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Evidence Provides Further Insight into Saddam Hussein’s WMD

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, today announced that a declassified Army report provides further insight into the chemical and biological weapons programs in Iraq.

“Saddam’s use of chemical and biological weapons to murder thousands upon thousands of Iranians and his own people confirmed long ago that he had them and was more than willing to use them,” Hoekstra said. “The question has always concerned what happened to them.”

The unclassified summary report of the Army’s National Ground Intelligence Center states that since 2003, coalition forces have recovered approximately 500 munitions containing mustard or sarin nerve agent. It also states that chemical munitions are assessed to still exist in Iraq.

“The unclassified report provides further insight into Saddam’s WMD, but it does not complete the picture of prewar Iraq,” Hoekstra said. “The report simply provides additional evidence on what the Iraq Survey Group has already concluded – that Saddam Hussein was not in compliance with numerous U.N. resolutions requiring Iraq to destroy all of its WMD.”

Hoekstra learned of the report’s existence from U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., who first heard of it from an outside, nongovernmental source. Upon hearing of the classified report, Hoekstra immediately sought and received a copy. He then requested that an unclassified version of the report be prepared for public release.

“The new information should come as no surprise, but we clearly have more work to do on the issue of improving the intelligence capabilities of the United States,” Hoekstra said. “It provides with some answers, but also confirms that there is still a lot that we do not know about Iraq.”