



DHS Office of Health Affairs

Biodefense Overview

*Presentation to One Medicine Symposium
13 December 2007*

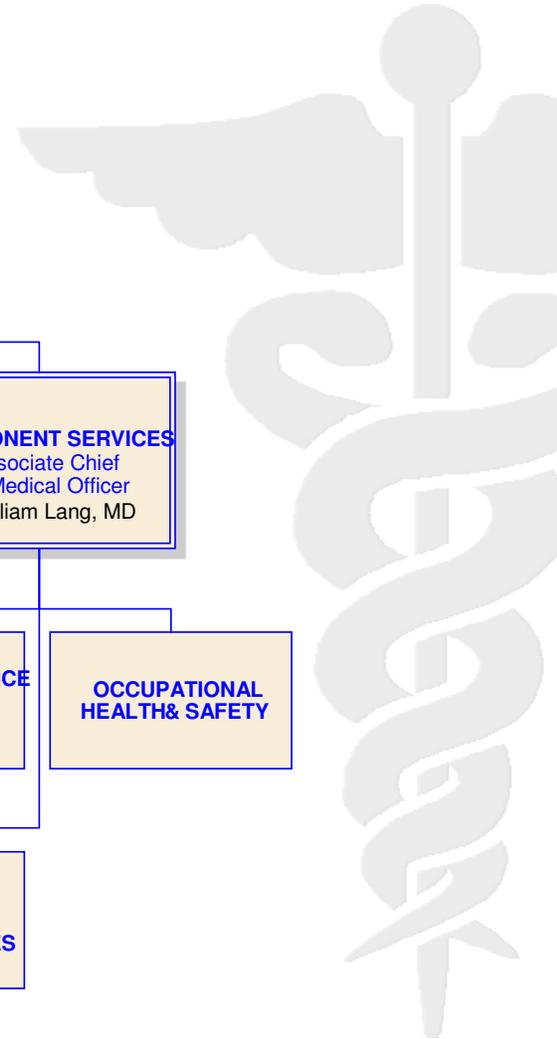
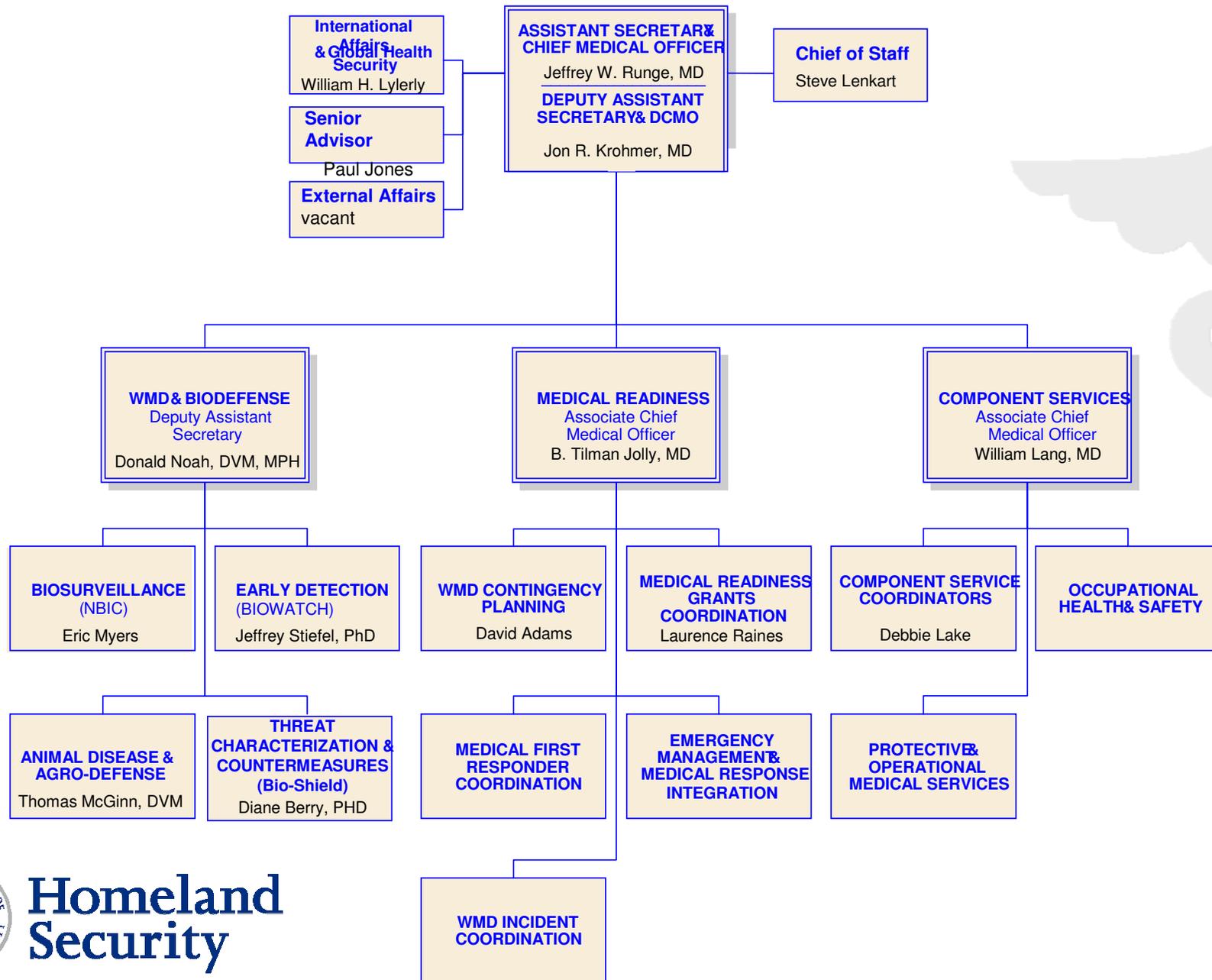
Donald L. Noah, DVM, MPH
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
(WMD & Biodefense)
Colonel, United States Air Force



