

## Liebe GLD-Mitglieder!

von Dorothee Racette, GLD Administrator

Seitdem der erste Schneesturm der Saison schon einen Meter Schnee mit sich gebracht hat, erinnere ich mich mit Wehmut an die warmen Abende in Phoenix. Wie sicher viele von Ihnen denke ich noch gerne an die ATA-Konferenz zurück, die uns immer Gelegenheit gibt, sich im Kreis von Kollegen auszutauschen, ohne eine langwierige Erklärung abgeben zu müssen, was man als Übersetzer oder Dolmetscher eigentlich den ganzen Tag so macht!

Die vielen bekannten Gesichter sind mir noch frisch in Erinnerung und ich habe mich gefreut, wieder neue Bekanntschaften mit Kollegen zu knüpfen, darunter auch einige, deren Namen mir schon aus der E-Mail-Liste ein Begriff waren. Das weitläufige Hotel in Phoenix brachte mich zwar ein paar Mal fast zur Verzweiflung, weil ich mich so oft darin verlaufen habe, es hatte dafür aber wirklich schöne und zweckmäßige Tagungsräume zu bieten.

Die Jahresversammlung der GLD fand am Donnerstag, dem 6. November, statt und Sie finden das Protokoll der Versammlung in dieser Ausgabe. Die German Language Division hat derzeit 761 Mitglieder (Stand: Oktober 2003). Dies entspricht einem Rückgang von etwa 4 % gegenüber dem Vorjahr. Aufgrund dieser ansehnlichen Mitgliederzahl ist GLD in der Lage, Sprecher aus dem In- und Ausland einzuladen und Vorträge zu einer Vielzahl von Themen zu organisieren. Das Programm stellt sich natürlich nicht von alleine zusammen und ich möchte mich herzlich für den Einsatz von Assistant Administrator **Jutta Diel-Dominique** bei der Konferenzplanung bedanken. Viele der in Phoenix gehaltenen Vorträge werden im Laufe des Jahres in *interaktiv* und auf der Website veröffentlicht, um möglichst vielen GLD-Mitgliedern Zugang zu den Weiterbildungsmaßnahmen der Division zu bieten.

Unser besonderer Dank geht an **Michael Metzger**, der seit November nicht mehr als Webmaster und Listenmoderator fungiert. Michael hat sich seit den Anfängen der GLD 1997 sehr engagiert für die Kommunikation der Mitglieder eingesetzt. Er entwarf die erste Website der GLD und kümmerte sich jahrelang um die tägliche Verwaltung der E-Mail-

### *In dieser Ausgabe...*

Liebe GLD-Mitglieder! .....	1
Perspektiven .....	3
Auf einer Konferenz hat man auch viel Spaß .....	4
Minutes of the 2003 Annual Meeting of the GLD .....	7
Biological Weapons and Bioterrorism .....	9
Termine .....	20

## interaktiv

The German Language Division newsletter is a quarterly publication of the GLD within the American Translators Association.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of their authors. Articles are subject to editing. Submissions for publication are invited and may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed (the latter preferred) to the editors.

The copyright on all articles remains with the authors.

### Editor

Rainer Klett, Ardmore, PA  
Tel.: 610-642-8692  
Fax: 610-642-6475  
[RainerKlett@aol.com](mailto:RainerKlett@aol.com)

### Proofreaders

Janice Becker, Chicago, IL  
Tel: 312-201-1626  
[gabtemail@ameritech.net](mailto:gabtemail@ameritech.net)

Susanne van Eyl, Pittsburgh, PA,  
Tel: 412-341-3460  
Fax: 412-341-3494  
[Susanne.vaneyl@verizon.net](mailto:Susanne.vaneyl@verizon.net)

### Design & Layout

Rainer Klett, Ardmore, PA  
Tel.: 610-642-8692  
Fax: 610-642-6475  
[RainerKlett@aol.com](mailto:RainerKlett@aol.com)

### German Language Division of the American Translators Association

American Translators Association  
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Tel: 703-683-6100  
Fax: 703-683-6122  
website: [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)

### Officers of the GLD

#### Administrator

Dorothee Racette, Saranac, NY  
Tel: 518-293-7494  
Fax: 518-293-7659  
[dracette@owlang.com](mailto:dracette@owlang.com)

#### Assistant Administrator

Jutta Diel-Dominique, Thornton, CO  
Tel: 303-254-8389  
Fax: 303-254-8399  
[juttadd@estreet.com](mailto:juttadd@estreet.com)

#### Website Committee Chair

Michael Wahlster, Columbia, MO  
Tel: 573-445-6537  
Fax: 573-445-7068  
[Michael@GW-Language.com](mailto:Michael@GW-Language.com)

Liste. Tatsächlich war das ehrenamtliche Aufgabenfeld von Michael (der auch in seinem örtlichen ATA-Chapter sehr aktiv ist) derartig groß, dass es in Zukunft auf zwei ehrenamtliche Helfer aufgeteilt wird.

Dementsprechend wurde auf der Jahresversammlung der neue GLD-Webmaster vorgestellt. Michael Metzger und **Michael Wahlster** enthüllten gemeinsam das neue Layout der Website, die in Zukunft nur noch auf Deutsch zu sehen sein wird. Falls Sie die Änderungen noch nicht gesehen haben, laden wir Sie herzlich zu einem virtuellen Rundgang darin ein (URL: <http://www.americantranslators.org/divisions/GLD/>). Gerade wurden noch aktuelle Links zu den neuesten Vortragsthemen hinzugefügt, und selbstverständlich stehen Ihnen noch immer die früheren Ausgaben von *interaktiv* zum Herunterladen zur Verfügung.

Unser neuer Listenmoderator **Jost Zetzsche** stellte sich ebenfalls auf der Jahresversammlung in Phoenix vor. Er verwaltet jetzt die E-Mail-Liste der GLD. Diese Liste ist nach wie vor das lebhafteste Forum vieler Kollegen und läuft so gut, dass ATA neu gegründeten Divisions und Chapters oft vorschlägt, unserem Modell zu folgen. Falls Sie noch kein Mitglied der Liste sind und sich dafür interessieren, können Sie unter dem Hyperlink <http://www.americantranslators.org/divisions/GLD/pages/eListe1.html> weitere Informationen finden.

Ganz zum Schluss möchte ich nicht versäumen, Sie auf die neue Initiative von ATA zur Öffentlichkeitsarbeit in unseren Schulen aufmerksam zu machen. Wie wir so oft beklagt haben, werden Fremdsprachen in den meisten amerikanischen Schulen nur ungenügend vermittelt. Oft herrschen völlig überalterte Vorstellungen über Fremdsprachen vor und auch die an den Schulen beschäftigten Berufsberater wissen sehr wenig über unser Berufsbild. Das PR-Komitee, dem auch unser Mitglied **Amanda Ennis** angehört, hat sich der Sache angenommen und bietet nun umfangreiche Materialien für Vorträge und Unterrichtsbeiträge von Übersetzern und Dolmetschern im amerikanischen Schulsystem an. Diese Materialien (zu finden im Internet unter der URL [http://www.atanet.org/ata\\_school/welcome.htm](http://www.atanet.org/ata_school/welcome.htm)) machen es wesentlich einfacher, einen Vortrag über unseren Beruf zusammenzustellen. Wenn dann mal wieder jemand fragt: „Was machen Sie denn eigentlich den ganzen Tag so?“, dann haben Sie gleich eine Antwort parat!

