

# WELCOME!

ISSS/ISAC Reception  
Oct 9, 2015

CENTER *for* TERRORISM  
*and* SECURITY STUDIES

# *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.

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# *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](#)

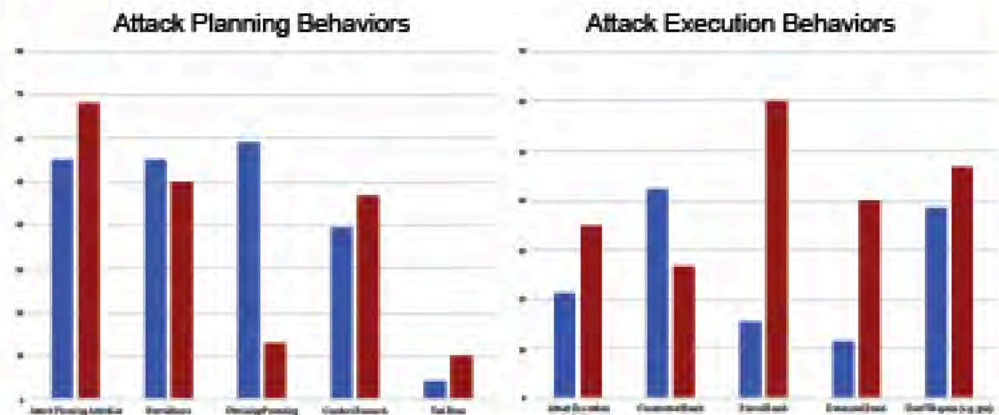
Visit our website: [www.uml.edu/ctss](http://www.uml.edu/ctss)



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.

ATTACK PLANNING BEHAVIORS									
1. Attended training	2. Attended meetings	3. Attended rallies	4. Attended conferences	5. Attended seminars	6. Attended workshops	7. Attended courses	8. Attended lectures	9. Attended presentations	10. Attended other events
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
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10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10



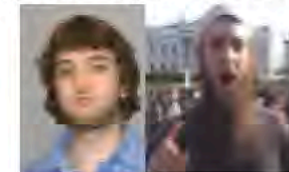
### Recent Cases of Hybrid and Online Terrorist Offenders

Coleen LaRose, aka *Jihad Jane*



- Converts to Islam in 2008.
- Posts Jihadist videos on social media
- Targets Swedish Cartoonist Lars Vilks in retaliation for drawing Prophet 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 Mohamed

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

Information on CTSS, CTSS Projects and Executive Summaries available at - [www.umd.edu/research/ctss](http://www.umd.edu/research/ctss)

CENTER *for* TERRORISM  
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One of several CTSS internship research projects

# *Center for Terrorism and Security Studies*



**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

# PERSPECTIVES ON TERRORISM

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

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### Introduction to the Issue

Welcome from the Editors

*Alex P. Schmid*

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### Articles

[How Jihadist Networks Maintain a Persistent Online Presence](#)

*Ali Fisher*

[Fatal Attraction: Western Muslimas and ISIS](#)

*Anita Perešin*

[At What Cost? United States' Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Reputation, and Public Opinion](#)

*Scott H. Englund*

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### Policy Notes

[Four Questions on ISIS: A "Trend" Analysis of the Islamic State](#)

*Boaz Ganor*

[The Drone Campaign against Al Qaeda and ISIS: Interview with Lt. General David Deptula USAF \(Ret.\)](#)

*Brian Glyn Williams*

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### Book Reviews

[Gabriel Weimann, "Terrorism in Cyberspace: The Next Generation"](#)

*Joshua Sinai*

[Counterterrorism Bookshelf: 20 Books on Terrorism & Counter-Terrorism-Related Subjects](#)

*Joshua Sinai*

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### Resources

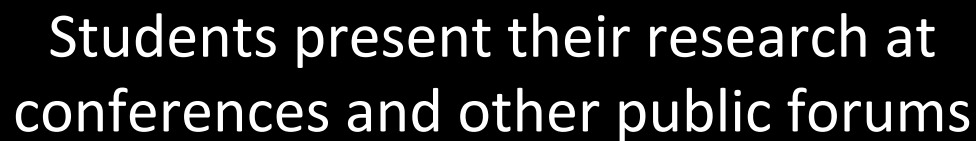
[Bibliography: Conflict in Syria \(Part 2\)](#)

*Judith Tinnes*

[Bibliography: Lone Wolves/Actors of Terrorism](#)

*Eric Price*

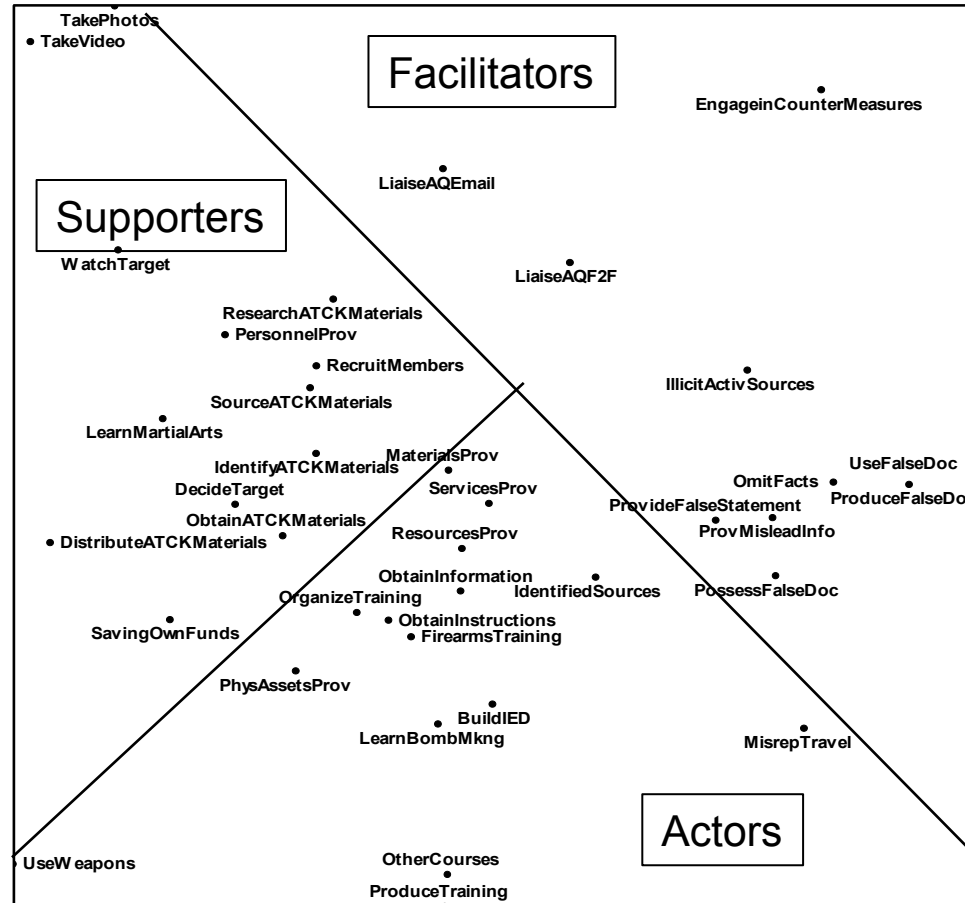




Students present their research at conferences and other public forums



# Terrorist “Roles”



From: Horgan & Shortland, 2015



Neil Shortland and visitors from Swansea University, UK

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Supplementary File(s)

### Date

From

Until

### Index terms

Discipline(s)

Keyword(s)

Type (method/approach)

Coverage

**Search**

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

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Major themes in how terrorists become disillusioned with their organizations.  
Would you like to know more? Visit [www.uml.edu/ctss](http://www.uml.edu/ctss).



