

Fallujah Update

Insurgent Chemical/Explosives Weapons Laboratory

MULTI NATIONAL FORCE - IRAQ

November 26, 2004

**For more information, contact the Combined Press
Information Center at**

cpicpressdesk@baghdadforum.com

Background

On 23 November 2004, Iraqi and coalition forces discovered an insurgent laboratory in Fallujah including chemicals and equipment necessary to produce rudimentary chemical weapons capable of creating poisonous gases and explosives used in improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The site may have served as a testing and research area for construction of improvised chemical devices (ICDs) and/or routine production facility for explosives used in IEDs. Initial translations of the insurgents' notes reveal that training and research on chemical weapons was being conducted.

The following materials were discovered in the laboratory and can be used to construct an IED or ICD by following simple instructions downloaded via several jihadist internet websites.

Sodium & Potassium Nitrate: An agricultural fertilizer also used in the production of high explosives

Potassium Cyanide: A severe poison solid compound when mixed with an acid produces a poisonous gas

Ammonium Nitrate: An agricultural fertilizer also used as an ingredient in the production of high explosives

Hydrochloric Acid: Used in the production of poisonous gas

Nitric Acid: A key component of IEDs

Sulfuric Acid: Easily obtainable from a car battery, the acid is used in chemical weapons and explosives

Magnesium: Can be burned in conjunction with other chemicals to produce a smokescreen and cover insurgent movement

Black Powder: Commercially available explosive

Acetone: An agent used to clean glassware, and mix other chemical agents when constructing IEDs or ICDs.

Analysis reveals that the Islamic extremists in Fallujah may have had the capability to employ an improvised chemical device (ICD) of simple design that produces a mixture of cyanogen chloride (CK), hydrogen cyanide (HCN), and hydrochloric acid (HCl). This device can be activated either by a small explosion or by simply throwing or dropping it. The device is called a "Mobtakar" and it works best when detonated in a contained area, such as a building, where there is very little very little interference from atmospheric obscuration.

CK disrupts the oxidative processes of the body. It is a highly effective local irritant to the eyes, the upper respiratory tract, and the lungs. Symptoms of cyanide exposure depend upon the dose received. Exposure to a high concentration of cyanide can lead to death within minutes.



A Chemical/Explosive Weapons Laboratory was discovered by Iraqi and coalition forces inside the city of Fallujah on November 23, 2004. Among the items found were bottles of chemicals commonly used in the production of explosives and poisons, measuring instruments, plastic bags containing a powdery substance and protective gear. A Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) dispatched to gather the chemicals. Official USMC Photo (Released)

“MOHAMMED THE PROPHET OF GOD”

“NO GOD BUT GOD”



Banner of Abu Musab Zarkawi’s group “Tawhid and Jihad” found in the Fallujah chemical/explosives weapons laboratory. Official USMC Photo (Released)



Members of a Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) gather materials inside the chemical/explosives weapons laboratory in Fallujah. Official USMC Photo (Released)



A table full of chemicals discovered in the Fallujah chemical/explosives weapons laboratory. Official USMC Photo (Released)



A CBIRF technician gathers bottles of chemicals in the chemical/explosives weapons laboratory in Fallujah. Official USMC Photo (Released)



Measuring equipment discovered in the Fallujah chemical/explosives weapons laboratory. Official USMC Photo (Released)



