

THE ANTHRAX LETTERS

COUNTERPROLIFERATION AT TEN

USAF Counterproliferation Center

Defense Threat Reduction Agency

Alexandria, VA

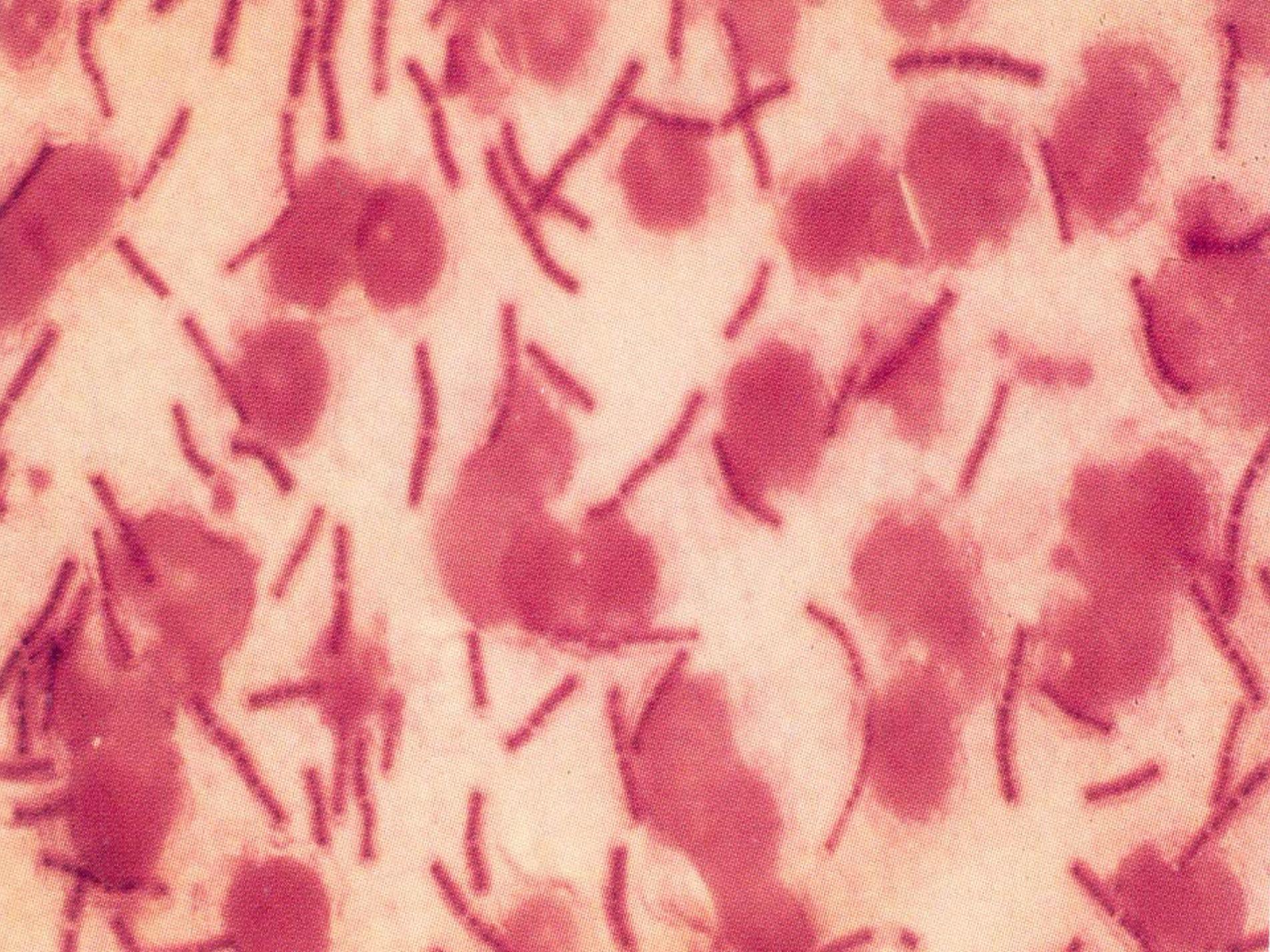
December 8-9, 2003

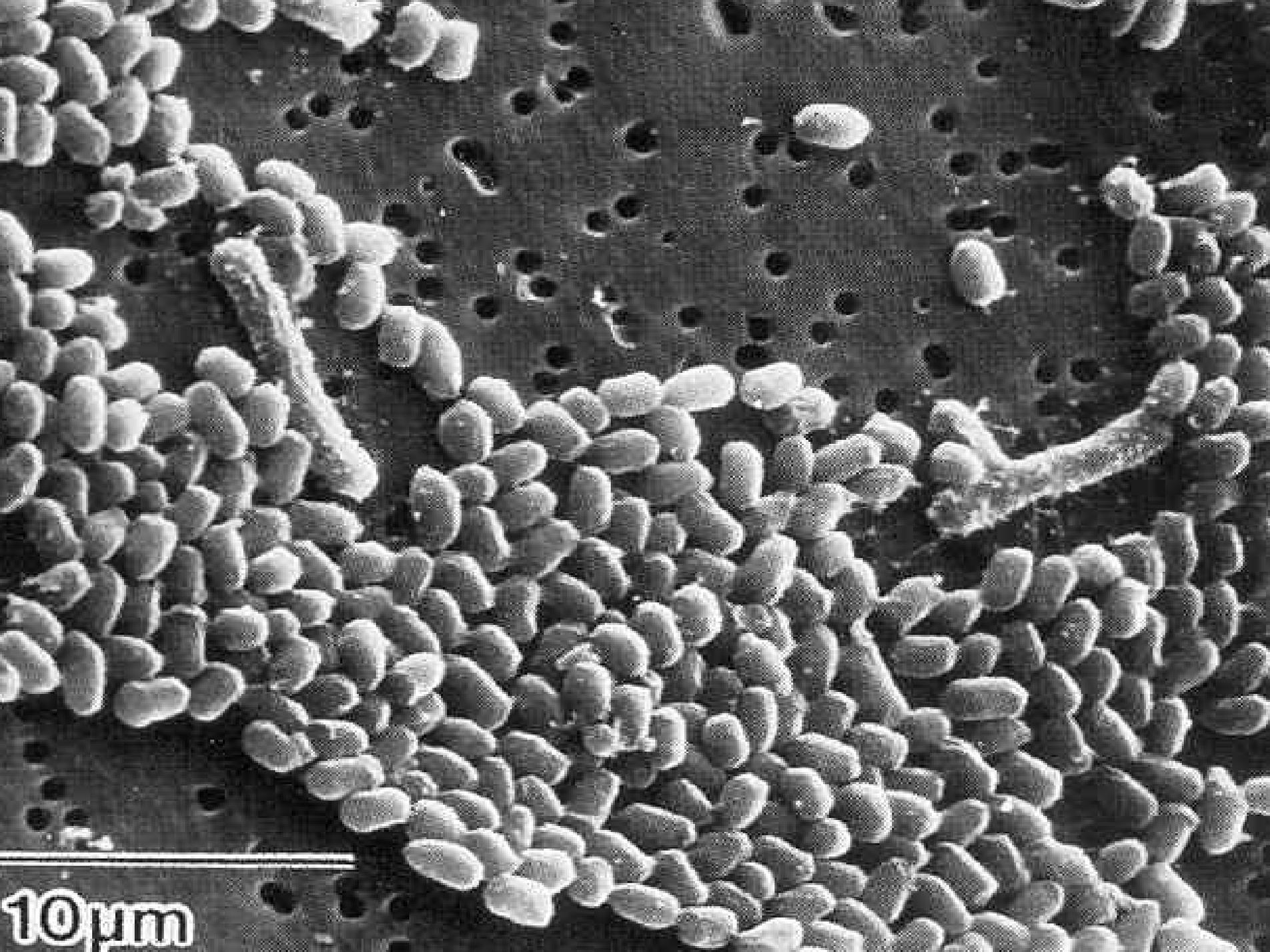
