

Biological Threats of Ebola Virus and Anthrax

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It is highly likely that in the event of a major terrorist attack the means of destruction will likely be of a biological nature. Being preppers and survivalists, it is our responsibility to prepare for such events. In order to properly prepare we must know something about biological germs in general.

Biological agents are the nastiest of all potential weapons of mass destruction. There exist about 1200 potentially weaponizable bio-agents capable of causing great harm to intended victims. These types of dangerous pathogens possess the ability to negatively impact human health by means of creating mild allergic reactions to the more serious conditions requiring hospitalization. The majority of bio-agents are found naturally in nature while it is left to the human mind to weaponize and deploy them on unsuspecting human populations. It takes very little to reproduce and propagation these agents thus they represent a grave threat when in the hands of terrorist groups.

Although banned from being stockpiles we know that some rouge nations have accumulated vast amounts of biological agents and are merely bidding their time until their accumulation is scheduled to be released. As of 2008 it has been determined that China, Cuba, Egypt, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Russia, Syria, and Taiwan possesses bio-agents capable of creating a deadly environment. When given the option of selecting only one agent to talk about I have decided upon Ebola as a possible bio-weapon that could be utilized by terrorist groups. For some time now scientists have pondered the idea that Ebola could be employed as a bioterrorism weapon.

Spain's secretary of security, Francisco Martinez, has openly stated that ISIS fighters may in fact be attempting to weaponize the Ebola virus. These claims are backed up by material uncovered within secret chatrooms used by the terrorist cells. Our own Department of Homeland Security has played down these claims and replied that they have seen no credible data that would indicate ISIS is attempting to use any such biologicals. The main reason that Ebola is not the weapon of choice for any terrorist group is that it simply does not give the "biggest bang for the buck." Terrorists are generally seeking something that would provide a quick and shocking threat to the public and Ebola won't give them that piece of mind.

Characteristically, people are infected only when symptoms appear after their exposure to bodily fluids. Terrorists are not going to visit West Africa merely to get infected and come back to give up the infection to a test tube. If such a case were to take place the terrorist would fail to be functional for any length of time and will eventually become extremely sick. There exists only a small window of time where they could operate safely when contacting the Ebola disease.

This would certainly be the ideal weapon to release to the public since terrorism relies upon the ability of the terrorist to frighten large masses of people and create a level

of societal disruption. Remember, the goal of terrorists is to create a high level of fear as a result of their actions.

The only way that Ebola could be effectively employed by a terrorist group such as ISIS is if they were able to combine the genes of several pathogens together to create a synthetically, supercharged pathogen which could spread the disease more effectively than just the Ebola itself. However, this has its downfalls as it is extremely difficult to make dangerous pathogens in the lab from scratch.

In conclusion, all attempts by terrorist groups to utilize the Ebola as a weapon of destruction would likely be useless. Just the fact that the healthcare workers catch it so easily indicates just how difficult it would be to handle Ebola even in a laboratory environment. In such cases it would be more likely that these groups would employ anthrax rather than Ebola as a weapon.

By comparison Anthrax would be the better choice of bio-agent for the terrorist because its spores are readily found in any area that grazes cattle making it much easier to weaponize in a lab. It can draw data from its past use as a weapon therefore providing the terrorist group with deployment information. In either case be it the Ebola or anthrax I do not foresee ISIS developing an effective deliverable in the near future. With that said I still recommend that a survivalist learn all they can on these biological agents and biological weapons in general.