

START Bulletin

Winter 2010

The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) is a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence based at the University of Maryland.

START uses state-of-the-art theories, methods, and data from the social and behavioral sciences to improve understanding of the origins, dynamics, and social and psychological impacts of terrorism. For more information on START, please visit <http://www.start.umd.edu/>.

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START Highlights

START Highlights showcase recent accomplishments of START researchers and students.

W i n t e r 2 0 1 0

one



In November, an article by START Fellowship Alumnus Peter Kraus on Al Qaeda operations in Tora Bora was cited extensively in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Report on Tora Bora. To read the report, visit this link: http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Tora_Bora_Report.pdf. Kraus's article that was cited is listed below:

Krause, P. (2008). The last good chance: A reassessment of U.S. operations at Tora Bora. *Security Studies*, 17(4), 644 – 684.

two



Research by START Investigators John Horgan, Arie Kruglanski, and Clark McCauley was featured in the November issue of the American Psychological Association's *Monitor*. The article, "Understanding Terrorism," explores an individual's decision to engage in terrorism as well as how efforts might be explored to deter such action, through de-radicalization and dis-engagement efforts.

three



START Investigators Martha Crenshaw, Joshua D. Freilich, Gary LaFree, and Brent Smith were invited to Capitol Hill to brief members of the U.S. House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee in October 2009. During the briefing, START Investigators presented their latest research on trends of terrorist activity and terrorist behavior in the United States.

four



START is participating in 2 new projects with fellow DHS Centers of Excellence: One project focuses on developing a conception of community resilience that addresses both physical and social resilience and will be conducted in partnership with DIEM at the University of North Carolina. The other examines the degree to which terrorists in the United States have travelled in and out of the country in advance of or following an attempted terrorist attack. This project involves a partnership between START and BORDERS at the University of Arizona.

five



In January, the first application round began for the newly launched START Graduate Certificate in Terrorism Studies. The first class begins in March 2010, led by Anthony Lemieux, of Purchase College. The graduate certificate is a fully online program that can be completed in 12 months. For more information, including links to the application, see http://www.start.umd.edu/start/education/graduate_certificate/.



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Spotlight on START Research: Terrorist Usage of Improvised Explosive Devices

The research team for “Developing an Empirical Understanding of Improvised Explosive Devices: A Social and Behavioral Science Perspective”, led by Gary LaFree and Richard Legault, used the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) to create new, quantitative measures detailing the use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) by terrorists, worldwide, from 1970 to 2004. This material is based upon work supported by the Human Factors/Behavioral Sciences Division of the Science and Technology directorate of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under Grant Award Number 2008-ST-061-ST0004, made to the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START, www.start.umd.edu).

In the project, IEDs are defined as *bombs that are constructed in part or wholly from military or commercial explosives or commercial components, and used in a manner other than intended by the manufacturer.*

