Destruction of Syria’s Chemical Weapons

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2014 Jonathan Tucker Conference
Washington DC
December 12, 2014
World War I
Chemical Weapons Convention

- Over 12 years in negotiations
- Opened for signature in 1993
- Entered into force in 1997
- US and Russia both ratified in 1997
- 190 States Parties today
- 6 countries still outside of CWC
- 8 countries declared CW stockpiles
8 Declared CW Stockpiles

- Russia: 40,000 metric tons
- USA: 28,600 metric tons
- India: 1,000+ metric tons (est)
- South Korea: 1,000+ metric tons (est)
- Libya: 26+ metric tons
- Albania: 16 metric tons
- Iraq: na
- Syria: 1,308 metric tons
- TOTAL: 72,500 +/- metric tons
CW Destruction in US

- 1990 – present
- 25,650 MT destroyed (90%)
- 7 stockpiles closed
- $30 billion+ spent to date
- 8-9 more years to go
- 2 facilities under construction
CW Destruction in Russia

- 2002 – present
- 33,600 MT destroyed (84%)
- 2 stockpiles neutralized
- $8+ billion spent to date
- 6+ years to go
Other CWD Progress

- **Albania** – 16 MT destroyed (100%) 2007
- **South Korea** – 1,000+ MT destroyed (100%) 2008
- **India** – 1,000+ MT destroyed (100%) 2009
- **Libya** – 26 +/- MT destroyed (100%) (excl. Sched. 2)
- **Iraq** – Declared 2009
- **Syria** – Declared 2013
Alleged CW Use in Syria

- July 23, 2012 – Syria confirms CW
- December 23 – Homs attack, 7 killed
- March 19, 2013 – Aleppo & Damascus
- March 24 – Adra
- April 13 – Aleppo
- April 29 – Saraqeb
Syria’s CWC Accession

- August 21, 2013 – Large scale CW attack in Ghouta region. 1,400+ killed, including 400 children.
- September 14 – Syria accedes to CWC
- October 14 – CWC enters into force for Syria as 190th State Party
Syrian Chemical Weapons

- 1,308 MTs of chemical agents declared
- 20 MTs of mustard agent
- 100% removed from Syria, January-June 2014
- 97.8% destroyed in 1st stage by mid-October
CW Destruction Process

- 600 MTs hydrolyzed on MV Cape Ray
- 154 MTs burned in UK
- 122 MTs treated in Syria
- 500 MTs treated in US & Finland
- 6,000 MTs toxic effluent treated in US, Finland, & Germany
Crete Demonstrations, 2014
We note with deep concern that the Fact-Finding Mission reported that its information constitutes “compelling confirmation that a toxic chemical was used as a weapon, systematically and repeatedly,” in three villages in the northern part of the Syrian Arab Republic, and concluded, with a high degree of confidence, that this was chlorine. We share the view that the information presented by the Fact-Finding Mission is substantial. This includes the fact that witnesses invariably connected the attacks to the use of helicopters. Only the Syrian military possesses the capability to use helicopters in such attacks.
Conclusions

- Chemical agents are no longer viable military weapons, and have become “taboo,” morally reprehensible, and a dangerous burden.
- The CWD process in Syria has gone well, although about 5 months delayed.
- The unique OPCW-UN Joint Mission also went well and illustrates possible future models for multilateral operations.
Conclusions

- The Syrian CWD experience is the first to remove a chemical stockpile from the possessor state and may have implications for other such processes, e.g. Libya.

- The continued use of chlorine as a weapon in Syria demands that the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission continue its inspections and forensic testing.
Conclusions

- The ongoing process for verified elimination of Syria’s CW program must continue, with further clarifications of its declaration.

- Many countries deserve credit for their commitment, especially Russia and the US for their facilitation; the US, Denmark, & Norway for their ship commitment; and the UK, Finland, UK, & Germany for chemical processing.
Conclusions

- Also the two dozen contributors to the Syria Trust Fund at the OPCW – over $50 million – deserve much credit.

- All possessor states must complete safe elimination of CW stockpiles in the near term – Russia, US, Iraq, and Syria.

- All non-member states must join the CWC – Angola, Egypt, Israel, Myanmar, North Korea, and South Sudan.
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