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Radiological Threat Awareness Coalition

E-mail: Summit@r-tac.org

Phone: 202-879-5823

Homeland Security Summit Finds Need for Comprehensive Radiological Threat Reduction Policy

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Tuesday, May 5, 2009 – Today, the Radiological Threat Awareness Coalition held its Homeland Security Policy Summit in Washington D.C. In attendance were a wide-range of top homeland security specialists, government officials, members of the private sector, first responders, and policy experts.

The Radiological Threat Awareness Coalition (R-TAC) was formed in 2008 to lessen the gap in preparedness through education and awareness campaigns. Today's Summit was the second in a series of conferences meant to bring together key stakeholders and policymakers in the national security field and discuss what is needed to make America safer.

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke of New York and Chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology delivered a keynote address on federal preparedness efforts. Additionally, representatives from the Department of Energy and the Department of Homeland Security briefed participants on their radiological and nuclear threat reduction programs. Today's conference also included a panel discussion examining private sector cooperation in federal security efforts and a policy debate on current trends in federal homeland security initiatives and spending.

"Today's conference stressed the importance of the need for a comprehensive federal policy structure that will reduce the impact of radiological and other threats," said R-TAC Chairman James Pinkerton. "Congresswoman Clarke and the briefings by the Department of Energy and the Department of Homeland Security show that the federal government is taking steps to better prepare our nation. Only by working together we can ensure more is done."

About R-TAC

The Radiological Threat Awareness Coalition (R-TAC) was established to increase awareness and preparedness in this country against a possible radiological attack such as a "dirty bomb." Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on our country, Americans have been keenly aware of the dangers of weapons of mass destruction falling in the wrong hands. Major initiatives have been implemented to prevent chemical, biological and nuclear attacks. But despite this trend, there has not been enough of a concerted effort focused on the threat of a radiological attack such as a "dirty bomb."

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