

NATIONAL CONSORTIUM for the STUDY OF TERRORISM AND RESPONSES TO TERRORISM



Gary LaFree, Director, *START*
and Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology,
University of Maryland

START

Award Date: June 2005 Pending extension for 3-year term, FY09-11

Mission

To conduct rigorous, policy-relevant analysis on the human causes and consequences of terrorism, applying multiple methods and theories to exploring the questions of how terrorist groups form, how terrorist groups evolve and persist, and how the terrorist threat impacts individuals and communities

Impact and Relevance

- ◆ Developing world's largest and most up-to-date database of terrorist events
- ◆ Developing tools and data on the life cycle of terrorist groups, terrorist group formation and capabilities
- ◆ Identifying groups most vulnerable to disasters' adverse impacts
- ◆ Assessing community preparedness for terrorist events

Partners (*Minority Serving Institutions in Italics*)

Brandeis Univ., Bryn Mawr College, Dartmouth Medical School, Eastern Michigan Univ., *John Jay College, CUNY*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Michigan State Univ., Monterey Institute of International Studies, *Morehouse College*, Ohio State Univ., Rutgers Univ., Tufts Univ., Univ. at Albany, Univ. of California–Irvine, Univ. of California–Los Angeles, Univ. of Colorado, Univ. of Minnesota, Univ. of Missouri–Kansas City, *Univ. of New Mexico*, Univ. of Oklahoma, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Univ. of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Univ. of South Carolina, Univ. of Texas, Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison, Wellesley College, Wesleyan Univ.

Customers

DHS Science and Technology
DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis
DHS Preparedness Directorate
DHS Policy Office
FEMA
Federal Bureau of Investigations
Department of Justice
State Department

The START Consortium





START  Research
Agenda

Working Group #1: Terrorist Group Formation and Recruitment

What motivates individuals to join terrorist groups?

Under what conditions do groups and individuals become radicalized?

How do terrorist groups mobilize?

What can be done to reduce the capacity of terrorist groups to form?



Working Group #1: Selected Projects

- ❑ Predisposing Root Causes of Terrorism
- ❑ Terrorism and Ethnic Political Violence
- ❑ Attitudinal and Behavior Surveys in Indonesia, Morocco, Egypt and Pakistan
- ❑ Distinctive Characteristics of Terrorist Groups
- ❑ Data Base of U.S. Extremist Crime, 1990-2005
- ❑ Network Analyses of Mobilized Groups



Working Group #2: Terrorist Group Dynamics, Persistence, and Desistence

When do terrorist groups innovate weapons/targets? WMD?

What moves the “pyramid” of passive and active support for terrorism?

What kinds of state response are most effective in reducing terrorism?

How does terrorism end? What leads to terrorist group desistence?



Working Group #2: Selected Projects

- ❑ Mobilization For and Against Terrorism in the Islamic World
- ❑ Terror Groups in their Own Words: Content Analysis of al Qaeda Statements
- ❑ Terrorist Groups and Weapons of Mass Destruction
- ❑ State Response and Terrorist Activity
- ❑ Understanding Desistance from Terrorism

Working Group #3: Social and Psychological Responses to Terrorism

What do diverse groups within the U.S. know and believe about terrorism?

Is the public prepared for a terrorist attack? Who is most and least vulnerable?

How are preparedness policies being implemented in local communities?

What role does the public play?

