



FACT SHEET

THE BIG PICTURE

The United States, its Allies, and partners are facing a dramatically changing security landscape - one with both legacy weapons of mass destruction (WMD) capabilities and novel threats enhanced by emerging technologies; renewed competition with two states armed with a suite of WMD capabilities; and adversaries who seek to use WMD tools to deter, coerce, and gain the upper hand.

The 2023 Strategy accounts for the current and emerging WMD challenges and threats consistent in the 2022 National Defense Strategy, and expands on the need for tailored methods to address them. These efforts focus not only on preventing and mitigating WMD threats, but also on preparing U.S. military forces to withstand, operate through, and recover from WMD attacks in close consultation with Allies and partners.

THE PRIORITIES

DEFEND

the Homeland from
WMD attack

DETER

use against the United
States, its Allies, and
partners

ENABLE

the Joint Force to prevail in a
chemical, biological,
radiological, and nuclear
(CBRN) environment

PREVENT

new WMD threats

THE IMPLEMENTATION

1. **Provide credible options** to deter WMD use and assure Allies and partners;
2. **Build a Joint Force** that can campaign, fight, and win in a CBRN environment;
3. **Enable Allies and partners** to counter WMD proliferation and use;
4. **Degrade actor capability** to develop, acquire, or use WMD;
5. **Take action**, as part of whole-of-government efforts, to prevent proliferation and respond to use of WMD; and
6. **Pursue advanced research and development** efforts to counter future chemical and biological threats.

THE TAKEAWAY

The Department must confront the complex and demanding challenges of WMD head-on, within the Department's overall approach to integrated deterrence and conflict, and with ingenuity and determination. As part of that effort, the Department will plan, campaign through, fight, and win in a WMD-contested environment.

