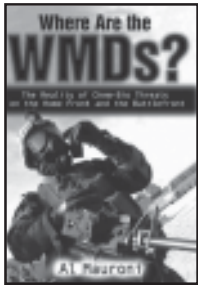


Book Reviews



By Mr. Reid Kirby



Where are the WMDs? The Reality of Chem-Bio Threats on the Home Front and the Battlefield, Albert J. Mauroni, Naval Institute Press, 13 June 2006.

During World War I, before the formation of the Chemical Warfare Service, our Nation was in disarray in its approach to chemical warfare. Dividing tasks among numerous offices, many without the complements necessary to execute their functions, proved ineffective. Reading Al Mauroni's book leaves one with the impression that we are in even more peril.

For the novice reader, the unfortunate part of this book is the use of "Pentagon-speak" terminology. Numerous acronyms are embroiled in the book, often accompanied by parenthetical acronyms. Nonetheless, for Chemical Soldiers looking at future assignments at the Pentagon, this is an inside look and an essential orientation tool.

The term *weapons of mass destruction* (WMD) has been around since World War II. It was a problematic term during the Cold War, with the Department of Defense at one point officially declaring it a misnomer not fit for use. Later, it was identified as a dangerous term that allied U.S. capabilities into a Soviet doctrinal framework. Mr. Mauroni's book is far more contemporary in its treatment of the term, noting the recent proclivity and how it is isolated to nuclear weapons by policy makers. Discussions on WMD lead to natural debates regarding CBRN threats from terrorists and military forces.

The subterfuge of the book is the preventative war in Iraq and the worst-kept secret in Washington on prewar intelligence. While many will dwell on this plot alone, the author returns the focus to chemical-biological security and the problems our Nation encounters. The book is replete with recent debacles on Decontaminant Solution 2 (DS-2), Sandia decontamination foam, and other issues.

This book is for Chemical Soldiers, demanding leadership regarding a national problem. Will the Chemical Corps return as the leader and provide the simplicity and unity in command that is needed against CBRN threats?



Preventive Attack and Weapons of Mass Destruction: A Comparative Historical Analysis, Lyle J. Goldstein, Stanford University Press, 2005.

One of the most controversial aspects in the national security strategy of the Bush administration has been the concept of preemptive war. Lyle Goldstein examines this concept using examples from the Cold War era. He correctly clarifies the concept of preemptive war as preventive war, with a perfunctory caveat that timing is the main distinguishing feature.

This book is a scholarly study that many may find difficult to read. Numerous examples of crises during the Cold War are revealed, showing several instances when war was narrowly averted. The discussion and examples on the true nature of the Cold War and the likelihood of a nuclear conflict are interesting and thought-provoking.

Mr. Goldstein examines the policy options considered when China, Iraq, and the former Soviet Union attained nuclear weapons. The recurrent theme demonstrates that planning preventive attacks is commonplace, but execution of those attacks is almost nonexistent. In the United States, preventive war plans failed to reach maturity due to conflicts with American values, the marginal payoff potential, or other deterring factors.

Unlike Ingrid Detter's *The Law of War* and Michael Walzer's *Just and Unjust Wars*, Goldstein more or less ignores the legal and ethical arguments against preventive war. While he seems to favor the policy of the Bush administration, his study is intellectually honest and reveals some surprising results. While the moment immediately surrounding a nation's acquisition of nuclear weapons is tense and unstable, there is evidence that supports the notion that counterbalancing nuclear arsenals is stabilizing.

The term *weapons of mass destruction* is almost exclusively used to describe nuclear weapons. It is unclear if the lessons in "Preventive Attack and Weapons of Mass Destruction" are transferable or even applicable to chemical and biological weapon proliferation.

Mr. Kirby is a project manager for Strategic Staffing Solutions (S3). He holds a bachelor's degree in valuation science from Lindenwood College, with a minor in biology and special studies in behavioral toxicology and biotechnology.



Chemical Corps Regimental Association

2007 Nominations for the Hall of Fame and Distinguished Member of the Corps Honors



Nominations are being accepted for the Chemical Corps Regimental Association (CCRA) Hall of Fame and Distinguished Member of the Corps honors.

- ⚔ **Hall of Fame.** This award is extended to Chemical personnel (living or deceased) who have spent their professional careers serving the Chemical Corps. Their service to the Corps must be extraordinary.
- ⚔ **Distinguished Member of the Corps.** This award is extended to living members who served the Corps in their professional lives and continue to serve it in their personal lives. Active Army military and current federal civilian personnel are not eligible for the program. The nominations are

limited to personnel who have been retired for at least two years.

For nomination criteria and submission requirements see <<http://www.chemical-corps.org/honors>>. Nomination packets should be sent to:

Commandant
U.S. Army Chemical School
Regimental Historian
ATTN: ATSN-CM-CS-H
Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473-8926

All packets must arrive by 1 May 2007. The selections will be announced by 15 June 2007. For more information, call (573) 563-7339 or e-mail chuberd@wood.army.mil or lindbergc@wood.army.mil.