Yugoslavia Chemical Chronology

2008-2001 | 1999-1996 | 1995-1990 | 1989-1970 | 1969-1918

Last update: May 2010

As of May 2010, this chronology is no longer being updated.
For current developments, please see the Yugoslavia Chemical Overview.

This annotated chronology is based on the data sources that follow each entry. Public sources often provide conflicting information on classified military programs. In some cases we are unable to resolve these discrepancies, in others we have deliberately refrained from doing so to highlight the potential influence of false or misleading information as it appeared over time. In many cases, we are unable to independently verify claims. Hence in reviewing this chronology, readers should take into account the credibility of the sources employed here.

Inclusion in this chronology does not necessarily indicate that a particular development is of direct or indirect proliferation significance. Some entries provide international or domestic context for technological development and national policymaking. Moreover, some entries may refer to developments with positive consequences for nonproliferation

2008-2001

24 July 2008
The Serbian government submits a draft law on the implementation of the CWC to Parliament for consideration. This law will update an earlier law adopted in 2005.
—"Update on National Implementation as at 14 November 2008," *Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 6 No. 4 (December 2008), p. 19.

6 June 2008
The process of down-sizing and reorganizing the 246th NBC Defense Brigade of the Serbian army is completed. The unit which has been reduced to a single battalion is now based at the Tzar Lazar barracks in Krusevac. The reduction in the unit's size, in the 1980s the unit was a full regiment, reflects the lower priority of NBC defense in the post-Cold War environment.
—*Serbia Reorganizes Nuclear-Biological-Chemical Defense Brigade*, Open Source Center, 6 June 2008, OSC Document EUP20080607073010.

3-5 June 2008
The Serbian government and the OPCW co-host the Seventh Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe in Belgrade. The meeting is attended by representatives from 24 countries.
—*Seventh Regional Meeting of Eastern European States Parties National Authorities*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 12 June 2008, www.opcw.org.

3-5 June 2008
The Serbian government and the OPCW co-host the Seventh Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe in Belgrade. The meeting is attended by representatives from 24 countries.

—*Seventh Regional Meeting of Eastern European States Parties National Authorities*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 12 June 2008, www.opcw.org.

3-5 June 2008
The Serbian government and the OPCW co-host the Seventh Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe in Belgrade. The meeting is attended by representatives from 24 countries.
—*Seventh Regional Meeting of Eastern European States Parties National Authorities*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 12 June 2008, www.opcw.org.

3-14 December 2007
The Serbian government hosts a training course on how to conduct toxic entries for 33 OPCW inspectors.
—"Toxic Chemicals Training Course in the Republic of Serbia," *Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 6 No. 1 (March 2008), p. 23.

12-23 November 2007
The Serbian government hosts a training course for OPCW inspectorate medical personnel. The clinical placement program provided the OPCW Inspectorate's medical staff with advanced training in dealing with the effects of toxic chemicals that can be used as chemical weapons, such as organophosphates.
—*The Republic of Serbia Hosts Clinical Placement Program with the OPCW*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 30 November 2007, www.opcw.org.

September 2007
At the South East Europe Clearing House Initiative Meeting, held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, support is expressed for the establishment of a regional centre in Serbia to educate and train the personnel of member states in the field of Nuclear Biological and Chemical Defence.
—*Statement by Ambassador Bratislav Djordjevic, Head of the National Authority of the Republic of Serbia for the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention*, 6 November 2007, p. 3, www.opcw.org.

September 2007
At the South East Europe Clearing House Initiative Meeting, held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, support is expressed for the establishment of a regional centre in Serbia to educate and train the personnel of member states in the field of Nuclear Biological and Chemical Defence.
—*Statement by Ambassador Bratislav Djordjevic, Head of the National Authority of the Republic of Serbia for the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention*, 6 November 2007, p. 3, www.opcw.org.

10 July 2007
In cooperation with the US government and the OPCW, Albania completes the destruction of its declared chemical weapons stockpile. The destruction process began in February 2007 and required the elimination of 16,678 kilograms of chemical warfare agent. The Albanian stockpile included mustard, lewisite, mustard/lewisite mixture, adamsite, and chloroacetophenone agents. The CW agent destruction campaign was funded by the US Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program. The US contractor Washington Group International destroyed the chemical weapon stockpile using a thermal treatment technology (incinerator). The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) oversaw agent destruction in coordination with the Government of Albania. The U.S. Army's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center provided agent monitoring and sample analysis support on site.
—"Albania the First Country to Destroy All of its Chemical Weapons," *Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 5 No.

3 (September 2007), p. 9; *Chemical Weapons Elimination in Albania*, Defense Threat Reduction Agency Fact Sheet, August 2007, www.dtra.mil.

25 June - 14 July 2007
In cooperation with the OPCW the Serbian government provides "live-agent" chemical weapons training 42 OPCW inspectors. The training covers decontamination procedures, detection and monitoring procedures, the use of protective equipment and monitoring the use of anti-dotes. There was also familiarization training with new decontamination and detection equipment.
—"Toxic Chemicals Training Course Held in Serbia," *Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 5 No. 4 (December 2007), p. 27.

18-22 June 2007
The Republic of Serbia and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW jointly host an advanced practical training course on chemical weapons response for North African OPCW member states. The course follows on from a basic course offered in the previous week.
—"Chemical Weapons Response Capacity-Building Training Course for North African Member States Conducted in Kruševac, Serbia," *Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 5 No. 3 (September 2007), p. 19.

11-15 June 2007
The Republic of Serbia and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW jointly host a basic practical training course on chemical weapons response. The course is offered as part of a new chemical weapons response capacity-building initiative specifically targeted at North African member states. States benefiting from the program are Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. In addition to the contributions of the OPCW and Republic of Serbia the initiative is supported by the European Union (EU), through its third Joint Action in support of OPCW activities.
—"Chemical Weapons Response Capacity-Building Training Course for North African Member States Conducted in Kruševac, Serbia," *Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 5 No. 3 (September 2007), p. 19.

16-20 April 2007
The Fourth World Congress on Chemical, Biological and Radiological Terrorism, hosted by the Republic of Croatia, takes place in Cavtat, Croatia. The event was jointly organized by the OPCW, the NGO ASA Inc. and the government of Croatia. "The congress was attended by over 200 government officials, scientists, medical and public health specialists, industry representatives, experts in crisis management and representatives of NGO's from over 40 countries were assembled. Their discussions focused on scientific, medical and policy aspects of [CBR] terrorism to ensure effective preparedness in response to a crisis."
—*Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 5 No. 2 (June 2007), p. 39.

14-15 April 2007
Croatia hosts the *sub-regional workshop for customs authorities in South-Eastern Europe on the technical aspects of the Chemical Weapons Convention's (CWC) transfers regime* in the town of Cavtat. The workshop, organized by the OPCW, is attended by forty-two representatives from twenty OPCW State Parties including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia. The workshop offers insight into the practical implementation of the Convention's transfer regime with a focus on preventing or detecting illicit transfers of scheduled chemicals.
—*Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 5 No. 2 (June 2007), p. 39.

14-15 April 2007
Croatia hosts the *sub-regional workshop for customs authorities in South-Eastern Europe on the technical aspects of the Chemical Weapons Convention's (CWC) transfers regime* in the town of Cavtat. The workshop, organized by the OPCW, is attended by forty-two representatives from twenty OPCW State Parties including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia. The workshop offers insight into the practical implementation of the Convention's transfer regime with a focus on preventing or detecting illicit transfers of scheduled chemicals.
—*Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 5 No. 2 (June 2007), p. 39.

10-14 July 2006
The Republic of Serbia and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW jointly host the "Third International Basic Course on Assistance and Protection" [against Chemical Weapons] in the town of Krusevac, Serbia Montenegro. The course was attended by representatives from eighteen OPCW member states and is provided annually by Serbia in fulfillment of its Article X obligations under the CWC. The course provided training on planning and establishing a support team for the protection of civilian populations against chemical weapons; mounting rescue operations in contaminated areas; responding to incidents involving chemical-warfare agents; using individual and collective protective equipment; using monitoring, detection, and decontamination techniques; and taking samples. The Director of the OPCW International Cooperation and Assistance Division, Mr John Makhubalo also attended the event and visited a number of facilities associated with Serbia's defensive CW program including the National Poison Control Centre (NPCC).
—*Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 4 No. 3 (September 2006), p. 26; *Third International Basic Course on Assistance and Protection Held in Serbia*, Press Release #45, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 10 August 2006, www.opcw.org.

10-14 July 2006
The Republic of Serbia and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW jointly host the "Third International Basic Course on Assistance and Protection" [against Chemical Weapons] in the town of Krusevac, Serbia Montenegro. The course was attended by representatives from eighteen OPCW member states and is provided annually by Serbia in fulfillment of its Article X obligations under the CWC. The course provided training on planning and establishing a support team for the protection of civilian populations against chemical weapons; mounting rescue operations in contaminated areas; responding to incidents involving chemical-warfare agents; using individual and collective protective equipment; using monitoring, detection, and decontamination techniques; and taking samples. The Director of the OPCW International Cooperation and Assistance Division, Mr John Makhubalo also attended the event and visited a number of facilities associated with Serbia's defensive CW program including the National Poison Control Centre (NPCC).
—*Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 4 No. 3 (September 2006), p. 26; *Third International Basic Course on Assistance and Protection Held in Serbia*, Press Release #45, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 10 August 2006, www.opcw.org.

10-14 July 2006
The Republic of Serbia and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW jointly host the "Third International Basic Course on Assistance and Protection" [against Chemical Weapons] in the town of Krusevac, Serbia Montenegro. The course was attended by representatives from eighteen OPCW member states and is provided annually by Serbia in fulfillment of its Article X obligations under the CWC. The course provided training on planning and establishing a support team for the protection of civilian populations against chemical weapons; mounting rescue operations in

contaminated areas; responding to incidents involving chemical-warfare agents; using individual and collective protective equipment; using monitoring, detection, and decontamination techniques; and taking samples. The Director of the OPCW International Cooperation and Assistance Division, Mr John Makhubalo also attended the event and visited a number of facilities associated with Serbia's defensive CW program including the National Poison Control Centre (NPCC).
—*Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 4 No. 3 (September 2006), p. 26; *Third International Basic Course on Assistance and Protection Held in Serbia*, Press Release #45, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 10 August 2006, www.opcw.org.

7 November 2005
H.E. Mr. Alexander Popovic, Minister of Technology of Serbia and Montenegro, attends the Tenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague. Minister Popovic addresses the Conference, reaffirming Serbia and Montenegro's unwavering support for the aims and goals of the chemical weapons ban. Minister Popovic informs the Conference that Serbia and Montenegro has recently adopted legislation that will allow the CWC to be enforced at the national level. At the same time, he noted that both the Serbian and Montenegrin Parliaments will soon adopt detailed regulations pertaining to the chemicals listed in the Convention.
—*Technology Minister of Serbia and Montenegro Meets OPCW Director-General and Addresses Chemical Weapons Ban Conference*, Press Release #66, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 9 November 2005, www.opcw.org.

22 October 2005
The Serbia-Montenegro (SCG) [S-M] parliament adopts the *Law on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction*. This law is adopted as part of Serbia-Montenegro's efforts to fulfill its obligations under Article VII of the CWC.
—*Statement on behalf of Serbia and Montenegro to the Tenth Session of the Conference of the State Parties of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons*, 7 November 2005, p. 3, www.opcw.org.

12 October 2005
The Serbia-Montenegro Council of Ministers adopts the *Bill on the implementation of the convention banning the development, production, storage, and use of chemical weapons and the destruction of the same*. It is forwarded to the parliament for urgent consideration and adoption.
—Beta Monitor: South-East European Economic Review, No. 202, 17 October 2005, p. 15.

25-29 July 2005
The Federation of Serbia and Montenegro and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW jointly host the "Second International Basic Course on Assistance and Protection" [against Chemical Weapons] in the town of Krusevac, Serbia Montenegro. The course provided training on planning and establishing a support team for the protection of civilian populations against chemical weapons; mounting rescue operations in contaminated areas; responding to incidents involving chemical-warfare agents; using individual and collective protective equipment; using monitoring, detection, and decontamination techniques; and taking samples. Twenty people participated in the course including a representative from Bosnia and Herzegovina.
—*Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 3 No. 3 (September 2005), p. 26.

20-23 June 2005
The second of two national capacity building courses intended to train Bosnian personnel responsible for civil protection in readiness and responses against a possible chemical threat is conducted in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This follow-up Assistance and Protection Course focuses on the theoretical aspects of chemical weapons response and emergency procedure and standards as set out in the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).
—*Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 3 No. 2 (June 2005), p. 31.

8-10 June 2005
The Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Center (RACVIAC) hosts the second C-5 Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar at the RACVIAC facility in Rakitje, Croatia. Eighteen participants from Albania (3), Austria (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (1), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(2), Romania (3), Serbia and Montenegro (2), Slovenia (2), Turkey (1) and RACVIAC (1) attended the seminar. The seminar focused on explaining the procedures for challenge inspections and investigations of alleged use as well as discussions and exercises related to practical implementation concerns for the participating nations.
—*Chemical Weapons Convention Course 05/2005*, RACVIAC www.racviac.org.

