

## The Defense Threat Reduction Agency

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) is charged with reducing the present threat to the United States and its allies from weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and preventing future threats. DTRA is creating the intellectual infrastructure for a new approach to deter and counter the worldwide proliferation of WMD.

The Agency supports the U.S.'s nuclear deterrent capability; reduces the threat from nuclear, chemical, biological, other special and conventional weapons; and counters threats posed by WMD. DTRA provides operational and analytical support for nuclear stockpile stewardship duties and technical support for nuclear weapons in Department of Defense (DoD) custody. The Agency focuses DoD efforts to prepare for and respond to chemical or biological attacks on U.S. or friendly forces, including overseeing the development and implementation of special weapons technologies. These technologies provide U.S. military commanders options for effective targeting against underground or hardened structures and enhanced capabilities to assess battle damage. The Agency implements on-site arms control inspection, escort and monitoring activities, supports arms control confidence building activities and develops treaty verification monitoring technologies.

DTRA reviews licenses for the export of U.S. technologies that could be used to support the production and delivery of WMD or conventional weapons to ensure that the transfers are consistent with U.S. national security interests. It implements the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, which assists former Soviet Union countries in reducing their WMD infrastructure and provides verifiable safeguards against WMD proliferation. DTRA conducts force protection vulnerability assessments designed to protect military and civilian personnel and their families from terrorist acts. The Agency leads DoD efforts to support operational forces and develop field systems to counter WMD proliferation.

The Director reports to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology. The Director's advisors include senior officials from the Department of Energy, the Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the science and technology community. The Threat Reduction Advisory Committee of defense and security experts identifies threats and solutions for current and emerging WMD challenges. It advises and assists the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology and other senior Office of the Secretary of Defense officials.

The Secretary of Defense's November 1997 Defense Reform Initiative directed DTRA be created to strengthen and improve WMD threat reduction. DTRA, a designated combat support agency, was established on Oct. 1, 1998. The Agency is authorized 2,110 military and civilian personnel and has a fiscal year 2000 budget of \$1.2 billion. DTRA Headquarters is located at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

The Agency operates field offices in Alexandria and Arlington, Va.; Albuquerque, N.M.; Magna, Utah; and San Francisco, Calif. Overseas locations include Frankfurt, Germany; Minsk, Belarus; Almaty, Kazakhstan; Moscow and Votkinsk, Russia; Kiev, Ukraine; and Yokota, Japan; and Johnston Atoll, Pacific Ocean.

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