



U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Protecting and Promoting Public Health



# Food Defense: Industry Perspective

**U.S. Food Defense Team**



# Historical Significance of Food Defense

## Pre - 9/11/2001

- Low awareness
- Focus on theft of product, vandalism, protection of proprietary methods and business information.
  - Low impact
  - Medium probability
- Oblivious that we could be a target

## After 9/11

- Improving awareness
- New focus on preventing a “major event”
  - Very low probability
  - **Devastating economic impact**
- We are an attractive target
- Still learning as we go



# Current impression of Food Defense

- Industry impact is primarily on **prevention**.
  - Make ourselves an undesirable target
- Food manufacturing supply chain is **complex**
- Big companies = big distribution
- **VOLUNTARY** = big variation between companies.
- Fits well with our Food Safety efforts
- Government resources are helpful.
- Food Defense doesn't need to cost a lot



# Why do Food Defense?

(even though it is voluntary)

- The possibility of an attack is real and the consequences are devastating
- Protecting against a worst-case also protects us from other cases:
  - Vandalism, theft, criminal act or injury
  - Angry employee, contractors, cleaning crew, competitors
- It doesn't have to cost a lot
- **Moral Imperative: It is the Right Thing to Do!**



# Benefits of Food Defense

- Supports Safety and Quality initiatives
- Reduces cost of more mundane security lapses (theft, vandalism, unethical business practices, etc.)
- May expose process or business inefficiencies
- Reduces risk of a devastating event
- Reduces impact of a minor event
- **Competitive Advantage!**
  - More customers, especially multinational customers, are requiring a Food Defense plan.
  - Prepares us should regulatory requirements arrive



# Response from Industry

- Eager to embrace Food Defense Practices!
- Realization that this requires modest/incremental effort, not a significant new program
  - Many defensive measures are already in place
  - Need to improve a few deficiencies (close gaps)
  - Need to document various existing and new measures in one place
- Benefits acknowledged
  - Competitive advantage
  - Reduction of economic losses
  - Prepared for any changes in regulation