

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS

aerosol:	the suspension of tiny droplets of liquid or solid particles which can travel through the air for some distance before falling to earth
agent:	refers to a chemical or biological substance which can be used in warfare; in some definitions, an agent does not become a weapon until it is placed within a munition or delivery system
asphyxiating:	refers to agents which interfere with breathing and cause death or incapacitation of the victim
binary weapons:	chemical weapons comprised of two substances which are harmless if kept separate, but which become harmful or lethal upon mixing
BWC:	Biological Weapons Convention; first signed in 1972; entered into force in 1975; next review in 1991
CBW:	Chemical and Biological Weapons
CD:	Conference on Disarmament; a multilateral negotiating forum which meets in Geneva; forty nations participate under the auspices of the United Nations
CW:	Chemical Weapons
CWC:	Chemical Weapons Convention; currently being negotiated at the CD; a ban on development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons
GP:	Geneva Protocol; first signed in 1925; see Appendix III
Halabja:	Iraqi village near border with Iran; subjected to CW attack by Iraqi government in March 1988; village was populated by Iraqi Kurds
IAEA:	International Atomic Energy Agency; established in 1957; verifies compliance with the NPT
NPT:	Non-Proliferation Treaty; instrument to halt the spread of nuclear weapons; first signed in 1968; entered into force in 1970
OPCW:	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; an "international authority," similar to the IAEA, to be set up under the CWC for the verification of compliance with the convention