In diesem Sinne wünsche ich Ihnen eine schöne und nicht zu hektische Vorweihnachtszeit, fröhliche Feiertage und einen guten Rutsch ins Jahr 2004!

Herzlichst  
Ihre Dorothee Racette

# Perspektiven

Seit kurzem ist es offiziell, die geplanten Änderungen zur ATA-Akkreditierung treten zum 1. Januar 2004 in Kraft. Die Einzelheiten der *certification*, so nun auch die geänderte Bezeichnung, können unter [www.atanet.org/accreditation\\_change.htm](http://www.atanet.org/accreditation_change.htm) nachgelesen werden. Was noch bis vor wenigen Wochen so manche Gemüter erhitzte, wird wohl früher oder später als selbstverständlich gelten. Die Änderungen betreffen drei Bereiche: Qualifikation zur Prüfung (*eligibility requirements*), Bezeichnung (Änderung von *accreditation* zu *certification*) und die Auflagen bezüglich Fortbildung (*continuing education requirements*). So manche bereits akkreditierte Mitglieder fragen sich, wie sie die benötigten 20 Punkte in drei Jahren sammeln können. Das vermeintlich einfachste Vorgehen besteht darin, zweimal innerhalb dieser drei Jahre die ATA-Konferenz zu besuchen. Unter den vielfältigen anderen Möglichkeiten zum Punktesammeln gibt es jedoch auch die relativ bequeme Art, einen Artikel bzw. ein Buch zu schreiben. Der große Vorteil ist, dass ein solches Unternehmen vom heimischen Schreibtisch aus erledigt werden kann. Kurioserweise werden für ein Buch und einen Artikel die gleiche Anzahl von Punkten vergeben, nämlich zwei. Über diese Regelung lässt sich natürlich streiten. Und tatsächlich heißt es auf der entsprechenden ATA-Webseite: „This is a new system that does not begin until January and there will be periodic review with changes made in the future.“

Wie dem auch sei, wenn es für einen Beitrag im *interaktiv* zwei Punkte gibt, sollte das nicht ein Anreiz sein, endlich mal zu Papier zu bringen, was man/frau schon immer mal einem breiteren Kollegenkreis mitteilen wollte? Der Redakteur ist jedenfalls optimistisch und freut sich schon auf die nächsten Ausgaben, für die er nicht mehr bettelnd reihum gehen muss, um die Seiten zu füllen. Wishful thinking? Well... surprise me! Zu den Dauerbrennern gehören Beiträge zu den folgenden Themen: Fachübersetzungen, Berufsanfänger, Kundenakquisition, Buchhaltung in der globalen Welt, Steuer und Versicherungen; Wörterbuchrezensionen, usw. In Zukunft wollen wir auch regelmäßig Portraits aus dem Kollegenkreis abdrucken. Dazu sollte nun wirklich fast allen etwas einfallen.

Viel Vergnügen beim Lesen dieser Ausgabe und allseits frohes Schaffen.

Rainer Klett



# Auf einer ATA-Konferenz hat man auch viel Spaß

von Karin Bauchrowitz

Lange vor meiner Anreise zur Konferenz in Phoenix nahm ich Kontakt mit dem Concierge-Service des Pointe South Mountain Hotels in Phoenix auf. Wollte wissen, was es denn so an netten Sachen gibt, die ich eventuell in mein Konferenzprogramm „einbauen“ könnte. Die Konferenz nehme ich natürlich tierisch ernst und weiß eigentlich immer schon vorher ziemlich genau, welche Workshops, Präsentationen usw. ich mitmache, aber es muss doch auch noch etwas Spaß an der Freud sein – oder?

Ich dachte mir, es interessiert vielleicht auch die „alten Hasen“ und die Neuen bei derartigen Konferenzen, was man so alles aufziehen kann, obwohl wirklich nicht viel extra Zeit ist, ohne also noch mehrere Tage oder sogar eine ganze Woche dranzuhängen, was ich auch schon gemacht habe. So flog ich z.B. nach der Konferenz in Orlando nach Miami, wo meine deutsche Freundin auf mich wartete. Wir mieteten uns ein Auto und fuhren nach Key West. Dieser Luxus war diesmal auf keinen Fall drin, da ich mich bereits im Frühjahr durch die Teilnahme am Erlangen-Seminar und anschließend zwei Wochen Ferien in der Toskana im wahrsten Sinne des Wortes ziemlich verausgabt hatte. Ich wollte also höchstens noch den Sonntag nach der Konferenz opfern.

Meiner Meinung nach ist es wichtig, die Reise so zu planen, dass schon am Anfang etwas Luft ist, damit man nicht total geschafft ankommt. Daher früh am Nachmittag anreisen, in aller Ruhe einchecken, sich mit der Umgebung vertraut machen (was in meinem Fall allerdings nicht viel nutzte, da ich bis zum letzten Tag Probleme hatte, mein Zimmer in diesem riesigen Hotelkomplex zu finden!), sich mit den Kollegen am Vorabend der Workshops zum Dinner treffen und sich „seelisch“ auf alles vorbereiten.



*Champagner-Frühstück nach der Ballonfahrt in der Sonora-Wüste*



Bei dieser Konferenz waren leider alle „amenities“ weit auseinander gelegen. Von wegen so mit Workout-Klamotten einfach schnell vom Zimmer aus zum Fitness-Center gehen – das war leider nicht drin. Man hatte erst mal einen Marsch zum „Phantom Horse“-Restaurant zurückzulegen, dort den Aufzug zu vermeiden und die Treppen hochzuklettern (da war nämlich gleich ein Schild am Treppenaufgang: „The Workout begins here!“) und dann war man endlich bei den Geräten. Als ich am Mittwochmorgen dort angeschnauft kam, waren Carmen Berelson, Christiane Bohnert und Astra Van Heest bereits feste dabei. Ich muss zugeben, dass ich es nur einmal schaffte, so früh am Morgen einen Workout zu machen – für mich ist als Nicht-Morgen-Mensch 6 Uhr morgens „mitten in der Nacht“. Aber diese Gelegenheit war da, viele nutzten sie aus und gönnten sich z.B. auch eine Massage.

Eine weitere Möglichkeit, sich sportlich zu betätigen, war das Tennisturnier, das Robert Croese wieder organisierte. Als Tennisspieler wollte ich natürlich mitmachen und nahm an dem Turnier am Donnerstag um 16.30 Uhr bis nach 18.00 Uhr teil, ohne allerdings einen Blumentopf zu gewinnen, aber ich bekam von Rob einen Schlüsselanhänger mit einem Tennisball. Immerhin etwas! Da es ein Round Robin Mixed Doubles war, hatte man Gelegenheit, viele andere Kollegen aus verschiedenen Ländern zum Partner zu haben, denn es wurde jeweils nach 4 Spielen gewechselt, und es gab viel Gelächter. Die Kollegin, die schließlich ins Endspiel kam (namentliche Ergebnisse werden sicher noch im *Chronicle* bekannt gegeben), sah besonders sportlich und muskulös aus, und ich fragte sie: do you work out a lot? Sie antwortete: No, not at all. I have a translation agency and four children. Ich war beeindruckt.