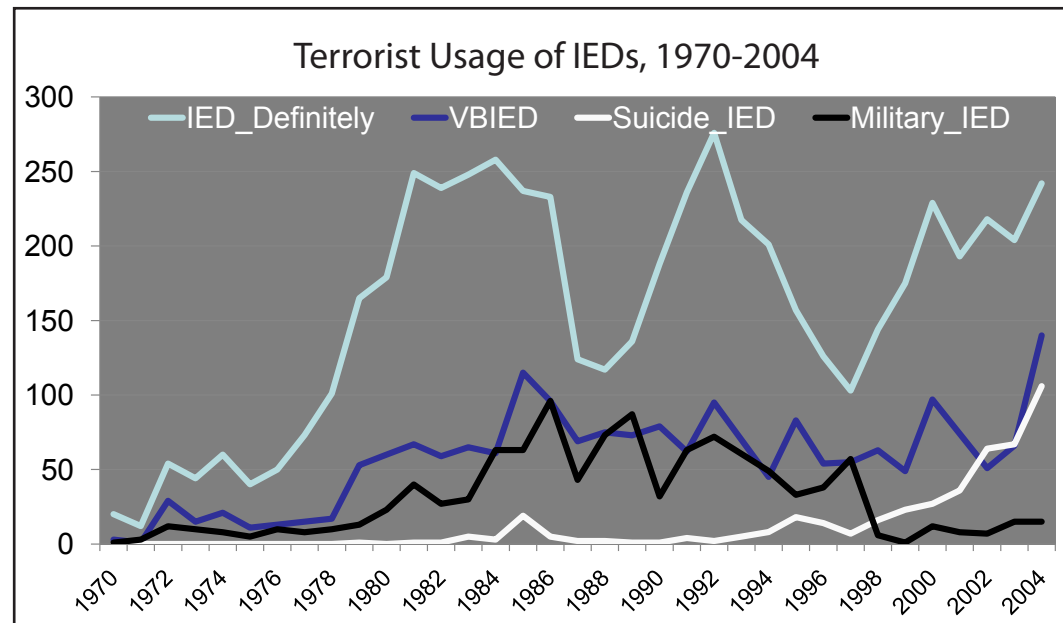
Methodology

The major methodological challenge faced by this project was to determine which incidents from the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) involved the terrorist use of an IED. The team reviewed and classified 66,509 terrorist attacks for IED involvement in 205 countries between 1970 and 2004. Cases were assessed using a standardized coding scheme across all years and incidents. A portion of the cases were

assigned to multiple coders so that the researchers could estimate coding reliability statistics and ensure that the separate coding efforts were measuring IEDs in the data systematically and that the resulting codes from separate coders were reliable, valid, and could be compared across coding samples. Approximately 12,000 cases in the GTD were not coded because weapon details were unavailable for those cases. As this information becomes available in the future, the team hopes that these cases will be added to the current IED data base. After the coding scheme was finalized, data collected, and validity assessed, a variety of empirical analyses of the data were conducted. These analyses are intended to provide an empirical baseline of IED terrorist attacks from around the world.

Conclusions

- The worldwide use of IEDs by terrorists has increased over time, but generally follows trends in other types of terrorist activity.
- The proportion of terrorist attacks that depend on IEDs has remained relatively steady



from 1970 to 2004.

- IEDs are used in a majority of all explosive attacks.
- As in other types of terrorist attacks, Western Europe, South America, and the Middle East & North African regions have experienced the highest prevalence of IED attacks over the time period spanned by the data.
- The use of IEDs is not a good predictor of death or injury from a terrorist attack; that is, the use of IEDs is unrelated to overall death rates caused by terrorist attacks.
- The use of IEDs by terrorists in the United States makes up a very small proportion of worldwide terrorist attacks and this proportion has decreased over the period of this study.
- The use of suicide IEDs has grown exponentially over the period studied.
- The specialized use of Vehicle Borne IEDs (VBIEDs) and suicide IEDs results in a much higher rate of fatality per attack than the use of other types of IEDs.

START Co-Sponsors Event “Resilient American Communities: Progress in Practice & Policy”



Monica Schoch-Spana, START Researcher at Center for Biosecurity, UPMC

On December 10, 2009, the Center for Biosecurity of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) convened an invitational conference in Washington, DC, to apply state-of-the-art knowledge of resilience to the design of federal policies that will strengthen local communities and their environments to withstand disasters, epidemics, and terrorism. The event was hosted by the Center

for Biosecurity of UPMC in collaboration with START and the Natural Hazards Center of the University of Colorado at Boulder. Among the 140 participants were U.S. government officials, congressional staff, policy analysts, scholars, public health and emergency management practitioners, heads of private and nonprofit initiatives to reduce disaster risk, and members of the media. Keynote speakers included Nicole Lurie, USHHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and Richard Serino, Deputy Administrator of FEMA.

Major Themes And Conclusions

- A resilient community has the capacity to anticipate, withstand, and rebound from an extreme event with minimal damage and disruption.
- The nation needs a rational approach to collecting information on disaster-related losses and gauging the value of investments in resilience.
- The federal government should invest more money in pre-event hazard mitigation.

- A resilience certification program could inspire more communities to adopt creative disaster mitigation approaches.
- Partnerships beyond the bounds of the traditional disaster establishment strengthen resilience.
- Public engagement in key policy decisions improves emergency planning and empowers community members.
- Disadvantaged populations require enhanced protections from the disproportionate impact of extreme events.

