



### Radiological Agents

Medical and industrial radioactive sources can be used to make a "dirty bomb" powered by conventional explosives. Such an attack could create very significant disruption, forcing population evacuation and requiring costly and extensive decontamination efforts. The likelihood of terrorists using a dirty bomb is much higher than their using a nuclear weapon, but would have a much lower impact.

### WMD-Related Knowledge

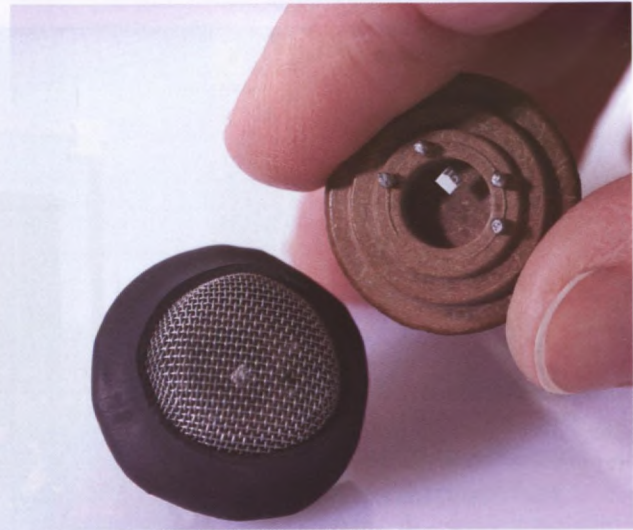
Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the career prospects of thousands of weapons scientists became very precarious in Russia and in other FSU countries. Today, their highly specialized knowledge on WMD design and production remains of potential interest to terrorist organizations and states of proliferation concern. Research has shown that younger male scientists, as well as those involved in biological and nuclear weapons research, are particularly at risk of being recruited. To reduce this proliferation risk, programs such as the Global Partnership are redirecting these individuals toward peaceful and productive scientific pursuits. Efforts include helping former weapons scientists:

- find sustainable employment opportunities;
- develop new skills through professional development;
- get involved in commercially viable research; and
- integrate into the international scientific community.



An unprotected, highly radioactive source awaits Canadian-funded recovery and disposal.

*Photo: United States Department of Energy.*



This nanotechnology-based hydrogen gas sensor was developed by a technical institute in Moscow with funding from a program to prevent the proliferation of weapons expertise.

*Photo: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), United States Department of Energy.*