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Title Bioterrorism

Event Western Conference on Bioterrorism

Event Sponsor Co-sponsored by JHU Center for Civilian
Biodefense Strategies

Event location San Diego CA

Notes

Publ as

TITLE

Appreciate opportunity to be here and to co-sponsor this conference &

California clearly has

the growing number of organizations who have begun to appreciate the
menace threat posed by biological weapons

State of CA, County of San Diego and the school

- (3) Had the privilege of working with and benefiting from the wise counsel of Mike Roberts, ^{San Diego} ^{San Diego} Roberts and his County Supervisors have ~~shared~~ been especially concerned re: the threat and were key motivators for this conference.

(2) Appreciate with Hal Simon, ^{San Diego} ^{San Diego} Bailey and the VCSO School of Medicine. The focus today is San Diego but, as such, illustrative of the problems just beginning to be faced by

~~all parts of the country as well~~ Effect of BW is an epidemic - in fact like the West Nile epidemic in N.Y. ^{and many other epidemics}

~~Effect of BW is an epidemic - in fact like the West Nile epidemic in N.Y. and many other epidemics~~
~~1st line of detection & response - MDs - health dept.~~
~~Totally different than chemical or explosive - 1st responders are police / fire / ER~~

in progress -

We need to be very clear today that we are talking explicitly about BW.

~~So many of the bad planning~~

~~So many of the bad planning~~

So many of the misconceptions which I have witnessed - both at work & local level - rest in the belief that one set of plans fits all - be it chemical, biological, weapons.

Referring to ~~chemical~~ threats as chemical (one word) illustrates this.

Emphasis until very recently has been on the chemical -

~~Effect of BW is an epidemic~~

Training of 1st responders teams assigned to DOD Chem Corps.

Problem - how to deal with a sudden attack of a chemical -

Police / fire / ER teams are needed urgently

Know a great deal re: dealing with chemicals - HAZMAT -

^{Threat} BW is different and when dealt with as chemical -

Now the disaster which has characterized the anthrax threats.

②
Circus of ~~delusion~~ people stripping & being hosed down; of vaccination;
of mass anti-hispanic administration

IF IN FIRST PLACE

But causes an epidemic - salmonellosis, cases began to appear. MBS
Contrast to HAZMAT Teams ~~here~~

In contrast to the extensive HAZMAT apparatus already in place - lower a
handful of people at state level and a smattering at city & county
levels who are engaged in disease surveillance and investigation.

Result: ill Epid. of salmonella diarrhea in Oregon ~~at the time~~.

Terrorist event - 750 cases.

Health Dept not even ~~aware~~ it had a problem until someone reported
~~it~~ squeezed on the Register's.

NYC - ~~prophetic~~
Our concern - today - we have a weak, fragile p.h. ^{medical} infrastructure for
dealing with ~~any~~ all diverse problems (MBS ~~that~~ Special Fed Teams
from Natl. Guard / Marines / Engineers will do nothing to right that problem)

~~Disasters to be feared.~~

① ~~Disaster~~

Why + why now?

~~Disaster~~ Continuing skepticism
for a no. of reasons

②

My point

Until '95 -

I shared that attitude.

③ Iraq / Arm / Soviet Union.

P.D.D. - 1995

What agents to be concerned about. - Amy - ^{Actual} Salmonella - Oregon
~~What state -~~

Many new + emerging ^{Hanta} W. Nile.

~~Most of the world's~~ ~~W. Nile~~ ~~W. Nile~~

A few which could be catastrophic

④ Russian list

⑤ Working Group -> CDC Review.

Two most serious - agro + anthrax.

IV. The Changing Nature of the Threat

- Historical

- Groups who want to make a statement about perceived wrongs or to demonstrate for independence; individuals who are emotionally disturbed
- Limited geographic networks of conspirators
- Very limited access to weapons of mass destruction
- A moderated statement

- Current

- Religious groups with monomaniacal leaders who can invoke followers to die for a cause or to make a statement
- Modern communications facilitate the creation of a widely dispersed network of agents and subgroups capable of working collectively
- Possible access to effectively all weapons of mass destruction, the biological weapons being those of greatest concern
- Stated intent is to inflict maximum damage

Yemen
Hamas
Iran

Is there a sense of urgency in moving ahead with preparations?
Wish I could say 'yes' but I'm afraid I can't.
Despite public recognition at highest levels of govt. that BW are more deadly & less feared
Fear very much that the needed initiatives may have to await the first
opidemics ~~but would they not~~ - SRS - may be the last.

I would hope that this is not the case. This Conference, one year after
the first national conference, is an important one for taking stock.