

News Release



*Defense Threat Reduction Agency
U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction
Standing Joint Force Headquarters for Elimination*

On the Web: www.dtra.mil
Media Contact: 1 (703) 767-5870

For Immediate Release

No. DTRA 2016-04
March 1, 2016

BEVERSTOCK: AN INTERNATIONAL APPROACH IS ESSENTIAL TO COUNTER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION



FORT BELVOIR, VA – At the 14th Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Global Synchronization Conference hosted by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency/U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (DTRA/SCC-WMD), Rear Admiral Mark Beverstock, United Kingdom's Assistant Chief of Defense Staff for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological, outlined the multiple concurrent WMD threats posed by state and non-state actors

“Strong alliances and partnerships worldwide are more important than ever,” said RAdm Mark Beverstock. “In almost every aspect of our national security, we must work with others, not because we cannot work alone, but because the threats and opportunities are global and we can produce an effect that is greater than the sum of its parts.”

RAdm Beverstock's message highlights a critical element for success in the counter WMD mission space. “No one Department, no single geographic region, no single country can marshal the necessary capabilities alone to successfully fight the WMD threats we face in this day and age,” said Director of DTRA/SCC-WMD, Ken Myers. “Success requires careful collaboration and communication across a variety of functional areas and also with a diverse group of institutions, partner nations and organizations abroad.”

“We now face multiple concurrent threats (and risks) from terrorism, a resurgence of state based threats, an expansionist Russia and a growing cyber threat,” said RAdm Beverstock. “The threat has

become more diverse, with the rise of non-state actors who have no issues with using WMD.”

The conference focus is on collaborative CWMD issue resolution and information exchange, with an emphasis on existing and emerging worldwide threats, current and future CWMD capabilities, and synchronization of related planning activities.

“This threat is significantly harder to deter and, with the expansion we have seen in global trade, much harder to detect or attribute, or differentiate from legitimate production or scientific research (the dual-use problem),” said RAdm Beverstock. “To meet these challenges will require moving from just a whole of government approach to a “whole of International approach.”

#END#

DTRA is the U.S. Department of Defense’s official Combat Support Agency for countering weapons of mass destruction, addressing the entire spectrum of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosive threats. DTRA’s programs include basic science research and development, operational support to U.S. warfighters on the front line, and an in-house WMD think tank that aims to anticipate and mitigate future threats long before they have a chance to harm the United States and our allies. SCC-WMD, the U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction, synchronizes Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction efforts across our military’s geographic commands and leverages the people, programs and interagency relationships of DTRA at a strategic level. We work with the military services, other elements of the United States government, and countries across the planet on counterproliferation, nonproliferation and WMD reduction issues with one goal in mind: Making the World Safer.