START Investigators participating in the event included Monica Schoch-Spana, Center for Biosecurity of UPMC, and Dennis Mileti, University of Colorado at Boulder.

For more information on the event, see http://www.upmc-biosecurity.org/website/events/2009/resilient_american/index.html.



Plenary Session

Terrorism and International Security: START and the Center for Talented Youth

On Saturday, November 21, 2009, START worked with the Johns Hopkins University's Center for Talented Youth (CTY) to deliver an installment of CTY's Odyssey Workshop Series. The program is intended for high-achieving 7th to 10th grade students, who each bring one parent to the workshops. CTY's goals for the program are to expose talented students to the exciting range of possibilities included in a broad-based education and life-long learning program, as well as to provide students with a common ground on which to pursue intellectual discussion with family members.

The November 2009 workshop, START's second Odyssey event, focused on Terrorism and International Security. The program brought over 60 students and their parents to College Park for the day. The program began with a plenary by START Executive Director, Dr. Kathleen Smarick, who worked to frame terrorism within the larger contexts of international security and political violence.

After that, students and parents selected from the following breakout groups:

- "Terrorism in Europe"
led by Brandon Behlendorf
University of Maryland
- "Terrorism in the Middle East"
led by Shana Marshall
University of Maryland
- "Terrorism in Asia"
led by Bidisha Biswas
Western Washington University
- "Terrorism in Africa"
led by Mary Michael
University of Maryland
- "Terrorism in Latin America"
led by Erin Miller
University of Maryland
- "Terrorism in North America"
led by Will Parkin
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

In the afternoon, parents and students divided into three groups to participate in role-play simulations of situations related to terrorism and international security. One group participated in a simulation of emergency management and law enforcement in the wake of a Basque separatist attack in Spain. The second group participated in a simulation of multilateral negotiations after a series of attacks modeled on the 2008 Mumbai attacks. And the third group participated in a simulation of third-party negotiations during a series of violent terrorist and counterterrorist strikes along the border of Turkey and Iraq. The students and parents then came



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together for a plenary session on how scholars from different academic disciplines study the phenomenon of terrorism.

Participant reviews were overwhelmingly positive. All participants indicated that they would recommend the program to their friends. In the reviews, one parent wrote, "Excellent, timely program! START and UMD did an excellent job at representing their interests to prospective students." START plans to continue the relationship with CTY and to participate in the development and delivery of future Odyssey programs.

"[The simulation] was the best part of my day. It really put you into the shoes of the people who have to make the decisions."
- a student participant

Theory vs. Policy? Connecting Scholars And Practitioners: START at the 51st Annual International Studies Association Convention

The 2010 ISA Annual Convention aims to assess the current state of the divide between scholars and practitioners. Do the prevailing stereotypes make sense, or are they simply wrong? Given different professional incentives and priorities, how much involvement in practice possible or even desirable for academics? To the extent that ISA members have participated in both worlds, has exposure to practice improved research? Has the influence of scholars in the policy world increased or decreased in the last decade? Do decision-makers routinely make use of academic research? Are there innovative teaching methods and strategies to emphasize case study components in international studies without sacrificing theoretical rigor?

START Presentations at ISA (available after the conference at <http://www.start.umd.edu/start/publications/>)

