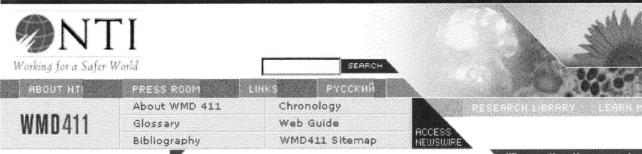
Page 1 of 2



A Primer on WMD

Definitions

Effects

Production

Proliferation & Use

Missiles

Terrorism

Historical Context Scope of Threat

neobe at titlear

What Can Be Done? Nuclear Terrorism

Bioterrorism

"Suitcase Nukes"

Limiting Use of WMD

Policy Options

WMD411

Your Information Resource on Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Weapons Issues "Preventing the spread an biological and chemica be the central organ the 21st Century

WMD Terrorism: Introduction

Produced by the Monterey Institute's Center for Nonproliferation
Studies

Since the beginning of the 20th century, terrorists have used a variety of tactics, including assassination, kidnapping, hijacking, and bombing, to achieve their goals. The September 11 attacks and the subsequent **anthrax letters** have focused renewed attention on the possibility of terrorism involving chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons, commonly called weapons of mass destruction (WMD).



Usama bin Laden

Definitions:

Terrorism:

There is no single, universally accepted definition of terrorism. The word "terrorism" is usually used to describe violence that is political, social, religious, or ideological in nature and that is designed to influence an audience beyond the immediate target or victims of the attack. One example of a definition of terrorism that is often quoted is that of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which describes terrorism as:

"...the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives." (28 Code of Federal Regulations Section 0.85)

Terrorism is not a neutral term. Governments use it to describe their opponents and avoid it when describing their allies. This has led to the saying that "one person's terrorist is another person's freedom fighter." Countries therefore cannot agree on an objective definition of terrorism. This poses a problem. because if states want to combat terrorism at the international level, they must first agree on exactly what they are fighting against.

WMD:

Although large-scale conventional weapons, such as the bomb that destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma or the airplanes involved in the September 11 attacks, are sometimes described as weapons of mass destruction, usually

Further Rea

- >> WMD 41
- >> WMD 41 Attacks
- » WMD 41 Terroris
- » CNS, Jas "Better to Curb
- >> Henry L.
 Amy Sm
 The Che
 Biologic
 Threat
 Respon
- Jonathar Amy Sar Unlikely
- » CNS, Jea Zanders the Risl and Bio Weapor to Terro
- CNS, Bri "Terror Some P Hypothe
- » CNS, Joh "Comba Assessi Risk Ma Establis Prioritie
- CNS, Ra
 "Assess
 of Biote
- >> CNS, Te
- CNS, Jor "The Pr Chemic Biologic Materia Technol and Sul

NTI: WMD 411 Page 2 of 2

the term is used to refer to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons.

WMD Terrorism:

WMD Terrorism, therefore, refers to terrorist use or threat of use of WMD.

» back to top

« previous

next >>



This material is produced independently for NTI by the Center for Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies and do reflect the opinions of and has not been independently verified by directors, officers, employees, agents. Copyright © 2003 by MIIS

HOME | CONTACT US | GET INVOLVED | SITE MAP