

News Release



Defense Threat Reduction Agency

U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction

Standing Joint Force Headquarters for Elimination

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HANEY: WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT APPROACH IS IMPERATIVE TO COUNTER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

FORT BELVOIR, Va. – U.S. Navy Adm. Cecil D. Haney, U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) commander, discussed the importance of collaboration and innovation in the fight against weapons of mass destruction (WMD) during the 14th Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) Global Synchronization Conference here, March 1.

During the event - hosted by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency/USSTRATCOM Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (DTRA/SCC-WMD) – Haney also highlighted the complexity of the CWMD mission and its regional and global impact.

“To ensure the United States, its allies, and partners are neither attacked or coerced with WMD or materials of concern, it is imperative that we continue to enhance our capabilities, coalitions and situational awareness to counter WMD using a whole of government approach,” Haney said. “We will all accomplish more through our collaborative efforts.”

He added that working together “widens the aperture of our understanding of each other’s capabilities and capacities in defeating our adversaries and potential adversaries.”

The fourth senior leader tabletop exercise was also held during the conference, with leaders from across the DoD enterprise - including U.S. Air Force Gen. Paul J. Selva, Joint Chiefs of Staff vice chairman - addressing issues such as international coordination in dealing with trans-regional WMD threats and strategic communication within the interagency.

“We have contemplated unthinkable scenarios,” Haney said. “And while they may not play out exactly as exercised, each scenario stretches our intellectual bounds and our critical thinking.”

Haney concluded his remarks by highlighting the multitude of strategic threats posed by ISIL and provocative nation-states, and reemphasizing the need to work together to counter WMD threats.

“Today’s strategic landscape is complex, which is why expanding partnerships to counter WMD globally is so foundational to our strategy,” he said.

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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.