**Homeland
Security**



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS



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DHS Office of Health Affairs



VISION

A Nation prepared for the health consequences of catastrophic incidents

MISSION: The Office of Health Affairs serves as the Department of Homeland Security's principal agent for all medical and health matters. Working throughout all levels of government and the private sector, the Office of Health Affairs leads the Department's role in developing and supporting a scientifically rigorous, intelligence-based biodefense and health preparedness architecture to ensure the security of our Nation in the face of all hazards.



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Presidential Mandates for DHS Office of Health Affairs

HSPD-5: Management of Domestic Incidents

- DHS is the overall incident manager in national incidents
- OHA supports the Secretary and FEMA Administrator as advisor on all medical and public health matters
- OHA manages information flow from HHS, USDA, VA, and DOD on health preparedness issues
- OHA participates in operations and crisis planning during any national incident

HSPD-7: Critical Infrastructure Identification, Prioritization, and Protection

- OHA works with public and private sector partners in protection of critical information, particularly the sections of food and agriculture, public health and healthcare, and emergency services



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Presidential Mandates for DHS Office of Health Affairs

HSPD-8: National Preparedness

- OHA coordinates interagency subject-matter-experts to achieve end-to-end plans for biodefense scenarios
- OHA sets requirements for DHS health preparedness funding to states, tribal and local governments
- OHA works with state and local entities to achieve target capabilities in health preparedness

HSPD-9: Defense of United States Agriculture and Food

- Develop a robust biological threat awareness capacity and information sharing with food and agriculture community
- Enhance local response capabilities for agro-defense
- Work with DHS entities to prevent introduction of foreign animal and plant pathogens

HSPD-10: Biodefense for the 21st Century

- Ensure a coordinated architecture for bio-monitoring, biosurveillance, aerosol detection, clinical syndrome detection, response and recovery from biological incidents



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OHA Key Role: WMD and Biodefense

Leads the Department's biodefense activities in coordination with other Departments and agencies across the Federal government

