Weapons of Mass Destruction
Threat Overview

Presented by SA Russell Chisholm

OVERVIEW

- WMD Threat
  - Case Examples
  - Trends
- Addressing the WMD Threat
  - Statutes
  - Threat Assessment Process
  - FBI Assets

Presidential Decision Directive on Terrorism

PDD-39

- U.S. policy on terrorism; signed by the President on 6/21/95
- Outlines Responsibilities of Agencies Involved in USG Response to both Domestic and International Terrorism
- Directs Highest Priority to Detect, Prevent, Defeat, and Manage Consequences of WMD Terrorism
- Charges the FBI, as lead investigative agency to reduce U.S. vulnerabilities

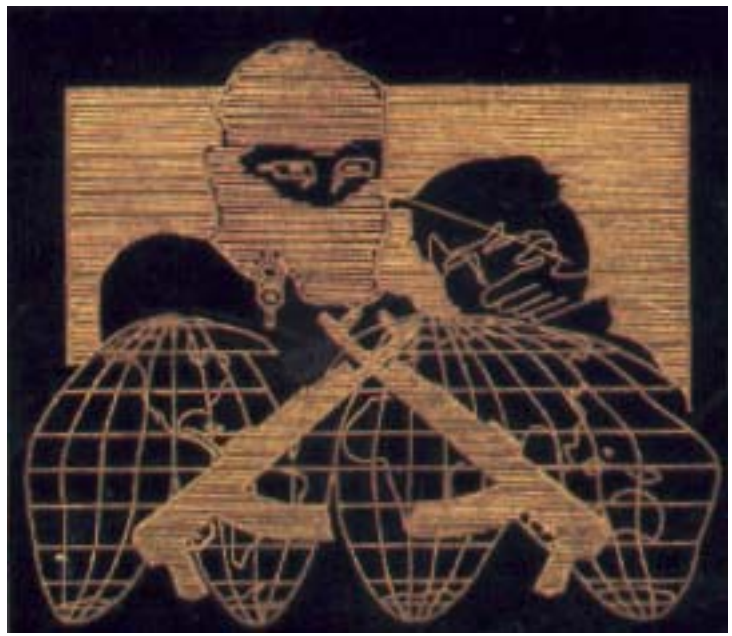
WMD Threat
- Current Assessment -

- We continue to investigate allegations regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction and their illegal use
  - At this time there is no credible intelligence that a *Domestic* Terrorist Group is either acquiring, developing or planning to use Chemical, Biological, or Nuclear Weapons
  - Each WMD threat is thoroughly investigated
    - The vast majority fail to reveal the presence of actual hazardous material, although we have seen some Ricin
- Criminal Acts in the United States Involving Radiological, Chemical, and Biological Agents are on the rise
  - Nuclear Cases
  - Chemical & Biological Cases
  - Potential Impact

WMD Threat

-Spectrum of Terrorists-

- Lone Individuals
- Non-Aligned Terrorists
- Doomsday/Cult-Type Group
- Identified Groups
- State Sponsors
- Insurgents/Rebels

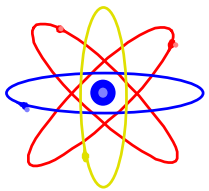


WMD Incident

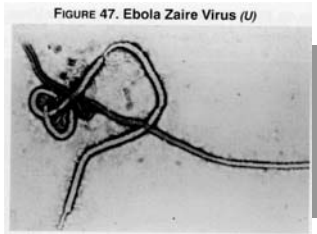
-Threat Spectrum-

Nuclear Weapon

Chemicals Weapons

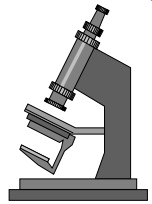


Radio-isotopes



Biological Pathogens

Industrial Chemicals



Biological Toxins

Low

High

<u>Overall Threat is Low, but increasing</u>

Most Significant Biological Attack in the U.S.

