

START Bulletin

Spring 2011

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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START Highlights

START Highlights showcase recent accomplishments of START researchers and students.

Spring 2011

one



START Investigator [Betty Pfefferbaum](#) has been appointed to the National Biodefense Science Board, a federal advisory committee providing expert advice and guidance on preventing, preparing for, and responding to adverse health effects of public health emergencies to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response).

two



The first cohort for the START Graduate Certificate in Terrorism Analysis completed the program in February 2011. This program provides participants with advanced education on the causes, dynamics, and impacts of international and domestic terrorism. Participants also develop the methodological skills necessary to pursue advanced research on and analysis of terrorism. This fully-online program is appropriate for both academicians and practitioners and can be completed in 12 months. The next application deadline is August 1, 2011 and more information, including application instructions can be found [here](#).

three



START Investigator [Shawn Flanigan](#) received funding from the University Grants Program at San Diego State University for a pilot project, "Public Goods Provision by Organized Crime in Mexico and the Border Region." The project builds on Flanigan's START work on service provision by terrorist groups and will explore the extent to which drug cartels and other organized crime groups operating in Mexico and in the US-Mexico border region provide social services in communities in which they operate.

four



START Investigator [Joshua D. Freilich](#) received funding from a City University of New York Collaborative Grant, as a Co-Principal Investigator for "Improving Credibility Judgments in Counterterrorism Settings: Experimentally Testing a New Approach to Law Enforcement Training." This project will examine the ability of law enforcement personnel to detect deception with the purpose of understanding the main causes of misjudgments, and therefore how judgments of credibility can be improved.

five



Stevan Weine is leading a new START research project, "Violent Radicalization and Terrorist Recruitment in Somali Americans," funded by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate's Human Factors/Behavioral Sciences Division. The project seeks to examine violent radicalization amongst the Somali community in Minneapolis, MN, which has recently been targeted by terrorist recruiters. It focuses the roles of risk and protective processes at different levels (individual, family, sociocultural, and structural) that impact violent radicalization and recruitment with the goal of informing the development of socially and culturally appropriate prevention strategies.



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START Courses in Terrorism Studies



START Winter and Summer courses are often open not just to students at UMD, but to anyone. Enrollment is administered through the University of Maryland Office of Extended Studies, <http://www.oes.umd.edu/>, and many of the courses are offered online.

Previous Winter 2010 Courses:

Political Islam in the West. This course, taught by Lorenzo Vidino introduced students to the history, evolution, modus operandi, and policy implications of the various manifestations of political Islam existing in Europe and North America. An extremely diverse movement in the Muslim world, political Islam/Islamism takes even more peculiar and complex forms in the West, where over the last forty years various Islamist groups have sought to attract sympathies among often disenfranchised Muslim communities. The course addressed the following questions:

1. What are the tactical, strategic, and ideological differences among the many Islamist organizations operating in the West?

2. How do they seek to appeal to and mobilize Western Muslims? And how successful are they?
3. How do Western governments perceive and conceive their policies towards various Islamist groups operating in the West?

Terrorism in Small Wars. As the insurgency in Iraq intensified it quickly became clear that military commitments in the 21st century would look nothing like those of previous eras. Less clear, however, is how a conflict like Iraq differs from a conflict like Vietnam. They both involve a stronger power (the U.S.) trying to defeat a weaker power (al-Qaeda/NVA) that is making use of irregular methods, but there is a distinctness in the way al-Qaeda is waging war: the anti-civilian nature of the violence; the particular tactics (suicide attacks); and the lack of uniforms and desire to hold territory. It is, in effect, a blurring of the lines that separate terrorism from war. Jacob Aronson taught the course that examined these new tactics.

Upcoming Summer 2011 Courses:

BSST 388A: The Politics of Radicalization and De-Radicalization. The class will meet ONLINE Monday and Wednesday 6 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. from May 31st to July 10th. This course is open to anyone, to get more information on how to register for summer classes at the University of Maryland please visit: <http://www.oes.umd.edu/>.

