

Lesson 18
Catastrophic Threats I:
Nuclear and Radiological Terrorism

Readings:

1. Graham Allison, *Nuclear Terrorism: The Ultimate Preventable Catastrophe* (NY: Times Books), 2004, pp. 19-29; 104-113; 117-120; 211-221 (I encourage you to read pp. 113-117 -- I did not include it because we have covered the topics in these pages thoroughly, however they include some interesting facts. The last section of pages are FAQs about nuclear terrorism, are quick to read, and I expect will interest you a great deal).
2. Sauter and Carafano, 153-179.

Study Questions:

1. What is the difference between nuclear and radiological weapons? What are their effects?
2. How could terrorists acquire nuclear or radiological weapons? How available are the weapons or the materials needed to make them?
3. How might terrorists manufacture nuclear or radiological weapons? What challenges would they have to surmount?
4. What organizations, policies, and programs does the United States have to combat the threat of weapons of mass destruction?
5. Be prepared to take the chapter quiz on page 179 of Sauter and Carafano.