Am Freitagmorgen seilten sich Carmen Berelson, Christiane Bohnert und ich (die drei „Bs“) ab und gingen auf unsere Wüstenwanderung. Wir holten uns die Karte mit den Hiking Trails beim Fitnesscenter ab und begannen den kleinen Anstieg hinauf, am Restaurant „Rustler’s Rooste“ vorbei immer weiter nach oben – mit Wasserflasche und Kamera. Dieser ca. 2 1/2 Stunden lange Hike über die vielen gewundenen Wüstenwege war mit das Schönste für mich. Die schmalen, zum Teil sehr steilen Trails waren gut ausgelegt, ein herrlicher Blick rundherum, überall Kakteen, interessantes Gestein und eine angenehme Ruhe. Einmal kamen einige Pferde und Reiter vorbei, und die beiden Damen, die gerade ihr Vesper am Wegrand einnahmen, erklärten sich bereit, uns unter dem hohen Saguaro zu fotografieren. Wir unterhielten uns gut und erfuhren erst hinterher, dass es dort Schlangen und Skorpione gibt. Oh well! Kakteen haben mich schon immer fasziniert, besonders dieser berühmte Saguaro (Carnegiea



Die drei Bs: Christiane Bohnert, Karin Bauchrowitz, Carmen Berelson

gigantea). Gigantisch war er schon. Es dauert ca. 70 Jahre, bis er die charakteristischen Arme bekommt und 20 m hoch wird, und dann kann er mehr als 9 Tonnen wiegen. Während der Regenzeit kann er seinen Durchmesser von etwa 75 cm auf 120 cm vergrößern, um genügend Wasser für die Dürrezeit aufzunehmen. Er kann über 200 Jahre alt werden, und hohe Strafen erwarten diejenigen, die diesen Kaktus beschädigen oder gar ausbuddeln. Wir sahen auch Ocotillos (*Fouquieria splendens*), oder auch „Coachman’s Whip“ genannt, weil diese Kakteenart so peitschenartige Zweige hat, die 6 m hoch werden können. Und auch „Teddybärkakteen“. Eines Tages werde ich die Wüste blühen sehen.

Am Abend ist bei ATA-Konferenzen immer etwas los. Entweder sind Empfänge angesagt oder irgendwelche Veranstaltungen oder man setzt sich mit Kollegen zusammen. Diese gemütlichen Dinner waren stets ein schöner Abschluss eines vollen Tages. Und zweimal gingen wir danach noch zusammen schwimmen. Hach, welche Lust, die müden Glieder im Whirlpool auszustrecken! Anschließend musste ich jeweils „heimgebracht werden“ oder zumindest in die richtige Richtung gedeutet werden, damit ich mein Zimmer wieder fand.

Der krönende Abschluss meiner Freizeitaktivitäten war der Hot Air Balloon Ride. Die Concierge des Hotels hatte mich bereits für Sonntagmorgen dazu angemeldet. Ein Fahrer holte mich um 6 Uhr (wieder mal mitten in der Nacht!) in der Hotel-Lobby ab. Es war noch dunkel, und wir fuhren durch das nächtliche Phoenix Richtung Tucson. Der Fahrer war sehr jovial und erzählte mir einiges über die Gegend, z.B., dass Phoenix 2,8 Millionen Einwohner hat. Ich wohne in einer Stadt von 20.000 Einwohnern. Wir holten noch mehrere andere „Ballonfahrer“ in zwei weiteren Hotels ab, bis wir schließlich auf dem Startplatz in der Wüste waren. Hier war einiges los – überall wurden nun die riesigen, bunten, auf dem Boden ausgebreiteten Ballons aufgeblasen. Unser Captain „Mike“ gab uns Instruktionen, wie in den Korb einsteigen, wo bei der Landung stehen usw. Wir waren 12 und kletterten nach und nach in den Korb. Wer hätte gedacht, dass ein Dutzend Leute in so einen Korb passen! Auf einmal hoben wir ab – ganz sanft – und gleiteten dahin und stiegen in die Höhe und staunten. Unter uns die Wüste, die vielen Kakteen, ein Tümpel mit Kühen. Wir stiegen höher, sanken tiefer, stiegen wieder auf und um uns herum die vielen anderen Ballons. Ich hatte mich sehr warm angezogen, weil ich dachte, dass es da oben kalt ist. Ich bin fast verschmachtet, da ich dicht unter der riesigen Flamme stand, die Captain Mike immer wieder anfachte, was ein laut zischendes Geräusch ergab. Wenn er den Hahn abdrehte, war es ganz ruhig und friedlich. Man kann schon sagen, dass es „erhebend“ war in jeder Beziehung, und wir lachten viel über seine humorvollen Bemerkungen. Nach einer guten Stunde landeten wir sanft in der Wüste zu unserem Champagner-Frühstück. Alle erhielten ein Certificat d’Ascension En Machine Aerostatique, unterzeichnet von Captain Mike und Crew Chief Paul mit dem Balloonist’s Prayer:

*The winds have welcomed you with softness. The sun has blessed  
you with his warm hands. You have flown so well and so high,  
that God has joined you in your laughter and set you gently back again  
into the loving arms of Mother Earth.*

Ich höre, dass es in Toronto, wo die nächste ATA-Konferenz stattfindet, auch einiges zu sehen gibt. Man muss bestimmt zum CN Tower rauf, das Casa Loma gesehen haben, und ein schöner Abend im Theater mit anschließendem Dinner ist sicher drin.

**Karin Bauchrowitz** stammt aus Stuttgart und lebt seit 26 Jahren in La Porte, Indiana. Sie arbeitet dort seit 9 Jahren als freiberufliche Übersetzerin hauptsächlich im technischen Bereich vom Englischen ins Deutsche und kann über [karinbauchrowitz@comcast.net](mailto:karinbauchrowitz@comcast.net) erreicht werden.

# Minutes of the 2003 Annual Meeting of the German Language Division November 6, 2003

*submitted by Jill Sommer*

The annual meeting of the German Language Division of the American Translators Association was called to order at 1:49 PM by the division administrator, Dorothee Racette. Copies of the agenda, the financial report and last year's minutes had been placed in the meeting room. Ms. Racette asked everyone to review the minutes and bring any additions or corrections to the attention of the meeting. There were no additions or corrections, and the minutes of the 2002 annual meeting were unanimously approved. There were no additions to the agenda from the floor, and the agenda was approved.

Ms. Racette then provided an overview of the GLD's activities over the past year. The German Language Division had a member count of 761 as of October 2003, which was somewhat lower than in previous years. She also reported that she had answered 42 inquiries over the past year, which had been answered in detail. It may be possible to summarize the exchanges of these inquiries anonymously in an FAQ section of the new Web site. The GLD listserv has 175 members and is considered a model list by other divisions within ATA. The GLD newsletter *interaktiv* is published every three months. Ms. Racette emphasized that the newsletter must be a place where views are exchanged objectively and impartially.