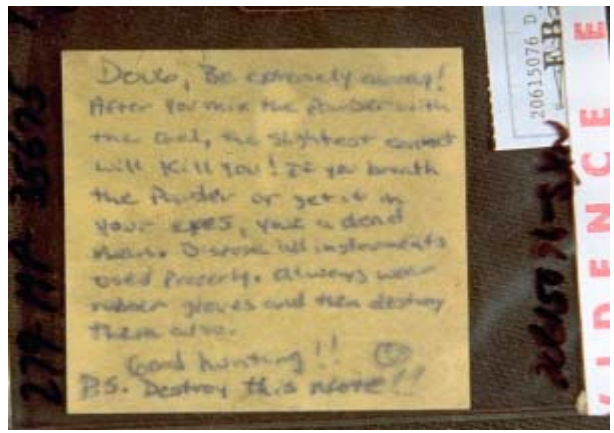
- Rajneesh Foundation
  - 1984: Biological Attack of "The Dalles" Oregon
  - Salmonella Sprayed on 8 Local Salad Bars
  - 715 Citizens Affected
  - Attempt to Manipulate Local Election

GROUP COMPOUND AND CLANDESTINE LAB

Patriots Council

- Members of anti-tax, anti-government extremist group who also advocated violent overthrow of the government.

- Produced ricin to attack US Marshal who served papers for tax evasion.

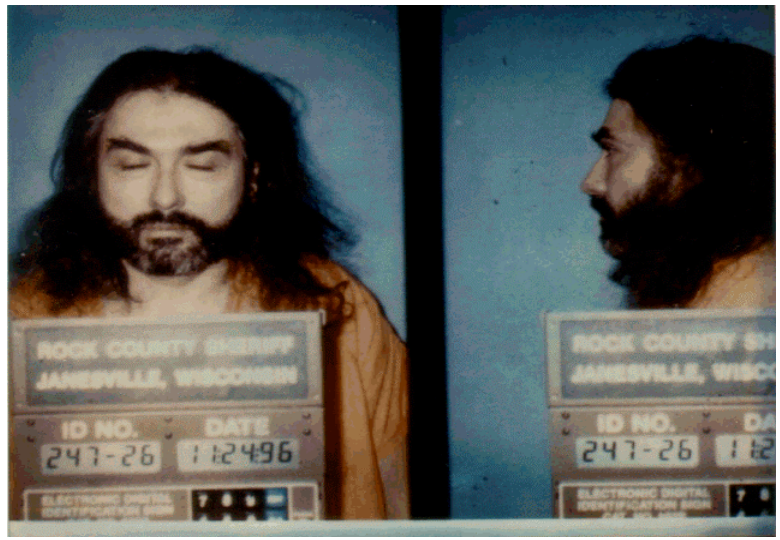


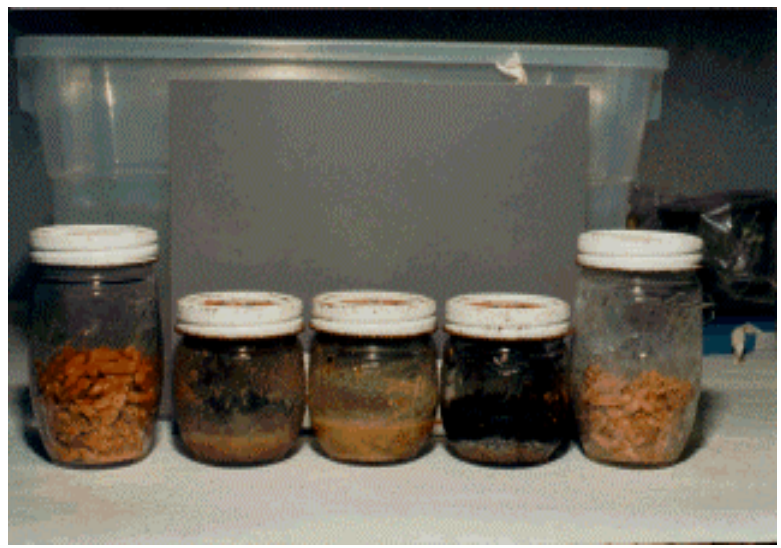
- 4 individuals convicted under Biological Weapons Anti-Terrorism Act of 1989 (BWAT Act)

- Received prison sentences ranging from 33 to 48 months followed by three years supervised release

THOMAS LEAHY

- Violent history, shot stepson in the face. Wife consented to search of residence.
- Search items later confirmed to be *Ricin*, *Clostridium botulinum* and weaponized *Nicotine Sulfate.*
- Indicted under BWAT statute. Received 151 months to be served consecutively with 8 years state sentence for negligent handling of a firearm.