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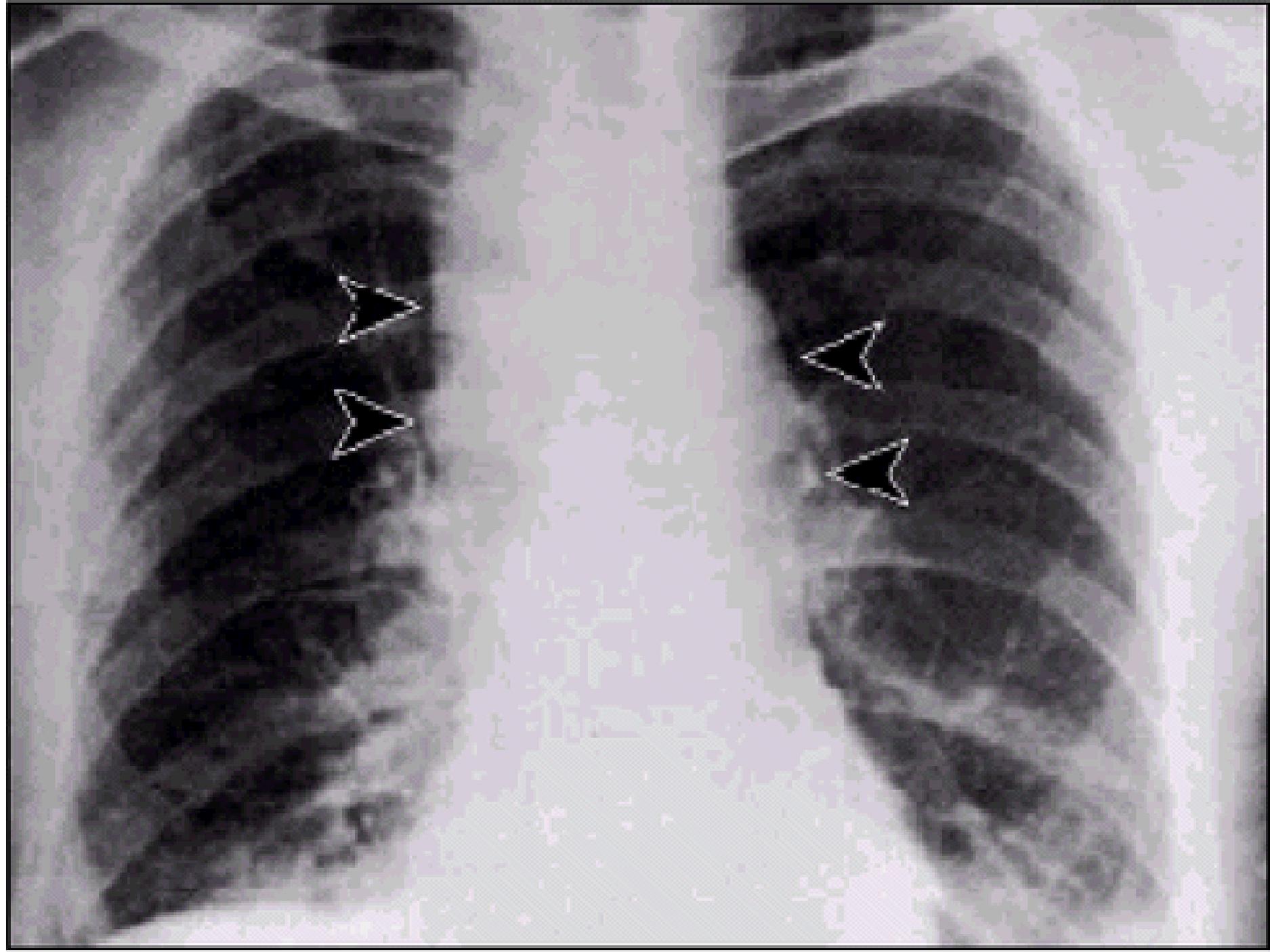
ANTHRAX





