

JOINT COUNTER-WMD ACTIVITIES AND TASKS

Last Updated: 5 April 2016

The [US National Security Strategy](#) emphasizes the need for capabilities to counter [weapons of mass destruction](#) (CWMD) threats. The [Department of Defense Strategy for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction](#) (DODS CWMD) supports the overarching *National Security Strategy* framework through implementation of three CWMD lines of effort (LOE):

- ✦ **Prevent Acquisition:** Actions to prevent those not possessing WMD from obtaining them.
- ✦ **Contain and Reduce Threats:** Actions to reduce extant WMD risks.
- ✦ **Respond to Crises:** Operations to manage and resolve complex WMD crises.

In addition to the three LOEs, **Prepare** activities serve as a strategic enabler that continuously ensure the joint force is ready to execute CWMD operations across each of the LOEs. **Figure 1** provides a visual summary of the DODS CWMD ends-ways-means strategy for CWMD.

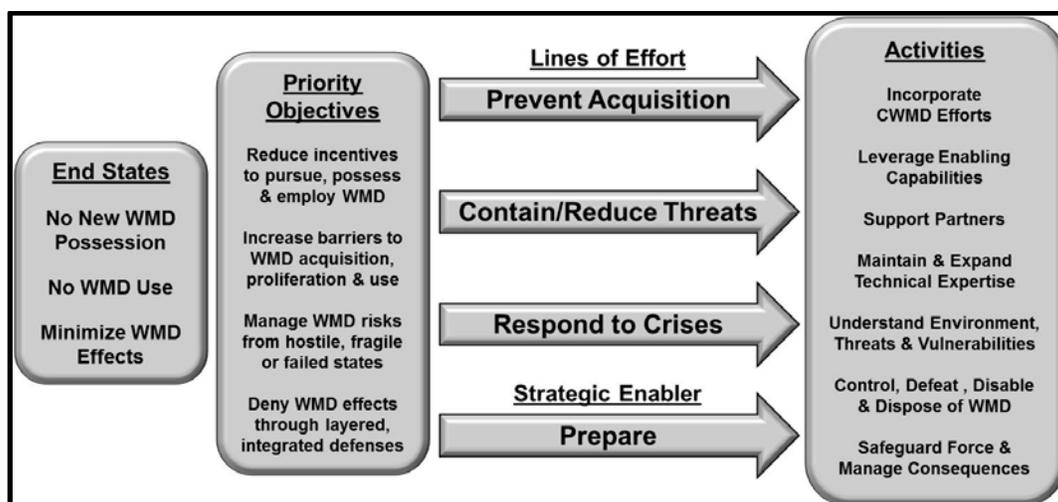


Figure 1. Department of Defense Ends-Ways-Means Approach to CWMD

The Air Force provides forces and capabilities that the joint force requires to execute CWMD operations in support of these LOEs. In turn, they enable accomplishment of the three DODS CWMD-identified end states of no new WMD possession, no WMD use, and minimization of WMD effects. DODS CWMD LOEs may be pursued individually or simultaneously depending on threat scenario and required CWMD operations and missions. The LOEs lead to CWMD activities that span the [range of](#)

[military operations](#) (ROMO). Joint CWMD activities fall into three broad categories designated in joint doctrine as: *synchronizing*, *foundational*, and *specialized*.

- ★ ***Synchronizing*** activities involve working with and leveraging other US Government (USG) organizations; allies and partners; as well as [non-governmental organizations](#) to conduct CWMD preparation activities and operations. They also involve employment of “DOD capabilities that are designed to respond to a range of other threats, meet other defense requirements, and are the responsibility of organizations with missions that extend beyond countering WMD.”¹
- ★ ***Foundational*** activities involve maintaining and expanding WMD-related technical expertise and developing cooperative relationships with allied and partner militaries on WMD issues to facilitate coordination on combined operations and missions.
- ★ ***Specialized*** activities enable the joint force to understand the WMD threat environment; control, defeat, disable, and/or dispose of WMD; safeguard the force from WMD attacks and manage the consequences of attacks and incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) weapons and agents.

¹ [Department of Defense Strategy for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction](#)

Table 1, excerpted from [JP 3-40, Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction](#), identifies Joint CWMD operations, missions, and tasks in accordance with the DODS CWMD-established LOEs and activity categories.

