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# **ASPR Priorities for Building Readiness for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Threats**

**Dr. Robert Kadlec  
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness  
and Response**

# ASPR's Mission



Save Lives and  
Protect  
Americans from  
21st Century  
Health Security  
Threats

# ASPR's Priorities: Building Readiness for 21st Century Threats

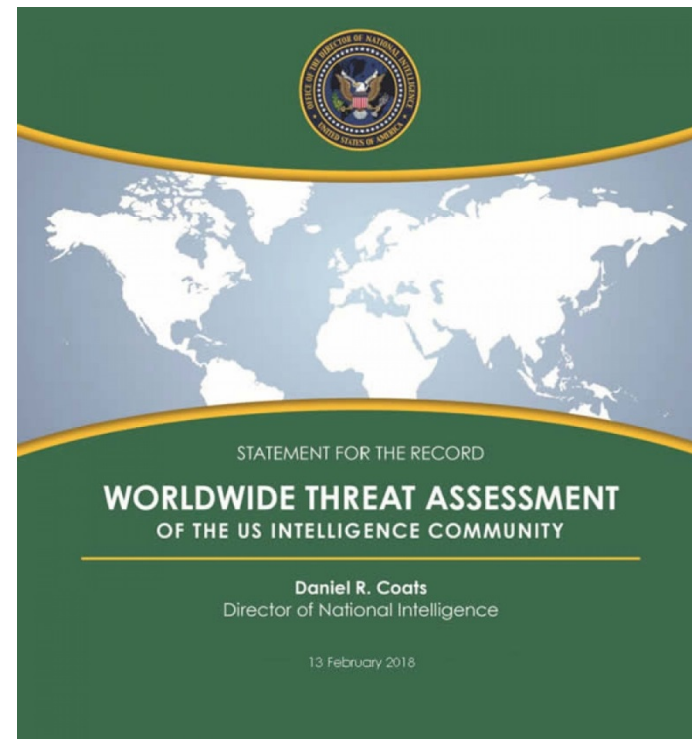




# ASPR

# Threat Briefing

Andrew Garrett, MD, MPH



**UNCLASSIFIED**

# Diverse and Evolving Threats to the Health Security of the United States

- National health security is a part of national security
- ASPR aims to stay ahead of 21<sup>st</sup> century threats, and support SLTTs to save lives and protect our national interests
- Threat assessment engages the scientific, public health & medical, emergency management, and intelligence communities
- The public's interest may focus on one threat at time, but the preparedness community knows that is unrealistic and impractical

# Overview of Threats to the Health Security of the Homeland

- Natural disasters
- Cyber and technological threats
- Weapons of Mass Destruction / CBRNE
- Terrorism and Violence
- Re-emerging/Emerging and rogue adversarial nation states

# Natural Disasters Impact Health Security

- Those we are familiar with:
  - Hurricanes, earthquakes, storm surge, tsunami
  - Disease outbreaks and pandemics
- The more esoteric ones:
  - Geomagnetic storms/space weather, near earth objects, agricultural threats, volcanoes
- Some of these threats appear to be increasing in frequency, severity, and impact



# Cyber & Technology Threats to Health Security

*“The potential for surprise in the cyber realm will increase in the next year and beyond as billions more digital devices are connected– with relatively little built in security– and both nation states and malign actors become more emboldened and better equipped in the use of increasingly widespread cyber toolkits...”*

**Daniel Coats**

**Director of National Intelligence**

*“Virtually every national security and criminal threat the FBI faces is cyber-based or technologically facilitated...”*

**Christopher Wray**

**FBI Director**

*“The development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race....It would take off on its own, and re-design itself at an ever increasing rate. Humans, who are limited by slow biological evolution, couldn't compete, and would be superseded...”*

