

John

Less than 2 years - 658 days - have elapsed since that fateful day in September when, for all of us, the world changed.

- For myself, it has been 20 months of 7 day weeks as we sought to shape a capability to respond to a bioweapons attack.
- Having left the Washington mainstream little more than a month ago - it seemed appropriate tonight to take a look back - to note where we are - and to ask whether ~~our~~ ^{we are making} efforts in biopreparedness ~~make~~ sense.

- ①
 • Sunday - Sept. 16 - Call from Sooty Thompson
 Second event -

Release of bio agent. - Most probable - smallpox & anthrax
 Why smallpox and anthrax

- ① Soviet's - These the most highly rated. - 1998 - ^{Stephen W. G. Cline & others}
 from Alibek ^{Soviet} 60,000 + \$500
 Anthrax - 30 metric tons vs. 10 grams.
 Smallpox - 1980 initiative - capacity - secret facility

Dispersal of scientists

- ② Iraq -

1995 - provided detailed description of work in anthrax

- ③ Reasonably solid evidence of programs in sov. countries
 Libya, North Korea, Iran.

④ Comparatively easy to produce + distr. bio agents - developments of biotech.

- Recall this to you to remind that the concerns that led to a decision that we needed to ^{make strategic preparations} ~~be better prepared~~ to respond to release of a bio. weapon had a substantial foundation ^{of} that persuaded us that the threat was real and the consequences potentially more serious than would result from a chemical release or even a N weapon.

- Some have been reassured that no weapons ^{have} ~~been~~ found in Iraq and have argued the case for letting down our guard. I would only remind that even a year ago, Iraq was not ^{even a distant possibility} ~~a~~ concern. The threat remains as serious as ever - regrettably - a genie is out of the bottle.

~~and~~

- * All states and ^{may} local health depts with 24/7 provision + labs - 100+ labs.
- * communications linking f.d., hospitals, fed/state/local/civil authorities
- * in progress - plans in such, municipalities ~~that~~ be able to accommodate in an emergency 500 patients/100,000 under neg. pressure even more ~~the~~ neg. pressure rooms in effs.
- * Smallpox vaccine - 300×10^6 doses (domestic + foreign)
- * ^{neg} Recombinant anthrax vaccine - should be ~~start~~ starting in production early next year.
- * ¹⁰ Stock piles $\bar{c}$ enough antibiotics to $\bar{R}$ 20×10^6 for 60 days + respirators, etc.
- ~~*** Secret Antibodies~~
- * Some states are doing better than others but, everywhere I have visited, amazing strides have been made - told over and over "We have never ~~achieved~~ ~~efforts~~ endeavored to bring together the resources of a community as we have done over the past year - it is working amazingly well."

The system has begun to be tested -
 first, by ^{the} West Nile virus epidemic
 Then came SARS →
 And, finally, monkeypox of all things.

SARS is a concern - 1957
 No dx tool PCR @ 5 days. but negative pressure rooms

- * There has been more resistance to the proposed vaccination program than we had expected. A year ago, we had no end of problems in counseling patients to the many union leaders and special groups anxious to be vaccinated. Deliberately (and properly) we set out to educate our own profession and the public that getting a spv vac. was not like a flu shot. Perhaps done too well!

No one could have been more surprised than I when some 3 weeks ago, we discovered there were cases of monkeypox occurring in the Midwest. At ~~that~~ ~~that~~ quickly became apparent that domestic prairie dogs were falling ill and transmitting disease to pet store owners, vets and those who purchased the animals.

The villain in the piece, however, ~~was~~ proved to be the Gambian rat, a normal reservoir of for monkeypox virus across West & Central Africa.

Conclusion: we have had enough surprises over the past 24 months to last us a decade but we are responding much better, more effectively than ever. ~~But~~ But this is a challenge that will not ~~vanish~~ go away. If ~~it's not~~ ~~surrounding~~ it may well be Gambian rats or civet cats carrying ~~spores~~. We live in a small world and it's getting smaller.

APPENDIX statement.