BSST 288Y: Terrorism and Popular Culture. This course is being offered through the University of Maryland Young Scholars Program. Current high school students have the opportunity to earn college credits and experience a University campus during their summer vacation. This course will meet on campus from July 12th to 30th, Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Only individuals enrolled in the Young Scholars Program are eligible to take this class.** Please visit: <http://www.oes.umd.edu/> for more details on the program and to apply.

Questions concerning START educational programs can be directed to education@start.umd.edu.

START Media Guide: Not Just for Reporters

Have you seen START's media guide? It is a resource designed to assist researchers, practitioners, and members of the media with locating the START investigators in the field of expertise they are searching for. Visitors are able to search by keyword, topic, or region to locate their investigator of interest. Each investigator entry includes both biographical and contact information.

Featured topics include:

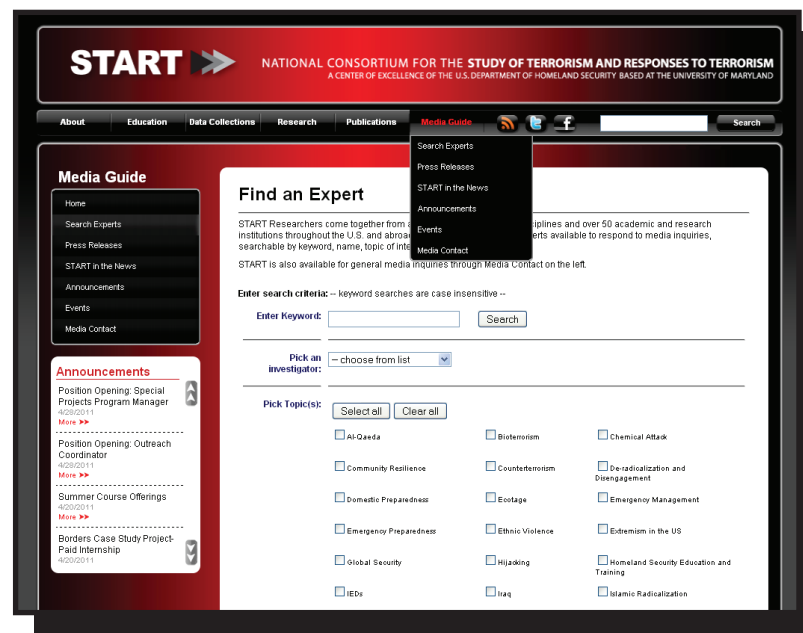
- Al-Qaeda
- Bioterrorism
- Chemical Attack
- Community Resilience
- Counterterrorism
- De-radicalization and Disengagement
- Domestic Preparedness
- Ecotage
- Emergency Management
- Emergency Preparedness
- Ethnic Violence
- Extremism in the US
- Global Security
- Hijacking
- Homeland Security Education and Training
- IEDs

- Iraq
- Islamic Radicalization
- Media and Terrorism
- Natural Hazards
- Nuclear Terrorism
- Political Violence
- Psychology of Terrorism
- Public Warnings/Public Communications
- Radicalization
- Security Policy
- September 11th
- Suicide Attacks
- Terrorism and Economics
- Terrorism and Technology
- Terrorism Databases and Resource Centers
- Terrorism Trends
- Terrorist Networks
- Threat Assessment
- Weapons of Mass Destruction

Featured regions include:

- Worldwide
- Australasia and Oceania
- Central America and Caribbean
- Central Asia
- East Asia
- Eastern Europe
- Middle East and North Africa
- North America
- South America
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- USSR and the Newly Independent States (NIS)
- Western Europe

Is there a topic or region of interest that you don't see listed here? Send a message to dhawkins@start.umd.edu with any comments or suggestions you have.



http://www.start.umd.edu/start/media/search_experts/

Research Spotlight: Preparedness for Catastrophic Events

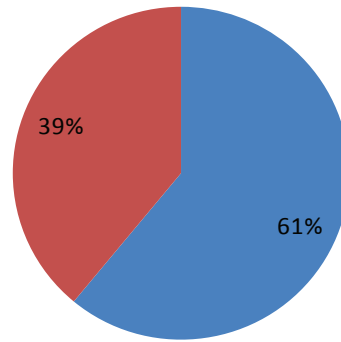
With support from FEMA’s National Preparedness Directorate, START conducted research on Preparedness for Catastrophic Events, examining how communities in the United States plan for harmful and disastrous events. A START research team conducted a series of interrelated research projects toward the goal of providing the Department of Homeland Security with new insights regarding the state of planning for catastrophic events and conclusions about how the quality of such planning can be measured and improved.

