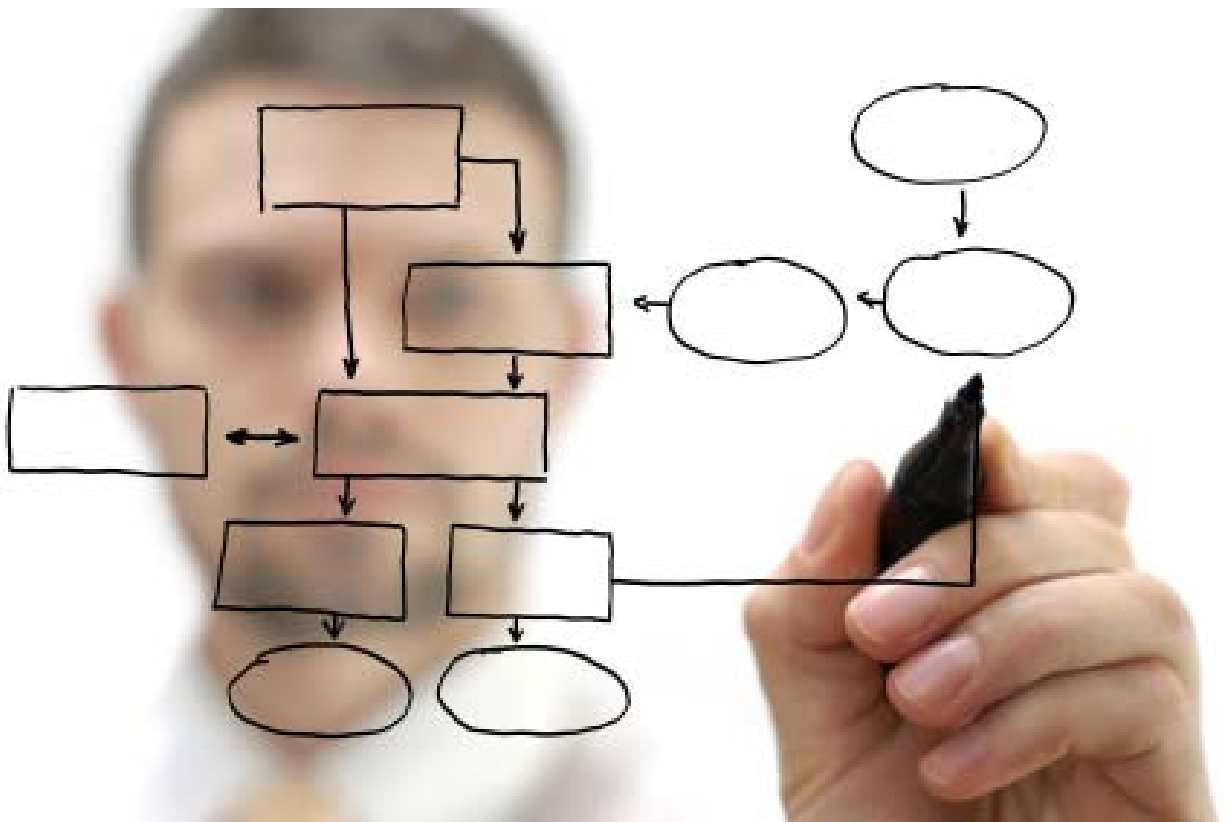


Towards a

Comprehensive Framework

for Integrating Nuclear Issues



Towards a Comprehensive Framework for Integrating Nuclear Issues

Background

With increased attention being paid to nuclear issues – that is, U.S. strategy, policy and force posture – America is finally seeing an important and complex debate emerge. This renewed focus on U.S. nuclear issues will not detract from the urgency of strengthening our non- and counter-proliferation policies, but will add a new layer of complexity to the ongoing debate on non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament.

Increased attention to nuclear issues has led to proliferation of commissions, task forces and self-initiated studies intended to shape the national debate. Integrating the results of these studies into an overarching conceptual framework that puts each effort into an appropriate context and makes the relationships between the studies – and the issues – understandable poses a challenge.

Without a mechanism to integrate these efforts, however, the complexities will become unruly and the tremendous amount of intellectual effort invested in the emerging comprehensive nuclear debate could be wasted in bitter partisan gridlock and purposeless action. If governed by a coherent framework, this emerging component to the nuclear debate will create a new space for opportunities and innovative consensus-building compromises.

Purpose

CSIS has addressed this challenge by creating a two-part analytic tool called the *Comprehensive Framework*, which disaggregates the nuclear studies and reports, then synthesizes the findings by issue, rather than author.

