
**Homeland Security and Counter-Terrorism
Syllabus for One-Day Course**

Lead Instructor:

BG (Ret.) Russell Howard Director, The Jebson Center for
Counter-Terrorism Studies,
The Fletcher School,
Tufts University

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

TIME	LESSON	TOPIC
9-10 AM	1	The New Terrorism
10-11 AM	2	Understanding the Threat
11 AM-12 PM	3	Specific Areas of Vulnerability in Homeland Security
12-1 PM	--	LUNCH
1-2 PM	4	National and Local Responses to the Threat
2-3 PM	5	Public Security and Civil Liberties
3-4 PM	6	Winning the War on Terrorism

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Russell D. Howard, James Forest and Joanne Moore, eds., *Homeland Security and Terrorism* (Dubuque, IA: McGraw Hill, 2006). **All textbook readings are indicated by “(CR)”**.

Please Note: any readings that are outside the recommended course reader will be provided separately in pdf format.

PART I – THE NEW TERRORISM

Lesson Questions & Objectives:

- What is the new model of terrorism?
- Compare and contrast the old and new terrorism for indicators relating to capabilities and future trends
- Explore why the shift occurred
- Discuss the implications of the shift from old to new models of terrorism
- What is al Qaeda?
- How and why did al Qaeda evolve as it did?
- How did al Qaeda ascend to power?
- Identify al Qaeda's significant achievements
- Understand the development of a transnational terrorist organization
- What are the implications of the evolution for counter-terrorist professionals?
- How should we think of al Qaeda today?

Assigned Readings:

Note: these readings are outside the recommended course reader and will be provided separately.

1. Rohan Gunaratna, "Post-Madrid Face of al Qaeda"
2. Audrey Kurth Cronin, "Behind the Curve: Globalization and International Terrorism"

PART II – UNDERSTANDING THE THREAT

Lesson Questions & Objectives:

- Will suicide bombers come to the U.S.? What is the likelihood of this threat?
- What are the different attack scenarios that we could envision?
- How should we think about CBRN(E) terrorism?
- What is the likelihood of WMD terrorism? How serious is the threat?
- What are the implications of WMD terrorism for homeland security?
- What are electromagnetic pulse weapons (EMPs)? How serious is the threat?
- What is complex terrorism? What new scenarios could become realistic in the future?

Assigned Readings:

3. John Parachini, "Putting WMD Terrorism into Perspective" (CR)
4. Robert A. Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism" (CR)

PART III – SPECIFIC AREAS OF VULNERABILITY IN HOMELAND SECURITY

Lesson Questions & Objectives:

- What are the areas of vulnerability in homeland security?
- What are the challenges for homeland security emanating from the need to secure multiple frontiers?
- What are national and international dimensions of assuring homeland security on multiple frontiers?
- What are the challenges related to border and transportation security?
- What are the challenges related sea security (Proliferation Security Initiative, Container Shipping Initiative)?
- What are the challenges related to aviation security?
- How serious is the threat of cyber-terrorism?

Assigned Readings:

1. Joseph S. Szyliowicz, "Aviation Security: Promise or Reality" (CR)
2. Frank Hoffman, "Border Security: Closing the Ingenuity Gap" (CR)

PART IV – NATIONAL AND LOCAL RESPONSES TO THE THREAT

Lesson Questions & Objectives:

- What are the objectives of the national strategy for homeland security?
- What are the challenges of intergovernmental, interjurisdictional, and interagency coordination?
- What are the appropriate roles for the federal, state, and local governments?
- How substantial is the international dimension in the homeland security area?
- How much of the costs of homeland security should the federal government bear? What principles should we use to apportion the burden?
- How do we determine how much spending is enough? What factors complicate that determination?

Assigned Readings:

1. Louise K. Comfort, "Managing Intergovernmental Response to Terrorism and Other Extreme Events" (CR)
2. Reid Sawyer and Joseph Pfeifer, "Strategic Planning for First Responders: Lessons Learned from the NY Fire Department" (CR)

PART V – PUBLIC SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Lesson Questions & Objectives:

- How can we find a balance between freedom, civil liberties and security?
- After 9/11, the U.S. government has become increasingly involved in domestic counter-terrorism. What is domestic counter-terrorism? What is the role of local and state law enforcement officers?

- Watchlisting and screening
- Information collection and privacy
- USA PATRIOT Act
- FBI activities and reform
- Immigration issues
- Rights of enemy combatants
- Guantanamo
- Torture
- Public diplomacy
- Communications
- Media

Assigned Readings:

1. Amanda J. Dory, "American Civil Security: The U.S. Public and Homeland Security" (CR)
2. James S. Robbins, "Terrorists, the Media and Homeland Security" (CR)

PART VI – WINNING THE WAR ON TERRORISM

Lesson Questions & Objectives:

- What are the key ideological dimensions of today's global Islamic insurgency?
- How closely aligned are groups in Southeast Asia to Al Qaeda?
- How sophisticated are the associated groups?
- What type of threat do these groups present to both the host nation and the US?
- What types of policies should the US pursue based on analysis of the above items?

Assigned Readings:

1. Dan Byman, "U.S. Counter-Terrorism Options: A Taxonomy," *Survival*, v. 39, n. 3, September 2007. (PDF) pp. 121-150.
2. Russell D. Howard, "Understanding Al Qaeda's Application of the New Terrorism—The Key to Victory in the Current Campaign" *Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism*