



ADMINISTRATION AND
MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1950 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1950

Ref: 11-AC-0020
USCENTCOM # 08-0026
FEB 25 2014

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

This responds to your January 30, 2011, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) appeal, regarding the January 11, 2011, partial denial determination you received from U.S. Central Command in response to your October 29, 2007, FOIA request. I apologize that this response was not provided in a more timely manner.

I have reviewed the denied information at the appellate level and, after careful consideration, have determined that additional information should be released. The information withheld in the enclosed documents remains exempt from release because it is currently and properly classified in accordance with Executive Order 13526 Sections 1.4 (c) as it pertains to intelligence activities (including covert action), intelligence sources or methods, or cryptology. Portions of the withheld information are specifically exempted by 10 U.S.C. § 130b, which applies to personally identifiable information of personnel in overseas, sensitive or routinely deployable positions. Finally, some information is withheld because release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of individuals. Consequently, I must deny this information pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(1), (b)(3) and (b)(6).

You have the right to judicial review of this decision in a United States District Court, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

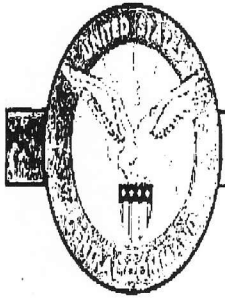
Sincerely,

William E. Brazis
Deputy Director

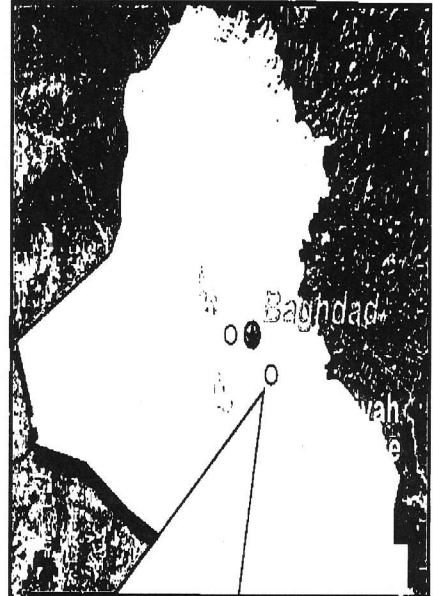
Enclosures:
As stated

23 Jun

Iraq PIR #3: Castor Bean Cache Found



- 21 Jun: SSE team finds ~300 bags of castor beans at Al Aziziyah Warehouse
 - Sources on-site state that beans sent to the Tareq Company, used to make brake fluid, pesticides, and “chemical poisons”
 - Sources also took team to castor bean farm (40 acre field) 2 km from warehouse
 - Beans can be used to make ricin poison; also has industrial / pharmaceutical uses
- 29 May: SSE of Habbaniyah I (element of Tareq Co.) finds sacks of castor beans
 - Pesticides and dual-use chems also found



Castor Bean Cache (~300 Bags)



J2 Assessment: Castor beans were probably an element of Iraq's CBW program. However, further information is required to determine the true nature of Iraq's castor bean cultivation efforts; exploitation continues.

(I MEF, ISG)

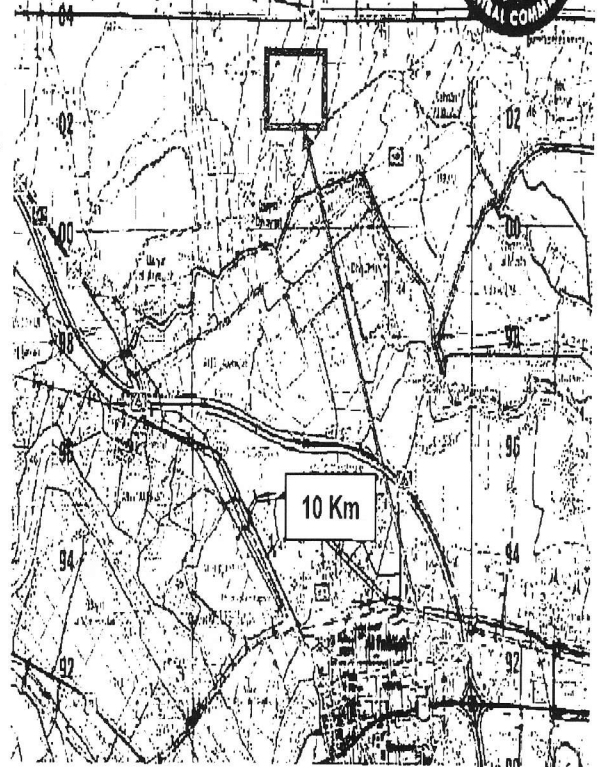
~~SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN and GBR//X1~~