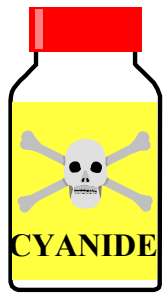


BIOLOGICAL TOXIN

- 1993 - Thomas Lewis Lavy
- Canadian Customs Agent border search
  - 130 grams of a white powder (Ricin)
  - $89,000 in cash
  - four guns and more than 20,000 rounds of ammunition
- 1995 - Charged under BWAT
- Committed suicide in prison

INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS

- SOURGAS
  - Use of an Incendiary Device to release lethal Hydrogen Sulfide into the atmosphere
  - Delin Swanigan
    - Drain-o
  - Kathryn Louise Schoonover
    - Cyanide packets



BIOLOGICAL PATHOGEN

- Diane Thompson
  - Rare strain of dysentery intentionally placed in food
- Lawrence Pagano
  - Anthrax Hoax Letter

BIOLOGICAL PATHOGENS

- Las Vegas
  - Larry Wayne Harris
  - Possession of three vials of the Bubonic Plague
  - Convicted in April, 1997 of one count of fraud by wire
  - Received 18 months probation
  - Alleged possession of anthrax in Las Vegas

Results of Increased Publicity
Larry Wayne Harris

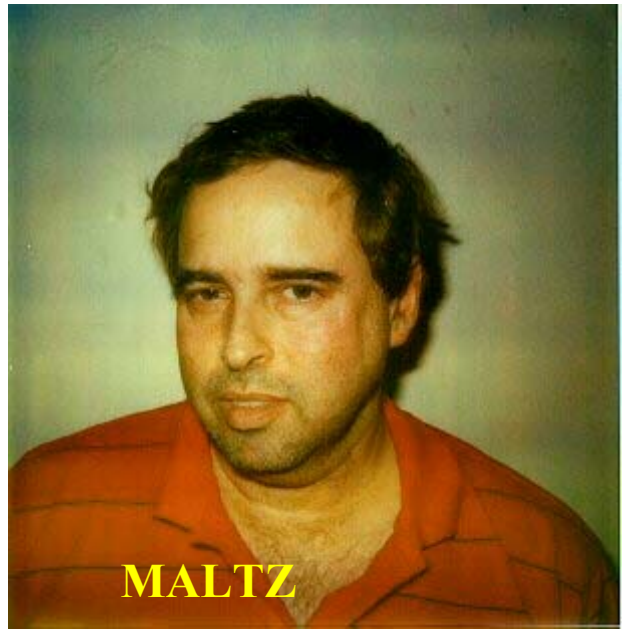
- 18 Feb: Harris and Leavitt Arrested in Las Vegas
- 19 Feb: Anthrax Threat to Midwest Fire Marshall
- 27 Feb: Anthrax Threat to Midwest Govt. Building
- 5 Mar: Anthrax Extortion Against Hawaiian Banks
- 10 Mar: Anthrax Threat to AZ Collection Agency
- 12 Mar: Anthrax Threat to AZ Car Dealership
- Mar: Allegation of West Coast Anthrax Possession
- Mar: Anthrax Threats to East Coast U.S. City

Between 1994 and 18 Feb 1998, Less than 5 Investigated Instances of Threatened Anthrax Use

BIOLOGICAL PATHOGENS

CHEMICAL WEAPONS

- Lawrence Maltz
  - Numerous threats to members of Congress, Dept. of State, FBI & IRS
  - Involved in the research and production of nerve agents



- James Dalton Bell
  - Nerve agents

RADIOISOTOPES

- BROWN UNIVERSITY, RI
  - GRADUATE STUDENT , CHENG GU
  - IODINE 125
  - MIXED IT WITH FOOD HE SERVED TO EX-GIRLFRIEND.
  - GIRLFRIEND SET-OFF RADIATION DETECTORS AT THE LAB WHERE SHE WORKED.

