



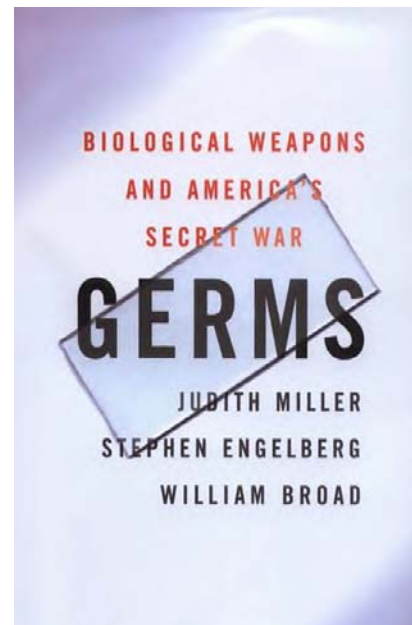
Top Ten Fallacies About Bioterrorism

By Michelle Mairesse

Prologue

Anyone who investigates the long history of germ warfare and bioterrorism is likely to come away from the sordid study with a strong desire to resign from the human race. Fiendishly ingenious strategists have deployed disease agents against their enemies--dumping diseased animals into wells, catapulting plague-ridden corpses over city walls, distributing infected blankets to the unwary--and that's just the early history. When industrialized national states began culturing and mass-producing toxic organisms, the viciousness and virulence of bioweaponry increased rapidly and globally.

Twentieth century industrialized bioweaponry got a big boost in the 1930s. An established Japanese biological weapons testing unit began conducting experiments on Chinese prisoners of war and continued their research on subject peoples and prisoners throughout World War II. The post-war American government forgave Japanese experimentation on American prisoners of war in exchange for a mass of technical



bioweapons information imparted to the American program, which had been inaugurated in 1942. (Judith Miller, Stephen Engelberg, and William Broad, *Germs: Biological Weapons and America's Secret War*, 2001)

During the 1950s and 1960s, bioweapons engineering proceeded rapidly in Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States. American bioweaponeers concentrated on developing strains of anthrax and tularemia to launch against their cold war enemies and to supply their friends.

In 1969, President Nixon dismantled the American program, but President Reagan, with the largest military budget in history, initiated a biological arms race with Russia in the 80s. In late



1984, the Reagan regime began approving the sale and transfer of bacteria, viruses, retroviruses, and fungi to Iraq. High officials in both the Reagan and Bush administrations raked in huge profits selling military materiel to Saddam Hussein. (Brent

Scowcroft alone held stock in 40 companies that dealt with the Iraqi dictator.) The death merchants supplied Saddam Hussein with an array of lethal biological agents, including anthrax, botulinum toxins, bubonic plague, histoplasma capsulatum, dengue fever and West Nile fever. (See [this article](#): What's Behind Bush's War With Iraq)

Following Saddam's rash invasion of Kuwait in October 1990, the American-led 28-nation coalition defeated Iraq in three months. Before sending the troops into battle, some of the allies administered a "cocktail" of vaccines against the same biological agents they had supplied to Saddam Hussein. The French commander had refused to inoculate his troops with



the untested vaccines, and they alone did not suffer from what later came to be called Gulf War syndrome. (See [this article](#): Did the Government Okay the Anthrax Attacks?)

"Both during and after the Gulf War, many military personnel experienced systemic medical problems, which are often collectively termed Gulf War Syndrome. Seven years after the Gulf War, the [American] military finally admitted that it had used experimental drugs on its personnel without their consent, and that these drugs could be factors in the medical problems." (*The Nation*, July 1, 2002)

Representatives of 107 nations, fearing world wide epidemics, sat down together in 1972 to hammer out protocols for handling biological and toxin weapons. In December 2001, the Bush administration withdrew from negotiations with the Biological Weapons Convention. The U.S. will not return to BWC proceedings until 2006. And that's that.

http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/02.09/0927chaffee_biological

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/wtccrash/story/0,1300,550411,00.html>



Top Ten Fallacies About Bioterrorism



Stronger control of our borders is our best protection against bioterrorists.

Wrong. As far as we can tell, all bioterrorism directed against

the American homeland has come from domestic terrorists. For some years, domestic terrorists have been given a free ride by the agencies. Earl Ofari Hutchinson gives us a sampling of white supremacists who got slapped on the wrist:

"Thomas Lavy. In 1993, Canadian officials caught the Alaskan White supremacist red-handed with guns, nearly \$100,000 in cash, and a container of toxin ricin. He was released, and was not prosecuted.