As part of the *Comprehensive Framework* project, CSIS has provided the following:

- An *analytic framework* that identifies the critical dimensions of the nuclear policy trade space (termed issue areas), the more narrowly defined issues within each dimension and the key relationships that reach within and span across issue areas
- An *electronic database* that contains qualitative data analysis of the nuclear studies and reports (analytically driven by the structure described above) and provides policy analysts with an on-call ability to integrate the findings of all studies included in the Framework effort
- A *series of working group meetings* comprised of experts inside and outside of government that have (1) vetted the analytic framework throughout its development and (2) provided a forum at which authors of several studies have presented their findings and engaged in an informed debate

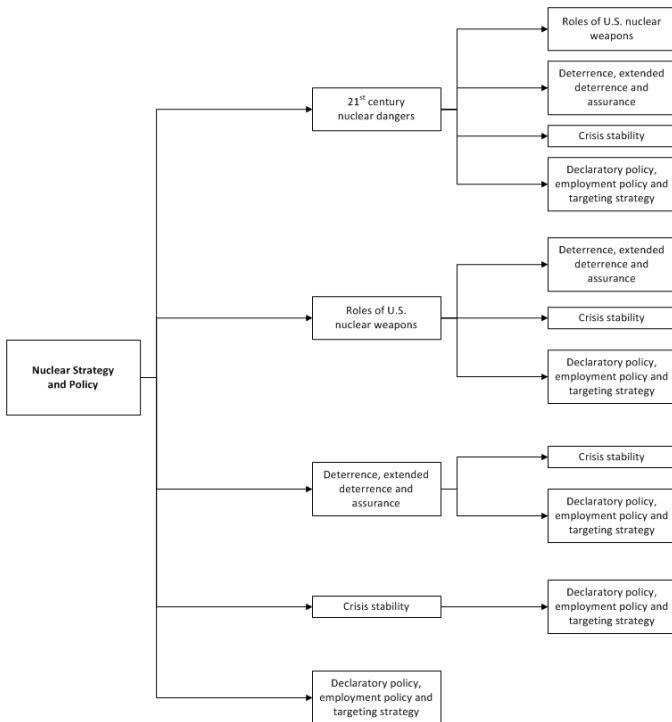
Analytic Framework

The Comprehensive Framework provides two parallel tracks by which users can access information:

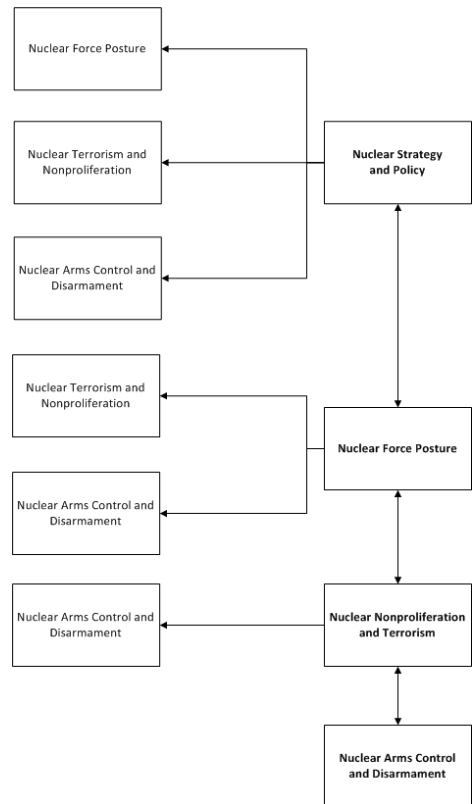
Issue Areas, Issues and Key Relationships

Serves as the analytic structure of the Framework that provides a full and coherent description of the nuclear debate.