  - PROCECUTED LOCALLY
  - SENTENCED TO TWO TEN YEAR SENTENCES SUSPENDED AND TWO $5,000 FINES .
  - DEPORTED BY INS

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- 29 May 1997: Information Received Indicating Subject Claims of Nuclear Weapon Manufacture
- Prior Conviction for Conspiracy to Commit Attempted Murder with Mock Explosive Device
- Joint Terrorism Task Force Investigation Discovered "Devices" in Subject's Garage
- No Radiation Detected by State EPA, or HAZMAT

Note: Names Deleted to Protect Individual Privacy

Trends

- Hoax Threats - Disruption
- Multiple Targets
- Easily Accessible WMD Information
- Isolated crime

Trends
Hoaxes

- **Weapons of Mass Disruption**
  - B'nai B'rith
- **WMD Threats being used in same capacity as traditional bomb threats**
  - Forcing First Responders to re-evaluate how to react to a biological/WMD incident

Trends

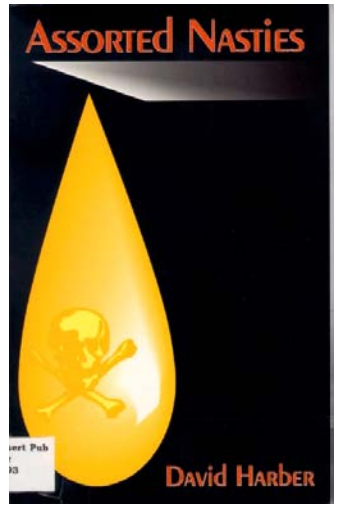
Multiple Mailings

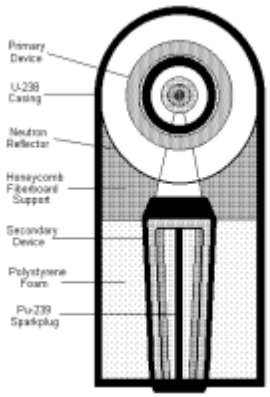
- Single Letter containing WMD death threats sent to multiple targets
  - Letters similar in both content and point of origin
  - Letters Delivered to
    - Government Offices
    - News Agencies
    - Women's Clinics
    - Churches and self proclaimed pro-life organizations

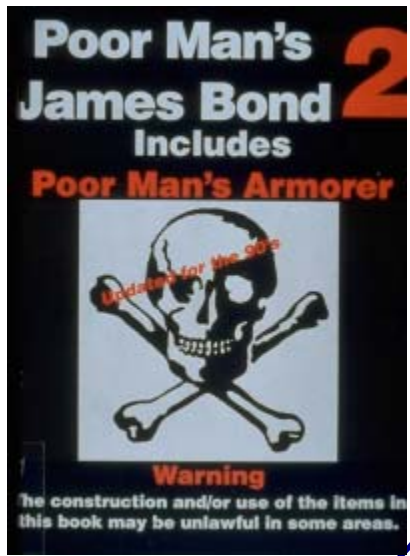
Trends

- Open Source Design Information -

- Information Available in Printed Media and Internet
  - Contain Production Methods, Dissemination Methods, and Tactics
  - Varying Degrees of Accuracy of Information
  - Include Information for Chemical Agents
    - **Nerve and Blistering Agents**
  - Biological Agents
    - **Ricin and Salmonella**







