

**Lesson 20**  
**Catastrophic Threats III:**  
**Combating WMD**

**Readings:**

1. U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, [\*The Lugar Survey on Proliferation Threats and Responses\*](#), June 2005.
2. Matthew Bunn, Anthony Wier, John P. Holdren, [\*Controlling Nuclear Warheads and Materials: A Report Card and Action Plan\*](#) (The Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, March 2003): 20-31.
3. *Skim: HSPD-4/NSPD-17 - National Strategy for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction* (unclassified companion to a classified HSPD/NSPD on this subject) (11 Dec 2002).

**Study Questions:**

1. What are the pillars of the United States' strategy to combat WMD?
2. What are the key components of each pillar?
3. Describe the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program.
4. What key trends and conclusions do you draw from the Lugar Survey?
5. What steps must a terrorist group go through in order to attack the United States with nuclear or radiological material? What challenges would they face at each step? what countermeasures does the United States have (or should have) at each step?
6. Based on the material and discussions in lessons 18, 19, and 20, what WMD threats do you consider most likely? Most consequential? Prioritize the threats balancing these two factors.