The Webmaster's report was the next item on the agenda. The GLD's current webmaster and listmaster, Michael Metzger, announced his resignation and introduced his successors, the new webmaster, Michael Wahlster, and the new listmaster, Jost Zetzsche. Claudia Kellersch thanked Mr. Metzger on behalf of the GLD for his many years of service and for establishing the Web site and the listserv. She noted that his duties were so numerous that they would now be divided between two people in the future.

The next item on the agenda was the report from Newsletter Editor, Rainer Klett. Since Mr. Klett was unable to attend the conference, proofreader Susanne van Eyl read a report on his behalf. The GLD newsletter, *interaktiv*, was published four times this year – in December 2002, March, June, and September. Mr. Klett reported that the format had been changed from two columns to one to improve the newsletter's readability. He also noted that, since the newsletter is now published using the layout software QuarkXpress, it can be sent directly to the members as an E-mail attachment instead of announcing a link for downloading. The newsletter's format is a blend of specialized translation-related information and personal information. Mr. Klett announced that he needs a co-editor (preferably a native English speaker) or perhaps a committee to help create the newsletter. He reminded the members that articles are always welcome, and thanked Janice Becker and Susanne van Eyl for their help during the past year. At this point, Ms. Racette asked for additional comments on the issue of the newsletter. The members praised the layout improvements. Ms. Racette suggested the newsletter include interviews of some of the older members to document their contributions to the field. Another member suggested the GLD cooperate with ADÜ-Nord to exchange published content.

Ms. Racette then introduced Ingrid Haussteiner, a representative of UNIVERSITAS (Österreichischer Übersetzer- und Dolmetscherverband). Ms. Haussteiner invited the GLD members to participate in the group's upcoming 50-year anniversary and event in Vienna from November 4-6, 2004. GLD and UNIVERSITAS are planning to intensify their cooperation and hope to exchange newsletters in the future through their Web sites. The Austrian colleagues have been particularly active in the area of establishing quality standards for T&I.

Ms. Racette then moved to the next item on the agenda, the financial report. She noted that the finances reflected the last six months, since the ATA changed its fiscal year this year to run from July 1st to June 30th. Ms. Racette explained that the GLD gets its funding entirely from membership dues and it has never exceeded its budget. She explained that some divisions had questioned why they could not roll leftover funds over to the next fiscal year, but the ATA auditors had objections.

The meeting was then opened for new business. The first item was the unveiling of the new GLD Web site. Michael Metzger and Michael Wahlster explained that the site will be in German and is intended to be compact and easy to navigate. They also demonstrated the new drop-down archive. The Web site will include the editorial of the most recent newsletter, which will be changed four times a year. They purposely did not include a links page. Mr. Wahlster explained that the new Web site has a counter, which will enable him to track where visitors are from and help him decide on future changes. Jost Zetsche was then asked to come to the podium and introduce himself. Mr. Zetsche will take over as the moderator of the GLD mailing list.

Ms. Racette announced that the GLD Happy Hour would be held the following evening from 5 to 6:30 PM. The floor was opened for other comments and announcements. The administrators invited comments and suggestions for next year's conference, to be held in Toronto. Member suggestions included closer cooperation with the Goethe Institute and German embassies/consulates. Also, it was suggested to feature conference presentations on legal translation into German.

Ms. Racette then announced that a Nominating Committee was needed to find a new Division Administrator and Assistant Administrator, since both current terms of office were coming to an end in 2004. Susanne van Eyl, Jill Sommer, and Christiane Bohnert volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Ms. Racette then asked if there were any other questions or concerns. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting at 2:51 PM.



## How to Subscribe to the GLD E-mail List

As a member of ATA's German Language Division you are entitled to subscribe to the GLD mailing list. To subscribe send an E-mail to:

[gldlist-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:gldlist-owner@yahoogroups.com)

- In the Subject line of the message write: subscribe gldlist
- In the body of the message write:
  - your e-mail address
  - your full name
  - Your ATA ID number.



# Biological Weapons and Bioterrorism – An Introduction to the Topic with Resources and Terminology for German Translators

by Ulrike Walter

I gave a presentation with the same title at the 44th Annual ATA Conference in Phoenix in November 2003, and the feedback was so positive that I agreed to write up the article that I had not been able to finish in time for the proceedings volume. The slides of the presentation, some links to Web sites of interest, and a downloadable glossary are available at [www.drulrikewalter.com/html/ata.html](http://www.drulrikewalter.com/html/ata.html) and [www.drulrikewalter.com/html/ata1.html](http://www.drulrikewalter.com/html/ata1.html).

## Introduction

Let me start by saying that I have no practical or translatorial experience with the topic of this article at all. I am a biologist by training, and it is probably based on that qualification that I was asked by Dorothee Racette whether I would be willing to give a presentation on biological weapons and bioterrorism at the 2003 ATA Annual Conference. So, when I set out preparing for that presentation, I myself had to figure out what exactly biological weapons are, I had to learn about bioterrorism, and I came to realize that this topic does not come associated with many unique terms, but that highly technical terms from a wide range of different fields, including not only biology and medicine, but also politics and military affairs, are to be expected when confronted with a text dealing with biological weapons and/or bioterrorism. Thus, my original plan of making specialized terminology the focus of the presentation had to be abandoned in favor of a look at some definitions, and at the wider implications of the topic, including ethical considerations, from a translator's perspective.

## Some Definitions

### What are biological weapons?

Due to the prominence of biological weapons (BW) in the media since the fall of 2001, when the anthrax attacks occurred in the U.S., most of us probably have an idea of what a biological weapon is. However, when looking for a really useful, precise definition, one quickly finds that it is not at all clear what exactly can be classified as a biological weapon and what cannot. The manufacture, possession, and use of biological weapons is prohibited by the Biological Weapons and Toxin Convention (BWTC) of 1972<sup>1</sup>, which has been signed by 140 states. Assuming that it should state clearly what biological weapons are, I looked it up and found the following:

- (1) *Microbial or other biological agents, [...], of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes;*
- (2) *Weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.*

This, obviously, is a rather vague definition that focuses more on the use than the nature of a material that could be a biological weapon, and it is also the major weakness of the BWTC because it does not include materials that are claimed to be used for peaceful purposes.

A much more detailed definition (and its derivation) can be found in the book “Bioterrorismus und Biologische Waffen” by Achim Th. Schäfer. My translation reads:

*A biological weapon is a weapon with a mechanism of action based on the release of a biological warfare agent. Biological warfare agents are bacteria, viruses, or toxins that can be used as weapons because of their biological, i.e. disease causing, effects. Biological weapons affect living organisms only.<sup>2</sup>*

This, while a very thoughtful definition, still is not all encompassing because it does not include fungi, which are potential BW, especially when targeted at crops, and because it does not take into account the recent attempts at creating BW that would target non-biological objects (e.g., gas guzzling bacteria). It does point us to an important distinction, however, namely that between biological warfare agents (German: *biologische Kampfstoffe*) and actual biological weapons (German: *biologische Waffen, B-Waffen*):

*Biological warfare agents: The actual active ingredient of the weapon*  
*Biological weapons: Active ingredient plus a means of delivery (bombs, grenades, sprayers, etc.)*

The step from a biological warfare agent to a biological weapon is quite big as we will see further down. Today, potential biological warfare agents are: viruses, bacteria, and fungi. For BW in the strict sense, this would include only toxins of biological origin, but, as stated above, there is no all encompassing, set-in-stone definition of a BW.

