



BRIEF OF THE DAY:

GAO FINDS THAT SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY CAN EASILY FALL INTO THE HANDS OF POTENTIAL TERRORISTS

PREVENTION GOALS	COLLABORATION	INFORMATION SHARING	THREAT RECOGNITION	RISK MANAGEMENT	INTERVENTION
DETER					
DETECT					
PREVENT	X		X	X	X
ELIMINATE THREATS					

CONTEXT:

A recent report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) determined that terrorists and foreign governments regularly attempt to obtain sensitive dual-use and military technology from manufacturers and distributors within the United States.

While approval by the Department of State, Department of Commerce, or both is required for the export of sensitive military and dual-use items, publicly reported criminal cases show that individuals can bypass this requirement and illegally export restricted items such as night-vision goggles. The export of this type of technology poses a risk to U.S. security.

Through an undercover operation, the GAO found that sensitive dual-use and military technology can be easily and legally purchased from manufacturers and distributors within the United States and illegally exported without detection. The GAO found that lack of legal restrictions on the sale of sensitive technology along with difficulty associated with inspection of packages and individuals leaving the U.S. results in lack of control of sensitive technology.

A broad network of controls and enforcement is essential to ensure that sensitive technology does not fall into the hands of foreign governments or potential terrorists.

Sources

Military and Dual-Use Technology: Covert Testing Shows Continuing Vulnerabilities of Domestic Sales for Illegal Export

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-725T>

How easy is it for a terrorist to acquire 'sensitive' technology?

<http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/2125.html>

Prevention Relevance

Terrorists and foreign governments regularly attempt to obtain sensitive dual-use and military technology from manufacturers and distributors within the United States. This technology could potentially pose a threat to U.S. security.

Prevention Techniques

Risk Management: A broad network of controls and enforcement is essential to ensure that sensitive technology does not fall into the hands of foreign governments or potential terrorists.

Prevention Thought

Risk Management: What can be done to better control the export of sensitive technology?

IPS CONTACT INFORMATION:

The Institute for Preventive Strategies is a national service of the Center for Rural Development, a not-for-profit organization headquartered in Somerset Kentucky.

You may contact the Institute by e-mail at: info@preventivestrategies.net

You may correspond with the Institute at:

Institute for Preventive Strategies
2292 South Highway 27, Suite 300
Somerset, KY 42501

Telephone: 1-800-860-6657