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20<sup>th</sup> Annual School Safety Summit,  
co-hosted by Middlesex District Attorney's Office



# PERSPECTIVES ON TERRORISM

Free download all  
issues of our peer-  
reviewed scholarly  
journal *Perspective  
on Terrorism*

## Archives

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### 2015

[Vol 9, No 4 \(2015\): Perspectives on Terrorism](#)

**Special issue on the Islamic State**

[Vol 9, No 3 \(2015\): Perspectives on Terrorism](#)

[Vol 9, No 2 \(2015\): Perspectives on Terrorism](#)

[Vol 9, No 1 \(2015\): Perspectives on Terrorism](#)

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[Vol 8, No 4 \(2014\): Perspectives on Terrorism](#)

[Vol 8, No 3 \(2014\): Perspectives on Terrorism](#)

[Vol 8, No 2 \(2014\): Perspectives on Terrorism](#)

[Vol 8, No 1 \(2014\): Perspectives on Terrorism](#)

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### 2013

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[Vol 7, No 5 \(2013\): Perspectives on Terrorism](#)

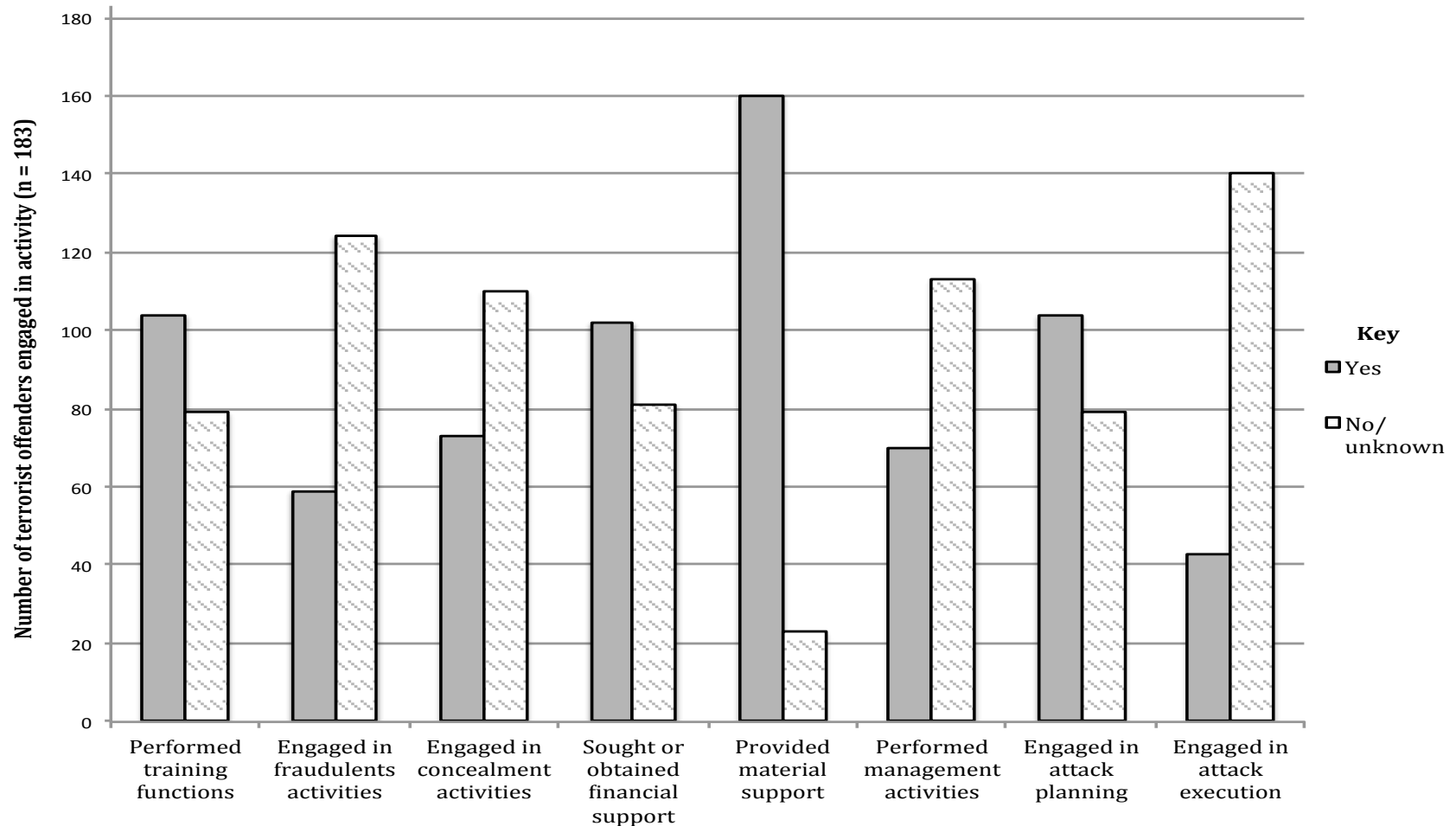
[Vol 7, No 4 \(2013\): Perspectives on Terrorism](#)

[Vol 7, No 3 \(2013\): Perspectives on Terrorism](#)

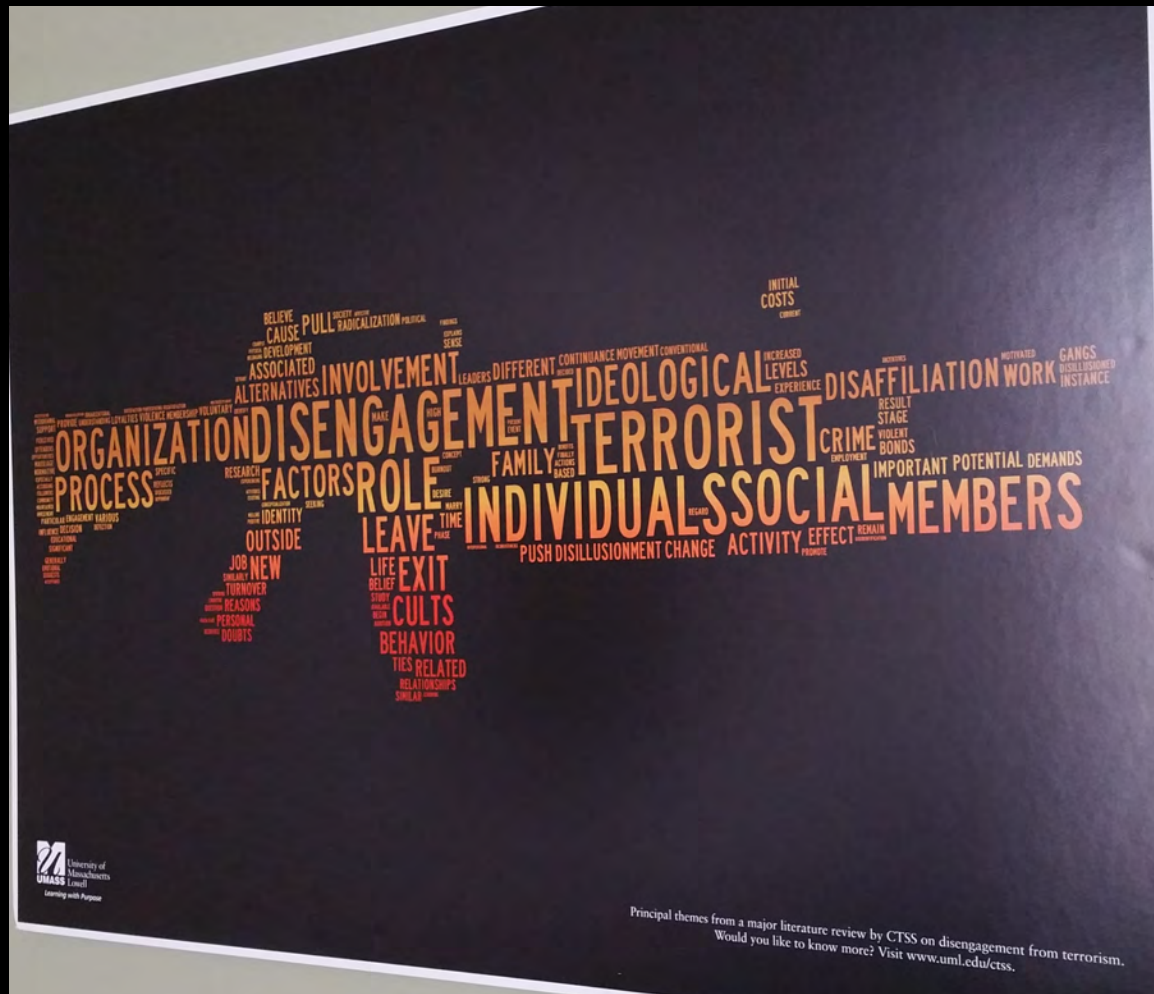
[Vol 7, No 2 \(2013\): Perspectives on Terrorism](#)



