

**Global Cities, Global Threats:
The New York Police Department, the London Metropolitan Police Service, and the
Internationalization of Municipal Policing for Counterterrorism**

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The London Metropolitan Police Service (Scotland Yard) and the New York Police Department are widely viewed as two of the most effective and ambitious municipal police forces in the world, particularly in the realm of counterterrorism. These two municipal police forces, from two of the world's most significant cultural, social and economic hubs are at the cutting edge of law enforcement and counterterrorism; and may be offering up an increasingly appealing option to other cities: the internationalization of municipal policing.

I am doing a comparative study of these two police forces, how they've reacted to international terrorism, what new and innovative international tasks they've undertaken, and what the potential is for these approaches to be emulated or mirrored in other cities around the world.

The NYPD is, and has been for sometime, unlike any other police force in the United States. However it has, since September 11th, become unlike any other police force in any country in the world. In the wake of the intelligence failure of 2001, the NYPD's Intelligence Division has undertaken an unprecedented global expansion. New York City officials, feeling they had been left out of the loop regarding terror threats by the FBI and CIA amongst others, has undertaken to provide for their own security in a manner that is considered innovative by many, and threatening by some.

The Intelligence Division has sent officers to capitals in Europe, Asia and the Middle East, developing an intelligence gathering apparatus to rival the scope of those in many moderately sized countries. This internationalization of a municipal police force is unlike anything that has been seen before; with perhaps the possible exception of London's Metropolitan Police.

Scotland Yard on the other hand has a much longer history of dealing with international terrorism dating back to at least the 1870s, particularly terrorism of the Irish Republican variety. My work (interviews being conducted in London between 1/29/07 and 2/8/07) with the Metropolitan police is focused mainly on what used to be "Special Branch" or SO13, but has recently been amalgamated under the new Counterterrorism Command. The MPS also have adopted very unique responsibilities vis a vis Counterterrorism, owing in large part to the particular character of Special Branch and it's early history as the main government entity responsible for protecting the UK from terrorism. They have been doing international counterterrorism as long as there has been such a moniker, and as such have a great deal to offer in terms of insight and best practices.