- **National Biosurveillance Integration Center (NBIC)**

- Integrates bio-monitoring activities of executive branch Departments to provide a Biological Common Operating Picture and facilitate earlier detection of adverse events and trends

- **BioWatch**

- Provides a bio-aerosol environmental monitoring system to our Nation's largest cities for early detection of biological attacks

- **Food, Agriculture and Veterinary Defense**

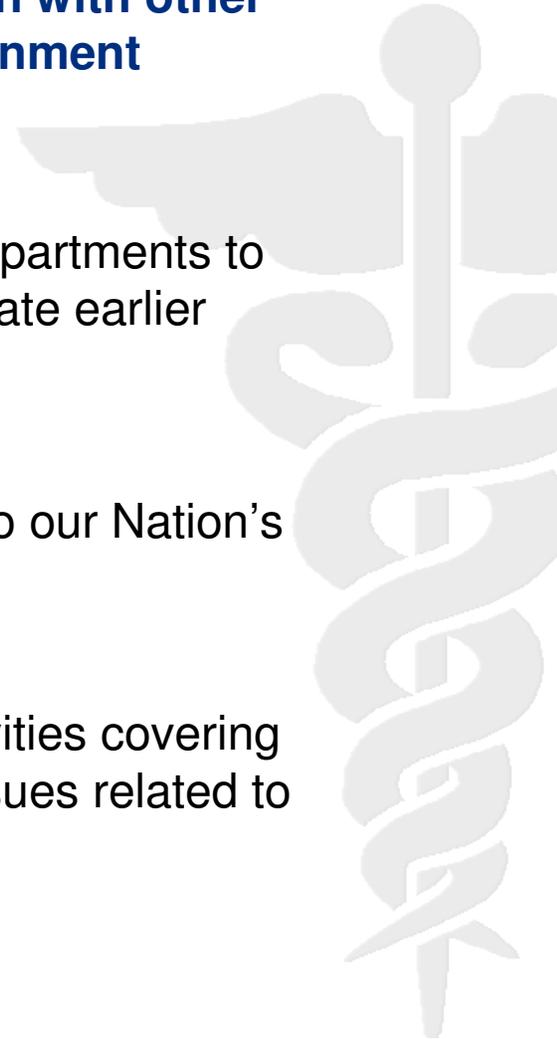
- Leads the Department's veterinary and agro-defense activities covering animal and zoonotic diseases, and agricultural security issues related to livestock, food and water

