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Understanding the Dynamics that Drive IEDs: START's Efforts

Gary LaFree

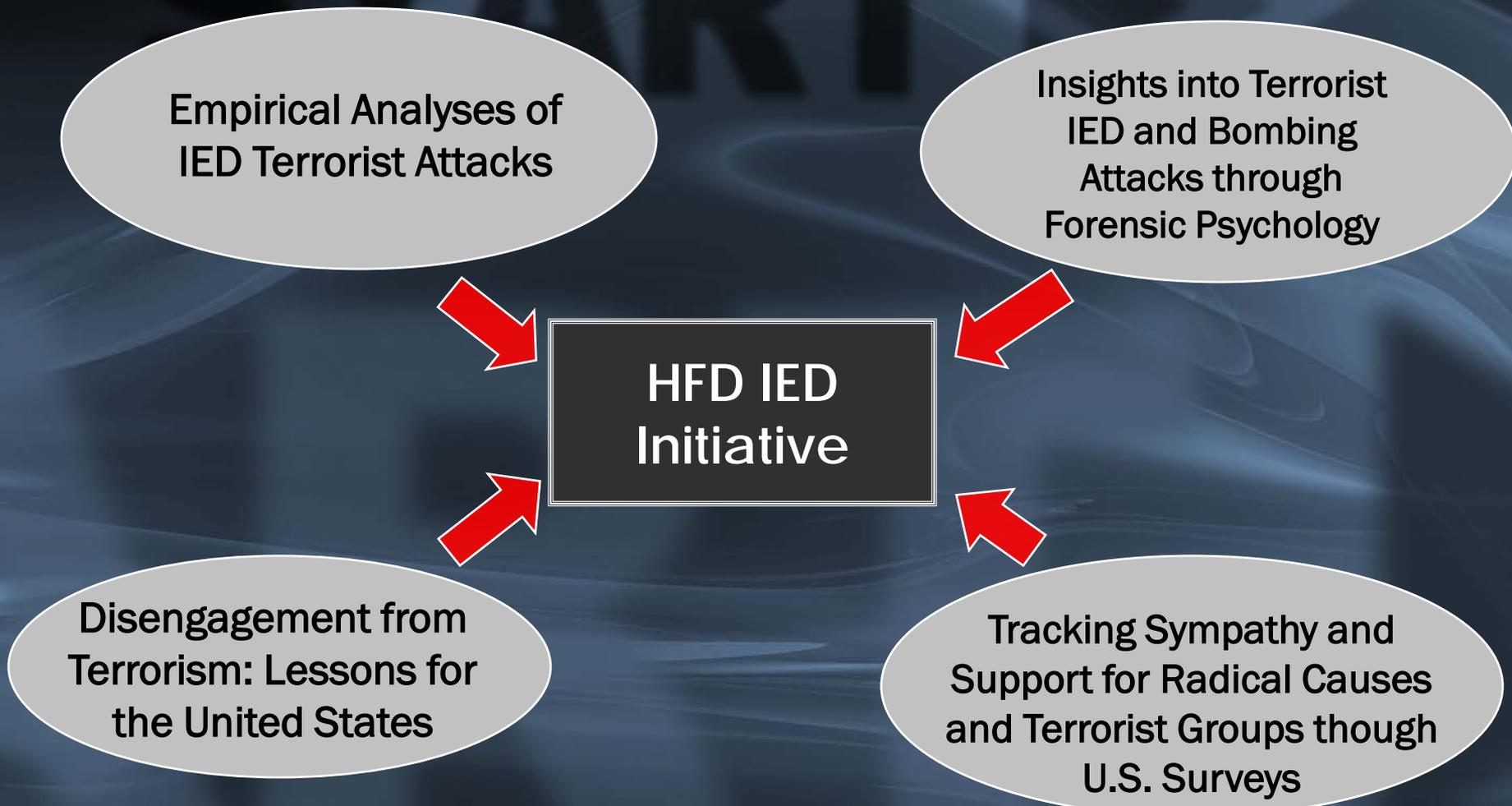
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for

