



# governmentattic.org

*"Rummaging in the government's attic"*

Description of document: **Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff (JCS)  
Memorandum for the Vice Chief of Staff, US Air Force  
(USAF), Subject: Use of Riot Control Agents, 1 July  
1994**

Requested date: October 6, 2007

Released date: 25-February-2008

Posted date: 20-March-2009

Title of Document Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Memorandum for the  
Vice Chief of Staff, US Air Force, Subject: Use of Riot  
Control Agents, 1 July 1994

Source of document: Office of Freedom of Information  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1155

Notes: Request originally submitted to the US Marine Corps  
(USMC), then forwarded to the Department of Defense  
(DoD) Office of Freedom of Information.

The governmentattic.org web site ("the site") is noncommercial and free to the public. The site and materials made available on the site, such as this file, are for reference only. The governmentattic.org web site and its principals have made every effort to make this information as complete and as accurate as possible, however, there may be mistakes and omissions, both typographical and in content. The governmentattic.org web site and its principals shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damage caused, or alleged to have been caused, directly or indirectly, by the information provided on the governmentattic.org web site or in this file. The public records published on the site were obtained from government agencies using proper legal channels. Each document is identified as to the source. Any concerns about the contents of the site should be directed to the agency originating the document in question. GovernmentAttic.org is not responsible for the contents of documents published on the website.



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OFFICE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155**

25 FEB 2008

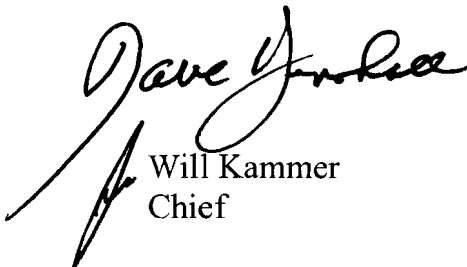
Ref: 08-F-0362

This is in response to your October 6, 2007 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the United States Marine Corps (USMC), seeking "electronic copies (on CD-ROM if possible) of these papers at MARCORSYSCOM..." We received your request and USMC's November 7 referral on December 4, 2007.

The USMC sent us a one page document that is responsive to your request. Upon review, we determined that we have no objection to the release of this document. Please find enclosed a July 1, 1994 Memorandum, "Use of Riot Control Agents," which we are releasing to you in its entirety.

Inasmuch as this constitutes a full grant, I am closing this request in this Office. There are no assessable fees associated with this release.

Sincerely,



Will Kammer  
Chief

Enclosure:  
As stated

PM 1106



**CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315-0001**

**CM-343-94  
1 July 1994**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE CHIEF OF STAFF, US AIR FORCE**

**Subject: Use of Riot Control Agents**

1. Thank you for the information on the use of tear gas (CS) and cayenne pepper spray in Somalia.\* Cayenne pepper spray has been used for riot control purposes; and, although an argument might be made to the contrary, it is considered a riot control agent (RCA) for the purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Its use in war will be subject to the same US policy as the more traditional RCAs.

2. US policy on the use of RCAs in war has recently been resolved by the Administration, and a new Executive order will be published once the Senate ratifies the CWC. Under the new Executive order, RCAs will be authorized in operations other than international and internal armed conflicts. They will also be authorized in areas under direct US military control.

3. However, RCAs cannot be used in any situation where combatants and noncombatants are intermingled, such as rescue of downed air crews. They will also not be used in instances where civilians are being used to screen or mask an attack.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
**JOHN M. SHALIKASHVILI**  
Chairman

**of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**

**Reference:**

\* VCSAF memorandum, 6 June 1994, "Use of Riot Control Agents (RCA)"