# Terrorist “Roles”



From: Horgan & Shortland, 2015



Ask one of our CTSS faculty, staff or students about our current research projects

Vol 5, No 3-4 (2011)

## PERSPECTIVES ON TERRORISM

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**Special Double Issue on Terrorism in Africa**

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

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*Ibaba Samuel Ibaba*

'Forcing the Horse to Drink or Making it Realise its Thirst'? Understanding the Enactment of Anti-Terrorism Legislation (ATL) in Nigeria

*Isaac Terwase Sampson, Freedom C. Onuoha*

Opportunity Costs or Costly Opportunities? The Arab Spring, Osama Bin Laden, and Al-Qaeda's African Affiliates

*Alex S. Wilner*

Al-Qaeda's Influence in Sub-Saharan Africa: Myths, Realities and Possibilities

*James J.F. Forest*

From Theory to Practice: Exploring the Organised Crime-Terror Nexus in Sub-Saharan Africa

*Annette Hübschle*

The Paradox of Terrorism, Armed Conflict and Natural Resources in Africa: an Analysis of Cabinda in Angola

*Victor Ojokorotu*

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

# *Center for Terrorism and Security Studies*



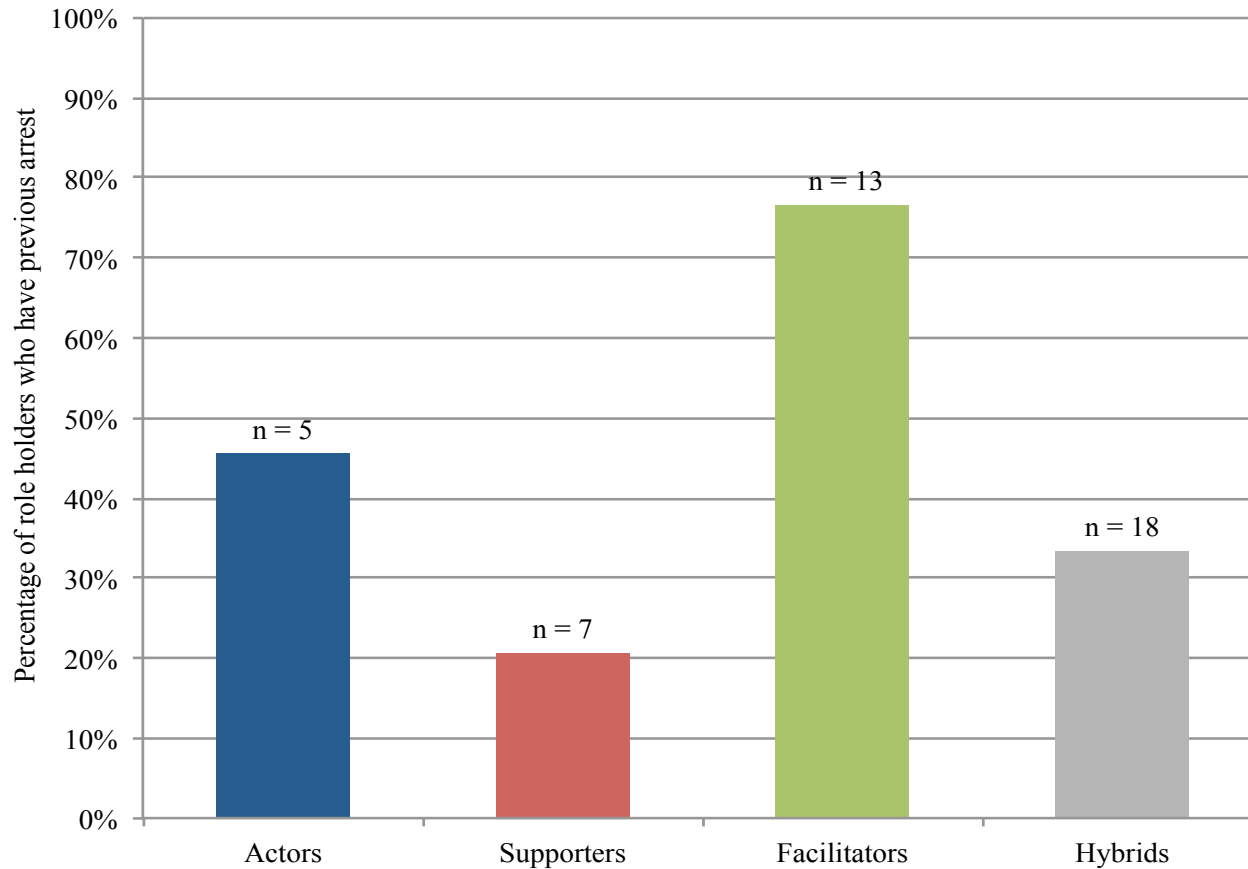
## **CTSS PROFILE: Neil Shortland**

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

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# Center for Terrorism and Security Studies

## Media interviews on terrorism & security

CCTV  
AMERICA



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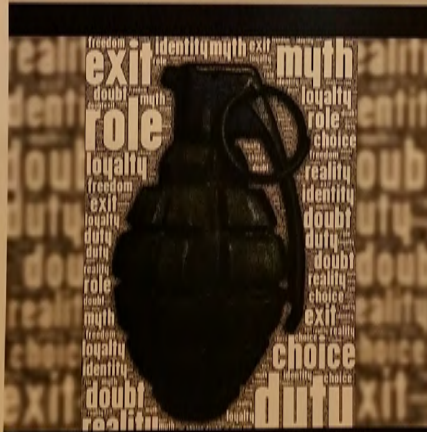
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Center for Terrorism  
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Internships and  
Group Projects  
Workroom