Iraq: Suspect Lab Raided IVO Fallujah

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HOLLOWED ARTILLERY ROUND AND SUSPECT CHEMICALS: 22 Apr CF raided a chicken farm 10 Km NNW of Fallujah ... one 122mm "hollowed out" artillery round discovered (11 total 122mm rounds on site) ... suspect white powder, unknown liquids, and lab materiel also found ... 12 detainees apprehended. ~~(S//REL USA, AUS and GBR)~~



BACKGROUND: 29 Mar raid of Al-Aboud Trading Company in Baghdad revealed the presence of ricin ... scientist captured on site ^{(b)(6)} was involved in producing ricin ... tipped CF that his associate ^{(b)(6)} wanted to use ricin in an attack and had a lab at a farm N of Fallujah. (S//NF)

SITE EXPLOITATION PLANNED: ISG planning to visit site for chemical sampling and further analysis. ~~(S//REL USA, AUS and GBR)~~

Terrorists likely to attempt poison/toxin attack against unsuspecting "soft" targets to generate sensational press, fear ... large-scale casualties unlikely ... cyanide most effective in enclosed spaces ... but limited success would encourage continued pursuit of chemical/biological agents.



Description of the Red Mercury Containers (SIE-09-0405-7)

Date of Acquisition: 20090405

Subject: Red Mercury Container Description

The cylindrical containers were approximately 5" high and 3" in diameter with a 1.5" diameter clear viewport on top. They were in good condition with no indication of damage or leakage.

Each container had identical labels.

Front Side

(Danger)

→ HG ←

(Circle with Cross Symbol) Red Mercury (Circle with Cross Symbol)

PV 99.999%

NH. 27 x 27 (Skull and Crossbones Symbol)

NW 1000G

SN: 9129959-9128853

STN H. 13340-40011-31443

!Not For Resale!

Back Side

(Warning)?

(Construction)

Keep close wall

Keep out and far of - HG -

Keep a gauge between 10 to 40c

As by with a use only for military

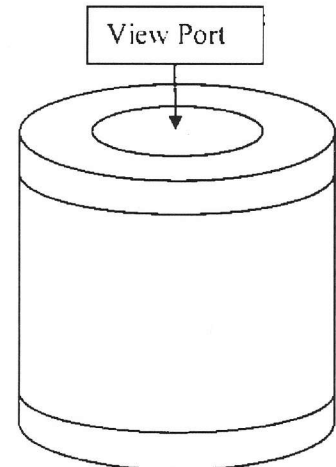
And civil atom power and factory

For D.P.I.

For use! It's only by proficient farsighted & fortification room

Vertical between front and back labels, 2 times

Trip No. 0667-8-895 (Airplane Symbol)



Prepared by:
(b)(3): 10 USC §130b,
(b)(6)
Engagement Officer
MNF-I CJ2 FWD SIE
DSN: (b)(6)
SVOIP: (b)(6)

Approved by: (b)(3):10 USC §130b,
(b)(6) Director, MNF-I CJ2 FWD SIE

REPORT TYPE: ENGAGEMENT

REPORT KEY: 9DC48474-423D-4561-5D2B3CD70C1B0556

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET//REL USA, MCFI~~

COMMAND: MNF-I

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION: CJ2 FWD SIE

REPORT NUMBER: ENG-20090413073803-SIEANALYSTSGROUP

REPORT TITLE: Red Mercury

REPORT DATE: 2009-04-13 04:38:03.263

ENGAGEMENT TYPE: Influence

REPORTING PERSON: (b)(3):10 USC §130b,(b)(6)

REPORTING UNIT: MNF-I CJ2 FWD SIE

ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED: MSNSA

OTHER UNITS INVOLVED: N/A

REQUEST SUPPORTED: Ad-Hoc Meeting

MISSION DATE: 2009-04-05 04:38:00.0

MEETING TYPE: JCP 1a - Political/Intel Engagement

THEME/MESSAGE: PIR # 4. Where will militias, Sunni extremist and resistance groups focus their activities over the next six months?

