

# FBI's WMD Coordinator Overview

At the national level, the FBI Headquarters' WMD Directorate develops WMD policy, guidance, and countermeasures.

The FBI field offices implement national level policy at the local level.

The WMD Coordinator works with their field office to obtain a strategic understanding of their unique geographical threats and vulnerabilities. This knowledge is reported back to FBI Headquarters.

At the local level, the FBI has 56 domestic field offices located in major U.S. cities, as well as nearly 400 resident agencies in smaller towns. Each FBI field office has a designated Special Agent (called a WMD Coordinator) who implements FBI activities to combat WMD.

In addition to domestic FBI field offices, the FBI has WMD Coordinators located overseas that provide regional expertise, assist with WMD investigations and prosecutions, and develop joint training programs. *Tbilisi, Georgia \*Lyon, France \*Singapore, Singapore* 

# **WMD Coordinator Responsibilities**

- Conduct outreach with federal, state, and local stakeholders (including industry, academia, and scientific communities)
  - ▶ Develop partnerships with industry leaders
  - ► Conduct biosecurity outreach to universities to promote safe and secure research
- Implement countermeasures, developed by FBI Headquarters (WMD Directorate), to detect and deter specific WMD threats and vulnerabilities
  - Conduct assessments within area of responsibility to identify risks and vulnerabilities
  - Promote biosecurity guidelines (ex. Screening Framework Guidance for Providers of Synthetic Double-Stranded DNA)
- Investigate WMD crimes and acts of terrorism
  - Identify individuals or groups expressing interest in acquiring WMD
  - ▶ Coordinate with public health Laboratory Response Network

#### FBI's 56 Field Office Locations

Albany, NY Albuquerque, NM	Indianapolis, IN	Oklahoma City, O Omaha, NE
Anchorage, AK	Jackson, MS	
Atlanta, GA	Jacksonville, FL	Philadelphia, PA
		Phoenix, AZ
Baltimore, MD	Kansas City, Missouri	Pittsburgh, PA
Birmingham, AL	Knoxville, TN	Portland, OR
Boston, MA		. or dana, on
Buffalo, NY	Las Vegas, NV	Richmond, VA
	Little Rock, AR	memmona, m
Charlotte, NC	Los Angeles, CA	Sacramento, CA
Chicago, IL	Louisville, KY	Salt Lake City, UT
Cincinnati, OH		San Antonio, TX
Cleveland, OH	Memphis, TN	San Diego, CA
Columbia, SC	Miami, FL	San Francisco, CA
	Milwaukee, WI	San Juan, PR
Dallas, TX	Minneapolis, MN	Seattle, WA
Denver, CO	Mobile, AL	Springfield, IL
Detroit, MI		St. Louis, MO
	Newark, NJ	J. 20013/ 1110
El Paso, TX	New Haven, CT	Tampa, FL
	New Orleans, LA	pu/ 12
Honolulu, HI	New York, NY	Washington, DC
Houston, TX	Norfolk, VA	gton, oc
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- Provide WMD training to both FBI and public community
  - ▶ Conduct Joint Criminal-Epidemiological Investigation Training
  - ▶ Conduct exercises with federal, state, local law enforcement and first responders

## Key Statutes, Regulations, and Criminal Code to Prevent Misuse of Biological Agents

#### **U.S. FEDERAL CRIMINAL CODE**

U.S. federal criminal code is a compilation of U.S. federal laws which the FBI enforces

#### **U.S. Criminal Code, Title 18**

**Sec. 175 part a:** Crime to knowingly possess any biological agent, toxin, or delivery system for use as a weapon (establishes BWC violations as crime)

**Sec. 175 part b:** Crime to knowingly possess any biological agent, toxin, or delivery system if not reasonably justified for a prophylactic, protective, bona fide or other peaceful research purpose

**Sec. 175b(c):** Crime to knowingly possess a select agent, regardless of intent, if not registered with the Select Agent Program

**Sec. 175c:** Crime to produce, engineer, or synthesize smallpox ("variola virus" considered 85% or more of variola major or minor gene sequence)

Sec. 842(p): Crime to teach or demonstrate use of or making of WMD material

Sec. 2332a: Crime to use (or conspire, threaten, or attempt to use) a WMD

#### **U.S. FEDERAL STATUTES**

Federal statutes are legislation that have been passed by Congress and signed into law by the U.S. President

**Public Health Security & Bioterrorism Preparedness Response Act (2002)** Requires those that possess biological agents or toxins deemed a threat must notify HHS (threat to public health) or USDA (threat to animal or plants).

#### **USA PATRIOT Act (2001)**

Places restrictions on persons who possess select agents and provides criminal penalties for possession of such agents that cannot be justified for specified peaceful purposes.

### Antiterrorism & Effective Death Penalty Act (1996)

Directed HHS to establish a list of select agents and toxins, transfer procedures, and training requirements; created civil and criminal penalties for violations.

### **U.S. CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS (CFR)**

The CFR is a compilation of regulations developed by regulatory agencies to implement laws. Although the FBI is not a regulatory agency, the FBI investigates violations of federal law, including criminal offenses against the CFR

7 CFR Part 331 Govern select agents that pose a threat to plants

9 CFR Part 121 Govern select agents that pose a threat to animals

42 CFR Part 73 Govern select agents that pose a threat to public health

The FBI looks forward to contributing its law enforcement expertise and experiences with the global community in hopes of strengthening collective national capacities to combat the threat of bioterrorism.

### U.S. Federal Select Agent Program

The Federal Select Agent Program (SAP) regulates the possession, use, and transfer of biological agents and toxins that could pose a severe threat to public health (overseen by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) as well as animals and plants (overseen by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service).

A key objective of this U.S. program is to promote laboratory security by developing select agent regulations, providing guidance to the regulated community, and inspecting U.S. facilities working with select agents and toxins. The FBI conducts Security Risk Assessments, a requirement of the Select Agent Program, on all entities and personnel in the U.S. requesting access to select agents and toxins.

U.S. Federal Select Agent Program website:

www.selectagents.gov

