

~~S/NF~~
Classification

TASKING CONTROL FORM

OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT NO.		
ARCENT	DATE RECEIVED	DATE TASKED	DATE REVISED	CONSUMER CODE
	02/01/91-2100	02/01/91-2100		

DIA SUSPENSE: 02/03/91-1990 TASKING CONTROL NO: 4085
 ORIGINATOR'S SUSPENSE: _____ COLLAB SUSPENSE: _____
 COORDINATION SUSPENSE: _____

SUBJECT **IRAQI CHEMICAL CAPABILITIES (RII-1926)**

INTERNAL ROUTING			PREVIOUS ACTION OFFICER
ACTION	COLLABORATION	COORDINATION	INFORMATION
OICG			2150

INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Declassified Under Authority of the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel, E.O. 13526, sec. 5.3(b)(3) ISCAP Appeal No. 2015-002, Doc. 18
 Declassification Date: April 12, 2024

SUB ELEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

(b)(3) 10 USC 424

SIGNATURE

RETURN WITH COMPLETED ACTION TO: _____ FINAL DISPOSITION

KEYWORD SEARCH ENTRY:

THIS FORM BECOMES _____ UPON REMOVAL OF ATTACHMENT(S)

S:\DATA\SHARED\ITF\TASKERS NAME: TASKER4.065

RESPOND TO TASK 4065

PASS TO THE ITF OPS OFFICER

3 FEB 91 2030 SENT BY: COOKIE DISK #19

FROM: NMIST DIA

VIA: NMIST NET

TO: NMIST ARCENT

NMIST CENTCOM

~~SECRET~~ NOFORN (b)(3) 10

SUBJ: IRAQI CHEMICAL CAPABILITIES (RII-1926 (U)

REF: MSG, NMIST ARCENT TO NMIST CENTCOM, DIG 011804Z FEB 91.

(S/NF) DIA BELIEVES THAT IRAQ'S NERVE AGENT STOCKS WILL BE USELESS AFTER 31 MARCH 1991. THIS IS BASED ON THE EXPECTED DESTRUCTION OF IRAQ'S REMAINING CHEMICAL AGENT AND PRECURSOR PRODUCTION PLANTS AT SAMARRA AND HABBANIYAH. AT PRESENT, SOME OF THESE PLANTS HAVE NOT BEEN DESTROYED AND MAY STILL BE PRODUCING AGENT.

(S/NF) ASSUMING THE PLANTS ARE DESTROYED BY MID-FEBRUARY, ALL UNITARY NERVE AGENT STOCKS SHOULD BE UNSERVICEABLE BY THE END OF MARCH. THE AGENT IS ASSESSED TO BE POOR QUALITY, RESULTING FROM LOW PURITY DUE TO POOR IRAQI CHEMICAL ENGINEERING PRACTICES.

(S/NF) IRAQ COULD RETAIN CHEMICAL WEAPONS AFTER THE 31 MARCH DATE, WITH NERVE AGENT IN A BINARY CONFIGURATION AND UNITARY MUSTARD. DIA ASSESSES THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF BINARY HAS BEEN LIMITED THUS FAR, AND THAT THE MUSTARD IS ALSO LOW IN PURITY.

(S/NF/WN) SOME OF IRAQ'S NERVE AGENT STOCKS, MADE DURING DECEMBER 1990 AND EARLY JANUARY 1991, ARE PROBABLY ALREADY BECOMING UNUSABLE, LEAVING IRAQ WITH A "USE-IT-OR-LOSE-IT" PROBLEM. IRAQ HAS ONLY LIMITED MEANS AVAILABLE TO DELIVER CHEMICALS AT PRESENT, HOWEVER.

(S/NF) THE MUNITIONS THEY HAVE AVAILABLE FOR REACHING ALLIED FORCES NOW ARE LIMITED TO AERIAL BOMBS AND MISSILE WARHEADS. THE NUMBER OF MISSILE WARHEADS IS ASSESSED TO BE LIMITED, SO THAT CHEMICAL USE COULD NOT BE SUSTAINED BY THIS TYPE OF DELIVERY. THE LIMITED PAYLOAD AND ACCURACY OF IRAQI MISSILES MAKES THEM SUITABLE ONLY FOR TERRORIST, RATHER THAN MILITARY USE. ALLIED AIR SUPREMACY MAKES THE DELIVERY OF CHEMICAL AGENTS BY IRAQ'S AIR FORCE AN UNCERTAIN PROSPECT AT BEST.

(S/NF) WITHOUT HAVING CONTACT WITH ALLIED FORCES, IRAQ'S ARTILLERY AND MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS CANNOT DELIVER CHEMICALS EFFECTIVELY SINCE THE LOCATION OF ALLIED FORCES IS UNKNOWN.

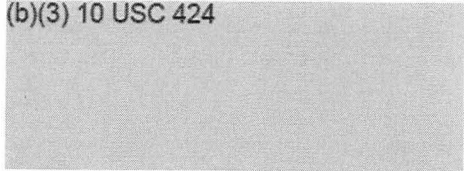
(S/NF) THUS FAR, IRAQ HAS CALCULATED THAT THE BENEFITS OF USING CHEMICALS ARE INADEQUATE. IRAQ WILL RETAIN A SIGNIFICANT CHEMICAL CAPABILITY WHICH MAY WELL BE USED TO STOP AN ALLIED ATTACK ON THEIR PREPARED POSITIONS IN SOUTHERN KUWAIT.

(S/NF) IN REPLY TO SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED IN THIS INQUIRY, THE SIZE OF THE IRAQI STOCKPILE IS NOT KNOWN WITH CERTAINTY. BASED ON THEIR PRODUCTION RATES AND PAST PRACTICE, THEY COULD HAVE A STOCKPILE OF 300 TO 1000 AGENT TONS OF ALL TYPES OF AGENTS. BY 15 FEBRUARY SOME OF IRAQ'S NERVE AGENT STOCKS WILL BE UNUSABLE, BUT MUSTARD AND POSSIBLY BLOOD AGENT STOCKS WILL REMAIN VIABLE FOR MONTHS. COMPLETE DETERIORATION OF UNITARY NERVE AGENT STOCKS IS EXPECTED BY 31 MARCH. SOME DELIVERY OF NERVE AGENT COULD STILL BE POSSIBLE AFTER THAT TIME USING THE LIMITED BINARY STOCKPILE IRAQ IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE.

(S/NF) COMMANDERS SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR CHEMICAL ATTACKS AT ANY TIME. IF IRAQ IS ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY TARGET ALLIED FORCES, CHEMICAL ATTACKS USING ALL AGENTS IN THE IRAQI INVENTORY COULD OCCUR THROUGH THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY. NERVE AGENT DELIVERY CAPABILITY WILL BE CURTAILED BUT NOT ELIMINATED IN LATE FEBRUARY AND EARLY MARCH. BY THE END OF MARCH, ALL OF IRAQ'S UNITARY NERVE AGENT STOCKS ARE

EXPECTED TO BECOME USELESS.
DECL OADR

(b)(3) 10 USC 424

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Responding to:

TASK RECORD OF ACTIONS

DAY/TIME

RECORD OF ACTION (notes, problems)

2.1.91 2150

To (b)(3) 10 USC 424

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2.3.2030 Feb Tasker 4.665. sp