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Offensive Chemical Warfare Programs in the Middle East (U)

A Defense S&T Intelligence Study

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Defense Intelligence Agency



US Army Intelligence Agency

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Table I. (S) [REDACTED]

(SECRET NOFORN)

Agents	Munitions
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
*(U) [REDACTED]	

RUSC 552 (b) (1)

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(SECRET NOFORN)

3. Iran (U)

(U)

a. (~~S-NOFORN~~ ~~W~~ ~~INTEL~~) Iran's offensive CW program began in 1983, in response to Iraqi use of riot control and toxic chemical agents on the battlefield. The program began under the auspices of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), with lesser participation by the Ministry of Defense (there is evidence that the latter is now playing an increased role). The program was probably intended to develop chemical weapons to respond in kind to Iraqi chemical use and to deter further use.

b. (~~S-NOFORN~~ ~~W~~ ~~INTEL~~) Iran's offensive CW program has managed to develop, produce and employ at least two, and perhaps more agents. Samples of sulfur mustard collected by a United Nations team after an Iranian chemical attack were shown, by independent analysis, to be of different origin than the mustard used by Iraq. This indicates that Iran did not use agent from unexploded Iraqi munitions, but either purchased or produced the sulfur mustard.

The United Nations team that examined Iraqi casualties from Iranian chemical attacks found that some of them displayed the effects of exposure to a choking agent, which the team believed to have been phosgene. A cyanide agent may have also been used.

[REDACTED]

c. (~~S-NOFORN~~ ~~W~~ ~~INTEL~~) Facilities such as a phosphate fertilizer plant, a military production complex, a chemical plant [REDACTED] and others have been suspected of being CW agent production facilities, but none has been confirmed. A CW test facility has been reported at an artillery test range in

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