

VEO perception of targets' ability to attribute the attack in a timely manner may deter VEO activity.

20; 21

General Description of the Literature:

Several authors in the policy and political science literatures have proposed that the ability to attribute the perpetrator of an attack in a timely manner may deter VEO activity, including Levi (2004), Talmadge (2007), Chivers et al. (2008), Gallucci (2006), and Miller (2007). This literature focuses almost exclusively on nuclear forensics capabilities as a tool of deterring state sponsorship of nuclear terrorism. Many of these authors also assert that the greater degree of certainty with which the counterterrorist can identify the attack and the better the adversary understands the counterterrorist's attribution capabilities, the better able states will be to deter terrorist activity. Scholars in the field of criminology (e.g., Schavell 1993) have also suggested that the ability to identify the perpetrators of crime through fingerprinting or DNA evidence might deter crime. However, there have been no systematic empirical studies of this hypothesized dynamic either as it relates to terrorism or crime.

Detailed Analyses

20: *VEO perception of targets' ability to attribute the attack in a timely manner may deter VEO activity.*

Summary of Relevant Empirical Evidence: There is no relevant empirical evidence.

Empirical Support Score: 0

Applicability to Influencing VEOs: N/A

Applicability Score: Not Applicable – There is no empirical support in any context.

21: *VEO perception of targets' ability to attribute the attack in a timely manner with a high degree of certainty may deter VEO activity.*

Summary of Relevant Empirical Evidence: There is no relevant empirical evidence.

Empirical Support Score: 0

Applicability to Influencing VEOs: N/A

Applicability Score: Not Applicable – There is no empirical support in any context.

Bibliography:

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- Gallucci, Robert. 2006. "Averting Nuclear Catastrophe: Contemplating Extreme Responses to U.S. Vulnerability." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 607: 51-58.
- Levi, Michael A. 2004. "Deterring Nuclear Terrorism." *Issues in Science and Technology* 20(Spring): 1-4.
- Miller, Michael. 2007. "Nuclear Attribution as Deterrence." *The Nonproliferation Review* 14(1): 33-60.
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