

Joint Public Health & Law Enforcement Investigations

Enhancing Relationships to Improve Readiness

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Situation

- ❑ **History has shown there is a demonstrated willingness to employ non-traditional weapons**
- ❑ **Biological agents pose new challenges to public health and law enforcement investigations**
- ❑ **Investigations requires coordination between public health (PH) and law enforcement (LE)**
 - Identify the biological agent
 - Prevent spread of disease
 - Apprehend those responsible



Challenges

- ❑ **Separate and independent investigations**
 - Mutual awareness or understanding
 - Information exchange

- ❑ **Lack of cooperation between PH and LE may hinder the response**
 - May cause delays in response



Public Health and Law Enforcement: Goals

Public Health:

- ❑ Stop further cases of disease and outbreaks
- ❑ Protect health and safety of public
- ❑ Build science base for future prevention

Law Enforcement:

- ❑ Stop further crimes
- ❑ Protect health and safety of public
- ❑ Apprehend and convict criminals

National Strategy for Countering Biological Threats

Goals

- 1. Improve global access to the life sciences to combat infectious disease regardless of its cause**
- 2. Establish and reinforce norms against the misuse of life sciences**
- 3. Implement a coordinated approach to influence, identify, inhibit, and interdict those who seek to misuse the life sciences**
- 4. Reinvigorate the BWC as the premier forum for global outreach and coordination**

Joint Investigations: Goal

Improve the ability of law enforcement and public health to respond to a potential bioterrorism event

Joint Investigations: Objectives

- ❑ **Identify the roles, capabilities and expertise of law enforcement and public health for a bioterrorism incident**
- ❑ **Identify existing information and intelligence-sharing protocols among those agencies**
- ❑ **Identify the concepts and principles of the joint investigations model**
- ❑ **Identify benefits, obstacles and challenges of joint investigations**

Joint Investigation Benefits

Public Health:

- ❑ Access to case information (i.e., location of release, dispersal device used and targeted victims)
- ❑ Assisting apprehension of suspect, therefore prevent future exposure

Law Enforcement:

- ❑ Access to infectious disease subject matter experts
- ❑ Access to relevant medical/health investigation
- ❑ Combines two interviews into one

Joint Investigations: Activities

- ❑ **Information Sharing**
- ❑ **Threat Credibility Evaluations**
- ❑ **Joint Investigations/Interviews**
- ❑ **Joint Training**

Information Sharing

- ❑ **Establish communication mechanism before the event**
 - Helps to create relationships
 - Build credibility and trust

- ❑ **Challenges**
 - Public health and law enforcement do not typically work together
 - Goals may overlap but methods are different
 - Barriers to information-sharing
 - Privacy of patient information
 - Law enforcement sensitive information

Threat Credibility Evaluation

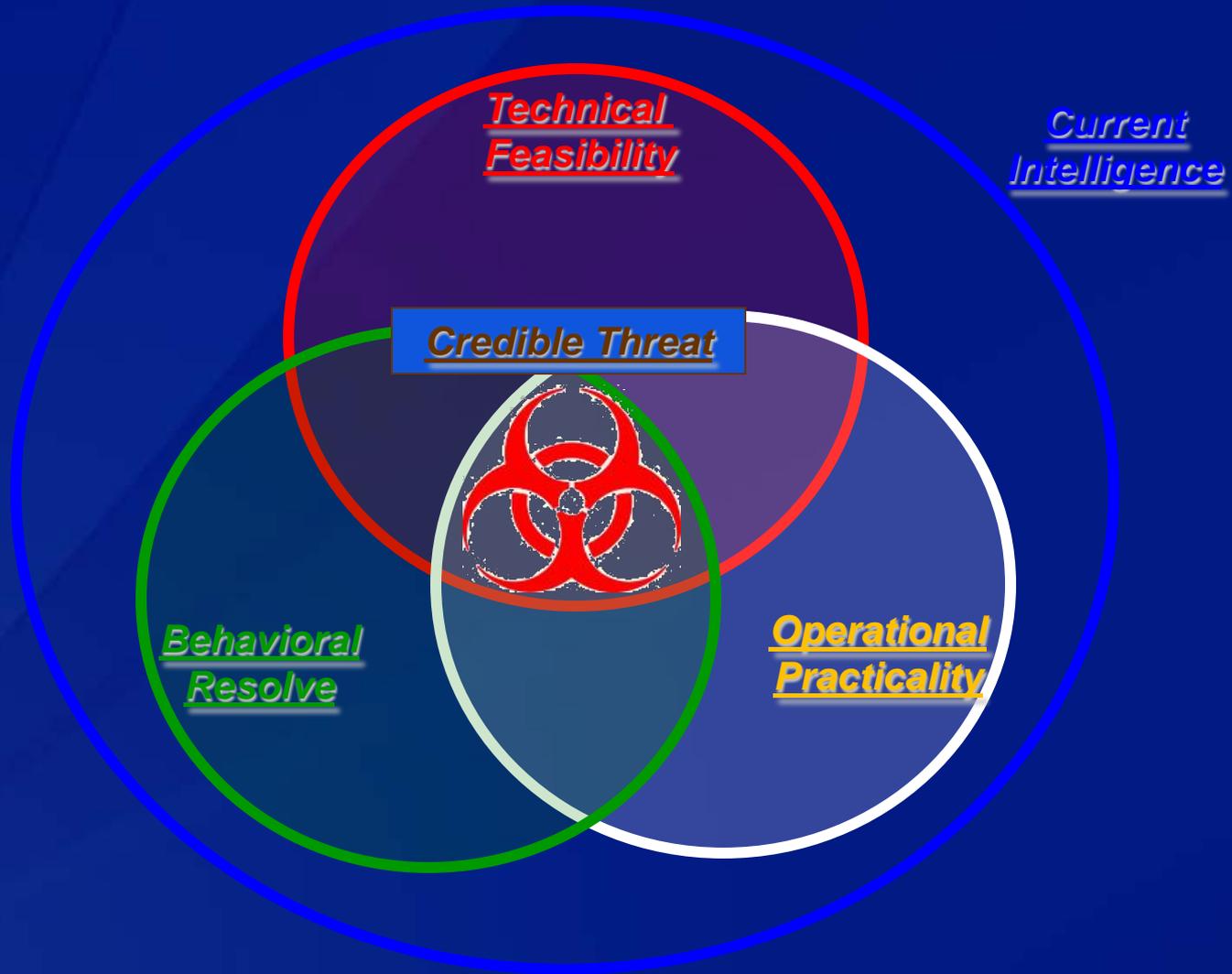
□ Purpose of Threat Credibility Evaluation