**Stephen Hawking**

# WMD / CBRNE Threats to Health Security



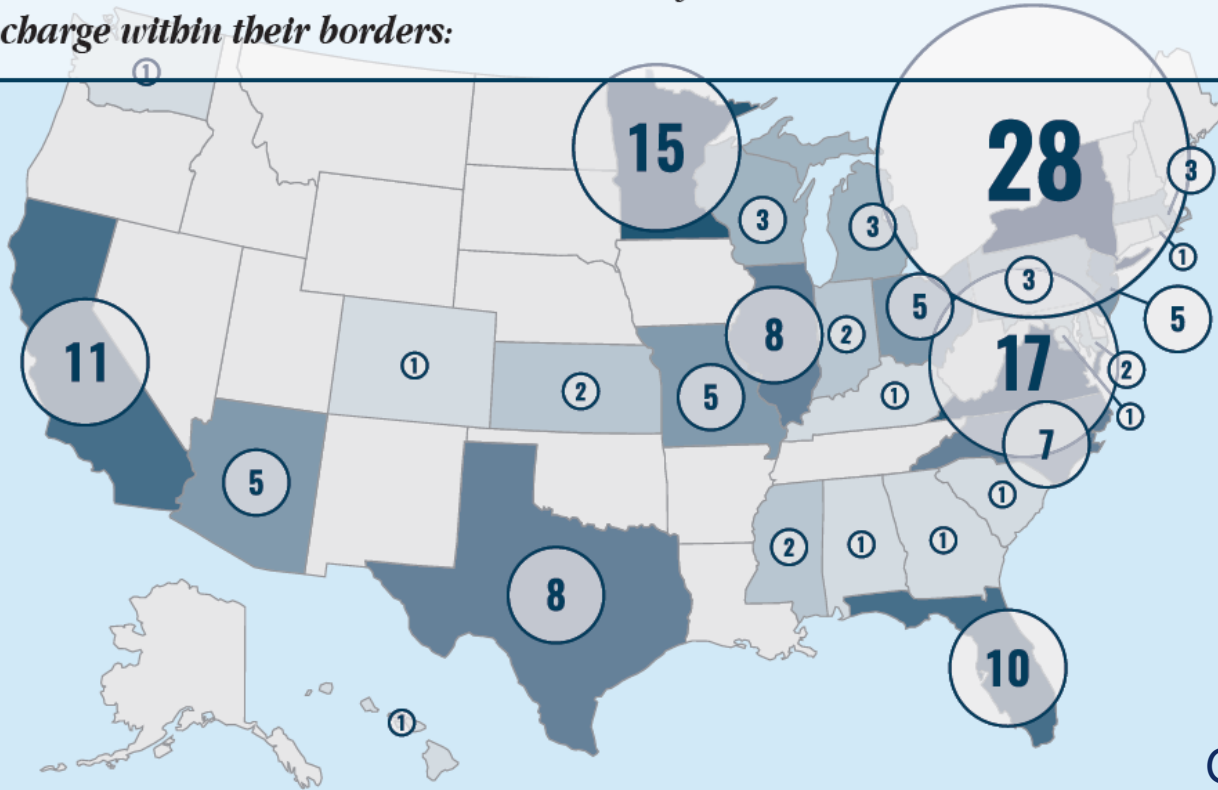
*“State efforts to modernize, develop, or acquire WMD... constitute a major threat to the security of the United States...”*

**Daniel Coates**  
**Director of National Intelligence**





*The FBI has stated that there are active IS-related investigations in all 50 states. To date, 28 states and the District of Columbia have had at least one charge within their borders:*



GW

# State Threats to Health Security

- **Russia-** will conduct “bolder and more disruptive cyber operations during the next year” and is developing cruise missile platforms that carefully skirt existing treaties
- **China-** “will continue to use cyber espionage and bolster cyber attack capabilities,” and modernize its nuclear missile force as well as other launch platforms such as aircraft and submarines
- **Syria-** The al-Assad regime has used nerve agent (sarin) and chlorine in repeated attacks against the opposition and may continue to do so
- **North Korea-** is expected to use cyber operations to raise funds and to gather intelligence or launch attacks on South Korea and the United States
- **Pakistan-** continues to develop new types of nuclear weapons– including short-range tactical weapons, sea-based cruise missiles, air-launched cruise missiles, and longer-range ballistic missiles



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# **Building a Regional Disaster Health Response System**