First Name	Last Name	Presenting/ Panelist	Panel	Title of Presentation	Date/Time
Martha	Crenshaw	Presenter	Deterring Terrorism: Theory and Practice	Deterring Nuclear or 'WMD' Terrorism	Wednesday, Feb 17, 8:30am
Paul	Harwood	Panelist	Identity and Conflict		Wednesday, Feb 17, 8:30am-10:15am
Kathleen	Smarick	Chair	The Efficacy of Strategies to Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism		Wednesday, Feb 17, 1:45-3:30pm
Victor	Asal	Presenter	New Directions in Terrorism Research: Understanding Terrorist Groups	Explaining Contentious Politics Repertoires	Wednesday, Feb 17, 3:45
Erica	Chenoweth	Chair	New Directions in Terrorism Research: Understanding Terrorist Groups		Wednesday, Feb 17, 3:45-5:30pm
Laura	Dugan	Presenter	New Directions in Terrorism Research: Understanding Terrorist Groups	Why do Terrorist Groups Endure	Wednesday, Feb 17, 3:45pm
Richard	Legault	Presenter	New Directions in Terrorism Research: Understanding Terrorist Groups	Explaining Contentious Politics Repertoires	Wednesday, Feb 17, 3:45
Gary	LaFree	Panelist	Dangerous Liaisons? Costs and Benefits for Academics Working with the National Security Community		Wednesday, Feb 17, 3:45-5:30pm
Kathleen	Smarick	Chair	Dangerous Liaisons? Costs and Benefits for Academics Working with the National Security Community		Wednesday, Feb 17, 3:45-5:30pm
Johanna	Birbir	Presenter	Religion, Ethnicity, and Electoral Politics	Religion in Party Politics and Violence in Democracies	Thursday, Feb 18, 8:30am
Victor	Asal	Presenter	Terrorism and Policy	Terrorist Networks Over Time	Thursday, Feb 18, 10:30am
Karl	Rethemeyer	Presenter	Terrorism and Policy	Terrorist Networks Over Time	Thursday, Feb 18, 10:30am
Erica	Chenoweth	Panelist	Aysmmetric Deterrence		Thursday, Feb 18, 10:30-12:15pm
Paul	Harwood	Presenter	Internet Elections: A Comparative Perspective Between East Asian Countries and the United States	The Viral Election: The Role of Infomration Technologies and Social Media in the 2008 Election	Thursday, Feb 18, 10:30am

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Theory vs. Policy? Connecting Scholars And Practitioners: START at the 51st Annual International Studies Association Convention (continued)

First Name	Last Name	Presenting/ Panelist	Panel	Title of Presentation	Date/Time
Peter	Krause	Presenter	Measuring the Unmeasurable	Terrorism's Midas Touch: Measuring Political Effectiveness Amidst Complexity"	Thursday, Feb 18, 1:45pm
Erica	Chenoweth	Chair	Terrorism, Rendition, and Human Rights		Thursday, Feb 18, 3:45-5:30pm
Karl	Rethemeyer	Presenter	Revisiting the Links between Terrorism and Regime Type	The Sincerest Form of Flattery: Alliance Connections and Targeting Behavior	Friday, Feb 19, 8:30am
Frank	Foley	Presenter	Intelligence Collection, Collaboration, and Cooperation	Organizing Counterterrorism: U. S. Security Agencies in Comparative Perspective	Friday, Feb 19, 10:30am
Gary	Ackerman	Chair	The Human and Behavioral Aspects of the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Threat		Friday, Feb 19, 1:45pm
Martha	Crenshaw	Panelist	The Human and Behavioral Aspects of the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Threat		Friday, Feb 19, 1:45pm
Gary	LaFree	Presenter	The Human and Behavioral Aspects of the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Threat	Developing an Empirical Social Science Database of IED Attacks	Friday, Feb 19, 1:45pm
Margaret	Wilson	Presenter	The Human and Behavioral Aspects of the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Threat	Cause of Death: A Model of Intended Lethality in Terrorist IED Attacks	Friday, Feb 19, 1:45pm
Peter	Krause	Presenter	The Scope and Effectiveness of Various Forms of Terrorism	Coercive vs. Constitutive Terrorism: Highlighting Interaction Effects, Establishing Scope Conditions	Friday, Feb 19, 3:45pm
Victor	Asal	Panelist	Foreign Policy, State Security, and Women: Seeing the Linkages		Saturday, Feb 20, 8:30-10:15am
Erica	Chenoweth	Presenter	Counter-terroroism: In Theory and Practice	The Effectiveness of Counterterrorism in Spain: A New Approach	Saturday, Feb 20, 8:30am
Evan	Perkoski	Presenter	Counter-terroroism: In Theory and Practice	The Effectiveness of Counterterrorism in Spain: A New Approach	Saturday, Feb 20, 8:30am
Kathleen	Smarick	Discussant	Protecting Civilians During Violent Conflict		Saturday, Feb 20, 10:30-12:15pm
Gary	Ackerman	Presenter	Various Approaches to Counterterrorism	Understanding and Combating Mass Casualty Terrorism	Saturday, Feb 20, 10:30am
Hamilton	Bean	Presenter	Middle Powers and Security	The British People are Resilient: Constitutive Rhetoric and the Case of the '7/7' Terrorist Attacks	Saturday, Feb 20, 10:30am
Kathleen	Smarick	Chair	Teaching Military Strategy		Saturday, Feb 20, 1:45-3:30pm