- To determine if a credible bioterrorism threat exists
- To identify next steps to address threat if one exists

□ Protocols should specify how law enforcement and public health will conduct a joint threat credibility evaluation

- Each entity may have critical information that will affect decisions
- Should be done when either agency meets the defined triggers

FBI WMD Threat Credibility Evaluation



Joint Investigations

- ❑ **Law Enforcement and Public Health agencies should agree on criteria for a joint investigation**
 - **May include joint interviews**
- ❑ **Must take into consideration National, Regional, State and local laws**
 - **Privacy rules (patient confidentiality)**
 - **Criminal prosecution**

Joint Training

❑ **Need to train investigative personnel**

- Develop relationships between public health and law enforcement
- Promote an understanding of investigative methods
- Facilitate communication and information exchange

❑ **Trainings**

- Joint Investigative Workshops
- Exercises
 - Notification Drills
 - Table Top Exercises
 - Full Scale Exercises

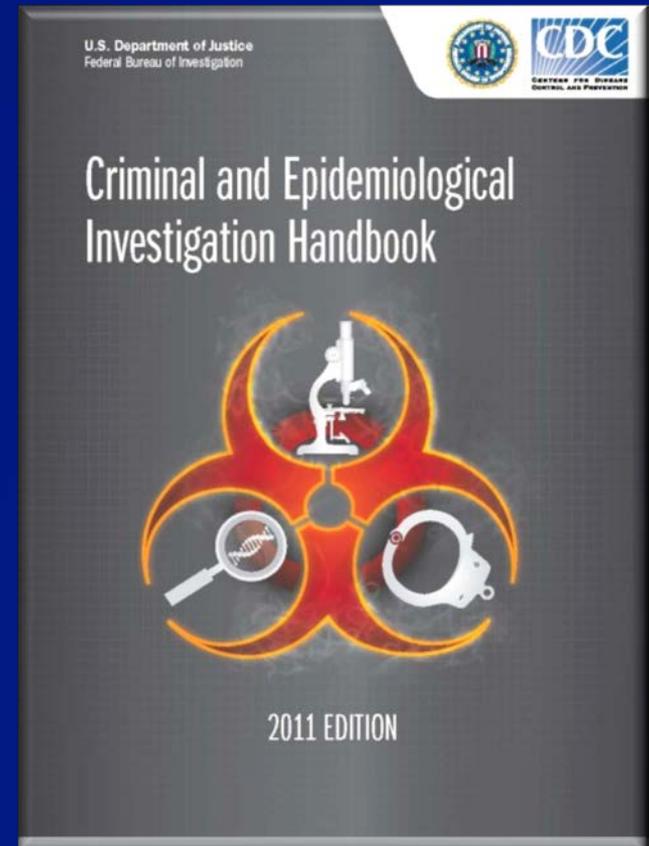
Joint Investigations Workshops

- ❑ **Two-day Workshop**
 - Curriculum of lectures and exercises
 - Facilitated by CDC and FBI instructors
- ❑ **Number of Courses: 32**
- ❑ **Participants: >2900**



Crim-Epi Handbook

- ❑ **FBI, CDC, and Department of Defense created first draft in 2001 after series of exercises**
- ❑ **Originally published in 2003**
 - Updated in 2006
 - Updated in 2011
- ❑ **Contains best practices, guidelines and practical examples**



Joint Investigations Training: International

□ Partners

- HHS/ASPR
- INTERPOL
- Department of State (BEP)
- Defense Threat Reduction Agency (CBEP, ICU)

□ Courses/Exercises/Trainings

- INTERPOL
- EUROPOL & ECDC
- G8
- ASEAN
- Organization of American States
- Southern Caucasus (Georgia)

□ Meetings

- BWC Meeting of Experts (2009)



International Joint Interview Exercise:
Exercise participants and case patient (actor)

Joint Investigations Training: International

FY 2013:

- ❑ **International Joint Investigations Workshop**
 - Johannesburg, South Africa (October 2012)
 - DOS/BEP funded
- ❑ **International Crim-Epi Investigations**
 - Netherlands (November 2012)
- ❑ **BioThreat Awareness for Law Enforcement**
 - United Arab Emirates (October 2012)
 - Sandia National Laboratories
 - DOS/BEP funded
- ❑ **DTRA**
 - TBD

Summary

- ❑ **Law Enforcement and Public Health goals**
 - Mutually beneficial

- ❑ **Activities for Collaboration**
 - Information Sharing protocols/procedures
 - Threat Credibility Evaluations
 - Investigations
 - Interviews
 - Joint training programs