10 μm





TERROR BY HOAX

ANTHRAX HOAXES

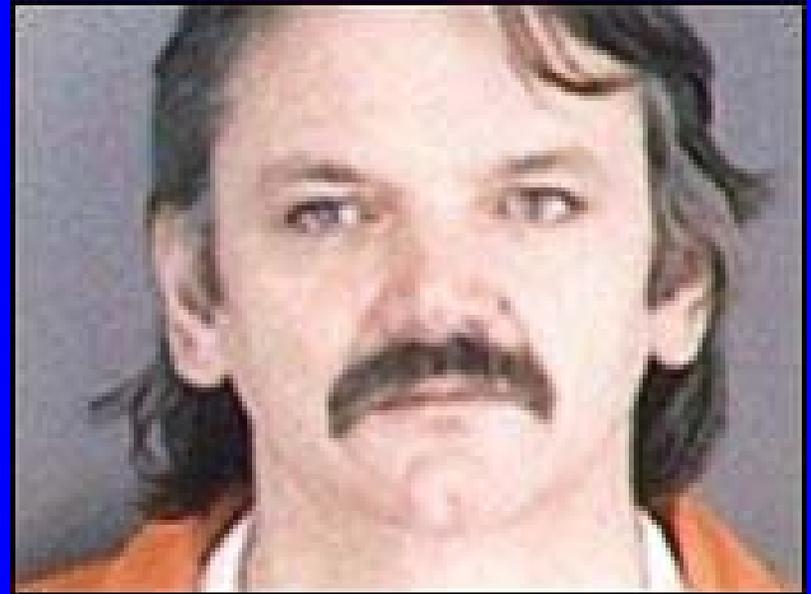
- April 24, 1997, B'nai B'rith bldg., Washington, DC.
- Oct.-Nov. 1998, 8 hoaxes were reported on by CDC
- April 1997-June 1999, approx. 200 (FBI)
- Later in 1999, reported rate of approx. 200 a year (FBI)
- Oct.-Nov. 2001, approx. 10,000 (FBI)

VARIOUS RESPONSES TO ANTHRAX THREATS

- Quarantine or evacuation
- Shower and scrub
- Scrub with bleach solutions
- Antibiotics
- Hospitalization

CLAYTON LEE WAAGNER

“The government considers me a terrorist.... They’re right. I am a terrorist... As a terrorist to the abortionist, what I need to do is evoke terror.”



Correspondence with Waagner

- Q. Where did you get the idea of making anthrax threats by mail?
- W. The idea came to me the minute it was announced that the fellow with American Media died from mailed anthrax.
- Q. What exactly was the powder you were using?
- W. On 10/12/01 (498 sent) flour. On 11/8/01 (298 sent) *Bacillus thurengiensis*.

THE ANTHRAX ATTACKS 2001

Secretary of State Colin Powell at U.N. Security Council, Feb. 5, 2003

“Less than a teaspoon of
dry anthrax, a little bit,
about this amount . . .
shut down the United
States Senate in the
fall of 2001.”



2 Grams (<1/2-teaspoon) of Mock
Bioagent (the estimated volume in each
anthrax letter)





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NBC TV
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NEW YORK NY 10112

10112+0002



EDITOR
NEW YORK POST
1211 AVE. OF THE AMERICAS
NEW YORK NY 10036

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09-11-01

THIS IS NEXT

TAKE PENACILIN NOW

DEATH TO AMERICA

DEATH TO ISRAEL

ALLAH IS GREAT

4TH GRADE
GREENDALE SCHOOL
FRANKLIN PARK NJ 08852



SENATOR DASCHLE
509 HART SENATE OFFICE
BUILDING
WASHINGTON D.C. 20530

20510/4103



4TH GRADE
GREENDALE SCHOOL
FRANKLIN PARK NJ 08852



SENATOR LEAHY
433 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE
BUILDING
WASHINGTON D.C. 20510-4502

20520+4502



09-11-01

YOU CAN NOT STOP US.

WE HAVE THIS ANTHRAX.

YOU DIE NOW.

ARE YOU AFRAID?

DEATH TO AMERICA.

DEATH TO ISRAEL.

ALLAH IS GREAT.