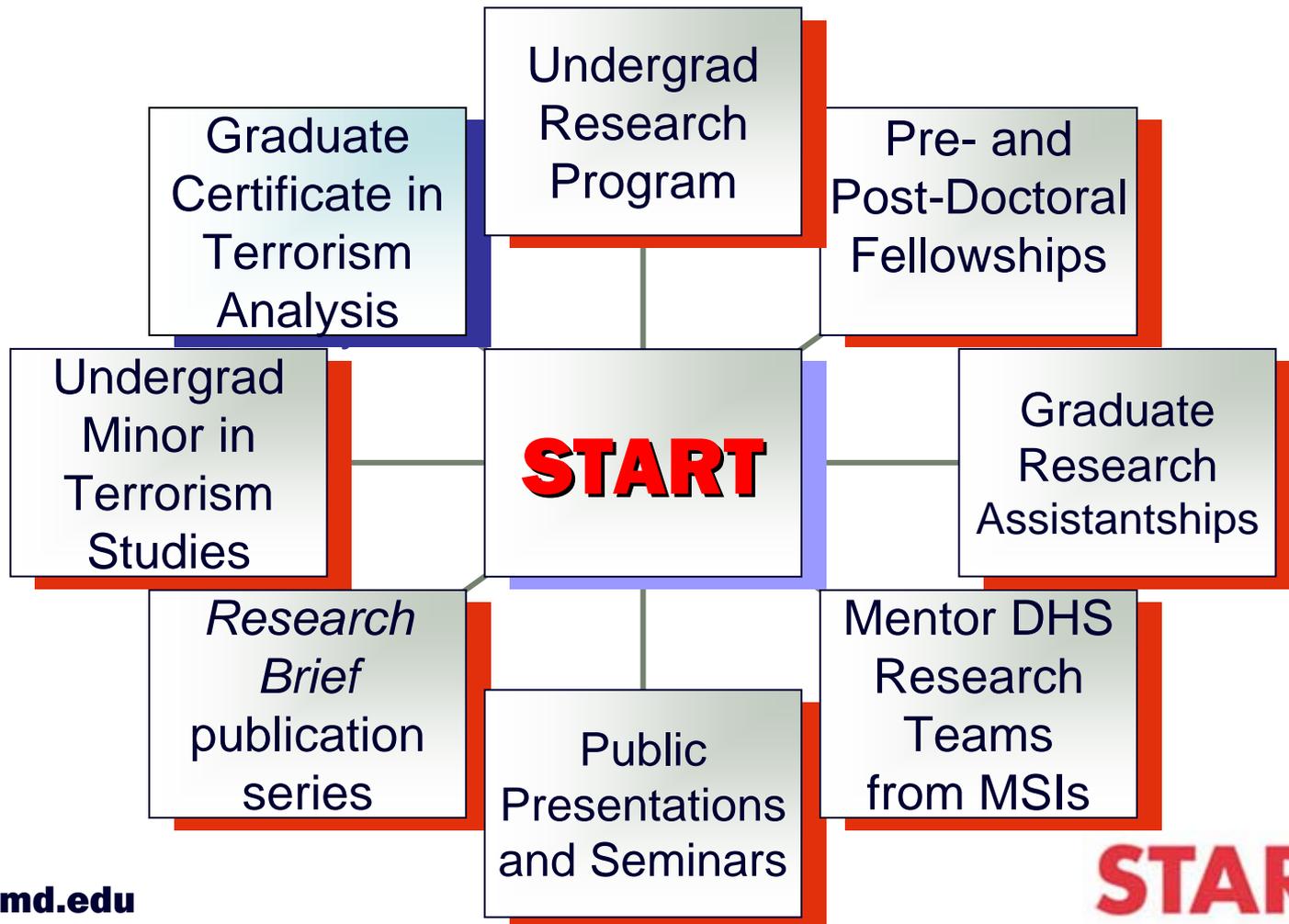
What are the most effective approaches to public communication about terrorism?



Working Group #3: Selected Projects

- ❑ Community Field Studies and Analyses of Preparedness Networks
- ❑ Best Practices for Citizen Engagement in Emergency Planning
- ❑ Population Vulnerability Analysis, Spatial Social Science, and GIS
- ❑ Communicating Risk of Mass Casualty Terrorism in Diverse Communities

Education, Training, and Outreach





Questions and Comments Always Welcome

- National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism
- www.start.umd.edu
- 3300 Symons Hall
- University of Maryland, College Park
- 301 405 6600
- Director: *Gary LaFree*