WELCOME!

ISSS/ISAC Reception
Oct 9, 2015
Center for Terrorism and Security Studies

The Center for Terrorism and Security Studies is located on the South Campus of UMass Lowell.
Our mission

Research = Comprehensive, Rigorous, Evidence-Based

• Scientific research, education and training to help understand and respond to the

• Evolution, convergence and complexity of domestic and foreign security challenges.
Center for Terrorism and Security Studies

WHAT WE DO

The Center for Terrorism and Security Studies (CTSS) leads and facilitates scientific research, education and training to help understand and respond to the evolution, convergence and complexity of domestic and foreign security challenges.

Read more about CTSS

Visit our website: www.uml.edu/ctss
One of several CTSS internship research projects

from open-source court documents including indictments, sentencing documents, plea agreements and court transcripts. CTSS interns also independently identify additional information through open-source news reports and other available sources (such as case studies and interviews the offender). Data points for each individual include:

- Socio-demographics factors such as age, nationality, and criminality.
- How they first became involved with a terrorist group or cell.
- The behaviors they undertook when engaged in terrorist activity.
- The individuals charges, conviction and sentencing.

Recent Cases of Hybrid and Online Terrorist Offenders

Coleen LaRose, aka Jihad Jane

- Posts Jihadist videos on social media
- Targets Swedish Cartoonist Lars Vilks in retaliation for drawing Prof. Mohammed’s head on body of dog.

Zachary Chesser, aka Abu al-Amrikee

- American Muslim Convert
- In 2009 Creates YouTube accounts and mujhidblog.com
- Posted threat to creators of South Park Parody of Prophet Mohammed

Project Team: Megan Potts, Linda Murphy, Adam Beckwith, Christian Nambu, and Joseph Sexer

Information on CTSS, CTSS Projects and Executive Summaries available at: www.uml.edu/research/ctss
CTSS PROFILE: Joel Day, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor and
CTSS Research Associate

Post-Doctoral Fellow at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START)

Specializations include religious terrorism, identity politics, national and international security, political violence, and alternatives to violence
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Students present their research at conferences and other public forums.
Terrorist “Roles”

From: Horgan & Shortland, 2015

CENTER for TERRORISM and SECURITY STUDIES
A Study of Online Terrorist Publications: Preliminary Findings

Neil Shortland and visitors from Swansea University, UK
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ISSS/ISAC Reception
Oct 9, 2015
Free access to search all issues of our peer-reviewed scholarly journal *Perspective on Terrorism*
Center for Terrorism and Security Studies

Visiting Scholar Bart Schuurman (from the Netherlands) spent a semester with us at the CTSS
Ask one of our CTSS faculty, staff or students about our current research projects.
20th Annual School Safety Summit, co-hosted by Middlesex District Attorney’s Office
Free download all issues of our peer-reviewed scholarly journal *Perspectives on Terrorism*.

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Terrorist “Roles”

From: Horgan & Shortland, 2015

Key
- Yes
- No/unknown

Number of terrorist offenders engaged in activity (n = 183)
Ask one our CTSS faculty, staff or students about our current research projects.
Special Double Issue on Terrorism in Africa

Guest Editors: Jennifer Giroux and James J.F. Forest

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The Paradox of Terrorism, Armed Conflict and Natural Resources in Africa: an Analysis of Cabinda in Angola
  Victor Ojakorotu
CTSS PROFILE: Neil Shortland

CTSS Program Manager

Specializations in terrorist behavior, counter-terrorism policy and strategy, and socio-psychological factors of military operations
Terrorist “Roles”

From: Horgan & Shortland, 2015

Center for Terrorism and Security Studies
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Media interviews on terrorism & security
CTSS has several work spaces for student internship projects and other kinds of peer learning and collaboration.
Students present their research at conferences and other public forums
Media interviews on terrorism & security
Developing a Typology of Terrorist Involvement
A Basis to Planning for Sentencing, Management, Risk Reduction, Release & Monitoring of Terrorist Offenders

Introduction
There is a lack of knowledge surrounding the nature of involvement in terrorism. People engaged in terrorism are extremely heterogeneous, however they still continue to be seen as either "a terrorist" or "not a terrorist". This continues to be a problem because with such diversity you cannot simply put these individuals into two groups. The Center for Terrorism and Security Studies (CTSS) leads and facilitates scientific research, education, and training to help understand and respond to the evolution, convergence, and complexity of domestic and foreign security challenges.

