

Many of these questions were prompted by an article in the January 26, 2003, *Los Angeles Times* that reported that the Pentagon had ordered the development of a "Theater Nuclear Planning Document" outlining possible sites in Iraq for nuclear targeting, based on NSPD 17 guidelines. Sources close to the U.S. Strategic Command (STRATCOM) said that underground facilities were of special consideration in the planning document, as well as "thwarting Iraq's use of [WMD]," which could include pre-emptive action as well as retaliatory strikes.

Appearing on NBC's *Meet the Press* on January 26, 2003, White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card said Saddam Hussein "should anticipate that the United States will use whatever means necessary to protect us and the world from a holocaust." When asked if those options included the use of nuclear weapons, Card responded, "I'm not going to put anything on the table or off the table." In February 13, 2003, testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld also said that past U.S. policy dictated that the United States "not foreclose the possible use of nuclear weapons if attacked," but he added, the United States could accomplish what it needed to with conventional capabilities.