

Loftus, Paul (L&DR-LON)

From: David Kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 May 2003 20:49
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Technical question

[REDACTED]

The answer is not straightforward. Remnants of DNA would remain for years (a decade or more in dryish soil) from both anthrax and DNA contaminating toxin products in both the soil on buried warhead fragments. Degradation products from other anthrax components would degrade quickly unless the spores remained intact although the spore coat might survive but is not readily detected. Botulinum toxin protein would degrade rapidly and doubt that much would survive after a few weeks and the toxicity would degrade in hours.

A leaky drum of anthrax spores which was buried would present intact spores for decades and could be detected by cultivation (we seem to have done that recovering anthrax spores at Al-Hakam five years after it was allegedly dumped in 1991) or by biotech probe techniques.

Call if you need further elaboration.

Best wishes,

David

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 May 2003 13:52
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Technical question

Dr Kelly,

For how long do trace elements or degradation products remain either in the ground or on warhead fragments for anthrax and botulinum toxin? If one were to bury a leaky drum of liquid anthrax, would the soil around it show signs of contamination? For how long?

Thanks much

[REDACTED]

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