

*Increased uncertainty about the ability to control the effects of biological weapons makes VEOs less likely to use them.*

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General Description of the Literature:

The broader literature on cultivating doubt and tactical uncertainty is addressed in related hypotheses. However, the political science literature specifically addressing influencing VEO doubt in relation to controlling biological weapons is limited. Davis and Jenkins (2002) speculate that terrorists may be self-deterred from pursuing biological weapons based on passive or uncontrolled spreading of disease. To date, this self-deterrence has not been foolproof. More research is needed to determine whether this self-deterrence takes place at all and if its increase can be manipulated.

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Detailed Analyses

**66:** *Increased uncertainty about the ability to control the effects of biological weapons makes VEOs less likely to use them.*

**Summary of Relevant Empirical Evidence:** There is no relevant empirical evidence addressing the hypothesis.

**Empirical Support Score: 0 = No empirical support (for or against the hypothesis)**

**Applicability to Influencing VEOs:** N/A.

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

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Bibliography:

Davis, Paul, and Brian Jenkins. 2002. *Deterrence & Influence in Counterterrorism: A Component in the War on al Qaeda*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND.