Religious Terrorism and Radical Islam

by

R. Mann

Henley-Putnam University

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Dr. Diane Maye, Committee Chair

Professor Gary Bowser, Subject Matter Expert

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Abstract
This research project shall validate the existence of two independent Islamic actions and shall serve as a warning to those that cherish liberty. This study provides a broad review of religious terrorism with radical Islam at the center. There are two distinct movements occurring simultaneously in the clash with Islam. One front is passive; the other front is openly aggressive and hostile. The passive Islamic movement is the peaceful occupation of countries whereby that sect (Sunni, Shia, or other) arrives and begins multiplying quickly in large numbers that will eventually outnumber the host country (Hammond, 2010). The passive movement occurs when Muslims enter Western countries seeking political asylum or arriving as refugees flowing out of Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, and Afghanistan. The openly aggressive and hostile Islamic movement surfaces when Islamic terrorists enter a Western country and attack those that may not share the same radical Islamic beliefs. The ultimate goal of the two movements is the establishment of a “global Caliphate” governed by the teachings of Islam enacted through Sha’ria law, which is the law of Islam.

Keywords: Islam, Radical Islam, Islamic extremism, Islamic State Iraq Syria
Dedication

I dedicate this work to the memory of Colonel Charles A. Beckwith 1929-1994. Colonel Beckwith was the founder and first commander of 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta (Delta Force). Colonel Beckwith was a great visionary, in that he understood the need for a national hostage rescue and counterterrorist unit. Colonel Beckwith led Delta on its first mission to Iran to rescue 54 American hostages. Based on Beckwith’s recommendations during Senate investigations on the failed Iran mission to rescue the hostages, Congress authorized the formulation of the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC). Beckwith’s awards and decorations include: the Distinguished Service Cross; Silver Star Medal (2 awards); Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal; Purple Heart Medal; Combat Infantryman Badge; Special Forces Tab; and Ranger Tab.
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List of Terms, Abbreviations, or Symbols

Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)
United States Government (U.S.G.)
September 11, 2001 (9/11)
Global War on Terrorism (GWOT)
Islamic State in the Levant (ISIL)
Islamic State (IS)
Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Gulf Cooperating Countries (GCC)
New York Police Department (NYPD)
Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
Al-Qaeda (AQ)
September 11, 2001 (9/11)
United States (U.S.)
New York City (NYC)
Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).
Introduction

After the September 11, 2001 (9/11) attacks, the United States (U.S.) entered into a declaration of war with Al Qaeda and its affiliates (Paulsen, 2011). President, Barack Obama, openly stated that the United States is not at war with Islam, however, there is a wider divide between Muslims and non-Muslims in the United States and since the beginning of the Global War on Terror (GWOT) in 2001 (Acosta, 2015). From the Western perspective, this is a war against religious terrorism, where counterterrorism, and unconventional tactics and techniques find their way onto a global battlefield. Although in Syria, Iraq and Libya battle lines do not exist between the warring factions. In the 1970s Radical Islam began attacking United States interests, peaking with the 9/11 attacks. Since 9/11, the war with Radical Islam developed into a regional counterterrorism scenario involving a host of countries that included Western nations and Middle Eastern regional powers. The 9/11 attacks and the invasion of Iraq in 2003 were not the only catalysts for upheaval in the Middle East; the Arab Spring shares a major responsibility for the current conflict in the Middle East. In 2011, pro-democracy protests and uprisings took place in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Libya, and Syria. Of the five countries that experienced the Arab Spring, Yemen, Libya, and Syria have fallen into to mayhem and organized government does not exist and replaced by warring factions (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2015).

Over the past four decades, Islamic terrorism has targeted domestic and international political institutions and ordinary people, including Americans and Europeans. Islamic terrorist organizations use the Islamic religion to justify their actions. Islamic groups conducted the majority of the pre and post 9/11 attacks carried out against the U. S. (INFO Please, 2015). Appendix A includes a compilation of terrorist attacks directed at the U.S. from 1979 until 9/11. During this period, 20 attacks abroad against U.S. citizens and property occurred, including
hostages held captive by violent state-sponsored and non-state sponsored terrorist organizations affiliated with Radical Islamic. The date of attack, casualty figures as well as descriptions of hostage situations that involved U.S. citizens are contained within each description. Since the middle 1970s, state sponsors and independent terrorist organizations have attacked United States interest abroad repeatedly. The majority of these attacks have occurred outside the United States in Middle Eastern countries where Islam is either the primary religion or the only religion allowed. The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) emerged as a global threat. ISIS is a radical Islamic organization conducting a jihadist crusade in the Middle East and is threatening Europe and the United States. In 2014, ISIS conquered Iraqi Sunnis and subsequently declared a caliphate state that resulted from ISIS’ military successes in Iraq (Bunzel, 2015).

The methods used by ISIS to entice fighters include recruitment, social media, propaganda, and radicalization. On May 15, 2008, the European Commission’s Expert Group on Violent Radicalization assembled data relative to violent radicalization and concluded that violent radicalization occurs as a phased process. The radicalization process begins as nonthreatening behavior and escalates to brutal actions carried out by new recruits (European Commission, 2008). The European Commission’s report aligns violent radicalization in the context of referring to radicalization to jihadist violence or jihadist terrorism. The surveyed data identified “remarkable parallels between radicalization to current jihadist terrorism and radicalization to left-wing and right-wing nationalist-separatist terrorism” (European Commission, 2008).

In May 2007, the New York City Police Intelligence Division published a comprehensive report entitled the “Radicalization of the West, The Homegrown Threat.” New York Police
Department’s (NYPD’s) view is that the primary terrorist threat emanates from those persons born in the U.S. and radicalized as Islamic extremists. NYPD believes that in order to be successful against the homegrown terrorist threat there must be some intercession before an individual becomes radicalized (Silber, 2007). Homegrown terrorism is increasing due to increasing radicalization. The internet and social media have become unwitting accomplices in facilitating the spread of homegrown terrorism and to some degree promoting the radicalization process.

**Defining Terrorism**

Terrorism is a tactic that non-state actors and state-sponsored groups employ against targeted objects and people. There are multiple variations of the definition of terrorism. Terrorists become known by their cause, their group, and the attacks they conduct. The Terrorism Research Center has identified nine categories of terrorist; they are separatist, Ethnocentric, Nationalistic, Revolutionary, Political, Social, Domestic, International, and Transnational and Religious (Research, 2016). Each of the mentioned categories employs terror tactics to effect change while attempting to obtain their goal. In the 1980s, religious terrorism began to increase, and in 2016 it continues to rise at alarming rates based on the high numbers of terrorist attacks that occur throughout the world on a daily basis (Research, 2016).

The United Nations (UN) has struggled over several decades to define terrorism. In 1992, the UN defined terrorism as "an anxiety-inspiring method of repeated violent action, employed by (semi-) clandestine individual, group, or state actors, for idiosyncratic, criminal, or political reasons, whereby - in contrast to assassination - the direct targets of violence are not the primary targets” (International Terrorism and Security Research, 2015). Most definitions of
terrorism reflect violence as the foundation for obtaining either political or religious outcomes resulting from the enacted violence targeting civilians. An important component of terrorism is the associated fear that occurs after an attack, especially if those targeted become the victims. An act of terrorism can happen and immediately affect persons and property in the proximate area of the assault. Furthermore, depending upon the target of the attack, persons well outside the targeted area become victims. The 9/11 attacks had an immediate primary effect from the loss of life and the degree of destruction. The immediate secondary effect was the stock market closure affecting others throughout the world (Davis, How September 11 Affected the US Stock Market, 2011).