Trends

Isolated Crime

No terrorism motive

Extortion

Bank Robbery

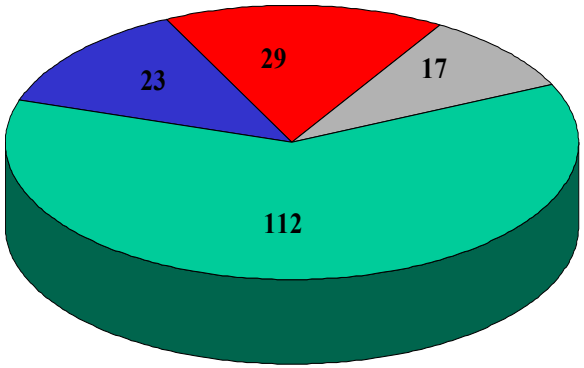
Murder for Hire

Assassination

Revenge

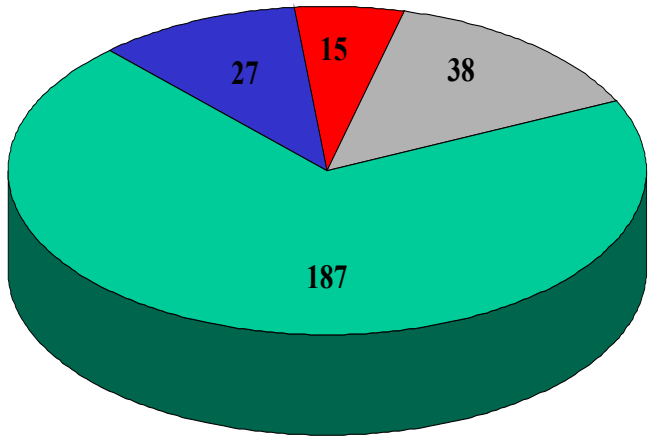
Public Panic

WMD Criminal Threats or Cases Opened 1998



Total 1998 - 181

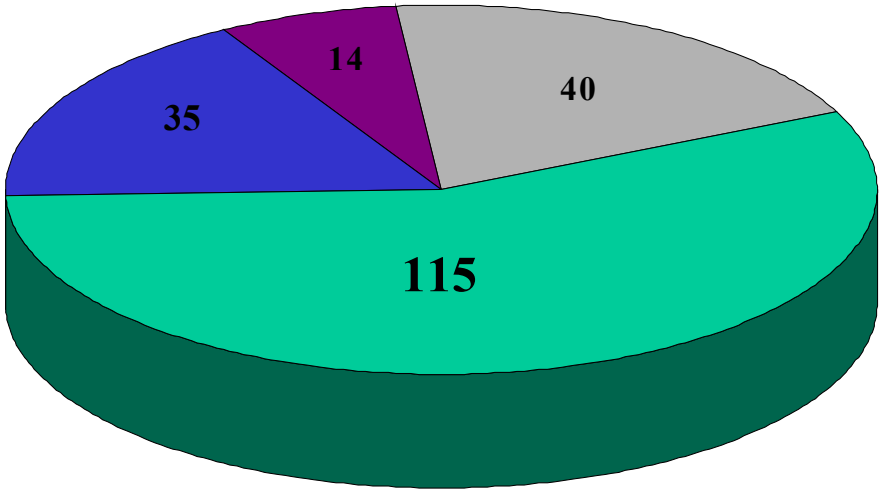
WMD Criminal Threats or Cases Opened 1999



Total 1999 - 267

- Biological
- Chemical
- Radiological/Nuclear
- Combination/Other

WMD Criminal Cases Opened 2000



- Biological - 115
- Chemical - 35
- Radiological/Nuclear - 14
- WMD Combination/Other - 40

Total 2000 - 204

Projected Threat

- Assessment -

- Interest in WMD Material Will Continue to Increase
- The Threat of Hoaxes, Blackmail, and Mass Disruption Is High
- Explosives, shootings and kidnappings will continue to be the most likely terrorist options

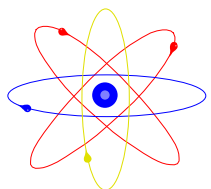
Addressing the WMD threat

- Applicable Statutes
- WMD Threat Assessment Process
- FBI Assets

WMD STATUTES

-APPLICABLE STATUTES PROVIDING FBI JURISDICTION-

T18USC 175-178	The Biological Weapons Antiterrorism Act
T18USC 2332a,c	Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction
T18USC 1365	Tampering with Consumer Products
T18USC 871-879	Extortion and Threats
T42USC 2011-2284	Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as Amended
T18 USC 831	Prohibited Transactions Involving Nuclear Material
T18 USC 229-229F	Chemical Weapons Treaty
PDD-39	Presidential Decision Directive on Terrorism