- **Threats and Countermeasures**

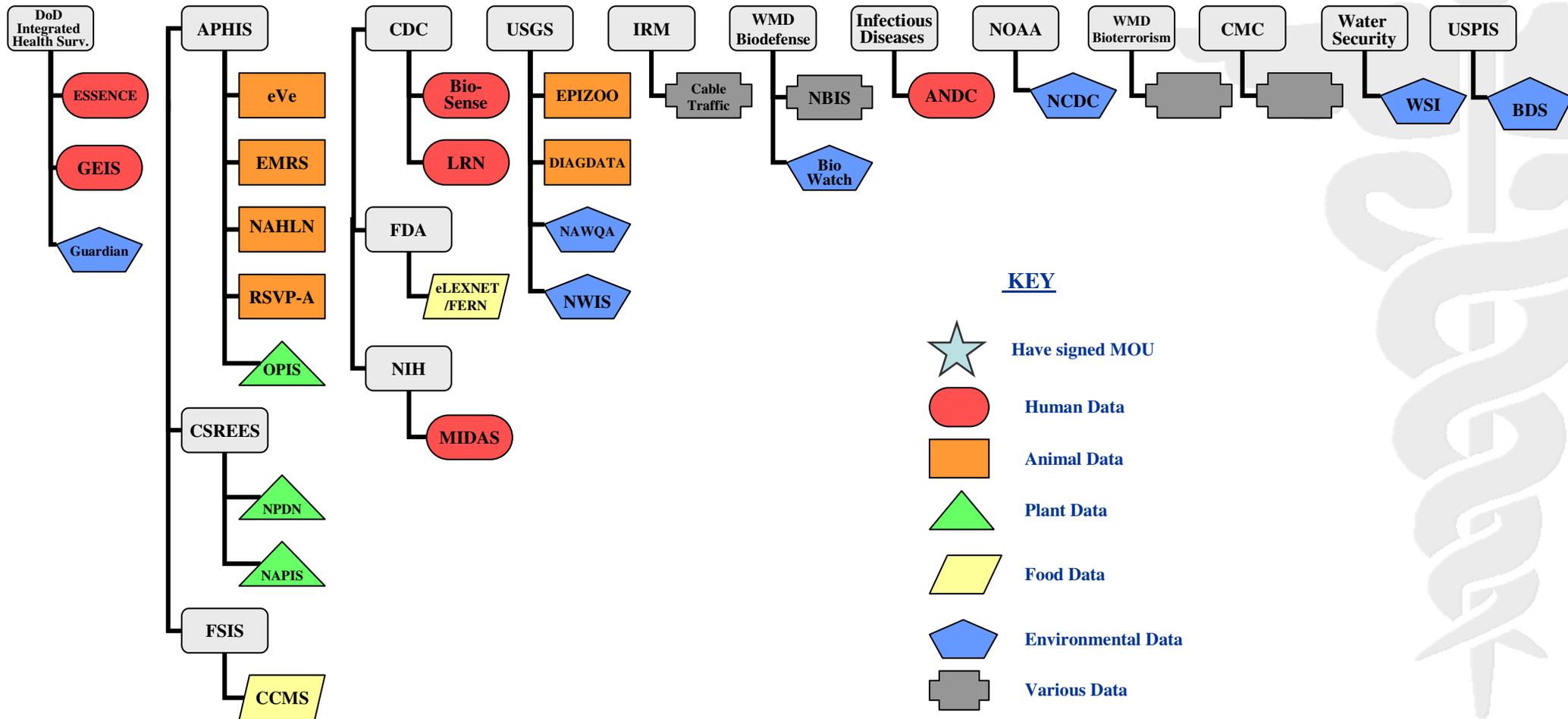
- Manages the Department's equities in Project BioShield



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NBIS FEDERAL NETWORK INTEGRATION



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BioWatch National Network



- Operates continuously in more than 30 major population centers
- Detect attacks against our Nation's cities and other high value assets
- Poised to:
 - Enable early detection
 - Provide situational understanding to guide response
 - Share information among partners
 - Integrated into the national networks of reference laboratories
 - Critical element in a national capacity to respond rapidly to bioterrorism events