Targets for these agents are: humans (causing mortality, morbidity, and fear), animals (affecting the enemy's food supply, economy, and causing fear), and crop plants (affecting the enemy's food supply and economy).

When we hear about BW in the media, it is mostly about agents targeting humans because these evoke the greatest fears. However, an effective biological attack on a nation's livestock or crops would also cause quite tangible harm, even for affluent societies.

## **How are biological weapons used?**

There are essentially two areas of use for BW – wars (or armed conflicts) and terrorist attacks.

Biological weapons have been used in wars (an overview of the history of BW is beyond the scope of this article, but Schäfer<sup>3</sup> gives a rather thorough account), however, their use has long been considered especially heinous, and in spite of its weaknesses, the BWTC has done a pretty good job in banning their use by nation states. There also is a practical reason that makes BW a rather unpopular choice for warfare: They are difficult to use efficiently without threatening one's own army. Most BW rely on dispersion through the air in order to reach a large number of targets, and something as unpredictable as a change of wind direction during an attack might cause more harm to the attacker's army than to the intended enemy target. While some nations (including Germany and the United States) still carry out BW research (primarily for defensive purposes), the actual use of BW in an armed conflict between two nations is very unlikely. The most likely use of BW is, therefore, in terrorist attacks, which brings us to the final definition in this section:

*Bioterrorism can be defined as the intentional release, or threatened release of disease-producing organisms or biologically active substances derived from living organisms for the purpose of*

*causing death, illness, incapacity, economic damage, or fear. These organisms are considered weapons of mass destruction, or mass casualty weapons.*<sup>4</sup>

Now that we have an idea of what biological weapons are and what constitutes bioterrorism, the next question might be: What are the specific agents that the public should be concerned about, or which we as translators are most likely to come across?

## The Dirty Dozen

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, GA, is the U.S. institution that has the greatest medical and biological expertise on biological warfare agents. The CDC is an agency of the Department of Human Health and Services, and, according to their Web site,

*It is recognized as the lead federal agency for protecting the health and safety of people - at home and abroad, providing credible information to enhance health decisions, and promoting health through strong partnerships. CDC serves as the national focus for developing and applying disease prevention and control, environmental health, and health promotion and education activities designed to improve the health of the people of the United States.*<sup>5</sup>

The closest German equivalent to this institution is the Robert Koch Institute in Berlin. The CDC has divided a number of biological warfare agents that are often collectively referred to as the Dirty Dozen (although they include more than twelve agents) into three categories based on their perceived threat to society. Germany has adopted this classification, as have other nations.

## Dirty Dozen – Category A

The criteria for inclusion in Category A are as follows:

- The agent is easily disseminated or transmitted from person to person;
- The agent causes high mortality rates, has a potential for major public health impact;
- The agent possibly causes public panic and social disruption;
- The agent requires special action for public health preparedness.

Agents included in this category are:

- Bacteria:
  - Bacillus anthracis* – causes anthrax (German: *Milzbrand, Anthrax*)
  - Yersinia pestis* – causes plague (German: *Pest*)
  - Francisella tularensis* – causes tularemia (German: *Hasenpest, Tularämie*)
- Viruses:
  - Variola major* – causes smallpox (German: *Pocken, Blattern, Variola*)
  - Filoviruses* – cause hemorrhagic fevers (German: *hämorrhagische Fieber*; examples: Ebola, Marburg)
  - Arenaviruses* – cause hemorrhagic fevers (German: *hämorrhagische Fieber*; examples: Lassa, Machupo)
- Toxin:
  - Chlostridium botulinus* toxin – causes botulism (German: *Botulismus*)

A few comments on some of these agents: “*Bacillus anthracis* is an encapsulated, gram-positive, spore-forming bacillus. Spores can survive for decades and are resistant to heat, microwaves, and ultraviolet light. It kills by production of toxins, with nearly 100% mortality if untreated. There are three forms: inhalational, gastrointestinal (GI), and cutaneous, depending on the route of exposure. It may rarely produce a fatal anthrax meningitis.”<sup>6</sup> In German, *B. anthracis* is a *bekapselter, gram-positiver, spore-*

*bildender Bazillus*. *B. anthracis* is by no means a rare bacterium – its spores can be isolated from soil almost everywhere, however, “the natural history of *Bacillus anthracis* is obscure. Although the spores have been found naturally in soil samples from around the world, the organisms cannot be regularly cultivated from soils where there is an absence of endemic anthrax. In the United States there are recognized areas of infection in South Dakota, Nebraska, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and California; small areas exist in other states. Even in endemic areas, anthrax occurs irregularly, often with many years between occurrences.”<sup>7</sup> *B. anthracis*, of course, has already been used in bioterrorist attacks in the United States, and no-one who remembers the enormous impact those attacks had on the health care system, the postal infrastructure, and the public panic that ensued from these attacks can be surprised that the CDC made this their top-priority agent. Since those attacks, the German term used for the disease has strongly shifted from *Milzbrand* to *Anthrax* – which can possibly be attributed to hastily translated news items. However, the compounds *Lungenmilzbrand*, *Hautmilzbrand*, and *Darmmilzbrand* still seem to be far more common than *Lungen-*, *Haut-*, or *Darmanthrax*.

The causative agents of the terrifying diseases smallpox and plague are also natural candidates for this category, although they are probably be much harder to come by. Smallpox was officially declared eradicated by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1979, and samples of the virus are supposed to exist only in some high security laboratories in the United States and Russia. However, as long as the virus does exist, there always is a possibility that potential terrorists might be able to obtain it. Unlike anthrax, both smallpox and plague are highly contagious, adding another dimension to the problems of dealing with a potential attack.

*Hemorrhagic fevers* are the stuff from which nightmares and thrillers are made – just remember the movie “Outbreak” with Dustin Hoffman. They are highly contagious, but they also kill very quickly which is the main reason that naturally occurring outbreaks usually can be controlled quickly.

The toxin causing botulism, however, is something that all parents of young children have already heard of: Spores of *Chlostridium botulinum* can survive in honey, and while these spores are not dangerous to older children and adults, infants up to a year of age are susceptible to botulism when exposed. Therefore, they should never be given any honey. People who do their own canning also should be aware of this bacterium – it thrives in improperly sterilized home-canned foods with low acid contents.

## Dirty Dozen – Category B

The criteria for inclusion in Category B are as follows:

- The agent is moderately easy to disseminate;
- It is associated with moderate morbidity rates and low mortality rates;
- The agent requires specific enhancements of CDC's diagnostic capacity and enhanced disease surveillance.

### Wieder was gelernt

#### Aus dem Stegreif

Wenn eine Aufgabe spontan und ohne Vorlage erledigt werden soll, wird sie „aus dem Stegreif“ gemacht.

*Stegreif* war bis ins 18. Jahrhundert die Bezeichnung für den Steigbügel. Dieser war ursprünglich aus einem Seil oder Strick, was im Althochdeutschen *Reif* genannt wurde. Ein Reiter, der es so eilig hatte, dass er etwas erledigte, ohne vom Pferd abzusteigen, also mit dem Fuß im Steigbügel, machte dies „im Stegreif“.