The Study
This study aims to create a descriptive typology of involvement in terrorism by using data generated from multiple cases in which terrorists have been convicted. This informative typology will provide the guidance for sentencing, managing, releasing, and monitoring of terrorist offenders.

The 1998 U.S. Embassy Bombings
The United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania were attacked by Al-Qaeda sponsored individuals in 1998. Simultaneous truck bombings killed two hundred and twenty four people and injured over 4,000. Among the attackers were Osama bin Laden, Mohammed Atif, a military strategist and Al Qaeda chief, Wadih el-Hage, who facilitated the embassy bombings by dispersing payroll and operating Al-Qaeda businesses, Fazul Abdullah Mohammed the personal assistant to El Hage in 1996, Mohammed Sadeek Odah who set up Al-Qaeda camps in Kenya and received the TNT for the attack. Mohammed Rashid Dawad-1-’Owhali was a member of the Taliban and threw a stun grenade at embassy gate keeper in Nairobi. Ahmed Khalifan Ghailani purchased ten oxygen gas tanks to use as fuel for the suicide truck bombs. Khalifan Kamis Mohammed who filled the trucks for the Tanzania bombings with TNT. Hamden Khalif Allah Awad acted as the suicide truck driver at the Dar es Salaam, embassy in Tanzania, and Jihad Mohammed Ali who acted as the suicide truck driver at the Nairobi embassy in Kenya.

Open-Source Data Generation
This project is a data driven analysis of offenders in the United States and Europe who have been convicted of terrorism related charges and are affiliated with the Global Jihadist Movement. In order to generate this data a wide variety of open source documents is used to collect. These documents include court documents, indictments, plea agreements, and news articles. These sources yield a wide variety of data about the terrorist offenders. Social-demographic information such as the offenders background, criminal history, religion, and family status is collected. Their involvement in terrorism is assessed by collecting data such as their age of involvement in terrorism, their length of involvement in terrorism, and how many roles they held within a planned attack. Arrest data regarding their capture, sentencing, and convictions is also collected.

The typology project looks at the diversity among convicted terrorists and the multifaceted roles they hold during the attack. The data collected during this project shows that individuals engaged in terrorism hold many roles, and are both specialists and generalists in any specific activity. When this data is analyzed we will be able to see which roles and functions are more closely related to one another.

Conclusion
This attack by Al-Qaeda is an example of some of the different roles and functions individuals engaged in terrorism can undertake. This plays a critical role in reinforcing several of the underlying assumptions of this work, namely that involvement in terrorism is a highly complex phenomenon and involvement in
What is ‘othering’?

A definition of ‘othering’ was given by Johnson, Bottorff, Browne, Grewal, Hilton and Clarke as “a process that identifies those that are thought to be different from oneself or the mainstream, and it can reinforce and reproduce positions of domination and subordination.” (Johnson et al, 2004: 1).

Ingroup and outgroup bias also has a role in othering.

Luke Walker presenting research findings
CTSS faculty teach undergraduate and graduate courses in the School of Criminology and Justice Studies at the University of Massachusetts Lowell
Neil Shortland leading a team of CTSS interns presenting their research at a local event
CTSS student interns hard at work coding data on case studies of convicted terrorists
CTSS PROFILE: Suzette Abbasciano

Doctoral student and CTSS research assistant

Specializations in terrorist radicalization, networks and WMD proliferation

Recipient of NATO Fellowship; currently working in Brussels
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ISSSS/ISAC Reception
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Neil Shortland giving a small seminar on terrorist radicalization
Hundreds of students enroll in our terrorism courses each year
David Mair led a group of students from University of Swansea (UK) on a 4-week visit at the CTSS to study online terrorist radicalization
Congratulations to Joel Day, Assistant Professor and CTSS Research Associate, for his 2015 Terrorism Research Award from the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START).

Recent books and research publications by CTSS faculty members and affiliates:

- The Islamic State - a special double issue of "Perspectives on Terrorism"
- Essentials of Counterterrorism (Praeger Publishers)
- Terrorist Group Decision-Making - a special double issue of "Perspectives on Terrorism"
- The Terrorism Lectures (Nortia Press, 2nd edition 2015)
- Analyzing the Future Threat of WMD Terrorism (JSS journal article)
- Intersections of Crime and Terrorism (Routledge press)
- The Moral Hazard of Drones (NY Times)
- Political Violence and the Illicit Economies of West Africa (TPV journal article)
- Global Trends in Kidnapping by Terrorist Groups (GCPS journal article)
- Terrorism in Africa - a special double issue of "Perspectives on Terrorism"
Research presentation to students and CTSS internship participants
Follow CTSS on Twitter
@CTSS_Research
Recent special issue of our peer-reviewed scholarly journal *Perspectives on Terrorism* on the Islamic State
Center for Terrorism and Security Studies

Neil Shortland, CTSS Program Manager, at the 2013 Homeland Security Summit, Hanscom Air Force Base
Terrorist “Roles”

From: Horgan & Shortland, 2015
Marine Colonel John Yurcak teaches our undergraduate Introduction to Homeland Security course
WELCOME!