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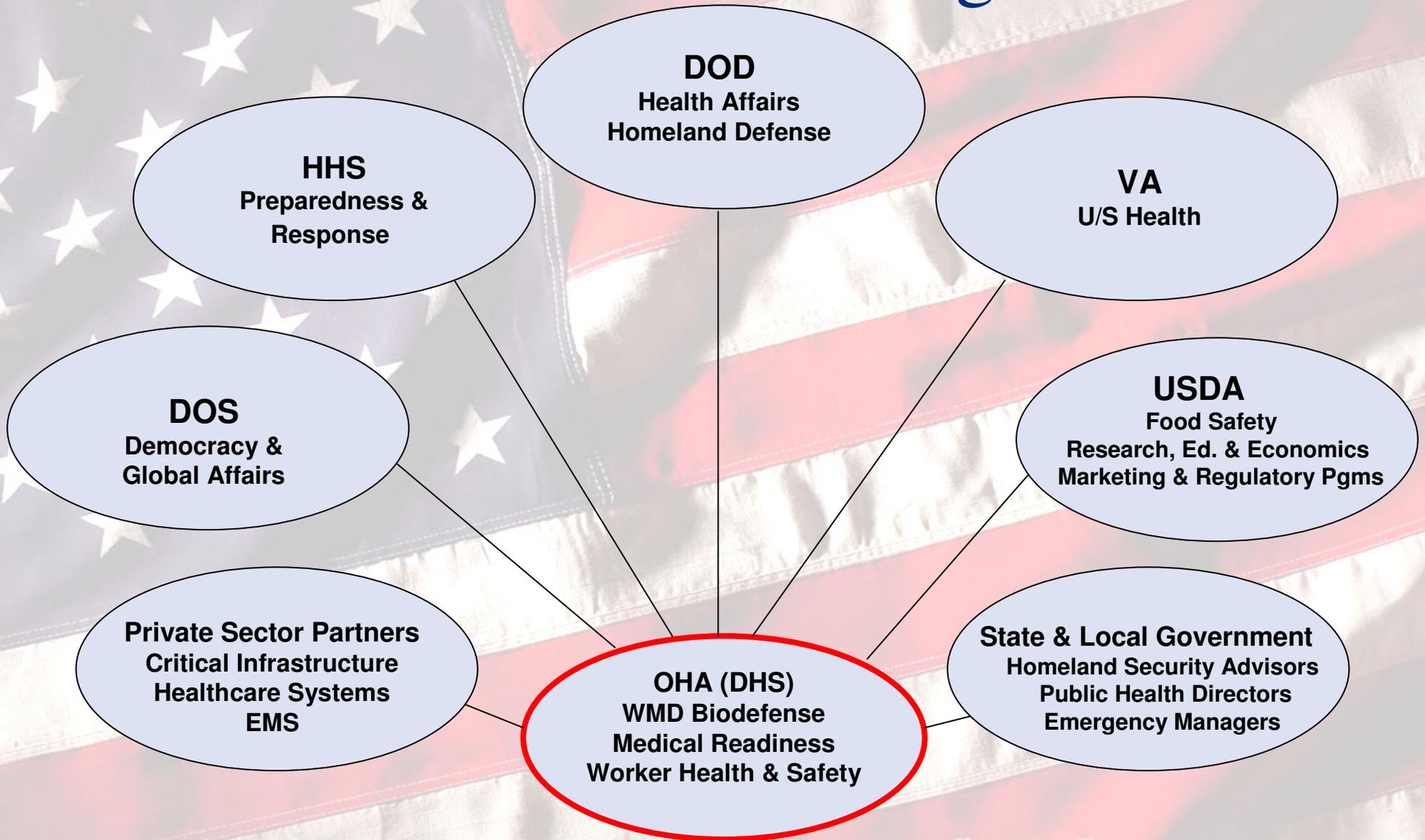
Food, Agriculture & Veterinary Defense

- DHS is overall incident manager during national incidents
- Link together resources and expertise of USDA, HHS, DOD, state, tribal and local governments, and the private sector to protect and respond to threats to the nation's agriculture and food
- Mitigate vulnerabilities in food, agriculture and water systems
- Develop a robust biological threat awareness capacity



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Office of Health Affairs Integration



E Pluribus Unum
Out of many, one

Some thoughts specific to AgriBT...