In this category, we find the following:

- Bacteria

*Burkholderia mallei* and *B. pseudomallei* – causative agents of glanders (German: *Rotz*) and melioidosis (German: *Pseudorotz, Meliodose*)

*Brucella* species (several) – cause brucellosis (German: *Brucellose*)

*Coxiella burnetii* – causes Q Fever (German: *Q-Fieber*)

*Salmonella* species, *Shigella*, certain strains of *Escherichia coli* – food safety threats

*Rickettsia prowazekii* – causes typhus fever (German: *Fleckfieber*)

*Chlamydia psittacci* – causes psittacosis (German: *Papageienkrankheit, Psittakose*)

- Viruses

*Alphaviruses* – cause encephalitis (German: *Gehirnentzündung*)

- Toxins

*Epsilon* toxin of *Chlostridium perfringens*

Ricin toxin from *Ricinus communis* (i.e. castor bean, German: *Rizinusbohne*)

*Staphylococcal enterotoxin B* (German: *Staphylokokkenenterotoxin B*)

This list is far too long to comment on all of the agents, but I want to discuss at least ricin. Yes, this is made (and relatively easily so) from the castor bean, the same bean that castor oil (German: *Rizinusöl*) comes from, which is probably well known to most readers. The castor bean also used to be a model organism for plant physiologists, and when I was still one of them, my teacher told me a story about the complications associated with obtaining enough castor bean seeds for experiments in his previous laboratory because the possession of the seeds is highly regulated. Sensing my disbelief, he told me the story about a guy who once was killed by the Romanian secret service: The victim was getting onto a crowded bus when he felt a sharp stab in the leg – someone had “accidentally” poked him with an umbrella. At home, he discovered a festering wound on his leg, then developed severe disease symptoms and died in 2 days. The autopsy revealed a microscopically small metal ball through with a hole in it inside the wound area. What had happened became only fully clear when a second victim survived a similar attack: From the second wound, a similar ball was recovered that was still intact – it contained ricin toxin that had been sealed in with wax, which should have been melted, as in the first case, by the victim’s body heat to release the deadly toxin. Back then, when I first heard it, I was not too sure whether this was a true story or some kind of urban legend circulated among scientists. However, in researching my presentation for the ATA conference I came across it several times, with references to original publications, and am now convinced that it is, indeed, an example of a biological weapon used in an assassination. Ricin and the structurally related abrin are both pure plant products (remember that the next time someone tells you: “Ach, das ist rein pflanzlich, kann also gar nicht schaden!”) and some of the most potent toxins that we know of. In a bioterrorism attack, they can be delivered by aerosol inhalation or ingestion and are highly toxic by all routes. Ricin is known to have been produced by Iraq and several terrorist groups.<sup>8</sup> As a potential biological warfare agent ricin is taken very seriously in the U.S., as evidenced by the recent verdict against Kenneth Olson, a Washington engineer at whose work place a few grams of ricin were discovered. Although he maintained that he had not planned to harm anyone and had simply been curious about ricin, he was sentenced to almost 14 years in prison and more than \$22,000 in fines for the hazardous waste clean-up necessitated by his activities.

## Dirty Dozen – Category C

The criteria for inclusion in Category C are as follows:

- The agent is an emerging pathogen;
- It is relatively readily available;
- It is easy to produce and disseminate;



- The agent is associated with potentially high morbidity and mortality rates, causing a major health impact.

The only agents currently listed in this category are the Nipah virus, a virus from the *Paramyxoviridae* family only recently discovered that produces illness in humans and pigs and currently is known to exist only in Asia, and the Hantaviruses from the *Bunyaviridae* family. About these viruses, the diseases they cause, their epidemiology etc., relatively little is known at this point.

All of the agents listed here are scary examples of disease-causing organisms, viruses, and toxins, but they are by far not the only ones – so why were they identified as particularly dangerous by the CDC, and what could make them effective when used in weapons?

## From Agents to Weapons

Biological weapons often are referred to as the “poor man’s atomic bomb” because they are relatively easy to build and come at a fraction of the cost of nuclear weapons or modern-day high-tech weaponry. However, even though politicians these days like to make statements like “Everyone with a PhD in microbiology could build an effective biological weapon any time,” it is not quite that simple either. In order to build a BW, in very general terms one first needs to obtain the agent – bacteria can be isolated, as we have seen above, from natural sources, viruses and toxins are likely harder to obtain. But not any form of the chosen agent will do – first of all, one must be able to obtain or produce the necessary quantities. Then the agent needs to be purified and concentrated, which is referred to as weaponization. There is a huge difference between a *B. anthracis* isolate from a soil sample and weapons-grade (*waffenfähigem*) *B. anthracis*. Then the agent must be brought into a stable and dispersible form. A large-scale attack would most likely use an aerosolized agent, but that brings enormous challenges – most bacteria and viruses would not remain effective when exposed to heat, pressure, drying, possibly grinding, and other processes necessary to achieve this aerosolization. Also, in the case of *B. anthracis*, a very specific particle size has to be achieved – if the particles are too large, they would simply get lodged in the upper airways and not be effective, and if they are too small, they would be exhaled with the next breath and be ineffective as well. Other methods of dispersal could include explosive devices like bombs but they, too, would probably render much of the agent ineffective before it reached its target. Direct addition to water and food is a possibility for some agents, but that, too, is not easily achieved when one is attempting to target a large group of people. Another means of dissemination could be the use of vectors, such as mosquitoes. Research in this direction actually has been conducted, but the breeding, keeping, and releasing of huge quantities of insects poses its own set of challenges.

Weinstein and Alibek<sup>9</sup> summarized the elements that make an effective biological weapon as follows:

An effective BW is

- Inexpensive and easy to produce;
- Easy to weaponize;
- Easy to disseminate;
- Easy to hide and transport.

An effective BW has

- A short and predictable incubation period, and
- Maintains its potency and persists in the environment.

Also, the

- Illness produced is lethal and/or incapacitating;
- Illness produced is difficult or impossible to treat;

- Illness produced is highly contagious;
- Name of the disease induces fear.

Think about these elements in the context of the anthrax attacks that occurred in the U.S. in 2001 – as stated above, they had a huge economical and social impact, although the associated number of deaths were relatively low. Every year there are traffic accidents that produce higher fatalities, but the anthrax attacks caused fear and even panic in the population. They resulted in mail facilities being closed. They caused enormous costs for testing and clean-up of buildings. They had a major impact on the public health system – e.g., it became apparent, that if as many people had been exposed to the agent as originally feared, the antibiotic needed to treat them would possibly not have been available in sufficient quantities.

## Biological Weapons Research

Research on BW and biological warfare agents is still conducted, in spite of the BWTC, and in spite of the major public concern about this research. In the Western states, such as the United States and Germany, this research is declared purely defensive, focusing on developing vaccines, antidotes, treatments, or even detection devices. However, BW technology clearly is dual-use technology, i.e. a technology with a military as well as a civilian purpose.

