The United States Government has identified nuclear forensics as a vital national security priority. In the event of a nuclear detonation there will be an urgent national requirement to determine the nature and origin of the weapon used and those responsible for the attack.

The attribution of a nuclear event will rely on information from nuclear forensics, law enforcement investigation and intelligence channels. The first step in the nuclear forensics process after a detonation is to collect samples near the detonation site for analysis at designated laboratories. The collection of ground-based samples is the mission of the NTNF GCTF.

This capability encompasses the front end of the nuclear forensics process. The effectiveness of the technical forensics analysis may depend on the success of the operators who comprise the NTNF GCTF.

Technical nuclear forensics is the collection, analysis and evaluation of pre-detonation (intact) and post-detonation (exploded) nuclear or other radioactive materials, devices and debris, as well as the immediate effects created by a nuclear detonation.

All public and media inquiries should be directed to the FBI National Press Office
Voice: (202) 324-3691
Composition and Capabilities

The NTNF GCTF is comprised of components of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, (FBI) Department of Defense (DOD), and Department of Energy (DOE).

- Approximately 60 personnel
- Trained collections specialists supported by FBI Special Agents, nuclear scientists, health physicists, communications specialists, hazardous materials officers, and medical personnel
- Rapidly deployable and self-sustaining for 5 days and maintains 24-7 operations capability
- Fully integrates into Incident Command System (ICS)
- Scalable to meet requirements of incidents within or outside the U.S.
- Members cross-trained, as appropriate, to meet various situation-dependent contingencies

Roles and Responsibilities

Following a nuclear detonation the core mission of the GCTF is the collection, initial assessment, and delivery of quality samples to designated laboratories for analysis.

**FBI**
- Serves as Task Force Team Lead
- Integrates Ground Collections Task Force into ICS
- Ensures adherence to evidentiary protocols

**DOD**
- Conducts ground sample collection
- Conducts contamination control, including hotline operations, individual and equipment decontamination
- Provides Subject Matter Experts (SME)

**DOE**
- Provides technical SME
- Conducts field screening and assessment of debris
- Integrates advanced techniques and tools for GCTF operations

Equipment and Logistics

**Footprint**
- Base of Operations
- Multiple vehicles, trailers, and all-terrain vehicles
- Tentage for all field operations

**Tools**
- Analytical Instrumentation
- Specialized tools for debris collection
- Field deployable stand-alone network

**Communications**
- Global reach via secure and non-secure communications
- Robust tactical communications
- Internal encrypted, wireless network

**Personal Protection**
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Detection monitoring equipment
- Dosimetry