Nassau Street, Princeton, New Jersey



22 Anthrax Victims

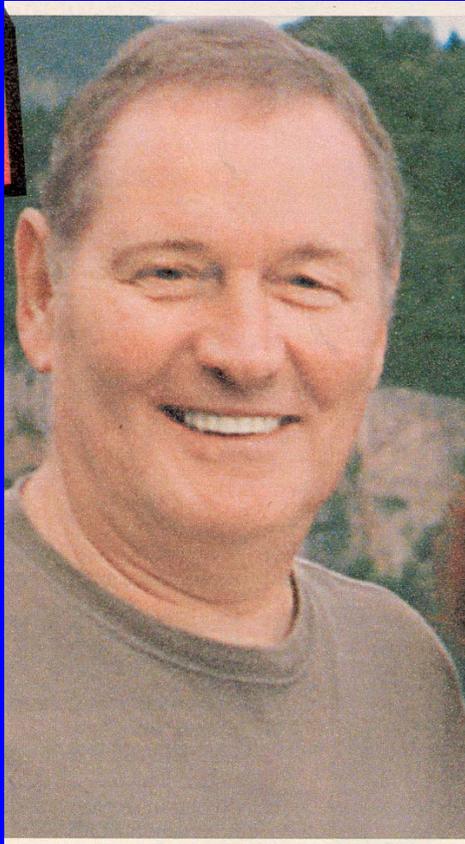
First case (inhalation) confirmed Oct. 4, 2001

Last case (inhalation) confirmed Nov. 21,
2001

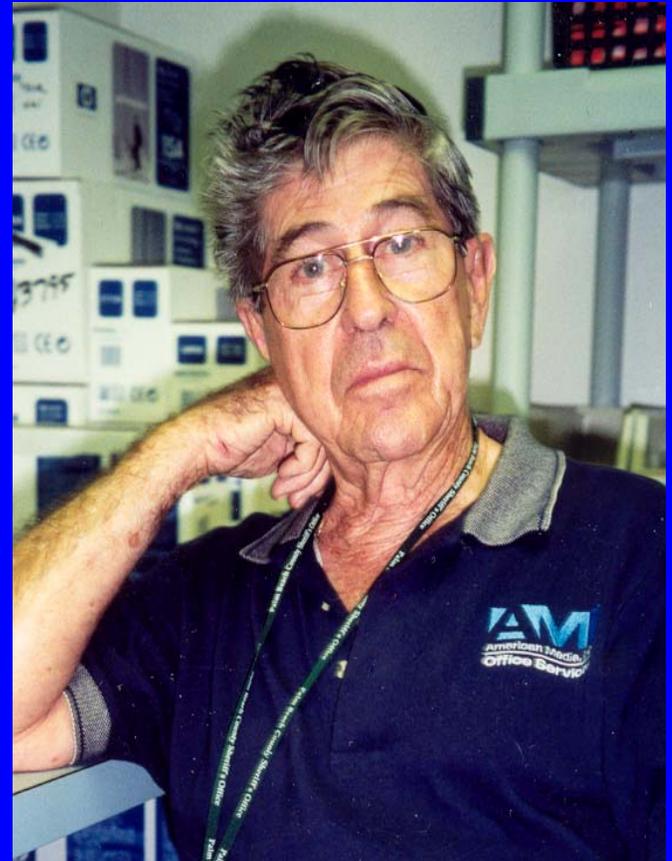
11 Cutaneous—all survived and largely
recovered

11 Inhalation—6 survived but only 1 fully
recovered and back to work

Robert Stevens



Ernesto Blanco



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BIO-TERRORISM

THE FLORIDA ANTHRAX

ATTACK ON ENQUIRER HEADQUARTERS

WORLD EXCLUSIVE



SUN

U.S. \$1.69 (Canada \$1.99) October 16, 2001

GOD BLESS AMERICA



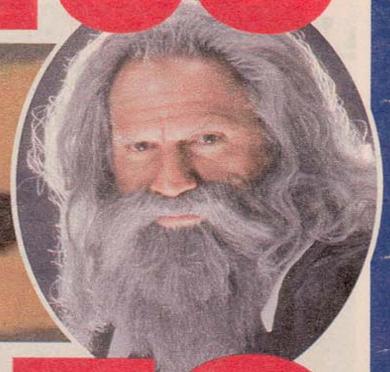
\$1000!
Contest prizes & Giant
Crossword – hours of fun

THE GOOD DOCTOR
AMAZING
HEALING
POWER OF
PRAYER



NOSTRADAMUS

TERRORISM



PROPHECIES



WHO DID IT?

Misfit lone scientist who obtained anthrax bacteria from a U.S. laboratory?

Person(s) with a connection to Al Qaeda who had advance knowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks?

Misfit Loner?

