



January 4, 2002

Major Randy Zimmerman
U.S Army
Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas

Dear Major Zimmerman,


I would like to personally thank you for the support given the U.S. Postal Service, especially the Material Distribution Center (MDC) in Topeka during implementation of our Anthrax decontamination process.

The MDC receives non-working repairable parts from approximately 500 major field sites, repairs them and returns a replacement to the site. The threat of anthrax exposure to those items being returned to the MDC, required that a cleaning process be created rapidly to effectively handle the situation, without disrupting critical service to the Postal Service's automated equipment.

So, an initial Anthrax cleaning process was created quickly to handle the situation without any in-depth cost analysis being performed. After the process was up and running, other options were considered in order to improve efficiency. One option required that all items received at the MDC be held for a period of thirty days. This hold period allowed the MDC a capability to screen and segregate, all receipts from known contaminated facilities and provide a waiting period for identification of other sites that had possible contamination. The negative side of this approach was an estimated one-time expenditure of \$4.5 million in additional float stock for field sites.

Then, with your participation and different perspectives, other cleaning options being considered were reviewed, and resulted in the identification of more options and the need for a more detailed analysis. Upon joint review of all options, a recommendation was made to identify non-working repairable items as critical and non-critical. Once items were categorized, critical items would be sent through the cleaning process (approximately thirty percent of receipts) and all other items (non-critical) would be held thirty days. Through this analysis it was determined that instead of spending \$4.5 million for float stock, no additional float stock would be needed. The more detailed analysis showed there were sufficient quantities of non-critical items already at field sites. In addition, float stock was not needed for critical items, since they would be moved through the new process in an expedited manner.

Again, I thank you for your support and patience in working with the Postal Service in our time of crisis to resolve a critical problem.


Jim McConnell
Manager