START Announcements

Free Online Access to New Research on Islamic Radicalization in Yemen and Saudi Arabia

The December 25th attempted terror attack of a U.S.-bound Northwest Airlines flight raised additional concerns about security measures at airports and Islamic Radicalization abroad. The Yemen branch of Al Qaeda, which claimed responsibility for the incident, also had ties to Al Qaeda in Saudi Arabia.

START has supported research on Islamic Radicalization in Yemen and Saudi Arabia by Mohammed Hafez of the Naval Postgraduate School. Dr. Hafez's article from the project, "Radicalization in the Persian Gulf: Assessing the Potential of Islamist Militancy in Saudi Arabia and Yemen," was recently published in *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*.

Free online access has been provided by the publishers until March 9, 2010, at

<http://www.start.umd.edu/start/announcements/announcement.asp?id=170>

Terrorism Research Award (TRA) Applications Now Available!

Applications are now available for the 2010-2011 Terrorism Research Award (TRA).

The TRA Program offers doctoral students and recent PhDs \$5,000 to pursue terrorism-related research. TRAs work with a START faculty mentor to develop their projects. For more information and to access the application, visit:

http://www.start.umd.edu/start/education/terrorism_research_awards/

Applications are due March 12, 2010.

Register Now for the Fourth Annual DHS University Network Summit: Science & Technology for Intelligent Resilience

You are invited to join us March 10-12, 2010 in Washington, D.C. for the Fourth Annual University Network Summit. The Summit is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate, Office of University Programs and held at the Renaissance Washington DC Hotel.

For more Summit information and for free registration, please visit:

<http://www.orau.gov/DHSSummit/>

Recent START Publications

More START Publications available at: <http://www.start.umd.edu/publications/>

Articles & Book Reviews

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Flanigan, Shawn T. "Nonprofit Service Provision by Insurgent Organizations – The Cases of Hizballah and the Tamil Tigers." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 31.6 (2008).

Foley, Frank. "The Expansion of Intelligence Agency Mandates: British Counterterrorism in Comparative Perspective." *Review of International Studies* 35. 4 (2009).

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Freilich, Joshua D. and Steven M. Chermak. "Preventing Deadly Encounters between Law Enforcement and American Far-rightists." *Crime Prevention Studies* 25.1 (2009).

Karagiannis, Emmanuel. "Hizballah as a Social Movement Organization: A Framing Approach." *Mediterranean Politics* 14.3 (2009).

LaFree, Gary. "Criminology's Third War: Special Issue on Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism." *Criminology and Public Policy* 8.3 (2009).

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McCauley, Clark and Jennifer Stellar. "U.S. Muslims after 9/11: Poll Trends 2001-2007." *Perspectives on Terrorism* III.3 (2009).

McCauley, Clark and Sophia Moskalenko. "Measuring Political Mobilization: The Distinction between Activism and Radicalism." *Terrorism and Political Violence* 21.2 (2009).
Nickels, Benjamin P. "Review of Mary Kaldor, New & Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Globalized Era." *Journal of Military and Strategic Studies* 12:1(2009).

Sanchez, Gabriella. "Migrants Participation in Smuggling: An Agency Perspective." *The Protection Project Journal of Human Rights and Society* 2. 1 (2009).

Wheatley, Joseph and Clark McCauley. "Losing Your Audience: Desistance from Terrorism in Egypt after Luxor." *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict* 1.3 (2009).

Book Chapters

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Books

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