Germans these days talk about “Dual-Use-Technology,” probably because it is so much shorter than the official translation of this technical term: *Technologie mit doppeltem Verwendungszweck*. The inspections in Iraq prior to the recent war highlighted one aspect of the dual-use problem – it can be virtually impossible to distinguish between facilities used for the production of medical or pharmaceutical products and those used to produce biological warfare agents. Another aspect is the fact that in order to work on vaccines or antidotes, one needs to be in possession of the organism or toxin that the vaccine or anti-

**Did You Know...?**

**To Wing It**

If you do something without a clear understanding of the subject matter, or if you lack the necessary knowledge to do it with confidence, you can always “wing it”.

The area on either side of the stage of a proscenium theater are called the *wings*. This is where the prompter is located who helps actors when they forget their text. Instead of reciting from memory, actors resort to the wings when they wing it.

dote is supposed to be effective against, plus there always is a potential of misuse.

Relatively recent headlines illustrate some of the areas in which BW research or BW-relevant research is done these days: One field involves genetic engineering, which takes BW to a whole new level. On November 1, 2003, headlines in the New York Times and other papers stated “Bioterror Researchers Build a More Lethal Mousepox” or the like, referring to the insertion of interleukin-4 gene into the mousepox genome that had already occurred in Australia in 2001, where researchers tried to modify the mousepox virus in a way that would render mice, a major pest in Australia, infertile. Instead, they created a super-lethal virus that subsequently was used in the U.S. in research on new and effective vaccines. The mousepox virus does not harm humans but is sufficiently related to the smallpox virus for researchers to believe it is a good model for developing and testing new vaccines. Another headline in October informed readers that the genome of the so-called Spanish Flu virus of 1918 had been fully sequenced and used to re-construct that virus. In 1918, this particularly virulent strain of the flu virus had killed an estimated 20 to 40 million people worldwide. Among those affected were many U.S. soldiers. Tissue samples from the bodies have been stored in U.S. research facilities and have been the

basis for research by Jeffrey Taubenberger and his group at the US Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington who apparently have re-created the virus.<sup>10</sup> These are just two examples of the combination of genetic engineering and potential biological warfare agents that illustrate the likely need for translators to educate themselves about state-of-the-art technology if they want to tackle translation assignments dealing with BW and bioterrorism issues.

A different area of research with many recent developments is that of automatic detection of biological warfare agents. Unlike attacks with conventional, nuclear, or even chemical weapons, BW attacks can be difficult to detect. In fact, there are examples of cases that were initially overlooked, and other instances where attacks were suspected but could never be confirmed or refuted. One example of an almost undetected bioterrorist attack in the U.S. occurred in Oregon in 1984. Members of a religious cult (I am avoiding naming the cult – the incident is well documented, though) grew cultures of a rather virulent strain of *Salmonella* and used them to contaminate salad bars in the restaurants of the small town where they had set up their base of operations. The citizens of that town had grown wary of the cult, and cult members wanted to make sure that upcoming city elections would be decided in their favor. So they tried to make enough people too sick to vote. In that small town, over 700 incidences of *Salmonella* infection occurred within days – but it was not until about a year later, when a defected cult member went to the authorities, that it was realized a bioterrorist attack had occurred. This case outlines the need for the implementation of systems that will allow rapid detection of an attack, including agent detection mechanisms, but also centralized reporting systems and ways of analyzing data that will recognize unusually high numbers of cases of diseases – whether they are unusual or less uncommon ones such as food poisoning. On the day of my presentation in Phoenix, the local newspaper ran a short note on 11 postal facilities near Washington, D.C. that were closed that day because an automated system had detected B. anthracis at a central facility handling mail from those 11 places. Later, it turned out that this had been a false alarm.<sup>11</sup> Automated detection will continue to pose a challenge, but it is already playing a role in BW research. (See <http://www.drulrikewalter.com/html/ata1.html> for links to two articles with more details on this subject.)

## Ethical Considerations

Among scientists involved in research potentially relevant to BW, and also in the general public, there is much debate about whether or not to publish significant findings. Those in favor of publishing stick to the established standards in the natural sciences that say that any result in order to be considered valid must be verified (i.e., reproduced or repeated) by independent scientists. For many people, unpublished science is not even considered science because it has not passed the test of peer review. Also, publication of results is the basis for debate and collaboration, furthering research progress by keeping people from re-inventing the wheel over and over again. Those opposed to publication of sensitive results, on the other hand, cite the danger of potential misuse of this information. They simply are afraid that scientists might be doing the potential terrorists' work for them – for free. Both sides have valid points, and this debate will not be resolved or subside in the near future. As in any situation where there is a question about whether to publish or not, there is naturally a question as well about whether or not to translate. Each translator will eventually have to make that decision for him- or herself, but here are a few things I would take into consideration:

### Who is the client?

While I think it highly unlikely that a terrorist or would-be terrorist would approach anyone of us asking for a translation of a scientific article revealing details that could be helpful in building a BW, there are possible scenarios where translated information could get into the “wrong hands.” So one might choose to always know who one actually is dealing with and to not carry out the translation of sensitive materials for an agency if they did not reveal the name and nature of the end client.

## **How public is the material involved?**

It is unlikely that any damage can be done by translating an article that has been published previously in an easily accessible periodical or as a book that can be found in almost any library. Materials that are classified, however, or have been published in a form that normally would be accessible only to a small circle of people, are a whole different matter. Again, knowing who the client is might help in making a decision.

## **Dealing with classified materials**

Are you able (and willing) to come up with the necessary security measures to keep classified material safe? I once worked on a project for which everyone involved had to sign an elaborate statement regarding the confidential nature of the materials involved and measures to keep them safe – however, the entire project was e-mailed back and forth several times, without any special efforts at encryption. When dealing with classified material, one may also have to consider special liability issues.

At the ATA conference, Everette Jordan, of the newly established National Virtual Translation Center ([www.nvtc.gov](http://www.nvtc.gov)) as well as representatives of the FBI and Department of State expressed major interest in translators willing to deal with these sensitive documents (although German is not the most sought after language, I have been told that there is an ongoing need for German translators in all three institutions, see also the transcript of a CNN interview with Everette Jordan at <http://www.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0311/09/sm.10.html>).