College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

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Major themes in how terrorists become disillusioned with their organizations.  
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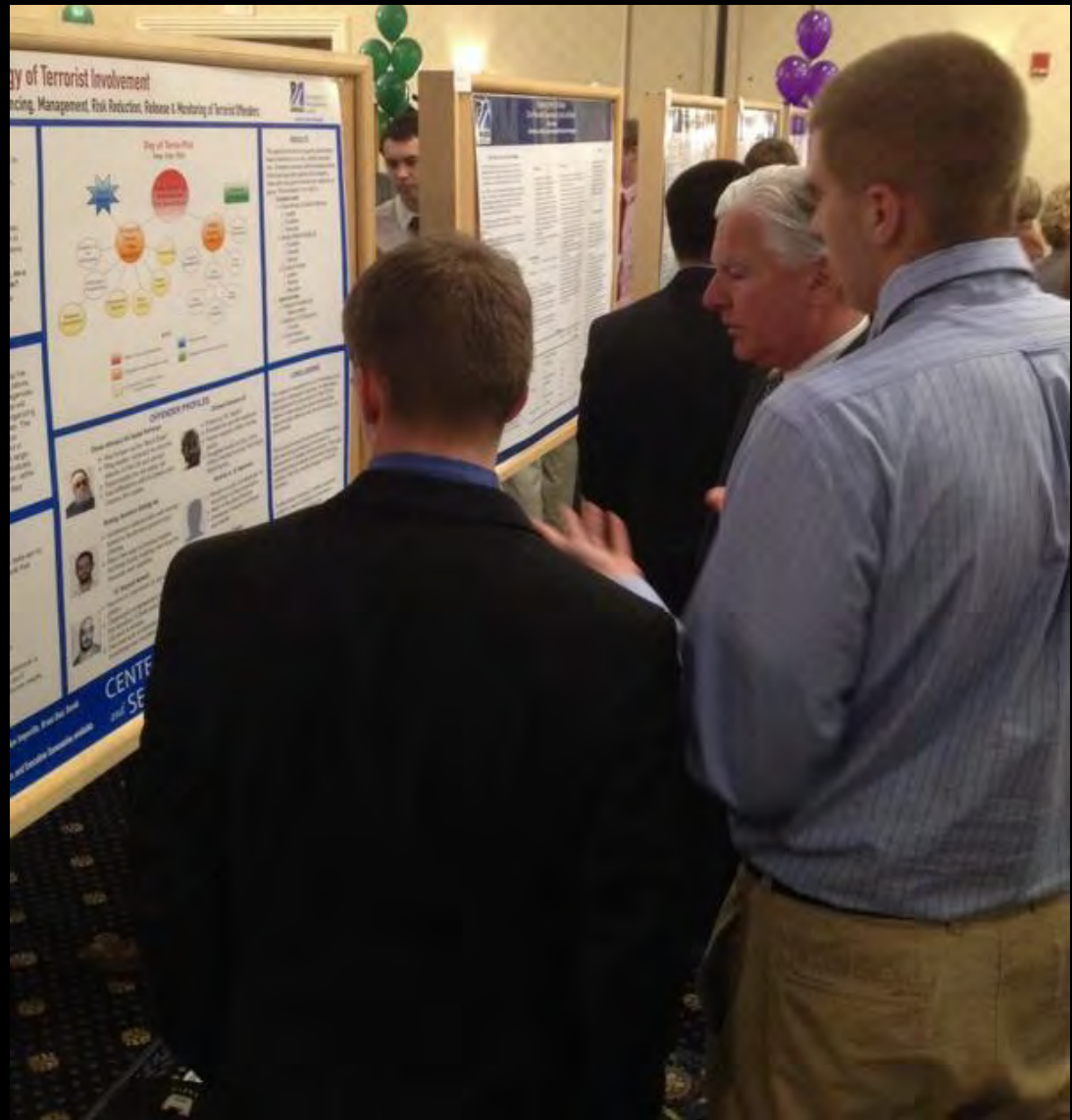
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CTSS has several work spaces  
for student internship projects  
and other kinds of peer  
learning and collaboration



Students present their research at conferences and other public forums



# *Center for Terrorism and Security Studies*

## 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.

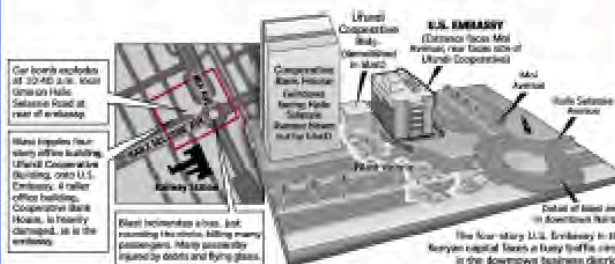


## The Internship

Interns working at the Center for Terrorism and Security Studies aim to uncover and comprehend what it means to be engaged in terrorism by developing a 300+ database of jihadist terrorists convicted in the United States. To generate this data a codebook is populated using info collected using open source reporting and court documents. The codebook examines

## 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, Muhammed Atef, 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 Odeh who set up Al-Qaeda camps in Kenya and received the TNT for the attack. Mohammed Rashed Daoud I. 'Owuali 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.



## Attack Summary

## 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 hold 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 phenomena and involvement in

## One of several CTSS internship research projects

A man with short brown hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, is seated at a desk and looking down at a laptop. Behind him, a large projection screen displays a PowerPoint presentation. The screen shows a slide titled 'What is othering?'. The slide contains a bulleted definition of 'othering' and a sentence about ingroup and outgroup bias. The PowerPoint interface is visible, including the ribbon with tabs like 'File', 'Home', 'Insert', 'References', 'Review', and 'View'. The slide number '22' is visible in the bottom right corner of the slide area.

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



# *Center for Terrorism and Security Studies*



## **CTSS PROFILE: Suzzette 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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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)
- [Homeland Security and Terrorism](#) (McGraw-Hill, 2nd edition 2013)
- [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)
- [Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism](#) (McGraw-Hill, 2nd edition 2013)
- [Terrorism in Africa](#) - a special double issue of "Perspectives on Terrorism"



Research presentation to students and CTSS  
internship participants





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## Terrorism & Security

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**Terrorism & Security** @CTSS\_Research · Sep 26

Are you attending the ISSS/ISAC Conference in Springfield? @CTSS\_Research is hosting a reception, Friday Oct. 9 at 5pm. Come join us!



4



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**Terrorism & Security** @CTSS\_Research · Sep 26

"Why do Ethnopolitical Organisations turn to Crime?" by @Victor\_Asal @JJFForest & Brian Nussbaum in Global Crime: [tandfonline.com/eprint/3xFp85h...](http://tandfonline.com/eprint/3xFp85h...)



3



1



🔄 Terrorism & Security Retweeted



**Michael J. Williams** @MickWilliamsPhD · Sep 24

MT: Special issue of @iIRG1 journal devoted to Intel.-Interviewing / #HUMINT, guest edited by @SMKleinman & me [buff.ly/1gRqDNs](http://buff.ly/1gRqDNs)



5



3



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**John Horgan** @DrJohnhorgan · Sep 24

Social Science in Intelligence Interviewing Contexts, by @MickWilliamsPhD @ @SMKleinman [iirg.org/volume-7-issue...](http://iirg.org/volume-7-issue...) (and an entire Spec. Issue)



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4



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**Paul** @PaulJoosse · Sep 22

This link works for 50 downloads of my article in Terrorism and Political Violence. Get it! [tandfonline.com/eprint/thGXfpu...](http://tandfonline.com/eprint/thGXfpu...) @terpolv @Perspectives\_T



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ISSN 2334-3745

# PERSPECTIVES ON TERRORISM

Volume IX, Issue 4  
August 2015

Special Issue on the Islamic State

Recent special issue of  
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scholarly journal  
*Perspective on  
Terrorism* on the  
Islamic State