- FBI profile influenced by Unabomber characteristics.
- Access to Ames strain of anthrax bacteria relatively limited, mostly in U.S. labs.
- Message ended (rather than began) with “Allah is Great.”
- Al Qaeda terror attacks not previously associated with warnings or messages.

Steven Hatfill

“A Person of Interest”



Connection to Sept. 11 Hijackers? (I)

- Little time between Sept. 11 and mailing of first anthrax letters.
- Six of the 19 hijackers lived near the American Media, Inc. (AMI) building in Boca Raton.
- Letter that killed Bob Stevens presumably went to the *Sun* (a small AMI tabloid).
- Realtor wife of *Sun* editor found apartments for 2 hijackers.

Connection to Sept. 11 Hijackers? (II)

- In Oct. 2001, *Miami Herald* reported that 2 hijackers had subscriptions to AMI tabloids.
- Miami physician believes in hindsight that lesion on hijacker's leg in June 2001 was skin anthrax.
- A second anthrax letter (to AMI) apparently went to outdated address for the *National Enquirer* tabloid. (In 2001 old address was still listed only in local phone directory.)

“The Face of Evil”

GLOBE, Oct. 2, 2001

“*Globe’s* amazing dossier reveals: Bin Laden suffers from a medical condition that left him with underdeveloped sexual organs, and his hatred of the United States began when an American girl laughed at his problem.”

LOOSE ENDS

- Contamination
- Health
- Preparedness

CONTAMINATION



GRUINARD ISLAND

THIS ISLAND IS
GOVERNMENT PROPERTY
UNDER EXPERIMENT.

THE GROUND IS CONTAMINATED
WITH ANTHRAX AND DANGEROUS.
LANDING IS PROHIBITED.

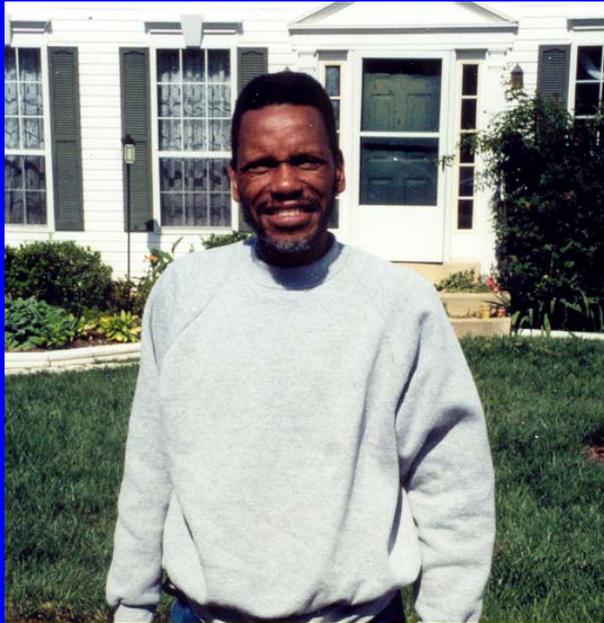
BY ORDER 1983

John K. Fallarby
Hamilton Post Office
Hamilton, NJ



HEALTH

Why Are 5 of the 6 Inhalation Survivors Still Sick 2 Years Later? (Egs., Leroy Richmond and Jyotsna Patel)



OTHER HEALTH QUESTIONS

- Case definition. Pre-2001, must culture bacterium; now other definitions accepted.
- 12th inhalation case? Postal inspector had environmental exposure and clinically compatible symptoms, but negative tests.
- Physicians think they saw additional cases.
- Unclear why 10 deaths among Brentwood workers in year after anthrax attack (4 with enlarged hearts). Normally 2 deaths per year.

SECURITY: IS THE U.S.
BETTER PREPARED FOR
BIOTERRORISM NOW?

EXAMPLES OF
IMPROVED
PREPAREDNESS
SINCE 2001

INCREASED FUNDING

- Bioterrorism-related research at NIH in FY2002, \$340 mill; in FY2003, \$1.7 bill.
- Bioterrorism budget at HHS in FY2004, \$3.6 bill.; DHS, \$1 bill.
- BioShield: 10 years anticipated, \$6 bill.