Having a definition of religious terrorism is essential in defeating it. The idea of waves of terrorism aids in defining religious terrorism. One of the challenges in defeating terrorism is agreeing to an accepted definition of terrorism. Defining terrorism can be a complex and at times a contentious process. Organizations responsible for defining terrorism frequently provide a formalized definition of terrorism that may be different from that of a sister organization. Within the United States Government, definitions of terrorism vary from organization to organization. Title 18 U.S.C. § 2331 defines “international terrorism” and “domestic terrorism” as having three characteristics as adopted by the FBI (FBI, 2015).

a. Involve violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that violate federal or state law

   (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population

   (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion
(iii) To affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping

c. Occur primarily outside the territorial jurisdiction of the U.S., or transcend national boundaries regarding the means accomplished, the persons they appear intended to intimidate or coerce, or the locale in which their perpetrators operate or seek asylum (FBI, 2015).

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) defines international terrorism as violent extremists that are “individuals who support or commit ideologically-motivated violence to further political goals” (DHS Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, 2008). Domestic terrorism is identified by DHS as “violent extremist groups, individuals, including Domestic Terrorists and Homegrown Violent Extremists” engaging in any act of “violence that is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive to critical infrastructure or key resources and operating entirely within the United States without direction or inspiration from a foreign terrorist group” (DHS Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, 2008). DHS defines the Homegrown Violet Extremist (HVE) as “a person of any citizenship who has lived or operated primarily in the United States or its territories who advocates, is engaged in, or is preparing to engage in ideologically motivated terrorist activities (including providing material support to terrorism) in furtherance of political or social objectives promoted by a terrorist organization, but who is acting independently of direction by a terrorist organization” (DHS Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, 2008). The U.S. Department of State defines terrorism “to be premeditated politically-motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience” (U.S. Department of State, 2016). 2003 study conducted for the United States Army found more than 100 definitions of terrorism (Record, 2003). For the
purposes of this paper, the writer shall use the Department of Defense definition. The United States Department of Defense defines terrorism as “the calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are political, religious, or ideological” (Joint Publication 1-02, 2015).

In 2012, the U.N. attempted to craft a definition of terrorism that reads: “any act intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a civilian, or to any other person not taking an active part in the hostilities in a situation of armed conflict, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act”. The United Nations Sixth Committee charged with obtaining a consensus in defining terrorism failed to reach a consensus; therefore, no definition of terrorism was reached (UN General Assembly, 2012). On October 7, 2013, the United Nations (U.N.) Sixty-Eighth General Assembly called for the Sixth Committee to get once again a consensus for a clear definition of terrorism and draft a comprehensive convention. The Sixth Committee failed to obtain a consensus on the definition of terrorism.

The initial impression was that the non-consensus of defining terrorism appeared to be business as usual in the United Nations, being unable to agree to, and adopt, a convention on defining international terrorism. However, the reason for not obtaining consensus regarding the definition of terrorism is a complex issue. Currently, the United Nations is at a “definitional impasse” that has prevented a “comprehensive convention on international terrorism.” There is strong disagreement over the definition of international terrorism that stems from the Terrorism Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). The OIC’s claim is that the
definition of terrorism should exclude armed struggle for liberation and self-determination. According to “Human Rights Voices” the implication of “this allegation prohibits blowing up individual civilians (United Nations).” The OIC’s sticking point is one of many that continue to evolve since the initial resolution number 3034 passed on December 18, 1972 (UN General Assembly Resolutions, 30th Session, 1972). As indicated, the committee tasked with defining terrorism failed to reach a consensus regarding the definition of terrorism. The United Nations has to date not adopted a definition of international terrorism given the strong opposition of the OIC (United Nations, 2015).

Waves of Terrorism

Two scholars, Rapoport and Kaplan, developed theories regarding religious terrorism known as Rapoport’s and Kaplan’s Fourth and Fifth waves of terrorism. Rapoport’s theory is that the first wave of modern terrorism appeared in Russia circa 1880, initiated by anarchists that lasted until the 1920s (Rapoport, 2002). The Russian Czar Alexander II loosened controls on society; however, the expected change was too slow in coming, and the people revolted. Some of the first modern terrorists used the tactic of suicide bombings in Russia during the late 19th Century. Rapaport explains that Stepniak, a significant figure in the history of Russian terrorism, described the Russian terrorist as “noble, terrible, irresistible, fascinating, and the hero martyr.” Stepniak targeted high-profile individuals, such as royalty and government, and was careful not to cause collateral damage to bystanders. After a decade of terrorism in Russia, anarchists then appeared in Western Europe, the Balkans, and Asia. Anarchists became the first international terrorist movement referred to as the Golden Age of Assassination (Rapoport, 2002).
The second wave, the Anticolonial wave, began in the 1920s and lasted until the 1960s. The anticolonial wave resulted from the breakup of empires after World War I. New States entered the world’s stage where world systems were beginning to form, and power struggles were present (Rapoport, 2002).

The third wave, known as the New Left Wave, began in the 1960s and lasted until the 1990s (Rapoport, 2002). Influences that contributed to the New Left Wave included the Vietnam War, the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) movement from Jordan to Lebanon, and the friction between the PLO and the Israelis. Americans abroad were targeted for kidnappings, hijackings, hostage taking, and suicide bombings. The U.S. Embassy and the Marine Corps barracks bombing in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1984 exemplifies this wave.

The fourth wave, Religious Terrorism, began in the 1970s. According to Rapoport, this wave will end around 2025. These dates exceed Rapoport’s own argument that the wave changes every forty to forty-five years. Rapoport’s theory of what caused the Fourth Wave steams from the Iranian Revolution of 1979. The Soviet Union’s defeat in Afghanistan in 1989 is also a contributor to the Fourth Wave according to Rapoport. Two countries fell to Islam; the U.S. from Iran, and Russia failed to achieve victory on the battlefield in Afghanistan and subsequently withdrew back to Russia. In the 1980s, the United States withdrew its military forces from Lebanon, a defeat that apparently energized the Iranian-backed Hezbollah. Two major terrorist attacks against the United States occurred in Lebanon in 1983, the U.S. Embassy attack and the U.S. Marine barracks attack. International attacks against the U.S. in the 1980s and 1990s contributed to the Fourth Wave’s momentum.
Rapoport presents the idea that international terrorist groups having a religious affiliation would coalesce on a global scale, and the effect of this gathering of terrorist organizations would be short-lived. His belief centers on the aggressive use of force by the United States to eradicate terrorism through President George W. Bush’s “Global War on Terrorism” (GWOT). Identifying and understanding the evolutionary terrorist components of the 21st century may provide ideas to counter the threat of global religious terrorism. Neither Rapoport nor Kaplan failed to predict the magnitude of these waves of terrorism that have escalated into a regional war that has attracted thousands of Jihadists fighters. As Rapoport suggest, the fourth wave of terrorism is a religious war that supplies justifications and organizing principles for the new world order. ISIS has been successful in organizing and establishing a Caliphate in Syria and in parts of Iraq. The model that ISIS has morphed into resembles terrorism of the Fourth Wave. The tactics, techniques, and religious ideologies are indicators of the Fourth Wave of terrorism. Rapoport’s assertion failed to materialize regarding his post 9/11 terrorism theory in that he believed that terrorism would cease to exist several years after the 9/11 attacks (Rapoport, 2002).