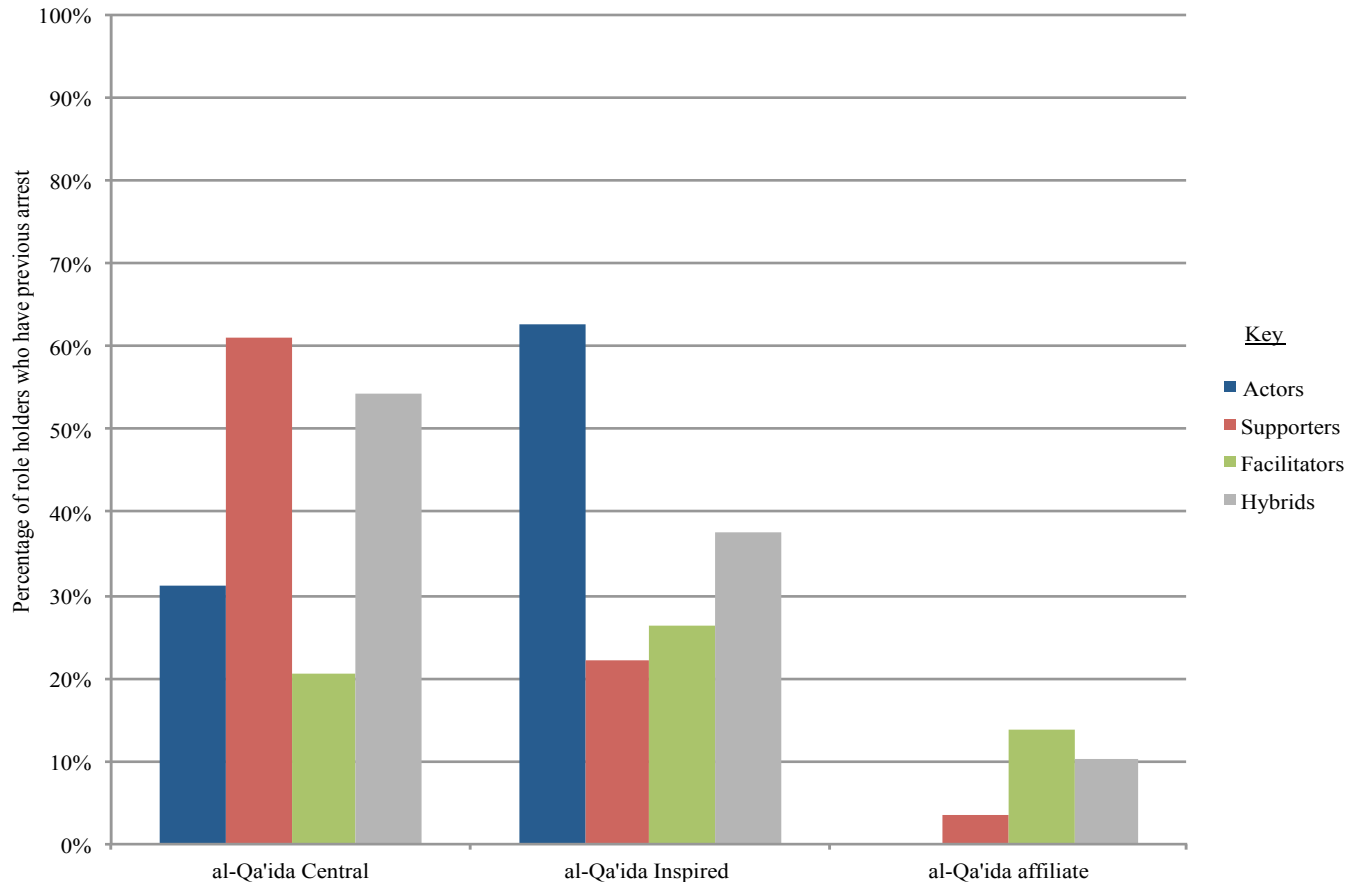


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Neil Shortland, CTSS Program Manager, at the 2013 Homeland Security Summit, Hanscom Air Force Base

# Terrorist “Roles”



From: Horgan & Shortland, 2015



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CTSS is seeking highly motivated students for the academic semester Fall 2015. Successful candidates will work on one of two research projects aimed at understanding the activities engaged in by members of terrorist groups. [Learn more.](#)

# INTERNSHIP



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

This research aims to develop a structure for making more systematic discriminations between terrorist offenders when making decisions regarding sentencing, risk assessment and conviction.

### Project

This project aims to investigate typologies of terrorist involvement based on a detailed examination of the roles and functions held by members of terrorist groups. In order to investigate this, an ongoing large-n open source data collection activity is being undertaken via the Center for Terrorism and Security Studies (CTSS) internship.

### CTSS Internship

Interns assigned to this project populate a 121 variable codebook in the form of an Excel spreadsheet for each offender. Each week every CTSS intern coded 1 individual who has been convicted of terrorist offences in the United States. In order to code each offender, CTSS interns collect and interpret primary source data from court documents, including but not limited to: indictment, sentencing, judgment, information, plea agreement, warrant, complaint, press release, decision, affidavit, memorandum, and memos. Reliable pen source reports such as news reports and government press releases are also used.

Interns also use their research skills

### Data Coding

Codebook variables are entered numerically either as binary or categorically.

These types of variables provide data about the individual during the entirety of their involvement in terrorism, and include:

- 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.

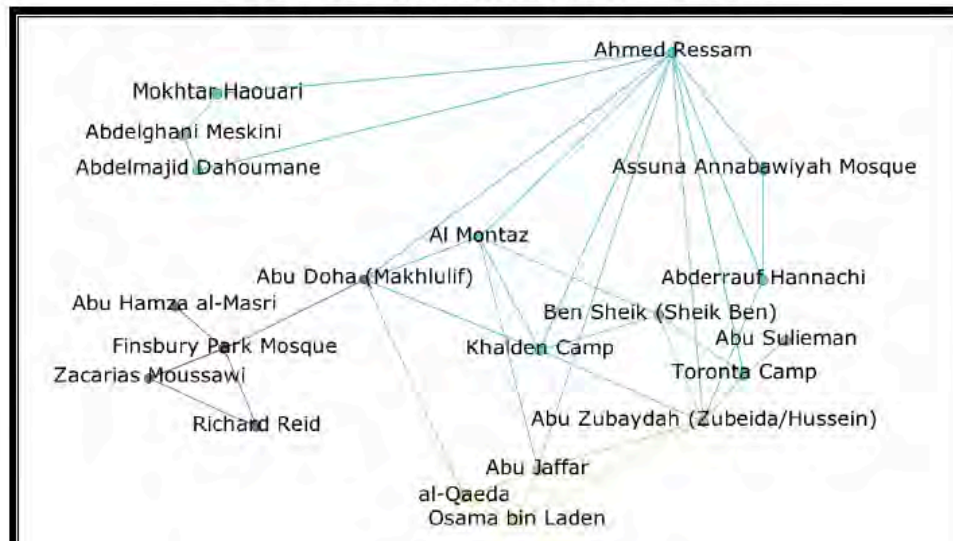
### Next Steps

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 with 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.

### EVIDENCE OF A WIDER NETWORK



### Implications

One of several CTSS internship research projects

# Center for Terrorism and Security Studies

Media interviews on terrorism & security



CNBC Video





Neil Shortland,  
Roger Cressy  
(UML alum and  
former Deputy  
National Security  
Advisor), and  
James Forest



### 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.

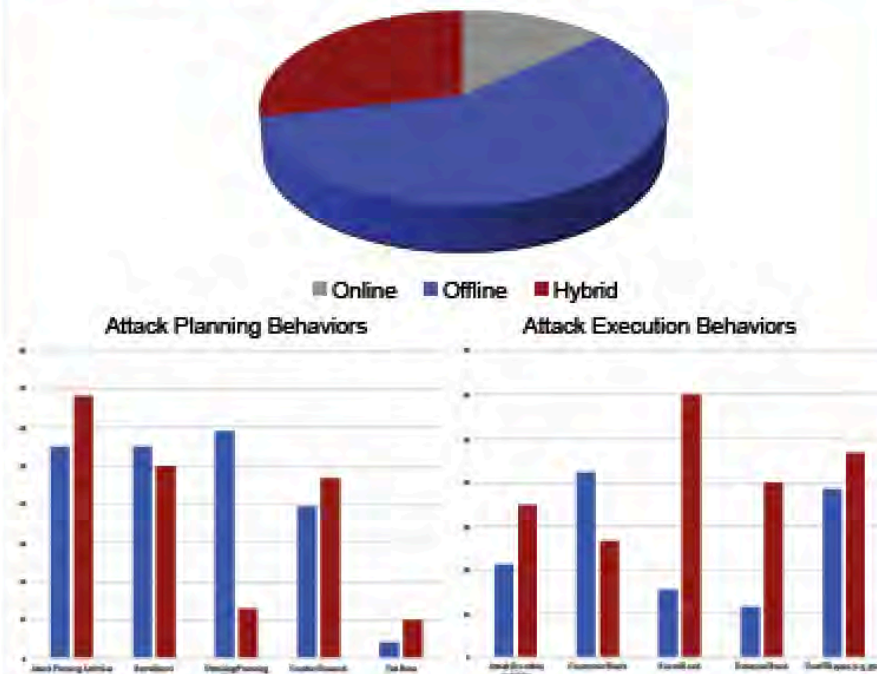
Data for each individuals is derived from open-source court documents including indictments, sentencing documents, plea agreements and court transcripts. CTSS interns also independently identify additional information through open-source news reports and other available sources (such as case studies 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

