

Nuclear Terrorism

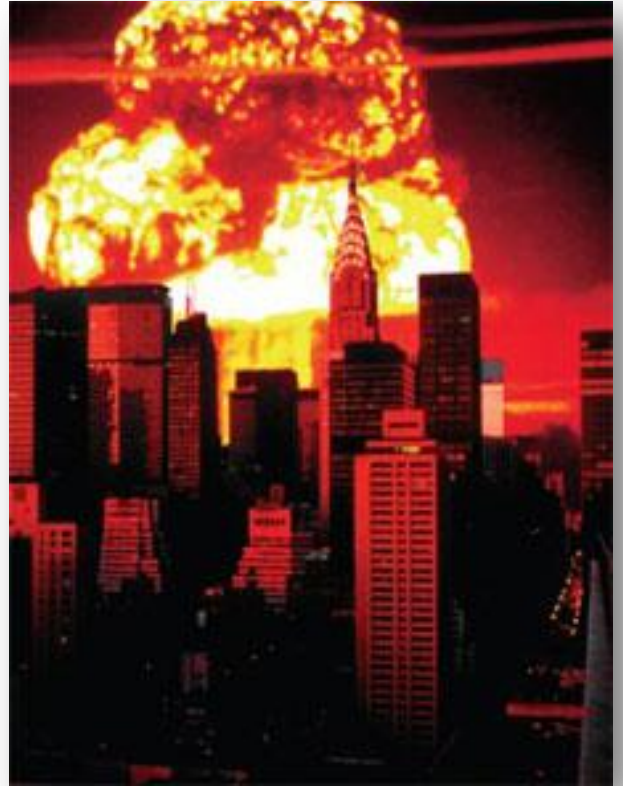
Danger and Prevention

A Real Threat

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, sensitive nuclear technologies and materials have become increasingly available. International terrorist organizations seek to employ nuclear weapons as a means to influence national policies around the world.¹

President Obama has called it "the single most important national security threat that we face."

Source: 1.Emily Diez, Terrance Clark, and Caroline Zaw-Mon, "Global Risk of Nuclear Terrorism"



Where do we stand?

US Nuclear policies remain stuck in the Cold War, even as threats have changed dramatically. Today, the gravest threat to the US and the world comes from the possibility of terrorists acquiring nuclear weapons.¹

Much of the nuclear material stockpile remains under the control of states, but security procedures are observed at varying levels. While some nuclear material remains locked up very tightly at military bases, a significant amount is protected by **little more than a chain link fence and a guard that works during the day.**

In fact, about HALF of all nuclear material remains vulnerable, and the global stockpile of nuclear materials is large enough to build more than 100,000 bombs.^{2,3}

Sources: 1. Daalder and Lodal, "Logic of Zero - Toward a World without Nuclear Weapons", 2. Joseph Cirincione, Ploughshares Fund, 3. Major General Paul Monroe, "Why we can't cut corners with nuclear security"

Preventing Nuclear Terrorism

Most physicists and nuclear-weapon analysts agree that learning how to make a nuclear weapon would pose few technological challenges to reasonably competent terrorists.

The main barrier preventing them from doing so is acquiring sufficient Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) or Plutonium (Pu).¹

Terrorists and hostile regimes attempting to acquire or use nuclear weapons can be stopped only by coordinated international efforts to deny access to the fissile (nuclear) materials above.

Nations and the international community must maintain robust standards for securing, monitoring, and accounting for all fissile materials in any form.²

Source: 1. Charles Ferguson, "Preventing a nuclear 9/11 : First, secure the highly enriched uranium", 2. George Perkovich with Choubey, Gottemoeller, Mathews, and Squassoni, "Universal Compliance: a Strategy for Nuclear Security"



You CAN Make a Difference

Average citizens need to inform themselves and make their voices heard!

Contact your Congresspersons and urge them to support efforts and full funding to secure nuclear materials and prevent Nuclear Terrorism. Call the Congressional Switchboard at 202-224-3121 to speak with your Congresspersons and Senators.

Write Letters to the Editor of your local media sources alerting the public about the dangers of nuclear terrorism and advocating for increased efforts to prevent a catastrophe.

Spread the word to community members by inviting a speaker on Nuclear Terrorism prevention (contact below) and distributing this flyer to your contacts.

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