## FEB 9 1975 Services Want to Make ew Poison Gas Bor

By Michael Getler Washington Post Staff Writer

The Navy and Air Force chemical warfare attacks on work. U.S. military forces.

chemicals become a deadly the United States joined with chemical warfare, and the combination when mixed to the other militarily important United States needs to keep gether-have been a source of

new binary nerve gas.

year, the new military budget that went to Capitol Hill this week contains not only a renewed Army request for some 50 million pounds of newed Army request for some 50 million pounds of money but a Navy and Air chemical munitions, much of Force request to start developit conventional nerve gas, ment of bombs that would also which kills instantly. carry the gas.

First disclosure of the new bomb request came in a 202-page annual report on the overall U.S. military posture submitted to Congress Wednesday by Gen. George S. Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The existing type of nerve gas is essentially a single chemical, and the Pentagon has argued that this gas—both in storage and contained in artillery shells—is much less safe than the new binary chemicals would be.

The existing type of nerve gas is essentially a single rather than weapons.

Aside from the utilkelihood of a nerve gas atack, opponents argue that my use of such weapons would be a sign of desperation, quikly leading First disclosure of the new bomb request came in a 202-Chiefs of Staff.

budget request for the devel-opment of a binary bomb artillery shells. They only be-

million is included in the new budget for the project.

want to develop a "binary cluded to support renewed mixed only as the bomb fell bomb" containing deadly Army plans to begin building from an airplane and not by nerve gas to be used in retalia- a production facility for the the motion of planes taking tion for any similarly lethal gases and to continue research off.

The so-called binary muni- tocol, which the U.S. Senate well equipped military force tions-in which two non-toxic ratified only last December, in the world when it comes to countries of the world in re- pace in order to deter a chemicontroversy in Congress for nouncing the "first use" of cal attack or be able to redeadly chemical weapons. That controversy, however, This, however, does not make revolved around the Army's it illegal to continue research stymied the Pentagon with a efforts to start production of and production of these weapartillery shells loaded with the ons as means to retaliate Though Congress killed the as the Pentagon argues, as a Army's request for funds last means to deter such an attack.

The existing type of nerve

In the binary technique, two "The Navy has included a relatively harmless chemicals opment of a binary bomb artillery shells. They only bewhich also will be used by the Air Force," Brown reported. Military sources say about \$2 shell in flight.

In the newly bomb, project sources claim, Another \$12.3 million is in the two chemicals would be

The Pentagon contends that Under the 1925 Geneva Pro- the Soviet Union is the most

spond in knd.

variety of arguments. They point out that any nation such as the Soviet Union that has a heavy investment in such weapons also has equipped equipped her forces with defensive equipment against counter-attack, which makes chemicals a poor choice for retaliation.

It is argued that U.S. funds should go into defense equip-ment—masks, vaccines and

Aside from the unlikelihood of desperation, quikly leading to the use of nucler weapons.

Finally, a key regument of opponents of the Army plan was that it would probably cost \$250 million to produce the new shells ind almost as much to destroythe old ones.