

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Request Additional Information about How Specific Anthrax Letter Suspects were Excluded From Consideration Before Identifying Dr. Bruce Ivins as Principle Suspect.

The official FBI report recounts very clearly the course of Dr. Bruce Ivins' descent into mental illness and how the investigation may have adversely affected his chances of returning to normalcy, and the possible role in causing his untimely death.

Dr. Ivins must have worked to keep these troubling ideas and behaviors from being known by his family, coworkers and friends. Dr. Ivins would have had to be especially careful to only interact with me when he was lucid as I would have suspected mental illness and I did not. On the other hand, these interactions were not very frequent and always upon his contacting me.

He had shared with me his concerns about AVA being on Hold, and claims of Squalene being in the vaccine Anthrax Vaccine which that bothered him in the media. These were the same things mentioned in the FBI report but when he spoke with me about them he didn't show any signs of mental illness.

I feel the health care he received let him down because appropriate action was not taken when he first identified he had homicidal thoughts as early as 2000 and was not committed or given a referral for psychiatric institutional care. Further, I am not aware that these serious concerns were communicated to USAMRIID. It is possible that this information was not forthcoming or was complicated perhaps by the new HIPAA privacy regulation after April 2003 and/or the FBI investigation status throughout the course of the investigation.

It is clear that he as a target of investigation probably should have been hospitalized in 2000.

By keeping him in outpatient care I believe the FBI had ready access to his therapists and counselors so they could monitor what he said for the purpose of establishing guilt but the consequence of this was that his trust for his therapists was destroyed and any benefit of therapy would depend on this trust.

I recognized from his e-mails that were included with news media reports and the online FBI report included his description of a metallic taste, memory loss, dissociative (out of body) reactions, impulsive behavior, intrusive thoughts and suicidality after his first receipt of treatment for depression in 2000. These symptoms could all be attributable to adverse effects of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors he had been prescribed in 2000. In any case, he should have reported (or he may have) the side effects to his

psychiatrist so that additional drugs could be given to control those but I suspect that he kept that secret because he interpreted the side effects as worsening mental illness and not side effects.

What is missing from the report is any evidence of linkage of Dr. Bruce Ivins directly to the anthrax mailings. Further, I believe the specific equipment and supplies needed to make the formulation in the Daschle and Leahy letters do not exist at USAMRIID or in Bruce's home. This would preclude him from being able to make the final product that went into the letters. And, the FBI report acknowledges that no spores on his possessions or property or evidence of his presence in New Jersey have been found.

The spore preparation stock flask may have been the source of the culture that ultimately was used, but Bruce used that flask to make spore preparations for numerous studies including the secret studies reported in a NY Times article that came out on September 4, 2001(appendix). I confronted COL Eitzen about this secret bioweapons-like work and he confirmed it was being done.

At the time I arrived at USAMRIID as a Berry Plan "Obligated Volunteer" had a letter I wrote with me where I voiced my opposition to offensive BW and indicated that I wished to be relieved of having to serve at such time as the institute felt it needed to do offensive bw research. COL Metzger had signed this letter and gave it back to me promising that this would not be done so I personally felt betrayed that secret research that involved weaponized materials was going on at Battelle which involved USAMRIID personnel in some aspects.

With regard to the aerosolizable spores, I understood that the equipment to do this was not at USAMRIID but at a laboratory in Ohio operated by Battelle. Bruce told me on the day he was in the institute just before he was committed (between 8 and 10 July 2008) that Perry Mikesell was the person at Battelle who handled materials that Bruce produced in wet form here at USAMRIID.

If it cannot be shown that Bruce somehow got aerosolizable dry material from Perry Mikesell and brought it back here then someone out there might have been the one who traveled to NJ and whose movements with regard to NJ and the mailbox would have had to have been surveyed. However, Perry Mikesell died of alcoholic liver disease on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2002 at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, at the age of 54.

Bruce said Perry Mikesell drank himself to death because of that work and the attention he got from the FBI when we spoke on 10 July 2008.

If this construct of how Bruce's spore stock was involved in the anthrax letter does not explain the missing information related to the anthrax letter incident then one of my other theories which I shared with the FBI in 2002 may prevail.

1. COL Spertzel and I both saw the EM of the Daschle letter and I agree with what he

said in his opinion piece that appeared in the 5 August 2008 issue of the Wall Street Journal. The spores looked to me like the “**Russian type**” preparations. My description of this which is recorded in Salon.com article by Laura Rozen as a word bite in this online publication dated 8 February 2002. My observation is consistent with what COL Spertzel said exactly. At that time I was trying to counter what I thought were spurious allegations that the anthrax letters originated at USAMRIID and having seen the EM on Peter Jahrling’s desk just after it was printed and before the FBI classified it, I used my observation in an argument with someone who I thought was critical of Barbara Hatch Rosenberg’s position that the perpetrator was at USAMRIID.

That spore prep morphology returned abruptly to my memory when I read the following quote in an article published in the Washington Post.

This comment by Sergei Popov (Ken Alibek’s Soviet and now American associate) continues to support my contention that COL Spertzel’s Opinion Piece in the WSJ, and what I observed, point to a Soviet or at least foreign source to the aerosolized material either by Popov or by an agency other than the one we are talking about.

"Dry anthrax is much harder to work with," said one scientist familiar with Ivins's lab. A lyophilizer would fit inside the ventilated "biosafety cabinet" at the lab and could have been used without drawing notice, the scientist said. The machine could have processed a few small batches of anthrax liquid in less than a day, he said.

Other biodefense experts noted that the drying step could have been carried out with equipment no more complicated than a kitchen oven. "It is the simplest . . . but it is the least reproducible," said Sergei Popov, a former Soviet bioweapons scientist who now specializes in biodefense at George Mason University. "If you go too fast you get 'sand,'" he said, referring to the coarser anthrax powder used in the first attacks, in September 2001.

The second batch of letters contained a much finer powder. "To me, it all indicates that the person experimented with the ways to dry the spores and produced small batches -- some of them not so successfully -- he later used to fill up different envelopes," Popov said. "The spores are naturally clumpy. As I understand, he just overbaked the first batches."

**MATERIAL REDACTED**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arthur O. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

Arthur O. Anderson  
COL MC  
Chairman, USAMRIID Human Use Committee