

# Mitigating Nuclear Smuggling Through Collaboration: The Counter Nuclear Smuggling Task Force

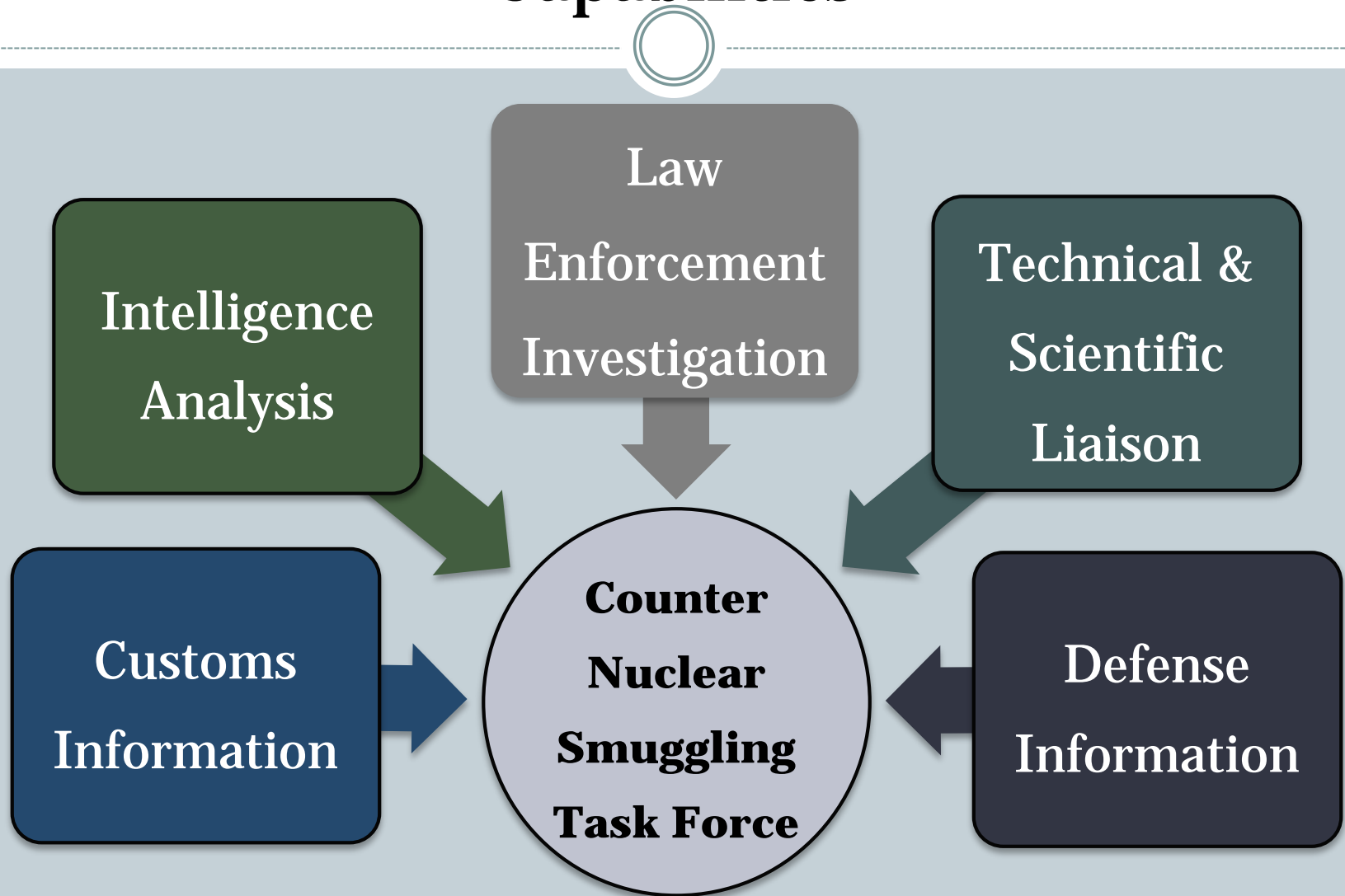


**JASON RAY**

**FBI SPECIAL AGENT AND WEAPONS OF MASS  
DESTRUCTION ASSISTANT LEGAL ATTACHÉ**



# Counter Nuclear Smuggling Task Force Capabilities



# Counter Nuclear Smuggling Mission



- ❑ **Secure** nuclear material within national borders
- ❑ **Collect and Manage** Information
- ❑ **Investigate** suspected smugglers and their networks
- ❑ **Share** information with local and international partners
- ❑ **Analyze** nuclear smuggling networks
- ❑ **Prosecute** suspected smugglers and their networks

# Secure Nuclear Material Within National Borders



- **Identify** sources of nuclear/radiological material.
- **Ensure** that known sources are monitored and protected by the government against potential diversion.
- **Detect and respond** to smuggling activities taking place within a country's borders and compliment fixed radiation detection equipment placed along a country's perimeter.
- **Manage** contaminated crime scenes.
- **Secure** nuclear and radioactive material.
- **Preserve and analyze** evidence.