6-10 June 2005
The first of two national capacity building courses intended to train Bosnian personnel responsible for civil protection in readiness and responses against a possible chemical threat is conducted in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The course in National Protection is jointly coordinated by the Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA) and the OPCW and handles technical management of protective resources and emergency procedures.
—*Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 3 No. 2 (June 2005), p. 31.

2 May 2005
H.E. Mr Vuk Drasković, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro, visited the headquarters of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague. Foreign Minister Drasković and Director-General Pfirter discussed the OPCW's Action Plan on national implementation. They also discussed Serbia and Montenegro's support for OPCW assistance and protection activities, which includes hosting both the second international basic course on assistance and protection, in Kruševac, Serbia and Montenegro from 25 to 29 July 2005, and the advanced protection training course that will take place from 7 to 11 November 2005. Foreign Minister Draskovic indicated his expectation that the additional CWC implementation legislation currently under consideration by the Parliament of Serbia and Montenegro will be approved before the next Conference of the States Parties (CSP) to the CWC, to be held from 7 to 11 November 2005.
—*Foreign Minister of Serbia and Montenegro Visits OPCW*, Press release #17, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 3 May 2005, www.opcw.org.

2 May 2005
H.E. Mr Vuk Drasković, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro, visited the headquarters of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague. Foreign Minister Drasković and Director-General Pfirter discussed the OPCW's Action Plan on national implementation. They also discussed Serbia and Montenegro's support for OPCW assistance and protection activities, which includes hosting both the second international basic course on assistance and protection, in Kruševac, Serbia and Montenegro from 25 to 29 July 2005, and the advanced protection training course that will take place from 7 to 11 November 2005. Foreign Minister Draskovic indicated his expectation that the additional CWC implementation legislation currently under

consideration by the Parliament of Serbia and Montenegro will be approved before the next Conference of the States Parties (CSP) to the CWC, to be held from 7 to 11 November 2005.
—*Foreign Minister of Serbia and Montenegro Visits OPCW*, Press release #17, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 3 May 2005, www.opcw.org.

25 February 2005
H.E. Mr Tomislav Vidosˇevic´, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, visits the headquarters of the OPCW in The Hague.
— www.opcw.org.

28 January 2005
The United Kingdom releases its third quarterly report on Strategic Export Controls, covering the period 1 July to 30 September 2004. The report notes the issuing of licenses for the export to Croatia of "NBC respirators, components for NBC respirators, NBC clothing, NBC decontamination equipment, chemical agent detection equipment, [and] components for NBC respirators."
—*Strategic Export Controls: Quarterly Report - July to September 2004*, (January 2005), p. 36, www.fco.gov.uk.

28 January 2005
The United Kingdom releases its third quarterly report on Strategic Export Controls, covering the period 1 July to 30 September 2004. The report notes the issuing of licenses for the export to Bosnia and Herzegovina of "civil NBC protection clothing."
— *Strategic Export Controls: Quarterly Report - July to September 2004*, (January 2005), p. 19, www.fco.gov.uk.

14 January 2005
The U.S. Congressional Research Service (CRS) releases a report that describes Serbia as having a "known" chemical weapons capability. Although the system of categorization in the report appears somewhat inconsistent "known" appears to be applied to countries that are in possession of active CW programs or are possess stockpiles of chemical weapons currently being destroyed under OPCW supervision. The implication of the report is that Serbia continues to maintain an active offensive CW program or retains stocks of chemical weapons grouping Serbia with North Korea, Russia, Syria and the United States. Curiously India which is still in the process of destroying its stocks of chemical weapons is listed as "has had" implying the its CW program is terminated and that all chemical weapons have been eliminated.

[The CRS report appears to be in error as all remaining CW facilities and process equipment in Serbia and Bosnia were reported destroyed in late 2003; see entry for 15-30 September 2003. Given the other inconsistencies noted this CRS report should not be regarded as a reliable source for information on the status of CW programs.]
—Sharon A. Squassoni, *CRS Report for Congress: Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Weapons and Missiles: Status and Trends*, 14 January 2005, www.fas.org.

January-July 2005
Slovenia contributes a 25 member decontamination platoon to NATO's Multinational Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Battalion for the fourth rotation of NATO's rapid-reaction forces (January-July 2005).
—"NATO Accession Will Not Complete the Work," Slovenia News, No. 4, 27 January 2004, http://slonews.sta.si.

29 November 2004
At the Ninth Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in The Hague, Dusanka Divjak-Tomic, Head of the Federation of Serbia and Montenegro's National Authority for the implementation of the CWC delivers a national statement. Ms Divjak-Tomic notes that the Federation's primary goal for the coming year is the passage of CWC implementing legislation. She also notes plans to host two international courses in protection against chemical weapons in 2005.
—Statement by Dusanka Divjak-Tomic Head of the Delegation and Head of the National Authority, 29 November 2004, www.opcw.org.

29 November 2004
In his statement to the Ninth Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in The Hague, the Croatian delegate notes that Croatia has "started the procedure of incorporating the provisions of Article VII of the Convention into Croatian Criminal Code, and we shall see to it that we meet our commitments by the deadline set, that is until November 2005."
—Statement of the delegation of the Republic of Croatia to the Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, 29 November 2004, www.opcw.org.

17-29 October 2004
Slovenia's Radiological, Chemical and Biological defense unit takes part in the Golden Mask international military exercise in Münster, Germany. The purpose of the exercise is to test the unit's ability to operate with similar units from other NATO countries.
—*Slovene News Agency Weekly Schedule of Events for 13-19 September 2004*, 12 September 2004, Translation provided by FBIS, Article ID EUP20040913000061.

28 September 2004
On the occasion of the official day of the nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) units, the Serbian and Montenegrin Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Branko Krga issues a statement congratulating the units on the performance of their duties over the past year.
—General Branko Krga, *Greeting to the members of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) units*, 27 September 2004, Serbia and Montenegro Ministry of Defense, www.mod.gov.yu.

17 September 2004
The Defense Ministry of the Federation of Serbia and Montenegro issues a statement denying speculation that the Military Medical Academy (MMA) is to be privatized in the near future as part of the ongoing reorganization of the Defense Ministry and General Staff.
—*Defence Ministry PR Department Announcement*, 17 September 2004, Serbia and Montenegro Ministry of Defense, www.mod.gov.yu.

14 September 2004
In the Hague, the Netherlands, H.E. Ambassador Tea Petrin, is formally installed as the new Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
—*Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 2 No. 4 (December 2004), p. 38.

28 July 2004
The United Kingdom releases its quarterly report on Strategic Export Controls, covering the period 1 January to 31

March 2004. The report is the first in a new series of quarterly reports on strategic export controls and notes the issuing of licenses for the export of "chemical agent detection equipment" and other related components to the Federation of Serbia and Montenegro.
—*Strategic Export Controls: Quarterly Report - January to March 2004*, (July 2004), p. 97, www.fco.gov.uk.

28 July 2004
The United Kingdom releases its quarterly report on Strategic Export Controls, covering the period 1 January to 31 March 2004. The report is the first in a new series of quarterly reports on strategic export controls and notes the issuing of licenses for the export of "chemical agent detection equipment" and other related components to the Federation of Serbia and Montenegro.
—*Strategic Export Controls: Quarterly Report - January to March 2004*, (July 2004), p. 97, www.fco.gov.uk.

7-10 June 2004
Slovenia is welcomed as a new member of the Australia Group at the organization's 2004 plenary meeting. The Australia Group is an organization made up of governments that coordinate export control policy related to chemical and biological materials and production equipment.
—"Media Release: 2004 Australia Group Plenary," Australia Group, www.australiagroup.net.

7 June 2004
The United Kingdom releases its annual report on the application of strategic export controls in 2003. The report notes the approval of exports of "toxic chemical precursors" to Croatia. The specific chemicals are not specified. The report also notes exports of NBC protective equipment and components for NBC protective equipment to Slovenia.
—*United Kingdom Strategic Export Controls, Annual Report 2003* (June 2004), pp. 105 and 354, www.fco.gov.uk.

29 May 2004
The "Blue Road" joint military exercise ends. This exercise involving armed forces units of the Federation of Serbia and Montenegro and Romania is intended to further the development and application of NATO standards by these two militaries. Among other activities, one exercise focused on responding to a terrorist attack using chemical and biological weapons in the Bor region.
—Zvonimir Pesic, "Joint Action with Friends," *Vojska*, 3 June 2004, p. 10. Translation provided by FBIS as *Report Writes about 'Blue Road 2004' Joint Military Exercise with S-M, Romania*, Article ID EUP20040610000237.

27 May 2004
The Serbian government's privatization agency announces that it has begun the process of selling the Prva Iskra chemical complex. The first two plants within the complex to be sold are Prva Iskra-LAB and Prva Iskra-PAM, both of which are involved in the manufacture of detergents. The Serbia government is seeking at least 15.4 million euro for the two plants which have not been operated since the complex was bombed by NATO forces in March 1999. The other 11 plants in the complex will be sold once this initial sale has been completed.
—"Serbia Offers For Sale Two Idle Chemical Plants," *See News*, 27 May 2004, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

17-19 May 2004
The Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Center (RACVIAC) hosts the C-5 Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar at the RACVIAC facility in Rakitje, Croatia. Twenty military and civilian personnel from Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro,

Turkey and Slovenia attended the course. The course focused on the basic provisions of the CWC, and the implementation of Article X of the convention in a regional context.
—*Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar 05/2004*, RACVIAC, www.racviac.org.

12 May 2004
The Federation of Serbia and Montenegro begins a two-year term on the Executive Council of the OPCW. This body is responsible for general decision-making and oversight of the operations of the OPCW and its Technical Secretariat.
—*Report of the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties C-8/7*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 24 October 2003, p. 7, www.opcw.org.

7 May 2004
The Croatian Foreign Minister, H.E. Dr. Miomir Žužul, visits the headquarters of the OPCW in The Hague. Dr. Žužul meets with the OPCW Director-General, Mr. Rogelio Pfirter and discusses issues such as the threat of chemical terrorism and progress in the destruction of chemical weapons arsenals.
—*Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia Visits the OPCW*, Press release #18, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 7 May 2004, www.opcw.org.

27-28 April 2004
In Sarajevo the OPCW conducts a training course for personnel of Bosnia and Herzegovina's National Authority, the State Coordination Body for the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The initial draft of Bosnia and Herzegovina's CWC implementing legislation is also reviewed.
—*Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 2 No. 2 (June 2004), p. 28.

30 March 2004
Slovenia joins NATO. NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer states that Slovenia needs to work to develop niche capabilities that would be of particular use to the organization. These capabilities could include Special Forces and defense against nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.
—"Slovenia's Efforts Must Continue, NATO Official Says," BBC Monitoring Service, 31 March 2004, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

26 March 2004
In his opening statement to the thirty-sixth session of the OPCW Executive Council, the OPCW Director-General notes that a destruction certificate has been issued to Bosnia and Herzegovina for the chemical weapons production facility formerly operated by the Yugoslavian government in the village of Potoci.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 64 (June 2004), p. 2.

26 March 2004
In his opening statement to the thirty-sixth session of the OPCW Executive Council, the OPCW Director-General notes that a destruction certificate has been issued to Bosnia and Herzegovina for the chemical weapons production facility formerly operated by the Yugoslavian government in the village of Potoci.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 64 (June 2004), p. 2.

15-30 September 2003
OPCW inspectors visit Serbia to observe and verify the destruction of equipment previously used for chemical

weapons production purposes. The equipment is stored on the premises of the TRAYAL Corporation. Physical destruction of the equipment is conducted by the Technical and Maintenance Bureau from Cacak, under the supervision of the OPCW and in the presence of Defense Minister Boris Tadic, chief of the General Staff Branko Krga. The destruction process is financially assisted by the US Department of State Fund for Nonproliferation and Disarmament.
—*News archive of the Serbian and Montenegrin Armed Forces*, 26 September 2003, www.vj.yu; "Serbia-Montenegro completes destruction of dual-use chemical industry equipment," BBC Monitoring Service, 17 October 2003, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

15-30 September 2003
OPCW inspectors visit Serbia to observe and verify the destruction of equipment previously used for chemical weapons production purposes. The equipment is stored on the premises of the TRAYAL Corporation. Physical destruction of the equipment is conducted by the Technical and Maintenance Bureau from Cacak, under the supervision of the OPCW and in the presence of Defense Minister Boris Tadic, chief of the General Staff Branko Krga. The destruction process is financially assisted by the US Department of State Fund for Nonproliferation and Disarmament.
—*News archive of the Serbian and Montenegrin Armed Forces*, 26 September 2003, www.vj.yu; "Serbia-Montenegro completes destruction of dual-use chemical industry equipment," BBC Monitoring Service, 17 October 2003, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

15-30 September 2003
OPCW inspectors visit Serbia to observe and verify the destruction of equipment previously used for chemical weapons production purposes. The equipment is stored on the premises of the TRAYAL Corporation. Physical destruction of the equipment is conducted by the Technical and Maintenance Bureau from Cacak, under the supervision of the OPCW and in the presence of Defense Minister Boris Tadic, chief of the General Staff Branko Krga. The destruction process is financially assisted by the US Department of State Fund for Nonproliferation and Disarmament.
—*News archive of the Serbian and Montenegrin Armed Forces*, 26 September 2003, www.vj.yu; "Serbia-Montenegro completes destruction of dual-use chemical industry equipment," BBC Monitoring Service, 17 October 2003, web.lexis-nexis.com.

