

Doty

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Paul,

There is an IDF videotape showing a troop exercise in the Judean desert with troops in full protective gear storming a defended hill position for 2 hours at 35°C (95°F). There were no heat casualties, although the men were glad to remove their masks at the end of the exercise. The suits were of the older thicker foam-based type, like the present US Army suits. US Marines now have a lighter suit, the British Mark IV.

More recent IDF exercises in new type suits and ventilated masks may also be on videotape.

In Bonn, the person to contact is Dr. Yair SHARAN, at the Israeli Embassy. He is former head of the NBC Section of the IDF. I met his successor, the present head, Dr. Ralf Shain, at Edgewood last week.

With proper authorization, Sharan in Bonn can arrange to provide the 1982 videotape and perhaps more recent videotapes, showing exercises with improved equipment, including the new light weight thinner IDF suit based on charcoal mini-spheres (Blucher spheres) instead of foam. A talk with Sharan to get the IDF perspective on troop and air force performance in anti-chemical protective posture should be valuable and relevant to current issues. A briefing from the German chemical defense people would likewise be useful.

Matt