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WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION – A GIGANTIC DISPOSAL CHALLENGE

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ABSTRACT

When on 11 September 2001 the airplanes flew into the World Trade Center, the world froze. The attack was not only a tragedy of massive proportions in terms of lost lives, but it also signified a threshold in terms of what terrorists were prepared to do in order to achieve their objectives. The anthrax attacks during the autumn of 2001 added to concerns over the gigantic threat posed by weapons of mass destruction (WMD). In addition, WMD proliferation on a state level has come under the world's spotlights with the war against Iraq and countries like North Korea stealing the headlines. Perhaps less highlighted are dangers such as the world's large number of tactical nuclear weapons and the widespread existence of radiological, chemical, and biological material and know-how. In this presentation, the nature and size of the WMD threat will be discussed as well as potential ways of countering that threat.