### The Use of the Internet by Terrorist Offenders in the United States



### Implications of the Internet on Terrorist Behavior

The virtues 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

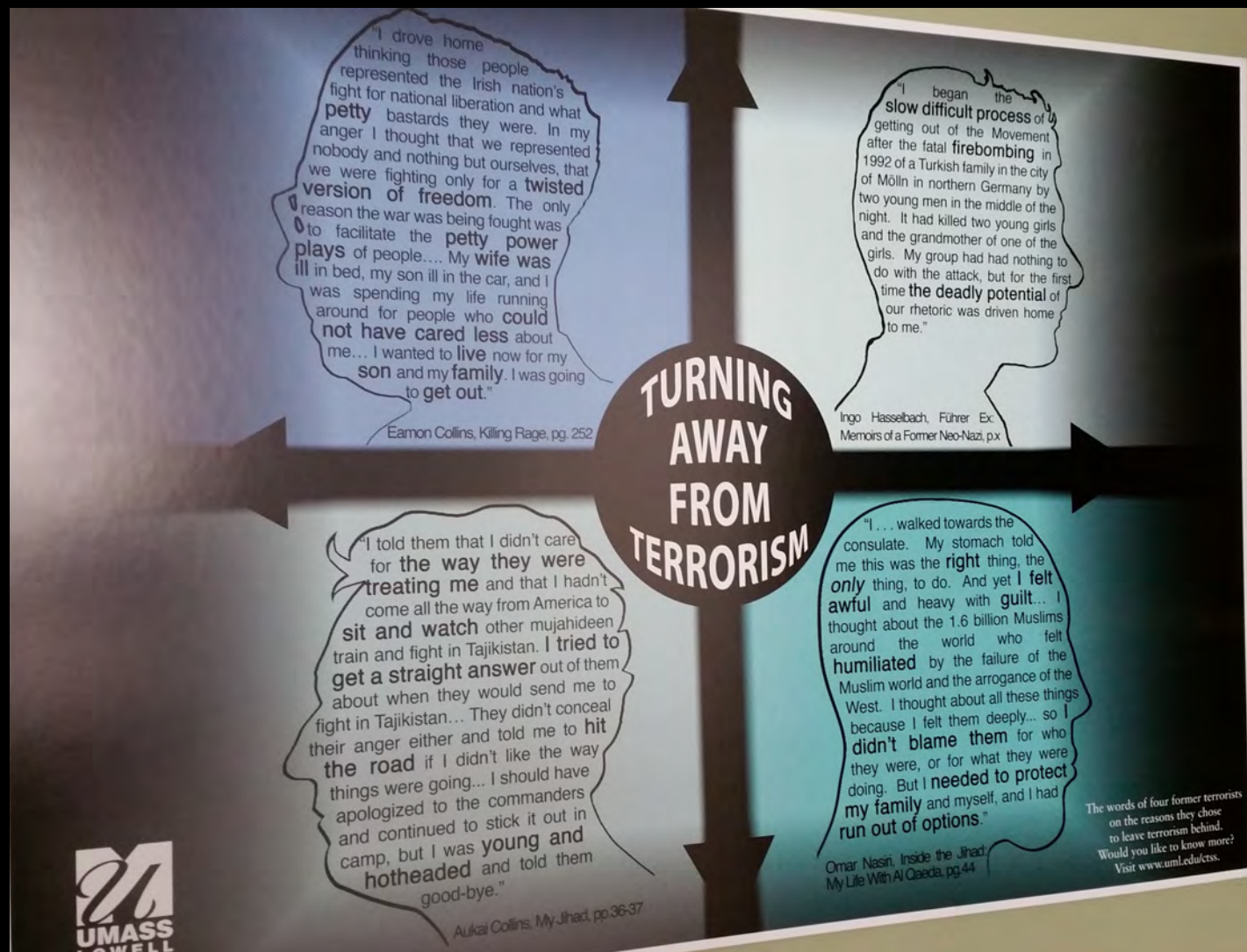
## SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY & JUSTICE STUDIES

- [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.

Visit our website: [www.uml.edu/ctss](http://www.uml.edu/ctss)



Ask one our CTSS faculty, staff or students about our current research projects





David Mair, University of Swansea (UK) giving a guest lecture in a terrorism course

# WELCOME!

ISSS/ISAC Reception  
Oct 9, 2015

CENTER *for* TERRORISM  
*and* SECURITY STUDIES

# *Center for Terrorism and Security Studies*



## **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

to investigate this, a large open source data collection activity has been undertaken via the Center of Terrorism and Security Studies (CTSS) internship.

### The CTSS Internship and Data Collection

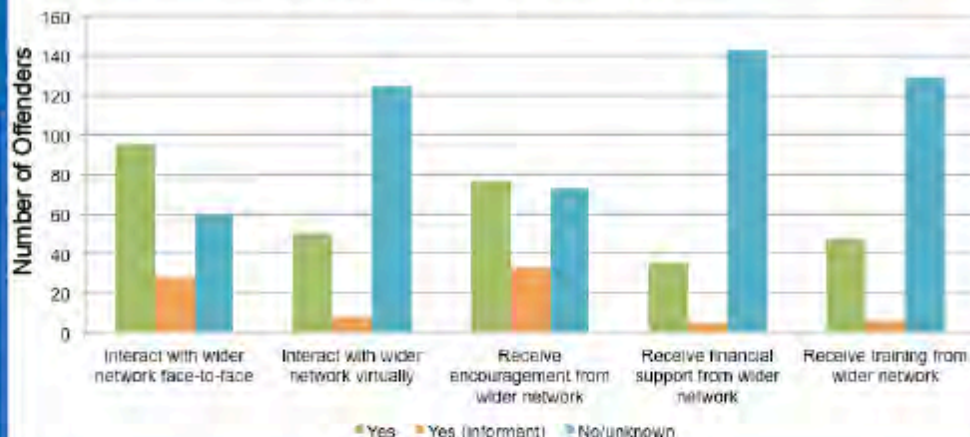
CTSS interns collected data on 183 individuals in the United States who were convicted of terrorist related offences, and operated in support of Al Qaeda or one of its global affiliates. Coding for each offender involved collecting primary source data from court documents, including; indictments, sentencing and plea agreements, statement of facts, affidavit, memorandum, and memos. Reliable open source reports such as news reports and government press releases are also used.

Data collected covered a range of factors including:

- How they became involved in terrorism
- Their socio-demographic profiles
- The role they held when involved in terrorism
- The behaviors they undertook in support of a specific terrorist attack

The data collected for this project are being used to support a wide range of behaviorally based analyses, aimed at furthering our knowledge of what 'involvement' and 'engagement' in terrorism entails.

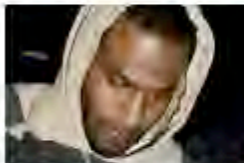
### The support, encouragement and training provided by FBI Informants in domestic counter-terrorism operations



### Case Study: 2009 Bronx Terrorism Plot

**Role:** Transporting explosives

**Sentence:** 25 years



David Williams



Laquerra Payne

**Role:** Transporting explosives and Signaling Caller

**Sentence:** 25 years

**Role:** Transporting Explosives and Surveillance of target

**Sentence:** 25 years



Otha Williams



James Crombie

**Role:** Recruitment, Transporting and placing explosives,

**Sentence:** 25 years



### The Role of the Informant

- Pretended to be an Al-Qaeda operative.
- Promised them money if they completed their tasks.
- Supplied the men with C-4 plastic explosives as well as a Stinger Missile system with ammunition.