Addressing the WMD threat

- Applicable Statutes
- Threat Assessment Process
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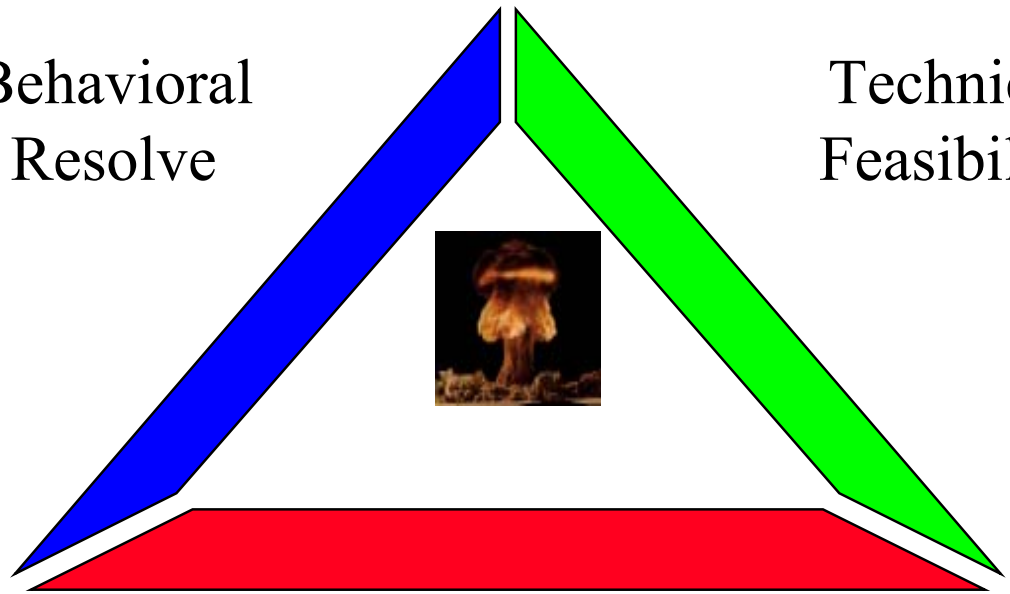
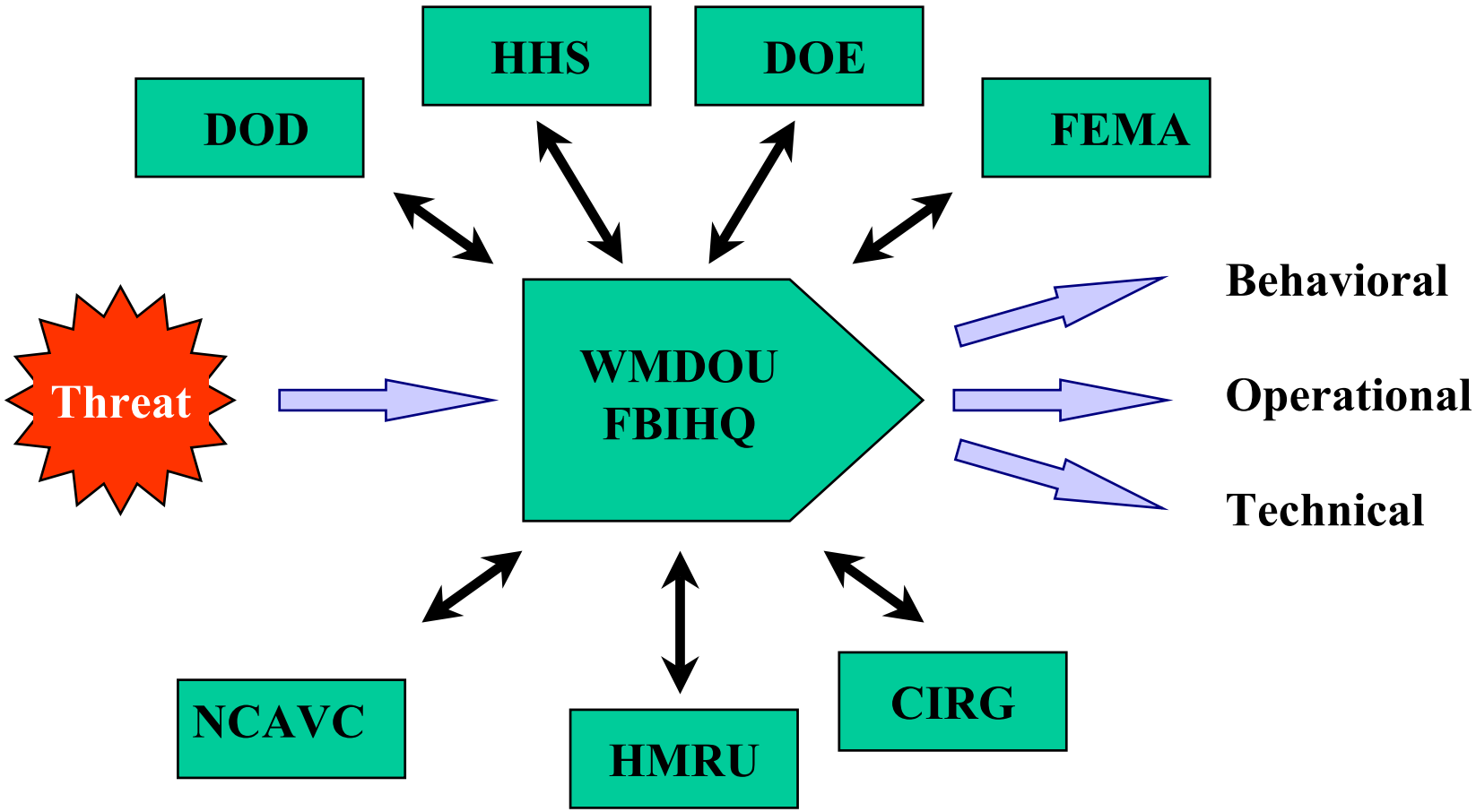
WMD Threat Assessments

