The Biological Threat Expanse: 
Current and Future Challenges to National Biodefense

OBJECTIVE

Provide the Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense with a better understanding of: (1) the expanding landscape of current and future biological threats; (2) the roles and responsibilities of the federal government in addressing various biological threats; and (3) biological weapons, terrorism, and arms races.

SCHEDULE

10:00 – 10:30 am  
Opening Remarks

10:30 – 11:45 am  
Panel One: Federal Perspective  
*Federal officials will provide their views on biological threats from nation states, synthetic biology, and agroterrorism in addition to biodefense priorities for their respective departments and agencies.*

Ian Watson, MS, MA  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense, Department of Defense

Donald Alway, MS  
Assistant Director, Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate, Federal Bureau of Investigation

12:00 – 12:45 pm  
Panel Two: Perspective of Congress  
*Member of Congress will provide their views on the biological threat and congressional priorities for the Intelligence Community in this regard.*

Senator Robert P. Casey Jr. (D-PA)  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Children and Families, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and Member, Select Committee on Intelligence, U.S. Senate

12:45 – 1:30 pm  
*Lunch*
1:30 – 2:45 pm  Panel Three: Human-Generated Threats and Vulnerabilities
Experts will discuss catastrophic biological risks, accidental releases of pathogens into the environment, and dangerous biological information getting in the hands of bad actors.

Gregory D. Koblentz, PhD
Assistant Professor and Director of Biodefense Graduate Programs, Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University

Kevin M. Esvelt, PhD
Assistant Professor and Director, Sculpting Evolution Group, Media Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Piers Millett, PhD
Vice President, iGEM Foundation; Principal, Biosecure Ltd; Senior Research Fellow, Future of Humanity Institute, University of Oxford

2:45 – 3:00 pm  Break

3:00 – 4:15 pm  Panel Four: Biological Weapons, Terrorism, and Arms Races
Experts will provide their views on biological weapons, terrorism, and arms races.

Caroline Schuerger, PhD
Research Fellow, Biotechnology Programs, Center for Security and Emerging Technology, Georgetown University

Christine Parthemore, MA
Chief Executive Officer, Council on Strategic Risks

Edward H. You, MS
National Counterintelligence Officer for Emerging and Disruptive Technologies, National Counterintelligence and Security Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

4:15 – 4:30 pm  Closing Remarks

4:30 pm  Adjourn