

Running Head: Biological Weapons

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MSG 11B

Biological Weapons

Class #58

Abstract

This outlines some ideas on how to protect the borders of the U.S. Also some security measures for our ports, highways, and airports. The types of the detection devices and controls in place to safeguard our travel. Employing a quick response team with professionals and experts in their field to help contain a biological incident.

## Biological Weapons

Try imagining if you will you, your wife and your small child on a bus or subway in central New York. A masked man appears and starts spraying what appears to be hair-spray over the passengers. What do you do? Do you wait to see what happens? Try to understand what this lunatic is about? Or do you become a fatality. Let us relook this, what if you and your family had been trained in the threat of biological terrorism, you would within seconds do what ever you could to get your family off that bus or subway. You would even jump or throw them off that moving vehicle. Did you know that after the Sarin gas attacks in Japan that 90 percent of the casualties were the emergency workers who rushed in not knowing the treat? Terrorism threatens everyone, emergency response and management personnel have a tuff job to figure out how to protect civilians and themselves in respond to terrorist acts. The average U.S. citizen would be confused in the event of confronting a biological incident. This ignorance places the U.S. population in greater danger. This is a war on the civilian front and that's where groups like Bin Laden, Al-Qaida and other Jihadists groups want it.

As security guard at the airport checks our bags looking for any suspicious material and scanning our shoes, do they really know what their looking for? What about perfumeries, cosmetics that could hold biological killers like anthrax spores or smallpox? Many of these biological killers can be in aerosol form and can be distributed through the air-condition systems of aircraft, buses or any form of transportation. One-tenth gram of anthrax with in ten minutes can infect a room ten by eight feet. In this time it would enter the respiratory system with an amount 180 times the lethal dose. Now think about that a single crop duster flying from somewhere in Mexico across the boarder over El Paso spraying all over the entire city. How do we protect our citizens and our boarders from these kinds of attacks?

First we need to stop our porous borders. On both of our borders to the north and south they are a serious breach in our security. I think we should have a security fence that is a multi layered obstacle comprised of several elements: A ditch and a pyramid shaped stack of six coils of razor wire on the Mexican or Canadian side of the structure, barbed wire only on our side. A road for our border patrol vehicles to patrol on. Some type a detection fence in the center, with sensors to warn of any incursion. With cameras to monitor for possible intrusions or threats to security. Border patrol units need to be deployed along the security fence under the command of home land security.

Airport security is not the only method of travel that is threatened by biological terrorists. Who is responsible for security of America's seaports, railroads and roads? The Transportation Security Administration is focused generally on airport security. What agency is responsible for the safety of America's seaports, railroads and roads?

The Transportation Security Administrations approach to its duties in rail, highway and public transit security will differ from the centralized federal government control over air travel security. Whereas private companies traditionally handled security at airports, there are governmental agencies in charge of security on the roads and rails and in the ports.

([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com))

The possible threats to ports are a major concern; do to the large amounts of chemicals, petroleum products and other complexes at many of our ports. If any of these were attacked by terrorist it could be horrific to the environmental and surrounding area. Our 361 seaports are secured by the Coast Guard port security. These are deployable units that are prepared for any type of operation. They can be deployed within 24 hours and be up and running in 96 hours. The

Coast Guard port security unit can carry out overseas operations to secure ports in support of any mission around the world. The Coast Guard port security also provides coastal protection to high value assets like piers and harbor entrances. Coast Guard port security units operate in U.S. territorial waters to protect any ships from any threats. The Coast Guard port security can fall under the control of the Maritime Defense Zone command or in foreign waters as part of the Harbor Defense Command under the Naval Coastal Warfare Command Structure.

Several other agencies are engaged in additional water front operations, such as monitoring incoming cargo. These containers that enter our ports should be scanned 100% before being offloaded. The customs service, should adopt some type of tracking system for all containers.

The railroad along with the CIA and the national intelligence community are actively involved in scrutinizing the faults in the rail system. With over 130,000 miles of railroads this is a monstrous task. Other enforcement agencies along with the transit authorities have control over highway travel. They both have prioritized assets and have doubled their security efforts by identifying countermeasures by increasing the number and types of security personnel. These increases are in control stations and in transportation vehicles. New equipment has also been purchased along with inspections of certain types of hazmat.

The Transportation Department has a variety of transportation security programs in place, but terrorist organizations still focus on inflicting mass casualties. The Transportation Department must conduct workshops and training to help emergency response teams, firefighters, police officers and local transit employees' deal with these issues. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are in charge of controlling the shipments of toxins that could be used by bio-

terrorist. These shipments travel along our highways and railroads everyday. The (CDC) minimizes the threats by monitoring the movements of these toxins.

Some airports now have new portable and stationary sensors that detect some biological treats but not all. One device is called miniflo. This device will collect and sample particles in the air. The detection system could warn of the release of biological agents inside airport terminals. Also there is a new mobile decontamination unit which is a shower-equipped trailer that could service up to 1,800 people hourly after a suspected biological attack.

The real problem is our civilian population they are not ready. Back in the fifties with the treat of nuclear war our population was more prepared. The schools went through drills to protect the students from a nuclear blast and fallout and many families had shelters. The government of Israel issues gas masks to its population and trains them how to use them. Today, we must keep improving our emergency awareness for such an attack. We need an emergency response team in our country that is full of experts in their field. The team should include physicians, veterinarians, and specialists in communications, logistics and flight control. This team should be able deploy to any disaster within 24 hours. They should be able to deploy with all their supplies and equipment. Some of this would include portable laboratories, protective suits, decontamination material and immunizations. However for biological treats surveillance is still the key to our success we must look for outbreaks of illnesses and areas terrorist may be target. Also we need to identify local resources available to provide assistance such as antibiotics and antitoxins. Local governments need to keep on planning on how they will manage massive numbers of casualties and public hysteria.

References

Internet from 12/14/06 <http://www.washingtonpost.com>

## Outline

Thesis: Employing a quick response team with professionals and experts in their field to help contain a biological incident.

### I. Countering the Biological Threat

#### A. Transportation Security

1. Rail
2. Sea Ports
3. Airports

#### B. Boarder Security

1. Northern Boarder
2. Southern Boarder

### II. Training Program

#### A. Populace Education

#### B. Inter-Agency Exercises

### III. Conclusion