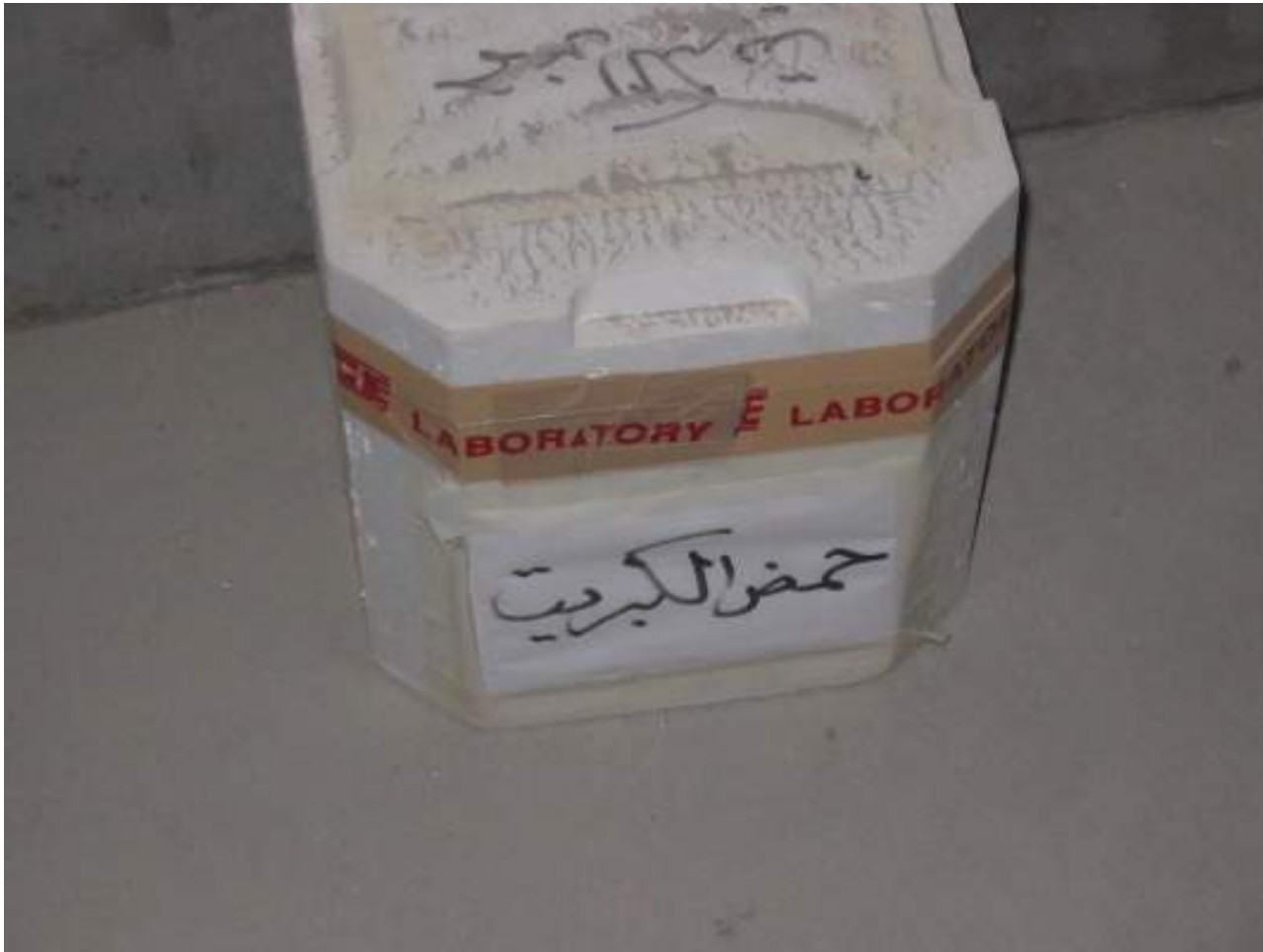
**Laboratory equipment found in the insurgent facility included beakers, flasks, and protective gloves discovered in the Fallujah chemical/explosives weapons laboratory.
Official USMC Photo (Released)**



Bottom shelf: Potassium and Sodium Cyanide. Middle Shelf: Ammonium Nitrate discovered in the Fallujah chemical/explosives weapons laboratory. Official USMC Photo (Released)



Close-up of bag of Potassium Cyanide found in chemical/explosives weapons laboratory in Fallujah. Official USMC Photo (Released)



