

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

Press Release
For Immediate Release

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Maryland's START Center Earns 3-Year Renewal from DHS

College Park, MD – The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) has been renewed for an additional three years of funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of University Programs in the Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate. Through this renewal, START will receive \$5.2 million in the coming year and an anticipated \$11.7 million through 2011.

Based at the University of Maryland, START was launched in 2005 as part of the DHS-funded Centers of Excellence program and has a mission of advancing science-based knowledge about the human causes and consequences of terrorism as a resource for homeland security policymakers and practitioners. To achieve this mission, START launched a robust research and education effort involving faculty and students at the University of Maryland and at more than 30 partner institutions around the world, focused on advancing scholarship about the behaviors and beliefs of terrorists, the communities that support terrorists, and the communities that are victims of terrorist activity.

"START has provided significant advances in research and findings in the area of terrorism and response to terrorism events," said Dr. Matthew Clark, director of the S&T Directorate's Office of University Programs. "START has demonstrated the value of its contributions, and merits this continued funding from the Department of Homeland Security. We are firmly convinced that their expertise in the multi-faceted nature of terrorism will continue to benefit the Nation's defense against such acts through better understanding, preparedness tactics and security measures."

During the next three years, START will enhance and extend its ongoing research and education programs, focusing its investigations on three core areas:

- the radicalization process,
- the evolution of terrorist groups, and
- community resilience relative to the terrorist threat.

START will sponsor a total of 32 projects related to these core research areas between 2008 and 2011, with support from the Office of University Programs, as well as from the Human Factors Division and International Programs office of the S&T

Division of DHS. These projects will involve more than 50 faculty researchers (more than half of which are new to the START consortium) and will employ theories and methods from a broad array of academic disciplines, including anthropology, communications, criminology, geography, international relations, political science, psychology, public health, and sociology.

START Director and University of Maryland professor of criminology Gary LaFree notes that, “pulling together this great pool of research talent across a broad variety of academic specializations provides a unique opportunity to make major advances in the social science understanding of terrorism and its effects.”

START projects will generate findings that are relevant and accessible to the homeland security community, but will also make fundamental contributions to academic scholarship on terrorism. In addition, START will support a range of programs for undergraduates and graduate students, including research assistantships, scholarships, curriculum and coursework, and professional development opportunities, as well as an interdisciplinary Undergraduate Minor in Terrorism Studies at the University of Maryland.

Additional information on START, its current projects and programs, and its plans for the next three years is available at www.start.umd.edu. Information on the DHS Center of Excellence program is available at <http://www.hsuniversityprograms.org/COE/index.cfm>.

START RESEARCH PROJECTS, 2008-2011

Focus Area #1: RADICALIZATION PROCESSES AND MECHANISMS

A. RADICALIZATION PROCESSES IN THE UNITED STATES

- Database of U.S. Extremist Crime, 1990-2009, *Joshua D. Freilich and Steven Chermak*
- Homegrown Radicalization and the Role of Social Networks within the Muslim American Community, *Paul Harwood*
- Patterns of Political Radicalization within the United States, *Donatella della Porta*
- Tracking Sympathy and Support of Muslims for Terrorism in the United States, *Clark McCauley*

B. INTERNATIONAL RADICALIZATION PROCESSES

- Martyrs without Borders: Returnees from Iraq and the Third Generation of Global Jihad, *Mohammed Hafez*
- Guerilla Insurgency: The Springboard to Terrorism? *Paul Huth and Mark Lichbach*
- European Converts to Islam: An Evolving Threat? *Emmanuel Karagiannis*

C. COMPARATIVE STUDIES OF RADICALIZATION

- Tracking Sympathy and Support of Muslims for Terrorism in Muslim Countries, in the United Kingdom, *Clark McCauley*
- Radicalizing the Poor: Understanding the Influence of Service Provision on Popular Support for and Participation in Violent Groups, *Shawn Flanigan*
- Cell Groups and Individual Radicalization in Indonesia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, *Douglas McLeod*
- Islamic Radicalization in Europe and North America: Parallels and Divergence, *Clark McCauley and Gary Ackerman*

Focus Area #2: TERRORIST OPERATIONS AND INTERVENTIONS

A. TERRORISTS' OPERATIONAL DECISIONS

- Understanding and Combating Mass Casualty Terrorism, *Gary Ackerman and Victor Asal*
- Empirical Analyses of IED Attacks, *Richard L. Legault and Gary LaFree*
- Key Dimensions in Understanding Terrorist Bomb Attacks, *Margaret Wilson*
- The Social Determinants of Terrorist Organizations' Resilience in Latin America, *Jóhanna Birnir*
- Terrorism and Violence in Colombia, *Desmond Arias*

B. MEASURING COUNTERTERRORISM EFFICACY

- Effectiveness of Countermeasures against Terrorism, *Martha Crenshaw*
- Assessing Success and Failure in Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Development of Metrics on the Global War on Terror and the Global Jihad, *Alex Schmid and Marco Lombardi*

- Measuring Intervention Success in Terrorist Activities, *Brent Smith and Kelly Damphousse*

C. COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

- Dealing with the Devil: When Bargaining with Terrorists Works, *Laura Dugan and Erica Chenoweth*
- Countering Jihadist Ideology among Detainees: The Effects and Effectiveness of De-Radicalization Programs, *Arie Kruglanski and Rohan Gunaratna*
- Assessing the Effectiveness of Current De-Radicalization Initiatives and Identifying Implications for the Development of US-Based Initiatives in Multiple Settings, *John Horgan*
- Police Responses to Terrorism: Lessons from the Israeli Police, *David Weisburd*
- Punishing Terrorism: Examining the Multiple Stages of Federal Punishment across Political Contexts, *Brian Johnson*

Focus Area #3: FACETS OF COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

A. CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

- Building Community Resilience through Public Involvement: Extended Community Assessment of Resilience Tool (CART-E), *Betty Pfefferbaum*
- Organizational Factors in the Successful Application of 'Community Engagement' Principles for Bioterrorism Preparedness, *Monica Schoch-Spana*
- Muslim Community Integration: Journey into America, *Akbar Ahmed*
- The Role for State Governments in Community Resilience, *Ann Bowman*

B. VULNERABILITY AND IMPACT

- A Quantitative Index of the Public Health Impacts of Terrorism, *Fran Norris and Sandro Galea*
- Domestic Weapons of Mass Destruction: Potential Populations at Risk from U.S. Chemical Facilities Releases, *Susan Cutter*

CROSS-CUTTING DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS PROJECTS

- GLOBAL TERRORISM DATABASE, Gary LaFree and Laura Dugan
- TURNING TO TERRORISM: ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS, AND EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS, Jonathan Wilkenfeld