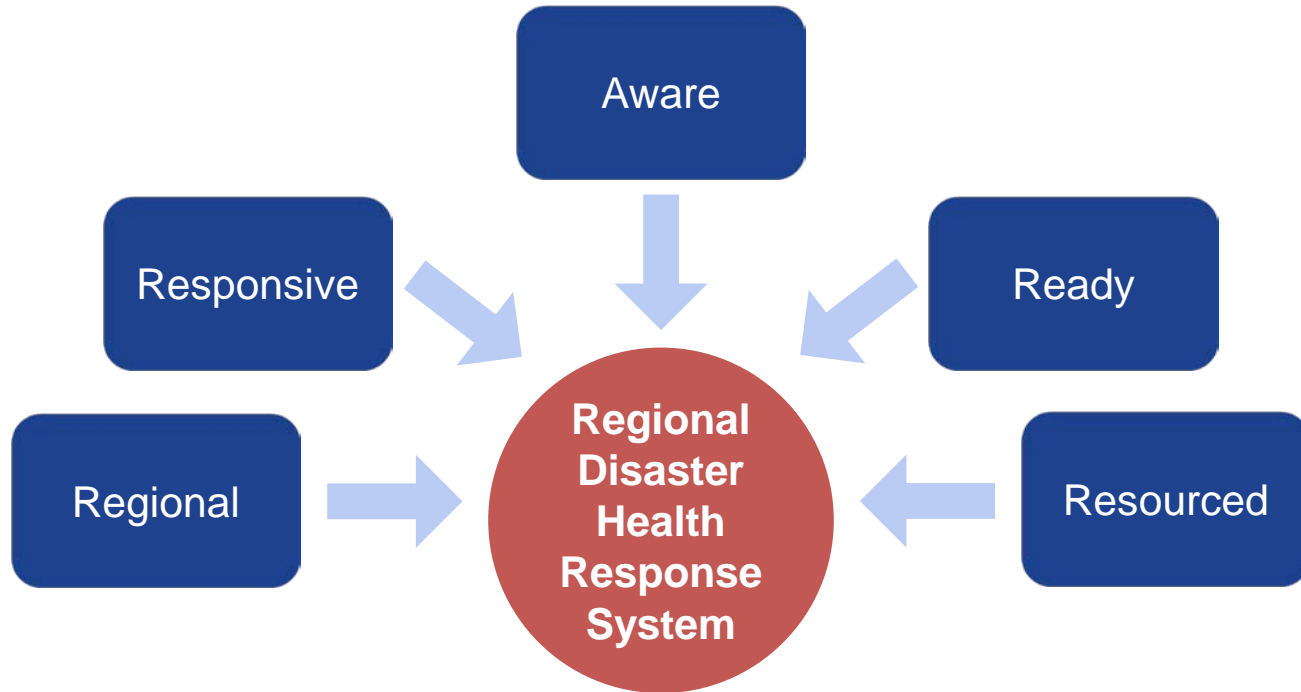
**Kevin Yeskey, MD**

**Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Preparedness and Response**

# Why do we need a new approach?

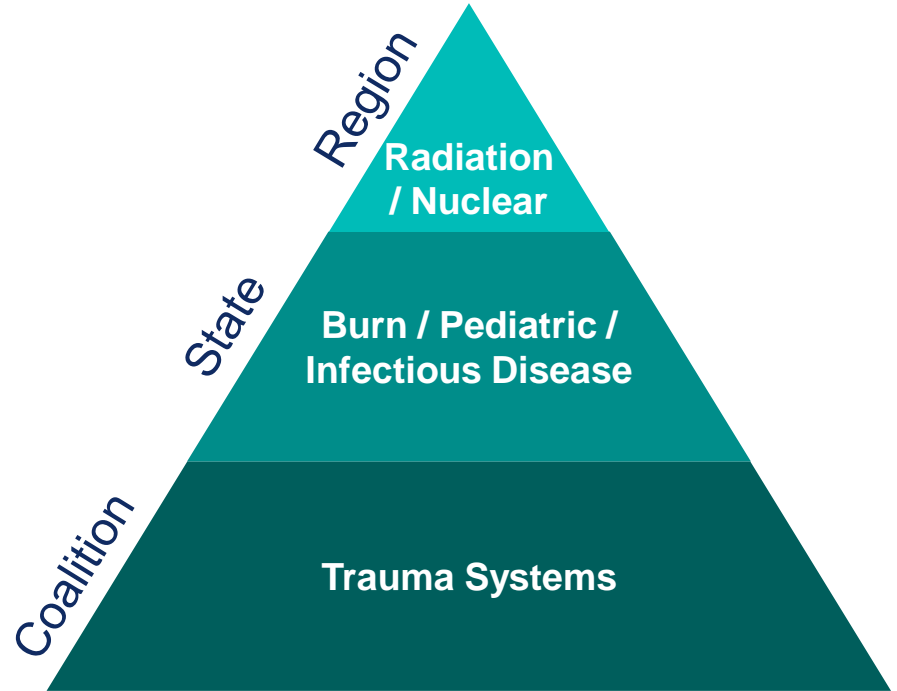
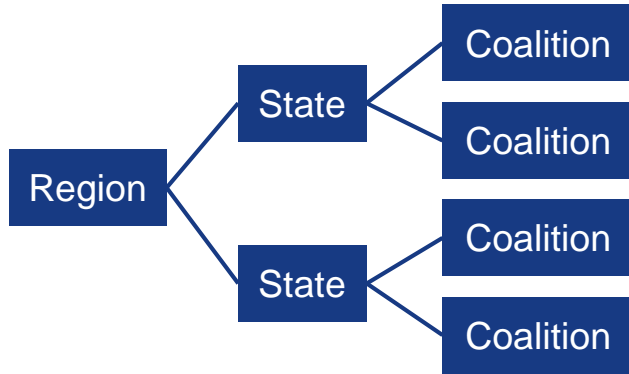
- Casualty estimates for 21<sup>st</sup> Century threats (and some old threats) far exceed the capacity and capability of the current healthcare system
- Healthcare preparedness and response is fragmented and uncoordinated across jurisdictions
  - Hospitals don't routinely plan, train, or exercise together
  - Communications during disasters are incomplete
  - Situational awareness of health care operating status is challenging
- State access to federal health care teams and equipment is limited in non-Stafford Act events
- NDMS and HPP require updating to meet current challenges