June 2003
Foreign military attaches are invited to view an exercise by elements of the Army of the Federation of Serbia and Montenegro's NBC unit at the Ravnjak training ground near Krusevac, Serbia.
—B. Stojkovic, "In Line with Global Achievements," *Vojska*, 5 June 2003, p. 18. Translation provided by FBIS as *Military Attaches Watch Display by S-M Nuclear-Biological-Chemical Units*, FBIS document EUP20030606000634.

17 February 2003
Serbian television reports that "British experts" have visited the Miloje Blagojevic chemical factory in the town of Lucani to investigate reports that chemical weapons are being produced. The visiting experts tour the production facilities, receive chemical formulas, and take photographs.
—"British experts inspect Serbian chemical plant for manufacture of illicit agents," BBC Monitoring Service, 18 February 2003, web.lexis-nexis.com.

3 December 2002
The International Crisis Group releases a report entitled *Arming Saddam?: The Yugoslav Connection* which includes a series of allegations regarding Yugoslavian support of chemical weapons programs in Iraq in the 1990s and up to 2002. The report also repeats past claims regarding Yugoslavia's own chemical weapons program and suggests that unaccounted for Yugoslavian CW stocks may have leaked out into the international arms market.
—*Arming Saddam?: The Yugoslav Connection*, Balkans Report No. 136, (Belgrade/Brussels: The International Crisis Group, 3 December 2002).

9 November 2002
In an interview following the end of the Moscow theatre siege, Mr. Branko Bogdanovic, a publicist and research assistant with the Serbian MUP Interior Ministry details the chemical agent holdings of Yugoslav security forces. He notes the possession of a range of CS hand grenades, CS sprayers and chemical aerosol canisters. Mr. Bogdanovic also notes that "the munitions are manufactured in Serbia, and that at one time the Security Institute was involved in [their] production."
—"Expert details chemical weapons in Serbian police, yugoslav army arsenals," *Politika*, 9 November 2002, web.lexis-nexis.com.

22 October 2002
Discussing Yugoslavia's past involvement with chemical weapons, Ambassador Prvoslav Davinic, Chairman of the National Authority for the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, states that all chemical weapons activities conducted in the past were solely for defensive purposes. Davinic says: "Yugoslavia never produced any chemical weapons. Substances that existed in our factories were used for experiments only. They were used in research on defending the population against chemical warfare. One cannot develop an efficient gas mask without knowing what are the threats its user can face." It is also noted that 126 containers holding [precursor] chemicals previously acquired for use in Yugoslavia's chemical weapons-related activities are currently stored in a 20 by 40 meter field fenced with barbed wire in the town of Krusevac. [Subsequent information indicates that this field is part of Trayal Corporation's facilities.]
—Vesna Peric Zimonjic, "Politics - Yugoslavia: Chemical Weapons Material to be Destroyed," IPS-Inter Press Service, 22 October 2002, web.lexis-nexis.com.

18 September 2002
The Executive Council of the OPCW adopts a decision approving a facility agreement with Yugoslavia for a Schedule 1 Protective Purposes Facility. This agreement addresses research activities involving CW agents at the Military Medical Academy (VMA) or the Military Technical Institute (VTI) associated with Yugoslavia's national protective purposes program.
—*Thirtieth Session of the Executive Council Concludes*, Press release #58, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 18 September 2002, www.opcw.org.

10-14 September 2002
The OPCW, in collaboration with the Government of Croatia, conducts the first exercise on the delivery of assistance (ASSISTEX I) in Zadar, Croatia. The exercise's purpose is to evaluate the level of alertness of the OPCW in dealing with a scenario where assistance is required because a state party has been exposed to a chemical weapons attack. Approximately 15 states parties, 300 personnel, and 100 metric tons of equipment are involved in executing this planned exercise.

—*First Exercise on Delivery of Assistance by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Commences*, Press release #56, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 10 September 2002, www.opcw.org.

August 2002
Croatia declares the existence of a National Protective Program to the OPCW. These types of programs generally conduct research on the effects of CW agents and techniques for reducing or eliminating the negative effects that these can have on military operations and civil populations. There is evidence suggesting that Croatia conducts small scale research on CW agents for defensive purposes.
—*OPCW Annual Report on Activities in 2002 C-8/5*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 22 October 2003, p. 81, www.opcw.org; Danko Škare, Božica Radić, Ana Lucić, Maja Peraica, Ana-Marija Domijan, Sanja Milković-Kraus, Vlasta Bradamante, Ivan Jukić, "Adamantyl tenocyclidines - adjuvant therapy in poisoning with organophosphorus compounds and carbamates," *Archives of Toxicology*, Vol 76 (3), pp. 173-177.

28 June 2002
The Executive Council of the OPCW adopts a decision (EC-29/DEC.2) approving a facility agreement with Yugoslavia for a Chemical Weapons Production Facility (CWPF). This facility will most likely be the former CWPF located in Potoci or those elements of its equipment stored on the premises of the TRAYAL Corporation in the town of Krusevac.
—*Report of the Executive Council on the Performance of its Activities (24 February 2001 - 16 July 2002) C-7/2*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 3 October 2002, p. 15, www.opcw.org.

December 2001
The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia declares the existence of a National Protective Program to the OPCW. This program conducts research on the effects of CW agents and techniques for reducing or eliminating the negative effects that these can have on military operations and civil populations.
—*OPCW Annual Report on Activities in 2002, C-8/5*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 22 October 2003, p. 81, www.opcw.org.

Spring 2001
The Slovenian Ministry of Defense purchases a batch of protective masks sufficient to equip 30,000 soldiers.
—Igor Mekina, "Slovenia and its Army: Expansion as Business," *AIM Press*, 25 August 2001, www.aimpress.ch.

12 May 2001
Croatia begins a two-year term on the Executive Council of the OPCW. This body is responsible for general decision-making and oversight of the operations of the OPCW and its Technical Secretariat.
—*Report of the Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties C-V/6*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 19 May 2000, p. 10, www.opcw.org.

22-27 April 2001
Croatia hosts the seventh CBMTS session, "Industry II: Science, Medicine and Anti-Terrorism Measures: The First World Congress on Chemical and Biological Terrorism," in Dubrovnik. The event attracts around 177 participants from 42 countries. There is also an exercise staged by units of the Croatian Interior Ministry and Army.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 52 June 2001, p. 55; website of the Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Non-Proliferation, Disarmament and Arms Control Policies in the Republic of Croatia, www.mvp.hr.

April 2001
Slovenia declares the existence of a National Protective Program to the OPCW. These types of programs generally involve research on the effects of CW agents and techniques for reducing or eliminating the negative effects that these can have on military operations and civil populations. There is no evidence of Slovenia engaging in research on CW agents directly, so this program appears to be more focused on developing and maintaining an ability to respond to an attack utilizing equipment purchased from abroad.
—*OPCW Annual Report on Activities in 2002, C-8/5*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 22 October 2003, p. 82, www.opcw.org.

5 October 2000
The Yugoslavian government is overthrown by a popular uprising following a disputed election result removing Slobodan Milosevic from power.

18 July 2000
Speaking to the Yugoslavian press JNA spokesman Colonel Svetozar Radisic denounces "false accusations" that the FRY "is deliberately selling components for the production of chemical weapons to Iraq."
—VJ Spokesman Denies FRY Developing Atom Bomb, Helping Iraq With Chemical Weapons, 18 July 2000, *BETA*, Open Source Center Document EUP20000718000184.

20 May 2000
The Chemical Weapons Convention enters into force for Yugoslavia.
—Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, http://disarmament2.un.org.

12 May 2000
Slovenia begins a two-year term on the Executive Council of the OPCW. This body is responsible for general decision-making and oversight of the operations of the OPCW and its Technical Secretariat.
—*Report of the Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties C-IV/6*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 2 July 1999, p. 13, www.opcw.org as amended by *Corrigendum to the Report of the Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties C-IV/6/Corr. 2*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 5 January 2000, www.opcw.org.

May 2000
Croatia declares the existence of a National Protective Program to the OPCW. These types of programs generally conduct research on the effects of CW agents and techniques for reducing or eliminating the negative effects that these can have on military operations and civil populations. There is no evidence suggesting that Croatia currently conducts research on CW agents.
—*OPCW Annual Report on Activities in 2002, C-8/5*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 22 October 2003, p. 81, www.opcw.org.

20 April 2000
Yugoslavia accedes to the Chemical Weapons Convention.
—Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, http://disarmament2.un.org.

10-12 April 2000
Croatia and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW co-host a regional workshop on the implementation of the

Chemical Weapons Convention in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The workshop provides a framework within which government officials and representatives of the chemical industry from 23 countries are able to discuss and share their practical experiences implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention.
—*OPCW Annual Report on Activities in 2000*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 2001, p.70.

Back to Top

1999-1996

8 July 1999
The Italian newspaper *Corriere della Serra* reports that members of the World Islamic Front Against Jews and Crusaders, which was founded by Bin Laden, had purchased three chemical and biological agent production facilities in the former Yugoslavia in early May 1998. According to the article, one such facility was erected in the Bosnian village of Zenica. The report also states that another factory was built near Kandahar, Afghanistan. Allegedly, members of the World Islamic Front for Fighting Jews and Crusaders hired Ukrainian scientists to manufacture unspecified poisons and train Bin Laden's activists in the use of these substances as weapons. The activists would be trained to insert the chemical agents and toxins into explosive devices. The Italian paper reports that one group of activists had been dispatched to carry out biological and chemical attacks. Bin Laden planned to send the chemically trained warriors back to their home countries or to cells in Europe.
—Victor Simpson, "Investigators uncover chemical weapons plot in Europe linked to bin Laden's followers," Associated Press, 30 November 2001.

8 July 1999
The Italian newspaper *Corriere della Serra* reports that members of the World Islamic Front Against Jews and Crusaders, which was founded by Bin Laden, had purchased three chemical and biological agent production facilities in the former Yugoslavia in early May 1998. According to the article, one such facility was erected in the Bosnian village of Zenica. The report also states that another factory was built near Kandahar, Afghanistan. Allegedly, members of the World Islamic Front for Fighting Jews and Crusaders hired Ukrainian scientists to manufacture unspecified poisons and train Bin Laden's activists in the use of these substances as weapons. The activists would be trained to insert the chemical agents and toxins into explosive devices. The Italian paper reports that one group of activists had been dispatched to carry out biological and chemical attacks. Bin Laden planned to send the chemically trained warriors back to their home countries or to cells in Europe.
—Victor Simpson, "Investigators uncover chemical weapons plot in Europe linked to bin Laden's followers," Associated Press, 30 November 2001.

27 April 1999
Speaking to reporters the Chief of the [British] Defence Staff, General Charles Guthrie, says: "Yugoslavia did have chemical weapons. It is a possibility that Serbia has the remnants of a stock which Yugoslavia had. There have been reports of people going to doctors and being seen in casualty areas with blisters. It is far too early to say what caused those blisters, it may not be chemical weapons, it could be something like phosphorus which is in certain kinds of grenades and I would be very remiss to say it was chemical weapons yet. We will investigate and if it is, it is absolutely monstrous."
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 44 (June 1999), p. 40.

24 April 1999
The Yugoslav Army High Command issues a statement that Yugoslavia neither produces nor possesses chemical weapons. [The statement appears to have been in response to a sudden rush of articles appearing in Western newspapers throughout April discussing the question of Yugoslavian chemical weapons.]
—"Yugoslav Army denies it has chemical weapons," *Belgrade Tanjug*, 24 April 1999, FBIS document FTS19990424000666.

19 April 1999
A NATO air raid destroys the production line of the Prva Iskra chemical factory.
—"Overview of ecological consequences of NATO bombing of Yugoslavia since March 24, 1999," Green Cross International, June 1999, www.gci.ch.

April 1999
Kosovo Liberation Army sources claim that Serbian forces have employed grenades filled with BZ against them in the course of fighting.
—"Clinton: Swift response to chemical attack," *USA Today*, 16 April 1999, www.usatoday.com.

24 March-9 June 1999
NATO air forces mount attacks on known Yugoslavian CW facilities as part of a wider campaign of air-strikes associated with fighting in the Yugoslavian province of Kosovo.
—Benjamin S. Lambeth, *NATO's Air War For Kosovo: A Strategic and Operational Assessment* (Santa Monica: RAND, 2001).