Third Annual DHS University Network Summit

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START Participation in HFD's CIED Prevent/Deter Program

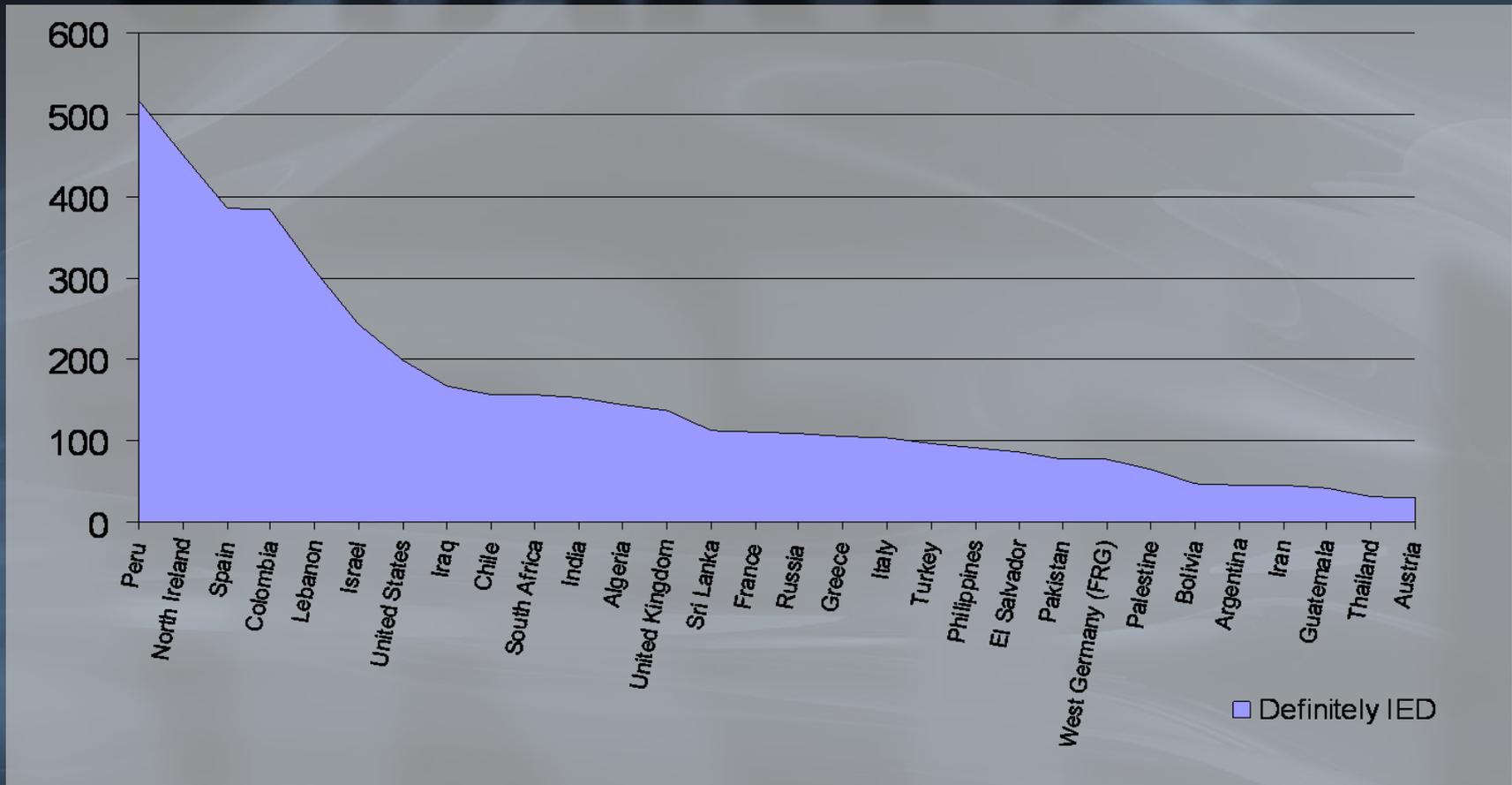


Defining Improvised Explosive Devices

- National Research Council (2008)
 - An explosive device that is placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporates destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, or incendiary chemicals; and is designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass, or distract.
- Current Project
 - *An IED is a bomb that is constructed in part or wholly from military or commercial explosives or commercial components, and used in a manner other than intended by the manufacturer*

