



FORUM

START  National Consortium for the
Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism

A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BASED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

CALL FOR POSTERS

Terrorist Threat to Sunny City!

NCA-F/START Conference on Emergency Pre-Event Communication*
National Communication Association (NCA) San Diego Convention
Thursday, November 20, 2008

OVERVIEW

This day-long NCA pre-conference, which concerns communication dilemmas in advance of a real or perceived terrorist threat, seeks research posters related to our conference theme. Conference sessions will address (1) how communication needs in anticipation of terrorist threats compare with those for natural disasters; (2) how the press and public officials can best communicate news of allegedly foiled threats to their publics; (3) the problems various stakeholders confront in communicating about imminent attacks; and (4) to what extent publics can be made a part of the pre-event planning and problem-solving process.

These issues are raised in a two-part PBS series on terrorism that will figure in the day's discussion (www.pbs.org/inthebalance/terrorism). Produced by **Fred Friendly Seminars** (FFS, www.fredfriendly.org), *City Under Siege* and *Bio-Attack* utilize a dilemma-centered discussion technique pioneered by former CBS journalist Fred Friendly. FFS President **Richard Kilberg** and Vice President **Ruth Friendly** will be on hand to introduce the technique to participants including communication researchers, emergency managers from the San Diego metropolitan area, and experts affiliated with START. The day will be structured so as to maximize opportunities for interaction among participants. In addition, Dr. **Monica Schoch-Spana** of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's (UPMC) Center for Biosecurity will present a keynote address concerning archetypal publics in disaster discourse and their implications for planning and response.

POSTER SESSIONS

Posters provide a forum for researchers and practitioners to share their work informally. On display throughout the day, posters will be discussed by authors and participants during an afternoon coffee break. The posters will provide information about research and practice concerning emergency and crisis communication, particularly as it relates to terrorism. We welcome critical, case study, and empirical research methods, and are soliciting posters in areas including but not limited to:

- **Threat construction and mitigation**
- **Emergency risk communication, terrorist risk perception**
- **Pre-event emergency and civil defense planning**
- **Terrorism and natural disasters communication research**
- **Public and elite perception of novel terrorist threats including WMD, cyber- and bioterrorism**

*This event is sponsored by the National Communication Association-Forum (NCA-F, see NCA at www.natcom.org) and the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism & Responses to Terrorism (START, <http://www.start.umd.edu/>).

REFEREED POSTER SUBMISSIONS

Successful posters selected by the referee committee are those that convey technical details in attractive, well-designed formats with intellectual rigor and high relevance to the conference theme. They should capture the attention of attendees as they stroll through the room and encourage small groups to gather and interact. The organizers will bestow an award for the best poster based on its quality of content and design.

Electronic submissions are due to Hamilton Bean (hamilton.bean@colorado.edu) by June 1, 2008. A submission must include an abstract of up to 400 words. A rough sketch or outline of the poster is recommended. Authors of accepted poster submissions must provide a 250 word or less summary of poster content for printing in the conference promotional materials. By agreeing to present your poster in 2008, you give permission to the conference organizers to print the poster and summary on promotional materials and on the Internet. Also, you agree that at least one author of the poster will be present for the entire pre-conference.

NCA pre-conference registration fee: \$60.00 USD (Register through www.natcom.org.
Registration is first-come, first served until we are filled, with seats reserved for panelists and poster presenters. Attendees will receive an agenda and instructions by e-mail closer to the conference.

PRACTICAL AND DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

Effective posters generally include the following components: title; author; abstract; introduction; methodology; subjects; results, and conclusion. Posters should emphasize major points of the research presented. The conclusion should offer a concise statement of implications. Please indicate the order in which materials should be read with numbers, letters, or arrows. It is advisable to include no more than the equivalent of approximately four double-spaced pages of text (12 point font) in a poster lay-out; font size on the finished poster should not be smaller than 18 point font. Poster size can range from a minimum of 36"x48" to a maximum of 48"x96." The posters will hang on portable wall panels suspended by stick pins provided by the organizers. Professional assistance with poster production is available from www.postersession.com. We discourage PowerPoint slides tacked to the wall panel.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR PROPOSALS

Proposal submissions due:	June 1, 2008
Notification to authors:	July 1, 2008
Summary due:	August 15, 2008
Send all to:	hamilton.bean@colorado.edu

POSTER COMMITTEE & EVENT ORGANIZATION

Hamilton Bean (chair of poster committee), University of Colorado at Boulder; Gordon Mitchell, University of Pittsburgh; Lisa Keränen (lead conference planner), University of Colorado; and Herb Simons, Temple University (emeritus).

*The **National Communication Association-Forum** is dedicated to advancing the study and practice of interactive public communication, thereby contributing to democratic deliberation on issues of widespread interest and concern. For ideas about future programming, contact Herb Simons (hsimons@temple.edu).*