ENGAGEMENT PURPOSE: Ad hoc Meeting

WAS THIS A KEY LEADER EVENT?: No

WAS OBJECTIVE MET?: No

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 2009-04-12 07:38:00.0

DID YOU MAKE A PROMISE?: No

SUMMARY: ~~(SECRET//REL USA, MCFI)~~

On 05 APR 2009, MG Tariq T. ((al-Baldawi)), Advisor, MSNSA, requested assistance analyzing two cans of Red Mercury obtained during a recent Ministry of State for National Security Affairs (MSNSA) raid.

ATTENDEES: ~~(SECRET//REL USA, MCFI)~~

Iraqi Attendees: MG Tariq T. Al-Baldawi, Deputy Director, MSNSA Cell (b)(6), Cell (b)(6) Cell (b)(6)
(b)(6) email: (b)(3):10 USC §130b,(b)(6)

Mr. Jabar Abd Hussein, Director Provincial Security Department, MSNSA, no cell phone or email address on record

CF Attendees: (b)(3):10 USC §130b, (b)(6) (Engagement Officer, MNF-I CJ2-FWD-SIE), DSN: (b)(6) email:
(b)(3):10 USC §130b,(b)(6)

(b)(3):10 USC §130b,(b)(6) Linguist, MNF-I CJ2 FWD SIE, DSN (b)(3):10 USC §13 (b)(3):10 USC §130b,(b)(6) email: (b)(3):10 USC §130b,(b)(6)

REPORT TEXT: ~~(SECRET//REL USA, MCFI)~~

MG Baldawi requested the Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) assistance in analyzing two containers of Red Mercury that MSNSA obtained during a recent raid on a house in Tikrit (MSNSA report attached). He explained that he would like to verify the contents for use as evidence in court. On MG Baldawis signal, Mr. Jabar Abd Hussein (a.k.a. ((Abu Nur)), Director Provincial Security Department, MSNSA, entered the room and placed two identical cylindrical containers on MG Baldawis desk (Container and label description attached).

The engagement officer indicated the containers were most likely harmless and Red Mercury is a common hoax often used by scam artists and terrorist groups for financial gain. He however, recommended MG Baldawi and Abu Nur take precautions when handling the containers since they contain unknown substances. MG Baldawi appreciated the warning, but Abu Nur acted as though he had been offended. He became argumentative and adversarial with both the engagement officer and the SIE interpreter commenting that he knew what he was doing and did not need someone telling him how to do his job. Abu Nur backed down only after being ordered by MG Baldawi. Abu Nur left the room. He returned several minutes later after having time to calm down. (Engagement officer comments: The engagement officer contacted the CIOC Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Team to report the Red Mercury. The CBRN representative confirmed that the Red Mercury is not dangerous and is a common hoax that reemerges periodically.)

STATUS INFORMATION

PORTAL POST DATE: 2009-04-13 07:38:03.263

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FROM: J2

10 Jun 03

Deleted: 4

TO: CDR, USCENTCOM

(b)(1)

~~(S//REL)~~

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

where numerous vials containing microorganism "reference strains" were discovered. These vials were hidden from UNSCOM and UNMOVIC, likely to permit continued dual-use biological research and potentially to restart BW efforts.

- ~~(S//REL)~~ "Reference strains" are holdings of certified pure strains that have been characterized and maintained at reference laboratories such as the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC).
- ~~(S//REL)~~ Reference strains are used to make "seed stocks," which can then be used to prepare larger quantities of microorganisms.
- ~~(S//REL)~~ Some vial markings indicated contents of concern, such as the organism that produces botulinum toxin and that which causes gas gangrene, both acknowledged BW agents.
- ~~(S//REL)~~ A total of 97 vials were found; (b)(1)

(b)(1)

Kimmons/J2

Suspect Vials Discovered in Scientist's Home

- 80+ vials found in baby milk container under sink of scientist

(b)(1)

– Vials contain: *clostridium botulinum*, *clostridium perfringens*, *bacillus thuringensis israelis*, and other unidentified cultures

- These seed stocks and others were allegedly taken from former BW facility (al-Hakam) and stored in scientists' homes
 - Source claimed Dr. Rihab Taha kept “Good Material” and worked on an anthrax program described as “BTI,” (NFI)

(b)(1)

J2 Assessment: Materials could be used as seed-stock for restarting a BW program. Storage of cultures at homes indicates an intent to maintain a BW capability despite UN restrictions.

(b)(1)

~~SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN and GBR//X1~~

