

TERRORISM AGAINST AMERICANS:  
CITIZENS PERCEPTIONS AND CONCERNS

by

RENEE L. NOEL

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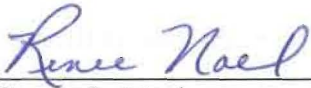
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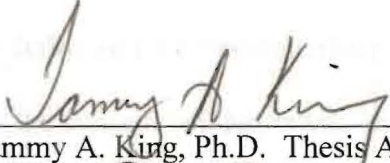
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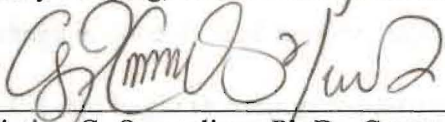
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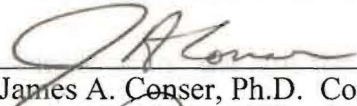
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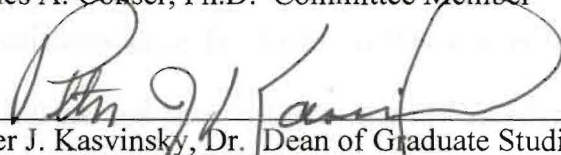
Signature:  30 Nov 2006  
Renee L. Noel Date

Approvals:

 12-19-06  
Tammy A. King, Ph.D. Thesis Advisor Date

 12-19-06  
Christian C. Onwudiwe, Ph.D. Committee Member Date

 12-19-06  
James A. Conser, Ph.D. Committee Member Date

 12/21/06  
Peter J. Kasvinsky, Dr. Dean of Graduate Studies Date



## Terrorism Against Americans: Citizens' Perceptions and Concerns

### Abstract

Defining terrorism is a very difficult task. Different interpretations are a critical factor in how terrorism is perceived. Based on the history of terrorism, it reflects that terrorist activities have occurred years before gaining the national recognition they receive today. Over the years, terrorism tactics have become the preferred choice of violence in both the United States (U.S.) and internationally. It is important to understand that domestic and international terrorism exist and challenge the U.S. government. By examining where terrorist groups are located, the philosophy of the groups, and where their hatred and violence is focused will provide an understanding of the complexity of terrorist attacks. The media plays a primary role for terrorist; they provide useful information. They have shaped how we define and our understanding of the problem of terrorism. It is important to examine how the concept is interpreted. How much information is needed and how much media coverage is done to raise network ratings? At what point does "news" stop informing the public and begin to support the terrorists, by giving them the coverage that they desire? The primary purposes of this study were to: identify what terrorism has evolved into over the years; and how the citizens of the U.S. have had changes in their perceptions; and concerns since the attacks on U.S. soil on September 11, 2001. Evaluating polls and surveys prior to September 11<sup>th</sup> and five years later, were given to portion of the population examined illustrate a close resemblance of the initial study. Results displayed a decrease in fear of future attacks occurring or effecting Americans

within the U.S. At what point will America wake up and realize terrorism is not going to disappear.

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## Chapter 1

### Defining Terrorism

It is critical to provide a foundation on past terrorism in order to develop a well rounded current knowledge on the magnitude terrorism can and has had in the United States and its citizens. This is a timely topic with terrorism constantly evolving in today's time. The concept of terrorism does not have a specific set of definitions. Each terrorist group has its own philosophy and perception as to what terrorism entails. For example, the definition of violence has many meanings, perceptions, and interpretations. Schmidt and Youngman (2005), in their book, *Political Terrorism*, discuss 109 different definitions of terrorism. As a result of their work, terrorism was divided into categories; the top three categories of terrorism were: violent force (83.5%), political (65%), and fear (51%); some groups fall into more than one category (Ganor, 2005, p. 1). Terrorism throughout the world does exist; however, the problem arises on specifically defining terrorism.

According to the U.S. State Department, terrorism is "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience" (Whitaker, 2001, p. 2). This definition specifically focuses on the political aspect but does not cover the broadness of other motivated acts of terrorism, such as: fear, religion, racism, and/or hatred. Serious questions develop. If a terrorist attack is committed but not claimed, can it be judged on a political level? How can a determination be made if little or nothing is



known about those that commit the act? It is not unusual for such acts to be committed and not initially claimed until the outcome is considered positive. If the goal is reached, they will proudly claim the act. If it turns out to have unfavorable results, then the individual or group will not claim responsibility to save the embarrassment of those they represent (Whitaker, 2001).

Terror and fear is another aspect of the definition of terrorism. But, this again is not the only factor in the rationale or motivation of an act of terrorism. At times a building or a location is the primary target and not individuals present within the area. Structures that represent specific social or cultural meanings and become the target of a terrorist action, can instill fear. A primary example was the terrorist destruction of the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington D.C. on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001. These acts of terrorism shook the entire country. The World Trade Center and Pentagon represent an ideal of America, its people, democracy, and its military might. The loss of life was well over 3,000 individuals from these combined attacks. This act alone affected each American in some way by instilling terror and fear of more attacks. This particular act of terrorism viewed by the majority of society was fueled primarily by a religious motive in a radical version of the Muslim culture that supports death to Americans in Allah's (God's) name (Whitaker, 2001).

It is important to understand that not all terrorist acts have early warning signs or threats which enable action before the event. Generally, information is not provided beforehand to inform the public. Hindsight provides the warning signs and evidence of a plot. The past terrorist actions of the World Trade Center and Pentagon provide an example of the difficulty that federal intelligent agencies have to weed out all the threats

made by various groups, both inside and outside the United States. Predicting future terrorist events, as everyone will agree, would seem to be an impossible task. Both terror and fear is a factor of the equation affecting almost every aspect of society. The attacks on United States soil has heighten the social awareness of future possibilities of more terrorism in American. It would not be accurate however, to define the act of terrorism alone on terror and fear. Several motives must be combined (Whitaker, 2001).

