# NATIONAL BIODEFENSE ANALYSIS AND COUNTERMEASURES CENTER (NBACC)

**Location:** National Interagency Biodefense Campus, Fort Detrick, MD

**Core Competencies:** Aerobiology; Biocontainment Operations; Bioforensics; Comparative Medicine; Quality Management; Genomics and Bioinformatics; and Broad Capabilities in Bacteriology, Virology, Toxinology, and Business Operations.

**Accreditations/Registrations:** ISO 17025 Quality (A2LA), CDC/USDA Select Agent for BSL-2, 3, and 4, Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Animal Care International, Institutional Biosafety Committee, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Drug Enforcement Administration Controlled Substance, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau Industrial Alcohol User Permit

**Key Customers:** Law Enforcement and Interagency Biological Threat Characterization Stakeholders

The National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center (NBACC) is the first national laboratory created by the Department of Homeland Security. NBACC addresses unmet needs in homeland security and provides a continuously available national security biocontainment laboratory capability for newly identified biological threats. NBACC's mission is to provide the scientific basis for the characterization of biological threats and bioforensic analysis to support attribution of their planned or actual use. NBACC components include the National Bioforensic Analysis Center (NBFAC) and the National Biological Threat Characterization Center (NBTCC).

## NBACC Accomplishments

- Provided safe and compliant operations for more than 50,000 square feet of Bio Safety Level (BSL) 2, 3, and 4 laboratories, including continuous operational support to law enforcement.
- Continuously maintained Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Biological Select Agent and Toxin Program (BSAT) compliant BSL-4 laboratory operations, including annual CDC/USDA inspections. In FY 2013, expanded registration with the CDC/USDA for 27,600 square feet of BSL-3 laboratories.
- Achieved a "Superior" Defense Security Service (DSS) rating in FY 2012 and FY 2013.
- Established a "Work for Others" program that makes the NBACC national security biocontainment capabilities more broadly available to federal agencies.
- Recognized for staff volunteerism and the Battelle National Biodefense Institute's philanthropic contributions to regional STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education.

## NBFAC Accomplishments

- Supported more than 45 investigations of potential biological crimes by federal law enforcement and other agencies in FY 2013.
- Activated unique, purpose-built BSL-3 bioforensic laboratories with ISO 17025 accreditation for casework operations in FY 2013.
- Established and maintained ISO 17025 accredited processes and assays that create an operational capability for more than 60 high-priority human, animal, and plant pathogens and toxins.
- Established ISO 17025 validated sequencing in biocontainment laboratories and bioinformatics methods for bioforensic casework that are enabling new types of investigations.
- Developed a new operational capability that supports investigations of genetically modified and *de novo* synthetic agents.

## NBTCC Accomplishments

- Installed and CDC/USDA registered unique national BSL-3 and BSL-4 aerobiology capabilities, which are required to obtain key scientific data that informs biodefense planning and response.
- Provided scientific data addressing 10 specific biological agent knowledge gaps in FY 2013 that improved hazard, risk, and threat assessments in support of biodefense planning and response. Data from threat agents significantly improved the fidelity of hazard and threat/risk assessment modeling of aerosol and other bioterrorism scenarios for bacterial, viral, and toxin threat agents.

## Contact

Questions? Email *questions@nbacc.net* for more information.



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