ISSSS/ISAC Reception
Oct 9, 2015
Dozens of undergraduate and graduate interns work on CTSS research projects each semester.
Neil Shortland presenting at the 2014 annual conference of the Society of Terrorism Research, co-sponsored by CTSS
Developing a Typology of Terrorist Involvement
A Basis to Planning for Sentencing, Management, Risk Reduction, Release & Monitoring of Terrorist Offenders

Data Coding
Codebook variables are entered numerically either as binary or categorically.

- The individual’s background
- How the individual became engaged in Terrorism
- The individual’s roles and functions once involved in terrorism
- Details about the attack/s, if any, which the individual participated in
- The individual’s arrest, indictment, sentencing, and any fines

1999 LAX Plot
Ahmed Ressam, an Algerian citizen living illegally in Montreal, Canada, planned to detonate a homemade bomb at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on New Year's Eve 1999. United States Customs and Border Patrol Officers arrested him at the port of entry in Port Angeles, WA on December 14, 1999. Customs officials found a cache of explosives that could have produced “a blast forty times greater than that of a devastating car bomb”. Ressam’s co-conspirator Mokhtar Haouari aided him by providing $3,000 and forged documents. Haouari recruited his friend Abdelghani Meskini who although unable to physically help transport the bomb, aided Ressam by providing a rental car, cell phone, and translation services.

EVIDENCE OF A WIDER NETWORK

Next Steps
As this project develops and the number of coded offenders increases this project will provide us with a glimpse of the more specific nature of involvement in jihadist terrorism in the United States and Europe. Offenders are often involved in multiple and varied roles, but the number and nature of tasks undertaken within these roles are also diverse. Therefore the data we are building will envelop the following categories in explicit detail:

- Criminal Activity
- Engagement Variables
- Training Behaviors
- Funding behaviors
- Attack Planning Behaviors
- Attack Execution Behaviors

Through the data analysis process, a Continuum of Involvement will be constructed. Descriptive Typologies and job analysis will also be developed and role multiplicity will be analyzed. This project will therefore inform whether certain variables cluster together, illustrating a correlation between certain roles and factors. This plays a critical role in reinforcing several of the underlying assumptions of this work, namely that involvement in terrorism is a highly complex phenomena and involvement in terrorism is unlikely to involve any linear transition. Instead, it will more likely result in an individual being involved in many and varying roles for varying reasons.

Implications

One of several CTSS internship research projects
Center for Terrorism and Security Studies

Media interviews on terrorism & security
Neil Shortland, Roger Cressy (UML alum and former Deputy National Security Advisor), and James Forest
Developing a Typology of Terrorist Involvement
Investigating Terrorist uses of the Internet

Project Summary
The Center for Terrorism and Security Studies (CTSS) seeks to address the complex challenges of domestic and foreign security through research, education, and training. This CTSS project seeks to support the developments of typologies of terrorist actors in order to contribute to our understanding of the diversity in terrorist behavior and backgrounds.

Method and Data Collection
As part of this project CTSS interns have collected data on 183-convicted Al Qaeda terrorists in the U.S. Data for each individuals is derived from open-source court documents including indictments, sentencing documents, plea agreements and court transcripts. CTSS interns also independently identify additional information through open-source news reports and other available sources (such as case studies and interviews the offender). Data points for each individual include:

- Socio-demographics factors such as age, nationality, and criminality.
- How they first became involved with

“...A cyber-terrorism attack is overblown, though the threat exists. I think al Qaeda and other groups are more interested in symbolic terrorism, like what they did to the World Trade Center - suicide bombers or something that really has an effect and is meaningful to people.”

Kevin Mitnick

Implications of the Internet on Terrorist Behavior
The virtures the Internet affords have been turned to the advantage of individuals and groups who aspire to act in support of global terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda and the Islamic State.