Another perspective addressed the separation of terrorist actions against civilians versus warfare. Generally, this means the attacks on soldiers are warfare and those against civilians are terrorism. But, a gray area arises. The U.S. State Department regards attacks against "non-combatant's targets" as terrorism. Non-combatants include both civilian and military personnel who are unarmed and off duty (Whitaker, 2001, p.3). The problem with this idea is that most service members, excluding those currently serving and physically engaging in the war in Iraq, have been attacked by terrorists while off duty in a civilian capacity. In reality, very few attacks have been engaged against military personnel while they were working. Even while these service members were on duty, they were not engaging in warfare, for example, carrying weapons or engaging in combat. A large majority of terrorist attacks are against service personnel, the factor of "on or off duty" is not the primary reason but what the military represents, the United States' democracy.

The definition that combines the various interpretations discussed previously is located in the military pamphlet entitled, *Combating Terrorism*, which states that terrorism is "the calculated use of violence or threat of violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or try to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals

that are generally political, religious, or ideological” (United States Air Force, 2001, p. 2). This definition combines a variety of aspects, in developing a theory which addresses acts of violence. No matter how many definitions that may be developed or disputed, the fact remains that every person, group, state, or country that defines what terrorism is, will use their own experiences or perceptions to fit their beliefs. The purpose of understanding what terrorism parameters encompass, will help citizens understand and identify possible future attacks.

### Summary:

This chapter identified the various portions that help to define terrorism to include; violent force, political, terror, fear, premeditated intent, religion, hatred, and racism. It is important to understand terrorism attacks seldom provide early warning signs to aid those under attack providing them with the opportunity to prepare or defend themselves and/or their countries. The following chapters will help assist in the full understanding and evolution of terrorism. Chapter two will provide an in depth history into terrorism and how it has evolved. Chapter three will divide these terrorism groups, domestic and international, to include recorded attacks by both groups. Chapter four will identify and display how the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has evolved and what organizations fall under this governmental agency. Chapter five provides results of population polls prior to the attacks on September 11, 2001 (9-11), displaying a low concern of terrorist activities or attacks on U.S. soil. A more current poll was also administered in 2006 identifying alarming results supporting a decline in citizen concerns of future terrorist attacks occurring again in the U.S.



## History of Terrorism

In order to understand the basis of terrorism a brief history is provided in the U.S Department of Air Forces pamphlet, *Combating Terrorism*, which stated that the earliest recorded terrorist were the Zealots, a Jewish population that opposed the Roman occupation of Palestine in 66-73 A.D. (United States Air Force, 2001, p. 2). They conducted individual assassinations, slaughters, and even a primitive form of chemical warfare. The term terrorism was derived from a state-run terror campaign of Maximilien Robespierre and the committee of public safety during the French Revolution in 1795 (United States Air Force, 2001, p.3). Within the article, *Guardian Unlimited*, it is stated that, "the use of terrorist in an anti-government sense is not recorded until 1866 (referring to Ireland) and 1883 (referring to Russia)" (United States Air Force, 2001, p.4). Internationally, terrorism did not become the desired choice of force until the late 1960s and 1970s. The rise of leaders such as Usama Bin Ladin provides evidence that terrorism has increased to alarming levels. All of which the national and international societies can no longer ignore.

It is important to address particular myths or misconceptions of the people who conduct terrorist activities throughout the world. It was originally believed that these terrorist were either poorly educated or received no education at all (United States Air Force, 2001, p.10). They were young males between the ages of 18 to 30 and they were believed to have little funding or had inferior technologies to carry out their attacks. In actuality, they are very well educated with a majority attending and graduating from colleges throughout the world. This also includes various colleges within the United

States. Their social status is usually that of the middle class or higher and there is no age limit required as evidence has shown that small children to the elderly have strapped on explosive devices and carried out suicide bombings. Race is also something that can not be used to determine who among the world's population may become, or is already part of, one of the many terrorist groups of today's time (United States Air Force, 2001, 22).

Another false perspective is that women are not part of these groups, and if they are, then it is more in the lines of a secretarial position. This false perception was undoubtedly disputed to the world on September 1, 2004, in Beslan, Russia. Nabi Abdullaev (2004) explained that out of the 32 armed terrorists that stormed the school house and took 1,181 children and teachers as hostages, video displayed that many were women with bombs strapped to their bodies and willing to die, and did die, for their cause. Reports will show that of the 336 hostages that died, 156 of them were children (Abdullaev, 2004, pp. 28-35).

Terrorist will exploit every opportunity they can find to succeed in their beliefs. Children and women, once perceived as non-participants, gave terrorist groups the opportunity to use them against those they sought to kill. If a terrorist group finds a weakness in the group they have targeted, take for instance the U.S. government and their lack of suspicion of women and children, then terrorist will use these means to get to their end objective. This will continue to occur until it is no longer effective. At that point they will exploit new techniques. This has forced a drastic change in U.S. policy. Whether the person is a child, teenager, grandparent, female, male, or within any religious background, the U.S. government's perception is that there exists the possibility that he/she may be part of a terrorist organization that can and will carry out deadly acts.

## Tactics

By examining a few tactics performed by these terrorist groups, one can gain a greater understanding and respect for the damage they cause economically, emotionally, and physically. The first, and most common tactic used today, is bombings. Commonly known today as Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) or Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIED); they are very low risk to the terrorist. The device can be detonated remotely or on a timer to ensure the safety of those who deploy the device by ensuring they are far enough away from the area (United States Air Force, 2006). Suicide bombers are the exception. They are willing to sacrifice their own lives to control the scene. They target their subjects, and by remaining present, they succeed in reaching their objective. By setting a timer or remotely detonating an explosive, different intentional or accidental change in events could alter the desired target or targets from being at the location scheduled for their attack. Bombs are also easy to make and extremely cheap. Take for example the bombing of the Murrah building in Oklahoma City. In 1995 Timothy McVey used gasoline and fertilizer, commonly purchased items, and killed 168 people including children. Figure 1 illustrates the destructive power caused by this attack.



