

Review the items on biological weapon deployments in the US and post twice. For your first post, answer two of the items below (8 points). To facilitate grading please separate the two items you are addressing:

1. The bioweapons test in San Francisco took place in 1950, but this did not become public knowledge until 1976. Do you think the government was justified in keeping this information secret for 26 years? Explain:
2. According to the same article, 11 people were sickened and one died due to exposure to the pathogen in San Francisco. Shockingly, there is no mention of any victim being compensated or any government official being disciplined or prosecuted. How might this affect the likelihood of this happening again? Explain:
3. The article refers to the bioweapons test in San Francisco as “one of hundreds of bioweapon simulations carried out in the 1950s and 1960s.” Could this mean there are other bioweapons simulations that remain to be declassified? Do you think this story is under-reported? Explain:
4. Why do you think anthrax letters were also sent to the offices of NBC, the New York Post, and Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle? What did this accomplish?
5. The role of Bruce Ivins in the anthrax letters is disputed because his lab lacked the equipment to dry anthrax spores and there is no evidence he traveled to Princeton to mail the letters. Do you think the FBI acted irresponsibly when they closed their investigation following his alleged suicide? Explain:

For the second posting you need to respond to one post by another fellow student (2 points). For the second post I recommend the following format:

- 1) I like how because.....
or
- 2) I agree/disagree with.....because....
or
- 3) This relates to.....because.....

Here are the items you need to review:

This article discusses controversial experiments carried out by the US military on American cities:
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/1950-us-released-bioweapon-san-francisco-180955819/>

The official culprit of the "anthrax letters of 2001" was Bruce Ivins, an employee at the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID). He presumably did this to get more funding for his research on anthrax vaccines, but Ivins reportedly committed suicide before the investigation was closed and some scientists continued to question whether or not Ivins ever played a role in these terrorist attacks:

<https://www.history.com/news/anthrax-attacks-terrorism-letters>

Optional reading: *This article from ProPublica lays out serious flaws in the evidence against Bruce Ivins:*

<https://www.propublica.org/article/new-evidence-disputes-case-against-bruce-e-ivins>