# Key Elements of a Potential Regional Disaster Health Response System

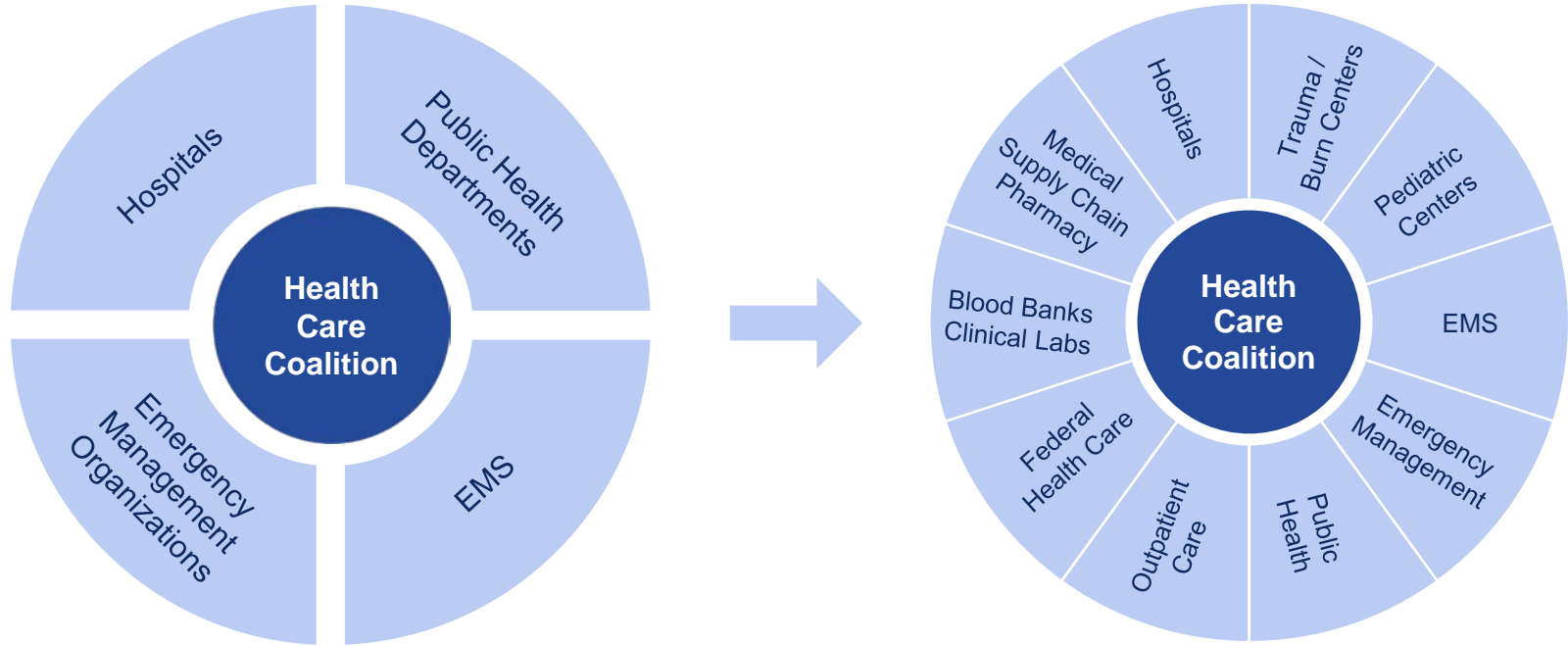




# Building Regional Surge Capacity



# Enhance Health Care Coalitions



# Discussion



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# **Sustaining Robust and Reliable Public Health Security Capabilities**

**Robert Kadlec, MD**

**Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response**

**Greg Burel**

**Director, Strategic National Stockpile**

# Strategic National Stockpile Transition





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# Discussion