

~~SECRET~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 03/15/2004

To: Washington Field

From: Washington Field

AMX-3

Contact: [redacted]

b6
b7C

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted]

(U) Case ID #: ~~(S)~~ 279A-WF-222936-IAP1 (Pending) - 42

Title: (U) AMERITHRAX;
MAJOR CASE 184

(U) Synopsis: ~~(S)~~ Report results of 03/09/2004 interview of [redacted]
[redacted] conducted by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted]
[redacted]

(U) ~~(S)~~ Derived From: G-3
Declassify On: X2

Details: (U) [redacted] date of birth [redacted]
Social Security Account Number [redacted] home address [redacted]
[redacted] telephone number [redacted]
[redacted] was interviewed at [redacted] home. After being advised of the
identity of the interviewing agents and the nature of the
interview, [redacted] provided the following information:

(U) [redacted] was first contacted regarding the *Bacillus anthracis* (B.a.) spores present in the anthrax-laced letters when [redacted] was invited to a meeting at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) which was chaired by [redacted] also in attendance was [redacted] At the meeting [redacted] saw the results of initial assays conducted by two laboratories, BATTELLE Memorial Institute, and the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID). The BATTELLE assay put the concentration of the spores at 5×10^{11} colony forming units (cfu). The USAMRIID assay put the spore concentration at 2×10^{12} cfu. Particle size of the spores was also discussed.

b6
b7C

~~SECRET~~

b6
b7C

[redacted]

~~SECRET~~

To: Washington Field From: Washington Field
(U) Re: ~~(S)~~ 279A-WF-222936-IAP1, 03/15/2004

Prior to this meeting [] had no discussion with anyone regarding the characteristics of the anthrax in the letters.

b6
b7C

(U) [] advised that at the FBI meeting, it was discussed that USAMRIID researchers were achieving a 1×10^{10} cfu per plate spore concentration using blood agar plates and Dugway Proving Grounds (Dugway) was achieving a per plate spore concentration of 1×10^9 cfu using blood agar plates. [] advised that although this was [] recollection, the concentrations may be incorrect.

b6
b7C

(U) [] took twelve samples of *Bacillus globigii* (B.g.) to the meeting. The samples all had different properties such as free flowing, static, and non-static. [] took these samples to the meeting to show the FBI agents present at the meeting the qualities of free flowing spores. Someone at the meeting, whose name [] did not recall, kept one of the samples.

b6
b7C

(U) ~~(S)~~ At the meeting the issue of the presence of electrostatic charge in the spores was discussed. [] questioned whether the spores were easily put into a liquid suspension. BRUCE IVINS and [] both said that the spores were easily dissolved into solution. [] advised that if this was the case then the spores must not contain hydrophobic silica.

(U) Sometime after the initial meeting [] was requested to take [] samples to USAMRIID. Present at this meeting were the [] of USAMRIID, whose name [] could not recall, IVINS and [] asked IVINS which of the samples most closely resembled the spore contained in the anthrax-laced letter. IVINS chose the sample of B.g. had been freeze dried and contained hydrophobic silica.

(U) At a much later date [] was shown the actual material mailed in the Senator LEAHY letter. [] was at USAMRIID with FBI Special Agent (SA) [] IVINS showed [] a vial containing the spores. To [] the spores looked unremarkable. They had good "flowability", but not remarkable "flowability". At that meeting [] also viewed an electron micrograph of the spores. With SA [] present, [] had a long discussion regarding the material. That was the only formal meeting which [] had with USAMRIID regarding the anthrax spores.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

To: Washington Field From: Washington Field
(U) Re: ~~(S)~~ 279A-WF-222936-IAP1, 03/15/2004

b6
b7c

(U) [redacted] never discussed the material mailed in the anthrax letters with [redacted]. SA [redacted] advised [redacted] that there was evidence that [redacted] had mailed the anthrax-laced letters. SA [redacted]

[redacted] then met with [redacted] at the direction of the FBI.

(U) [redacted]

(U) [redacted]

[redacted] had informal discussions regarding the growth of B.a. spores. [redacted]

(U) [redacted] had no need to talk with [redacted] about the B.a. contained in the anthrax-laced letters. [redacted] could only think of [redacted] as someone at USAMRIID with which [redacted] may have been in contact regarding the anthrax in the letters. By the time [redacted] obtained information regarding the "nitty-gritty" of the Senator LEAHY letter, [redacted] had broken off contact with [redacted].

(U) [redacted]

(U) [redacted]

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

To: Washington Field From: Washington Field
(U) Re: ~~(S)~~ 279A-WF-222936-IAP1, 03/15/2004

b6
b7c

[REDACTED]

(U)

[REDACTED]

(U) [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] may be the wrong person to ask regarding small scale biological agent preparation. [REDACTED] stated that on a small scale it is possible to grow and harvest anthrax spores. The difficulty is in drying the spores. On one occasion [REDACTED] tried to dry *B.g.* in a garage with a heat lamp, but burned up the spores. [REDACTED] is of the belief that a laboratory setting is needed for drying spores. A good centrifuge and a good dryer are needed.

(U)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] came to believe that an actual laboratory setting would be necessary to dry the material.

(U) [REDACTED] stated that one person could pull off mailing the anthrax-laced letters, especially if they took prophylactic antibiotics before assembling and mailing the letters.