## **Further Reading**

There are a number of books (both in English and German) and countless Web sites out there dealing with biological weapons and bioterrorism. Here is a short list of what I would recommend based on what I encountered while preparing my ATA presentation:

- Weinstein, R.S., Alibek, K.: Biological and Chemical Terrorism, Thieme, 2003  
*Emphasis on medical aspects, details on potential bioweapon agents and diseases produced.*
- Alibek, K., Handelman, S.: Biohazard: The Chilling True Story of the Largest Covert Biological Weapons Program in the World--Told from Inside by the Man Who Ran It, Delta, 2000  
*Detailed history of the impressive Soviet BW program.*
- Osterholm, M.T., Schwartz, J: Living Terrors: What America Needs to Know to Survive the Coming Bioterrorist Catastrophe, Delta, 2001  
*Written by a leading US scientist, Director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy.*
- Schäfer, A. T.: Bioterrorismus und Biologische Waffen, Verlag Dr. Köster, 2002  
*Thorough introduction, understandable for people w/out biology background; covers biological, medical, political, historical aspects.*
- eMedguide: Bioterrorism and Public Health, Internet Resource Guide, 2002  
*An annotated collection of relevant Web sites. There is a Web portal through which one can reach those Web sites with one click instead of typing long URLs. However, it was last updated in July 2002, so some links are broken.*

- CDC Website: [www.bt.cdc.gov](http://www.bt.cdc.gov)

*The most comprehensive source I could find for biological/medical information on everything involving the Dirty Dozen.*

- JAMA: <http://jama.ama-assn.org>

*Bioterrorism-related articles are available free of charge!*

- Sunshine Project: [www.sunshine-project.org](http://www.sunshine-project.org) and [www.sunshine-project.de](http://www.sunshine-project.de)

*A non-profit organization keeping a critical eye on BW research – lots of background material in both English and German.*

- Robert Koch Institute: [www.rki.de/INFEKT/BIOTERROR/ALLGEMEINES.HTML](http://www.rki.de/INFEKT/BIOTERROR/ALLGEMEINES.HTML)

- Various newspapers offer collections of relevant articles online. Approximately 1000 German Web sites offering medical content (some of them relevant to this topic) are entirely or in part password protected in order to ensure that only qualified readers have access to certain information. Medical translators should be eligible for the free password (see [www.DocCheck.de](http://www.DocCheck.de)).

## Acknowledgements

Dorothee Racette suggested the topic to me, Eva Stabenow and Frieda Gordon Dilloo have been very helpful in discussing contents. *In memoriam* of Dr. Wolfgang Groß, 1957 – 2003, mentor, teacher, and friend.

## Footnotes

1) Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

<http://www.fas.org/nuke/control/bwc/text/bwc.htm>, accessed 10/31/2003.

2) Achim Th. Schäfer: Bioterrorismus und Biologische Waffen, Verlag Dr. Köster, Berlin, 2002, p.7: „Eine biologische Waffe ist eine Waffe, deren Waffenwirkung auf der Freisetzung eines biologischen Kampfstoffes beruht. Ein biologischer Kampfstoff ist ein Bakterium, Virus oder Toxin, dessen Waffentauglichkeit auf seiner biologischen, nämlich krankmachenden, Wirkung beruht. Biologische Waffen beeinträchtigen ausschließlich Lebewesen.“

3) Achim Th. Schäfer: Bioterrorismus und Biologische Waffen, Verlag Dr. Köster, Berlin, 2002

4) Raymond S. Weinstein, Kenneth Alibek: Biological and Chemical Terrorism, A Guide for Healthcare Providers and First Responders, Thieme, New York, Stuttgart, 2003, p. 2

5) <http://www.cdc.gov/aboutcdc.htm>, last accessed on December 3, 2003

6) Raymond S. Weinstein, Kenneth Alibek: Biological and Chemical Terrorism, A Guide for Healthcare Providers and First Responders, Thieme, New York, Stuttgart, 2003, p. 38

7) <http://www.bact.wisc.edu/Bact330/lectureanthrax>, last accessed on December 2, 2003

8) Raymond S. Weinstein, Kenneth Alibek: Biological and Chemical Terrorism, A Guide for Healthcare



Providers and First Responders, Thieme, New York, Stuttgart, 2003, p. 86

9) Raymond S. Weinstein, Kenneth Alibek: Biological and Chemical Terrorism, A Guide for Healthcare Providers and First Responders, Thieme, New York, Stuttgart, 2003, pp. 4-9

10) <http://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/mensch/0,1518,268984,00.html>, last accessed on December 4, 2003

11) <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/South/11/07/anthrax.navy.facility/>, last accessed on December 4, 2003

**Ulrike Walter(-Lipow)** is a native German speaker with a background in biology and agricultural science. After obtaining her doctoral degree in the latter from Humboldt University (Berlin, Germany) in 1997, she gradually switched careers and became a full-time translator in 1999. In 2000, she moved to Berkeley, California, where she continues to work as a freelance translator specializing in the medical and life science fields while raising her kids with her husband and the help of an au pair. Contact: [office@DrUlrikeWalter.com](mailto:office@DrUlrikeWalter.com).

---

---

## Was Sie schon immer über klinische Studien wissen wollten...

Viele der ATA-Konferenzteilnehmer hörten sich den Vortrag Klinische Prüfung – eine Einführung von Elke Vogt-Arendt an. Die Reaktionen auf diese Präsentation waren so positiv, dass Frau Vogt-Arendt sich bereit erklärt hat, das Thema weiter zu bearbeiten und einen Teil II dazu nächstes Jahr bei der Konferenz in Toronto vorzutragen. Für die Vorbereitung dieses zweiten Teils wünscht sich die Autorin weitere Anregungen, um sich bei der Ausarbeitung zu diesem Thema an den Erwartungen zu orientieren. Bitte schicken Sie Ihre Fragen und Ideen zum Thema an [elke.vogt-arendt@t-online.de](mailto:elke.vogt-arendt@t-online.de)

Eine Textversion des ersten Teils ist übrigens in den Proceedings abgedruckt. Die PowerPoint-Präsentation kann auf der Homepage der GLD unter [www.ata-divisions.org/GLD](http://www.ata-divisions.org/GLD) abgerufen werden.

# Termine

Was	Wann	Wo	Kontakt/Informationen
NAJIT	Feb. 6 -	Miami,	Information: <a href="http://www.najit.org">www.najit.org</a>
Regional Conference on Forensics	Feb. 8 2004	FL	\$240.00/330.00
ADÜ-Nord, Seminar: Zeitmanagement Dr. Dorothea Döhler	Apr. 17 - Apr. 18 2004	Hamburg Germany	ADÜ-Nord Information: <a href="http://www.adue-nord.de/">www.adue-nord.de/</a>
ADÜ-Nord, Seminar: Informationstexte formulieren Dr. Marita Tjarks-Sobhani	May 5 - May 7 2004	Hamburg Germany	ADÜ-Nord Information: <a href="http://www.adue-nord.de/">www.adue-nord.de/</a>
ATA, Annual Conference	Oct. 13 - Oct. 16, 2004	Toronto, Canada	E-mail: <a href="mailto:ata-hq@atanet.org">ata-hq@atanet.org</a> Information: <a href="http://www.atanet.org">www.atanet.org</a>
ATA, Annual Conference	Nov. 9 - Nov. 12 2005	Seattle, WA	E-mail: <a href="mailto:ata-hq@atanet.org">ata-hq@atanet.org</a> Information: <a href="http://www.atanet.org">www.atanet.org</a>

Please note: If you know of any upcoming events that are of interest to other readers, please forward the information to the editor ([RainerKlett@aol.com](mailto:RainerKlett@aol.com)). Your help is much appreciated. The Calendar listing of conferences, seminars, workshops, etc. includes only some of the upcoming events that might be of interest to GLD members. More comprehensive information is available on the organizers' Web sites, such as:

[www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org), [www.bdue.de](http://www.bdue.de), [www.adue-nord.de](http://www.adue-nord.de), [www.ciuti-akademie.com](http://www.ciuti-akademie.com), [www.fit-ift.org](http://www.fit-ift.org),  
[www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org), [www.sdi-muenchen.de](http://www.sdi-muenchen.de)