

The challenge of protecting essential biological and environmental research, an international perspective

James R. Sutton

Sigma Iberia. Inc. FL, USA

Abstract

Biological and Environmental Research facilities worldwide are prone to a number of threats to their operation, even though their research is essential to human progress and survival.

The threats to a research facility include attacks to its; reputation, intellectual property, clinical and technical personnel, critical equipment, essential operations, and facilities.

Based on analysis of insurance claims, reported events of national significance, and historical reports we know that the sources of security challenges for most organizations derive from a finite number of causes, which are cited by the number of reported instances, from the highest frequency to the lowest.

These include:

- **System Failures:** The modern world is increasingly complex and failures from accidents, fires, building collapse, mechanical failures, floods, etc. are all normal contingencies, which are as inevitable as they are unpredictable.
- **Natural Events:** These events have a wide spectrum of known natural phenomena from meteor strikes, volcanos, earthquakes, floods, blizzards, tornados, hurricanes, pandemics, etc.
- **Criminal Activity:** this includes malicious sabotage by corrupt insiders.
- **Terrorist Activity:** (this includes the gamut of civil disobedience, political protest, disturbances, sub-national conflict, civil war, and declared conflict between nation states).

The presentation allows for a significant question and answer period to discuss any specific concerns, questions, and discussion of Mr. Sutton's on-going research.

Biography

Sutton, MA, Public Policy Analysis, UIC. Served as FBI Special Agent and Research Intelligence Analyst DOJ (INS) circa 2010-2011. Completed complex, multi-jurisdictional investigations in regions with high levels of criminal violence or sub-national conflict. Current research is focused on protection of high risk, high value critical facilities, transnational crime, official corruption, human trafficking. Served intelligence assignments in Iraq 2005 and Afghanistan 2011. Completed Threat Risk and Vulnerability Assessments of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD and Bio Safety Level III and IV facilities NIAD's Bio-Shield project circa 2003.