Personnel Reliability: Introduction and Charge to NSABB

NSABB Meeting

December 10, 2008

NSABB Charge

- Recommend to the USG strategies for enhancing personnel reliability (PR) among individuals with access to biological select agents and toxins
- Overarching question: What is the optimal framework for ensuring PR in a manner that balances the needs for both biosecurity and rapid progress in the life sciences?
- To address these aims, the NSABB will consider:
  - Extant frameworks for PR
  - Features of an optimal PR program
  - Risks and benefits associated with PR programs
  - Metrics for evaluating PR programs

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Sunday, 18 August, 2002, 02:37 GMT 03:37 UK

Anthrax killer 'is US defence insider'

Prof Don Foster analyses the anthrax letters

An FBI forensic linguistics expert believes the US anthrax attacks were carried out by a senior scientist from within America's biological-defence community.

Science 15 August 2008:
Vol. 321. no. 5891. pp. 898 - 899
DOI: 10.1126/science.321.5891.898

News of the Week

ANTHRAX INVESTIGATION:
Full-Genome Sequencing Paved the Way From Spores to a Suspect

Martin Enserink*

Full circle. The 2001anthrax attacks originated in a lab that helped investigate the attacks, the FBI says.

CREDIT: REUTERS/CORBIS

The Tech
Established 1881
HOME OPINION ARTS SPORTS CAMPUS LIFE
Last Published: November 25, 2008
Volume 128 >> Issue 30 : Friday, August 8, 2008

From Helper to Top Suspect In Anthrax
By Rachel Swarns and Eric Lipton
THE NEW YORK TIMES
August 8, 2008
WASHINGTON

In Decemb

mountain ne

killer.

AlterNet
The Mix is the Message

Anthrax attack on congress came from Ar
By Evan Derkacz
Posted on December 14, 2006, Printed on December 1, 2008
http://www.alternet.org/bloggers//45521/

According to Sherwood Ross, the 2001 Anthrax
emanate from an U.S. Army lab by someone w

DISCOVER
Blogs / 80beats
Science, Technology, and The Future
• World's Smallest Snake May Be the Smallest That Could Ever Exist
Caught in the Act: Dark Energy Expanding the Universe
Army Researcher's Alleged Anthrax Attack Raises Concerns Over Biodefense Labs
Last week's suicide by a government biodefense researcher who had been linked to the mailing of anthrax-laced letters in 2001 has raised
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Monday, December 01, 2008
Published on Wednesday, February 27, 2002 in the The Free Lance-Star in Fredericksburg, Va
Printer Friendly Version E-Mail This Article
Anthrax Murders' Mr. X—A Former U.S. Biowaspons Researcher?
by Rick Mercier

Alex Jones' TruthNews.us
HomeArticle ArchivesListen to Alex JonesContact TruthNews
History Channel Admits Anthrax Attacks an Inside Job
YouTube
January 24, 2008

A British scientist wears a protective suit in a laboratory. MI5 has warned that al-Qaida is seeking to recruit scientists who develop deadly viruses. Photograph: Alamy

guardian.co.uk TheObserver

Terrorists try to infiltrate UK's top labs

The security services have intercepted up to 100 suspects posing as postgraduate students who aim to acquire weapons material and expertise

- Mark Townsend, defence correspondent
- guardian.co.uk, Sunday November 2 2008 00.01 GMT
- The Observer, Sunday November 2 2008

Dozens of suspected terrorists have attempted to infiltrate Britain's top laboratories in order to develop weapons of mass destruction, such as biological and nuclear devices, during the past year.

Working Group Established

Voting Members

- Dennis Kasper (Chair)
- Arturo Casadevall
- Murray Cohen
- Barry Erlick
- Claire Fraser-Liggett
- Mike Imperiale
- Paul Keim
- Stan Lemon
- David Relman
- Andrew Sorensen
- Anne Vidaver

Agency Representatives

- Kris Beardley, FBI
- Val Bonham, OGC, NIH
- Robert Butera, State Ken Cole, DoD
- Diane DiElliis, OSTP
- Dennis Dixon, NIH
- Elizabeth George, DHS
- Wendy Hall, DHS
- Peter Jutro, EPA
- Steve Kappes, USDA
- Larry Kerr, ODNI
- Sara Klucking, DHS
- Carol Linden, DHHS
- Jan Nicholson, CDC
- Dana Perkins, DHHS
- Dave Thomassen, DoE
- Serina Vandergrift, FBI
- Ron Walters, Intelligence Community

Working Group Approach

- Briefings on extant PR programs
  - HHS/USDA Select Agent Programs
  - Dept. of Defense (Army)
  - Dept. of Energy (Los Alamos and Livermore National Labs)
  - NIH Intramural Research Program
  - CDC Intramural Research Program
  - Intelligence Community (Security clearances)
  - Battelle Biomedical Research Center

Working Group Approach

- **Discussion of PR with selected participants at November 2008 International Roundtable on DUR**
  - **Extant PR programs similar to those in US, mostly for federally funded defense research**
  - **Foreign personnel key component to research, major challenge for PR**
  - **Lessons to be learned from private sector**
  - **Culture of distrust vs. culture of openness**
  - **Misuse of expertise is a reality**
  - **PR programs can mitigate but not eliminate the risk of insider threats, can help with public trust**

Working Group Approach

- **Articulation of:**
  - **Vision**
  - **Guiding Principles**
  - **Aims**
  - **Applicability**
  - **(Features)**

Timeline

- October-November 2008
  - WG briefings
  - Begin drafting vision, principles, aims
- December 3
  - In-person WG meeting
  - Continue drafting findings and recommendations (aims, features, elements, roles and responsibilities)
- December 4
  - Administrative briefing of NSABB on PR issue
- December 10
  - Public meeting of full NSABB
  - Present WG findings and recommendations to date
- Mid December- mid January
  - WG teleconferences to continue findings and recommendations
- Week of Jan 15
  - Teleconference of NSABB to finalize report
- January 20, 2009
  - Submit NSABB report to USG