Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
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**Partnerships for a Safer World: START at DHS Summit**

College Park, MD – The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) will play a key role in the Third Annual DHS University Network Summit, March 17-19, 2009. The Summit will showcase the partnerships and collaborations that the Department of Homeland Security’s university-based Centers of Excellence have made in a number of homeland security areas. START, a DHS Center of Excellence based at the University of Maryland, will participate by providing panelists, plenaries, moderator, and posters for the conference.

START will contribute to two plenary sessions; “Data Needs for Radicalization Studies,” featuring Gary Ackerman (START), Marc Sageman (Foreign Policy Research Institute), and Allison Smith (DHS); and “Understanding the Dynamics that Drive Improvised Explosive Devices,” presented by Gary LaFree (START) and Allison Smith (DHS).

In addition to the plenary sessions, START has organized panel presentations featuring START featuring START research. A panel on “Dissent, Extremism, and Terrorism: Understanding the Range of Actors” will include Victor Asal (SUNY-Albany), Steven Chermak (Michigan State University), Joshua Freilich (John Jay College), Brent Smith (University of Arkansas), Jonathan Wilkenfeld (University of Maryland), and the session will be moderated by Kathleen Smarick (START).

START has also organized a panel on “Student Research: Social Network Analysis of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism.” Panelists, all of whom have received research support from START, will include Ian Anderson (SUNY-Albany), Christine Bevc (University of Colorado), David Caspi (John Jay), James Hendrickson (University of Maryland), and Ali Jordan (University of Colorado).

Student posters will be on display throughout the day on Tuesday, and a number of students will be presenting on their START research:
• “Guerilla Marketing Gone Bad: A Centering Resonance Analysis of Online and Traditional Media Coverage of the 2007 ‘Boston Bomb Scare’” - Hamilton Bean (University of Colorado)
• “Delving Further Into State Fragility and Terrorism: The Importance of War” - Susan Fahey (University of Maryland)
• “Terrorist Attacks Against the Police” - Jennifer Gibbs (University of Maryland)
• “Ideologically-Motivated (IM) Homicide in the U.S., 1990-2007: A Comparison of Far-Right and Bias Homicide Events” (Jeffrey Gruenewald, Michigan State University)
• “Patterns of Decline among Terrorist Organizations” - Erin Miller (University of Maryland)
• “Competition in the Political Market for Terrorist Violence” - John Sawyer (Georgetown University)
• “Social Attention Theory: A New Look at Knowledge Formation in Groups” - Garry Shteynberg (University of Maryland)

A key feature of START’s work at the summit will include the release of an update of its Global Terrorism Database (GTD). The GTD is an open-source database including information on terrorist events around the world. The updated database will include over 80,000 incidents from 1970 through 2007. Unlike many other event databases, the GTD includes systematic data on domestic as well as transnational and international terrorist incidents that have occurred during this time period. The GTD is available to the public via an online interface (http://www.start.umd.edu/start/data/) in an effort to increase understanding of terrorist violence so that it can be more readily defeated.

The GTD will be released in a panel on March 17, “The Global Terrorism Database: An Expanded and Revised Resource for Understanding Trends in Terrorism” by Charles Blair (START), Laura Dugan (University of Maryland), Gary LaFree (START), John Wigle (NCTC), and moderated by Kathleen Smarick (START).

Registration for the DHS University Network Summit is free and open to the public at http://www.orau.gov/dhssummit/.

| Schedule of START Presentations |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Date | Time | Presentation | Presenters |
| 3/17/09 9:00am-10:00 am | Data Needs for Radicalization Studies: Partnering Challenges | ~ Gary Ackerman (START) ~ Marc Sageman (Foreign Policy Research Institute) ~ Allison Smith (DHS) |
| 3/17/09 11:15 am – 12:15 pm | Understanding the Dynamics that Drive IEDs | ~ Gary LaFree (START) ~ Allison Smith (DHS) |
| 3/17/09 1:15 pm – 3:45 pm | The Global Terrorism Database: An Expanded and Revised Resource for Understanding Trends in Terrorism | ~ Charles Blair (START), ~ Laura Dugan (University of Maryland) ~ Gary LaFree (START) ~ John Wigle (NCTC) ~ Moderated by Kathleen Smarick (START) |
### Student Research on Social Network Analysis of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism

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| 3/17/09    | 1:15 pm – 3:45 pm | Student Research on Social Network Analysis of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism | ~ Ian Anderson (SUNY-Albany)  
~ Christine Bevc (University of Colorado)  
~ David Caspi (John Jay College)  
~ James Hendrickson (University of Maryland)  
~ Ali Jordan (University of Colorado) |

### Dissent, Extremism, and Terrorism: Understanding the Range of Actors

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| 3/17/09    | 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm | Dissent, Extremism, and Terrorism: Understanding the Range of Actors        | ~ Victor Asal (SUNY-Albany)  
~ Steven Chermak (Michigan State University)  
~ Joshua Freilich (John Jay College)  
~ Brent Smith (University of Arkansas)  
~ Jonathan Wilkenfeld (University of Maryland)  
~ Moderated by Kathleen Smarick (START) |

### START

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. Additional information on START is available at: [www.start.umd.edu](http://www.start.umd.edu).