



*Where Health Knows No Borders*

# Laboratory



## Laboratory Annex

Minerva Cutter  
Microbiology Supervisor

# Challenges

- ***Financial:*** Takes a long time to get budget in place. No status reports for a few months. Took over ~3 mos to advertise a request for bids for lab supplies
- ***HR:*** ~3 mos to fill positions
- ***Time:*** Do not have a Laboratory Director/Manager position. Supervisors perform director/manager duties, supervise, and help with testing as needed.

**Health Director**  
Robert Resendes  
MT (ASCP), MBA

**Lead Epidemiologist**  
Fernando Gonzalez

**Tillman Lab**

**Lab Annex**

**Microbiology Supervisor**  
Carlos Fierro

**Microbiology Supervisor**  
Minerva Cutter

3 Senior Microbiologists

3 Microbiologists

1 Senior Office Assistant

1 Senior Microbiologist

1.5 Microbiologists

1 Secretary

BW Lead Biological Scientist

3 BW Laboratorians

# Challenges

- *Sept-Nov 2013:* told to relocate Tillman Lab testing by Dec so the building could be demolished in Apr 2014. The labs tried to explain how difficult this would be but were told that we had to relocate.
- *Nov:* Lead city engineer visited both labs to discuss the scope of the project.
- Lead city engineer able to convince city manager to stop relocation. The estimate to relocate was >\$200,000.

# LRN Capabilities

Agent	Capability
<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	Culture, PCR, gamma phage lysis
<i>Brucella</i> spp.	Culture, PCR
<i>Burkholderia</i> spp.	Culture, PCR
<i>Francisella tularensis</i>	Culture, PCR, DFA
Orthopox	PCR
Ricin	PCR, TRF
Variola	PCR
<i>Yersinia pestis</i>	Culture, PCR, DFA

Will have only *Bacillus anthracis* (Pasteur strain) on select agents and toxins certificate. If identify other agents, will transfer or destroy within 7 days.

# BT Testing

Three suspicious powder events in 2013

Total of 3 samples from two of the events were tested. Law enforcement interviews determined that one event was the result of runners using flour to mark their trail.



July – downtown



July – central



Aug – northeast

# 2013 Accomplishments

- July 16-18: Participated in Texas BioWatch exercise
- Aug: New USDA/APHIS import/transport permit
- Oct 8: No deficiencies noted for CLIA inspection
- Dec 10-11: Survived a Select Agent Inspection with two inspectors. Waiting for response to our response.

# Select Agent Inspection

- During certification check interlock system on Class II B2 biological safety cabinet.
- Verify access logs for the laboratory. Review to ensure no one is entering after work hours.
- Include gross decontamination of lab in biosafety plan. We added info about contacting private companies w/ this capability.
- Exhausted air must be HEPA filtered or released away from the building, so that is not taken back in through vents.