Countries/Areas with Greatest Levels of IED Terrorist Activity

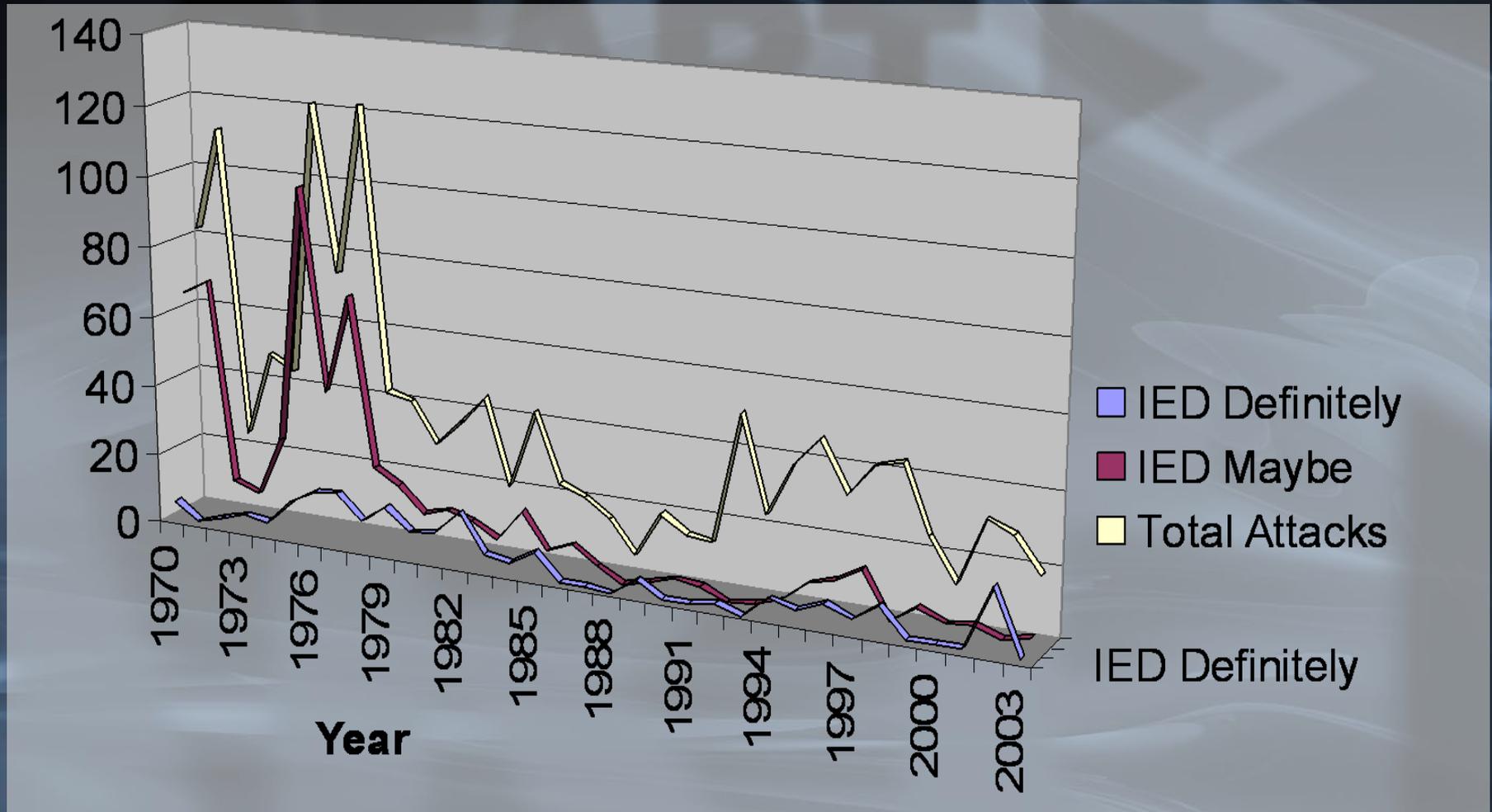
U.S. ranks 7th globally for number of IED terrorist attacks, 1970-2004