# Collect and Manage Information

- **Collect and manage** intelligence from various governmental and non-governmental sources.
- **Conduct outreach** with governmental and non-governmental entities (companies and various private and public entities).
- **Maintain liaison** with industry partners. This can provide advanced notice of suspicious individuals attempting to utilize companies and/or false documentation to acquire material.



# Investigate Suspected Smugglers and Networks



- **Importance of Investigations:** The vast majority of seizures stem from active intelligence and law enforcement investigations rather than passive or fixed radiation detection equipment.
- **Larger Smuggling Network:** It is vital to conduct long-term surveillance and investigation into the larger network rather than make an early arrest.
- **Investigative Techniques:** Follow-on investigation via telephone intercepts, informant reporting, undercover officers, surveillance, and joint operations between governmental departments can assist in determining smuggling routes, methods of diversion, and links to criminal and/or terrorist groups.
- **Investigating Scams:** All cases should be assessed and investigated, including scams, due to the fact that some individuals possessing scam materials in the past have also possessed legitimate material.

# Share Information with National, Local and International Partners



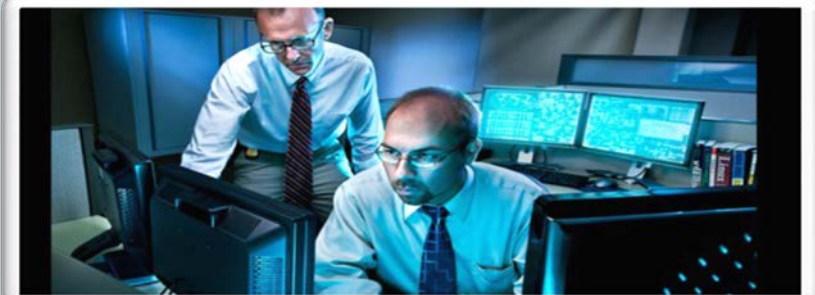
- Complex nature of smuggling investigations requires input from national and local partners.
- Transnational nature of smuggling networks necessitates bilateral/multilateral information sharing.
- Smugglers in one country can operate freely in another where officials are unaware.
- Adequate notification and effective coordination is vital.



# Analyze Nuclear Smuggling Networks



- Assist in identifying other network members and their roles.
- Identify smuggling routes, techniques and trends.
- Uncover links to criminal or terrorist networks.
- Analyze and resolve vulnerabilities within existing nuclear security framework.



# Prosecute Suspected Smugglers and Networks

- Identify legal statutes applicable to prosecuting nuclear smuggling.
- Identify and establish laws applicable to hoax material.
- Determine scope of forensic analysis & expert testimony necessary to prosecute.
- Focus on the overarching goal of prosecuting smugglers.
- Share information with partners to ensure extradition of foreign subjects.
- Work with prosecutors prior to and during investigations to ensure admissibility of evidence and successful prosecution.



# United States Government Internal Collaboration



**U.S. Government Agencies work together to create robust Counter Nuclear Smuggling Capabilities:**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

LOCAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERS

# FBI Responsibilities

## **Investigate, Apprehend, Assist Prosecution**

1. Conduct domestic intelligence gathering and dissemination.
2. Coordinate investigative activities with relevant U.S. Government agencies, industry, and international partners.
3. Conduct a threat assessment (Threat Credibility Evaluation).
4. Identify, detect, deter and disrupt terrorist operations before they occur.
5. Initiate national search and response operational plans and deploy FBI assets to an incident as necessary.
6. Arrest smugglers and assist in their prosecution.



