BACKGROUND
This research highlight provides findings based on START’s Profiles of Perpetrators of Terrorism in the United States (PPT-US) dataset, which includes detailed information on the 147 organizations known to have engaged in terrorist attacks against targets in the U.S. homeland from 1970 through 2012.

Terrorism is defined as the threatened or actual use of illegal force and violence by a non-state actor to attain a political, economic, religious or social goal through fear, coercion or intimidation. More information is available at www.start.umd.edu/gtd.

PPT-US Data: The dataset includes information on each group’s:

- terrorist attacks
- history and base of operations
- ideology and goals
- financial resources
- engagement in other criminal and political activities
- alliances
- network and structure

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS
There is no single “profile” of organizations that target the U.S. homeland with terrorism. Rather, the groups that attacked the United States between 1970 and 2012 had widely varied ideologies, beliefs, and goals.

Of these 147 groups that attacked targets in the United States during this time:

- 87% had headquarters in the United States
- 63% carried out attacks for less than one year
- 97% emerged before the year 2000
- 87% also engaged in non-voluntary political activities

52 PERPETRATOR GROUPS PARTICIPATED IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:

- **Financial Crime**
  - A counterfeiting operation was based at the compound of the leader of the Aryan Nations.

- **Public Order Crime**
  - The Animal Liberation Front participates in releasing animals from research facilities.

- **Violent Crime**
  - Symbionese Liberation Army members participated in multiple bank robberies.

- **Drug Trafficking**
  - A leader of Omega-7 had ties with major narcotics dealers. The group was financed in part by trafficking activities.
This research was part of a larger effort to develop a comprehensive database on Terrorism and Extremist Violence in the U.S. (TEVUS) that integrates data from the Global Terrorism Database, the American Terrorism Study, Profiles of Perpetrators of Terrorism in the U.S., and the U.S. Extremist Crime Database. Led by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), the research team is creating a resource that will allow operational and academic end-users to conduct unprecedented analyses that incorporate incident, perpetrator, and geospatial information.