- Three Viewpoints -



Threat Assessment Process
- Weapons of Mass Destruction -

THREAT → CONSULTATION → ASSESSMENT



Addressing the WMD threat

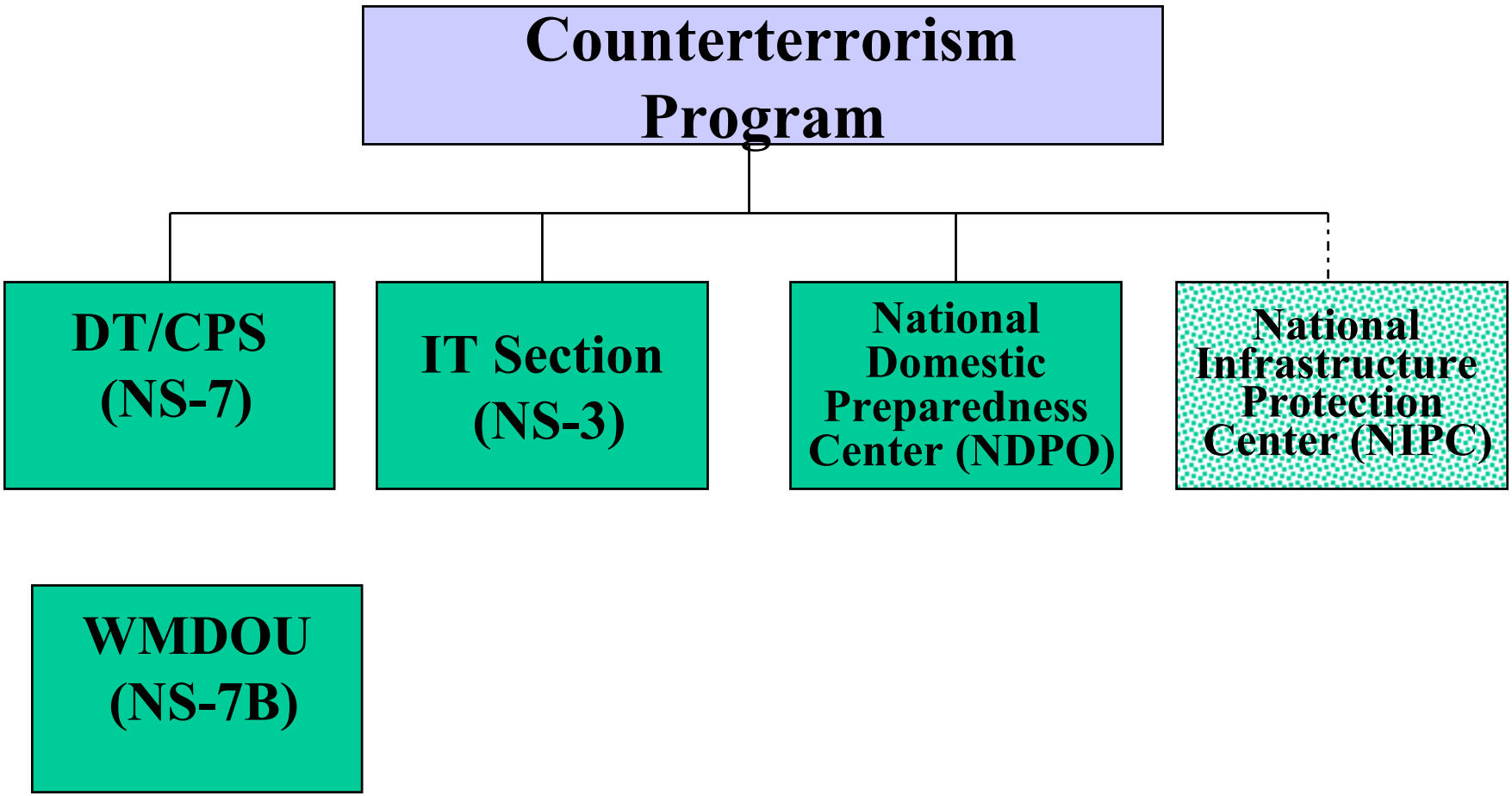
- Applicable Statutes
- Threat Assessment Process
- FBI Assets

