The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) is a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence based at the University of Maryland.

START uses state-of-the-art theories, methods, and data from the social and behavioral sciences to improve understanding of the origins, dynamics, and social and psychological impacts of terrorism. For more information on START, please visit http://www.start.umd.edu/.

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This year, Erica Chenoweth was awarded the Carol A. Baker Memorial Prize for excellence in junior faculty teaching and research from Wesleyan University. The Carol A. Baker Memorial Prize is awarded on a yearly basis to encourage and recognize teaching and research within the College of Social Sciences.

In August, Susan Fahey, a recipient of a Terrorism Research Award and a new faculty member at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, received funding from DHS to attend the DHS Science & Technology Directorate (S&T)/UK Home Office, Office of Security and Counter Terrorism Greenfield Aviation Security Workshop at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ. The workshop sought input from 30 young researchers from a range of science and engineering disciplines to envision the future of aviation security.

This Fall, Emmanuel Karagiannis will spend his sabbatical at Princeton University as a Stanley J. Seeger Visiting Research Fellow. The Seeger Fellowship, through the Program in Hellenic Studies, is for scholars from Greece and other countries to pursue independent research projects at Princeton.

START has scheduled the Fall START Seminar with DHS Under Secretary for Science & Technology, Dr. Tara O’Toole. Dr. O’Toole will be addressing the role that academic research can play in homeland security at the University of Maryland Clarice Smith Center for thePerforming Arts (Kogod Theater) on September 16, 2010 from 10:30 – 11:30 am. The event is free of charge and open to the public. RSVP to infostart@start.umd.edu.

START is delighted to announce the recent addition of two new members to our headquarters staff. Sarah Fishering serves as Education Coordinator and Beya Reynolds serves as Office Assistant. If you haven’t already had contact with them, they can be reached at sfishering@start.umd.edu and rreynolds@start.umd.edu.

Subscribe to START RSS Feeds at http://www.start.umd.edu/start/rss_feeds.asp.
Prisons and Terrorism: Radicalisation and De-radicalisation in 15 Countries

At the recent Peace and Security Summit in New York, ICSR launched its latest report, Prisons and Terrorism: Radicalisation and De-radicalisation in 15 Countries. Sixteen of the world’s leading experts contributed to the report, which was funded by the governments of Australia, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, and carried out in partnership with the START. The project supporting the report was sponsored in part by START and the University of Maryland.

Among the key findings and recommendations are:

- Terrorists are not ‘ordinary’ offenders. They often use their time in prison to mobilize outside support, radicalise other prisoners, and – when given the opportunity – will attempt to recreate operational command structures.

- The current emphasis on security and containment leads to missed opportunities to promote reform. Prison services should be more ambitious in promoting positive influences inside prison, and develop more innovative approaches to facilitate extremists’ transition back into mainstream society.

- Over-crowding and under-staffing amplify the conditions that lend themselves to radicalization. Badly run prisons make the detection of radicalization difficult, and they also create the physical and ideological space in which extremist recruiters can operate at free will.

- Individual de-radicalization and disengagement programs – such as the ones in Saudi-Arabia, Singapore, Indonesia, and other countries – can make a difference. Their positive and outward-looking approach should serve as an inspiration for governments and policymakers everywhere.

- Even in the best circumstances, however, such programs complement rather than replace other instruments in the fight against terrorism. They work best when the political momentum is no longer with the terrorists or insurgents.

In the words of ICSR’s Director, Dr Peter Neumann, ‘Prisons are not just a threat – they can play a positive role in tackling problems of radicalization and terrorism in society as a whole. Many of the examples in the report demonstrate how.’

The report identifies trade-offs and dilemmas but also principles and best practices that will help governments and policymakers spot new ideas and avoid costly and counterproductive mistakes.
Over the past year, START has been redesigning our website to make it more user- and media-friendly.

This is just a glimpse of some of the changes and new features:

**START in a Flash**
To highlight the most recent updates for START, we have created a section to highlight these graphically. You will be able to click through these rotating images and use the images to take you to the sections of the START site that you are the most interested in.

**START Media Guide**
We will be featuring a new media guide that allows members of the media to search among START Researchers to find the experts most relevant to their topic of interest.

**START Announcements & Events**
We have separated our events and announcements to make it easier to find the current news about START as well as upcoming events and materials from previous events.

**START Education & Product Spotlights**
We have incorporated feature sections on the new site, to make it easier to find the products that START has developed through their research as well as the most notable updates in education.

**Coming Soon - START Multimedia Feature**
As updates to the new site continue, the Director’s Letter will be replaced with a multimedia section, making all of our photos, video, and powerpoint presentations available to you through one portal.

The new START website will be available to the public beginning September 1, 2010 in beta form. During the beta period, the current site will remain accessible through the revised site.

The new site will be available at the current URL: [http://www.start.umd.edu/start/](http://www.start.umd.edu/start/)
START has released an update to its Global Terrorism Database (GTD), a comprehensive open-source database including information on terrorist attacks around the world between 1970 and 2008. The GTD includes systematically collected data on both domestic and international terrorist incidents. The expanded data released in May 2010 include new information through December 2008 and additional new cases from supplemental data collection projects, including high-profile assassinations and terrorism in the United States. In 2008 for the first time, primary GTD data collection was carried out by the Institute for the Study of Violent Groups at New Haven University (http://isvg.org/).

The 2008 Data

- Includes over 2,500 bombings, 1,100 armed assaults, 200 assassinations, 300 facility/infrastructure attacks, and 300 kidnappings.
- The most common type of target is Private Citizens and Property (31%), followed by Government (15%), Business (9%), and Police (9%).
- 50 new terrorist organizations were added to the data.

The GTD now includes data on over 87,000 terrorist attacks worldwide between 1970 and 2008:

- Over 2,200 attacks occurred in the United States.
- The database includes attacks that were carried out as well as those that were attempted but not successful.
- Includes over 38,000 bombings, 21,000 armed assaults, 13,000 assassinations, 6,000 facility/infrastructure attacks, 4,000 kidnappings, and 700 hostage taking incidents.
- The attacks in the GTD are attributed to over 2,100 terrorist groups.

Improvements and added functionality to the GTD search interface and search results include:

- Searches and graphing of activity of multiple perpetrator groups
- Searches and graphing of activity in multiple countries
- Restrict search results based on whether the attack was a suicide attack
- Restrict search results based on whether the attack was successful
- Browse cases by date of attack
- Incident page includes indication of uncertainty where the identity of the terrorist group is unclear.
- Incident page includes any available details about the name of the perpetrator group to which the attack is attributed, including faction name where available.

The full dataset can be downloaded through the “Contact” section of the website. The Global Terrorism Database (GTD) is an open-source database including information on terrorist events around the world from 1970 through 2008 (with annual updates planned for the future). Unlike many other event databases, the GTD includes systematic data on domestic as well as international terrorist attacks and now includes more than 87,000 cases. For each GTD incident, information is available on the date and location of the incident, the weapons used and nature of the target, the number of casualties, and—when identifiable—the group or individual responsible.
Recent START Publications

More START Publications available at: http://www.start.umd.edu/publications/

Articles & Book Reviews


LaFree, Gary. “Criminology’s Third War: Special Issue on Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism.” Criminology and Public Policy 5.1 (2009).


Book Chapters


Books
