



Bioscavenger

BSCAV

Description

Nerve agents (e.g., soman, sarin, VX) are fast acting and lethal at low doses. The Department of Defense (DoD) is developing a Bioscavenger medical countermeasure, a prophylactic regimen intended to prevent incapacitation and death from exposure to a broad spectrum of nerve agents. Butyrylcholinesterase is a naturally occurring protein that binds and inactivates nerve agents before they can cause incapacitation and death. A human butyrylcholinesterase and a recombinant butyrylcholinesterase are under consideration by the DoD, and U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for one of the two candidates is expected for 2018. The DoD is also exploring more efficient and cost effective alternative technologies for production of a Bioscavenger. A catalytic Bioscavenger will actively degrade nerve agents without losing its own activity. The catalytic technology is immature, and a candidate will not be ready for transition to advanced development until late 2020.

Mission

Provide prophylactic protection against nerve agent-induced incapacitation and death.

-Capability: Protect the warfighter against the devastating effects of exposure to a broad spectrum of nerve agents

Capabilities

- Chemical Prophylaxis

Users

Reserves, National Guard Bureau, Civil Support Teams, USSOCOM, US Navy, US Marine Corps, US Coast Guard, US Army, US Air Force

Status

Engineering and Manufacturing Development - Anticipated Fielding: FY 2019 Q1

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