6 February 1999
From Sarajevo, TV Bosnia-Hercegovina {BBCSWB 7 Feb} broadcasts a report about production of chemical weapons by the former Yugoslavia. The report states that the production is still continuing in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia & Montenegro). The report refers to a letter addressed to international organizations by a former officer of the former Yugoslav army that noted "facilities and locations where research was carried out and the production developed, and ... the cooperation between the FRY and Iraq in this sphere". Brigadier (retired) Mujo Alic [see 25 Aug 93 and 19 Nov 98] is then seen saying to camera: "The Yugoslav People's Army had several types of poison gases. They were mostly produced at Miloje Dakic factory, in Krusevac (Serbia) [see 20 Sep 91] — mainly poisons which cause irritation, then at Milan Blagojevic factory in Lucani near Cacak (Serbia) — mainly deadly poisons. Poison gases were also produced in Potoci near Mostar [see 27 Nov 95], which was a branch of the military and technical institute from Belgrade." Next, the reporter says to camera: "One of the institutes of the former Yugoslav army used to be in Livac near Mostar. A chemical weapons factory was also there. There are indications that the production of poison gases, even sarin and soman, had been developed at the factory." Attributing former Yugoslav army sources, the reporter later says: "[P]roduction at the Livac institute met the needs of the centre in Krusevac and the military and technical institute in Belgrade. The institute used to produce several types of poison gases: sarin, soman, tabun, lewisite, CN and yperite, as well as psychochemical poisons, such as VX and CS [sic], in large quantities. Field experiments were carried out at the Krivolak test range [see 12–16 May 97] near Veles in Macedonia. Air bombs and artillery missiles were also filled with the poisons. On 3rd January 1991 [sic], the Livac institute and factory were occupied by a reserve formation of the then army. Two months after that, all the employees were dismissed and the equipment transferred to Krusevac and Lucani near Cacak. The barracks of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Federation Army are today where the factory used to be." The report makes no mention of the CW-agent factory at Baric referred to in a UK documentary on the subject 3 years

previously [see 27 Nov 95].
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 44 (June 1999), p. 22.

1999
Up to four Serbian CBW scientists are alleged to have begun helping Iraq develop its CBW programs, which were reportedly revived following the withdrawal of UNSCOM personnel in December 1998. [This report must be regarded as somewhat unreliable in light of the failure to discover evidence of a revived CW program in Iraq since the April 2003 invasion and conquest of Iraq.]
—Greg Seigle, "Experts Highlight CBW Stockpiles in Yugoslavia," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, 7 April 1999, p. 63, www.janes.com.

20 November 1998
Mujo Alic, who is identified as a former CW officer in the Yugoslavian Army, appears on a Dutch television program and asserts that BZ was employed by Serbian forces in the 1995 attack on the Bosnian Muslim town of Srebenica. He further alleges that BZ was also used in a similar attack on the town of Zena (sic). This latter incident may in fact be a reference to an attack on the Bosnian Muslim enclave of Zepa in August 1995.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 43 (March 1999), p. 22.

November 1998
Human Rights Watch issues a report addressing allegations that Serbian forces attacked refugees fleeing the Bosnian enclave of Srebenica with chemical weapons, specifically the incapacitant BZ. The report concludes that such an attack may have taken place but there is insufficient evidence to arrive at firm conclusions on the matter.
—*Chemical Warfare in Bosnia? The Strange Experiences of the Srebenica Survivors*, Human Rights Watch, November 1998, www.hrw.org.

12-13 November 1998
At the request of, and in cooperation with, the National Authority of Slovenia, the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW holds a national course in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The staff of National Authorities for the implementation of the CWC and chemical industry representatives were the target audience for this course.
—*OPCW Annual Report on Activities in 1998 C-IV/5*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 2 July 1999, p. 34.

25-30 October 1998
Croatia hosts the fifth CBMTS (Chemical and Biological Medical Treatments Symposia) meeting in Zagreb and Dubrovnik. During the meeting entitled "CBMTS Industry I - Ecoterrorism: Chemical and Biological War without Chemical and Biological Weapons" a military exercise involving the immediate defusing of a terrorist chemical or biological incident is conducted. The focus is on the possibility of chemical or pharmaceutical factories becoming terrorist or military targets. Approximately 125 people from government, industry, and academia in 26 countries participate.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 42 (December 1998), p. 39; CBMTS-Industry I Proceedings, www.asanltr.com; *Non-Proliferation, Disarmament and Arms Control Policies in the Republic of Croatia*, website of the Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, www.mvp.hr.

6 November 1997
Slovenia submits its initial declaration under the terms of the Chemical Weapons Convention to the OPCW. The

existence of a quantity of Old Chemical Weapons (OCW) on Slovenian territory is identified in this declaration. The weapons, predating 1925 are most likely weapons remaining from battles conducted on Slovenian territory during the first World War.
—*Note by the Director-General: Status of Initial Declarations and Notifications, C-3/DG-11*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 13 November 1998, p. 5, www.opcw.org.

29 October 1997
Croatia submits its initial declaration under the terms of the Chemical Weapons Convention to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague.
—*Note by the Director-General: Status of Initial Declarations and Notifications, C-3/DG-11*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 13 November 1998, p. 2, www.opcw.org.

20 July 1997
The Chemical Weapons Convention enters into force for The Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia.
—Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, http://disarmament2.un.org.

11 July 1997
The Chemical Weapons Convention enters into force for Slovenia.
—Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, http://disarmament2.un.org.

20 June 1997
The Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia accedes to the Chemical Weapons Convention.
—Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, http://disarmament2.un.org.

11 June 1997
Slovenia ratifies the Chemical Weapons Convention.
—Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, http://disarmament2.un.org.

12-16 May 1997
At Krivolak in The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, nearly a thousand troops, including CBW defense troops, from four NATO countries (Greece, Italy, Turkey, and the United States) and five NATO Partnership for Peace countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania, and Slovenia) participate in Rescuer 97, an exercise simulating rescue operations following a chemical accident or environmental catastrophe. There are observers from the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 37 (September 1997), p. 17.

29 April 1997
The Chemical Weapons Convention enters into force for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.
—Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements http://disarmament2.un.org.

March 1997
Human Rights Watch issues a report detailing chemical weapons production in the former Yugoslavia both before and after the breakup of the federation in 1990. The report includes a number of allegations that Serbian forces had employed riot control agents (RCA) as weapons of war over the period 1991 to 1995.

—Ernst Jan Hogendoorn, *Clouds of War: Chemical Weapons in the Former Yugoslavia* (London: Human Rights Watch: March 1997), www.hrw.org.

March 1997
Human Rights Watch issues a report detailing chemical weapons production in the former Yugoslavia both before and after the breakup of the federation in 1990. The report includes a number of allegations that Serbian forces had employed riot control agents (RCA) as weapons of war over the period 1991 to 1995.
—Ernst Jan Hogendoorn, *Clouds of War: Chemical Weapons in the Former Yugoslavia* (London: Human Rights Watch: March 1997), www.hrw.org.

16 January 1997
Bosnia and Herzegovina signs the Chemical Weapons Convention.
—Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, http://disarmament2.un.org.

Back to Top

1995-1990

16 January 1997
Bosnia and Herzegovina signs the Chemical Weapons Convention.
—Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, http://disarmament2.un.org.

11 October 1995
A report on a visit to the abandoned Potoci CW facility in Bosnia and Herzegovina describes abandoned CW equipment including the remnants of the CW production lines, barrels of precursor chemicals, and numerous signs warning people in parts of the facility to wear protective masks at all times. The report suggests that the layout of the facility is essentially identical to the Muthanna CW production facility constructed in Iraq during the 1980s, implying a high degree of cooperation in the CW field between Iraq and Yugoslavia.
—Reginald Bartholomew (nom de plume), "The Balkans and Chemical Warfare: A Possibility?" *ASA Newsletter* (50), October 1995, pp. 1 & 7.

10 October 1995
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, government forces attack Bosnian Serb positions at Trnovo on the Sarajevo front with "shells filled with poisonous gas," according to the information service of the Main Staff of the [Bosnian] Serb Army.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 30 (December 1995), p. 22.

10 October 1995
Croatian forces have now reoccupied the Krajina region and in Zagreb, a mission of the Council of Europe and of the OSCE that has been visiting Knin and Osijek is received at the Ministry of Defense. Reporting on the meeting, Croatian Radio says: "A quantity of seized chemical weapons was also discussed. They are banned under international conventions so the Croatian Army will destroy them."
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 30 (December 1995), p. 22.

August 1995
Serbian forces are alleged to have used CS or CN tear agents against Bosnian forces defending the town of Zepa.
—Ernst Jan Hogendoorn, *Clouds of War: Chemical Weapons in the Former Yugoslavia* (London: Human Rights Watch: March 1997), p. 13, www.hrw.org.

25 July 1995
Serbian forces are alleged to have used CS or CN tear agents against Croatian forces during an attack on the village of Crnilug in Croatia.
—Ernst Jan Hogendoorn, *Clouds of War: Chemical Weapons in the Former Yugoslavia* (London: Human Rights Watch: March 1997), p. 13, www.hrw.org.

12 July 1995
As Bosnian refugees flee the collapsed enclave of Srebenica they are allegedly attacked by Serb forces using BZ or another incapacitant with similar effects. Subsequent investigations are unable to convincingly determine the veracity of these allegations.
—*Chemical Warfare in Bosnia? The Strange Experiences of the Srebenica Survivors*, Human Rights Watch 10 (9), November 1998, www.hrw.org.

23 May 1995
Croatia ratifies the Chemical Weapons Convention.
—Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements http://disarmament2.un.org.

9 April 1994
According to a Bosnian presidency spokesman, Serbian forces kill "many people" in the course of three chemical attacks on Gorazde. General Rasim Delic, commander-in-chief of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Army, says at a press conference: "Chemical weapons have been used several times during the aggressor's offensive on Gorazde. These are mainly gases which cause short-term effects, gases such as irritants. [However] according to some unconfirmed reports chemical gases which cause long-term effects have also been used, such as blister causing gases. We do not know the number of casualties, either among the civilians or among the soldiers, since this number is large."
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 30 (December 1995), p. 23.

8-9 April 1994
Bosnian Muslim forces are alleged to have released high concentrations of tear gas in the vicinity of Bakova-Ravan, near the embattled eastern city of Gorazde, in the course of fighting against Serbian forces
—Joseph Chrysdale, "Serbs claim Muslims use chemical weapon," United Press International, 10 April 1994.

22 March 1994
Sarajevo radio reports that Serbian forces have used chemical agents in the Bihac region.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 24 (June 1994), p. 20.

7 February 1994
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Radio Croatia alleges that "chlorine-based toxic gases" were fired into Croat-held areas around Novi Travnik during artillery and mortar attacks by the Bosnian Army.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 24 (June 1994), p. 20.

16 January 1994
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serb forces are reported to be using poison gas at Olovo.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 23 (March 1994), p. 21.

10 January 1994
Bosnia and Herzegovina Army shells falling on Mali Mosunj in Vitez are said by Croatian Radio to be filled with chemicals. "People felt sick and dizzy and there were visible traces of an inky colour in those houses which were hit." At a press conference in Bonn, the president of Croatia accuses Muslim forces of using chlorine shells in their current offensive against central Bosnian Croat villages.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 23 (March 1994), p. 20.

5 January 1994
The Croatian UN mission in New York complains that Muslim forces have again been using poison gas in battles in central Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its statement cites accounts obtained by General Zlatko Binenfeld from civilians who survived an attack on the village of Krcevina on 22 December and who said they had begun to suffocate when the shells exploded: "Our eyes teared, we felt a metallic taste in our mouth, which forced us to vomit and left a terrible headache."
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 23 (March 1994), p. 20.

22 December 1993
According the Bosnian 1st Corps Information Service in Bosnia and Herzegovina, "shells carrying chemical charges" are reported to have landed on Glavica in Sarajevo, fired from Serbian positions.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 23 (March 1994), p. 19.

21 December 1993
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Radio Sarajevo reports that Croatian forces have been using poison gas against the Bosnia and Herzegovina Army in heavy fighting around Dreznica, north of Mostar.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 23 (March 1994), p. 18.

14 December 1993
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Muslim forces in Sarajevo are reported by Tanjug news agency to have carried out a strong mortar attack using "82mm calibre shells...filled with poison gases, that is tear gas."
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 23 (March 1994), p. 17.

7 December 1993
General Zlatko Binenfeld, formerly of the Yugoslavian National Army's Military Technical Institute makes a statement revealing details of Yugoslavia's CW activities up to 1992. This is the first significant release of information on the program and serves as the basis for all subsequent discussions of Yugoslavian and Serbian capabilities and threat assessments up to 2002.
—General Zlatko Binenfeld, *Production of Chemical Weapons at the Military Technical Institute - Mostar Plant by the Former Yugoslav National Army (JNA)*, Statement at seminar on "National Authority and National Implementation Measures for the Chemical Weapons Convention" in Warsaw, Poland, 7-8 December 1993.

6 December 1993
In a letter addressed to UN Security Council chairman Li Zhaoxing, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic accuses

the Bosnian Serbs of using chemical weapons.
—"2,000 Bosnian Serb shells, toxic gas hit Teocak: radio," Agence France Presse, 28 June 1993.

6 December 1993
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serb forces reportedly fire poison gas in Maljutka rockets during their continuing offensive at Teocak near Tuzla.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 23 (March 1994), p. 15.

2 December 1993
Radio Croatia reports Muslim use of "chlorine-charged missiles" against Grbavica, a Serb suburb of Sarajevo, and also against Ponjave, a Croatian part of Vitez.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 23 (March 1994), p. 17.

