

# Preventing Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation

## Leveraging Special Operations Forces to Shape the Environment

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# Outline



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- WMD proliferation overview.
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- BPC/PE overview.
- Recommendations.







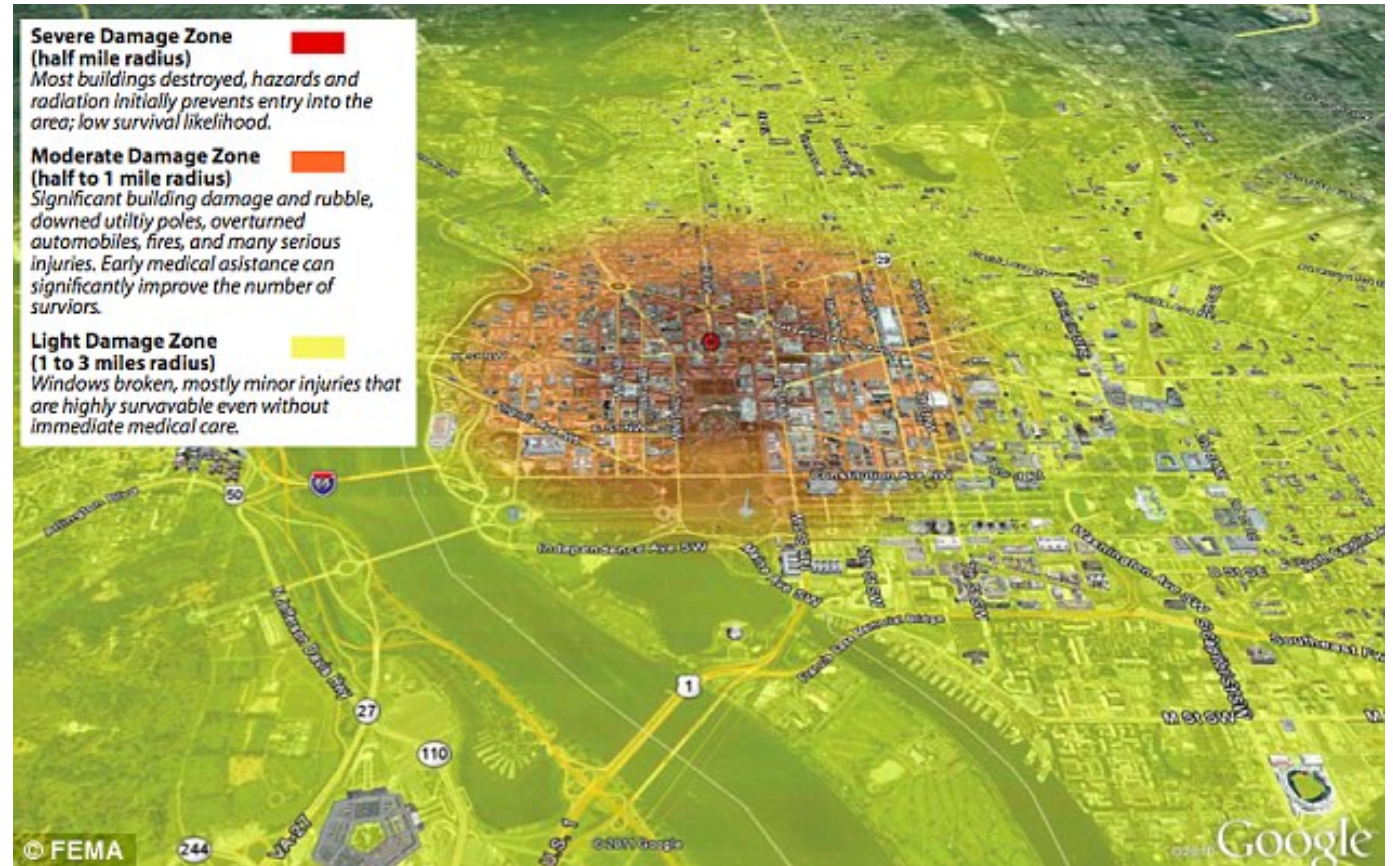
# Motivation - prevent WMD proliferation



2015 ISIS mustard/  
chlorine attacks in Iraq



2001 U.S. anthrax attack  
– 5 dead, >\$1B cost



Washington DC damage model – 10KT  
nuclear weapon ground burst



# Strategic guidance



“Vigilance is required to **stop countries and non-state actors** from **developing or acquiring** nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons, or the materials to build them.”



