



FBI Support to the Biological Weapons Convention

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate

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Agenda

- Relevant Bioterrorism Statutes
- Bioterrorism Prevention
 - Program Goals
 - Program Strategy
 - Outreach and Initiatives





Relevant Bioterrorism Statutes

- Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction
Statute Title, 18, USC 2332a
- Biological Weapons Anti-Terrorism Statute of 1989, (BWAT) Title 18, USC 175 and 175b
 - Amended 10/24/01 to include Possession without Legitimate Purpose as a violation
- USA PATRIOT Act
 - Definition of “restricted person;” list of prohibitors

A THREAT INVOLVING CBRN IS A FEDERAL CRIME





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Program Goals

- Build national and international bioterrorism threat detection, identification, and reporting capabilities
- Improve bioterrorism assessment and investigative capabilities
- Enhance bioterrorism awareness to the scientific, industry, and academic communities through outreach





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Program Strategy

- **Detection & Identification**
 - Improved Information and Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiology, Theft/Loss of Select Agents, other Tripwires/Reporting with Life Sciences Community/Industry
- **Notification & Assessment**
 - Notification Protocols between Law Enforcement and Public Health; Threat Assessment Process
- **Investigations & Response**
 - Improved Coordination between Law Enforcement and Public Health; Epidemiological Investigations

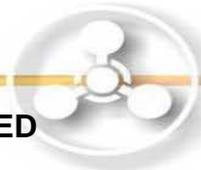




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WMD Coordinators

- At least one WMD Coordinator in all of the FBI's 56 Field Offices
- Contacted by State and local Emergency Responders when confronted by a WMD threat or incident
- Liaison with Federal regional counterparts and State, county and local response agencies
- Emphasis on pre-event planning and prevention
- Liaison with entities in their jurisdiction (e.g. industry, academia)
- Act as a Conduit to FBIHQ and the Federal Government for technical information, advice, and assistance

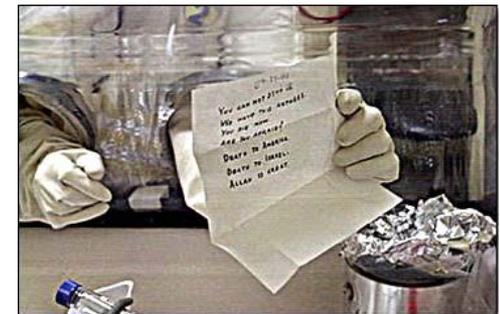




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Joint Criminal and Epidemiological Investigations Initiative

- FBI and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention joint investigations training for law enforcement and public health to:
 - Improve efforts to identify and investigate potential overt or covert biological threats and incidents
 - Encourage information sharing between the disciplines
 - Assist in developing protocols for joint investigations



Copies of the Joint Criminal and Epidemiological Investigations Handbook 2011 Edition are available outside





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Outreach to Industry & Academia

- Program goal is to establish relationships through mutual understanding and trust, to mitigate security concerns around life science research that affects academic, industry, and security communities.
- The objectives of the outreach efforts are:
 - Identify biosecurity roles and responsibilities of law enforcement/security agencies
 - Identify biosecurity roles and responsibilities of research institutions and industry
 - Identify benefits and potential obstacles (real or perceived) to improve cooperation among law enforcement/security agencies and research institutions regarding biosecurity
 - Identify methods for improving communications among biosecurity stakeholders

For additional information, please visit <http://academicbiosecurityworkshop.org>





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Select Agent/Pathogen Security

- FBI is a partner in the Select Agent Program, headed by HHS/CDC and USDA
 - Conduct criminal background checks on persons applying for access to select agents
 - Results of check are provided to sponsor, CDC or USDA, who ultimately approves or disapproves the applicant
 - Responsibility of investigating incidents of loss, theft, or release of select agents
 - WMDC is the local point of contact

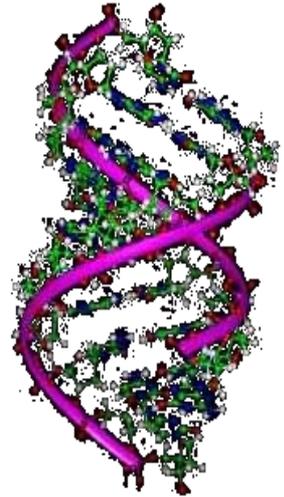




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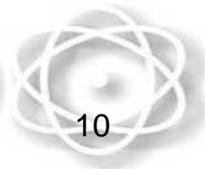
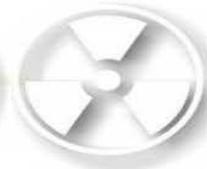
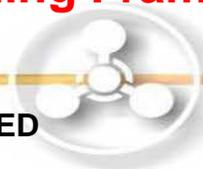
Synthetic Biology Tripwire Initiative

- FBI – U.S. synthetic biology industry partnership; established a reporting mechanism for suspicious orders of genetic sequences.
 - HHS published the “Screening Framework Guidance for Providers of Synthetic Double-Stranded DNA”
 - Document outlines minimal standards for vetting sequences and customers, and established a reporting mechanism through which industry leaders would notify FBI field office WMD Coordinators for additional vetting, if required



Above referenced document are available at:

<http://www.phe.gov> - key words: Screening Framework

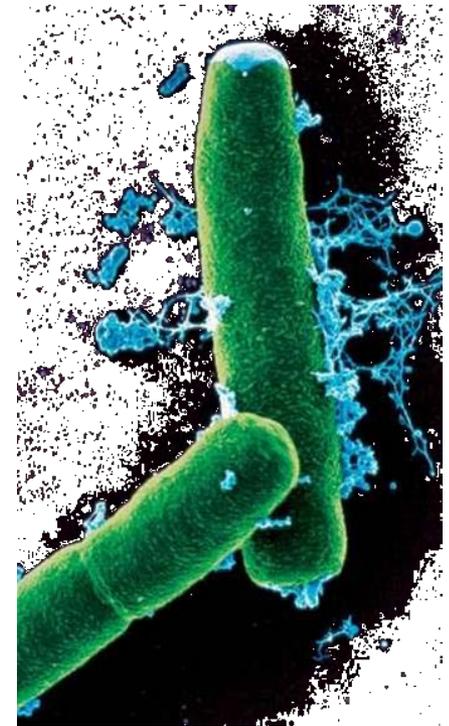




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Outreach to iGEM and DIYbio

- International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Competition
 - Largest synthetic biology competition
 - FBI has been a Gold-Tier sponsor since 2009
- Do-It-Yourself Biology (DIYbio)
 - Persons conducting biological research outside of institutional setting
 - Outreach conducted with these two communities raises their awareness for safety and security concerns and prevent their potential exploitation by nefarious actor(s)





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International Biosecurity and Prevention Forum

- Mission: To prevent the misuse of biological agents as weapons of mass destruction by sharing, exercising, and implementing biosecurity and bioterrorism prevention and response best practices.

IBPF Goals

- Forge international collaboration by bringing together the world's leading biosecurity and bioterrorism prevention experts.
- Enhance global biosecurity by sharing member-driven bioterrorism prevention practices.
- Serve as a single source for practical, threat-based, and actionable biosecurity information and resources.

*Forum involves a Web Portal,
available later this month*

INTERNATIONAL **BIOSECURITY** AND PREVENTION



WWW.IBPFORUM.ORG





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Questions

- Contact Information

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