1 December 1993
General Ratko Mladic, commander of Bosnian Serb forces, accuses Bosnian Muslim forces of manufacturing chlorine-filled missile warheads and artillery shells in the Hak chemical factory in the UN protected town of Tuzla. He calls upon the commander of UNPROFOR, General Francis Briquemont, "to undertake effective measures to dismantle these installations." General Mladic further states that in the event that the UN does nothing about this issue his own forces will be obliged to take "corresponding measures."
—"Bosnian Serb commander charges Moslems make chemical arms," Agence France Presse, 1 December 1993. "General Mladic demands that U.N. prevent manufacture of chemical weapons in Tuzla," BBC Monitoring Service, 3 December 1993, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

27 November 1993
General Ratko Mladic, commander of Bosnian Serb forces, accuses Bosnian Muslim forces of mounting an attack with chemical weapons in the Zvornik region. Eleven people are alleged to have been hospitalized as a direct consequence.
—"General Mladic demands that U.N. prevent manufacture of chemical weapons in Tuzla," BBC Monitoring Service, 3 December 1993, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

8 November 1993
The Croatian War Victims' Association announces that Croatian forces faced with imminent defeat in Vitez, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, are thinking of blowing up the Vitezit explosives and chemicals factory there, thus threatening "a real ecological disaster" throughout the region.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 23 (March 1994), p. 9.

3 November 1993
The Charge D'Affaires of Yugoslavia in New York circulates a letter among members of the UN Security Council charging that Bosnian Muslim forces have recently used chlorine-filled 120mm mortar bombs against Bosnian Serb forces. It is further claimed that the commander of the Bosnian Army's 216 Brigade has admitted to UNPROFOR observers that his forces have used grenades filled with chemicals against Serbian forces.
—Boris Sitnikov, "Muslims use chemical weapons to kill Serbs - Yugoslavia," Itar-Tass, 3 November 1993.

21 October 1993
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serb positions 15 km north-west of Zvornik are attacked with mortar projectiles, of

which at least 25 release "poisonous gases" according to the local Serb command. The Serbs say that the attack is a repeat on a larger scale of attacks during the previous week in which 120mm mortar rounds containing chlorine and ammonia had been fired. However, an UNPROFOR spokesman in Zagreb later says that the analysis showed the shells in question to have been filled with titanium tetrachloride, a standard smoke agent.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 22 (December 1993), p. 21.

Mid-October 1993
Bosnian Serbs claim that Muslim forces fired ten 120 mm mortar rounds filled with chlorine and ammonia at Serbian positions near the town of Zvornik, Eastern Bosnia.
—"Muslims accused again of using chemical rounds," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, 23 October 1993, p. 8, www.janes.com.

4 October 1993
In Croatia, the Serbian Army of Krajina issues a report saying it has "captured from a group of Croat saboteurs chemical mines and toxic smoke boxes." The report continues: "It has been established that these were chemical agents of Belgian production and that these are used for temporary incapacitation." [The clear implication of the report is that these were items were tear gas canisters.]
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 22 (December 1993), p. 19.

1 October 1993
In central Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatian casualties from Bosnian mortar fire under treatment in Busovaca display signs and symptoms of poisoning: headaches, tears, vomiting and lung oedema. Professor Zlatko Binenfeld, a CW medical specialist major-general of the Croatian armed forces, expresses an opinion that the mortar-projectiles used were charged with chlorine.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 22 (December 1993), p. 19; "Muslims accused again of using chemical rounds," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, 23 October 1993, p. 8, www.janes.com.

20 September 1993
According to Radio Croatia, "poisonous gases" are being used by the Bosnian Army against Croatian forces in the vicinity of Vitez in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a later report of Bosnian use of chemical weapons in the region, the weapons are identified as "irritants."
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 22 (December 1993), p. 16.

14 September 1993
Radio Croatia claims that "chemical weapons" were used by the Bosnian Army during its attack on Croatian positions in Zepce in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 22 (December 1993), p. 15.

13 September 1993
In Croatia, Serbian forces attacking in the region of Komarevo and the Sisak-Petrinja corridor have fired "projectiles containing poison gas," according to Radio Croatia.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 22 (December 1993), p. 15.

25 August 1993
In Sarajevo, a representative of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Army, Mujo Alic of the General Staff, states at a press

conference: "Since the beginning of the war, the enemy has perpetrated more than 450 chemical attacks at the battlefields in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The largest number of these attacks, 209, were carried out on Sarajevo and the neighboring region [see 8 August]; 33 on Gorazde; 28 in the region of Brcko; 26 in the region of Gradacac; 22 on Jajce; 10 on Mostar; 22 on Srebrenica, and many other places."
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 22 (December 1993), p. 12.

8 August 1993
Bosnian radio claims that Serbian forces outside Sarajevo are using "banned military poisons" in their offensive on Mount Igman.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 22 (December 1993), p. 10.

6 August 1993
The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) launches an official technical inquiry into Bosnian Serb claims that Bosnian Muslim forces have been employing chlorine filled 120mm mortar bombs in fighting around Boskovici, near Zvornik. Despite the many other CW allegations reported to UNPROFOR, this is to be the first investigation. An UNPROFOR spokesman notes that "most reports turned out to be falsifications or referred to the use of tear gas, smoke or incendiary white phosphorus grenades."
—"Chemical Weapons Claims Probed," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, 21 August 1993, p. 5.

1-7 August 1993
Elements of the Bosnian Serb Army in the vicinity of Boskovici, near Zvornik report that they have been attacked on three occasions by Bosnian Muslim forces using chlorine filled 120mm mortar rounds.
—"Chemical Weapons Claims Probed," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, 21 August 1993, p. 5.

1 August 1993
The General Staff of the Bosnian Serb Army responds to allegations that it has been using chemical weapons in fighting with Bosnian Muslim forces. Denying the allegations, the Serbian communiqué notes that Muslim forces have threatened the use of chemical agents on a number of recent occasions. It further claims that Muslim forces have been bringing chlorine and other chemical agents into the Sarajevo region.
—"Bosnian Serb army command rebuts claims of chemical weapons deployment," BBC Monitoring Service, 1 August 1993, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

August 1993
Serbian forces are alleged to have used CS or CN tear agents against Bosnian forces in the vicinity of Sarajevo at this time.
—Ernst Jan Hogendoorn, *Clouds of War: Chemical Weapons in the Former Yugoslavia* (London: Human Rights Watch: March 1997), p. 13, www.hrw.org.

27 July 1993
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbian forces around Sarajevo are using chemical agents in an offensive at Golo Brdo in the region of Zuc, according to the Army First Corps press service as reported on Radio Bosnia and Herzegovina. The report states that this is the most intensive chemical attack on the Sarajevo region since the beginning of the war, and warns people living downwind to take necessary protection measures.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 21 (September 1993), p. 25.

25 July 1993
Radio Croatia reports that in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnian Muslim forces have launched artillery attacks on the base of the Croatian Second Bugojno Brigade and are beginning to use chemical weapons.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 21 (September 1993), p. 24.

23 July 1993
Bosnian radio reports that Serbian forces are using "poisonous gases" in Bosnia and Herzegovina's Brcko region. In the Zvornik region of eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina Muslim forces are alleged to again use CW, in this case tear gases. According to the Belgrade news agency Tanjug: "Experts say that, along with numerous artillery and mortar shells, the Muslim forces also fired five poison gas shells of the CS asphyxiation type, which are banned under all international conventions."
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 21 (September 1993), p. 24.

21 July 1993
In eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina in the region of Zvornik, Bosnian forces are shelling Serb villages with chemical ammunition, according to Serb military sources. These sources describe it as the first time Muslim units in the Zvornik region have used chemical projectiles. The Zvornik garrison command, saying that three projectiles had been found to contain chemical in addition to explosive agents, believes them to be locally readapted conventional artillery shells.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 21 (September 1993), p. 21.

28 June 1993
Quoting Bosnian military and Middle Eastern sources, a Croatian daily newspaper reports that the Bosnian Muslim Army has obtained 23 chemical bombs, filled with nerve agent and other unidentified chemical agents, suitable for dropping from aircraft. The weapons, which may or may not have been filled, apparently were stolen from a Lebanese Army depot several years earlier. The report also notes that the weapons were smuggled through Syria and are accompanied by five chemical weapons experts of unknown origin.
—Reuf Basegic and Domagoj Draskovic, "Jihad threatens with chemical bombs," *Vjesnik*, 27 June 1993, original in Croatian, translation BBC Monitoring Service, 8 July 1993, http://web.lexis-nexis.com: "Bosnian Army in Possession of Chemical Weapons: Newspaper says," Agence France Presse, 28 June 1993: "Tanjug reports Muslim use of chemical weapon artillery on Serb positions," BBC Monitoring Service, 30 June 1993, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

22 June 1993
Andjelko Makar, Chief of Staff of the second corps of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Army, operating out of Tuzla indicates that his forces have made preparations for the use of chlorine gas and other chemical weapons and intend to use them to defend the enclave against an anticipated Serbian offensive. The chief of staff further indicates that he intends to release a large quantity of mercury into the Sava and Danube Rivers, most likely in the event that the situation appears to be deteriorating.
—"Muslim commander in Tuzla reiterates threat to use chemical weapons," BBC Monitoring Service, 24 June 1993, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

19 June 1993
Speaking with Turkish reporters, Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina states that Bosnia is against the use of chemical weapons but notes that "if things get out of control I cannot give any guarantee that things will not come to the stage when chemical weapons will be used." President Izetbegovic links his statement

to Bosnia's continuing campaign to have the UN arms embargo on Bosnia lifted.
—"Izetbegovic in Turkey: Warns Muslims in Gorazde may use chemical weapons," BBC Monitoring Service, 22 June 1993, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

19 June 1993
The command of the second corps of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Army, operating out of Tuzla threatens to use chlorine gas against Serbian troops advancing on their positions in the Tuzla enclave. The threat is conveyed through a fax sent to the UN Security Council. State-controlled Radio Sarajevo quotes Bosnian Army commander Hazim Sadic as saying that a Tuzla chlorine plant would release enough gas to "neutralize all alive on the entire European continent."
—"Moslems threaten to gas Serbs, though ceasefire largely holds," Agence France Presse, 19 June 1993.

15-16 June 1993
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbian forces attacking Gorazde use chemical agents and poison gases, according to Bosnian radio, which had made a similar report two weeks previously. Radio Belgrade also had said that Muslim forces in Gorazde were using an internationally banned chemical agent.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 21 (September 1993), p. 18.

15 May 1993
In Croatia, army troops fire "chemical warfare shells" against Serbian positions in Nadinska Kosa and Skabrinja, according to the Republic of Serb Krajina Army Command.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 21 (September 1993), p. 12.

13 May 1993
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, as fighting intensifies in the Maglaj area, a new wave of reports of Serbian use of poison gas there starts to be heard from Sarajevo.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 20 (June 1993), p. 22.

1 May 1993
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Deputy Defense Minister Munib Bisic complains in a letter to the UN Protection Force of Serbian use of poison gases in attacks on Visegrad [see also 18 March], even as negotiations are under way in Athens.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 21 (September 1993), p. 10.

14 April 1993
Representatives of Slovenia sign the Chemical Weapons Convention in Paris.
—Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, http://disarmament2.un.org.

13 April 1993
Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia sign the Chemical Weapons Convention in Paris.
—Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, http://disarmament2.un.org.

21 March 1993
Bosnian government officials report that Sarajevo has been shelled by Serbian and Montenegrin forces, with some sections of the city exposed to toxic gases. The officials claim that "[a]s a result, scores of civilians suffered

irritation and others, more directly exposed, suffered from bleeding from their respiratory systems."
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 20 (June 1993), p. 16.

19 March 1993
According to Radio Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbian aircraft drop "several bombs with chemical agents" in the region of Srebrenica.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 20 (June 1993), p. 16.

18 March 1993
From Bosnia and Herzegovina, intensified Serbian bombardment of Sarajevo is reported just as the peace talks between the three warring sides resume in New York. According to a Bosnian government statement, Serbian forces are using "all weapons available ... poisonous gas included." An aide to Vice President Ejup Ganic states that the Serbs have been employing tear gas in the bombardment.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 20 (June 1993), p. 16.

2 March 1993
The General Staff of the Army of the Republika Srpska communicates with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) asking that it immediately inform the United Nations Security Council that Bosnian Muslim forces have used chemical weapons in an attack on Serbian forces. The detailed charge is that the Bosnian Muslims used "chemical grenades - a kind of tear gas" in an attack on the village of Kikici in Northern Bosnia. Symptoms are described as prickling in the eyes and nose, nausea, and digestive problems.
—"Muslim forces accused of using poison gas in Gradacac area," BBC Monitoring Service, 5 March 1993, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

28 February 1993
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbian forces shell civilians in the vicinity of Cerska and Konjevic Polje awaiting US Air Force drops of humanitarian-aid packages, according to the press service of the Bosnian Second Corps Command in Tuzla. It states that the bombardment also includes chemical agents of the choking-gas type.
—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, No. 20 (June 1993), p. 14.