Figure 1

1995 - Oklahoma City Federal Building

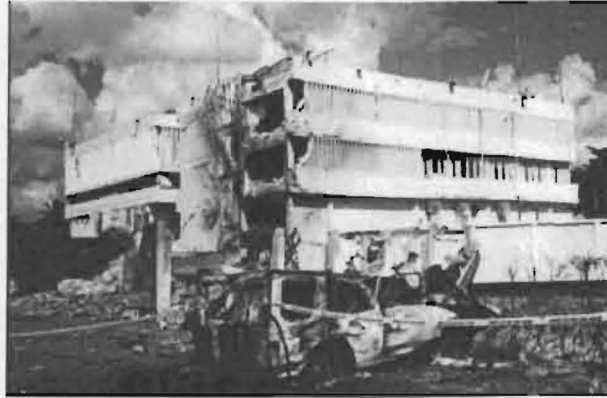


(Department of Defense, 1995)

A few other well known bombings include: the two U.S. Embassies in Tanzania and Kenya Africa in 1998 (see Figure 2); and the U.S.S. Cole in 2000 (see Figure 3); and the most familiar events on September 11, 2001 (see Figure 4).

Figure 2

U.S. Embassies Kenya & Tanzania



(Department of Defense, 1998)

Figure 3

USS Cole



(U.S. Navy, 2000)



Figure 4

U.S. World Trade Center








(Department of Defense, 2001)

The key factors to remember when bombings are used are the following: they are the most common, lowest risk, inexpensive, extremely lethal, and they generate instant media coverage. Figure 5 demonstrates the distances that are exposed to the dangers when a vehicle is used to transport and detonate the devices.

Figure 5

## Explosive Device Evacuation Distance

ATF	VEHICLE DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM EXPLOSIVES CAPACITY	LETHAL AIR BLAST RANGE	MINIMUM EVACUATION DISTANCE	FALLING GLASS HAZARD
	COMPACT SEDAN	500 Pounds 227 Kilos <i>(In Trunk)</i>	100 Feet 30 Meters	1,500 Feet 457 Meters	1,250 Feet 381 Meters
	FULL SIZE SEDAN	1,000 Pounds 455 Kilos <i>(In Trunk)</i>	125 Feet 38 Meters	1,750 Feet 534 Meters	1,750 Feet 534 Meters
	PASSENGER VAN OR CARGO VAN	4,000 Pounds 1,818 Kilos	200 Feet 61 Meters	2,750 Feet 838 Meters	2,750 Feet 838 Meters
	SMALL BOX VAN <i>(14 FT BOX)</i>	10,000 Pounds 4,545 Kilos	300 Feet 91 Meters	3,750 Feet 1,143 Meters	3,750 Feet 1,143 Meters
	BOX VAN OR WATER/FUEL TRUCK	30,000 Pounds 13,636 Kilos	450 Feet 137 Meters	6,500 Feet 1,982 Meters	6,500 Feet 1,982 Meters
	SEMI-TRAILER	60,000 Pounds 27,273 Kilos	600 Feet 183 Meters	7,000 Feet 2,134 Meters	7,000 Feet 2,134 Meters

ATF I 5400.1 (01-99)

(Department of Defense, 2006)

The next tactic that can be used is arson. This form of activity is commonly used against public utilities and industrial centers. Again, it is cheap to construct and produces very effective results by causing casualties and property damage. History has proven that arson is the preferred choice among Eco-Terrorist group such as the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). These groups along with others will be detailed in the domestic terrorist section. One important avenue arson can be used for is to draw a crowd and in turn provide terrorist the opportunity to use a secondary device such as an explosive or a weapon to produce lethal results (United States Air Force, 2006).

First responders, such as police and fire departments, need to pay extra attention to constant false calls to a particular location. This could be a test to establish where the responders will set up their command post (United States Air Force, 2006). Once this location is identified by the terrorist, a secondary explosive device could be pre-positioned and remotely detonated causing the first responders to sustain casualties. Extra attention is necessary for the surroundings of pre-established staging or command post locations. Avoid trash containers or any plausible equipment that could conceal an explosive device.

Other tactics used by terrorists include, hijacking and skyjacking. These tactics were mainly used to free fellow terrorist group members from prisons and jails throughout the world (United States Air Force, 2006). Hijacking statistics provided by Wikipedia encyclopedia include; the first recorded aircraft hijacking in 1931 and the first commercial airliner in 1948 (Wikipedia, 2006, p. 2). In 1968 there were a total of 27 attempts or successful hijackings and in 1969 there were 82. Wikipedia stated that; "airline hijackings have declined since the peak of 385 incidents between 1967 to 1978. In 1977 to 1986 the total had dropped to 300 incidents and in 1987 to 1996 this figure reduced to 212" (Wikipedia, 2006, p. 2). Although trains, buses, and ships have been hijacked, the preferred and most commonly used vehicle was aircrafts. They provided the greatest mobility, and prior to September 11<sup>th</sup>, were the most vulnerable. This also produced a large controllable hostage situation gaining media coverage for their cause. Aircrew, including pilots and flight attendants, were trained in hostage situations when they encountered a hijacking situation. This may contribute to the ease of the events on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The aircrews training was that of a passive action and to let the

governments involved negotiate their release. Only when the passengers of flight 93 heard of the horrific attacks and the use of planes, did they act.

Another form of terrorism is kidnapping or hostage taking (United States Air Force, 2006). It is very covert and difficult to carry out. It does produce extended media attention and can be used as a bargaining chip. Detailed planning and extensive logistic support is necessary. Understand that the power in hostage taking is the use of the hostage as a bargaining chip; however, with terrorist, the intended target is more the audience that is affected by the hostage or hostage's confinement, and not the hostage or hostages themselves. A good example is the American hostages that were taken in Iraq and used against the government in the attempt to pull all military troops out of the country.