Almost all terrorist groups now have a presence on the Internet and use this platform to communicate to several different types of audience for several different purposes. Malevolent uses of the Internet include:

- Recruitment
- Fundraising
- Disseminating propaganda
- Training
- Issuing threats

Terrorist material on the Internet also facilitates the process through which individuals become ‘radicalized’. It allows them to communicate with likeminded individuals as well as providing a platform for individuals to obtain instructions and develop the skills required to do a terrorist attack.

Conclusions

One of several CTSS internship research projects
Center for Terrorism and Security Studies

SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY & JUSTICE STUDIES

- Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice, in which students can take a variety of courses on terrorism, homeland security, and other relevant topics.

- NEW: Ph.D. Option in Terrorism Studies, in which a student takes advanced topical and methodology courses and will focus their dissertation research on a topic related to terrorism or counter terrorism.

- M.A. in Criminology & Justice Studies with optional courses on terrorism, homeland security, and WMD.

- B.S. in Criminology & Justice Studies with optional courses on terrorism, homeland security, and WMD.

- Graduate Certificate in Security Studies can be earned by taking classes on-campus or online.

- Please note: The Bachelors, Certificate, and Master's degrees listed here can be completed entirely online via the UMass Online and Continuing Education website.

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

- Ph.D. in Global Studies program, offered by the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, includes a concentration in Security and Human Rights.

- M.A. in Security Studies program with concentrations in homeland defense, industrial and economic security, or international security.

- M.S. in Security Studies program with concentrations in CBRNE security, critical infrastructure protection, or cybersecurity.

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Use of the Internet by Terrorist Groups

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David Mair, University of Swansea (UK) giving a guest lecture in a terrorism course
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CTSS PROFILE: Mick Williams, Ph.D.

CTSS Post-Doctoral Fellow and Research Associate

Specializations in countering violent extremism and program assessment

Position funded by U.S. Department of Homeland Security; currently working in Washington, DC
One of several CTSS internship research projects.
Center for Terrorism and Security Studies

CTSS PROFILE: Jim Silver

CTSS Doctoral Student

Specializations in terrorism and criminal law, criminal procedure, psychopathy

Position funded by U.S. Department of Justice; currently working on project for the FBI in Quantico
### Developing a Typology of Terrorist Involvement

#### The Use of Informants in Counter-Terrorism Operations

“[The paid and directed informant is] the most extensively used technique in FBI domestic intelligence investigations. Informants were used in 85 percent of the domestic intelligence investigations analyzed in a recent study by the General Accounting Office.”

* Supplementary Detailed Staff Report on Intelligence Activities and the Rights of Americans*

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#### The 2009 Bronx Plot

**The Plan:**
To detonate C4 explosives at synagogues in the Bronx.

To use surface-to-air missiles on military cargo aircrafts at the Air National Guard base in Newburgh, New York.

**The counter-terrorism operation:**
James Cromite was approached by an FBI informant who posed as an Al Qaeda operative. The informant provided inert explosives, stinger missiles and ammunition.

Cromite et al., placed explosives into cars parked outside Riverdale Temple, one of the Jewish Synagogues in the Bronx.

After the bombs had been placed law enforcement officials closed in on the men and arrested them.

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**One of several CTSS internship research projects**
Center for Terrorism and Security Studies

Media interviews on terrorism & security

Boston Marathon attack: Circle of possible bombers narrows, experts say (+video)

Experts who follow radical groups inside the US look at emerging details about the Boston Marathon attack and see the work of a domestic operative — either American jihadi or antigovernment extremist.

By Mark Clayton, Staff writer | APRIL 16, 2013

CBS Evening News, April 2013
Students present their research at conferences and other public forums
Special Double Issue on Terrorist Decision-Making

Prepared by James J.F. Forest

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Exploring Agreements of Convenience Made among Violent Non-State Actors
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Terrorist Group and Government Interaction: Progress in Empirical Research
David B. Carter

The Decision Calculus of Terrorist Leaders
J. Tyson Chatagnier, Alex Mintz, Yair Samban

Peer-reviewed scholarly journal *Perspective on Terrorism* is co-edited by CTSS faculty
Disengagement

How, when and why do people disengage?

Is disengagement affected by the role held by a member?

How, when and why do people re-engage?
CTSS PROFILE: James Forest, Ph.D.