**Sulfuric Acid found in chemical/explosive weapons laboratory in Fallujah.
Official USMC Photo (Released)**

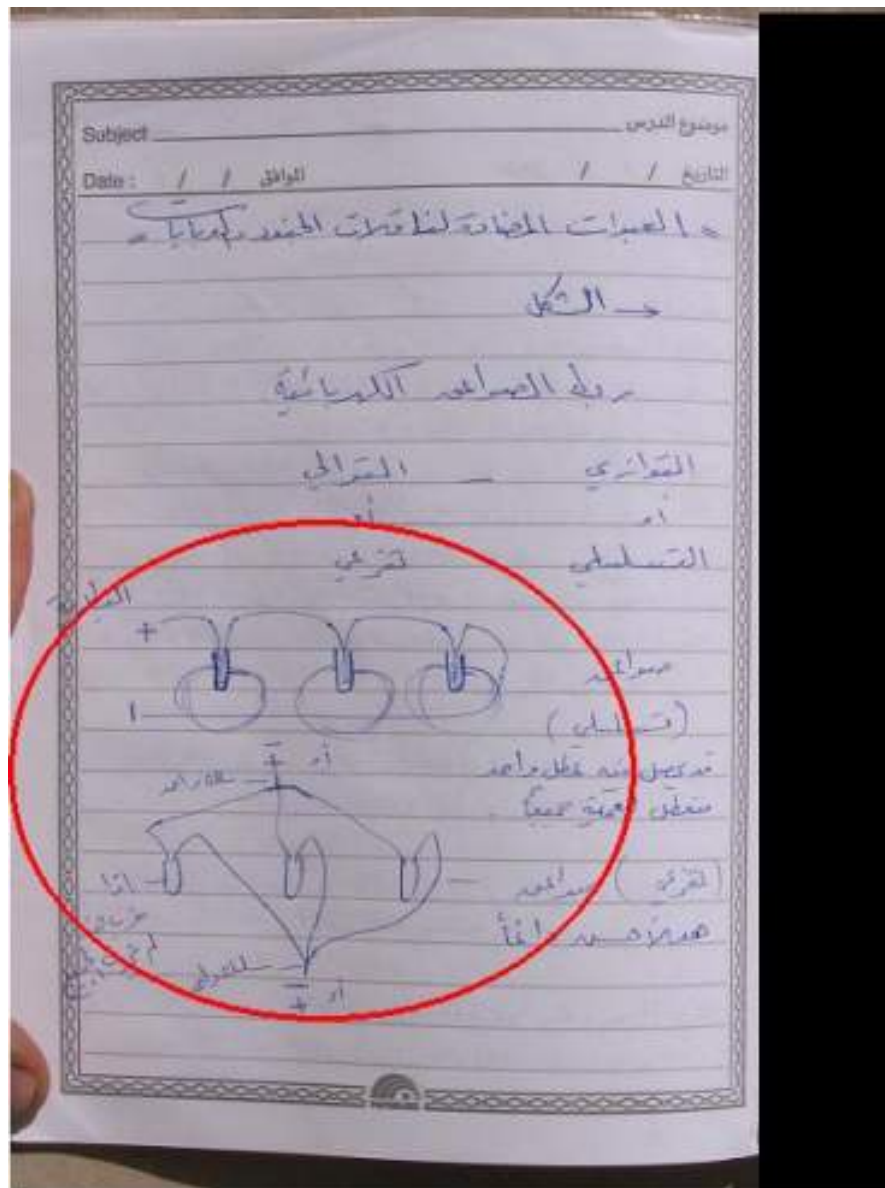


Part of the chemicals cache discovered in the Fallujah chemical/explosives weapons laboratory. Official USMC Photo (Released)

