

from Leslie Feinberg August 2011 transgenderwarrior.org
my research notes on the medical politics driving the "Lyme Wars"

Part 30:

Why would Lyme be useful as a biowarfare agent?

If Lyme is so easy to cure, why would U.S. military biological warfare experts consider researching Lyme disease as a biological weapon?

Researcher Marjorie Tietjen quoted Dr. Donald MacArthur, "who was in charge of the development and testing of biological weapons for the Pentagon." ("Discreet Methods of Biological Warfare," publichealthalert.org)

MacArthur testified at a 1969 hearing before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations: "Incapacitating agents are a more recent development and are in the research and development (R&D) phase. In fact the prime emphasis in agent R&D is on developing better incapacitating agents. We are synthesizing new compounds and testing them in animals.

"I should mention that there is a rule of thumb we use before an agent can be classified as an incapacitant, we feel that the mortality should be very low," MacArthur continued. "Therefore the ratio of the lethal dose to the incapacitating dose has to be very high. Now this is a technical job. We have some of the top scientists in the country working for years on how to get more effective incapacitating agents. It is not easy."

MacArthur concluded that an incapacitating agent "imposes a greater logistic burden on the enemy when he [sic] has to look after disabled people."

Tietjen also pointed to the following facts from a 2004 Science Daily article, emphasizing: "They suggest that ticks, especially *Ixodes Scapularis* (the deer tick which spreads Lyme disease) would make a very appropriate candidate for vectoring biological warfare agents."

According to the Sept. 3, 2004 Science Daily article, "Ticks as small as a freckle can transmit a number of illnesses for which there is no vaccine, and in some cases, no cure. These creatures could even become bio-terrorism weapons."

The quote referred to the deer tick. "A number of ticks in the United States spread pathogens that the CDC considers potential bioterrorism weapons," the article stated. "The family to which *I. scapularis* belongs, Ixodidae, carries many of the microbes included on the CDC's Select Biological Agents and Toxins list."

Tietjen herself stated, "Purdue University and The University of Connecticut, at the time this Science daily article was written, were undertaking the project of unraveling the genetics of the tick species *Ixodes Scapularis*. Catherine Hill, Purdue's co-principal investigator, tells us that 'From a bio-terrorism standpoint, it's pretty clear ticks could

transmit a number of diseases that intentionally could be introduced and conveyed to people." (publichealthalert.org)

A four-paragraph article from the Associated Press titled "UTSA opens bioterrorism lab," dated November 14, 2005, stated: "A new research lab for bioterrorism opened Monday at the University of Texas at San Antonio. The \$10.6 million Margaret Batts Tobin Laboratory Building will provide a 22,000-square-foot facility to study such diseases as anthrax, tularemia, cholera, lyme disease, desert valley fever and other parasitic and fungal diseases." (thefreelibrary.com)

A currently accessible reiteration of the inclusion of Lyme as a focus of research at the same lab can be found in a brief article entitled "University opens second bioterrorism lab" at the same web location. (lymecryme.com)

British Lyme researcher and writer Elena Cook recalled that in 2005 she had: "discovered a document on the NIH website listing Lyme as one of the potential bioterrorism agents studied in BSL-4 (top security) labs. After this was publicized, the NIH announced they had made a 'mistake,' and removed the words 'Lyme disease' from the page.

"However, at around the same time," she continued, "a CDC source leaked the identical information to the Associated Press.

Cook stated that at the time of web posting--November 2007--the original was still available in cached Internet archives. (sources cited at www.ctlymeriders.com)

"Moreover, the Science Coalition, comprising entities as prestigious as the American Medical Association, Yale University, and the American Red Cross, maintain a website which, at the time of writing, also lists Lyme as a disease studied for its biowarfare potential."

Cook asked, "Could these three major organizations all have, co-incidentally, made the same 'mistake'?" (www.ctlymeriders.com)

Next: History of 'Mystery Island' bio-warfare tick research