Rapoport’s four waves of terrorism, published in 2002, identified critical benchmarks for measuring terrorism growth, attacks, and trends occurring from the 1880s to present day. Conceptually, waves of terrorism are cycles of activity occurring within a specified time that tend to increase and decrease. The level of each Wave’s activity is characterized by expansion and contraction of aggression. The wave is organizational energy that relates to terrorist organizations that promote a particular cause or ideology. Organizational energy expands from successful terrorist attacks and the organization's ability to sustain its membership and attract new recruits. Waves that cannot maintain adequate numbers of recruits will disappear. Revolution is the constant theme throughout the lifecycle of the waves. Revolution does not
conform to one model; instead, the differences become varied as wide-ranging as the terrorist organizations themselves. The first three waves of terrorism as described by Rapoport experienced generational life cycles equivalent to the human life cycle. The terrorist wave tends to lose its relevance while becoming a problematic entity. The more active a terror organization is in conducting successful attacks and spreading fear, the greater the likelihood of a longer lifespan, albeit either secular or religious terrorism.

Rapoport categorizes the waves by the terror groups’ beginning and ending years, e.g. 1979 to present day. The Religious Wave is a phenomenon that began in the late 1970s. If Rapoport’s theory is correct, this wave should decline and cease to exist by 2019. Rapoport’s theory centers on historical events where outcomes were already realized except the current Fourth Wave of religious terrorism. Rapoport argues that the number of years for each wave (40 to 45) is the typical length of time as a participant is either supporting or directly involved in terrorism. There is the premise that when activists become interested in terrorism, their interest will run a course that has a beginning, a middle, and an end; thereby interest decreases over time. This dynamic usually relates to the age of the group combined with its objectives and the organization's successes and failures (Rapoport, 2002). Rapaport categorizes religious terrorism as the fourth wave and in his depictions of terrorist groups, their beginnings were not terroristic in nature, instead they were more of an international wave. Because Rapoport defines waves of terrorism as spanning generational decades, Islam remains a constant terroristic source that has been in existence for nearly 2,000 years.

Rapoport and Kaplan touched briefly on how terrorists would terrorize in the years following the 9/11 attacks. Kaplan’s measure of accuracy appears to be more accurate in
defining the broad scope characteristics of religious terrorist organizations. Rapoport’s assertion that post 9/11 all terrorism would end in the coming years based on the response of the United States and its aggressive global war on terrorism did not come to fruition.

**Background & Project Description**

This project examines religious terrorism with a detailed review of numerous facets of terrorism, examining Radical Islam and case studies of homegrown terrorism. A portion of this presentation centers on the Fourth and Fifth Waves of religious terrorism. Furthermore, this project presents some of the U.S.G.’s actions used to counter Radical Islam against the homeland. The inability to arrive at a single definition of terrorism presents challenges not only to the U.S.G. also the United Nations. The inability to define terrorism makes it even more difficult to defeat. This paper highlights the attacks committed against the United States by domestic (secular/religious and foreign religious terrorist groups. The current United States administration refuses to address this wave of religious terrorism as Islamic terrorism, and instead calls it radical extremism. The national debate continues over the Obama administration’s stance of not using the words Radical Islam.

**Literature Review**

**Characteristics of Religious Terrorism**

Dr. Jeffery Kaplan presents the idea that Fifth Wave terrorist groups have distinct characteristics that separate them from the Fourth Wave, although both waves display religious terrorism traits (Kaplan J., 2008). Kaplan wrote that the ideal case of the Fifth Wave of terror would have seventeen characteristics. The symptoms range from breaking away from the established terrorist norm, such as the Islamic State transforming to ISIL and further expanding
into ISIS. Kaplan’s Fifth Wave of terrorism contains seventeen characteristics; some of the features have relevance to ISIS while certain features apply to Boko Haram (Kaplan, 2008). Kaplan’s seventeen features are described below:

1. “Radicalize and break away from established terrorist wave” (Kaplan J., 2008). ISIS is more ruthless now when compared to its beginning years (Gryboski, 2014). During the early years ISIS, then the Islamic State (IS) was a small anti-coalition militia. IS did break away from Al-Qaeda, and the point is debatable if its breakaway status constitutes breaking away from an established wave. Before its breakup IS was engaged in attacking coalition military Shia targets in Iraq.

Boko Haram is an Islamic insurgent terrorist group that originated in Maiduguri, Nigeria in 2002. The Islamic cleric Mohammed Yusuf began the group with the objective of replacing the government of Nigeria with an Islamic State. In 2009, the Nigerian military hunted down and killed Mohammed Yusuf. Yusuf’s replacement, Abubakar Shekar, has the same ambitions of creating an Islamic state. Under the leadership of Shekar, Boko Haram has killed hundreds of children and has maintained is opposition to educating girls. Boko Haram is in the business of kidnapping girls and using them as cooks and sex slaves. In 2012, the United States Department of State placed a bounty on Shekar for seven million dollars. Boko Haram has expanded its reach into Cameroon, Niger, Chad, and Benin. Boko Haram is a Sunni Muslim sect formerly called Jama atu Ahlis Sunnar Lidda await Wal-Jihad. This translates to “people committed to the propagation of the Prophet’s teaching and jihad.” Boko Haram’s nickname means, “Western education is a sin” (The Economist, 2013). Boko Haram firmly rejects Western culture as being
sinful and corrupt. In March 2015, Boko Haram’s leader, Abubakar Shekar, pledged his allegiance to ISIS (Counter Extremism Project, 2015).

2. “Born of hope expressed at the extremes: some emerge after all hope has been lost, others because the dream has been realized” (Kaplan J., 2008). Abu Musab al-Zarqawi became acquainted with Osama Bin Laden though each had differing views on which enemy to engage. Zarqawi and Bin Laden had targeting differences; Zarqawi preferred to target his “near enemies;” such as Israel and the Jordanian government, whereas Al-Qaeda (AQ) leadership often focused on the “far enemy,” the United States. Zarqawi had an intense hatred for Shiites. Bin Laden provided Zarqawi with funding and several years later Zarqawi was in Iraq waging war against the United States and its coalition (Institute of Foreign International Studies, 2015).


4. “Claim to establish some form of a new calendar the Year Zero” (Kaplan J., 2008). Islamic states adhere to the Islamic calendar, which differs substantially from the Christian calendar. For example, a point in the Christian Calendar reflects May 30, 2016; the same time period in the Islamic calendar reflects a different date, differing 579 years on day 22 of the 8th month of the 1437 year (Institute of Oriental Studies, 2016).

6. “Internal compromise impossible resulting in deadly schisms and constant internal violence” (Kaplan J., 2008). This characteristic frequently surfaces when open source reporting reveals the brutality of ISIS when dealing with alleged internal and external spies. The ISIS high command frequently has accused and executed ISIS soldiers of collaborating with the enemy. ISIS has executed civilians for allegedly spying on them. These civilians usually reside in the ISIS occupied areas (Malm, 2016).

7. “Belief in human perfectibility and chiliastic utopia in this lifetime” (Kaplan J., 2008). In Western religion, human nature is flawed and requires grace, ultimately and forgiveness. In contrast, eastern thought, including Islam, prescribes human perfectibility is obtainable. (Coward, 2008).

8. “Emphasis on creating new men and women makes old models expendable; thus the logic of genocidal violence” (Kaplan J., 2008). ISIS has conducted genocide against Christians and Yazidis and Shiite Muslims. ISIS uses social media to show mass killings that represent genocide (Mohammed, 2016).

9. “Obsession with creating a new race places tremendous emphasis on women, who are both subject and object of the Fifth Wave violence” (Kaplan J., 2008).