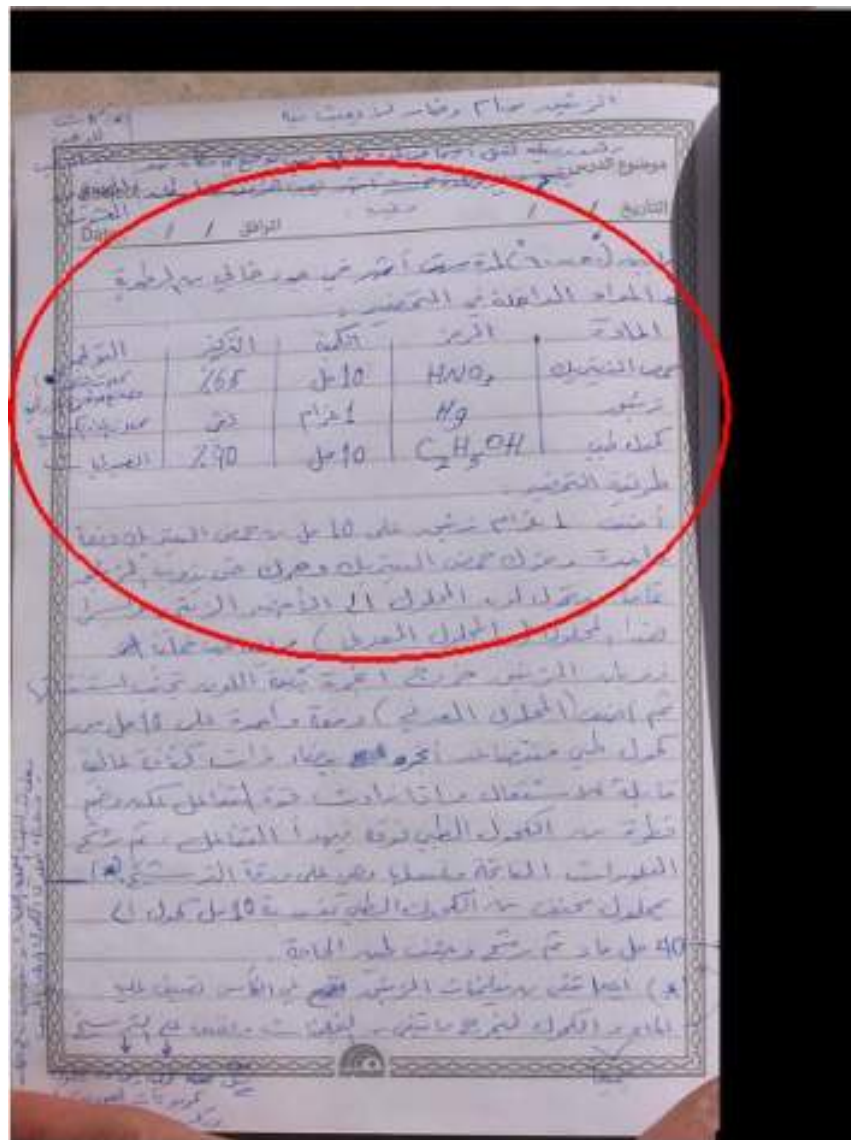


Mujihadeen “How to Cook Book” containing formulas for anthrax, chemical blood agents and explosives discovered in the Fallujah chemical/explosives weapons laboratory. Official USMC Photo (Released)

