

BIOTERRORISM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ROMANIA - IMPLICATIONS FOR NATO STRATEGIC CONCEPT -

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In November 2010, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) adopted a new Strategic Concept that will serve as the Alliance's roadmap for the next ten years, adopting new approaches in international engagement and aiming to further develop its capacity to defend against the threat of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). As the world's leading international security organization, NATO is well-positioned to take a more visible role in combating terrorism and WMD proliferation. However, consideration of such a role also involves addressing the challenges faced by its new Members in terms of meeting the required readiness levels for NATO operations and also their national preparedness goals.

Countering Biological Threats and NATO's Strategic Concept

Natural outbreaks of disease could pose significant challenges to global security by undermining national economies, international trade and travel, public health and safety, and the trust of populace in its own government, potentially leading to ineffective governance or fragile state collapse. Such weakened or failed states could become a source of global security threats including regional instability, organized crime, terrorism, and the proliferation of WMDs and related materials.

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