Addressing the Threat

FBI Counterterrorism Center (CTC)

- Implemented in 1996
  - Focus on combating terrorism domestically and internationally
  - Extraterritorial Jurisdiction
  - CT Program
    - National Domestic Preparedness Office (NDPO)
    - International Terrorism Section (IT)
    - Domestic Terrorism/Counterterrorism Planning Section (DT)
    - National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC)

Counterterrorism Center



Counterterrorism Center

Mission Statement

To obtain, analyze, disseminate and manage all information related to individuals and groups involved in terrorism in the United States, and terrorists who threaten any U.S. person or interest here and abroad

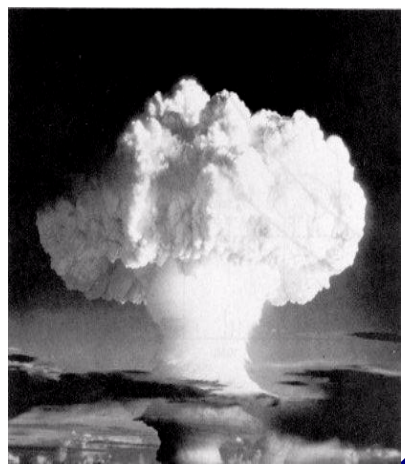
Cooperates with other members of the intelligence community in comprehensive counterterrorism operations and investigations.

WMDOU

Mission Statement

- To combat the use or threatened use of WMD as a means of terrorism directed against the U.S., its citizens, or its interests.

- The WMDOU provides program management involving:
  - All Threats
  - Threat Assessments
  - Incidents
  - WMD Response Program



Joint Terrorism Task Force Boston

- Established in September 1997
- Housed and supervised by the FBI
- Full-time participants:
  - INS, ATF, US Marshal Service, Secret Service, State Department
- Part-time participants:
  - BPD, MSP, US Customs, NCIS, CPD

Diplomatic Security Service

AL BURE ESTIGA

FBI ASSETS

- FBI Boston
  - JTTF, 250 Special Agents, 170 Support Staff
  - ERT (HAZMAT capable)
  - Bomb Tech (HAZMAT capable)
  - SWAT (HAZMAT capable)
- FBI HQ
  - Strategic Information Operations Center
  - WPNS. of Mass Destruction Operations Unit
  - Hazardous Materials Response Unit

Summary

- Threat is demonstrated
  - Increased number of threat WMD incidents
- FBI addressing the WMD threat through a series of different programs in close coordination with state and local first responders.
- Through it's recent initiatives, the FBI stands poised to meet this threat

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Final Observation

"Fighting terrorism is like being a goalkeeper. You can make a hundred brilliant saves but the one shot that people remember is the one that gets past you."

Paul Wilkinson, British scholar

Daily Telegraph, London, 9/1/92