DoD Strategic Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) Priorities

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JCBRN Conference
June 24, 2009

Cleared For Open Publication
June 18, 2009
09-S-2230
“In a strange turn of history, the threat of global nuclear war has gone down, but the risk of a nuclear attack has gone up.”

-President Obama
April 2009
DoD’s Four Strategic CWMD Priorities

- Increase barriers to WMD proliferation and use
- Improve ability to identify and mitigate emergent WMD threats
- Develop layered, integrated WMD defense
- Manage WMD threats emanating from failing, fragile states/ungoverned territories
DoD Strategic Priorities in CWMD

- Increase barriers to WMD proliferation and use
  - Establish climate unfriendly to WMD (non-proliferation treaties, agreements, and professional codes of conduct)
  - Reduce availability of weapons, materials, and delivery systems
  - Inhibit/reduce/reverse proliferation where it occurs; break proliferation networks
  - Detect and intercept the movement of WMD, missiles, and related materials
Improve ability to identify and mitigate emergent WMD threats

- Detect, strike, and counter emerging threats
- Deter escalation and use
- Defeat emerging WMD threats
DoD Strategic Priorities in CWMD (cont’d)

- Developed layered, integrated WMD defense
  - Deny adversaries the benefits they seek through threatened possession and use of WMD
  - Prepare the homeland to defense against, respond to biological, chemical, or nuclear attacks
  - Detect and intercept threats before they reach the homeland
  - Respond and mitigate the effects of WMD attacks
Manage WMD threats emanating from failing, fragile states/ungoverned territories

- Prevent establishment of WMD-safe havens in ungoverned areas
- Ensure WMD and materials are under responsible control
- Prevent loss or transfer of WMD and materials
- Respond to instability and/or loss of control in a WMD-armed state
WMD crises can easily become large scale, complex, global WMD contingencies

- Large scale domestic attack with WMD
- Collapse of a WMD-armed state – loss, transfer of WMD
- Multiple, simultaneous terrorist attacks using chemical, biological, nuclear weapons

WMD use or loss of control will quickly involve a global response. It will:

- Require whole government solutions involving NGOs, corporations, etc
- Require global and regional planning for DoD – emphasizing response options for attacks that defy conventional retaliatory options
- Demand synchronization across AORs, within the DoD and within the interagency
- Require sophisticated, regularly exercised capabilities in every phase of operational planning
- Demand more military and domestic specialized response capabilities than currently exist – result in multiple geographic and mission demands on the same units
- Require the USG to more effectively harness the resources of the private sector
Way Ahead

- Addressing CWMD in DoD Quadrennial Defense Review
- Developing plans to implement Presidential and DoD priorities
- Engaging interagency and international community