



NEWS

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United States and United Kingdom Scientists to Collaborate on Ways to Detect Chemical and Biological Weapons

Scientists from the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence will soon be collaborating on ways to detect and address the threat of biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction as a result of an agreement signed between the United States and the United Kingdom today.

"Exchanging scientific knowledge and technology to help detect and defeat chemical and biological threats will help us address threats from terrorists and other adversaries who could acquire these weapons of mass destruction," said NNSA Administrator John Gordon who signed the agreement on behalf of the United States. "Our countries have a long history of defense science cooperation, going all the way back to the Manhattan Project, and it makes sense to partner again to address this new challenge."

Signing on behalf of the UK the British Ambassador to Washington, Sir Christopher Meyer, commented: "This agreement is another example of the uniquely close relationship between our two countries. It is imperative to meet the threat from weapons of mass destruction. By working together, Britain and the United States will be better equipped to do so."

The two countries have agreed to focus on several common areas of interest and expertise including biological and chemical agent detection and identification systems; computer modeling of agents released into the environment; decontamination of surfaces and materials; and fundamental characterization of chemical and biological agents.

Today's agreement establishes a general framework for cooperation in these vital areas of scientific and technology research and development. Specific research and development activities will be the subject of an implementing arrangement between DOE and the British Ministry of Defence.

-NNSA-

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