

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 3:03 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: [AIN] Mazzetti Information on Chivers' Article

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

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Sir,

Per our discussion, below please find the email that Mark Mazzetti sent us yesterday. We are running the traps internally. He said article is not running tomorrow but if you find out differently, please do let us know. Thank you. Regards, [Redacted]

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Mazzetti EMAIL

My colleague Chris Chivers has been working on a number of pieces about old chemical munitions found in Iraq since 2003, and there's a follow up piece I'm helping him with.

It's his understanding that in the 2005-2006 timeframe, there was a program to buy back a number of rockets containing nerve agents from an Iraqi source.

The rockets, hundreds in all, were bought in batches from an Iraqi source. He believes they were Borak (122mm) rockets, many of which contained Sarin and possibly other nerve agents.

Here's why I'm reaching out: we're hearing that the program was run by the agency, which had the direct contact with the Iraqi source. The agency would make contact with the source, who would then bring the rockets to a meet up spot and the military would take ownership of them.

It's unclear at the moment how much the source was paid for getting the rockets off the street.

I think the plan is to run the story sometime this week, so I wanted to see

what more could be learned about the program. When did it start? When did it end? How many total rockets were picked up as part of the program? Roughly how much was spent? Was this just one part of a larger buy back program of other aged chem weapons?