



Protecting A/I Responders

AgERT Course Overview

Presented by: Gordon Harman



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Agro-terrorism

Why Use Livestock or Crop Diseases?

- ❑ Disease agents are EASY to introduce
- ❑ No need for weaponization - EASE of transmission
- ❑ Perpetrator safety
- ❑ Plausible deniability
- ❑ Agents are widely available
- ❑ Disproportionate Impact = Asymmetric Threat



Why AgERT?

- U.S. agriculture is:
 - At growing risk due to the elevated threat of terrorism AND from foreign animal disease incursion.
 - Dependent on properly trained animal and plant health professionals (non-traditional emergency responders), as well as traditional responders (e.g., fire fighters, emergency medical, hazmat teams, etc.).
- The CDP has unique training expertise and infrastructure suitable to provide necessary emergency response training.
- Veterinarians/Plant Disease Experts and Emergency Responders train the way they will be required to operate, i.e., together

Goals and Objectives

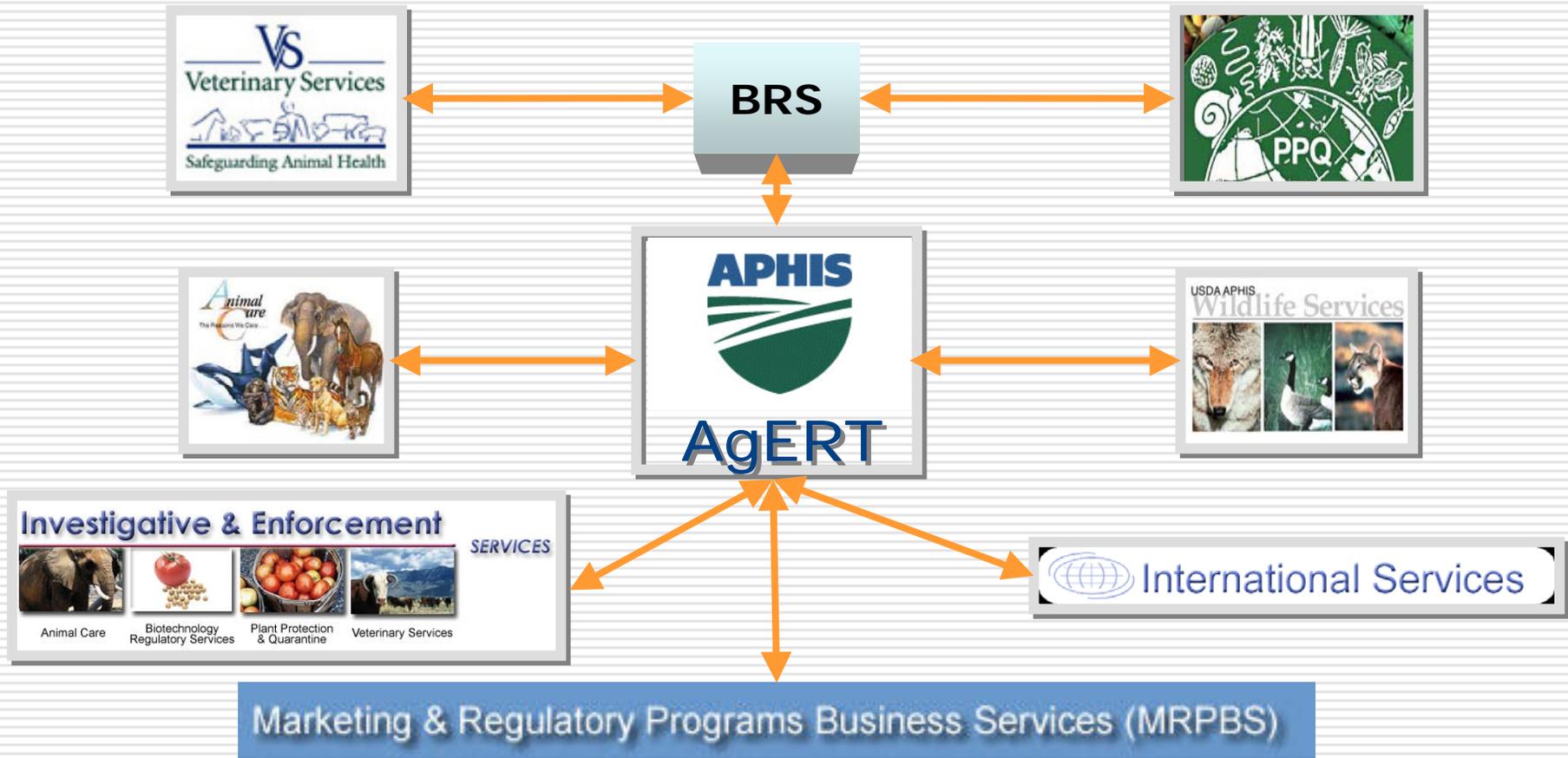
- ❑ Provide a network of well trained and prepared emergency responders with hands-on practical experience
- ❑ Provide opportunity for APHIS emergency responders to learn, practice, and sharpen skills alongside other emergency responders, both traditional and non-traditional
- ❑ Teach APHIS emergency responders how to work within the NIMS/ICS framework / develop IAP
- ❑ Increase awareness and confidence by individuals to perform under stressful situations

Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP)

- ❑ Only Federally owned and operated Weapons of Mass Destruction Training Center
- ❑ Started in 1998, the CDP has trained more than 120,000 state and local emergency responders
- ❑ Department of Homeland Security FEMA
- ❑ Trains local, state, Federal, tribal, parish, private and international partners
- ❑ Has more than 300,000 square feet of dedicated training space and lodging for over 300 resident students
- ❑ <http://cdp.dhs.gov>



AgERT is an APHIS-wide Initiative



Other Federal Departments and Agencies Involved in the AgERT Initiative (partial list)

- ❑ Environmental Protection Agency
- ❑ Food Safety and Inspection Service
- ❑ Agricultural Research Service
- ❑ Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ❑ Farm Service Agency
- ❑ Canadian Food and Inspection Agency
- ❑ APHIS Native American Working Group



Strategic Approach

- ❑ Partner with the CDP to meet APHIS' the emergency response training goals and objectives
- ❑ Develop and deliver training solutions (courses, hands-on exercises, case scenarios, etc.) using a blended learning approach)
- ❑ Engage other Federal departments and agencies, as well State, local, tribal community, and traditional emergency response organizations
- ❑ Create a hands-on environment where key Federal plant and veterinary personnel can develop the unique “playbooks” required to effectively respond to agricultural emergency events
- ❑ Incorporate lessons learned from the industry and field for continuous improvement

AgERT Progression – First Level

□ **Basic AgERT – Broad-based Training**

- 4-day course, with full-scale practical exercises performed on the last day in a farm setting at Auburn University.

□ **Target Audience**

- USDA personnel who could serve as responders during an animal or plant disease or pest control emergency (VS, PPQ, WS, AC, IS, IES, BRS, FSIS).
- State and local Ag emergency response personnel and traditional emergency responders.
- Private veterinary practitioners, veterinary medical students and university staff, tribal communities, etc.
- FSIS, Military veterinarians, FBI

Basic AgERT Course Modules

- Introduction to Agroterrorism and Response
- CBRNE Hazards
- Epidemiology
- Zoonotic Diseases
- Foreign Animal Diseases
- Response Actions
- Animal Restraint and Euthanasia
- Animal Carcass Disposal
- Personal Protective Equipment – Levels B & C
- Decontamination
- Survey & Monitoring/Crime Scene Preservation
- AgERT Practical Exercise

11/21/2014

Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine



Large Animal Teaching Hospital





1. Blood Samples



- 1. Lung**
- 2. Liver**
- 3. Muscle**
- 4. Rumen Content**

Take Home Message

- AgERT is a product of collaboration and partnerships.**
- AgERT complies with HSPDs**
- AgERT inspires out-of-the-box thinking**
- AgERT is open to all emergency responders**
- AgERT is complementary to other emergency programs**
- APHIS welcomes working with all Federal and State emergency management organizations**

Questions



R. Gordon Harman Liaison 256-847-2350

Robert.G.Harman@aphis.usda.gov