

CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL TERRORISM

12. Introduction

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DR. CARPENTER: This section is on chemical and biological warfare terrorism. My name is Dr. Bob Carpenter, and I'm a member of the board of directors of CEHI. Thirty years ago, when I was in the Air Force, we had an old hospital on this very site. We ran all the Air Force flight surgeons and nurses through here. We would expose them to a little CS gas, and they had to take their masks off and experience a little gas up close and personal. That's when I first met our next speaker, Dr. Blanck who was in the Army at Ft. Sam. That was around the time when we just found out that the Russians had a huge chemical-biological warfare capability. So a lot of emphasis was put on how does a medical facility operate in the military in a chemical biological warfare environment? Then somebody asked "What are we going to do with dependents in the theater?"

So children's environmental health in the military theaters became an interesting subject, and was actually a classified subject at that particular time. So we've been thinking about this a long time. I'm a veterinarian by training, and some of you might be wondering why are veterinarians interested in children? There are a couple of reasons. For one thing, they're our best clients. Secondly, there's not a lot of difference between practicing pediatrics and practicing veterinary medicine. You have the patient and parent, and we have to deal with the patient and the owner.