USPS Response to 2001 Anthrax Attack

- Agenda
  - Summary of Events
  - Timeframe for Response
  - Development of Emergency Preparedness Plan
  - Overall Strategy
  - Mail Security Technologies in use
  - Actions beyond Bioterrorism
Summary of Events

- **Four known letters**
  - 2 Letters postmarked 9/18 to NY Post and NBC (NYC)
  - 2 Letters postmarked 10/9 to Sen. Daschle & Leahy (Wash)

- **Three suspect letters**
  - All believed to be postmarked 9/18
  - 1 to American Media, Boca Raton FL
  - 1 each to ABC and CBS, New York
Summary of Events (continued)

- 22 cases of Anthrax infection
- 11 cases of Inhalation Anthrax
- 11 cases of Cutaneous Anthrax
- 9 USPS workers, 10 workers at targeted recipients, 3 others
- Five deaths, all from Inhalation Anthrax
Timeframe for Response – Initial Response

- Employee personal protection program
- Consulted with responsible public health, safety and security agencies
- On-site first response environmental testing
- Long-term closing of two postal facilities
- Short-term cleanup of 21 other facilities
- System wide process changes
- Irradiation of mail in closed facilities
Timeframe for Response

- Near-term strategy based on using available production technologies
- Intermediate-term strategy identified an initial set of technologies that we evaluated years 2-3
- Long-term strategy is focused on technology deployment and process changes based on R&D
Emergency Preparedness Plan

U.S. Postal Service
Emergency Preparedness Plan
for
Protecting Postal Employees and Postal Customers
From Exposure to Biohazardous Material
and for
Ensuring Mail Security
Against
Bioterror Attacks

Emergency Preparedness Plan
Date of Report: March 6, 2002
Emergency Preparedness Plan

- Considered a wide array of available technologies
- Evaluated technologies for both effectiveness and ability to incorporate into operating environment
- Established overall strategy and selected technologies to be implemented
Overall Strategy

Detect
Contain
Neutralize
Deter

Reduce
The Risk

Mail Security Technology
Overall Strategy (continued)

Risk Reduction

Not

Risk Elimination
Mail Security Technology

- Electron Beam and X-ray Irradiation to treat mail
- Chlorine Dioxide Fumigation to decontaminate facilities
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) integrated into a near real-time Bio-Detection System (BDS)
- Redundant protection for employees via a Ventilation Filtration System (VFS)
Mail Security Technology – Current Efforts

Detect

BDS

Contain

VFS
Actions beyond Bioterrorism

- Examined 164 different scenarios
- Biological, Chemical, Explosive and Radiological threats
- Evaluation based upon:
  1) Terrorist access to threat
  2) Intent of Terrorists
  3) Feasibility of attack to Postal System
  4) Vulnerability of Postal System