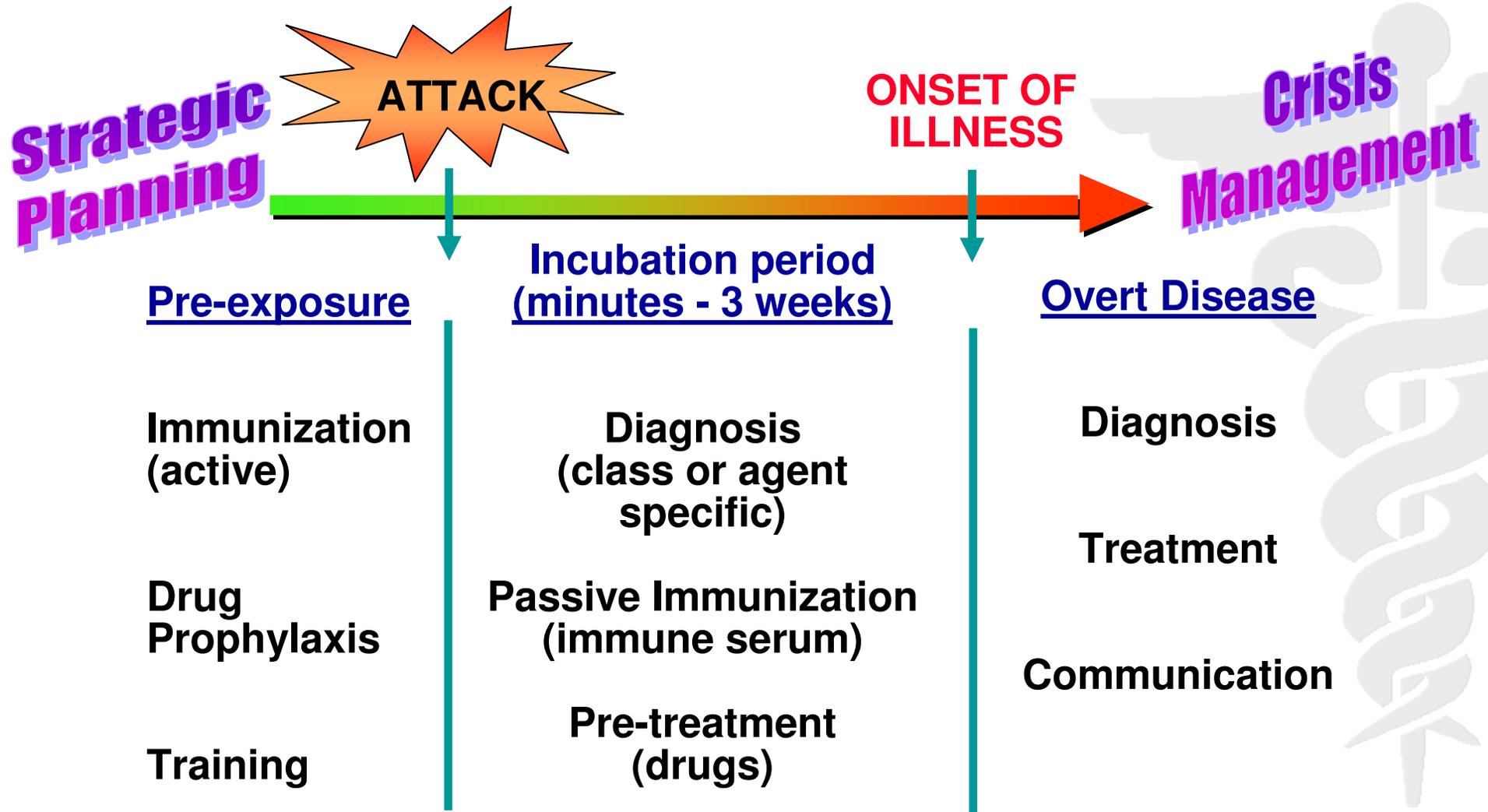


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Historical Veterinary Involvement



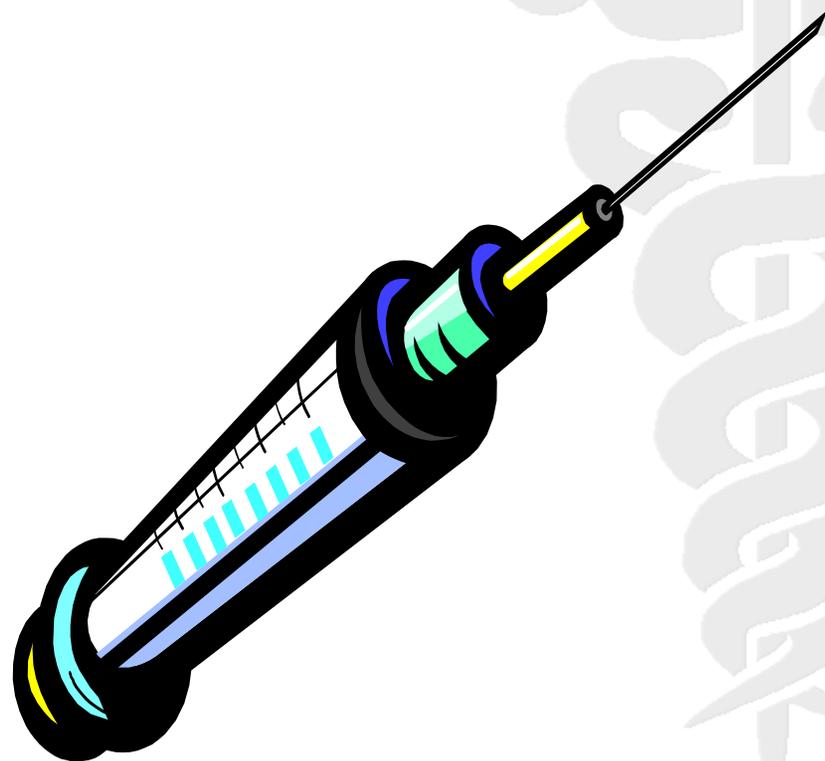
How Do You Defend Against BW?



