

Abstract Session 13B:

US Approach to the Control Biological Materials

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The US Congress has been aware of the need to control biological material for some time. The approach taken by the government and reflected in the new US national strategy document, “National Strategy for Countering Biological Threats” is one that emphasizes the threat of non-state actors over that of States. Hence, the panoply of laws and regulations that the US Congress and the executive branch of government have promulgated are written primarily to address this perceived threat. This presentation examines the national legislation in the US to control biological materials chronologically.

The presentation begins with US legislation from 1989, the date of the first federal legislation criminalizing biological weapons. The presentation will discuss changes in legislative language enacted in 2002 following the anthrax attacks in the United States. In addition to criminal legislation the presentation will discuss US regulations on select agents and experiments of concern. The presentation concludes with an analysis of the national strategy document released in 2009.