And lastly, another tactic used by terrorist is weapons of mass destruction which includes nuclear, biological, and chemical agents (United States Air Force, 2006). It is suspected that large amount of nuclear material is available to the highest bidder from the former Soviet Union. With terrorist funding and sleeper cells located throughout the world, it would not be implausible for these groups to obtain this material. Biological and chemical agents are also easy and cheap to make or obtain. An example of this occurred in 1995. The world's first terrorist chemical attack took place in Tokyo, Japan. Aum Shinrinkyo deployed sarin gas in the Tokyo subway killing 12 and injured over 5,000 (US Army Training and Doctrine, 2005, p.4). Fortunately, it was not disbursed correctly. The gas was placed in bags on the floor. This type of chemical is heavier than air and remained at the floor level. If it was disbursed as an aerosol, or in a devise on the ceiling of the train cars, the results would have been much more deadly. Terrorist tactics



are not limited to the few listed above, they are only limited by the imagination of these attackers. Once a particular system or tactic is used and they reach their objective, they will continue to exploit this style until it is no longer effective (United States Air Force, 2006). They will then move onto another form.

#### Summary:

It is evident that the history of terrorism existed long before it gained the national recognition received today. As the years have past, this form of behavior has increased to alarming levels creating more destruction and deaths. Terrorist will exploit every opportunity they can find to succeed in their beliefs. This includes the use of men and women of all ages. Although the preferred method used by terrorists are bombings. These bombings are commonly known today as Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) or Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIED). Other methods include: arson, hijacking, skyjacking, kidnapping or hostage taking, and the use of chemical and biological weapons. Terrorist will use any means available to succeed in their goals, the tactics they use are merely left up to their imagination. The next chapter will focus on dividing the two separate terrorist groups, domestic and international, and defining their goals among the terrorism community.

## Terrorist Groups

### Domestic Terrorist

Who are the terrorist of today that are attacking Americans? To answer this question, an examination of the overwhelming growth of hate groups within our own country will be explored. One type of group identified is the Eco-Terrorist. Journo (2002), in her works, *Ayn Rand Institute's Media Link*, stated that, "throughout America, underground cells of eco-terrorists have been waging a campaign of tree-spiking, industrial sabotage, arson, and bombing. The group of eco-terrorists called The Earth Liberation Front alone was responsible for more than one hundred and thirty attacks last year" (p. 1). This group believes that all mankind is guilty of committing crimes against nature and wishes to inflict economic damage on those profiting from the destruction and exploitation of the natural environment. They are associated with activities including the burning down of ski resorts in Colorado in 1998 and destroying nine houses in Arizona in 2001 (Journo, 2002, p. 2). It was also recently reported in the *Law Enforcement Agency Resource Network* (2005) that they were responsible for burning down a housing complex in San Diego in 2003 where the damage was estimated around \$50 million dollars (p. 5).

Animal rights activists are another group that must be discussed. The *Christian Science Monitor* suggested that terrorism is escalating in the United States. In this article the FBI remarks, "the most serious type of domestic terrorism in the Country today involves radical- environmentalists and animal-rights activists, some of whom now vow that they will no longer hesitate to pick up a gun to implement justice" (Knickerbocker,

2002, p.1). *The Law Enforcement Agency Resource Network* (2005) suggests that the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) has contributed to the domestic terrorism by conducting over 300 break-ins to conduct forms of vandalism and has been found responsible for acts of arson between 1979 and 1993 (pp. 2-3). Another articles in the *Christian Science Monitor* discussed radical groups that originated in England and recently moved to Canada and the United States. Their preferred choice of violence is arson and harassment against all those that pose a possible threat to the environment and animals (Knickerbocker, 2002, p. 1).

According to statistics in the magazine *Intelligence Report* (2001), another type of anti-government group, the "Patriot" movement, also known as armed militias, has shown a large decline in their membership. Unfortunately, they still display profound signs of force and strength in America (pp. 1-3). This group is associated with one member that most should recognize, Timothy McVeigh. He was responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing destroying 30 percent of the Federal Building in 1995. This attack killed 168 people. As you can remember, a portion of those killed were children playing in the daycare center located on the first floor of the Federal Building. Appendix C-1 displays the presence of Patriot and Militia groups throughout 40 U.S. States in the year 2001.

The deputy membership coordinator of America's leading Neo-Nazi group, Billy Roper, stated in the *Intelligence Report* (2002) shortly after the 9-11 attacks that, "anyone who is willing to drive a plane into a building to kill Jews is alright by me. I wish our members had half as much testicular fortitude" (p. 5). These comments strongly suggested that the terrorist attack on September 11<sup>th</sup> could have easily been supported by

the Neo-Nazi fundamentals, using whatever means necessary to kill Jews living in America. This group did not take part in the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks however; this statement clearly suggests that if they were given the opportunity and solicitation from Al-Qaida, they would have willingly participated. Mr. Roper obviously had not taken into consideration the hundreds and thousands that were killed that day which were not Jewish. Fueled by the events on September 11<sup>th</sup>, Neo-Nazi groups and other hate groups may become more aggressive and violent, believing that this behavior accomplishes the desired results.

There are several other groups with histories of some form of terrorist behavior towards Americans within the United States such as, militias, patriot movements, Neo-Nazis, skinheads, and the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) to name a few. These groups exist within American society. They may even be our neighbors. Appendix C-2 and C-3 displays the various hate groups located in each state within the United States from 2000 to 2003. By comparing the totals from 2000 to 2003 a slight increase is displayed by those who openly participate in these organizations by 149 participants. A more recent graphical display of hate groups can be viewed in Appendix C-4. When compared to the 2003 geographical map, each hate group identified has an increase in activity with the exception of the black separatist dropping 31 points. Is this a sign that domestic terrorism may increase in the near future? Unfortunately, it is a possibility that must be taken into consideration. Some groups were energized by the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> while others seemed to quite down or not publicly display their practices and hatred towards their targeted groups (*Intelligence Report*, 2002).



