

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office of Health Affairs

Michael Walter, Ph.D.
BioWatch Program Manager



Dr. Michael V. Walter is the BioWatch Program Manager within the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Health Affairs (OHA). He is responsible for management of the only national level environmental surveillance system tasked designed to detect aerosolized biological warfare agents. His duties include the monitoring the performance of 30 analytical laboratories; aiding state and local public health departments in preparation of response plans for use in the event of a biological attack, as well as scheduling and conducting exercises to test those preparations. Dr. Walter is responsible for the testing, acquisition, deployment and operation of an automated biodetection system to replace the system presently in operation. He is also responsible for fostering partnerships between BioWatch and the state and local public health community as well as other Federal Agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Department of Defense (DoD).

Dr. Walter joined OHA in September 2009. Prior to joining the BioWatch Program, Dr. Walter was Staff Senior Scientist and headed the Technology Special Project Team for the U.S. Department of Defense Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense. He has also held positions with Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Naval Surface Warfare Center, and Texaco, Inc.

Dr. Walter has more than twenty years of experience in microbiology/biological warfare research. He has an extensive background in sampling and detection for aerosolized microorganisms, as well as in the management and development of design, test, evaluation, and quality assurance for related systems and programs. He also has significant experience in laboratory assay development and testing.

Dr. Walter is the recipient of eight publication and innovation awards. He is the author of numerous abstracts and patents; his scientific articles have been published in a number of journals including *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, and the *Canadian Journal of Microbiology*. He received his Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of North Dakota.