11 February 1993
Bosnian Muslim sources claim that Bosnian forces have been attacked with chemical agents. Specific reference is made to the use of 80 mortar bombs filled with "chemical agents of the tear gas and asphyxiating gas types against the [village] of Omerbegovaca." A similar attack on the village of Dizdarusa is also described.
—"Bosnian Radio: Fighting in Zvornik, Gorni Vakuf; In Brcko 'Hiroshima Continues'," BBC Monitoring Service, 12 February 1993, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

11 February 1993
Bosnian Muslim sources claim that Bosnian forces have been attacked with chemical agents. Specific reference is made to the use of 80 mortar bombs filled with "chemical agents of the tear gas and asphyxiating gas types against the [village] of Omerbegovaca." A similar attack on the village of Dizdarusa is also described.
—"Bosnian Radio: Fighting in Zvornik, Gorni Vakuf; In Brcko 'Hiroshima Continues'," BBC Monitoring Service, 12 February 1993, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

30 October 1992
Speaking on Iranian television, Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, the President of Bosnia Herzegovina, warns that his troops have access to chemical weapons and are willing to use them. "If the current situation continues, the people of Bosnia will be forced to use poison gas to defend themselves and end the crimes committed by the Serbs, even though this action may be against their true wishes."
—"Bosnia Threatens Poison Gas Against Serb Forces," *The New York Times*, 31 October 1992, p. 3.

3 May 1992
The Yugoslavian Federal Secretariat for National Defense (SSNO) issues a lengthy statement listing attacks against (JNA) forces and facilities in Bosnia Herzegovina conducted over the previous week. The statement includes an allegation that chemical weapons were used by Bosnian forces in attacks around Sarajevo.
—"Statement by Federal Defence Secretariat: Bosnian Presidency Blamed for Conflict," BBC Monitoring Service, 5 May 1992, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

7 April 1992
The European Community recognizes Bosnia and Herzegovina as an independent state. The Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska) declares independence from Bosnia.
—Leonard J. Cohen, *Broken Bonds: The Disintegration of Yugoslavia* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1993), p. 238.

27 March 1992
While discussing his country's relations with Japan, Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Separovic alleges that "Serbia keeps chemical weapons in Croatian territory and has exported some of them to Iraq." Foreign Ministry officals subsequently indicate that it is unclear when these alleged exports took place.
—"Croatia Wants Early Diplomatic ties with Japan," Kyodo News Service, 27 March 1992, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

1 March 1992
Bosnia and Herzegovina conducts an independence referendum. The result is a turnout of 64.4% of eligible voters with 99.7% voting in favor of independence from Yugoslavia. Significantly, the Serbian community, making up 31.4% of the population, boycotts the referendum.
—Leonard J. Cohen, *Broken Bonds: The Disintegration of Yugoslavia* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1993), p. 237.

14 January 1992
The Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina is proclaimed to be part of Yugoslavia, marking its effective secession from Bosnia and Herzegovina.
—Milan Vego, "The Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina," *Jane's Intelligence Review* 5 (2), February 1993, p. 63.

January-February 1992
The Potoci CW facility is dismantled and removed to a more secure location in Lucani, Serbia. Forty tons of methylphosphonyldichloride are shipped from the Potoci facility to Lucani. Other precursors used in the production of Sarin and Mustard agents are also shipped to Lucani at this time.
—General Zlatko Binenfeld, *Production of Chemical Weapons at the Military Technical Institute - Mostar Plant by the Former Yugoslav National Army (JNA)*, Statement at seminar on "National Authority and National Implementation Measures for the Chemical Weapons Convention" in Warsaw, Poland, 7-8 December 1993, p. 1.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.

"Yugoslav Chemical Warfare Capability. Mostar's History of Chemical Weapon Research, Development, Production: What, When, Where, How Much?" *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com.

1992
Serbian scientists are alleged to begin cooperation with Iraqi covert CBW programs. Serbian expertise is exchanged for Iraqi oil. [This report must be regarded as somewhat unreliable in light of the failure to discover evidence of a revived CW program in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion and conquest of Iraq.]
—Greg Seigle, "Experts Highlight CBW Stockpiles in Yugoslavia," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, 7 April 1999, p. 63, www.janes.com.

December 1991
The Yugoslavian army begins to deploy heavy weapons in the hills surrounding the towns of Mostar, Tuzla, Sarajevo, and Bihac.
—Victor Meier, translated by Sabrina P. Ramet, *Yugoslavia: A History of its Demise* (London: Routledge, 1999), p. 207.

December 1991
Bosnia and Herzegovina applies to the European Community for recognition as an independent state.
—Leonard J. Cohen, *Broken Bonds: The Disintegration of Yugoslavia* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1993), p. 236.

20 November 1991
Macedonia proclaims a new constitution establishing its effective independence from Yugoslavia.
—Victor Meier, translated by Sabrina P. Ramet, *Yugoslavia: A History of its Demise* (London: Routledge, 1999), p. 182.

9-10 November 1991
Serbian regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina hold a referendum in which they vote to establish an independent Serbian republic within the borders of Bosnia Herzegovina.
—Milan Vego, "The Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina," *Jane's Intelligence Review* 5 (2), February 1993, p. 63.

November 1991
Serbian forces are alleged to have used CS or CN tear agents in an attack on Croat forces near Vukovar in November 1991.
—Ernst Jan Hogendoorn, *Clouds of War: Chemical Weapons in the Former Yugoslavia* (London: Human Rights Watch: March 1997), p. 13, www.hrw.org.

Fall 1991
A series of violent outbreaks including explosions, kidnappings, the setting up of roadblocks and sporadic ambushes of Yugoslavian units in the Mostar area of Herzegovina raise tensions. Yugoslavian Army forces in the area are built up to support campaigns against Croatian forces in Dalmatia.
—"Other Reports on Bosnia-Herzegovina; Officer and Private Killed in Attack on Army column West of Mostar," BBC Monitoring Service, 20 September 1991, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

2 October 1991
The Yugoslavian People's Army (JNA) newspaper 'Narodna Armija' alleges that Croatian armed forces had recently

used chemical weapons against JNA personnel stationed at barracks in the Adriatic town of Sibenik.
—"JNA paper: Croatia to make nuclear missiles with South Africa; sabotage Krsko," BBC Monitoring Service, 7 October 1991, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

28 September 1991
Yugoslavian Federal President, Mr. Stipe Mesic, calls for an international mission to Croatia to investigate what he claims were a series of attacks on Croatian towns using chemical weapons. The Yugoslavian defense ministry denies the charges and responds by inviting European Community observers to investigate the charges.
—"Mesic calls for probe on chemical claim," Agence France Presse, 29 September 1991, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

27 September 1991
Yugoslavian Federal President, Mr. Stipe Mesic, who is a Croat, meets with the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee and alleges that Yugoslavian Federal troops are using chemical weapons to assist Serbian rebels in Croatia. He specifically charges that Yugoslavian troops have used Tabun, Sarin, Soman and possibly Phosgene in attacks on the Croatian towns of Bilje (near Zadar), Petrinja, Vukovar and Vinkovci. Yugoslavian embassy officials deny the charges claiming that Yugoslavia does not possess any chemical weapons. President Mesic also presents a report to the Committee detailing Yugoslavia's alleged chemical weapons production capacity and further alleging Yugoslavian assistance to Iraq in the development and production of chemical weapons in the 1980s.
—Bill Gertz, "Yugoslav Urges Poison Gas Probe," *The Washington Times*, 28 September 1991, p. A3; "Yugoslav President warns of CW use," *Mednews - Middle East Defense News*, 30 September 1991, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

26 September 1991
Addressing allegations that Yugoslavian military units have been using chemical weapons in their conflicts with Croatian forces U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher says: "We've seen the reports about this. At this point, we don't have confirmation. We're actively looking into the reports and we would, of course, strongly condemn any use of chemical weapons."
—"U.S. investigates reports of Yugoslavia's use of gas weapons," Agence France Presse, 26 September 1991, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

23 September 1991
Yugoslavian Federal troops allegedly attack the Croatian towns of Petrinja and Vinkovici with chemical weapons causing "several hundred casualties."
—"Mesic calls for probe on chemical claim," Agence France Presse, 29 September 1991, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

8 September 1991
Macedonia conducts a referendum on the question of establishing a sovereign and independent state of Macedonia.
—Victor Meier, translated by Sabrina P. Ramet, *Yugoslavia: A History of its Demise* (London: Routledge, 1999), p. 182.

19 July 1991
The final Yugoslavian Army (JNA) units in Slovenia complete their withdrawal.
—Leonard J. Cohen, *Broken Bonds: The Disintegration of Yugoslavia* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1993), p. 223.

18 July 1991
Yugoslavia formally acknowledges the independence of Slovenia, though not Croatia.
—John R. Lampe, *Yugoslavia as History: Twice There Was a Country*, 2nd edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), p. 370.

8 July 1991
The Slovene Interior Ministry, Mr. Igor Bavcar, claims that the Yugoslavian army is making preparation for a renewed offensive in Slovenia. He further claims that "sabotage squads and paratroopers were being readied and there was evidence that biological and chemical weapons were being distributed."
—"Slovenia raises spectre of war," *The Toronto Star*, 8 July 1991, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

7 July 1991
Speaking at a press conference in Ljubljana, the Slovene Defence Minister, Mr. Janez Jansa expresses concern that Yugoslavian forces might use chemical weapons against Slovenian troops and civilians. He says: "The possibility of chemical weapons being used in indicated, in addition to reports from the same sources that we have, by statements by pilots who defected to our side. They told us that containers with poisons for war use are attached to some planes."
—"Slovene Leadership Press Conference on Latest JNA Threat," BBC Monitoring Service, 9 July 1991, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

July 1991
All records of the Potoci CW facility are removed to Belgrade to prevent them falling into the hands of Croatian or Bosnian forces.
—General Zlatko Binenfeld, *Production of Chemical Weapons at the Military Technical Institute - Mostar Plant by the Former Yugoslav National Army (JNA)*, Statement at seminar on "National Authority and National Implementation Measures for the Chemical Weapons Convention" in Warsaw, Poland, 7-8 December 1993, p. 1; "Yugoslav Chemical Warfare Capability. Mostar's History of Chemical Weapon Research, Development, Production: What, When, Where, How Much?" *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com.

28 June 1991
In Slovenia, Ljubljana radio reports that the Directorate of Internal Affairs in the city of Kranj has announced "that there is a possibility that the army might use gas – that is, chemical weapons. All rescue units are to use gas masks and the residents of the neighbouring villages are to close their windows."
—"The Crisis in Yugoslavia: Army ceases activities," BBC Monitoring Service, 29 June 1991, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

25 June 1991
The Croatian and Slovenian legislatures declare independence from the Yugoslav Federation. Fighting between the Yugoslavian Army (JNA) and locally raised forces begins in Slovenia and Croatia.
—John R. Lampe, *Yugoslavia as History: Twice There Was a Country*, 2nd edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), p. 371.

Mid-1991 (?)
Destruction of some older chemical weapons is undertaken. This includes destruction of 220 nerve agent filled rockets, 15 nerve agent filled artillery shells, and a number of unfilled munitions.
—"Yugoslav Chemical Warfare Capability. Mostar's History of Chemical Weapon Research, Development, Production: What, When, Where, How Much?" *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com.

19 May 1991
Croatia conducts an independence referendum. The result is a turnout of 84% of eligible voters with 93% voting in favor of independence from Yugoslavia. Serbian majority areas of Croatia boycott the referendum.
—John R. Lampe, *Yugoslavia as History: Twice There Was a Country*, 2nd edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), p. 371.

December 1990
Slovenia adopts a constitutional amendment giving its president authority over the local territorial defense forces.
—Leonard J. Cohen, *Broken Bonds: The Disintegration of Yugoslavia* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1993), p. 186.

October 1990
The governments of Slovenia and Croatia publicly call for the transformation of Yugoslavia into a confederation of sovereign republics in which federal laws are subordinate to those of the republics.
—Leonard J. Cohen, *Broken Bonds: The Disintegration of Yugoslavia* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1993), p. 196.

11 April 1990
Yugoslavian National Army (JNA) spokesman Colonel Vuk Obradovic states that the "JNA does not possess nor produces chemical weapons." He goes on to reject suggestions that Yugoslavia has in any way assisted Iraq in its production or development of chemical weapons. "The co-operation between the armed forces of Yugoslavia and Iraq by no means serves the purpose of producing chemical weapons, which the Iraqi armed forces have."
—"Army Spokesman says Yugoslav has no chemical weapons," Yugoslav News Agency (in English), 11 April 1990, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

Back to Top

1989-1970

1 November 1989
The Soviet and Yugoslavian foreign ministers meet in Moscow and issue a statement calling for an early conclusion to negotiations on the elimination of chemical weapons.
—"Shevardnadze, Loncar conclude talks," ITAR TASS, 1 November 1989, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

26 September 1989
The Yugoslavian president, Mr. Janez Drnovcek, address the UN General Assembly and calls "for the earliest possible conclusion of an agreement to ban and destroy chemical weapons." He also notes the responsibility of the UN to create a multilateral control system to deal with chemical disarmament.
—Mikhail Kochetkov, "Yugoslavian leader addresses the United Nations," ITAR TASS, 26 September 1989, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

April 1989
An article in Defense and Foreign Affairs lists Yugoslavia as a country for which there is circumstantial evidence suggesting possession of chemical weapons.
—Harvey J. McGeorge, "Chemical Addiction, *Defense and Foreign Affairs*, April 1989, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

6 January 1989
The Christian Science Monitor lists Yugoslavia as a country suspected of possessing or seeking to obtain chemical weapons.
—E. A. Wayne, "US View of Chemical Arms Meeting," *Christian Science Monitor*, 6 January 1989, http://web.lexis-nexis.com.