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Project Team: Renoel Amogawin, Vincent Probst, Kevin O'Connell

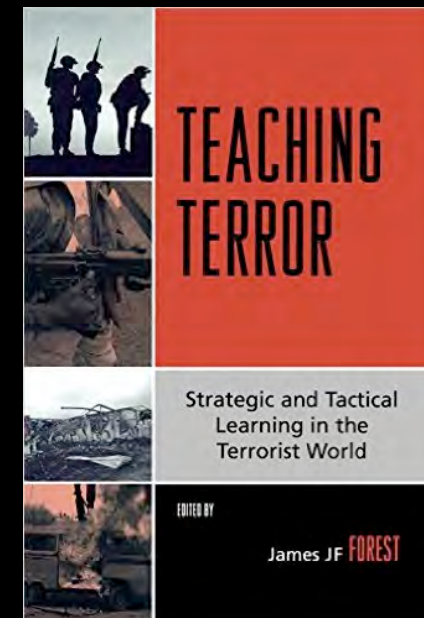
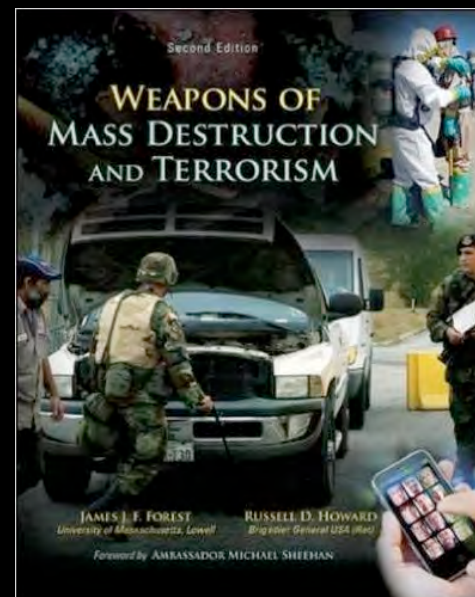
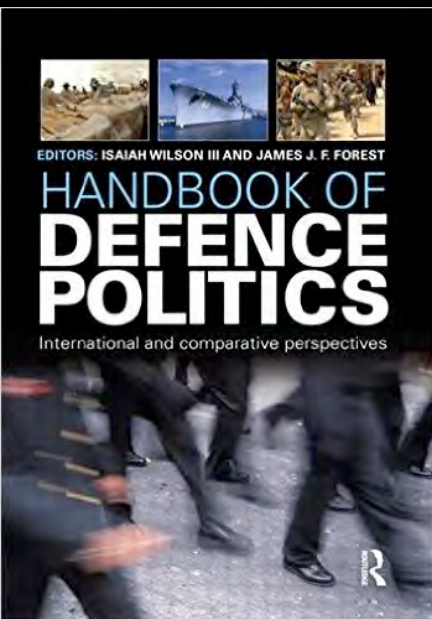
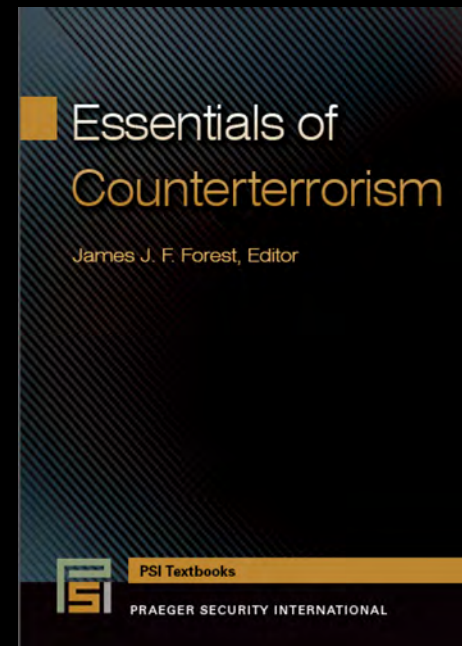
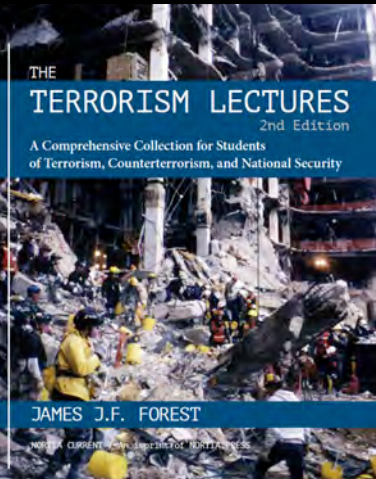
Information on CTSS, CTSS Projects and Executive Summaries available at - [www.umt.edu/research/ctss](http://www.umt.edu/research/ctss)

CENTER *for* TERRORISM  
and SECURITY STUDIES



# Center for Terrorism and Security Studies

## Academic Publications



# *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



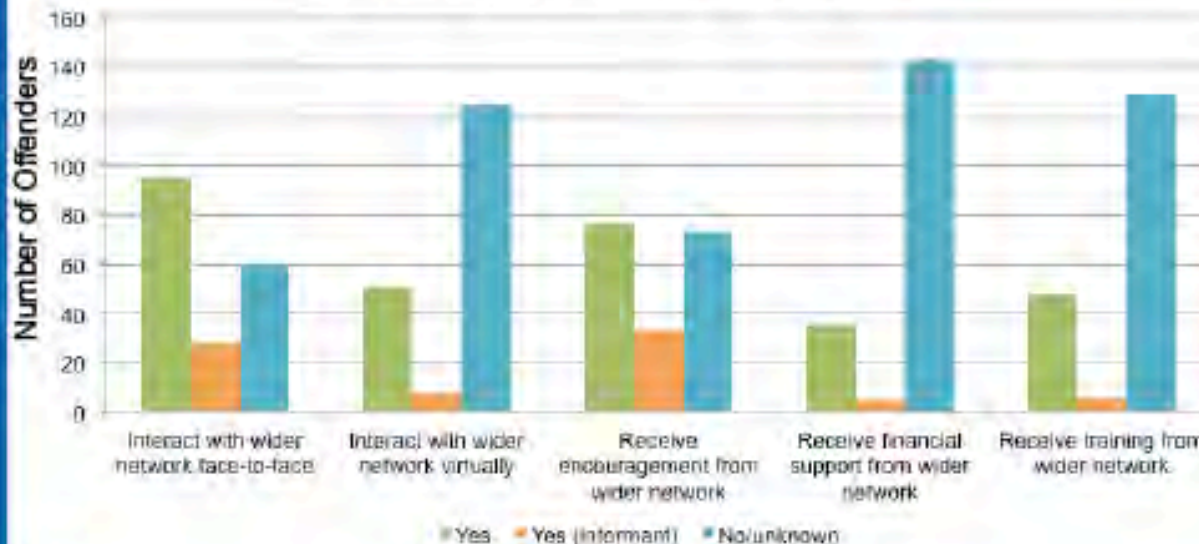
# Developing a Typology of Terrorist Involvement

## 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

### The support, encouragement and training provided by FBI Informants in domestic counter-terrorism operations



### 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 Cromitie was approached by an FBI informant who posed as an Al Qaeda operative. The informant provided inert explosives, stinger missiles and ammunition.