10. “Children are the vanguard of the Fifth Wave as they are the least contaminated by the old society (not to mention the old STDs, HIV, and other remnants of the old cultures)” (Kaplan J., 2008). Boko Haram targets schools and teachers to prevent the spread of education. Boko Haram forbids western education (Winsor, 2015).
11. “Rape is the tactic of the Fifth Wave” (Kaplan J. , 2008). ISIS is notorious for brutal sexual acts carried out in the villages and cities that it captures (Kaplan J. , 2008). ISIS issued a Fatwa on how to properly rape and enslave women and young girls. U.S. Special Forces captured the document during a raid into Syria in 2015. ISIS established a separate entity to manage the spoils of war, specifically rape and enslavement (Landay, 2015).

12. “Violence is so pervasive in the Fifth Wave that it loses its message content beyond the mere assertion that “we exist” (Kaplan J. , 2008). In 2014, Boko Haram became the world’s deadliest terrorist organization by claiming responsibility for 6,664 deaths (Cummings, 2015).

13. “The effects of ritualized acts of rape and killing, especially for newly abducted recruits, has the effect of binding the killers to the group while closing the doors for all team members to return to family, the old society, and previous ways of life” (Kaplan J. , 2008). ISIS issued a Fatwa on how to properly rape and enslave women and young girls.

U.S. Special Forces captured the Fatwa document during a raid into Syria in 2015. ISIS established a separate entity to manage the spoils of war, specifically rape and enslavement (Landay, 2015).

14. “Fifth Wave groups tend to turn their backs on the international Waves from which they emerged” (Kaplan J. , 2008). Often describing the support and operational reach of a group, these terms apply to different capabilities. International organizations typically operate in multiple countries but retain a geographic focus for their activities. Hezbollah has cells worldwide, and has conducted operations in multiple countries, but is primarily concerned with
events in Lebanon and Israel. Another example is that Boko Haram is mainly involved with Nigeria, although Boko Haram has pledged its allegiance to ISIS.

15. “If needed for survival, foreign allies will be cultivated, and Fifth Wave groups will often live in exile in neighboring states” (Kaplan J., 2008). In the cases of Boko Haram and ISIS, foreign relationships with neighboring countries have not occurred. However, ISIS used Islam as the instrument to promote its ideological beliefs. While Islam is the backdrop of the ISIS movement, it has physically forced its way into neighboring countries. ISIS is a transnational terrorist group that operates internationally, but not tied to a particular country, or even region, other than by physical location. ISIS is made up of many nationalities and conducts operations throughout the world. Their objectives affect dozens of countries with differing political systems, religions, ethnic compositions, and national interests (Kaplan J., 2008).


17. “Chiliastic in nature, deeply religious with eclectic or syncretic religious tropes assembled and interpreted by the leaders in support of a millenarian dream to be realized through a campaign of apocalyptic violence” (Kaplan J., 2008). Characteristic seventeen is the fundamental belief of the deeply religious person having a millenarian vision achieved through a campaign of apocalyptic violence (Kaplan J., 2008).

**Threat from ISIS**

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) originated in Iraq as the Islamic State, an affiliate of Al-Qaeda that commenced in 2003 and lasted until 2011 before spreading into Syria. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi created the Islamic State in Iraq where he led his brutal creation until his
death in 2006. The vicious legacy of al-Zarqawi continues in the form of ISIS. While created to be an affiliate of Al-Qaeda, ISIS fundamentals differ from Al-Qaeda in terms of Islamic law and ISIS now is an enemy of Al-Qaeda rather than an affiliate (Habeck, 2014). ISIS’ bringing foreign fighters into Syria and the state of disarray and failure of the Free Syrian Army underscores a weakening Al-Qaeda (Mora, 2015). The establishment of an Islamic State and a Caliphate in Iraq and Syria that is seeking to take hold in other countries is indication of the strength of ISIS.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) began as an Iraqi country-specific terrorist organization. The Islamic State of Iraq later transformed into the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) while furthering its name and claim into the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2016). As ISIS spreads across Iraq and Syria, so does the Caliphate that it claims to have established. The refugee crisis brought on by the war in Syria and the rapid growth of ISIS referred to as having a Caliphate state is reshaping the boundaries of Syria and Iraq. If ISIS persists and attacks continue in the United States, the countermeasures to prevent or reduce the lethality of attacks will directly influence freedoms that Americans have. Post 9/11 security enhancements to aviation ushered in the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) that has become a necessary inconvenience to air travelers.

The threat from ISIS is increasing more quickly than any other terror threat since 9/11 (Homeland Security, 2015). The terror threat climate is at the same level as the run-up to the 9/11 attacks (Kaplan, 2015). The Islamic State and its affiliates have become a global menace, unlike any other terrorist groups and promoting its abilities and capabilities through social media. ISIS’ brutal tactics include mass killings; beheadings and enslavement have created the breeding
ground for terrorism. Mass media has afforded ISIS the capability of worldwide recruitment that has attracted upward of 40 thousand recruits from over 100 countries (Hahn, 2015). One ISIS-inspired terrorist has conducted attacks as a lone wolf, and the most sophisticated attacks have occurred in Paris and San Bernardino.

Since November 2015, ISIS leadership coming from Raqqa, Syria directed the attacks in Paris and Brussels. In the U.S., the most recent attack occurred in Orlando, Florida on June 12, 2016 where 50 persons killed and 54 injured during a lone wolf attack. ISIS has claimed responsibility for carrying out attacks in ten countries. A Russian passenger jet departed Sharm Al-Sheikh, Egypt, was blown up in the air killing all two hundred twenty-four passengers. Mike Morell, a former Deputy Director of the CIA, appearing on CBS’ Face the Nation “stated that the recent attack in Paris reminded him of pre-9/11 days.” In the pre-9/11 period, Osama bin Laden declared that he wanted to attack the United States much the same as ISIS has stated, yet the U.S. intelligence community does not yet have clear visibility on what ISIS has planned for the future (CBS Face the Nation, 2015).

ISIS uses global mass media to recruit some fighters while others engage in jihad as a religious duty. Those coming to fight with ISIS in Syria and Iraq have come from 100 countries (Liberty, 2015). ISIS uses mass media to broadcast the atrocities and beheadings carried out by its soldiers with the central themes of death to the west and death to all who stand in the way of the ISIS Caliphate. ISIS has an army estimated to be upwards of 31 thousand people (Ashley, 2016). The war that ISIS is waging in Syria and Iraq has drawn in regional and international powers: NATO, Russia, Iran, Turkey, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. There is a risk of the war escalating between the loosely aligned coalition partners that all are fighting a
specific sect in the battle space of Iraq and Syria. The war is contained within the geographical boundaries of Syria, Iraq and has spread to Libya. The ISIS attacks in Paris in November 2015 brought the ISIS threat to the west. Following the Paris attacks, the French authorities conducted countless raids to thwart future attacks. In Belgium, a state of emergency exists fomented by ISIS propaganda and the arrest of persons believed tied to ISIS. ISIS has active support and followers in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Yemen, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, France, England, Germany, Jordan, Algeria, Libya, Afghanistan, Tunisia, and the United States (Gamble, 2015).

Modern day religious wave terrorists employ suicide bombing, as a tactic is lethal and instills fear in those targeted. Explosives used in the manufacture of suicide bombings have become more available from fallen states such as Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Libya. Suicide bombing techniques the religious Wave of terrorism indiscriminately murder the targeted population and destroy. Composition explosives such as Composition 4 used in modern day attacks are more lethal than dynamite and black powder used in the 19th century. The internet provides the necessary ingredients and methods to make and assemble nonstandard explosives. Furthermore, the internet provides maps and commercial satellite imagery that greatly assists in the terrorism target planning process. The availability of knowledge to assemble these materials is the reason for concern by Western powers (Kaplan E., 2009). The idea of a religious terrorist organization or any terrorist organization obtaining a nuclear device such as a dirty bomb or a conventional nuclear weapon is troublesome.