"Larry Wayne Harris. In 1995, the Ohio White supremacist was caught with a mail-order shipment of a bacterium that causes bubonic plague. Harris was not prosecuted for possessing the lethal toxin, but for wire fraud. He was placed on 18-month probation. Three years later he was caught in Las Vegas with equipment that could be used to manufacture anthrax. Though Harris didn't have the substance (it was a vaccine), and despite his violent, hate-filled history, and the danger he posed in possessing lethal toxins, the charges were dropped.

"Thomas Leahy. In 1996, FBI agents found a pile of ricin in the Hitler devotee's Wisconsin home. It was enough to kill more than 100 persons. Leahy got 12 years. The extra years were piled on to his sentence not for possessing deadly toxins, but for shooting his stepson. He may not be in jail much longer. An appeals court branded the sentence 'excessive,' and sliced it in half."

http://www.imdiversity.com/villages/african/Article_Detail.asp?Article_ID=7656

An attack on American facilities is another matter. The crazies in the Aum Shinrikyo cult testified to



staging unsuccessful anthrax attacks on the American navy bases at Yokohama and Yokosuku in 1995. (*Germs*, p. 192)

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Just like the attack on the Twin Towers, the anthrax letters came out of the blue.

Not really. Ramzi Yousef, the mastermind of the first World Trade Center attack in 1993, testified that he had considered releasing cyanide along with the bomb, but doubted its effectiveness.



<http://www.guardian.co.uk/wtccrash/story/0,1300,550411,00.html>

<http://www.learn.co.uk/glearning/secondary/topical/ks4/anthrax/a>

3

Rigid protocols governing the transfer of plague agents could prevent rogue nations from acquiring them.

We don't know because we have never devised any. Our domestic terrorists got their supplies



through mail-order, and rogue nations seem to be able to get any weapons they can pay for. When the 107 signers adopted the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in 1972, they were unable to agree on an inspection protocol. Without that, any amount of skullduggery could be going on.

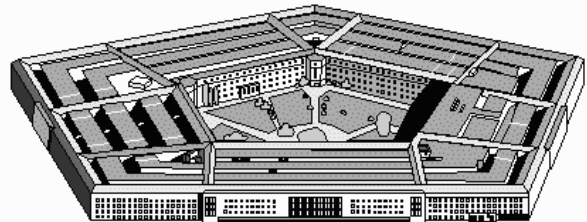


Unlike Saddam Hussein, the U.S. has never deployed bioweapons against its own people.

How embarrassing. You can read about it in the *New York Times*.

"WASHINGTON, Oct. 8 — Acknowledging a much wider testing of toxic weapons on its forces, the Defense Department says it used chemical warfare and live biological agents during cold-war-era military exercises on American soil, as well as in Canada and Britain, according to previously secret documents cleared for release to Congress on Wednesday.

"Sixteen of the newly declassified reports, prepared by the Pentagon, describe how chemical and biological exercises, until now undisclosed, used deadly substances like VX and sarin to test the vulnerability of American forces to unconventional attack. An additional dozen reports describe how more benign substances were used to mimic the spread of the poisons in other tests.



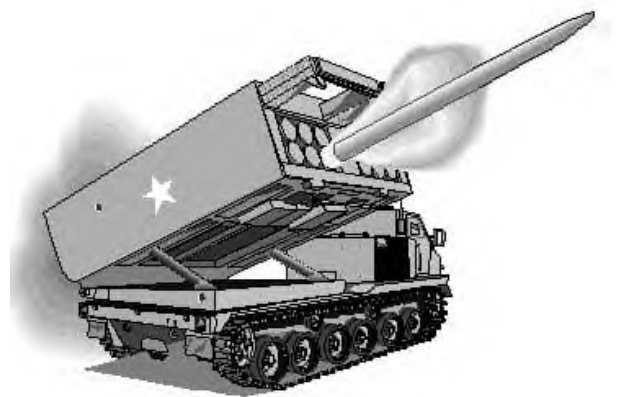
"The reports, which detail tests conducted from 1962 to 1971, reveal for the first time that the chemical warfare agents were used during exercises on American soil, in

Alaska, Hawaii and Maryland, and that a mild biological agent was used in Florida.

"Pentagon officials said late today that their investigations indicated that none of the lethal chemical agents had dispersed into the general population. Some milder substances did escape into the atmosphere, with a plant fungus dispersing in an area of Florida, a naturally occurring bacteria in Hawaii and a mild chemical irritant in a remote part of Alaska."