Research led by Gary LaFree and Richard Legault

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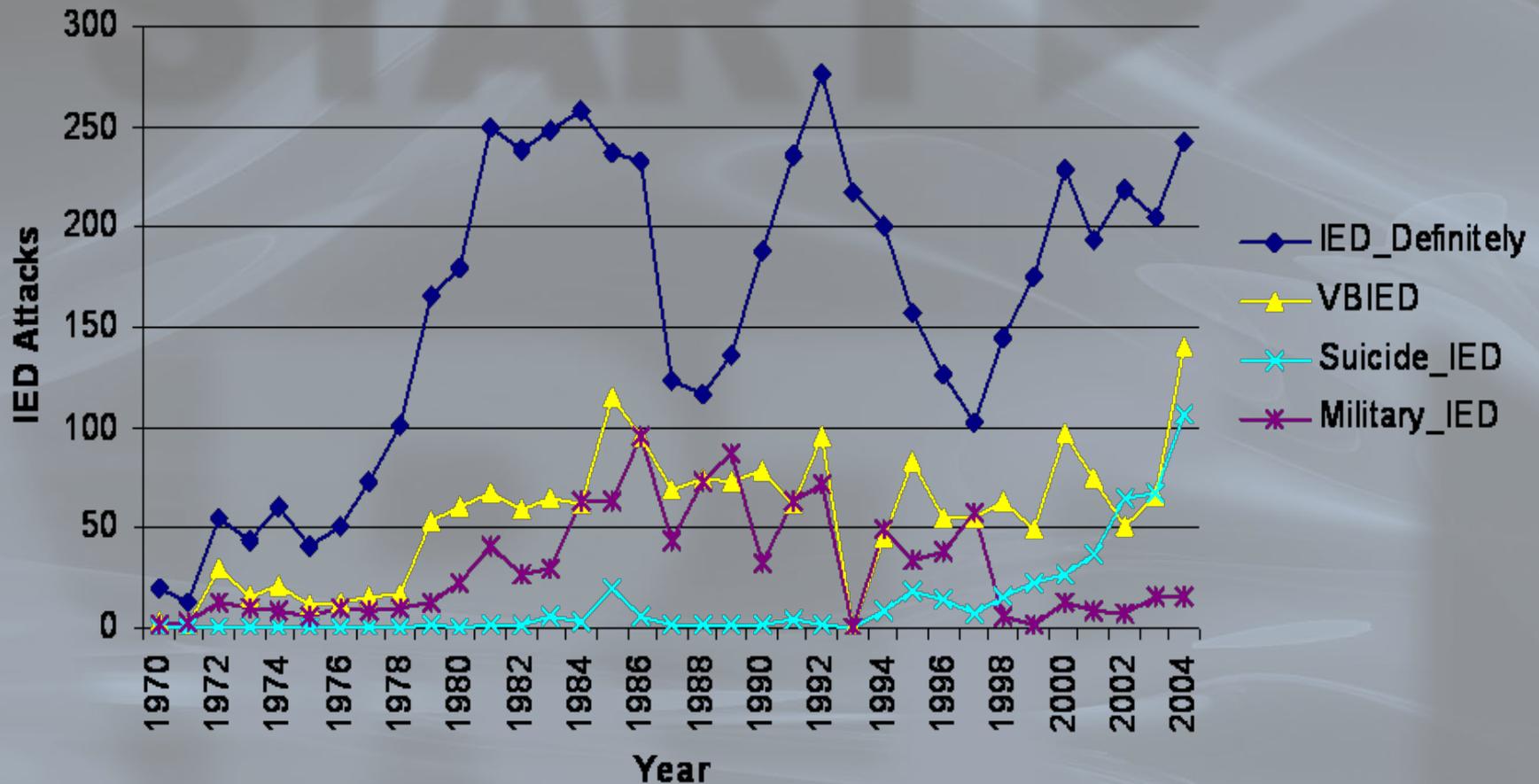
IED Terrorist Attacks in the U.S.