One of the beliefs in Islam is the appearance of the 12th Imam. According to the Quran, the 12th Imam comes from the East to save the world: this is the Islamic apocalypse. Supporters of the Islamic State believe that if they can create global jihad to start World War III this will
accelerate the arrival of the 12th Imam. Shi’ia Muslims also refer to the 12th Imam as the Mahdi, and the Mahdi will appear and bring final judgment upon a world where there is no hope (CBN, 2006).

ISIS declared Iraq and Syria a Caliphate in June 2014, it has expanded its provinces into Algeria, Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen. ISIS is employing a three-fold strategy:

1. Incites regional conflict with attacks in Iraq and Syria.
2. Building relationships with jihadist groups that can carry out military operations across the Middle East and North Africa.
3. Inspires radicalized persons to conduct attacks in the West.

Since October 1, 2015, ISIS has carried out 85 attacks in twenty countries. By dividing the attacks into categories reveals that ISIS directs the attacks, inspires the attacks or the attacks are liked indirectly to ISIS. Of the eighty-five attacks, sixty-four linked directly to ISIS while the remaining twenty-one were ISIS-inspired (Karen Yourish, 2016). The June 12, 2016 attack in Orlando, Florida is included in this number.

If ISIS is successful in attacking the United States in a bold measure, the lives of all Americans in the resulting countermeasures will change in the form of reduced freedoms and increased fears. The immediate reaction to the Orlando, Florida attacks of June 12, 2016 is the banning of assault rifles.

**War in Syria Enabled ISIS**
The war in Syria began in March 2011 when Syrian protesters inspired by the Arab Spring movement came under fire from the forces of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. Unlike Egypt and Tunisia that submitted to the dissidents, Assad countered Syrian protesters with violent force. In the subsequent months and years of fighting, casualties and displaced persons within Syria continued to increase. The October 2015 Syrian death toll stands at over 250,000 persons. In the same period, over 4,088,089 Syrians became refugees as identified by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and have taken refuge Iraq (249,463), Jordan (629,266), Lebanon (1.11 million), and Turkey (1.94 million). There are 7.6 million displaced persons in Syria and another 12.2 million in need of humanitarian assistance there (UN, 2015).

**Syrian & Iraqi Refugees a Potential Hazard**

In 2013, the AQ affiliate based in Iraq known as the Islamic State of Iraq (ISIS) and Syria broke away from AQ over disagreements centered on Syria (The Week, 2015). ISIS established a Caliphate in Northern Syria, and Iraq now controls significant portions of Syria and Iraq. Atrocities committed by ISIS and widespread ISIS-instigated propaganda have resulted in Syrians and Iraqis fleeing as refugees and becoming immigrants in other countries with 10,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees scheduled to arrive in the United States over the next 24 months. Until the attacks in Paris on November 13, 2015, the probability of the United States accepting 10,000 Syrians and Iraqis was moving forward. A recent Bloomberg/Selzer poll taken on November 16/17, 2015 in the United States revealed that 28% of those polled supported accepting the refugees. Fifty-three percent said not to allow the refugees to enter while 11% of those polled said to allow only Christians to get into the country, and 8% of those polled were not sure.
Citizens of the United States are fearful of allowing Syrians and Iraqis to immigrate because of the perceived risk of terrorist acts (Elving, 2015).

**Inside Terrorism**

In Bruce Hoffman’s “Inside Terrorism”, the author states that terrorism is “the fact of terrorizing or being terrorized” that is emulated through ISIS and affiliates. In 2006, Hoffman presented the argument that contemporary terrorist groups have an obedient religious motivation toward violence as their divine duty, resulting in higher levels of bloodshed while also rendering the terrorists harder to counter and defeat by government suppression. ISIS is an excellent example that credits Islam as the impetus for attacking those that disagree with their extremist ideology. In Hoffman’s analysis of religious terrorism and comparing Rapoport’s Fourth Wave, a different position exists. When the justification changes from obtaining attention to a group’s plight such as the PLO and other associated Palestinian factions to divinely inspired/approved operations where increasingly large numbers of innocent people become victims in public places, an entirely new dynamic emerges (Hoffman, 2006). Religious terrorism is what Rapaport has categorized into the Fourth Wave and Hoffman as solely religious terrorism. This style of terrorism is relatively new; however, it is not a “new terrorism;” it is the same in the practice and problems it presents. This new form of terror is more of a hybrid or variation of former terrorist styles and techniques. The fact is that this new kind of terrorism is limitless in its ability to kill and injure, and within a matter of minutes, the newsflash of terror has reached most global news networks. Thus, the residual effect of fear spreads quickly (Hoffman, Inside Terrorism, 2006).

**Religious & Secular Terrorism**
Individual terrorists and terrorist organizations are identified by multiple means, including their name, organization, cause, and group name. The Terrorism Research Center has identified nine categories of terrorist organization. They are Separatist, Ethnocentric, Nationalistic, Revolutionary, Political, Social, Domestic, International and Transnational and Religious. Revolutionary is dedicated to the overthrow of an established order and replacing it with a new political or social structure. Although often associated with communist political ideologies, this is not always the case, and other policy movements can advocate revolutionary methods to achieve their goals.

Each of the aforementioned causes employs terror tactics in an attempt to obtain the goals of their cause. In the 1980s, religious terrorism began to increase, and in 2016, it continues to grow at alarming rates based on the high numbers of terrorist attacks that occur throughout the world on a daily basis. Religious extremism attacks carried out by Islamic extremists, al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, Hamas and Boko Haram presents the greatest threat to the United States. The Terrorism Research Center has identified many different categories of terrorism. These groups aid in distinguishing one type terrorist organization from another.

Heather S. Gregg characterizes religious terrorism as acts of unrestrained, irrational, and indiscriminate violence. To counter religious terrorism, one must be able to define and differentiate religiously motivated terrorism from traditional terrorism that it is irrational. Jean-Francois Mayer asserts, for example: “When religious beliefs are used for justifying violence, violent actions tend to become endowed with cosmic dimensions, and there is nothing left to restrain them” (Mayer, 2001, p. 369). Bruce Hoffman argues, “[f]or the religious terrorist, violence first and foremost is a sacramental act or divine duty executed in direct response to
some theological demand or imperative. Terrorism assumes a transcendental dimension, and its perpetrators are thereby unconstrained by the political, moral, or practical constraints that seem to affect other terrorists” (Hoffman, 1995).

Mark Sedgwick writes in “Al-Qaeda and the Nature of Religious Terrorism” that religious terrorists’ motivation tied to a future apocalyptic event, such as millennials, or messianic terrorism. Believers in religion want to bring about the end of times more quickly and bring in a new world order based the particular religions’ beliefs. Sedgwick makes no mention of religious terrorism perpetrated by Islamic extremists (Sedgwick, 2004).

Rudolph’s attraction into the dark side of the Christian religion gave way in his mind that his actions were justified through the literal interpretation of the Bible, much the same way that Muslim extremists are interpreting the Koran. People cite religious authority to commit violent acts of extremism and terrorism (Kressel, 2012).

