



HOMELAND SECURITY

Collaboration
Innovation and
Standardization

2003 ANSI
Annual Conference



American National Standards Institute

United States Postal Service Response to the 2001 Anthrax Attack

Thomas G. Day

Vice President - Engineering

United States Postal Service



American National Standards Institute

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

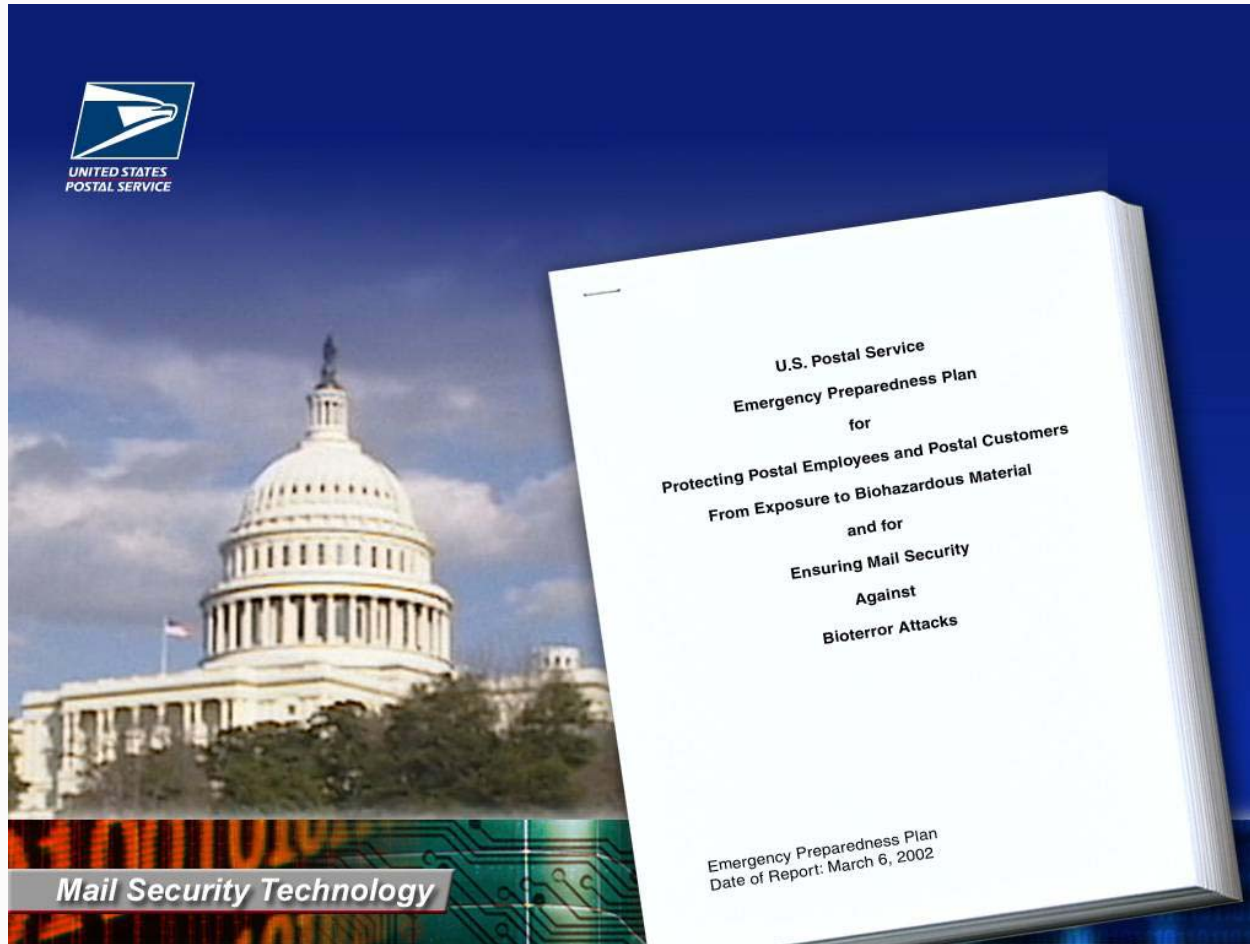


Timeframe for Response

- 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

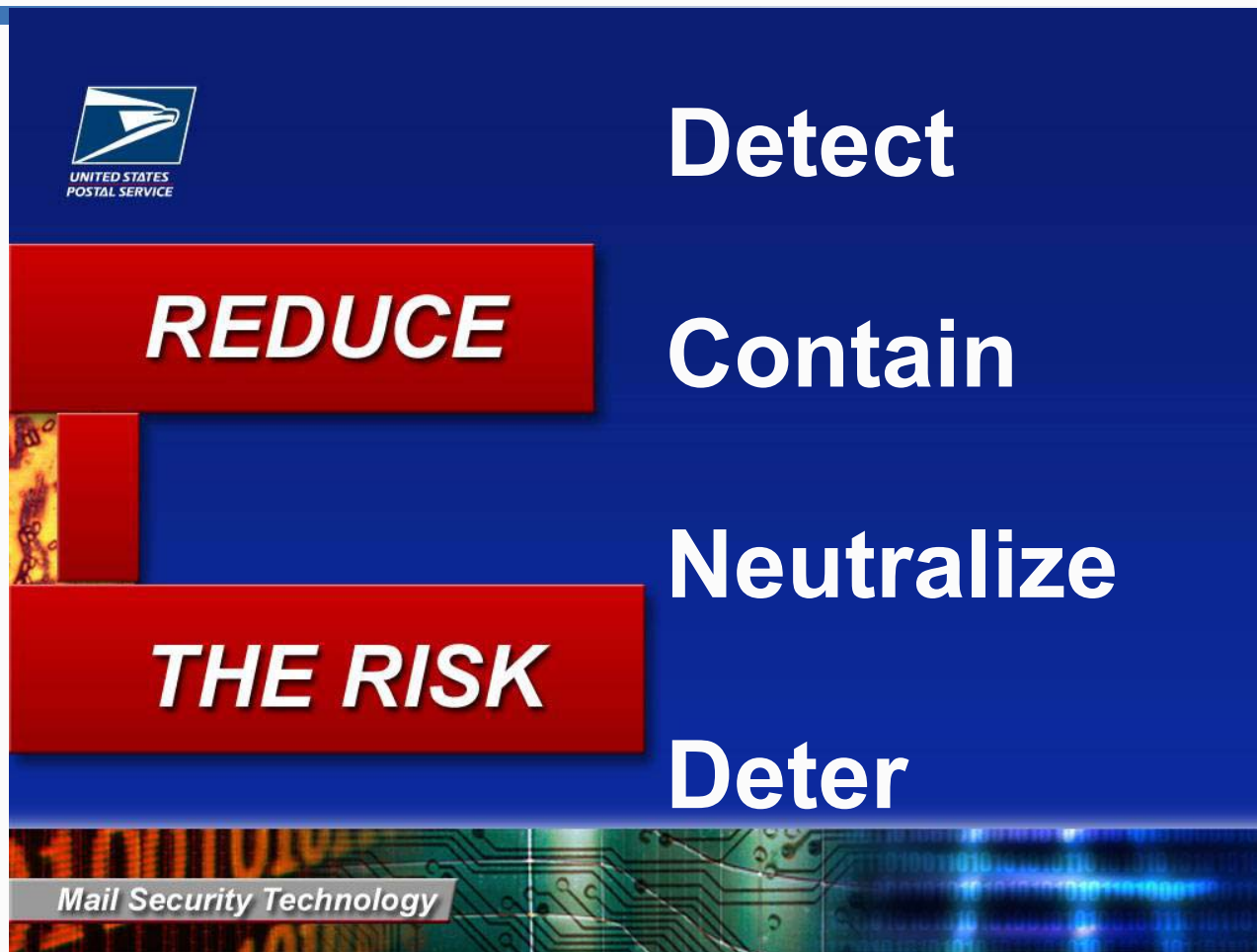


Emergency Preparedness Plan


- 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



The graphic features a dark blue background with a white USPS logo in the top left corner. Two red rectangular boxes are positioned on the left side, containing the words "REDUCE" and "THE RISK" in white, italicized, sans-serif font. To the right of these boxes, the words "Detect", "Contain", "Neutralize", and "Deter" are listed vertically in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the graphic, there is a horizontal strip with a green and blue circuit board pattern, and a grey banner containing the text "Mail Security Technology".

 UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

REDUCE

THE RISK

Detect

Contain

Neutralize

Deter

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

