Libya is based on evidence that could just as easily point to Pakistan, a key U.S. ally, as the source, according to analysts and officials familiar with the data. Two senior staff members on the National Security Council have toured China, Japan and South Korea in recent

days to brief top officials that U.S. scientific tests strongly suggest North Korea provided Libya with uranium hexafluoride gas, which can be processed into material for a nuclear weapon. Their trip came as U.S. officials are trying to build a united front with key allies if, as expected, North Korea soon agrees to restart six-nation talks on its nuclear programs.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

[China Builds Up Strategic Sea Lanes](#)

Washington Times – 18 January 2005

China is establishing a network of maritime and land installations to protect its oil imports from the Middle East. News of the installations was contained in a brief prepared for Defense Secretary Rumsfeld by a private contractor, "Energy Futures in Asia". The report notes Chinese surveillance programmes in the Pakistani port Gwadar and along the Burmese coast, as well as cooperation efforts with Bangladesh, Thailand, and Cambodia. Currently, 80 percent of Chinese oil imports pass through the Indian Ocean and the Malacca Strait. Intelligence sources believe that China is working towards controlling and monitoring energy shipments by sea as a major aspect of its national security strategy. By 2020, energy shipments through the Malacca Strait are expected to more than double.

[U.S.-Russian Nuclear Rivalry Lingers](#)

Arms Control Today – January/February 2005

In signing an arms control treaty with Russia two years ago, President George W. Bush said the simple, less than 500-words document reflected a new spirit of cooperation and trust between the two former foes based upon the recognition that they were no longer enemies. Yet, it appears that when it comes to nuclear weapons, old habits die hard. Meanwhile, the Kremlin—harkening back to the days of its superpower competition with the United States—is boasting about its development of new offensive strategic capabilities designed to render ineffective anti-missile systems such as those being developed by Washington. In closing the deal on SORT, the two countries also agreed to establish a new forum to discuss matters related to their nuclear forces. But competing agendas blocked talks in this forum over the past year.