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Animal Disease Control Options

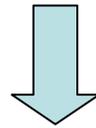
- Surveillance and reporting
- Epidemiological investigations
- Quarantine
- Slaughter and disposal
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Vaccination
- Vector control
- Monitoring and testing



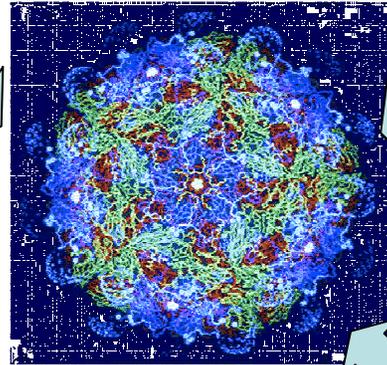
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Emerging Threats → Emerging Relationships

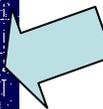
Agriculture



Public Health



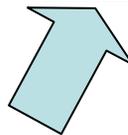
Intelligence



Defense



Law Enforcement



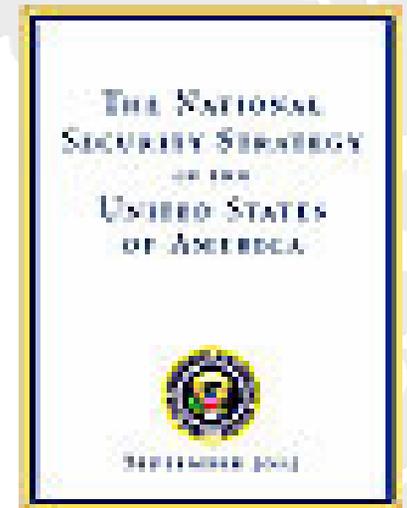
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The National Security Strategy of the United States of America

- 17 September 2002

Innovations

- The first strategy statement of President Bush's Administration
- Equates terrorists with tyrants as threats
- Adds preemption to the list of defense options
- Emphasizes cooperation among the great powers
- Ultimate goal is to spread democracy everywhere



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“Adds preemption to the list...”

“...that nations need not suffer an attack before they can lawfully take action to defend themselves against forces that present an imminent danger of attack.”

“...we will not hesitate to act alone, if necessary, to exercise our right of self-defense by acting preemptively against such terrorists, to prevent them from doing harm against our people and our country...”

“...the United States can no longer solely rely on a reactive posture as we have in the past. We cannot let our enemies strike first.”