# FBI Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Coordinators

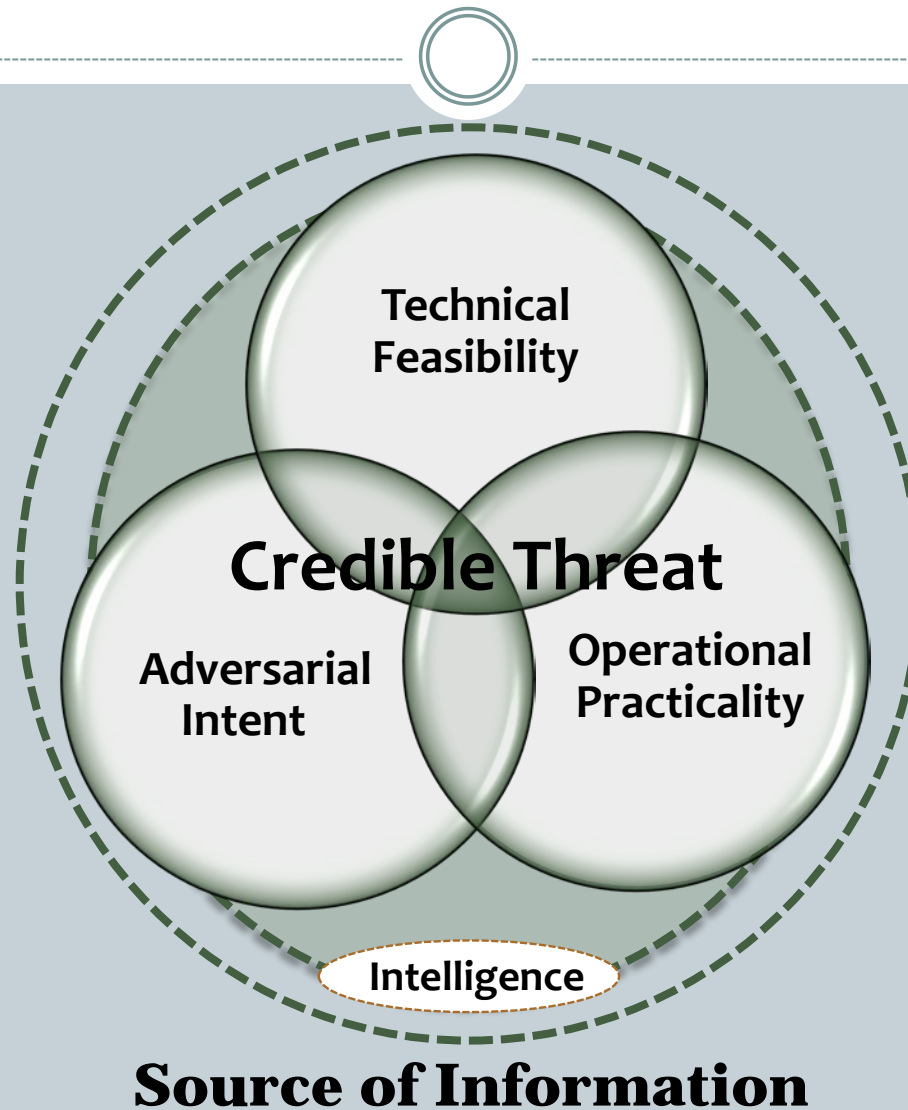
**Coordinates on-scene WMD threat and incident response to ensure the safety of FBI personnel and the integrity of evidence collection.**



## Other WMD Coordinator Roles:

- Primary subject matter expert for the local FBI field office for WMD incident response.
- FBI point of contact for Emergency Responders when confronted by a WMD threat or incident.
- Provides guidance and recommended courses of action to office executive management and/or on-scene command.
- Acts as a conduit to FBI headquarters and the U.S. Government for technical information, advice, and assistance.
- Provides investigative advice and assistance on other cases which have a WMD nexus.
- Leads WMD pre-event planning and prevention.
- Conducts liaison with local law enforcement, government, industry and other relevant private and public entities.

# FBI's Threat Credibility Evaluation Process



# Joint Terrorism Task Force




- There are **104** specialized interagency collaboration groups within the U.S. called Joint Terrorism Task Forces, including one at each of the FBI's 56 Field Offices.
- Each Joint Terrorism Task Force is a group of highly trained interagency representatives working together to combat terrorism by leveraging expertise and resources.



# Benefits of Collaboration



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- A vertical decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of four dark teal chevron arrows pointing upwards, stacked vertically.
- Improved Notification
  - Shared Information
  - Common Understanding
  - Successful Prosecutions

# Challenges of Collaboration



- **Competing Mission Priorities**



- **Lack of Common Terminology**



- **Inability to Share Sensitive Information**

# Recommended Solutions

## **Establish a Counter Nuclear Smuggling Task Force**

- Develop a central coordinating mechanism for domestic and international nuclear and radiological trafficking incidents.

## **Develop standardized protocols**

- How is classified information shared?
- What is the incident command structure?
- How are cross-border investigations conducted?

## **Conduct training exercises**

- Identify available resources and response assets.
- Develop and maintain liaison with other government departments and partners.



# International Coordination



## DOMESTIC

- Domestic Counter Nuclear Smuggling Capabilities



## REGIONAL

- Bilateral Partners
- Regional Partners



## INTERNATIONAL

- FBI Legal Attaché
- INTERPOL
- IAEA



# FBI Legal Attaché





Investigative  
Assistance

Laboratory  
Assistance

International  
Training

## **FBI Legal Attaché Contacts:**

**Daniel Dudzinski, +7-7172-70-2394**  
**Legal Attaché, Astana, Kazakhstan**

**Jason Ray, +995-32-227-79-30**  
**WMD Assistant Legal Attaché, Tbilisi, Georgia**



# Questions?