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
STRATEGY FOR COUNTERING  
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION



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“...we are focusing our efforts on **preventing** acquisition and countering the most likely threats. Accordingly, this strategy emphasizes **early action** through pathway defeat, **shaping the environment** to dissuade actors from pursuing WMD, and **cooperating with partners** to achieve countering WMD goals.”





# Research question & methodology



- 2016 Special Operations Command research topic:
  - How special operations forces (SOF) can better support WMD counterproliferation efforts and what is the appropriate balance between WMD risks?
- Parse the problem:
  - What are the primary WMD proliferation risks and threats to U.S. interests?
  - What are the key elements to disrupting or defeating a proliferation network?
  - What unique counter-network capabilities can SOF provide?
- Evaluate how to leverage SOF core activities to support proliferation pathway defeat.





# WMD risk and threat



“No threat poses as grave a danger to our security and well-being as the potential use of nuclear weapons and materials by irresponsible states or terrorists.” (2015 NSS).

“The deliberate use or accidental release of CBRN materials remains an enduring threat to the safety and security of the American people.” (2012 NBS)

Threats - state actors:

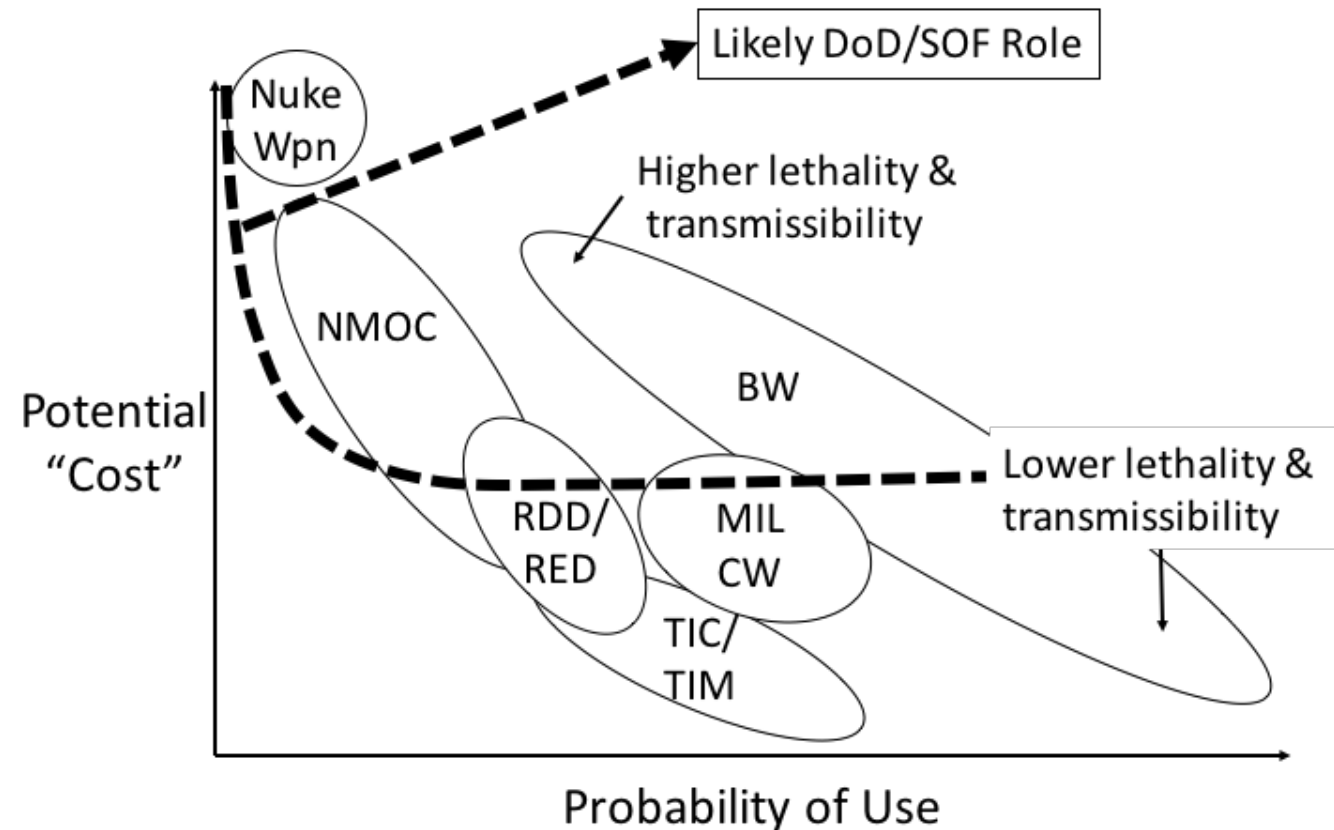
- Peer, near-peer nuclear weapons states (Russia, China).
- Regional actors (India, Pakistan, N. Korea).
- Proliferators – Iran, Mideast?