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HSPD-9

Defense of United States Agriculture and Food

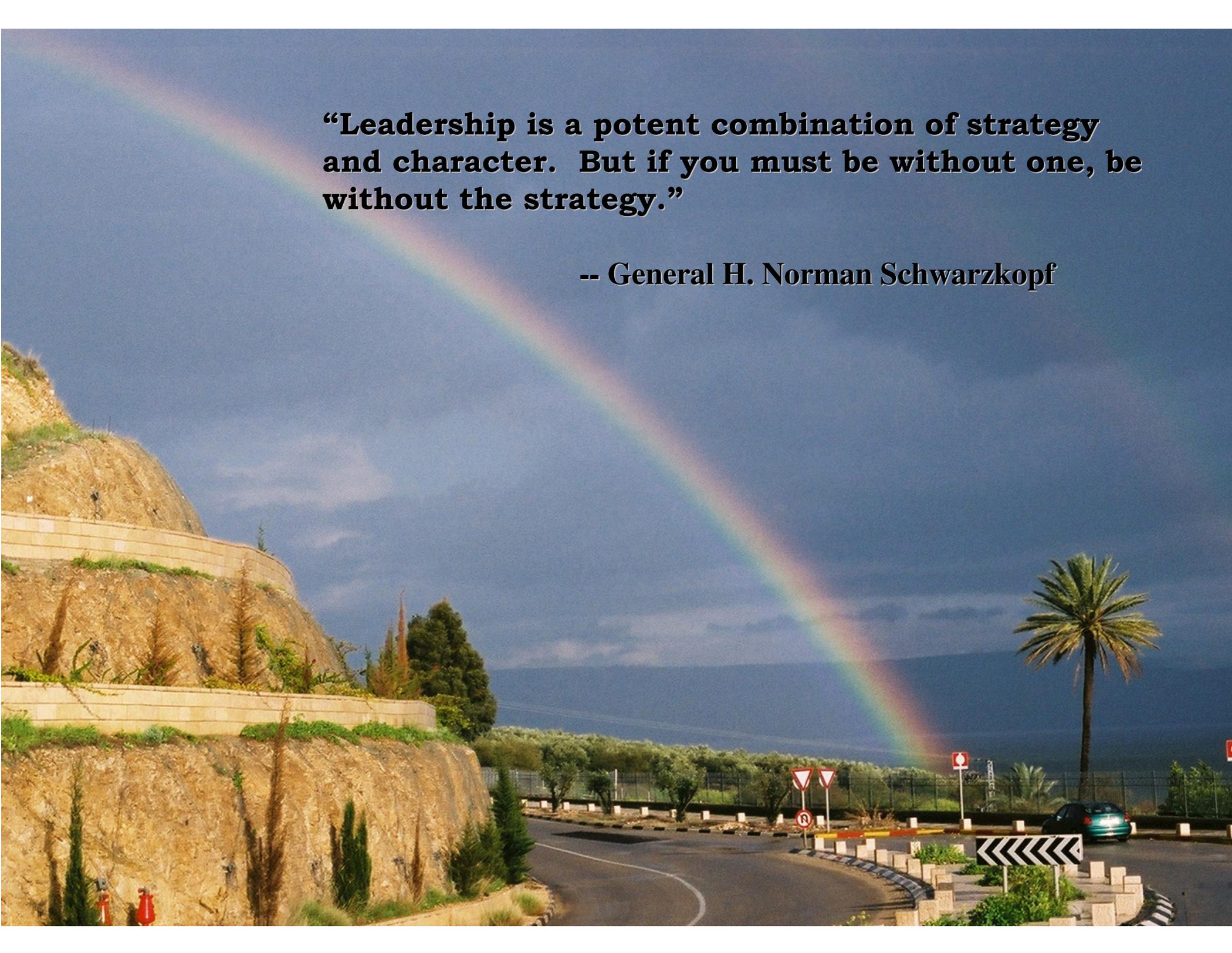
30 January 2004

- Nationwide lab network for food, veterinary, plant, water quality
- Increase threat awareness capacity
- Integrate food/agr response into NRP
- Create National Veterinary Stockpile
- Develop veterinary training in FADs, epi, and public health
- Safe, secure agriculture biocontainment labs
- Establish university-based centers of excellence
 - Univ. of MN – Post-Harvest Food Protection & Defense
 - Texas A&M – Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Research

Note: Gives DHS overall responsibility for this effort



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A landscape photograph featuring a vibrant rainbow arching across a dark, overcast sky. In the foreground, a paved road curves to the right, bordered by a stone retaining wall on the left and a palm tree on the right. Several road signs, including a 'no right turn' sign and a 'yield' sign, are visible near the road's edge. A green car is parked on the right side of the road. The overall scene is a mix of natural beauty and urban infrastructure.

“Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character. But if you must be without one, be without the strategy.”

-- General H. Norman Schwarzkopf



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