



# Federal Bureau of Investigation Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate



## Nuclear and Radiological Countermeasures Unit

Within the FBI's Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate (WMDD) Countermeasures program, the Nuclear Radiological Countermeasures Unit (NRCU) is responsible for developing and maintaining FBI programs to prevent and combat radiological and nuclear (R/N) WMD threats. NRCU's mission is to develop, coordinate, and execute an integrated approach to detect, deter, and disrupt terrorists in their acquisition and use of R/N materials against the U.S. and its interests abroad; and prepare to respond to R/N threats and incidents. NRCU accomplishes its mission through a host of domestic and international initiatives to implement the following objectives:

- **Provide situational awareness and training** to FBI field offices nationwide and interagency partners with regard to R/N threats and vulnerabilities.
- **Develop, initiate, support, guide, and implement interagency outreach** to ensure effective and integrated prevention and response efforts to WMD incidents involving R/N threats or vulnerabilities.
- **Provide WMD awareness to federal, state, and local stakeholders** (including industry, academia, and scientific communities) through various trainings and exercises in conjunction with local FBI field offices and interagency partners.
- **Develop, initiate, guide, and implement countermeasure tripwires** by researching, refining, and implementing measures that enhance detection of R/N WMD threats through outreach and agreements with various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.
- **Conduct international training and awareness outreach** in coordination with the U.S. Interagency and the FBI's WMD Assistant Legal Attaché (ALAT) to enhance counter-WMD capabilities of foreign nations.

NRCU affects national policy by actively participating, supporting, and leading WMD-oriented interagency working groups and committees in developing plausible and pragmatic options to detect, deter, and disrupt R/N WMD threats facing the U.S. and its interests abroad.



### The WMD Coordinator (WMDC)

WMD Coordinators (WMDCs) are FBI Special Agents located in each of FBI's 56 field offices and act as conduits to FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ) for investigative expertise, technical information, advice, and assistance. WMDCs inform the Special Agent in Charge (SAC) as well as FBIHQ, as they obtain a strategic understanding of unique geographical WMD threats and vulnerabilities within their specific geographic region, and report such information accordingly. WMDCs are contacted by state, local, and tribal emergency responders in an event of a threat or incident potentially involving WMD. With an emphasis on pre-event planning and prevention, WMDCs liaise with federal regional counterparts and representatives of state, local, and tribal organizations.

WMDCs often complement, support, or participate in NRCU efforts within their geographic region or area of responsibility (AOR). Using a top down/bottom up approach, NRCU conducts initial outreach with executives from companies that produce, use, and transport radiological materials. This introduces and establishes the WMDC as the local FBI point of contact to encourage the reporting of suspicious activity and the generation of actionable leads. The WMDC has the responsibility to mitigate the R/N threat through conducting outreach, implementing countermeasures, conducting investigations, and providing general WMD awareness to both FBI and industry partners.

### WMD Assistant Legal Attachés

WMDCs located overseas are referred to as WMD Assistant Legal Attachés (WMD ALATs) and report to the WMDD Operations Investigative Unit (OIU). WMD ALATs provide regional expertise within their specific AOR, assist with WMD investigations and prosecutions, and develop joint training programs with the international community. Currently there are three WMD ALATs stationed each in the United Arab Emirates, The Republic of Georgia, and Singapore. WMD ALATs often complement, support, or participate in NRCU efforts overseas that occur within their relevant AOR.

## NRCU Programs and Initiatives:

NRCU Programs and Initiatives: NRCU accomplishes its mission through a multitude of domestic and international initiatives in coordination with other FBI entities, the U.S. interagency, the private sector, and the international community. Below is a sample of NRCU-supported programs and initiatives:

Program	Description
<b>Nuclear Weapons Accident/Incident Exercise (NUWAIX)</b>	A full-scale field exercise of U.S. Government (U.S.G) incident and consequence management capabilities in response to a U.S. nuclear weapon incident. An interagency "whole of government" exercise designed to examine nuclear weapon incident response, recapture and recovery policies, plans, and procedures. Exercise execution focuses on command, control and coordination, weapons recovery, security, public affairs, medical considerations, and site recovery and remediation.
<b>Nuclear Weapons Incident Response Training (NWIRT)</b>	An integrated training to identify and address the complexities of nuclear weapons incident management through an interagency supported, Department of Defense (DOD) sponsored training program. The goals are to improve the interagency nuclear weapons incident response capability and capacity, broaden the educational foundation for responders with a focus on interagency operations, present national crisis response roles and capabilities, and introduce Techniques, Tactics and Procedures (TTPs).
<b>Curious Disintegration</b>	A practical FTX designed to enhance the ability of federal, state and local law enforcement to respond jointly and effectively to a radiological incident. The exercise serves to familiarize first responders, including federal, state, and local law enforcement, hazardous materials personnel, and hazardous devices personnel with the terrorist vulnerability posed by nuclear and radiological material found at soft target facilities that could be used in the construction of a Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD) or a Radiological Exposure Device (RED).
<b>Silent Thunder</b>	A series of joint counterterrorism tabletop exercises (TTX) sponsored by the FBI and the Department of Energy (DOE)/ National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). This is a command level no-fault exercise designed to familiarize federal, state and local senior managers and decision makers within the U.S.G's interagency emergency response to a terrorism incident involving R/N materials.
<b>Isotope Crossroads</b>	A command level no-fault radiological transportation security TTX designed to provide federal, state, and local first responders, public health personnel, transportation companies and radiological material producing companies with situational awareness involving Category 1 and Category 2 radiological materials in transit.
<b>Radiological Awareness and Response Workshop</b>	An FBI-hosted initiative designed to increase the incident response capabilities and radiological awareness among members of local law enforcement and public health. This program provides an opportunity to test the flow of information from public health to law enforcement and provide best practices in joint investigative techniques, emphasizing the necessity of interagency communication during a real world radiological incident.
<b>Alarm Response Training (ART)</b>	A joint venture between the FBI and DOE held at the Y-12 National Security Complex. The purpose of the program is to integrate federal, state and local personnel when responding to a WMD incident involving R/N material through a series of hands-on exercises, equipment demonstrations, safety briefings, and TTXs. Participating FBI WMDCs provide awareness of federal response procedures.
<b>Radiation Detection and Investigative Techniques (RDIT)</b>	A program provided by FBI and DOE to international partners in an effort to enhance the capabilities of international agencies to detect, deter, and interdict smuggling of R/N materials. Comprised of classroom-based lectures and operational hands-on exercises designed to integrate mobile radiation detection equipment with traditional law enforcement techniques.
<b>Counter Nuclear Smuggling (CNS)</b>	Bilateral and multilateral engagements in coordination with the U.S. interagency, focused on countries identified as high risk for R/N trafficking. Efforts include annual conferences, workshops, working groups, dialogues, and exercises. The U.S. Department of State leads diplomatic engagements with key countries around the world through Joint Action Plans (political agreements) and CNS Dialogues. At the programmatic level, the FBI promotes information sharing, best practices in intelligence analysis, law enforcement, investigations, and technical reach-back.