Application of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Activity Construct

		Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Activity Categories			
		Understand the Environment	Cooperate with and Support Partners	Control, Defeat, Disable or Dispose of Weapons of Mass Destruction Threats	Safeguard the Force and Manage Consequences
Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Lines of Effort	Prevent Acquisition	Locate, Identify, Characterize, Assess, Predict <i>Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; medical planning and logistics</i>	Partner, Coordinate <i>Security cooperation; unified action; communication synchronization; interdiction; target planning; civil-military cooperation; border security</i>	Divert and Intercept, Seize, Delay or Disrupt, Neutralize, and Destroy <i>Targeting; interdiction; information operations; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; communication synchronization</i>	Mitigate and Sustain <i>Force protection</i>
	Contain, Reduce Threats	Locate, Identify, Characterize, Assess, Predict <i>Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; weapons technical intelligence; medical planning and logistics; meteorological and oceanographic operations</i>	Partner, Coordinate <i>Security cooperation; unified action; bio-surveillance; strategic communications; targeting; information operations</i>	Divert and Intercept, Isolate, Secure, Seize, Delay or Disrupt, Neutralize, Destroy, Exploit, Degrade, Reduce, Dismantle, Redirect, and Monitor <i>Targeting; interdiction; site security; site exploitation; special forces and unified action; cooperative threat reduction; cooperation; civil-military cooperation; sanctions enforcement</i>	Mitigate, Sustain, Support <i>Force protection; health services; route reconnaissance</i>
	Respond to Crises	Locate, Identify, Characterize, Assess, Attribute, and Predict <i>Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; force posturing; bio-surveillance; forensics and evidence collection; hazard modeling</i>	Partner, Coordinate <i>Security cooperation; unified action; civil-military cooperation; communication synchronization; force protection; logistics</i>	Divert and Intercept, Isolate, Secure, Seize, Delay or Disrupt, Neutralize, Destroy, Exploit, Degrade, Mitigate, Sustain, Support <i>Targeting; interdiction; site security; information operations; special forces and unified action; force protection</i>	Mitigate, Sustain, Support <i>Force protection; health services; decontamination operations; contamination avoidance</i>

Legend
italic font: typical operations and missions normal font: tasks

Table 1: Joint CWMD Activity Construct (Excerpted from JP 3-40)

SYNCHRONIZING ACTIVITIES

Synchronizing activities, as established in the DODS CWMD, involve tasks to integrate, harmonize, and employ capabilities across the whole-of-government in order to counter adversary use and proliferation of CBRN-related threats. While the DOD often contributes to these activities, they are not applicable to joint or Air Force CWMD-specific doctrine because the focus is often on non-military actions (e.g., USG sanctions, freezing of foreign assets, etc.). As noted above, when DODS CWMD-identified synchronizing capabilities are militarily-focused, they are designed to respond

to a range of other threats beyond countering WMD. As a result, JP 3-40 does not discuss [synchronizing activities](#) and tasks, while only providing joint doctrine for foundational and specialized military activities (reference **Table 1**). In parallel with joint doctrine, synchronizing activities are not discussed in this annex, except where they may intersect with other military activities, tasks, operations, and missions.

FOUNDATIONAL AND SPECIALIZED ACTIVITIES

Foundational CWMD activities include maintaining and expanding WMD-related technical expertise and developing cooperative relationships with allies and partners. Cooperating with and supporting partners is included in JP 3-40's CWMD military activity construct depicted in **Table 1**. However, as the Table demonstrates, joint CWMD doctrine does not include efforts to maintain and expand technical expertise in the CWMD activities construct.

Specialized CWMD activities are those that provide understanding of the threat environment and related vulnerabilities; control of lost or stolen WMD; military options to defeat, disable, and dispose of adversary or actor of concern WMD and related CBRN program elements; and the ability to safeguard the force from WMD attacks while managing consequences in the restoration of operations and the saving of lives following WMD attacks and CBRN incidents. The following section provides a description of the tasks associated with CWMD foundational and specialized activities.

Maintain and Expand Technical Expertise: Maintenance and expansion of technical expertise is essential to preparing the Joint Force for CWMD operations and therefore functions as a cross-cutting enabler for each military activity. The ability to recruit, develop, and retain sufficient numbers of educated, trained, and exercised military, civilian, or contractor personnel is required to execute tasks across all CWMD activities.