1988-1989
Yugoslavian technicians undertake static experiments aimed at the development of binary Sarin weapons.
—General Zlatko Binenfeld, *Production of Chemical Weapons at the Military Technical Institute - Mostar Plant by the Former Yugoslav National Army (JNA)*, Statement at seminar on "National Authority and National Implementation Measures for the Chemical Weapons Convention" in Warsaw, Poland, 7-8 December 1993, p. 3.

1988-1989
Forty tons of methylphosphonyldichloride are produced at the Lucani facility for future use in the production of Sarin (GB). The chemical is then shipped to the Potoci facility. However it is not used to produce Sarin at this time and is instead placed in storage.
—"Yugoslav Chemical Warfare Capability. Mostar's History of Chemical Weapon Research, Development, Production: What, When, Where, How Much?" *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com.

1988
The Yugoslav People's Army tests 155mm artillery shells filled with Mustard and Sarin CW agent.
—Greg Seigle, "Experts Highlight CBW Stockpiles in Yugoslavia," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, 7 April 1999, p. 63, www.janes.com.

Late 1980s
A chemical weapons storage facility is constructed at the Hadzici Overhaul and Technical Institute near Sarajevo.
—"Yugoslav Chemical Warfare Capability. Mostar's History of Chemical Weapon Research, Development, Production: What, When, Where, How Much?" *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com.

Late 1980s
A decision is taken to stockpile weaponized Sarin and sulfur Mustard. Weapons used are 122mm artillery rounds, 128mm artillery rockets and small aircraft bombs.
—Ernst Jan Hogendoorn, *Clouds of War: Chemical Weapons in the Former Yugoslavia* (London: Human Rights Watch: March 1997), p. 9, www.hrw.org.

1986-1987
A trial production run at the Potoci chemical munition production facility produces 250 Sarin filled 122mm artillery rounds. This event represents testing of the munitions filling facility rather than a test of the ability to produce CW agents or unfilled munitions.
—General Zlatko Binenfeld, *Production of Chemical Weapons at the Military Technical Institute - Mostar Plant by*

the Former Yugoslav National Army (JNA), Statement at seminar on "National Authority and National Implementation Measures for the Chemical Weapons Convention" in Warsaw, Poland, 7-8 December 7-8, 1993, p. 4; "Yugoslav Chemical Warfare Capability. Mostar's History of Chemical Weapon Research, Development, Production: What, When, Where, How Much?" *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com.

7 March 1986
Yugoslavia aligns itself with a Romanian government initiative calling for the establishment of a chemical-weapons-free zone in the Balkans.
—"Yugoslavia supports establishment of chemical weapons free zone in Balkans," *Xinhua*, 6 March 1986.

27 May 1984
Yugoslavian General Zlatko Binenfeld says: "between the superpowers, the danger of chemical warfare doesn't exist." Additional remarks attributed to General Binenfeld include the speculation that the superpowers feel no urgency to conclude an agreement banning chemical weapons because [t]hey have well-equipped armies with well-protected personnel." General Binenfeld is quoted in an article on percieved increases in the possibility that chemical weapons will be widely used in warfare.
—Philip M. Boffey, "Trends signal greater threat of chemical war, experts say," New York Times, p. A34.

1981
Yugoslavia allegedly hosts Iraqi scientists at a chemical agent production facility in Lucani, Serbia, probably the Miloje Blagojevic factory for nitrocellulose gunpowder, where they are trained in the production of the blister agent sulfur Mustard.
—Ernst Jan Hogendoorn, *Clouds of War: Chemical Weapons in the Former Yugoslavia* (London: Human Rights Watch: March 1997), p. 4, www.hrw.org.

1980-1984
Potoci facility undertakes initial research on a number of CW agents including, Soman, Tabun, VX, Armin, Nitrogen Mustard, Lewisite, and Chloropicrin.
—General Zlatko Binenfeld, *Production of Chemical Weapons at the Military Technical Institute - Mostar Plant by the Former Yugoslav National Army (JNA)*, Statement at seminar on "National Authority and National Implementation Measures for the Chemical Weapons Convention" in Warsaw, Poland, 7-8 December 1993, p. 2.

1980
Production of BZ and Chloropicrin begins. The designed production capacity is a rate of 5 kg and 10 kg per day respectively.
—General Zlatko Binenfeld, *Production of Chemical Weapons at the Military Technical Institute - Mostar Plant by the Former Yugoslav National Army (JNA)*, Statement at seminar on "National Authority and National Implementation Measures for the Chemical Weapons Convention" in Warsaw, Poland, 7-8 December 1993, p. 2.

c. 1980
At the Miloje Zakic complex, Yugoslavia commences production of a new modern gas mask design under the designation M-2. The mask is a Yugoslavian redesign of the earlier M-1 model. The mask is initially produced in two variants one of which is for use by the armed forces and the other by civil agencies. There appears to be some production for export and production by Egypt is licensed at some point in the 1990s.

—Gasmask Museum, www.gasmasklexikon.com; John Eldridge (ed.), *Jane's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defense 2000 - 2001* (Couldson: Jane's Information Group 2000), p. 137.

1978
A 200 kg per day facility for the production of the riot control agent CS begins operations, possibly at the Potoci facility.
—General Zlatko Binenfeld, *Production of Chemical Weapons at the Military Technical Institute - Mostar Plant by the Former Yugoslav National Army (JNA)*, Statement at seminar on "National Authority and National Implementation Measures for the Chemical Weapons Convention" in Warsaw, Poland, 7-8 December 1993, p. 2.

1978
The Bubanj Potok Instruction Center is established in south-east Belgrade. Among other activities, this facility provides training in the conduct of operations in a nuclear, biological and chemical warfare environment. The facility serves the needs of territorial defense forces (militia) and civil defense units.
—"Work of Civil and Territorial Defense Center in Belgrade," *Yugoslav News Agency*, 29 January 1985, www.lexis-nexis.com.

1977
Project initiated for the development of a 5 kg per day BZ production capacity at a facility in the town of Lucani.
—"Yugoslav Chemical Warfare Capability. Mostar's History of Chemical Weapon Research, Development, Production: What, When, Where, How Much?" *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com; Zvonko Orehovac, *Incapacitant and Irritant Chemical Weapons of the Armed Forces of the so-called Federal Republic of Yugoslavia*, National Ground Intelligence Center, US Department of the Army, 15 June 1995, p. 6. (Original in Serbo-Croatian, *Hrvatski vojnik* 74 (4), 7 October 1994, pp. 49-52.)

1976
The Potoci facility undertakes development research on a number of agents including Adamsite, Bromosilcyanide, Cyanogen Chloride, Diphenylcyanosarin, Chloropicrin, Diphosgene, and potentially unknown others. Yugoslavia begins research into the use of CW agents in artillery shells, artillery rockets, aerial bombs of various sizes and land mines.
—"Yugoslav Chemical Warfare Capability. Mostar's History of Chemical Weapon Research, Development, Production: What, When, Where, How Much?" *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com.

1976-1988
The Jastrebac project is undertaken. This project involves detailed research into weaponization, testing munition designs, production and munition filling equipment, dynamic tests to assess munition performance under field conditions and ultimately including open-air testing of CW filled munitions. Small scale production of Sarin and Mustard agent is associated with this program. Limited production of sulfur Mustard and Sarin is undertaken at the Potoci facility. Although there is an annual production capability of forty tons of Sarin and 30 tons of Mustard no more than 4.5 metric tons of Sarin is produced over the entire period.
—General Zlatko Binenfeld, *Production of Chemical Weapons at the Military Technical Institute - Mostar Plant by the Former Yugoslav National Army (JNA)*, Statement at seminar on "National Authority and National Implementation Measures for the Chemical Weapons Convention" in Warsaw, Poland, December 7-8, 1993, p. 3; "Yugoslav Chemical Warfare Capability. Mostar's History of Chemical Weapon Research, Development, Production: What, When, Where, How Much?" *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com.

1975-1977
Research into the production of the riot control agent CS is undertaken at the Potoci facility.
—General Zlatko Binenfeld, *Production of Chemical Weapons at the Military Technical Institute - Mostar Plant by the Former Yugoslav National Army (JNA)*, Statement at seminar on "National Authority and National Implementation Measures for the Chemical Weapons Convention" in Warsaw, Poland, 7-8 December 1993, p. 2.

1974
Yugoslavian researchers investigate the pharmacology, toxicology and treatment of the riot control agents CS and CR.
—R. Kusic, N. Rosic, B. Boskovic and V. Vojvodic, "Clinical picture and management of acute poisoning by current chemical-warfare irritation poisons (type CS, CR)," *Vojnosanitetski pregled* 31 (5), September-October 1974, pp. 348-349; N. Rosic, R. Kusic, B. Boskovic and V. Vojvodic, "Pharmacological and toxicological properties of modern chemical warfare poisons causing irritation (type CS, CR)," *Vojnosanitetski pregled* 31 (5), September-October 1974, pp. 345-347.

1974
Yugoslavian researchers at the Potoci facility undertake initial research into the incapacitant chemical agent BZ.
—N. Rosic, R. Kusic, V. Vojvodic and B. Boskovic, "Psychochemical warfare gases type BZ," *Vojnosanitetski pregled* 31 (6), November-December 1974, pp. 393-396.

27 July 1971
As part of a CIA report on Yugoslavia, an annex onYugoslav military capabilities notes that "the Yugoslavs themselves produce...chemical warfare material..." This statement is not elaborated upon but probably relates to the well-established indigenous production of defensive equipment.
—*Yugoslavia: An Intelligence Appraisal (in response to NSSM 129)*, Office of National Estimates, Central intelligence Agency, 1971, p. A2, www.foia.cia.gov.

1970s
Equipment for the production of sulfur Mustard and Sarin remains installed at the Potoci facility but is not operated.
—"Yugoslav Chemical Warfare Capability. Mostar's History of Chemical Weapon Research, Development, Production: What, When, Where, How Much?" *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com.

Back to Top

1969-1918

1969-1970
Trial production runs of Sarin and sulfur Mustard are undertaken at the Potoci facility. This effort produces 600 kilograms of Sarin and 950 kilograms of Mustard.
—General Zlatko Binenfeld, *Production of Chemical Weapons at the Military Technical Institute - Mostar Plant by the Former Yugoslav National Army (JNA)*, Statement at seminar on "National Authority and National Implementation Measures for the Chemical Weapons Convention" in Warsaw, Poland, December 7-8, 1993, p. 2.

1969
Allegations surface that a Yugoslavian clandestine agency (Unutrašnja Državna Bezbednost) is active in Germany using CB weapons for assassination purposes.
—Julian Perry Robinson, *The Problem of Chemical and Biological Warfare: Volume I. The Rise of CB Weapons*, (Stockholm: SIPRI, 1971), p. 110.

1968
Installation of a line for the production of methylphosphonyldichloride is completed at the Miloje Blagojevic Powder Mill in the town of Lucani. The design capacity is 180kg per day. Trial operations begin.
—"Yugoslav Chemical Warfare Capability. Mostar's History of Chemical Weapon Research, Development, Production: What, When, Where, How Much?" *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com.

1965-1967
Initial development work begins on a facility for the production of methylphosphonyldichloride, a nerve gas precursor.
—"Yugoslav Chemical Warfare Capability. Mostar's History of Chemical Weapon Research, Development, Production: What, When, Where, How Much?" *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com.

26 August 1965
A US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) describing the Yugoslav Army says: "Yugoslav doctrine calls for the use of chemical weapons in support of small guerilla operations, but the ground forces have yet to develop any significant CW offensive or defensive capability."
—Eastern Europe and the Warsaw Pact, NIE 12-65, Central Intelligence Agency, 26 August 1965, p. 16, www.foia.cia.gov.

1965
Yugoslavian scientists at the Prva Iskri complex in the town of Baric begin in-depth research on production techniques for sulfur Mustard and Sarin.
—"Yugoslav Chemical Warfare Capability. Mostar's History of Chemical Weapon Research, Development, Production: What, When, Where, How Much?" *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com.

1965
The Potoci facility's 20 kg per day Phosgene production line is relocated to the Industry Miloje Zakic chemical complex in Krusevac.
—General Zlatko Binenfeld, *Production of Chemical Weapons at the Military Technical Institute - Mostar Plant by the Former Yugoslav National Army (JNA)*, Statement at seminar on "National Authority and National Implementation Measures for the Chemical Weapons Convention" in Warsaw, Poland, 7-8 December 1993, p. 2.