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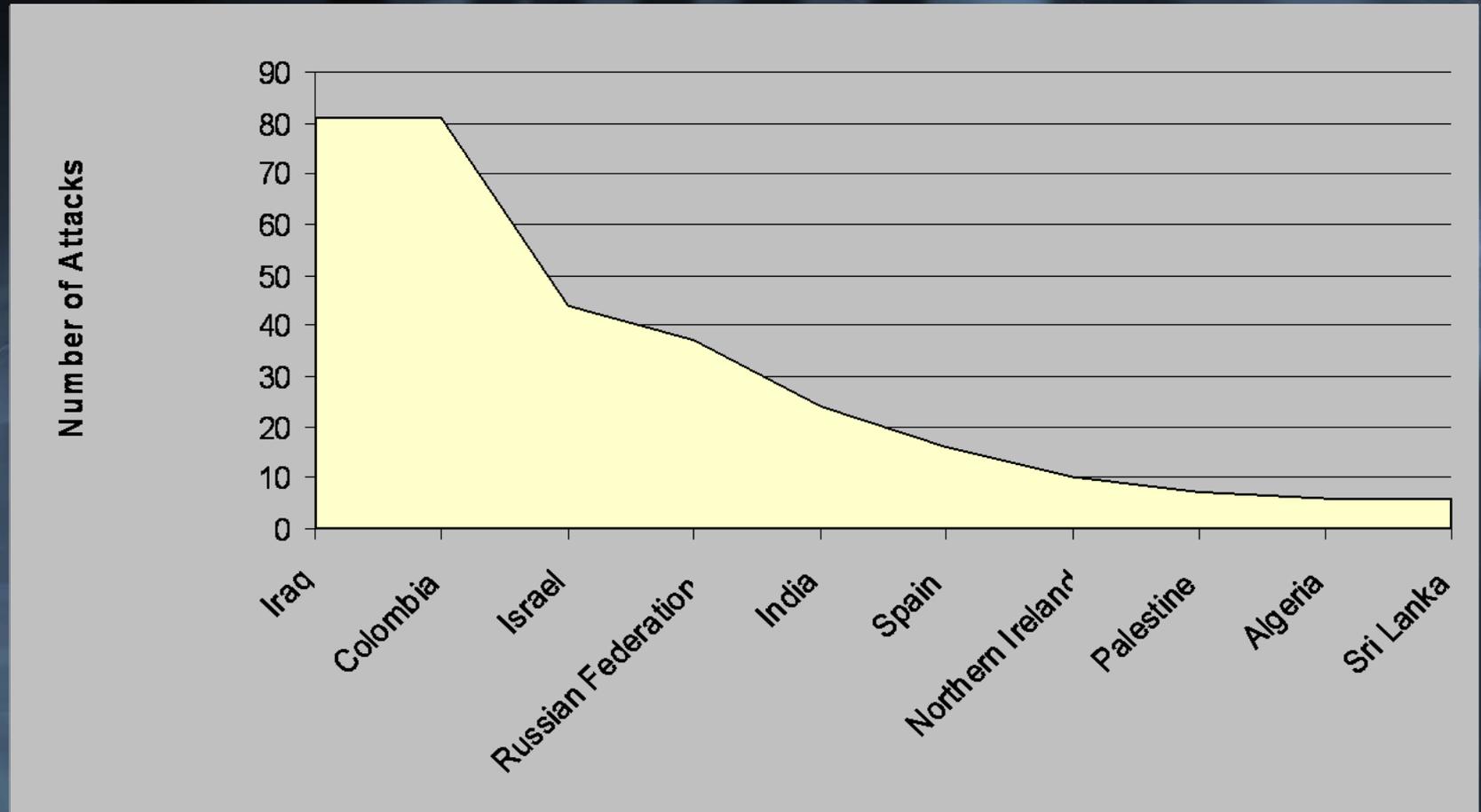
Terrorist IED Categories



