

BIOTERRORISM -- MILESTONES

- 1995 Presidential Decision Directive 39
- 1996 CBIRF (Chem/Bio Incident Response Force)
 350 Navy and Marine Corps --Camp LaJeune
 HHS-CBRDT (Chem/bio Rapid Deploymt Team)
 25 people based in D.C.
- 1997 Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction
 Acts directs DOD to develop and implement a
 domestic preparedness program
- Chem/Bio Quick Response Force at Aberdeen
 500 troops
- National Guard to create 50+ 22 man special CB
 units
- Plan for Metropolitan medical strike teams
 35 member teams in 120 cities
 First responders
 police, fire, emergency rescue
- ➡ *16 Sept.-- First Medical Symposium on Bioterrorism
 Infectious Diseases Society of America,
 San Francisco, California*
- 2-3 Dec.--National Conference on Urban Bioterrorism
 Baltimore, Maryland*

EXPERTISE IN DISEASES OF PRIMARY CONCERN AS BIOWEAPONS -- 1997

(smallpox, plague, anthrax, botulism, tularemia, hemorrhagic fevers)

- Academic Centers

Clinical knowledge -- close to nil

Research -- very little funded or performed
-- concern about classified research

Curriculum -- not included

- Centers for Disease Control

Epidemiological experience -- limited

Diagnostic capacity -- modest at best

Educational material -- none

Security clearances -- few

Concern: possible damage to international relationships if seen to be working with intelligence agencies.

- NIH

No program and essentially no expertise

- Military Services

Minimally funded but effective programs in Army (USAMRIID) and Navy (NMRI) engaged in research and education, primarily of military

BIOTERRORISM - MILESTONES II

1998 February 21

New York City Table top Exercise -- Anthrax

Questions:

- What are the appropriate public health and medical measures post-attack?
- Who are the first responders?
- Which diseases should we really be concerned about?

Decision: convene a Working Group

+To decide which organisms are of sufficient concern to warrant special preparations
+ To publish comprehensive reviews and recommendations for each

Outcome: 5 organisms and a group (hemorrhagic fevers) identified as priority warranting special preparations and creation of stockpiles

Anthrax -- JAMA May 1999

Smallpox -- JAMA June 1999

Plague -- JAMA in press

Other three -- in advance preparation

At request of HHS, recommendations on size and components of stockpile formulated.

BIOTERRORISM -- MILESTONES III

Educational aims:

- To acquaint the medical and public health communities with the facts of bioterrorism and the need for professional involvement
- To persuade Congress and the Executive that the result of a bioterrorist attack is an epidemic; that first responders are medical and public health and that support for this must be provided through DHHS
- To encourage the creation of a critical staff of professionals at NCDC, the traditional agency for dealing with epidemics, to develop the program
- To relate the basic strategy to the practical, broadly similar, needs for dealing with new and emerging infections

BIOTERRORISM -- MILESTONES IV

September 1998

Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense Studies
Jointly sponsored by Schools of Medicine
and Public Health

Until May 1999, funded by Hopkins and volunteers
Congressional earmark of \$1 million in FY99

Actions: National meetings

- February 1999 -- organized first national conference on bioterrorism for public health and medical professionals -- Jointly sponsored with DHHS and 12 professional organizations
- February 2000 -- proposed and helped organize Western regional conference on bioterrorism -- San Diego, California
- November 2000 --organizing second national conference on bioterrorism

BIOTERRORISM -- Communications

- Presentations

Over 100 formal presentations, primarily to professional audiences, including:

National Academy of Sciences Governing Council
NIAID Advisory Council, Smithsonian
American Red Cross Emergency Committee
Medical/public health faculties at Johns Hopkins,
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Michigan, Florida, Columbia,
NYU, Kansas, Texas Southwestern, South Florida,
Tufts-New England Med Center, California-San Diego

- Congressional testimony, meetings with members and staff
- Countless television and radio appearances
- Web site now operative <hopkins-biodefense.org>
Webcast of first national meeting (Feb 1999)
- Publications

Quarterly publication of the Center
Proceedings of the first national meeting published in
cooperation with CDC in *Emerging Infections*
More than 15 publications either in print or in advanced
phase of preparation

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* Denotes full-time status