Some participants in these domestic groups may also convert into more active international groups. The Taliban normally known to have Middle Eastern participants has grown within the U.S. by Americans. These Americans could have originally belonged to a domestic hate group and converted to the Taliban's regime. One American in specific, John Walker Lindh, who was originally from California, was a 20 year old who was captured in Afghanistan and is now spending 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to one count of supplying services to the Taliban. His charges included carrying weapons (CNN, 2005, pp. 1-7). He was not identified as being part of any domestic terrorist group however, he was an American caught up in his belief of the Muslim religion while studying abroad. He permitted the Taliban to persuade him into fighting against the Americans for their cause.

### **International Terrorist**

Who are the international terrorist groups and why do they hate Americans enough to violently impose harm or death? From recent events, such as the attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup>, everyone has knowledge of the terrorist group Al-Qaida and its leaders starting with Usama Bin Ladin to the latest ruler, Abu Hamza Al-Muhajer. He was named Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's successor after al-Zarqawi's death by American bombings in Iraq (Shocked and Awed, 2005). It does not take long for members of this group to stand up and accept leadership. The Al-Qaida group is responsible for a large number of terrorist attacks, including the combined 9-11 assaults on American soil where four commercial airlines were hijacked and used to destroy the World Trade Centers,

cripple the Pentagon, and the failed attempt to an unknown location of the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania. It has been speculated that the plane that did not reach its destination was targeted to hit the White House. Usama Bin Ladin and his followers have been connected to numerous terrorist activities throughout the world prior to the September 11<sup>th</sup> events.

Some of these events include the 1998 bombing of Kenya and Tanzania American Embassies in Africa. This is the first known simultaneous bombings recorded. The events of this attack killed 180 people and injury over 5,000. The 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen was accomplished by a small boat pulling alongside the Cole and detonating, thus killing 19 sailors. Even the first attempt to bring down the World Trade Center in 1993 by positioning a rental vehicle in the underground parking facility located under the WTC building was an act by Al-Qaida. The explosion did cause great damage. It did not cause enough structural damage to destroy or crumble the building. There are several more attacks that can be associated with the Al-Qaida group; the key is to understand they have no boundaries in their international arena to carry out their attacks. The United States is no exception as it has been proven by both domestic and international terrorist groups (Shocked and Awed, 2005).

In a *BBC News* article, Usama Bin Ladin is portrayed as a wealthy man trained in the 1980s by the American Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.) to fight against the Soviets (*BBC News*, 2005, pp. 1-4). The U.S. financed, trained, and supplied Al-Qaida with equipment including weapons knowing that they had fundamentalist's beliefs. This was permitted because in the 1980s the primary threat to the U.S. was Russia. Russia, at that time, planned to invade Afghanistan and then continue to the Persian Gulf through

Iran and take control of Saudi Arabia's oil fields. These fighters known as the Mujahideen were used by the U.S. to defeat the Russian military, for which they were very successful. Unfortunately for the Mujahideen fighters, their own countries became fearful of them and would not permit them to return to their own home countries once the war was over.

When they turned to the U.S. and sought support, the U.S. turned their backs on them and would not provide assistance. It became quite obvious that the United States had used these fighters, reached their goal, and no longer had a use for their services. The U.S. would not provide assistance to them in their time of need. Fueled by the lack of aid from the U.S., Usama Bin Ladin was able to turn this group of men, the Mujahideen, into the well known Al-Qaida group; this group was now used for Bin Ladin's purposes and goals. They were combined with several other terrorist groups to include the Taliban, and began waging a "holy war" against the United States (United States Air Force training, 2005). Political reasons may have been his initial agenda however it changed to include a religious spectrum as well. Some of these groups that support Usama Bin Ladin are listed in *the Special Operations* article "Al-Qaida International". The list includes: Al-Jihad, Egyptian Islamic Jihad, and other Jihad groups located in over 20 different countries ("Al-Qaida International, 2005, p. 2).

The American population, including civilians and military personal, has over the years become the main target of these groups for a variety of reasons. The American government is perceived by Al-Qaida as having too much power and control, not only in the United States, but in other countries as well. They believe that the American government does not respect established treaties. The Americans religious beliefs are

different from the Muslim radicals in that the U.S. does not enforce one specific religion but freely permits all religions within its borders. In the article, "*So, Why Do They Hate Us?*," written by Jerre Skog (2002), he discussed the actions of Al-Qaida by stating, "the people behind the attacks on WTC and Pentagon certainly hated, if not all Americans, at least the America that the targets stood and stands for. The WTC, the symbol of American corporate and commercial power, and the Pentagon, the symbol of American military might" (p. 1). This terrorist group in particular has a primary objective to inflict the most disruption, gain the highest media coverage, and the deaths of Americans.

Who are these international terrorist groups that have targeted the U.S.? The American society following the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks were very quick to direct their attention and anger towards the entire Islamic people, religiously referred to as the Muslims (Shocked and Awed, 2005). A possible reason for this conclusion was during the September 11<sup>th</sup> events, 15 of the 19 attackers were Muslims from Saudi Arabia. Unfortunately, this was not a fair acquisition. There are 53 Muslim countries out of 196 in the Middle East. This is equivalent to 20 percent of the world's population. The ethnic make-up in the greater middle east consists of 35 percent Arab and 65 percent are non-Arabic. Within the Islamic world 17 percent are Arab while 83 percent are non-Arab (U.S. Air Force Training, 2004). Over the entire world, one out of every six individuals is Muslim. Americans must remember that this does not mean that one out of every six individuals living in the world is an enemy of the U.S.

Nearly every international terrorist act committed against the U.S. has been conducted by either Arab or Arab inspired people. Hopefully, this will shed some light as to the terrorism acts, by or initiated from, the Middle East with the understanding that

it does not encompass all Islamic people. You can preclude this with the domestic terrorism within the United States. Domestic terrorism is simply a small fraction of American citizens that live in the U.S. and can not include or be compared to all Americans living in the U.S. are domestic terrorists.