Cromitie 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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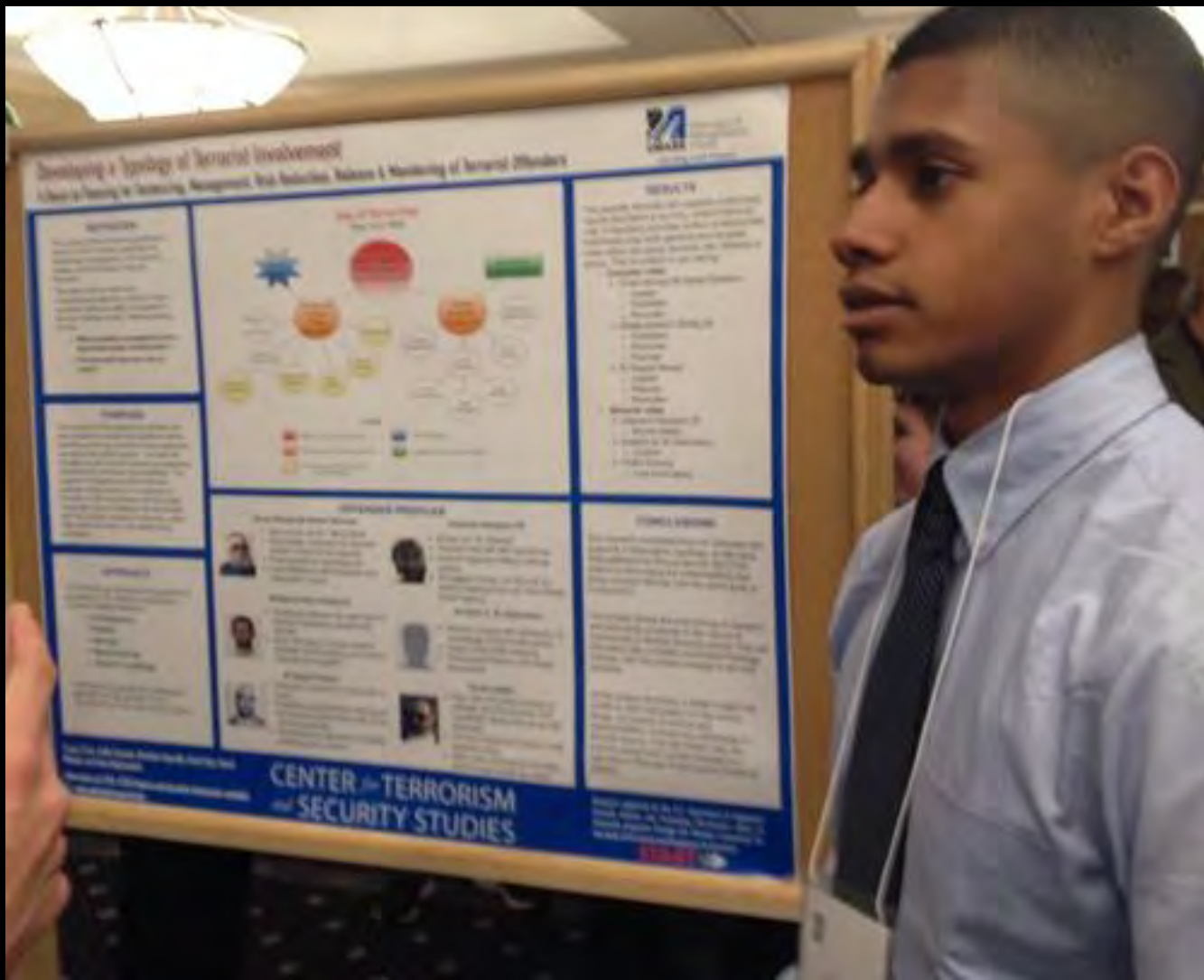


# Center for Terrorism and Security Studies

## Media interviews on terrorism & security



*CBS Evening News, April 2013*



Students present their research at conferences and other public forums

# PERSPECTIVES ON TERRORISM

**Special Double Issue on Terrorist Decision-Making**

**Prepared by James J.F. Forest**

## Table of Contents

### Articles

Terrorist Decision-Making: Insights from Economics and Political Science

*Jacob N. Shapiro*

Turning to and from Terror: Deciphering the Conditions under which Political Groups Choose Violent and Nonviolent Tactics

*Susanne Martin, Arie Perliger*

Why Terrorists Overestimate the Odds of Victory

*Max Abrahms, Karolina Lula*

Exploring Agreements of Convenience Made among Violent Non-State Actors

*Annette Idler*

Exploring the Iran-Hezbollah Relationship: A Case Study of how State Sponsorship affects Terrorist Group Decision-Making

*Marc R. DeVore*

Terrorist Group and Government Interaction: Progress in Empirical Research

*David B. Carter*

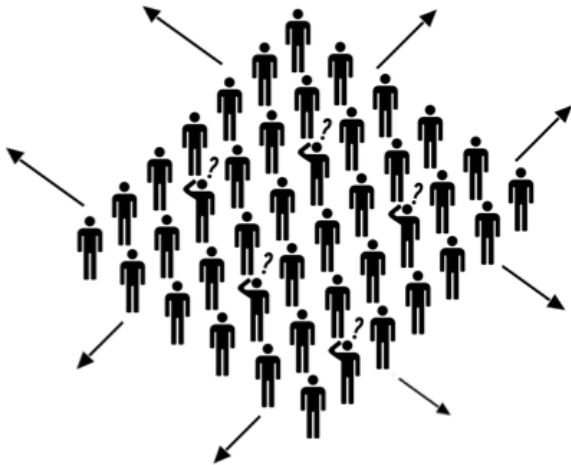
The Decision Calculus of Terrorist Leaders

*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?

# *Center for Terrorism and Security Studies*



## **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

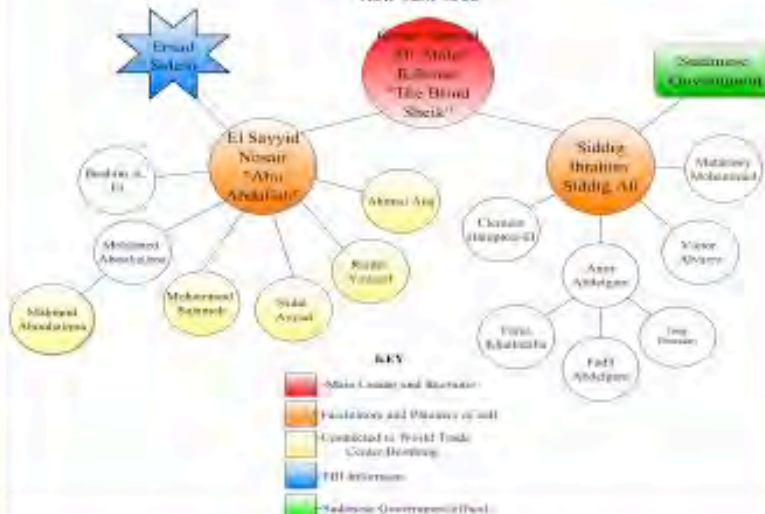
CTSS (Items) are developing this data-set by populating a 121 variable codebook that includes variables relating to:

- Demographics
- Religion
- Ideology
- Attack-planning
- Court involvement

(Please expand here with information relating to where the info comes from - open source etc., with information obtained through the analysis of open-source documents and media.

## Day of Terror Plot

New York 1993



## 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
  - Sidiq Ibrahim Sidiq Ali
    - Facilitator
    - Financier
    - Planner
  - El Sayyid Nosair
    - Leader
    - Planner
    - Recruiter
- **General roles**
  - Clement Hampton-El
    - 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.

### Sidiq Ibrahim Sidiq 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 parliamentary 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-El



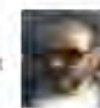
- Known as "Dr. Rashid"
- Provided the cell with explosives
- Helped organize military training camps
- Smuggled money into the US for military training from the Third World Relief Agency

### Ibrahim A. El Gabrowny



- Nosair's courier 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 'Landmark' 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

The work research completed thus far indicates and supports a heterogenic typology of offenders. The data gathered by this project and CTSS items is eliminating the presumptions that every terrorist offender has the same level of involvement.

This project shows the importance of research and educating ourselves in nature 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.



Mick Williams presenting at the 2014 annual conference of the Society of Terrorism Research, co-sponsored by CTSS



# Center for Terrorism and Security Studies

Center for Terrorism  
and Security Studies

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Internships

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Terrorism

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## 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](#)



**RESEARCH**



**PERSPECTIVES ON TERRORISM**



**DEGREES/CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

## HAPPENING NOW

**HOT TOPICS**

**CONNECT WITH CTSS**

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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📍 Vienna, Austria and Lowell, US

🌐 [terrorismanalysts.com/pt/](http://terrorismanalysts.com/pt/)

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Very helpful bibliography of research on Islamic State by Dr Judith Tinnes [radicalisationresearch.org/research/tinne...](http://radicalisationresearch.org/research/tinne...) from @Perspectives\_T special issue

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**Perspectives\_Terror** @Perspectives\_T · Aug 5

Special Issue of PT on the Islamic State, w/guest editor Thomas @Hegghammer is now online at: [terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/p...](http://terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/p...)

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**Terrorism & Security** @CTSS\_Research · Jul 10

Congratulations @glafree and Joshua Freilich @START\_UMD on your new book, Criminology Theory and Terrorism: [routledge.com/books/details/...](http://routledge.com/books/details/)

🔄 5 ⭐ 4