Education and Awareness



Improved Inter-agency Coordination (Law Enforcement/Public Health)



Laboratory Response Network (From 80 Labs in 2001 to 120 in 2003)



National Pharmaceutical Stockpile Vendor Managed Inventory



Improved Security (airports, office buildings)



EXAMPLES OF CONTINUING VULNERABILITY

Some Agents Cannot Be Identified in LRN Labs



Rapid Field Detectors Not Fully Reliable



Limited “Surge” Capacity for Mass Casualties



Minimal Scrutiny of Imported Cargo (less than 1% is inspected)



Minimal Security Over Agri- Development and Food Processing (Eg., Crop Dusting)





DON'T LET COMPLEX SCENARIOS OBSCURE THE UNCOMPLICATED, SUCH AS:

- Standard commercial jetliners transformed into WMD
- The U.S. Mail transformed into CMD
(Conveyor of Mass Disruption)

But Expect To Be
Surprised

Army Germ Warfare Tests Included Releasing Mock Bio-warfare Agents from:

- boat off-shore (San Francisco)
- automobiles--fake exhaust pipes (Minneapolis, St. Louis)
- rooftop generators (Minneapolis)
- perforated suitcases (Wash. D.C. terminals)
- low flying airplanes (Midwest states)
- smashed light bulbs (New York subway)

- But Not via Mail**

Salient Points about the Anthrax Attacks

- Volume of bioagent was very small.
- U.S. Mail was extraordinarily effective disseminator.
- The first professional to see every anthrax victim was a physician (not FBI, police, HAZMAT, EMS, etc.)
- Remote communities as well as large cities were affected (Boca Raton FL, Mt. Holly NJ, Oxford CT)

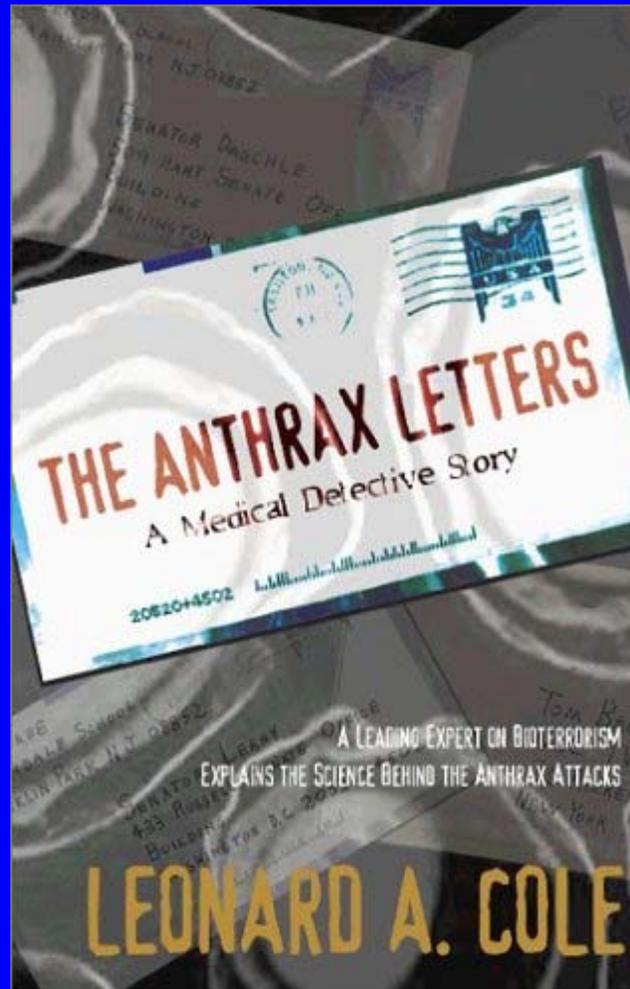
Strategic Challenges

- Enhance public health infrastructure
- Address problem of currently untreatable diseases (egs., Ebola, resistant strains of anthrax, smallpox, etc.)
- Address threat of genetically engineered pathogens
- Strengthen international norm against BW
- Balance civil liberties and national security

Meanwhile, Remember the
Victims of the Anthrax
Attacks.

Leroy Richmond (left), Norma Wallace, Larry Bush,
Leonard Cole, Ernesto Blanco





www.anthraxletters.com

Thank You