(U)

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

To: Washington Field From: Washington Field
(U) Re: ~~(S)~~ 279A-WF-222936-IAP1, 03/15/2004

(U) [] advised that sterile sand can be used to preserve B.a. spores. To activate the spores which are preserved in the sand, one can take the sand containing the spores and put it into a broth growth media. []

b6
b7C

(U) ~~(S)~~ []

[]

(S) ~~(S)~~ []

[]

b1

(U) [] showed the interviewing agents several simulants which [] has had in [] possession for approximately [] years. [] described one bottle of B.g. as the ultimate in flyaway spores. [] advised that the spores contained in this bottle are of the .03 micron size and possess an electrostatic charge. [] shook the bottle several hours before showing it to the interviewing agents to demonstrate that the particles would remain airborne for a prolonged period of time.

b6
b7C

(U) A second bottle of B.g. shown to the agents was the one which IVINS identified to [] as most similar to the material which was taken from the LEAHY letter. [] stated that this bottle contained B.g. with silica added. The bottle had the words "freeze dried" on it, it was Pyrex bottle number 1261. This B.g. was freeze dried using a Dixon Generator and milled using a micronizer. The spore concentration was 800×10^9 cfu.

b6
b7C

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

(U) To: Washington Field From: Washington Field
Re: ~~(S)~~ 279A-WF-222936-IAP1, 03/15/2004

(U) ~~(S)~~ [redacted] advised that spray dried material does not need to be milled.

b6
b7C

(U) ~~(S)~~ The interviewing agents provided [redacted] with a copy of a memorandum which was directed to [redacted] Director, Technology Security Operations [redacted] did not recall the specific agency of company for which [redacted] worked. [redacted]

[redacted]

(U) [redacted]

[redacted]

(U) [redacted]

[redacted]

(U) [redacted]

[redacted]

(U) [redacted]

[redacted]

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

To: Washington Field From: Washington Field

(U) Re: ~~(S)~~ 279A-WF-222936-IAP1, 03/15/2004

b6
b7c

(U) ~~(S)~~ [redacted]
[redacted]

(U) [redacted]
[redacted]

(U) ~~(S)~~ With regard to stabilizing procedures for anthrax and smallpox, [redacted] advised that the purification and concentration techniques are similar. Also similar are the drying and milling techniques. The classification of the additives at the end of the process are similar, but the amounts of additives differ.

(U) ~~(S)~~ [redacted] had no knowledge of a human pulmonary anthrax sample being received at USAMRIID in the late 1980's.

[redacted]

(U) [redacted]
[redacted]

(U) [redacted]
[redacted]

(U) [redacted]
[redacted]

~~SECRET~~

To: Washington Field From: Washington Field
(U) Re: ~~(S)~~ 279A-WF-222936-IAP1, 03/15/2004

(U) [redacted]

[redacted]

(U) [redacted]

[redacted]

(U) [redacted]

[redacted]

(U) [redacted]

[redacted]

(U) [redacted]

[redacted]

(U) [redacted]

[redacted]

(U) [redacted] asked what was the lowest denominator for making biological agents. What was the minimal amount and type of instrumentation and equipment necessary to produce a biological weapon. [redacted] advised that there is not much needed in equipment, space, safety and cost to make a biological agent, but that the price goes up and the mistakes become more dramatic when drying the agent enters the equation.

[redacted]

~~SECRET~~

To: Washington Field From: Washington Field
(U) Re: ~~(S)~~ 279A-WF-222936-IAP1, 03/15/2004

b6
b7c

[Redacted]

(U)

[Redacted]

(U)

[Redacted]

(U)

[Redacted]

(U) [Redacted] does not believe it is possible to use a lyophilizer to create anthrax spores with the particle size of those in the anthrax-laced letters. [Redacted] believes that a lyophilizer would generate particles in the 12 to 18 micron range. A smaller particle size, ranging from 3 to 5 microns would be achieved with rapid freezing and then drying of the biological agent. A freeze drier would be used to obtain smaller particles.

(U) [Redacted] knows that at one time there was a freeze dryer at USAMRIID. [Redacted] does not think the freeze dryer was ever used. [Redacted] does not know the location or status of the freeze dryer now.

(U)

[Redacted]

(U) [Redacted] stated [Redacted] believes it would have been easy for someone to have created the anthrax in a laboratory at USAMRIID. [Redacted] advised that all the equipment needed to pull

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

(U) To: Washington Field From: Washington Field
Re: ~~(S)~~ 279A-WF-222936-IAP1, 03/15/2004

it off is located at USAMRIID, and someone with permission to work in the laboratories could have worked late at night making the material without drawing any suspicion. Scientists like free movement in and out of their laboratories and work areas and do not like to be bothered with signing in and out. Previous to recent changes, security at USAMRIID was based on this premise. Equipment and materials could have been easily decontaminated, leaving no trail. Dry spores could be stored anywhere, although they should be kept below 60% humidity.

b6
b7c

(U) [redacted]

(U) [redacted] did not recognize the name [redacted]

(U) [redacted] knew of no USAMRIID scientists who took home Select Agents or maintained any in their homes.

(U) [redacted]

(U) [redacted]

(U) Copies of the documents and photographs shown to [redacted] during the interview are attached and maintained in a 1A envelope. A copy of the diagram of [redacted] provided by [redacted] is attached. The copy provided by [redacted] is maintained in a 1A envelope.

(U) [redacted] agreed to allow the interviewing agents to return to photograph the simulants shown to the agents by [redacted] during the interview.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

To: Washington Field From: Washington Field
(U) Re: ~~(S)~~ 279A-WF-222936-IAP1, 03/15/2004

◆◆

~~SECRET~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

No Duplication Fees are charged for Deleted Page Information Sheet(s).

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 2
Page 7 ~ b1, b6, b7C
Page 10 ~ b6, b7C