

The team recognized the need not only to be briefed on the scientific and military considerations which must be borne in mind when investigating an allegation of chemical or biological warfare; but also to be briefed on certain political, geographical and cultural issues pertaining to the region in question. An accompanying political officer would be very useful, but all team members should be aware of particular political complexities and sensitivities.

The estimated time for travel (return) and field work, including briefings, was 2-3 weeks. In all, 5-6 weeks were actually required, in view of the nature of the study. In other words, this was not an investigation of a specific allegation of the use of toxin weapons, which would have focussed the briefings and field trips considerably. Instead it was more in the nature of a scientific field trip, and so there is some hesitation in drawing specific conclusions. Nevertheless, it is probably safe to say that a more focussed field investigation could have been completed in 1-2 weeks, bearing in mind that briefing requirements, the need to obtain clearances to travel to certain areas or facilities, actual travel to remote areas, sampling (including control samples) and interviewing will likely take more time than expected. Due to the sequential nature of many of the activities, a delay in one area would likely cause other activities to back up.