FBI closing in - Ames strain

Wapo, 26 Oct 2001: *Office of Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge said yesterday that the bacterial spores that caused anthrax outbreaks in Florida, New York and Washington belong to the so-called **Ames strain** -- a subtype of the anthrax bacterium that is **commonly used** in universities around the world and was a **focus** of studies by the **U.S. military**. **

(re Daschle letter opened in his office **Oct. 15)**

Maj. Gen. John Parker, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command: *We are trying very hard to characterize anything that would be associated with this sample and we're continuing to do that research. I won't have the absolute answers until all of those investigations are in.*

It is highly concentrated. It is pure and the spores are smaller. Therefore they're more dangerous, because they can be more easily absorbed in a person's respiratory system.

BBC, 19 Dec 2001: *For five weeks now* (=Nov 14), *the FBI has been **working openly** on the premise that the terrorist is **home-grown.** Last week it was **acknowledged** that the US military has in recent years been **making weaponised anthrax**, of a type that **matches** the anthrax used to lace the **lethal letters.***

The Atlantic, June, 2002: *In November* (2001), *the FBI issued a suspect profile identifying the likely anthrax attacker as a single adult male, **probably an American** with a scientific background, **lab experience**, poor social skills, and a grudge. **

*Some people - I - was one of them - viewed this interpretation with skepticism. What would be the motive? Why the timing so close to September 11? A number of analysts, including David Tell in a useful article in The Weekly Standard on April 29, have subsequently cast doubt on the **disgruntled-scientist hypothesis**,*

***William C. Patrick III:** Anthrax is relatively easy to grow; it doesn't require any special nutrients," **Patrick** said. "But having grown it, you have to dry it and keep it dry, and you have to have a pretty tight system. You need a minimum amount of equipment for that; you just can't go out in the woods and create this."*

* FBI (Mueller) suspected it was a homegrown scientist from beginning, knew from Nov 14.

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