Rapoport asserts that the religious and fanatic type of terrorism is much more dangerous because the religious motive allows for justification of just about anything. Even mass casualties are accepted and sometimes even desired. This model mirrors Kaplan’s theory that the Fifth Wave of increases losses, and becomes increasingly larger whereby the methods and materials used to inflict pain, suffering, and death have become more deadly. Rapoport’s Fourth Wave identifies religious terrorism as defining factors such as suicide bombings and fewer groups with wider recruiting tactics and more deadly attacks.

**Homegrown Terrorism**
Homegrown terrorists are indigenous to the country to which they target and operate within and against their country. Frequently, homegrown terrorists align with extreme social or political factions within a particular society, and focus their efforts specifically on their nation's socio-political arena. In the 1990s, the U.S. Government labeled several persons as homegrown terrorist. The motivations of Randy Weaver, David Koresh, and Timothy McVeigh all were different. Weaver was a low-key backwoods recluse who became the center of attention of the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Agency (ATF). Ruby Ridge began with an illegal shotgun whereby undercover ATF officers attempted to lure Weaver into an illegal firearms transaction. Although Weaver and his family were reclusive, he still was active in a passive way toward the militias and patriot groups. There was no religious extremism associated with Ruby Ridge. The murders at Ruby Ridge were the catalyst that became the motivating event behind the militia movement of the 1990s. Not only did Ruby Ridge influence the spread of militia groups in America about that time, so did the battle over gun rights. Gun rights advocates believed that their Fourth Amendment right to bear arms was in danger of collapse. Ruby Ridge is reflective of a nationalistic movement where Weaver’s loyalty and devotion to a nation and the national consciousness derived being able to bear arms and live their lives in peace. This can find expression in the creation of a new government, or in splitting away part of an existing state to join with others (Associated Press, 2012).

David Koresh was the religious leader of the Branch Davidians sect. Knowledge of Koresh’s stockpiled weapons gained the attention of the ATF. There was a secondary concern that child abuse may have been occurring inside the compound. The concern over ill-treatment of children resulted from the perceived polygamy happening inside the compound. The commonalities between Ruby Ridge and Waco centered on firearms violations that involved the ATF. It is
important to note the order of occurrence of such major events. Regarding the Oklahoma City bombing, the Ruby Ridge shootout/siege and the Waco, Texas, siege, the most destructive of these events influenced the actions perpetrated by Timothy McVeigh (Associated Press, 2012). In 1995, McVeigh attacked the Alfred P. Murrah (Murrah) Federal Building in Oklahoma City. On April 19, the same day of the Murrah bombing, the Waco, Texas Branch Davidian compound burnt to the ground in 1993. The two-month Waco siege influenced McVeigh, and during that two-month period, McVeigh visited Waco. The Turner Diaries served as motivation and influence for McVeigh. McVeigh was an avid reader of the Turner Diaries and sent copies to his friends. McVeigh also sold copies of the Turner Diaries at gun shows. The ideology expressed in the Turner Diaries and followed by McVeigh promoted the futuristic overthrow of the U.S. government. According to the Turner Diaries, the only keepers of freedom were those who rise against the established tyrannical government. McVeigh selected the Murrah building for two reasons. First, he (McVeigh) thought that the ATF agents sent to Waco during the Branch Davidian siege worked out of the Murrah building. The second reason that McVeigh selected the Murrah building was its ease of access, in other words, the building was an “easy target” (FBI, 2015).

Ted Kaczynski attempted to become a productive member of academia; however, he became an isolationist; this may have fueled his need to strike. Kaczynski had no idea what was going on in the world around him given his recluse behavior. Rudolph became isolated during the five years he avoided capture, although Rudolph was in an inactive state during this period. After his arrest, the court found him guilty and sentenced to life in prison and he began writing to provide insight into his religious convictions regarding abortion. Rudolph’s beliefs are deeply
rooted in the Christian religion. Today, Rudolph continues his antiabortion crusade from his federal jail cell at the Super Max prison in Colorado

The commonality between Ted Kaczynski and Eric R. Rudolph is one of “independent crusaders” and they both worked alone. Each of these men regarded their cause as a just crusade, their actions as a last resort to right perceived wrongs, and attempted to change the direction in which the country was heading. Their backgrounds varied; however, their psychological makeup ran in a similar direction. Their need to step outside the bounds of normal behavior, injure, and kill those with whom they disagreed is a shared characteristic between the men.

Secular terrorism has targeted persons and groups and in doing so conducted high-profile attacks that attract the media’s attention, further spreading fear through the act of terror. These attacks are still in line with terrorists of the past: using violence to change a country or government's policy and raising awareness by the populations. However, governments should work to maintain situational awareness on all targets of opportunity, to include high profile and areas with a high volume of people. Deterrence for terrorists is one option, as well as attacking the terrorist networks to stop an attack before it begins.

Before the 9/11 attacks, the United States lacked the commitment to engage aggressively and to publicly recognize international terrorism as a threat to the American homeland. Following the 9/11 attacks, there was a massive shift in terrorism awareness, especially the awareness of Al-Qaeda (AQ). As Americans recovered from the shock of 9/11, the new standard counterterrorism security measures became law. The new counterterrorism measures resulted in changing the way Americans went about their daily lives. Immediately following the 9/11,
attacks the American people were in varied states of shock, disbelief, and fear. A quote from President George W. Bush made on November 6, 2001, emphasized the government’s intent in defeating terrorism: “No group or nation should mistake America’s intentions. We will not rest until terrorist groups of global reach have been found, have been stopped.”

In February 2003, the United States National Strategy for Combating Terrorism became the primary approach to defeating terrorism. This strategy outlined the idea that terrorism is the enemy, and it is not a political regime or religion. The conclusion is that terrorism is “neither secular nor religious; instead, a shared misguided belief that is politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents that strive to subvert the rule of law and effect change through violence and fear” (U.S.G., 2003, p. 1).

Analysis & Critical Application

Projected Global Population

The Pew Research Institute’s study on the projected global population growth by religion reflects that Muslims will likely increase from 1.6 billion to 2.76 billion between 2010 and 2015. The study also predicted that Christian population growth rates from 2010 to 2050 would increase from 2.17 billion to 2.92 billion. By 2050, Muslims will represent 29.7% of the population while Christians will represent 31.4% of the population. The Christian percentage of 31.4% remains constant from 2010 to 2050. Muslim growth rate in the same period reflects 23.2% in 2010 climbing to 29.7% equaling 6.5% population and increase of 6.5% growth in 40 years (Institute, 2015). The Pew Research study also found that Muslims are the only world’s major religious group population that will increase faster than the world’s population growth from 2010 to 2050 (Pew Research Institute, 2015). Loosely connected components have
afforded radical Islam the ability to terrorize and in some cases terrorize without attacking. It is the writer’s intent to bring a few of these components together through a cursory review, and provide insight for countering the radical Islamic threat.

Propaganda in Terrorism

In the twenty-first century, news outlets have the capability to respond and report within minutes of a terrorist attack occurring. Frequently, news outlets can go directly to the scene in a matter of seconds when a terrorist attack occurs. The particulars of the assault may be so current that the dust has not yet settled as the reporter narrates his observations. As additional information is developed, the circumstances of the violence begin to emerge. In the early stages following an attack, the terrorist organization claiming responsibility for the attack is identified through evidence collected at the scene, or a communication received, wherein the organization self-identifies as the responsibility entity. The rapid response to reporting acts of terrorism is the result of electronic advancements in the rapid transfer of data between points worldwide.

