

## **Private outfit to run Ft. Detrick's germ warfare program**

By Richard J. Ochs

August 25, 2007

It is bad enough that germ warfare technology is being expanded at Ft. Detrick, making Frederick the initiator and world center of a global biological arms race of new designer doomsday diseases. These millions should instead be spent on preventing and curing existing diseases. Yes – that's bad enough. But it gets worse.

A corporate fox is being put in charge of the diseased hen house. Battelle National Biodefense Institute has received a \$500 million contract award to manage and operate the new biodefense analysis center, currently under construction at Fort Detrick, Md. That is like putting Blackwater, the world's largest mercenary army, in charge of the Pentagon. It is bad enough to contract out war making. It is yet another level of perfidy to put the contractor in charge.

[http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1\\_1/29895-1.html?topic=daily\\_news](http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1_1/29895-1.html?topic=daily_news)

Privatization is so prevalent that the tail is now wagging the dog. A private corporation with proprietary interests will run the government's germ warfare program. This is yet another level of concealment from independent oversight. The reason given by the U.S. government for not signing the Geneva Protocol for International Inspection and Verification is that it would infringe on the proprietary rights of U.S. corporations. With a corporation running Ft. Detrick, it will be even harder to get any kind of independent oversight or information about what is going on behind these gates on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Now it is not only classified, it is private property. Private corporations should not be involved in germ warfare at all.

That is not the only problem. There is private money to be made. Just as for-profit health care systems do not put the interest of the patient first, corporate involvement in germ warfare is asking for trouble. Battelle is partnered with Bioport for America's sole anthrax vaccine production. They made a killing after the 2001 anthrax letters killed 5 people and scared the hell out of everybody else. Who sent the letters? Follow the money! <http://www.911review.org> (search: Battelle anthrax)

Since President Eisenhower warned us about the undemocratic power of a military-industrial complex, we have witnessed for decades how war profits have corrupted our political system. This out-of-control machine must be stopped before it kills us all. The only way to stop it is to take the profits out of war making. Like health care, defense should be on a non-profit basis. That would stop campaign contributions from Lockheed-Martin, Battelle/Bioport and all the other blood-sucking profiteers.

Battelle has been working with anthrax for years under contract with the CIA and Ft. Detrick, illegally I might add, since President Nixon ordered all such work to be stopped in 1969. It was only the publicity of the 2001 anthrax attacks which revealed that the CIA and their contractors have been developing anthrax and other agents all along.

World renowned international law expert Francis Boyle of the University of Illinois pointed out that **the Pentagon just laid out a contract to Battelle now to develop anthrax that will be resistant to any type of treatment.**

<http://www.homesnotbombs.ca/battelle.htm>

**There is evidence that Battelle operatives, through their contracts with Ft. Detrick and the CIA, sent the anthrax letters.** A 1998 New Yorker article outlines the joint work of Ken Alibek and William C. Patrick, III. Patrick was contracted by Battelle to write a report on the potential of sending anthrax through the mail prior to the anthrax letters. <http://www.911review.org> (search: Battelle anthrax)

Reuters News Service reported (12/16/2001) that the CIA had cultures of the Ames strain. The New York Times reported (12/13/2001) that the Agency had been conducting secret experiments with powdered germs since 1997 at Battelle Memorial Institute in Ohio. According to the Washington Post (11/30/2001), Battelle received the Ames strain from Fort Detrick in May of 2001. The CIA said it was trying to develop defenses against anthrax, but did not explain why it was doing what other defense labs were set up to do.

The Battelle Memorial Institute is possibly the only corporation in the world known to possess both the Ames strain as well as a “national security division” offering the services of a team of “engineers, chemists, microbiologists, and aerosol scientists supported by state-of-the-art laboratories to conduct research in the fields of bioaerosol science and technology.” On its Web site, Battelle calls this research group “one-of-a-kind.”

Battelle is capable of sophisticated work, as it also makes one of the world’s most advanced medicinal powders. Battelle’s pharmaceutical division, BattellePharma, also in Columbus, is one of the few companies anywhere developing electrostatically charged aerosols for inhalation. BattellePharma’s Web site boasts that the company’s new “electrohydrodynamic” aerosol “reliably delivers more than 80% of the drug to the lungs in a soft (isokinetic) cloud of uniformly sized particles.” Other powders, boasts the Web site, only achieve 20% or less. This is evidence that Battelle was a logical place to start looking for clues. Officials from Battelle and the Army declined to comment on any aspect of anthrax powder manufacture. <http://cryptome.org/anthrax-powder.htm>

The FBI reportedly interviewed Battelle employees, finding no suspects, but not all leads were followed, A Carlyle Group Subsidiary, EG&G, had access to Battelle and Fort Detrick anthrax by way of a service contract with Battelle. The Carlyle Group, a military contractor, included H.W. Bush and the Bin Laden family among its owners until recently. **Carlyle/EG&G was the connection between Battelle/Detrick and the Bush family at the time of the anthrax attacks.** <http://www.911review.org> (search: Battelle anthrax)

There have been no reported interviews with EG&G by the FBI at that time. **FBI chief Robert Mueller, described as a cover-up artist, took over the FBI two months before the anthrax letters were sent.**

The lead investigator into the BCCI banking scandal was Robert Mueller, who steered the investigation clear of any money laundering investigation into any of BCCI's clients, despite ample evidence that would have incriminated a large number of international players, including the Bush family. Mueller was also the lead prosecutor in the Noriega case, and fixed it so that Noriega wasn't allowed to mention the CIA at his trial, or show any evidence that he worked for the CIA.

[http://www.serendipity.li/wot/hsing\\_lee/remember\\_9-11\\_2.htm](http://www.serendipity.li/wot/hsing_lee/remember_9-11_2.htm)

So why should we trust the FBI to fairly investigate the anthrax attacks, especially when they botched the investigation from the beginning? Not only did they allow the stored Ames anthrax specimens to be destroyed the same day the contaminated letters were mailed to senators, making tracing the mailed anthrax more difficult, they dragged their feet for months in interviewing scientists at Ft. Detrick about the case.

Recently the FBI changed its former assessment that only a high tech lab and top scientist could have made the mailed anthrax, judged to be state-of-the-art purity and size of particles. Now the FBI is saying any biology student could make it, including foreign terrorists. After 6 years of contrary test conclusions, now they are casting a wider net instead of zeroing in on the more likely suspects. Now that independent researchers are getting close to a Bush connection with the anthrax mailer, the FBI is looking abroad. But it is too late. The FBI has already blown its credibility.

It is a travesty that the goals of the anthrax senders were allowed to be achieved. It is worse than ironic that **a company involved in making the mailed anthrax is now in charge of the U.S. expansion of germ warfare R&D at Fort Detrick.** But that should not surprise us. It follows a pattern. Those responsible for allowing the 9/11 plane attacks, whether by malfeasance or incompetence, were all promoted and given raises. The whistleblowers, who reported violations of laws and procedures on 9/11 by the FBI, CIA, FAA, and Air Force, were demoted, fired or ignored. The anthrax letters were instrumental in getting the Patriot Act passed and getting billions for germ warfare R&D. The 9/11 plane attacks were instrumental in getting us into wars for oil (Iraq) or oil pipelines (Afghanistan). Since the culpable in both attacks were rewarded, **the obvious conclusion is that both attacks were inside jobs.** Each time, we should ask: who benefits? The answer: follow the money.