

2.2 Specific Considerations

Much has been said in general terms about the on-site investigation that is to take place, although the activities constituting an investigation have yet to be identified. One reaches a point of diminishing returns in trying to specify in great detail what may or may not have to be done. While it is possible to generalize to some extent, much will remain to be decided on the spur of the moment and on the initiative of the officials involved. Nevertheless, the details described in sub-section 2.3 constitute an illustrative list of the activities that would be associated with an investigation.

This paper assumes that the investigating team should be equipped to investigate two sites where attacks with chemical or biological weapons are alleged to have taken place. Each site may require two full-day visits for sample collection purposes, quite apart from the time required to interview and/or examine victims and observers (which would likely be carried out in rear areas in any event). We have assumed that the investigating team may have to operate from a base camp for up to seven days in its investigation at each site, but the base camp would be in a safe locale away from the site.

The paper also assumes that samples will be analyzed, divided, packaged, documented and stored (temporarily) in the base camp laboratory facility. To these may be added "control" samples, including blank and/or spiked samples. These samples will then be delivered under escort to the laboratories designated by the international authority to conduct the detailed analysis (the "designated laboratories").