



Truman National Security Project Educational Institute

Cooperative Threat Reduction

Security through multilateralism

A Brief History of CTR:

The Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Program (named for Senators Sam Nunn [D-GA] and Richard Lugar [R-IN]) was started in 1991 to assist former Soviet States to control, protect, and dismantle their nuclear, biological, and chemical weapon stockpiles. The U.S. has pledged \$10 billion to CTR programs over the past ten years, administered by the Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Commerce, and the Department of State, working in cooperation with foreign governments and technical organizations.

Since its conception, the CTR's emphasis on uniting nations around nonproliferation has been the foundation for international treaties and conferences, as well as U.S. domestic legislation, which facilitate the goal of "getting to zero"- to completely eliminating the global nuclear threat. Diverse programs including nuclear warhead dismantlement, control, and accounting, chemical and biological weapons destruction, reactor core conversions, and export control initiatives aim to reduce WMD terrorism with special emphasis on Iraq and Afghanistan, the former Soviet Union, Libya, and non-state actors. The strategic offensive arms elimination initiative has led to the total nuclear disarmament of states including Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Belarus.

Current Structure:

Currently, the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation at the U.S. Department of State oversees the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) programs, also known as Global Threat Reduction (GTR) programs. CTR programs work closely with the G-8 Global Partnership organization to support multilateral nonproliferation activities.

Current CTR programs include:

- *The Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP)* – limiting access to potentially dangerous technical expertise and pathogens.
- *The Chemical Security Engagement Program (CSP)* - promoting chemical security in academic and industrial sectors and deterring terrorists from acquiring WMD chemicals and expertise.
- *The Partnership for Nuclear Security (PNS)* - establishing partnerships for the peaceful use of nuclear energy in support of global nuclear security through workshops, conferences, and exchange programs.
- *The Science Centers Program* - supports Science and Technology Centers in Moscow and Ukraine to engage scientists and engineers in the former Soviet Union.
- *The Libya Scientist Engagement Program* - supports the transition of Libya's former weapons scientists to peaceful civilian activities.
- *The Iraq Scientist Engagement Program* - engages Iraqi scientists, engineers and technicians to promote a culture of nonproliferation in Iraq.

A Springboard for the Future:

In his April 5, 2009 Prague speech, President Obama clearly stated that nuclear terrorism is "the most immediate and extreme threat to global security". He renewed U.S. commitment to CTR philosophy by outlining a multi-faceted strategy for a world free of nuclear weapons. This strategy to eliminate existing nuclear weapon stockpiles, halt further proliferation, and prevent terrorists from acquiring nuclear materials and technology has become the foundation for upcoming CTR treaties, conferences, and initiatives:

1. *2010 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR)*- In contrast to the 1993 and 2002 NPRs, President Obama's policy made several important distinctions from previous nuclear policy:
 - The U.S. will not use nuclear weapons against non-weapons states, if they are in compliance with their NPT obligations.

- The U.S. will continue to provide a nuclear shield for its allies.
 - The U.S. will reduce its stockpile of deployed warheads from 1,700 to 1,550.
 - The U.S. will not develop any new weapons.
 - The U.S. will not conduct nuclear testing and will seek ratification of the CTBT.
2. *START Treaty*- After lengthy ratification battles in Congress, on December 22, 2010, the U.S. adopted an updated treaty which reduces U.S. and Russian warheads by 74% and allows international inspectors into both countries' stockpiles. Ratification of the new START Treaty was seen as a victory in reinvigorating the CTR program.
 3. *2010 Nuclear Security Summit (NSS)*- President Obama invited leaders from over forty countries and international organizations to facilitate discussion on the threats of vulnerable materials, nuclear smuggling, and terrorism. The next NSS will be held in Seoul, South Korea in 2012, when world leaders hope to establish a plan for a Middle East zone free of WMDs and nuclear weapons.
 4. *Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)*- The CTBT obligates all ratifying countries "not to carry out any nuclear weapons test explosions." Ratifying the CTBT would allow the U.S to gain leverage in nuclear weapons talks with other nations.
 5. *Fissile Materials Cutoff Treaty (FMCT)*- The FMCT attempts to limit the global proliferation of nuclear weapons materials including Highly-Enriched Uranium and Plutonium. Treaty progress has been blocked by international actors including Pakistan, citing strategic parity with India as central to achieving an agreement.
 6. *2015 Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference*- The next meeting will focus on progress of the previous 5 years, as well as the CTBT, FMCT, the Middle East free zone, and the status of potential proliferators.

Challenges to CTR

- International *non*-cooperation, including dangerous proliferators (Iran and North Korea), as well as those unlikely to relinquish nuclear weapons because of domestic security issues (India, Pakistan, Israel)
- Increased emphasis on nuclear energy = increase of potentially dangerous fissile materials
- "Extended deterrence"- Allies such as Japan want us to maintain our weapons stockpiles, in order to provide a security umbrella
- Congressional opposition, for example from Senator Jon Kyl and Tea Party Caucus.

References:

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