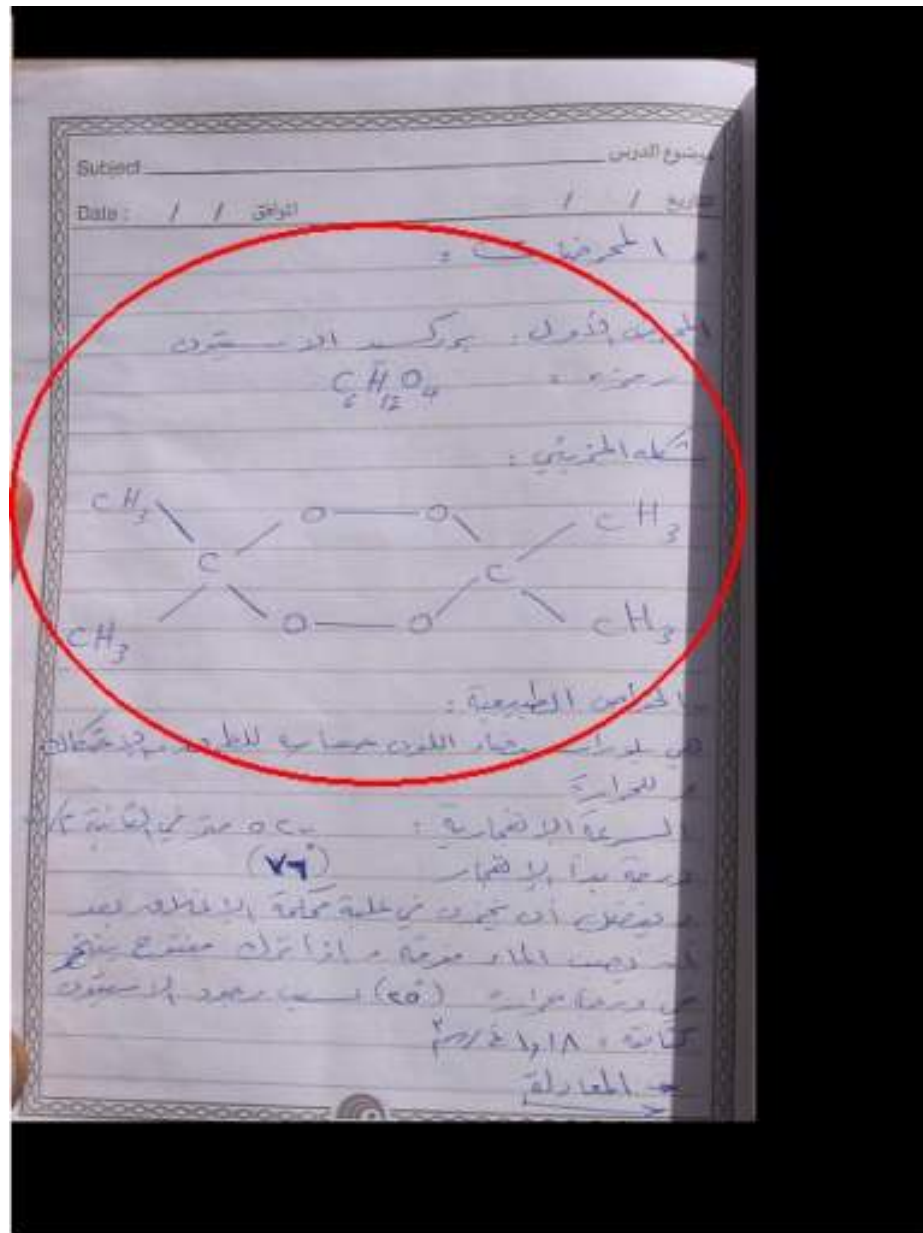
Instructions for creating a “daisy chain” or sequentially detonating IED for attacking armored vehicles contained in the “How to Cook Book” discovered in the Fallujah chemical/explosives weapons laboratory. Official USMC Photo (Released)



Instructions for working with various chemical compositions contained in the “How to Cook Book” discovered in the Fallujah chemical/explosives weapons laboratory. Official USMC Photo (Released)



Instructions for working with various chemical compositions contained in the “How to Cook Book” discovered in the Fallujah chemical/explosives weapons laboratory. Official USMC Photo (Released)





Chemicals in beakers were found alongside a battery and improvised explosives initiating switches in the Fallujah chemical/explosives weapons laboratory. Official USMC Photo (Released)



**Blasting caps found in the chemical/explosives weapons laboratory in Fallujah.
Official USMC Photo (Released)**

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