ISIS has had significant successes in using social media as a recruiting platform to attract foreign fighters. ISIS operates as one of the most advanced social media organizations in history. ISIS is attracting tens of thousands of fighters from over one-hundred countries through its social media (Hahn, 2015). ISIS uses high-quality video with professional production products and just the right recruiting language designed to attract the person who may lack a sense of purpose due to a lack of means, and is in need of devoting his life to a cause. In some Islamic circles, joining ISIS is a noble and just cause, and this belief underscores obedience to Islam. In the recruitment of ISIS fighters, ISIS provides the recruit with the opportunity to prove himself whereby the recruit may not have the means to prove himself beyond his meager
existence. ISIS portrays the idea that by becoming an ISIS fighter, the person becomes an instant hero. Hero status is given as the fighter is resisting evil and fighting against an evil regime. The evil regime that has oppressed Muslims and fighting against the regime as being one of the good guys (Frostenson, 2015).

For the propagandist to maintain relevance there must be a continued effort to keep pace with the changing instruments of transmitting propaganda. Once the delivery mechanism is in place, the message transmits (Bernays, 2005). In the case of ISIS, the message targets Westerners by showing Western hostages appearing in ISIS video clips. The hostage may be blaming someone for his predicament and is fearful for his life. In other cases, beheading has occurred while the camera was running. ISIS is using these techniques as a means to get the attention of those viewing the video. ISIS recruits by showing clips of western hostages posted to ISIS websites, this is an excellent means of how ISIS not only gets out to the local area, and it deepens its ideological message.

**U.S.G./DHS Initiative**

The United States Government’s (U.S.G.) Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is acutely aware of the potential volatility between the religion of Islam and citizens of the United States. On May 8, 2007, DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff held discussions with influential Muslim Americans. The discussions centered on the exchange of ideas that would reduce and prevent radicalization from gaining traction in the Muslim and non-Muslim communities. During this meeting, Muslim Americans recommended that U.S. Government officials should not use descriptive terms of terrorism relating to Islam. Both groups agreed that comparing Islamic terminology to describe terrorism influences national security and the inability to win
“hearts and minds” of the targeted audience. Resulting from the discussions were six Expert Recommendations relating to terminology to avoid and terminology to use. The below recommendations were compiled by the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL).


Muslim experts told that the U.S.G. should avoid terms such as jihadists, Islamic terrorist, Islamist, and holy warrior in order not to single out Islam (DHS Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, 2008, pp. 1-9). DHS’s objective in adopting terminology to avoid words that singles out Islam became a failed effort to diminish the recruitment of extremists that give the perception the United States is at war with Islam. The result of the May 8, 2007 discussion that DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff had with influential Muslim Americans created bias in the terminology used to describe the war with radical Islam. This bias further evolved from the Bush Administration to the Obama Administration. The government’s issue over what to call
the war with radical Islam culminated in a national debate over what to call the war with radical Islam. Prominent political figures such as the President and Secretary of State and some media outlets refuse to use terminology signifying that the United States is at war with Islam.

Citizens Watch & Profiling

In 2010, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) began a campaign patterned after the New York City (NYC) Metropolitan Transit Authority regarding situational awareness; the campaign is known as “If you see something say something” (DHS, 2010). The essence of the campaign is if you see something suspicious taking place, you should report that behavior to local law enforcement. DHS has collaborated with transportation systems, universities, states, cities, and sports clubs to achieve blanket awareness. DHS only wants reports that document “behavior reasonably indicative of criminal activity or related to terrorism.” DHS does not want the suspicious person’s “race, ethnicity, national origin, or religious affiliation” to be declared. For that reason, the public should report only suspicious behavior and situations (e.g., an unattended backpack in a public place or someone trying to break into a restricted area) rather than reporting the person’s beliefs, thoughts, ideas, expressions, associations, or speech unrelated to terrorism or other criminal activity. The government’s responses are complicated when those charged with protecting the public are more concerned with political correctness than the establishment a national community watch program.

The San Bernardino, California shooting in December 2015 resulted in 14 deaths and 21 injuries. The San Bernardino attacks followed the attacks perpetrated by ISIS in Paris, France, in November 2015 and the Brussels, Belgium attacks in March 2016. Allegedly, the San Bernardino terrorists (man and his wife) were radicalized followers of ISIS. A neighbor of the
couple reportedly became suspicious when late night activities began to occur in the couple’s garage although the couple did not have a car. Strangers came and went during these late hours, and numerous delivery trucks arrived at the couple's San Bernardino home. The couple’s neighbor did not report his suspicions to the authorities because he did not want to profile his neighbor for being Muslim (Fox News, 2015).

**Religious Freedoms**

Many countries lack the freedom of religion enjoyed by the United States and other Western nations. As evidenced by the June 12, 2016 ISIS inspired lone wolf attacks in Orlando, Florida there remains the idea that Islam still can enjoy religious freedoms while some followers of Islam will continue to target persons within the United States. Even President Obama refuses to use Islam and terrorism in the same sentence (Carroll, 2015). Instead, he prefers to use terminology reflective of extremism. Throughout the world, equality has evolved where religious freedoms are free such as Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Still, in Saudi Arabia and Mogadishu, Somalia, and other Islamic countries Islam is the only religion allowed. Religiously motivated terrorists see their objectives as holy writ, and therefore infallible and non-negotiable.

**Conclusion**

This paper reaffirms that America is at war with Radical Islam. The tactics used by Radical Islam are two pronged. Radical Islam occupies Western countries caused by refugees fleeing from Syria, Iraq, and Libya. ISIS is capturing and holding terrain in the Middle East and
North Africa that is a successful tactic. ISIS and Boko Haram are dangerous religious terrorist organizations centered on Islamic extremism.

The U.S.G. is part of a Middle Eastern coalition that attacks ISIS with bombs and limited ground operations. Bomb damage assessments (BDA) of suspected targets engaged may not reflect an accurate assessment of the BDA, because of limited resources in those areas that the U.S. Airforce is engaging. The writer maintains that Americans are concerned about the ISIS threat; however, the collective American will is not ready to escalate the war against ISIS by the employment of ground forces. An even larger looming factor is the complexity of the competing interested countries operating and engaging a host of terrorists’ organizations and regional military and paramilitary powers in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya. The potential exists for an unintended escalation of military force.
References


Appendix – A

In November 1979, Iranian radical students seized the U.S. Embassy taking sixty-four hostages. Fourteen of the prisoners were released, and the remaining fifty-two were released on the day that President Reagan’s inauguration in 1981.

Between 1982 and 1991, in Lebanon, thirty U.S. and other Westerners became victims of kidnapping and held hostage by the Iranian terrorist organization Hezbollah. Some of the hostages died in captivity, and some eventually released. Terry Anderson held hostage for 2,454 days. CIA Station Chief William Buckley kidnapped, tortured, and killed. In April 1983, in Beirut, Lebanon the U.S. Embassy became the target of a suicide truck bomb and destroyed. The attack resulted in 63 dead including 17 Americans. The Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility. In 1984, in Beirut, Lebanon Shiite suicide bombers exploded a truck near the U.S. military barracks at Beirut airport, killing 241 Marines. Minutes later, a second bomb killed 58 French paratroopers in their barracks in West Beirut. On September 20, 1984, in East Beirut, Lebanon, a truck exploded outside the embassy annex, killing 24, including two U.S. military personnel.

On December 12, 1983, in Kuwait City, Kuwait: Shiite truck bombers attacked the U.S. embassy and other targets, killing five and injuring 80. In December 1985, in Beirut, Lebanon a Kuwait Airways Flight 221, from Kuwait to Pakistan was hijacked, diverted to Tehran, two Americans killed. In December 1985, simultaneous suicide attacks occurred against U.S. and Israeli check-in desks at Rome and Vienna international airports killing 20 people, five of whom were Americans, the four terrorists killed.