Key Relationships *Within* Issues



Key Relationships *Among* Issues

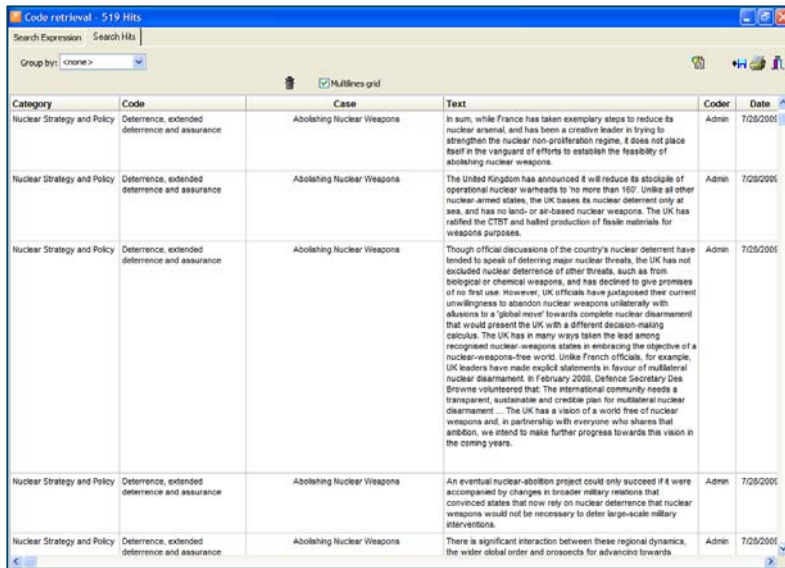


Key Nuclear Policy Issues

Organizes information contained in the nuclear studies in a way that is more accessible to users with less experience or understanding of nuclear issues. The key issues are based on the nuclear policy priorities of the current administration.

- Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)
- Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT)
- Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) Follow-On
- Access to Civil Nuclear Energy in a Proliferation-Resistant Manner
- Nuclear Trouble Zones: Iran, North Korea, Pakistan
- Nuclear Material Control and Security
- U.S. Nuclear Forces: How Many Weapons, What Types and At What Cost
- Nuclear Complex Modernization

Electronic Database



The screenshot shows a software window titled "Code retrieval - 519 Hits". It features a search bar at the top with "Search Expression" and "Search Hits" fields. Below the search bar is a "Group by:" dropdown menu set to "none". A "MultiView grid" checkbox is checked. The main area contains a table with the following columns: Category, Code, Case, Text, Coder, and Date. The table lists five entries related to "Abolishing Nuclear Weapons".

Category	Code	Case	Text	Coder	Date
Nuclear Strategy and Policy	Deterrence, extended deterrence and assurance	Abolishing Nuclear Weapons	In sum, while France has taken exemplary steps to reduce its nuclear arsenal, and has been a creative leader in trying to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, it does not place itself in the vanguard of efforts to establish the feasibility of abolishing nuclear weapons.	Admin	7/25/2005
Nuclear Strategy and Policy	Deterrence, extended deterrence and assurance	Abolishing Nuclear Weapons	The United Kingdom has announced it will reduce its stockpile of operational nuclear warheads to no more than 160. Unlike all other nuclear-armed states, the UK bases its nuclear deterrent only at sea, and has no land- or air-based nuclear weapons. The UK has ratified the CTBT and halted production of fissile materials for weapons purposes.	Admin	7/25/2005
Nuclear Strategy and Policy	Deterrence, extended deterrence and assurance	Abolishing Nuclear Weapons	Though official discussions of the country's nuclear deterrent have tended to speak of deterring major nuclear threats, the UK has not excluded nuclear deterrence of other threats, such as from biological or chemical weapons, and has declined to give promises of no first use. However, UK officials have juxtaposed their current unwillingness to abandon nuclear weapons unilaterally with allusions to a "global move" towards complete nuclear disarmament that would present the UK with a different decision-making calculus. The UK has in many ways taken the lead among recognised nuclear-weapon states in embracing the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Unlike French officials, for example, UK leaders have made explicit statements in favour of multilateral nuclear disarmament. In February 2003, Defence Secretary Des Browne volunteered that: The international community needs a transparent, sustainable and credible plan for multilateral nuclear disarmament... The UK has a vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and, in partnership with everyone who shares that ambition, we intend to make further progress towards this vision in the coming years.	Admin	7/25/2005
Nuclear Strategy and Policy	Deterrence, extended deterrence and assurance	Abolishing Nuclear Weapons	An eventual nuclear-abolition project could only succeed if it were accompanied by changes in broader military relations that convinced states that now rely on nuclear deterrence that nuclear weapons would not be necessary to deter large-scale military interventions.	Admin	7/25/2005
Nuclear Strategy and Policy	Deterrence, extended deterrence and assurance	Abolishing Nuclear Weapons	There is significant interaction between these regional dynamics, the wider global order and prospects for advances towards	Admin	7/25/2005

The electronic database is organized using a qualitative data analysis software, QDA Miner 3.2. Major reports on nuclear issues are coded and organized based on each track of the analytic framework.

Users can search coded documents in several ways:

- The *Text Retrieval tool* searches for specific text patterns in documents.
- The *Coding Frequency tool* allows one to obtain a list of all codes in the current codebook along with their description and various statistics, such as frequency, the number of cases in which they are found, and the total number of words in the associated text segments.
- The *Coding Retrieval tool* lists all text segments associated with some codes or with specific patterns of codes.