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## Reducing the risk of nuclear terrorism

**R. Hibbs**

*US Dept. of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration  
Washington, D.C., USA  
[Russ.Hibbs@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:Russ.Hibbs@nnsa.doe.gov)*

The March 2005 "International Conference on Nuclear Security, Global Directions for the Future" noted that nuclear terrorism is one of the greatest threats to society. Eminent members of a multi-national panel stated that there is no one principal activity to reduce the risk of nuclear terrorism and that a combination of activities is required. This paper seeks to identify those activities by analyzing the elements that comprise the Risk of nuclear terrorism. For the purpose of the analysis, Risk is the product of the probability of a terrorist attack ( $A^P$ ), the success of a terrorist act ( $S^P$ ) and the consequence ( $C$ ) of the attack:  $R=A^P * S^P * C$ .

The paper examines each of these three elements of Risk with the objective of identifying what we are doing and what else we could be doing to reduce Risk. It takes into consideration some historic catastrophes, examines how they might have been prevented or their consequences reduced, and if there are lessons that are applicable to reducing the Risk of nuclear terrorism.

The paper demonstrates that we have concentrated on only one of the three elements of Risk and offers suggestions for diminishing the Risk of nuclear terrorism by addressing all the elements.