Week 12: WMD and Non-Proliferation

A. WMD Overview

-Terrorism and WMD Proliferation are key policy/intelligence issues.

-Terrorist use of WMD combines the two threats.

-Problems with collection and analysis on both issues.

-Issues are both highly controversial and politicized.

B. Background to Issue

-WMD threat includes nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and means of delivery. All have separate expertise.

-Collection on WMD programs became more difficult over time as a result of spies and leaks. D&D became common. ie Soviet Union, China, Iraq, Libya, North Korea.

-WMD and technical analysis almost always stovepiped. Little political/economic input, and that highly controversial. Puzzles and mysteries.

-Analytic capabilities declined after collapse of Soviet Union. CIA took 50% cut. DS&T also took big hit. Many left for private sector.

-Rumsfeld and Jeremiah reports hit IC hard on nuclear and missile threats.

-After Iraq and North Korea surprises, IC began to worse case.

-Result was Iraq WMD fiasco. Too few experts. Not enough sharing. Etc.

C. Country Threats


-Libya. Success story. Programs hard to hide. Chemical and missile programs. UN sanctions for terrorism had effect. Khan connection on nuclear threat exposed.


D. Intel/Policy Issues and Problems

- Arms Control and monitoring problem. Haves vs have nots.

- Sanctions imposition and monitoring problem.

- Interdictions efforts and problems. ie China.

E. Terrorist Use of WMD

- How big the threat? Much disagreement over threat and response.

- Nuclear and dirty bomb. Means of delivery.

- Biological weapons. Anthrax and flu.

- Chemical. Poison water. Gas