

2.4 Summary of the Space Weapon Environment (Continued)

In the matter of terrestrial targets of category 2 (Table 2-7), there are two classes:

- (a) Area targets
- (b) Point targets

An area target might be a city or military/industrial area. A point target might be a missile launch site or a military/government command and control center. Taking into account the features of spacebased weapons and cost effective alternatives, it is concluded that area targets would be more rewarding than point targets.

Hence the nuclear radiation/EMP risk could be relatively high. A bacteriological/chemical risk is valid to consider but the necessary optimal target conditions, including local weather conditions could present some difficulty in such a scenario.

Concerning the category 3 target in Table 2-7 , ballistic missiles, little more can be said at this time. The destruction of ballistic missiles in flight in the context of current US thinking places a weapon system in space, where none now exist. This event could trigger the generation of the category 4 targets, another weapon.