

Running head: Combating Terrorism

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Abstract

On September the 11th, 2001, radical Islamic terrorists proved that the United States was unprepared for terrorist type attacks. Since then the government has gone to great lengths to secure its borders, airlines, and infrastructure and improve its law enforcement abilities. Massive sums of money have been spent in each of these areas with mixed results. Training has been expanded and agencies are now working together that never did before the attacks. Weaknesses that were completely unknown are being addressed. Yet, while the country is much safer today than six years ago, the United States must continue to improve current programs while utilizing all resources to ensure that systems are in place to prevent future terrorist attacks.

Combating Terrorism

America is fighting for its values and way of life in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). There are many countries that have supported the United States in the battle which pits radical Muslims against Western Civilization. Not only American Soldiers, but also Soldiers of other nations are risking their lives for freedom. The police and other agencies responsible for enforcing the law must secure innocent civilian lives and their property. For the last six years, law enforcement forces have received more money and personnel than ever before. They must use these resources wisely to keep our world safe against terrorism.

Public safety and terrorism

Terrorism poses a serious threat to individuals' lives and national security around the world. We all must help keep the nation and public safe from terrorism. The police forces of America are working diligently to solve extremism of terrorists born and raised here in the United States and respond rapidly to these criminal acts. The method of pursuing dealers, fiscal service sources, financially interested parties means that single illegal incidents are often not isolated incidents but are often an integral element of a series of connected offenses. Local authorities must handle native extremists and the felonies they commit right in their backyards. Nationally run law enforcement components must guarantee that local police services have a clean and extensive picture of domestic extremists. This will provide local police with a clear representation of the criminals they are facing. (Public Safety and Terrorism, 2007). The authorities will be responsible for investigating events at both local and national level. Being proactive in their duties will lead to convictions in the criminal courts. It is imperative that we bring the efforts of all our law enforcement agencies together because if the terrorists decided to

“smuggle a nuclear weapon into New York City there is almost nothing anyone could do about it” (Evans, 2007).

International law enforcement cooperation

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) correspond with intercontinental law enforcement entities and police units in other nations, such as Interpol, to distribute intelligence and the newest methods on combating radical transgressions against domestic targets. The task is to aid global law enforcement collaboration linking the United States with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) as well as other worldwide police forces. Interpol currently includes 186 member countries. Interpol has made accessible a variety of assets to assist all associate nations with their challenges to safeguard their societies from terror campaigns. Interpol maintains items of information, conducts investigations and provides intelligence concerning targeted individuals and factions, and their actions. The institute also co-ordinates warnings and pertinent information on terrorists, suspected criminals and threats to law enforcement agencies in affiliated countries.

An example of this cooperation is the Fusion Task Force, created after the September 11 assault on the United States. Interpol now issues realistic courses of action on the type of information required to hunt down and prosecute international and domestic terrorists. Associate nations are strongly encouraged to provide information on other crimes however insignificant they may seem, because there is a chance the crimes are coupled to terrorism. Examples of seemingly unrelated crimes are suspect monetary transactions, arms trafficking, phony travel and identification papers, and the capture of nuclear, biological and chemical producing materials. The growing likelihood of terrorists attacking with biological or chemical weapons is a particularly pressing anxiety for all peace-loving nations of the world. Enforcing the law should

be more effective these days. Worldwide support must center on enhanced synchronization of investigation; identify involving patterns and trends of illegal activities, exchange information and share analysis as well as knowledge. (U.S. National Central Bureau of INTERPOL, 2007)

Terrorism – Past, Present and Future

Concern about terrorism has never been greater than in the past few years. There is new evidence that seems to prove unrelated incidents now tie chance criminal acts to a wave of international violence and terrorism. In the pre 9/11 days, most acts of terror were somehow politically motivated; however today there is a cornucopia of groups with different agenda's and demands. Terrorist attacks can occur anywhere in the world. It has happened and it will probably happen again. A terrorist attack is so brutal and random that it shocks the mind of the victims and the citizens of the country in which it occurs. This kind of attack is more powerful than all other criminal acts. Small groups, inspired by a new brand of fatalism, are carrying out the actions of the "new terrorist".

Law enforcement units must improve their critical analysis when determining where the current threats to our country and the world really exist. Uncovering the threat is becoming more difficult than ever before because there are no obvious borders to cross and there are very few patterns in which to dissect. Organized structures are becoming more difficult to smoke out, because members who move with the refugee and immigrant populations carry the terrorist messages all over the world. These messages are coded and hidden into family events and salutations, which make them evermore challenging to decode for the worlds counterterrorism officers. It is imperative that federal and state officials work closely together to monitor suspect groups and individuals without missing a person of interest or duplicating efforts. In the international arena, the intelligence services must call for bilateral accords, which will assist

prosecution, rather than promoting costly military operations. The key to preventing a terrorist act is intelligence, which is represented by the cooperation, and synchronizing of the FBI, CIA, and Interpol as well as Local/State agencies efforts. (Perry, 2007)

The global challenge

Terrorism is a global problem. The actions of the recent years have proven that the international danger of terrorism has not lessened and that the most significant menace to our lives is that offered by radical fundamentalist (such as Al-Qaeda and like – minded groups). In the recent past, no area of the world has been spared the atrocities of modern terrorism.

Terrorism is most certainly a universal threat to humanity. No problem we face in the 21st century is as important to solve. To reduce the danger and guard the lives of people around the world, global administrations and law enforcement agencies must work together to capture known terrorists, and avert future terrorist activities. Increased security measures to prevent terror do not and should not warrant a breach of personal and civil liberties. If we rob our citizens of their rights in pursuit of the terrorists, the criminals have won by default. Only the future will give us an answer to this question.

Terrorists have demonstrated the aptitude necessary to adjust to law enforcement efforts to incarcerate them. There are two limitations to worldwide law enforcement collaboration, which destabilize its success. The first limitation is geographical in nature and the second is functional in nature. (Noble, 2004) International conventions and accords center on legal collaboration rather than on law enforcement teamwork. Every nation has a duty and an obligation to their citizens to stop dangerous criminals from entering their country. Currently this is not happening today in an efficient manner due to different standards around the world. Countries have a responsibility to warn other countries about individuals that present a potential

danger. Nations must make certain that information about subjects, sought for terrorism and or other crimes are immediately entered into international databases. Police must possess the equipment to speak globally with one another without excluding any state. Countries have a duty to provide information on any internationally pilfered papers. It is vital that states distribute information about passports that are reported stolen, because documents such as these are indispensable tools for terrorists. Global sharing of data in passports, national identity cards, and visas is not occurring at the level it should. Every country should have a police office, staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week, which can immediately query international databases, respond to urgent information requests from police officers in the field and act on information, received from other states, in real time. Countries must ensure that their police forces are properly trained. All of the world's nations should attempt to reach a consensus and cooperated towards their useful realization, rather than focusing only on the harmonization of penal law or the creation of new institutions. Committing to these principles will help the international community making the world safer for its citizens. (Noble, 2004).

Conclusion

Terrorists are evil people who distort their religion for their on personnel gains. As an ordinary Czech person and Soldier I see the war against terrorism getting better. But, there is still a lot of work to do. To eliminate terrorist activities and provide better conditions in which to live our lives and protect the lives of our children we must all cooperate and use the taxpayers more efficiently. The intelligence agencies must share all information with one another and take advantage of emerging technology to win this war. One team one fight!

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