

**Group members:** Mark Ihimoyan, Zaheer Maskatia, Avi Springer, Sean West, and George Willcoxon.

**Topic:** An analysis of possible approaches to dealing with the threat of a nuclear attack by terrorists.

**Topic proposal:**

For our white paper, we would like to perform an analysis of possible policy responses to the threat of a catastrophic nuclear attack on the US by terrorists. We intend to take a cost-effectiveness approach. We will consider the benefits and costs of a few different approaches to defending against or dealing with a nuclear attack. We will then weigh these costs and benefits taking into account the likelihood and potential cost of a nuclear attack. Although we have yet to determine which policy approaches we will assess, we are considering the following options: cargo screening, non-proliferation strategies, and recovery/cleanup. As we conduct more research, we will expand or narrow down this list as appropriate.

**Division of Labor:**

We have divided the project up into five topic areas. Each of us will be responsible for one of these (though we realize that there will have to be a lot of collaboration since the topics are all interrelated):

- 1) The probability that a terrorist-launched nuclear attack will occur
- 2) The likely cost of a successful nuclear attack
- 3) Summary of policy approaches currently being pursued as well as approaches that are not but should be considered
- 4) Analysis of the cost and potential for success of each of the identified approaches
- 5) Recommendation as to which approach or approaches make(s) the most sense