



Fact Sheet

NNSA's Second Line of Defense Program

The mission of the National Nuclear Security Administration's Second Line of Defense (SLD) Program is to strengthen the capability of foreign governments to detect and deter illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials across international borders and through the global maritime shipping system. The goal is to reduce the probability of these materials being fashioned into a weapon of mass destruction or a radiological dispersal device against the United States or its key allies and international partners.

Under this program, NNSA works collaboratively with foreign partners to equip border crossings, airports, and seaports with radiation detection equipment. SLD provides training in use of the systems for appropriate law enforcement officials and initial system sustainability support as the host government assumes operational responsibility for the equipment.

Two programs fall under the SLD Program – the SLD Core Program and Megaports Initiative. The Core Program installs radiation detection equipment at borders, airports, and strategic feeder ports in Russia, former Soviet Union states, and other key countries. Approximately 350 sites have been identified to receive detection equipment installations under the Core Program. The Megaports Initiative provides radiation detection equipment to key international seaports to screen cargo containers for nuclear and other radioactive materials. Approximately 70 ports worldwide are targeted for implementation of the Megaports program.

SLD Core Program

- The SLD Core Program began working cooperatively with the Russian Customs Service in 1998. A total of 88 sites in Russia were equipped by the end of fiscal year 2006.
- In 2002, the Core Program also assumed responsibility for maintaining detection equipment installed between 1992-2002 under several U.S. government programs in 23 former Soviet Union and Central European countries. Efforts are underway to upgrade and, where necessary, expand the detection capabilities in several of these countries. The Core team has initiated the installation of extensive detection systems in Ukraine, Slovenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

- The Core Program deployed detection equipment in Greece as part of the U.S. government's commitment to the security of the 2004 Olympic Games.
- The Core Program cooperates closely with the components of the Department of Defense and State that have complementary responsibilities for international border security.

Megaports Initiative

- NNSA has made steady progress on the Megaports Initiative since the program's beginning in fiscal year 2003. The Megaports Initiative is currently operational in six countries: Greece, the Bahamas, Sri Lanka, the Netherlands, Singapore, and Spain. NNSA is at various stages of implementing the Megaports program at ports within: Belgium, China, Dubai, Honduras, Israel, Oman, the Philippines, and Thailand, Egypt, Honduras, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and Taiwan.
- To expand participation in this important effort to prevent nuclear and radioactive material smuggling, the Megaports team is engaged in negotiations with approximately 20 additional countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and South America.
- The Megaports Initiative cooperates closely with the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Customs and Border Protection by making technical resources available to complement the Container Security Initiative at international ports.

December 2006