

## **First Responder Capacity Building**

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### Abstract

Building the capacity of first responders to engage more fully in preventing and interdicting the delivery of terror is neither complex nor costly. It requires commitment and candor that, to date, have not materialized. The prevention and interdiction of the delivery of terror has not been built into the culture of the nation's state and local law enforcement agencies. Greed, competition for grant funds, pursuing "show and tell" equipment, catering to politicians have taken precedence over mastery of foundation skills, belief in information exchange as paramount to success, and changing the culture of agencies and communities. This presentation focuses on the primary inhibitors to building homeland security into the culture of public safety and ways to overcome them. Mastery of basic skills, timely feedback to first responders who provide information, improved education and training, careful selection of personnel who interact with community organizations, effective allocation of resources to the front line, and better understanding of those who seek to deliver terror are among them.