1961-1969
Open-air live agent static testing of 152mm and 155mm shells filled with Mustard and Sarin is conducted in the Velez Mountain and Blidinje Lake regions of Bosnia.
—General Zlatko Binenfeld, *Production of Chemical Weapons at the Military Technical Institute - Mostar Plant by the Former Yugoslav National Army (JNA)*, Statement at seminar on "National Authority and National Implementation Measures for the Chemical Weapons Convention" in Warsaw, Poland, 7-8 December 1993, p. 2.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.

Until 1961
Thirty kilograms of Mustard agent and 143 kilograms of Sarin nerve agent are reportedly produced at the Prva Iskri factory in the town of Baric. This material is used to fill a number of 152mm and 155mm artillery projectiles for initial testing of designs and weapons effects.
—Igor Alborghetti, "Yugoslav Army has 40 Metric Tons of the Poisonous Gases Sarin and Mustard Gas in the Underground Storage Facility of the Chemical Plant in Lucani," *Zagreb Globus*, 16 April 1999, pp. 18-19.

c. 1960
At the Miloje Zakic complex, Yugoslavia commences production of a new more modern gas mask design under the designation M-1. The mask is a straight copy of the M-9 model used by the United States in the 1950s. It is not clear whether or not this is a licensed copy. The mask is produced in two variants, one of which is for use by the armed forces and the other by civil agencies.
—Gasmask Museum, www.gasmasklexikon.com.

1959
A Phosgene production line with a capacity of 20 kg per day is installed at the Potoci MTI facility and begins operation.
—"Yugoslav Chemical Warfare Capability. Mostar's History of Chemical Weapon Research, Development, Production: What, When, Where, How Much?" *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com.

1958
Laboratory scale production of CW agents begins at a facility in the village of Potoci, ten kilometers from the city of Mostar under the supervision of the Military Technical Institute.
—"Yugoslav Chemical Warfare Capability. Mostar's History of Chemical Weapon Research, Development, Production: What, When, Where, How Much?" *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com.

1956-1961
Yugoslavian army personnel attend United States Army CBW training courses.
—Julian Perry Robinson, *The Problem of Chemical and Biological Warfare: Volume II. CB Weapons Today* (Stockholm: SIPRI, 1973), p. 249.

c. 1952
Yugoslavia resumes local production of gas masks at the Miloje Zakic complex. Produced under the designation M-3 the design used is a variant of that produced before the war as the M-2.
—Gasmask Museum, www.gasmasklexikon.com.

1950-1952
A plant for the production of activated charcoal is established as part of the Industry Miloje Zakic complex. This development allows the possibility that the indigenous production of gas masks can be resumed.
—TRAYAL corporation official timeline, www.trayal.co.yu.

1948
The Obilicevo chemical complex is renamed Industry Miloje Zakic.
—TRAYAL corporation official timeline, www.trayal.co.yu.

1946
Reconstruction of the Obilicevo chemical complex begins.
—TRAYAL corporation official timeline, www.trayal.co.yu.

20 July 1945
The Yugoslavian Army reestablishes its chemical defense arm. This unit is initially equipped with a mixture of equipment seized from defeated German forces or imported from allies such as the Soviet Union.
—Julian Perry Robinson, *The Problem of Chemical and Biological Warfare: Volume II. CB Weapons Today* (Stockholm: SIPRI, 1973), p. 248.

Mid-1945
Chemical weapons produced by Yugoslavia prior to World War Two are discovered in Germany by allied forces. They are destroyed along with German stockpiles.
—Edward. M. Spiers, *Chemical and Biological Weapons: A Study of Proliferation* (New York: St. Martins Press, 1994), p. 7 and p. 7 note 17.

April 1941
Germany conquers Yugoslavia and seizes its stockpiles of chemical weapons. These stocks of weapons are subsequently transferred to Germany where they are added to existing German stockpiles.
—Edward. M. Spiers, *Chemical and Biological Weapons: A Study of Proliferation* (New York: St Martins Press 1994).

6 April 1941
The Obilicevo chemical complex is destroyed by German bombers as part of the invasion of Yugoslavia.
—TRAYAL corporation official timeline, www.trayal.co.yu.

1940
A new plant for the production of gas masks is constructed at the Obilicevo chemical complex and commences license production of a new Czechoslovakian design (Vz-35) under the designation M-2.
—TRAYAL corporation official timeline, www.trayal.co.yu; Gasmask Museum, www.gasmasklexikon.com.

1938
The British government identifies Yugoslavia as one of thirteen countries possessing an offensive CW capability. The report by the CDRD (Chemical Defence Research Department) notes rumors of a chemical battalion for offence. In addition it claims that Yugoslavia possesses "some stocks of gas and [a] limited capacity for production."
—Nineteenth Report of the Chemical Defence Research Department, 1938, Public Record Office, WO 33/1634, quoted in Edward. M. Spiers, *Chemical and Biological Weapons: A Study of Proliferation* (New York: St. Martins Press, 1994), pp. 7 & 9.

1937
A study of international chemical warfare capabilities by Dr. R. Hanslian entitled Der Chemische Krieg (Chemical War) is published in Germany. It lists thirty countries known to the author to possess chemical warfare establishments within their military structure. In addition it identifies seven countries with active offensive chemical warfare programs. This list excludes Germany and Yugoslavia.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.

—Julian Perry Robinson, *The Problem of Chemical and Biological Warfare: Volume I. The Rise of CB Weapons*, (Stockholm: SIPRI, 1971), pp. 292-293.

1933
A gas mask production facility is established as part of the Obilicevo chemical complex. It begins license production of a Czechoslovakian designed gas mask under the designation M-1 for use by Yugoslavian troops.
—TRAYAL corporation official timeline, www.trayal.co.yu; Gasmask Museum, www.gasmasklexikon.com.

28 September 1932
By Decree of the War Minister of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the Yugoslavian Army's first dedicated chemical defense unit, the Barutanski battalion, is formed as a part of the "Obilicevo" institute.
—Official website of the ABHO Branch of the Army of Federation of Serbia and Montenegro [in Serbian], www.vj.yu; www.mod.gov.yu.

12 April 1929
Yugoslavia deposits its instrument of ratification of the 1925 Geneva Protocol adding the following reservation; "The said Protocol shall cease to be binding on the Government of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes in regard to any enemy State whose armed forces or whose allies fail to respect the prohibitions which are the object of this Protocol."
—Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, http://disarmament2.un.org.

1927-1931
Dr. Hugo Stoltzenberg, a German chemist associated with the German government's clandestine chemical warfare activities in the early 1920s, is suspected of involvement in the transfer of technology and equipment related to the production of chemical weapons to the Yugoslavian government. Dr. Stoltzenberg is also involved in the supply of CW material and technology to Spain (1921 - 27), USSR (1923 - 27) and Brazil (1937 - 42). [This information is contested]
—Edward. M. Spiers, *Chemical and Biological Weapons: A Study of Proliferation* (New York: St. Martins Press, 1994), p. 8.

Late 1920s
Yugoslavia starts producing protective masks for chemical warfare purposes at the Obilcevo chemical complex in the town of Krusevac. [this information may be unreliable]
—"Towards an Understanding of Yugoslav Capabilities: CBW Research, Development, Production," *The ASA Newsletter*, www.asanltr.com.

Mid 1927
Yugoslavian authorities begin efforts to recruit the services of Austrian and German chemical warfare experts.
—*SIS Gas Warfare Report CX 12878*, 5 July 1927, Public Record Office, WO 188/788, United Kingdom.

March 1927
The French government delivers a shipment of approximately 50,000 gas masks to Yugoslavia. These masks are not issued to the army but are stored at the Kragujevac arsenal as mobilization stores.
—*SIS Gas Warfare Report CX 12878 R877/4*, 27 January 1927, Public Record Office, WO 188/788, United Kingdom.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.

February 1927
According to British secret intelligence reports the Yugoslavian CW stockpile comprises c. 6000 drums of mustard, not all of which is serviceable, and smaller quantities of chlorine and phosgene. In addition, Yugoslavia holds c. 42,000 artillery shells variously filled with Di-phosgene and Hydrogen Cyanide. The greater part of this arsenal has been supplied by France. There is no indication of the caliber of these shells but the majority is probably 75mm [there are indications that France is supplying Yugoslavia with substandard materials from its surplus WW1 stockpile].
—*SIS Gas Warfare Report*, Public Record Office, WO 188/788, United Kingdom.

September 1926
A fresh series of chemical warfare trials, involving live firing of 77mm artillery shells is undertaken at Skopje. It is not clear from the available information if these shells are imported or represent local production.
—*SIS Gas Warfare Report*, Public Record Office, WO 188/788, United Kingdom.

Fall 1926
Four Yugoslavian Army Reserve officers, who are already qualified chemical experts, are detailed for foreign training in the use of chemical weapons. Two officers are sent to France and one each to Belgium and Germany.
—*SIS Gas Warfare Report*, Public Record Office, WO 188/788, United Kingdom.

January 1926
As part of a general reorganization of the Yugoslavian Supreme Military Command structure a decision is made to establish a Gas Warfare Department as a subsidiary body of the Yugoslavian General Staff.
—*SIS Gas Warfare Report CX 112878 Reorganisation of the Supreme Military Command*, 20 January 1926, Public Record Office, WO 188/788, United Kingdom.

5 November 1925
The Yugoslavian Council of defense decides to proceed with the construction of an arsenal in the vicinity of Sarajevo. In addition to producing land-mines and artillery shells, and maintaining artillery pieces, the proposed facility will also include a section for the production of chemical warfare agents.
—*SIS Gas Warfare Report CX 12909 Establishment of Military Factory at Sarajevo*, 25 November 1925, Public Record Office, WO 188/788, United Kingdom.

May 1925
Yugoslavia receives a shipment of 150 cylinders of Phosgene and 50 cylinders of Chlorine from France. These cylinders are placed in storage at the Kragujevac arsenal.
—*SIS Gas Warfare Report CX 12878*, 5 July 1927, Public Record Office, WO 188/788, United Kingdom.

7 September 1925
An internal report of the British government notes that "two Yugoslavian Army officers are being sent to France to study "gas warfare" at the Versailles based Ecole de Poudre." British military intelligence believed that on their return to the Yugoslav army "these officers would take up duty as instructors."
—*SIS Gas Warfare Report CX/9698 Yugo-Slavia: Military: S.C.S. Officers for Study in France*, 7 September 1925, Public Record Office, WO 188/788, United Kingdom.

25 August 1925
The British government lists the Yugoslavian chemical warfare arsenal as follows; 1,240 cylinders of Mustard agent imported from France; 3,000 cylinders of Mustard agent produced at the Kragujevac arsenal in Yugoslavia. The report notes that Yugoslavia took approximately two years to produce this quantity of mustard. The size of the containers is not specified.
—*SIS Gas Warfare Report CX/12878 Yugo-Slavia: Gas*, 25 August 1925, Public Record Office, WO 188/788, United Kingdom. [*There appears to have been a duplication of reference numbers in the S.I.S. records]*

17 June 1925
The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (Yugoslavia) signs the 1925 Geneva Protocol.
—Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, http://disarmament2.un.org.

25-26 May 1925
In the course of discussions in Geneva on the draft text of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous, or other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare the Yugoslavian representative indicates opposition to a proposal that the protocol include a ban on the export of chemical weapons. The representative notes that in the absence of a rigorous ban on the use of chemical weapons, combined with security guarantees to non-producers, all states would be obliged to seek the means necessary to undertake the production of chemical weapons.
—Jozef Goldblat, *The Problem of Chemical and Biological Warfare: Volume IV. CB Disarmament Negotiations, 1920-1970* (Stockholm: SIPRI, 1971), p. 61.

1925
The Obilcevo chemical complex in the town of Krusevac begins production of chemical protective masks for use by the Yugoslavian armed forces under the designation M-27. [Available images suggest that the mask is a local copy of the French ARS mask.]
— TRAYAL corporation, www.trayal.co.yu "Towards an Understanding of Yugoslav Capabilities: CBW Research, Development, Production," The ASA Newsletter, www.asanltr.com.

April 1924
The Kragujevac arsenal begins production of chemical warfare agents. It appears that two agents are manufactured - the lachrymator Chloroacetophenone (CN) and Mustard agent.
—*SIS Gas Warfare Report CX/11512 Yugo-slavia: Summary of Gas Warfare in Yugo-slavia up to the 6th June 1925 compiled from Information received from SIS sources only*, 6 June 1925, Public Record Office, WO 188/788, United Kingdom.

1924
The Yugoslavian Army carries out chemical warfare trials using 80mm to 100mm artillery shells of French and Czechoslovakian manufacture. The tests are conducted at facilities in the towns of Skopje and Tetovo, and at the Kragujevac arsenal. The fillings of the shells tested are not known but on the basis of subsequent information may have been Mustard agent.
—*SIS Gas Warfare Report CX/12878 Jugo-Slavia: Gas*, 23 October 1925, Public Record Office, WO 188/788, United Kingdom.

1 December 1918
The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes is established merging the kingdom of Serbia, the independent kingdom of Montenegro, and the territories of Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia, all three of which were previously part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Back to Top