Threats - non-state actors:

- ISIS, al-Qaeda, lone wolf, etc...

Little doubt al-Qaeda or ISIS would use acquired WMD.

## Conceptual WMD-Terrorism Risk



NMOC – fissile nuclear material of concern; MIL CW – military grade chemical weapon; TIC/TIM – toxic industrial chemical/material; BW – biological weapon; RDD/RED – radiological dispersal/exposure device



# WMD proliferation overview



- Transfer or acquisition of weapons, materials, technology, or knowledge.
  - State to State.
  - State to Non-state.
  - State/Non-state development and acquisition.
- Proliferation pathway – network of illicit good traffickers.
  - Criminal organizations - generally commodity agnostic.
  - Law evading businesses.
  - Unsuspecting businesses.
- Common network elements:
  - Leadership.
  - Finance.
  - Scientific/technical expertise.
  - Communications.
  - Logistics.
  - Intel, Surveillance, Recon.
  - Weapon Delivery.

Network disruption or defeat requires capability to conduct:

- Network analysis.
- Non-lethal targeting.
- Lethal targeting.



# SOF capability analysis



SOF Core Activity	Network Analysis	Nonlethal Targeting	Lethal Targeting	Shaping Operations
Direct action	X		X	X
Special reconnaissance	X	X	X	X
Counterterrorism	X	X	X	X
Counterinsurgency	X	X	X	X
Foreign internal defense	X	X	X	X
Military info support operations	X	X		X
Civil affairs operations	X	X		X
Unconventional warfare	X			
Hostage rescue/recovery			X	
Foreign humanitarian assistance		X		

Two fundamental underlying activities – Building Partner Capacity (BPC) and Preparation of the Environment (PE).





# BPC, PE overview



- Building partner capacity (BPC).
  - Programs to enable partners to better conduct activities in theirs and U.S. mutual interests.
  - Many U.S. Government agencies conduct BPC in their areas of responsibility - wide range of legal and funding authorities.
  - Often involves training, equipping, and sustaining support – military authorities often limited.
- Preparation of the environment (PE).
  - SOF develop a deep understanding of local conditions and cultures to enable low-visibility shaping of the environment – supports network analysis through persistent presence.
  - Can conduct BPC to improve partner ability to shape the environment.





# Recommendations



- Build CWMD expertise within SOF.
  - Lack of SOF CWMD experts post 9/11.
  - Expertise can leverage ongoing security cooperation activities to conduct BPC and PE.
  - Basic CWMD education for all SOF.
  - Develop a dedicated cadre of CWMD experts assigned between U.S. and partner units.
- Gain interagency support.
  - Lack of U.S. Government unity of effort.
  - Assign SOF CWD cadre members to USG agencies to leverage bandwidth and expertise – develop a formal CWMD Master Degree education program.



Potential GT role in education program development, execution?



# Recommendations



- Gain necessary resources.
  - Develop a CWMD cell in the theater Special Ops Commands to enable planning and execution of BPC and PE activities.
  - Coordinate with State Department to develop a "1204-like" legislative package for necessary military-civilian legal and funding authorities.
- Recommendations on executing PE and BPC.
  - Develop a "concept of the operation" to convince U.S. embassy country teams of the importance of CWMD PE and BPC.
  - Leverage OSD-TRAC funded "Opportunity Analysis" program to develop a baseline model for CWMD PE and/or BPC that the TSOCs could then adapt to their theater.



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