Preemptive Action -
WMD Acquisition-to-Use Timeline

Prospective adversary hasn’t yet committed to seeking WMD

Diplomatic, intelligence, dissuasion, assurances (e.g. security guarantees)

Has scientists, gathering WMD knowledge, components, material

Intelligence, economic, diplomatic, law enforcement actions, interdiction (boarding ships, etc), covert action, SOF, kinetic strike, IO (psyops, public diplomacy)

Has useable WMD capability

SOF, IO against C2, kinetic strike, defenses, economic, diplomatic, law enforcement,

Use is Imminent

SOF, IO against C2, kinetic strike, defenses

Use occurs against US, allies

DHS, support to civil authorities, defenses, kinetic strike

US opportunities and actions depend upon degree of threat development