In the past the U.S was not overly concerned with the Middle East because of the geographical separation (Shocked and Awed, 2005). Basically, they were not a threat because they did not have the capability to reach the United States. In today's world which has shrunk immensely, what once took two or three days to travel from New York to Boston now only takes an hour. For the countries in the Middle East, 18 hours to fly to New York has proven to be a quick passage. This has forced the U.S. to reevaluate every country or state throughout the world as a possible threat to America and its way of life. Another aspect is the international terrorist groups who have entered the U.S., live for years in this country as sleeper cells, and then carries out a well planned attack against their specific targets. It has been proven difficult for the U.S. government and its local, state, and federal agencies to fight against terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida. In previous wars waged against the U.S., there were specific targets such as Russia and the communist's members. This new war against terrorism encompasses a large group of members spread throughout most countries to include the United States (Shocked and Awed, 2005). Sleeper cells that spend years establishing themselves within communities, raising their families, and being accepted by their neighbors will suddenly become active. Without a doubt, this forces the U.S. government to view this war against terrorism in a much broader format.

Summary:

This chapter discussed the domestic and international terrorist groups and what fuels their behaviors. It is evident that terrorism is not limited to one state or country, but rather they can be seen and felt throughout the entire world. The U.S. Government as a super power influences all walks of life to conform to its beliefs. Whether right or wrong, it spawns a variety of people to fight against the exact system in place for protection. Chapter 4 will give a more in-depth view of the U.S. Government's newly created Department of Homeland Security (DHS), created to fight the war on terrorism. This new agency has combined the various governmental agencies in the hopes of sharing information gathered in attempts to prevent future terrorist attacks within the U.S. and abroad.



## Chapter 2

### Homeland Security

What has the U.S. learned from the events on September 11<sup>th</sup>? What programs or organizations have been formed to counteract against another attack on U.S. soil or Americans abroad? The Office of the Director of National Intelligence was established in 2004 in response to the Intelligence Reform Act. The purpose of the agency was to coordinate and unify the intelligences community in the hopes of guarding the U.S. and its citizens from future terrorist attacks (9/11 Commission Report, 2004, p. 399). The National Intelligence Director is responsible for 15 agencies to include; Air Force, Army, Navy, Central Intelligence Agency, Coast Guard, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, National Reconnaissance Office, National Security Agency, Marine Corps, and the departments of Energy, Homeland Security, State, Treasury, and Justice (9/11 Commission Report, 2004, pp. 407-410). The most recognized and largest organization that combines the efforts of local, state, and federal agencies is the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). DHS was created on January 24, 2003, and was lead by Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania until February 5, 2004. Michael Chertoff accepted the position as the second Secretary. In the *Homeland Security* (2005) article, the organization's mission is presented. DHS "will lead the unified effort to secure America. Prevent and deter terrorist attacks and protect against and respond to threats and hazards to the nation" (p. 22). The goals encompass the prevention, protection, response, recovery, and services to the United States. This has been

accomplished by combining agencies that once worked solely such as the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), all military services, and state and local law enforcement agencies. By combining its knowledge, intelligence, and resources into a single united working force, the U.S. intelligence community's capability to extinguish terrorism that threatens the American people before an attack occurs, has increased immensely (Homeland Defense, 2005, p. 25).

Take for instance a jigsaw puzzle. If you divide the pieces and share them with all the local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, and these agencies do not work together, the puzzle will never take form. Now take the same scenario with all the agencies dedicated in sharing their information and working together to reach the same goal. The puzzle pieces will be placed together and all agencies involved will have the possible answer to the puzzle. If you apply this to the intelligence gathering process received throughout the agencies and they compile the information, the agencies have an increased possibility of stopping a future terrorist attack from occurring.

There are a variety of programs that DHS has created which has gained it a higher visibility and many first-hand experiences by the citizens in the United States (DHS Organization, 2005, p.2). The most recognized is the transportation arena to include airport security. Now, all airports in the U.S. and most of the International airports have implemented measures to include extra screening processes. It is hoped that these screenings will eliminate items being smuggled onto the aircraft that can be used as an explosive device to destroy the airplane. It is also hoped that these screenings will eliminate items from aircraft that can be used as weapons, such as the events on September 11<sup>th</sup>, which allow aircraft to be hijacked.



The events of September 11<sup>th</sup> also changed the training process for airplane personnel. Prior to this event, planes were only used as a form of hijacking to create enormous media and also for an attempt to free vigilantes of the same group. Pilots and flight attendants were trained to be passive and let the governments involved negotiate the release of the plane and passengers. Now, it is a type of a resistant form of training that is being provided (United States Air Force training, 2005). Cock pits are locked and secured for the entire flight to ensure no unauthorized personnel enter the area, eliminating the opportunity to take control of the aircraft. Undercover Air Marshals have also been placed on board planes that carry a high volume of fuel to provide an extra layer of protection against future September 11<sup>th</sup> events. A future transportation precaution that will take form is the restrictions while traveling into or out of Canada or Mexico. In the very near future, all U.S. citizens will be required to travel with a passport when visiting these bordering countries.

DHS has responded to a variety of issues that threaten our country in the short few years of its existence (United States Air Force training, 2005). One prime example has been its response to thousands of threats of anthrax attacks and/or false deceptions that were delivered through the U.S. Postal service. Measures have now been established to screen the mail and use a machine that will eliminate deadly viruses if future attempts are made. There are increased security measures now provided at dams, power plants, and utility companies to protect the water we drink or the power the U.S. needs to continue to run companies to include hospitals or other key facilities.

Increased border patrols are also being used as terrorist cells are attempting to infiltrate the U.S. They are using this method of entry due to increased airport security

processes that have deterred their entrance (United States Air Force training, 2005).

DHS has risen to the challenge of this country in many ways. It has conducted vulnerability assessments in all exposed areas and has acted to protect our once preserved safe country by achieving an environment that can not be easily accessed and destroyed by terrorist that wish us harm. To understand the realm of this organization, Figure 6 displays the Department of Homeland Security's organizational chart found in the Jan/Feb 2004 *Homeland Defense Journal* (p. 12).



