

Excerpt: Threat Assessment Overview: Terrorism and WMDs¹⁹

"Terrorism is acknowledged as a threat to both the United States and Canada and is a high priority for both governments."

Comment: We face the same challenge. Substantial resources will be allocated to counterterrorism because both countries agree terrorism is a threat and countering it is a high priority. We are in this together.

"Transnational terrorist entities are present in both the United States and Canada."

Comment: The United States and Canada need to mount significant counterterrorism programs at the border in both directions, and within their borders, to identify, disrupt, and dismantle the entities they agree exist in both countries.

"Al-Qa'ida and its affiliates pose a significant threat to the United States and Canada."

Comment: Both countries agree on the identity of the major threat and will focus their disrupt, dismantle, and destroy efforts against al-Qa'ida as the primary external terrorist threat.

"A new dimension in the threat from al-Qa'ida and its followers has emerged: the advent of 'homegrown' terrorists inspired by al-Qa'ida ideology."

Comment: Both countries agree that their citizens might be involved in terrorist activities. Diligence is needed even if it results in inconveniencing our partner's citizens.

"There is a continuing terrorist interest in CBRN [chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear] agents, most notably by al-Qa'ida and networks inspired by it, using relatively basic CBR materials."

Comment: The nightmare scenario is for a terrorist group to obtain and use a WMD. This would be a civilization-changing event, and both the United States and Canada must take all steps necessary to prevent it from occurring.