



5.5 THE ELEMENTS OF RESPONSE

Harvey Johnson, Jr.

INTRODUCTION

The question posed by this symposium is the following: Is our nation prepared to respond to a nuclear disaster today? The factual response is that we are not well prepared to respond to a nuclear detonation of virtually any size, neither at the federal level nor in communities around the nation. Yet at the same time, we must acknowledge that the components of an effective response are there for other disasters and would form the basis for a coordinated, if not fully effective, response. Thus, we need to further examine the challenges of an effective response to a nuclear detonation.

At the outset, I want to call attention to Senators Lieberman, Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, and Collins, Ranking Minority, as these Senators are both keenly aware of the shortfalls in response and recovery to a nuclear disaster.

Harvey E. Johnson, Jr. (USCG, retired Vice Admiral) recently was the Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer of Federal Emergency Management Agency. Mr. Johnson has a wealth of emergency and crisis management experience. Previously, he served as the Executive Director of the Coast Guard's transition into the Department of Homeland Security. He was promoted to Flag rank in 2001. His other major decorations include the Legion of Merit (3), the Meritorious Service Medal (3), the Coast Guard Commendation Medal (2), and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal. Mr. Johnson received a B.S. at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, an M.S. at the Naval Postgraduate School, and an M.S. in Management as a Sloan Fellow at the Sloan School of Management, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1993.