DHS has also incorporated an advisory system to notify the public when a heightened awareness is warranted. Figure 7 displays the different levels of security along with the descriptions. Usually when a situation has erupted, or there is reason to believe activities may occur, the advisory system will be used to notify the public.

Figure 7

Homeland Security Advisory System



(Homeland Security website, 2006)

The key to the success of DHS is not only the law enforcement agencies but the public as well. The eyes and ears of each citizen can and will make a difference. In order for DHS



to respond, notifications from bystander's that identify suspicious activities are the initial requirements for success. A web site and hotline has been established in order for DHS to achieve their goal of 100 percent participation. This organization has and will create many other regulations, systems, and stringent policies to protect all aspects from terrorist attacks both domestic and international.

Summary:

The creation of the DHS was a critical attempt at combining all the key federal agencies so they could can work together to protect the U.S., the citizens, and key interest from another terrorist attack (Homeland Security website, 2006). By combining these agencies, intelligence and resources can be utilized to provide a safer atmosphere. Their efforts are most prevalent at airports throughout the country as demonstrated by the stringent restrictions on chemicals and materials that can be used to make bombs. Also prevalent are their attempts to protect manufacturing and utility plants that supply our needed resources. The next chapter will focus on the media's support to the U.S. population as well as the support they provide to the terrorist groups. Also, some of the governments own use of the media to elicit support from the public on their perceived goals will be explored.

## Media and government

It would be reasonable to state that the media plays a large role in the United States. News broadcasts, whether television or newspaper articles, provide vital information concerning current events or probable events that may occur. Television and newspapers are the main source of information that most Americans rely on for world events. But, the question that should be addressed is whether the media is providing all the information or simply what they perceive to be the “top seller” to improve ratings or increase sells. If the media chooses to cover terrorism, should they not include all of the groups involved in terrorist acts, domestic and international, opposed to a selected few? What happened on September 11<sup>th</sup>, and those who are responsible should be articulated, allowing people to recognize terrorism for what it is. Bin Laden and his group / organizations should be examined in detail to allow people to understand just how threatening they are to Americans.

But why have we not seen the extensive news coverage on groups located inside the United States, to the same magnitude media has broadcasted on Al-Qaida and Usama Bin Laden? The bottom line is that the media’s portrayal of terrorist activities made against the United States and Americans has been limited to only the top selling stories. President Bush stated in the *Common Dreams News Center* that, “we must unite in opposing all terrorist, not just some of them. No national aspiration, no remembered wrong can ever justify the deliberate murder of the innocent” (Hans, 2001, p. 1). A vast majority of time and publicity has been devoted to the international terrorist and their

activities inside as well as outside the United States. Why are the groups located inside the U.S. not as deserving of the same recognition?

Within America terrorist groups such as militia, patriots, eco-environmentalist do exist. If the media spotlighted these groups, it would force governmental agencies to become involved, providing a more proactive role in dissolving these groups that pose the same destructive outcome as the Al-Qaida (Shocked and Awed, 2005). Society would be better informed about terrorist groups, their beliefs, and goals, and would in turn provide agencies with information on suspicious activities that are occurring. Understand that the Department of Homeland Security and their agencies have identified and monitored domestic terrorist groups and continues to monitor them closely. Citizens should be apprised of these groups and their threats of terrorist acts the same as Al-Qaida.

Eric Rudolph, an Anti-Semite, charged with a multitude of bombings was finally arrested after spending five years on the run where he was believed to be hiding in old mines located in North Carolina. He was connected to the 1996 Olympic Park bombing, two bombings in Atlanta in 1997, and the bombing of an Alabama abortion clinic in 1998 ("Study Finds, 2001, p. 1). Why the media did not dissect Rudolph as they did Usama Bin Ladin until he was brought to justice is an important issue to discuss. Rudolph's acts of violence against the American public dull in comparison to Al-Qaida killing over 3,000 Americans; however, he was a terrorist active within the United States. The definition of terrorism according to President Bush's statement would included Rudolph. Manpower should have been exhausted until he was caught. He was found merely by accident when a rookie cop found him rummaging through a garbage dumpster searching

for food and not by exhaustive federal manpower hunting him down (Shocked and Awed, 2005).

The media's portrayal of the terrorist activities that occurred on September 11<sup>th</sup> has been exhausted. It is imperative to reflect on the incidents and those responsible; however, to review the devastation day after day and month after month, the media has rewarded those responsible with the desired coverage. Terrorist activities require the media's support in order to recruit new members and to receive funding for their activities (Shocked and Awed, 2005). Without the recruits and funding, the terrorist are unable to continue their behavior. The results of a particular act of violence are an important factor for terrorist groups; they become the basis for future support. This is the reason why attacks are not initially claimed. The media provide these groups with the coverage, if they have objectively reached their target, they will then claim responsibility. Those who conduct these acts of violence know that if the attack was favorable, the result will be an increase in their funding and volunteers who witness their beliefs thus enabling them to continue their destructive behavior (Shocked and Awed, 2005). The media becomes the transportation tool and the longer these events are covered, the more funding and recruitment they will receive.

The media is also used by the government to display terrorist groups that pose the most significant risk to our society's welfare. Take for instance when President Bush addressed the public, showing concerns about Iraq. Although he suggested that sending military troops into the country to defuse the bombs, chemicals, and biological weapons was a last resort, he used the media to gain the public support needed to proceed in that direction after the attacks on 9-11 (Shocked and Awed, 2005). Many oppose President



Bush's perspectives on this event; however, Iraq has proven to harbor terrorist and have terrorist tendencies themselves. President Bush was taking a proactive role in the world of terrorism with the war in Iraq. But due to many negative aspects of the war, such as no weapons of mass destruction and the death toll of American soldiers climbing every year, citizens are losing their faith in President Bush and view this war as a political agenda instead of a terrorist one (*Intelligence Report*, 2003). The same citizens who were quick to demand justice and revenge after the tragedy of 9-11, expected quick results in eliminating terrorism that could wage another attack. This is not as simple as turning on or off a light switch or going to a local bar where the entire terrorist groups hang out and arrest them. It will take many years and patients to eliminate this problem if it can be eliminated at all.