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Countries/Areas with Greatest Levels of IED Suicide Terrorism, 1998-2004



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Key Dimensions in Understanding Terrorist Bomb Attacks

- Applying forensic psychology methods and theories to improve understanding of terrorist bombers and unique nature of IED bombers
- Comparing bombings in distinct contexts to identify potential commonalities among the bombers



Research led by Margaret Wilson

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Sympathy and Support in the United States for Terrorism and Use of Violence: *Suicide Bombing*

Survey data from U.S. Muslims and Muslim-majority countries

Country	Percentage indicating that suicide bombing can sometimes be justified
U.S. Muslims	8%
Egypt	35%
Indonesia	61%
Pakistan	16%
Morocco	14%

Data on U.S. Muslims from Pew Center 2006-07 survey; international data from START international surveys 2007

Research led by Clark McCauley and Sophia Moskalenko

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Sympathy and Support in the United States for Terrorism and Use of Violence:

War on Terror

	2001 (Zogby)	2002 (Zogby)	2004 (Zogby)	2007 (Pew)
<i>% of U.S. Muslims believing that GWOT is really a war against Islam?</i>	18%	31%	38%	55%

Sympathy and Support in the United States for Terrorism and Use of Violence: *War on Terror*

Survey data from U.S. Muslims and Muslim-majority Countries

Country	Percentage indicating that U.S. war on terror is intended to undermine and weaken Islam
U.S. Muslims	55%
Egypt	86%
Indonesia	53%
Pakistan	61%
Morocco	72%

Data on U.S. Muslims from Pew Center 2006-07 survey; international data from START international surveys 2007

Research led by Clark McCauley and Sophia Moskalenko



Disengagement from Terrorism: Lessons for the United States

Organized “deradicalization”
programs

- Yemen
- Colombia
- Northern Ireland
- Saudi Arabia
- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- Singapore
- Bangladesh

Factors that Foster Disengagement

Lessons from interviews with radicals and terrorists who are no longer actively involved in violent campaigns.

Push Factors

- Disillusionment with the (unattainable) goals of the group
- Disillusionment with the violent methods and who are victimized by the group
- Disillusioned with the leaders of the group
- Disillusionment with the social relations within the group
- Loss of position and status within the group
- Cannot take the pressure any more
- Competing loyalties between group and family obligations

Pull Factors

- Availability of an exit from underground life
- Amnesty or reduced sentencing for crimes committed
- Education and job training
- Economic support
- New social networks
- Establishing a family
- Longing for a peaceful and ordinary life without the stress and pressure of illegal activism

START Workshop on Human and Social Forces in the Spread of the IED Threat

Innovation, Diffusion and Adaptation

- Details:
 - Conducted by START in College Park, MD on November 20, 2008
 - Brought together multi-disciplinary group of twelve experts in social psychology, criminology, management science, history, political science, public policy, ordinance disposal and applied physics.
- Objectives:
 - To explore the social elements involved in the diffusion of IED use among and between terrorist organizations, including those factors influencing learning and adaptation.
 - To synthesize a knowledge base from relevant fields and develop an agenda for future research.
- Outcomes:
 - Summary of existing research, data and applicable theories.
 - 58 suggested research topics to fill existing research gaps.
 - Strategy for undertaking a research program in terrorist innovation and diffusion with respect to IEDs.

Future START Participation in HFD CIED Prevent/Deter Program

- Task Force on Community-level Indicators of Radicalization (2009)
- Proposed Creation and Analysis of an Integrated U.S. Security Database
 - Integrate newly expanded data on U.S. terrorist incidents, terrorist indictments, and extremist crime to facilitate innovative analysis
 - Conduct systematic study of the impact of government countermeasures on terrorist behavior

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