November, Hijackers aboard an Egypt Air flight kill one American. Egyptian commandos later storm the aircraft on the isle of Malta, and 60 people died. (Islam affiliated)
In October 1985, Palestinian terrorists hijacked the cruise liner Achille Laurel, (in response to the Israeli attack on PLO headquarters in Tunisia) Leon Klinghoffer, an elderly, wheelchair-bound American, is killed and thrown overboard.

In June 1985, a TWA airliner was hijacked over the Mediterranean, the start of a two-week hostage ordeal. The remaining 39 passengers were released in Damascus after being held in various locations in Beirut.

In April 1985, a bomb explodes in a restaurant near a U.S. air base in Madrid, Spain, killing 18, all Spaniards, and wounding 82, including 15 Americans. An Islamic affiliate claimed responsibility for the bomb.

In April 1986, Athens, Greece: A bomb exploded aboard TWA Flight 840 enroute from Rome to Athens, killing four Americans and injuring nine. April, West Berlin, Germany: Libyans bombed a disco frequented by U.S. service members, killing two and injuring hundreds. An Islamic affiliate claimed responsibility for the bomb.

In December 1986, Lockerbie, Scotland: N.Y.-bound Pan-Am Boeing 747 exploded in flight from a terrorist bomb and crashed into Scottish village, killing all 259 aboard and 11 on the ground. Passengers included 35 Syracuse University students and many U.S. military personnel. Libya formally admitted responsibility 15 years later (Aug. 2003) and offered $2.7 billion compensation to victims' families. A terrorist from Libya masterminded the bomb.

In February 1993, in New York City a bomb exploded in basement garage of World Trade Center, killing six and injuring at least 1,040 others. In 1995, militant Islamist Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman and nine others were convicted of conspiracy charges, and in 1998, Ramzi
Yousef believed to have been the mastermind, was convicted of the bombing. Al-Qaeda involvement is a suspect.

In April 1995, Oklahoma City, a car bomb exploded outside federal office building, collapsing wall and floors. One hundred sixty-eight killed, including 19 children and 1 person who died in a rescue effort. Over 220 buildings sustained damage. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols later convicted in the antigovernment plot to avenge the Branch Davidian standoff in Waco, Tex., exactly two years earlier.


In June 1996, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia: truck bomb exploded outside Khobar Towers military complex, killing 19 U.S. Airforce personnel and injuring hundreds of others. Thirteen Saudis and a Lebanese all alleged members of Islamic militant group Hezbollah, were indicted on charges relating to the attack in June 2001.

In July 1996, a pipe bomb explodes during the Olympic Games in Atlanta, killing one person and wounding. Eric Rudolph found guilty and sentenced to prison.

In August 1998, Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: Truck bombs exploded almost simultaneously near two U.S. embassies, killing 224 (213 in Kenya and 11 in Tanzania) and injuring about 4,500. Four men connected with Al-Qaeda received training at Al-Qaeda camps inside Afghanistan, were convicted of the killings in May 2001, and later sentenced to life
in prison. A federal grand jury had indicted 22 men in connection with the attacks, including Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, who remained at large. (Islam affiliated)

In October 2000, in Aden, Yemen, the U.S. Navy destroyer USS Cole heavily damaged when a small boat loaded with explosives blew up alongside it the Cole. Seventeen sailors killed. The attack was the responsibility of members of Al-Qaeda terrorist network.

On September 11 2001, in New York City, Arlington, Va., and Shanksville, Pa.: hijackers crashed two commercial jets into twin towers of World Trade Center; two more hijacked jets crashed into the Pentagon and a field in rural Pa. Total dead and missing from the September 11, 2001 attacks totaled 2,992, of which 2,749 in New York City, 184 at the Pentagon, 40 in Pa., and 19 hijackers. Islamic Al-Qaeda terrorist group blamed (David B. Muhlhausen, 2011).

June 14 2002, Karachi, Pakistan: bomb explodes outside American consulate in Karachi, Pakistan, killing 12. The attack linked to the terrorist group al-Qaeda.

May 12, 2003 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: suicide bombers kill 34, including eight Americans, at housing compounds for Westerners. Al-Qaeda is suspected of conducting the attack.

May 29–31 2004, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: terrorists attack the offices of a Saudi oil company in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, take foreign oil workers hostage in a nearby residential compound, leaving 22 people dead including one American.


Dec. 6, 2004, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: terrorists storm the U.S. consulate, killing five consulate employees.

Jan. 12, 2007 Athens, Greece: an anti-tank missile causing damage but no injuries fires the U.S. embassy on.

Sept. 16, Yemen 2008, a car bomb and a rocket strike the U.S. embassy in Yemen as staff arrived to work, killing 16 people, including four civilians. At least 25 suspected Al-Qaeda members arrested for the attack.

Nov. 26, India 2008: in a series of attacks on several of Mumbai's landmarks and commercial hubs that are popular with Americans and other foreign tourists, including at least two five-star hotels, a hospital, a train station, and a cinema. About 300 people wounded and nearly 190 people die, including at least five Americans.

2009

Feb. 9, Iraq: a suicide bomber kills four American soldiers and their Iraqi translator near a police checkpoint.

April 10, Iraq: a suicide attack kills five American soldiers and two Iraqi police officers.

June 1, Little Rock, Arkansas: Abdul Hakim Muhammed, a Muslim convert from Memphis, Tennessee, is charged with shooting two soldiers outside a military recruiting center. One killed, the other wounded. In a January 2010 letter to the judge hearing his case, Muhammed asked to change his plea from not guilty to guilty, claimed ties to al-Qaeda, and called the shooting a jihadi attack "to fight those who wage war on Islam and Muslims."

Dec. 25 2009 A Nigerian man on a flight from Amsterdam to Detroit attempted to ignite an explosive device hidden in his underwear. The explosive device that failed to detonate was a
mixture of powder and liquid that did not alert security personnel in the airport. The alleged bomber, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, told officials later that the terrorist group Al Qaeda directed him. The suspect was already on the government's watch list when he attempted the bombing; his father, a respected Nigerian banker, had told the U.S. government that he was worried about his son's increased extremism.

2015 San Bernardino Shooting, 14 killed (Islam affiliated)

2015 Chattanooga, Tennessee, Military Building, 5 killed (Islam affiliated)

2014 Washington and New Jersey Killing Spree, 4 killed (Islam affiliated)

2014 James Foley, US Journalist decapitated (Islam affiliated)

2014 Steven Sotloff, US Journalist beheaded (Islam affiliated)

2014 Oklahoma Beheading, 1 killed (Islam affiliated)

2013 Boston Marathon Bombing, three killed, 260 wounded (Islam affiliated)

2009 Little Rock, Arkansas, Shooting at US Military Armed Forces Recruiting Station, 1 killed (Islam affiliated)

2009 Fort Hood, Texas, Shooting, 13 killed (Islam affiliated)

2006 Seattle, Washington, Jewish Federation Shooting, 1 killed (Islam affiliated)

2002 Los Angeles, California, Airport shooting two killed (Islam affiliated)
The above attack data provided by (INFO Please, 2015).
Appendix: B

There are 115 terrorist organizations listed below. Those in the color blue have no affiliation with radical Islamic extremists. The 65 Islamic/Islamic affiliated terrorist organizations reflected in red, this represents approximately 56% of the total number (USDOS, 2016).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Islamic Jihad Union (IJU)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami/Bangladesh (HUJI-B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>al-Shabaab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revolutionary Struggle (RS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kata'ib Hizballah (KH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami (HUJI)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP)</td>
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