Cooperate With and Support Partners: Cooperating with other organizations across the DOD and USG, as well as with allies and partners, is a CWMD capability multiplier. Military-to-military partnerships enhance both the execution of unilateral and combined CWMD operations; enabling more equitable burden sharing among the US and friendly nations in countering WMD threats. CWMD partnerships should include operational planning coordination and information sharing to ensure a common operating picture while improving situational awareness, force interoperability, and incident response preparedness.

Understand the WMD Environment, Threats and Vulnerabilities: Understanding the operational environment involves collecting, processing, exploiting, and disseminating timely and actionable intelligence on adversaries and/or actors of concern and their proliferation and/or use of CBRN weapons and materials. Service and DOD [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance](#) (ISR) feeds national intelligence needed to locate, identify, characterize (pre-, trans- and post-conflict), assess, attribute, predict and forecast information relating to WMD and CBRN-related threats.

Control WMD/CBRN Threats (including recovery of lost or stolen material): Control activities reduce WMD threats through isolation or denial of adversary access to CBRN-related materials and resources, including facilities and personnel. These

activities may also include diverting proliferated CBRN weapons and agents along with related material through military direct action or through formal diplomatic channels. In addition, these activities may involve intercepting, seizing, and securing CBRN-related material.

Defeat WMD Threats: Pathway and WMD defeat activities cover the spectrum of offensive activity, from conventional to [cyberspace](#) and [special operations](#), which address an adversary or actor of concern's development and use of WMD. Pathway defeat activities focus on actions to delay, disrupt, destroy, or otherwise complicate conceptualization, development, possession, and proliferation of WMD. When an adversary or actor of concern obtains WMD or the critical components (e.g., expertise, technology, materials, delivery systems, facilities, personnel) needed to acquire a weapons capability, WMD defeat operations target and strike critical vulnerabilities (e.g., the ability to assemble, stockpile, deliver, transfer, or employ WMD) to neutralize or destroy the threat.

Disable WMD and Related Program Infrastructure: Disabling efforts involve exploitation, degradation, or destruction of WMD, as well as critical and at-risk components of an actor of concern's WMD program.

Dispose of WMD Threats, Related CBRN Materials, and Program Infrastructure: WMD disposal activities involve systematic efforts to remove the remnants of an actor of concern's WMD program. These efforts include tasks to dismantle capabilities; redirect or re-purpose material, facilities, and personnel; and continuously monitor adversary or actor of concern activities to ensure compliance with treaties and agreements involving CBRN weapons, agents, and related materials.

Safeguard the Force and Manage Consequences: Safeguarding the force and managing consequences enables the joint force to survive and operate through WMD attacks and CBRN incidents through the mitigation of CBRN effects and the sustainment of mission critical capabilities in contaminated environments. The activity also includes CBRN incident response support to US and [foreign civil authorities](#) that mitigate the hazards and the effects of CBRN weapons use to restore operations and save lives.

NUCLEAR DETERRENCE AND CWMD OPERATIONS

Doctrine underscores the importance of strategic [deterrence](#) to CWMD operations. It explains that 'no new WMD possession' and 'no WMD use' are CWMD end states."² As with CWMD activities, strategic deterrence supports the DOD CWMD lines of effort that enable accomplishment of [priority objectives and strategic end states](#). Strategic deterrence is an effort separate from, but closely coordinated with CWMD. In the Air Force, the linkage between strategic deterrence and CWMD reflects a more interconnected approach. Its goal is to achieve nuclear deterrence, which constitutes a subset of strategic deterrence. Forces tasked to provide nuclear deterrence are not the only Air Force capabilities that can serve as a WMD deterrent, but they do provide a visible, flexible, and credible capability. In turn they reinforce other Air Force deterrence capabilities such as conventional precision [strike](#).

² JP 3-40, [Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction](#), 31 October 2014.

Comprising two of the three legs of the [US nuclear triad](#), Air Force nuclear capabilities support US strategic deterrence activities. The fundamental purpose of the US nuclear arsenal is to deter adversaries from attacking the US and its interests with nuclear weapons or other WMDs. Additionally, US nuclear forces assure allies of America's continuing commitment to their security, dissuade potential adversaries from embarking on programs, and [defeat](#) threats when deterrence fails. Air Force nuclear deterrence forces, in turn, support both national strategic deterrence as well as joint force CWMD.

(For additional information, reference [Annex 3-72, Nuclear Operations](#).)
