

# Personnel Reliability: Introduction and Charge to NSABB



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**NSABB Meeting**  
**December 10, 2008**





# NSABB Charge

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- **Recommend to the USG strategies for enhancing personnel reliability (PR) among individuals with access to biological select agents and toxins**
- **Overarching question: What is the optimal framework for ensuring PR in a manner that balances the needs for both biosecurity and rapid progress in the life sciences?**
- **To address these aims, the NSABB will consider:**
  - **Extant frameworks for PR**
  - **Features of an optimal PR program**
  - **Risks and benefits associated with PR programs**
  - **Metrics for evaluating PR programs**



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Sunday, 18 August, 2002, 02:37 GMT 03:37 UK

## Anthrax killer 'is US defence insider'



Africa

**Americas**

Asia-Pacific

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Prof Don Foster analyses the anthrax letters

An FBI forensic linguistics expert believes the US anthrax attacks were carried out by a senior scientist from within America's biological-defence community.

*Science* 15 August 2008:

Vol. 321, no. 5891, pp. 898 - 899

DOI: 10.1126/science.321.5891.898

## News of the Week

**ANTHRAX INVESTIGATION:**

### **Full-Genome Sequencing Paved the Way From Spores to a Suspect**

Martin Enserink\*



**Full circle.** The 2001 anthrax attacks originated in a lab that helped investigate the attacks, the FBI says.

CREDIT: REUTERS/CORBIS



Last Published: November 25, 2008

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## From Helper to Top Suspect In Anthrax

By Rachel Swarns and Eric Lipton

THE NEW YORK TIMES

August 8, 2008

WASHINGTON

In Decemb

mountain ne

killer.



**Anthrax attack on congress came from Ar**  
By Evan Derkacz  
Posted on December 14, 2006, Printed on December 1, 2008  
<http://www.alternet.org/bloggers//45521/>

According to Sherwood Ross, the 2001 Anthrax  
emanate from an U.S. Army lab by someone y

**Alex Jones' TruthNews.us**

Home Article Archives Listen to Alex Jones Contact TruthNews

History Channel Admits Anthrax Attacks an Inside Job

YouTube  
January 24, 2008

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Featured Views

Published on Wednesday, February 27, 2002 in the **The Five Lamps**  
in Fredericksburg, Va  
**S. Blowspens Researcher?**  
by Rick Marler

Monday, December 01, 2008

Printer Friendly Version Edit This Article



A British scientist wears a protective suit in a laboratory. MI5 has warned that al-Qaida is seeking to recruit scientists who develop deadly viruses. Photograph: Alamy

## Terrorists try to infiltrate UK's top labs

**The security services have intercepted up to 100 suspects posing as postgraduate students who aim to acquire weapons material and expertise**

Mark Townsend, defence correspondent

- [guardian.co.uk](http://guardian.co.uk), Sunday November 2 2008 00.01 GMT
- [The Observer](http://TheObserver.com), Sunday November 2 2008

Dozens of suspected terrorists have attempted to infiltrate Britain's top laboratories in order to develop weapons of mass destruction, such as biological and nuclear devices, during the past year.



# Working Group Established

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## Voting Members

- Dennis Kasper (Chair)
- Arturo Casadevall
- Murray Cohen
- Barry Erlick
- Claire Fraser-Liggett
- Mike Imperiale
- Paul Keim
- Stan Lemon
- David Relman
- Andrew Sorensen
- Anne Vidaver

## Agency Representatives

- Kris Beardley, FBI
- Val Bonham, OGC, NIH
- Robert Butera, State Ken Cole, DoD
- Diane DiElliis, OSTP
- Dennis Dixon, NIH
- Elizabeth George, DHS
- Wendy Hall, DHS
- Peter Jutro, EPA
- Steve Kappes, USDA
- Larry Kerr, ODNI
- Sara Klucking, DHS
- Carol Linden, DHHS
- Jan Nicholson, CDC
- Dana Perkins, DHHS
- Dave Thomassen, DoE
- Serina Vandergrift, FBI
- Ron Walters, Intelligence Community



# Working Group Approach

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- **Briefings on extant PR programs**
  - **HHS/USDA Select Agent Programs**
  - **Dept. of Defense (Army)**
  - **Dept. of Energy (Los Alamos and Livermore National Labs)**
  - **NIH Intramural Research Program**
  - **CDC Intramural Research Program**
  - **Intelligence Community (Security clearances)**
  - **Battelle Biomedical Research Center**





# Working Group Approach

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- **Discussion of PR with selected participants at November 2008 International Roundtable on DUR**
  - **Extant PR programs similar to those in US, mostly for federally funded defense research**
  - **Foreign personnel key component to research, major challenge for PR**
  - **Lessons to be learned from private sector**
  - **Culture of distrust vs. culture of openness**
  - **Misuse of expertise is a reality**
  - **PR programs can mitigate but not eliminate the risk of insider threats, can help with public trust**



# Working Group Approach

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- **Articulation of:**
  - **Vision**
  - **Guiding Principles**
  - **Aims**
  - **Applicability**
  - **(Features)**



# Timeline

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- **October-November 2008**
  - WG briefings
  - Begin drafting vision, principles, aims
- **December 3**
  - In-person WG meeting
  - Continue drafting findings and recommendations (aims, features, elements, roles and responsibilities)
- **December 4**
  - Administrative briefing of NSABB on PR issue
- **December 10**
  - Public meeting of full NSABB
  - Present WG findings and recommendations to date
- **Mid December- mid January**
  - WG teleconferences to continue findings and recommendations
- **Week of Jan 15**
  - Teleconference of NSABB to finalize report
- **January 20, 2009**
  - Submit NSABB report to USG