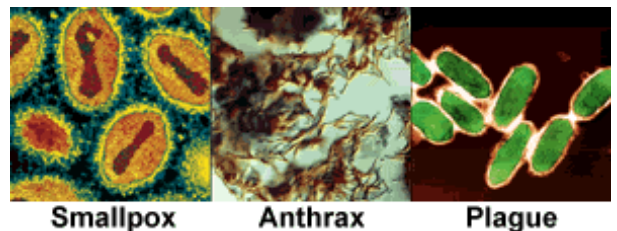
5 Preventive vaccinations protected our troops during the Gulf War.

We may never know. See paragraph 4 of the prologue and check out the [Depleted Uranium Cover-up](#) for shifty Pentagon positions.



6 Worldwide vaccination programs eliminated smallpox and could do so again.

If the smallpox virus is enhanced, the numbers are not encouraging. Ken Alibek estimates that it takes 18 months to develop an altered germ and 8 years to develop a vaccine. (*Germs*)



7 Then an altered smallpox virus ought to be the weapon of choice for Osama bin Laden.

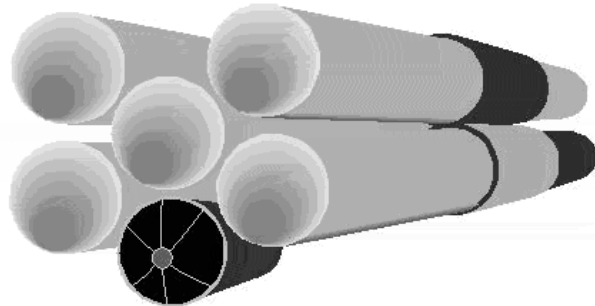
Maybe not. If bin Laden could release a superpox on this continent, he still couldn't control its spread. What with international travel and shipping, the disease would more readily spread to nations with poor sanitation and poor medical facilities, nations where many of the terrorist cells are located.

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The 9/11 hijackers were looking at crop dusters. Crop dusters would be an efficient way to spread bioweapons.

Lt Col Terry N. Mayer, USAF, doesn't think so:

"In a combat environment, conventional dispersal with bombs, artillery, or even a spraying device on an aircraft (like a crop duster) would not be nearly as effective as a more surreptitious attack that would infect people before they donned protective clothing. An infiltration by special operations forces or undercover operatives to place aerosol canisters similar to insect bombs or deodorizers might cripple a force before it knew it was attacked. Like the Indians at Fort Ticonderoga, the force would fall ill and many would die. The force's ability to conduct effective combat operations would certainly be negated. By the time doctors diagnosed the disease and determined the right antidote, if there were one, the war could have been lost.



<http://www.airpower.maxwell.af.mil/airchronicles/battle/chp8.htm>

9

Only highly industrialized countries possess

bioweapons.

Amnesty International says otherwise:

"Statements by various countries denying that they have developed, produced or stockpiled biological or chemical weapons have been shown to be of little value. The former Soviet Union did not admit to processing chemical munitions until 1987. Indian officials denied for decades that the country possessed chemical munitions, before declaring its weapons stocks in 2001. Since 1989, US government officials have identified Iraq, Libya, Syria, Iran, Egypt, China, North Korea, Taiwan and the former Soviet Union as having failed to comply with the BTWC. Israel was not listed on the grounds that it has neither signed nor ratified the BTWC. South Africa was also omitted from the list, although it is now clear that it did maintain a biological weapons program between 1981 and 1995."



http://web.amnesty.org/web/web.nsf/pages/ttt3_biological

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We'd better get ready with mass vaccinations.

Meryl Nass, MD, has the last word on this:

"Anthrax and smallpox vaccines are only the start down the vaccine slippery slope. What will our immune systems be like after receiving another twenty or thirty biowarfare vaccines, as envisioned in the Pentagon's Joint Vaccine Acquisition Program?"

"Vaccines will never provide the



robust defense needed against potential biological warfare threats. Instead, post-exposure therapies that are generic, rather than specific for each microorganism, are what is needed. Even then, there are no guarantees. And when genetic engineering gets even more sophisticated, all bets are off as to whether any technology can save us.

"Taking prevention seriously is the best way to combat bioterrorism. A meaningful, verifiable biowarfare treaty, with full inspections and universal membership, is our best shot at putting the biological genie back in the bottle. Though it's not 100% effective, it can prevent the creation of weapons on a mass scale."

http://www.redflagsweekly.com/nass/2002_oct10.html

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