Methodology

This effort was informed by data and findings from FEMA’s Nationwide Planning Review and from the National Association of County and City Health Officials. The research team also collected, compiled, and analyzed original data to advance empirical investigations of the practice and impact of public warning systems:

- Dr. Hamilton Bean interviewed 70 emergency management officials and public information officers in three jurisdictions, Los Angeles, New York and the National Capital Region, to analyze current disaster communication practices and public warning systems,

Evacuation Rates among Those Receiving an Evacuation Order During a California Wildfire



■ Evacuated
■ Did Not Evacuate

	Did Evacuate	Did Not Evacuate	TOTAL
Voluntary Evacuation Order Received	33 38%	55 62%	88 100%
Mandatory Evacuation Order Received	67 63%	40 37%	107 100%
TOTAL	100 51%	95 49%	195 100%

$\chi^2=13.4, p=.001$

tems, using an interview protocol developed in partnership with Dr. Dennis Mileti.

- A survey conducted by the University of North Florida’s Public Opinion Research Lab involved interviews with 500 residents of a fire-affected area in Los Angeles County (CA) to provide insights about residents’ reactions to evacuation orders during a deadly wildfire.

Major Findings

A multi-sector metric is needed to assess the status of planning for catastrophic events at the community level. Public warning systems in major urban areas have not incorporated key aspects of best communication practices related to both the content and delivery of warning messages, too often resulting in community members failing to engage in essential protective actions. Specific structural

changes in public agencies can better ensure community engagement in planning for catastrophic events to better ensure effective responses in the wake of an event.

Deliverables from this project included:

- A proposed metric for assessing community planning for catastrophic events;
- A proposed metric for assessing public warning systems in local communities;
- Sample messages and strategies for developing and delivering effective public warnings; and
- Recommendations to encourage citizen engagement in emergency planning.

Reports related to each of these findings are available from START.

For more information, visit <http://www.start.umd.edu/start/research/projects/project.asp?id=82>.

Recent START Publications

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

Articles & Book Reviews

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Dugan, Laura and Joseph K. Young. 2011. "Veto Players and Terror." *Journal of Peace Research* 48:19-33.

Felix, Erica, and Eric M. Vernberge, Rose L. Pfefferbaum, Dodie C. Gill, John Schorr. 2010. "Schools in the Shadow of Terrorism: Psychosocial Adjustment and Interest in Interventions Following Terror Attacks." *Psychology in Schools* 47:592-605.

Karagiannis, Emmanuel. 2010. "China's Pipeline Diplomacy: Assessing the Threat of Low-Intensity Conflicts." *Harvard Asia Quarterly* 12:54-60.

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North, Carol S., and Betty Pfefferbaum, Aya Kawasaki, Sungkyo Lee, Edward L. Spitznagel. 2011. "Psychosocial Adjustment of Directly Exposed Survivors Seven Years after the Oklahoma City Bombing." *Comprehensive Psychiatry* 52:12-45.

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Wyche, Karen F., and Rose L. Pfefferbaum, Betty Pfefferbaum, Fran H. Norris, Deborah M. Wisnieski. 2011. "Exploring Community Resilience in Workforce Communities of First Responders Serving Katrina Survivors." *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* 81:18-30.

Book Chapters

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Chermak, Steven M., and Andrew D. Bringuel, Joshua D. Freilich, James K. Shearer. 2010. "Terrorism and Counterfeiting: A Synopsis of Critical Issues and Research Opportunities." In *Terrorism Research and Analysis Project (TRAP) Volume I: A Collection of Research Ideas, Thoughts and Perspectives*. Washinton, DC: Government Printing Office.

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Books

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