Professor and CTSS Interim Director

Senior Fellow, Joint Special Operations University

Specializations include national and international security studies, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction
Jim Silver and Tore Bjorgo presenting at the 2014 annual conference of the Society of Terrorism Research, co-sponsored by CTSS
Developing a Typology of Terrorist Involvement
A Basis to Planning for Sentencing, Management, Risk Reduction, Release & Monitoring of Terrorist Offenders

MOTIVATION
The Judicial System requires guidelines in order to inform decisions regarding the sentencing, management, risk reduction, release, and monitoring of terrorist offenders. This stems from our lack of an understanding regarding a series of basic questions relating to what involvement in terrorism actually entails. These questions include:

- What precisely do people do, on a day-to-day basis, as terrorists?
- Do terrorists hold on role or many?

PURPOSE
The purpose of this project is to develop the data required to answer the questions above, benefiting both the counter-terrorism agencies as well as the judicial system. The data will simplify complex terrorist groups by organizing offenders into individual responsibilities. The project will therefore provide distinction between various levels of involvement in terrorism. It will also develop the first large-scale data source relating to the individuals who are actually involved in terrorism, rather than solely focusing on the attacks they undertake.

APPROACH
CTSS interns are developing this data-set by populating a 121 variable codebook that includes variables relating to:

- Demographics
- Religion
- Ideology
- Attack-planning
- Court Involvement

Please expand here with information pertaining to where the info comes from, open-source documents and media.

RESULTS
This specific terrorist cell group supports preliminary results that there is no one uniform terrorist role. It therefore provides further evidence that individuals play both general and complex roles within any given terrorist cell, network, or group. This is evident in our cell by:

- Complex roles
  - Omar Ahmad Ali Abdel Rahman
    - Leader
    - Facilitator
    - Recruiter
  - Siddig Ibrahim Siddig Ali
    - Facilitator
    - Financier
    - Planner
  - El Sayyid Nosair
    - Leader
    - Planner
    - Recruiter
- General roles
  - Clement Hampton-EI
    - Bomb maker
  - Ibrahim A. El Gabrowny
    - Courier
  - Victor Alvarez
    - Low level tasks

OFFENDER PROFILES

Omar Ahmad Ali Abdel Rahman
- Also known as the “Blind Sheikh”
- Ring leader, motivator for terrorist attacks domestically in U.S. and abroad
- Responsible for recruiting cell
- Had affiliations with AQ and Osama Bin Laden

Siddig Ibrahim Siddig Ali
- Sudanese national who was closely linked to Sudanese government officials
- Main role was to choose targets, facilitate bomb making, and acquire finances and supplies

El Sayyid Nosair
- Second in command of cell while in prison
- Prior to jail, he organized parliamentarily training for the conduct of jihad acts both in the US and overseas
- He planned acts of terrorism including bombs, murders, and taking hostages

Clement Hampton-EI
- Known as “Dr. Rezai
- Provided the cell with explosives
- Helped organize military training camps
- Smuggled money into the US for military training from the Third World Relief Agency

Ibrahim A. El Gabrowny
- Nosair’s cousin and reciprocate of recordings of jihad instructions
- Head of Abu-Bakr Mosque
- Possessed firearms and illegal documents

Emad Salem
- Paid over a million dollars to infiltrate and foil the New York ‘Lamark’ Bomb Plot as an FBI Informant
- Former lieutenant colonel in the Egyptian army
- Also a key informant in a 1992 and 1993 World Trade Center Bombing

CONCLUSIONS
This work research completed thus far indicates and supports a heterocentric typology of offenders. The data gathered by this project and CTSS interns is eliminating the presumptions that every terrorist offender fills the same level of involvement.

This project shows the importance of research and educating ourselves in terms of involvement in jihadist terrorist activity. This will ultimately help us better understand ideology, motives, and why people engage in terrorist activities.

As the project develops, a better insight will unfold to yield information on the nature, range, and extent of actions and responsibilities of those who participate in terrorist activity. This will further help the judicial system and counter-intelligence agencies in their job of serving the American people.

CENTER for TERRORISM and SECURITY STUDIES
Mick Williams presenting at the 2014 annual conference of the Society of Terrorism Research, co-sponsored by CTSS
Center for Terrorism and Security Studies

WHAT WE DO

The Center for Terrorism and Security Studies (CTSS) leads and facilitates scientific research, education and training to help understand and respond to the evolution, convergence and complexity of domestic and foreign security challenges.

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HAPPENING NOW

CTSS is looking for a new director. Read the job description for the Director for Terrorism and Security Studies.

Read "The Islamic State," a special issue of "Perspectives on Terrorism."

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Follow on Twitter our peer-reviewed scholarly journal *Perspective on Terrorism*