

Terrorism Prevention

Background:

Although the debate continues as to whether home-grown groups (Sageman) or foreign terror organizations (Hoffman) pose the greatest threat to America, there is widespread agreement that the threat of terror is immediate and persistent. Al Qaeda still seeks to launch attacks within the United States and domestic groups continue to recruit and organize. The threat from foreign operatives may increase if the “third generation” of jihadists (Abu Mus’ab al-Suri) are no longer drawn to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, the election of President Obama has created unrest and anger in some domestic extremist groups.

Strategy:

As documented in the Department’s Strategic Objective 1.1, the strategy is to “prevent, disrupt, and defeat terrorism operations before they occur.”

Toward that end the State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training ([SLATT](#)) is prevention-oriented and is designed to engage state and local law enforcement in counter-terror activity. It assists officers recognize suspicious activities and behaviors that often compose an element of the run-up to an act of terror.

The Communities Against Terror (CAT) program is predicated on the theory that nearly all acts of terror are preceded by discernible behavior and activity that will bring members of terror cells into contact with service providers and neighborhood businesses. Based on deconstruction of previous foreign and domestic acts of terror, it outlines potential indicators of terrorism for various industries and offers templates of industry-specific flyers designed for distribution to businesses. The flyers may be customized with law enforcement agency contact information. Accompanying tutorials prepare officers to work with the community, and an automated presentation outlines the program. The CAT program is available to officers via CD or online and is updated regularly with new business and industry information.

Outputs/Accomplishments:

SLATT has trained more than 86,600 federal, state; and local law enforcement officers in 895 events around the country. In FY 2008, more than 10,525 federal, state, local, and tribal officers received training that was customized specifically to the needs of their jurisdiction. More than 198,800 officers have received terrorism prevention information from graduates of SLATT’s Train-the-Trainer Program.

The SLATT program also maintains a counter-terrorism website (www.slatt.org) and regularly develops publications ranging from pocket guides addressing terror precursors or fraudulent identity documents to more detailed works addressing topics relevant to terror prevention.

Next Steps:

Continue the SLATT and CAT program

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