Questions quickly emerged on why the government did not prevent the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks. The bottom line is that hindsight provided evidence and warning signs only after the fact. A few federal agencies had information on specific activities; however, at that time, agencies did not share their information with each other (Shocked and Awed, 2005). This has been identified and corrected with the Homeland Security system now in place. Currently, the government is trying to prevent future attacks against the American public as mentioned previously, but the new programs must be supported by Americans if it is going to work. Small inconveniences are the price each American must pay to prevent the same catastrophes that took place on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Either America takes the proactive role and participates in defending our country from future attacks, or they sit back and wait for more assassinations of our own people to occur. The responsibility it is up to all of us to prevent this from happening again.

Summary:

This chapter focused on a small portion of the media's role in providing the American population current events and the magnitude of influence such as the attacks on American soil can have to our country. This also includes the support of the terrorist groups gain by the constant media coverage which is what they desire. Identifying a current event is important to American citizens; however, the constant replay of events should be more limited to assure the least amount of support to these terrorist groups. It has also been articulated that the U.S. government will also use the media to support their goals by advertising such interest items to gain the support of the public. The media is simply a two sided system. First, the media provides information to the population permitting them to be current on worldly events. The public desires this knowledge, and the media is the supplier. Secondly, the media and publicity is used by the terrorist and U.S. government to gain the support necessary to reach their objectives.

The next chapter will focus on the research conducted on the population's concern on terrorism. This will combine past population polls prior to the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks, polls conducted immediately following this event, and current polls solicited in 2006. This will assist in gaining a better understand if the American population is any more fearful of terrorism over the past years even after the horrific attack that occurred on U.S. soil.

## Chapter 3

### Methodology

#### Design and Procedure

This research project attempts to determine how terrorism has affected the U.S. population, specifically focusing on fear and securities that have drastically changed since the events on September 11, 2001. With the lack of additional or large scale attacks in the U.S. over the past five years, the question as to whether terrorism is still actively on the minds of Americans will be the primary focus. Research studies that were conducted prior to the attacks will be used to identify the changes in the population's sensitivity and levels of fear. The hypotheses for this study are:

H<sub>1</sub> Terrorism is still predominately on the minds of Americans; however, the frequency may have diminished or their concerns lowered.

H<sub>2</sub> Americans still believe another major attack will occur.

H<sub>3</sub> If another attack occurs, those surveyed do not believe it will happen in their community.

H<sub>4</sub> Awareness towards the Department of Homeland Defense (DHS) is limited.

Limitations that may or may not reflect the outcome of this study include my current employment. I am currently serving a full time position in the armed forces. Another attribute is the limited sample size utilized for this survey. By polling a large grouping throughout the U.S. may provide a change in the overall perspective.

### Data Collection

To test the four research hypotheses, a review of surveys that occurred prior to September 11<sup>th</sup>, surveys immediately following 9-11, and a survey five years after 9-11 were conducted and/or reviewed. An original survey was conducted in this research to evaluate the research hypotheses five years after the 9-11 attacks (See Appendix D for the questionnaire that was used). The questionnaire was formatted and utilized to closely resemble that of the pre-September 11<sup>th</sup> survey. In order to produce a well rounded sample of the population, a total of 80 participants were selected within four separate groups in 2006. These included: full and part-time military personnel, college students, and high school employees. This sample group either works or attends college in Trumbull or Mahoning counties in Ohio (See Table 1).

Table 1

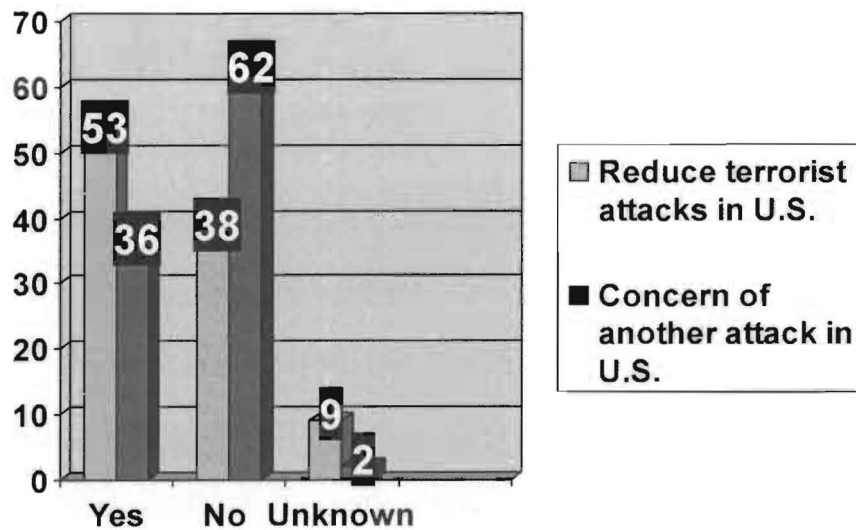
Location Where Respondents Were Surveyed

Survey Group	Location	County
Full-Time U.S. Air Force Security Forces	Vienna	Trumbull
Part-Time U.S. Air Force Security Forces	Vienna	Trumbull
Brookfield High Schools Employees	Brookfield	Trumbull
YSU College Students beginner Criminal Justice Course	Youngstown	Mahoning

If the public's perception of terrorism in the U.S. has decreased and DHS is viewed as a non-effective tool to prevent future attacks in America, educating Americans on the necessity of their awareness and reporting suspicious activity could make the difference in preventing another attack.

The surveys that were conducted prior to September 11<sup>th</sup> were from numerous organizations including: CBS News, *New York Times*, NBC News, Pew Research Center, and the Gallup Organization. To list a few findings, the CBS News Poll questioned citizens on "their viewpoints if they believed there was anything the U.S. government could do to significantly reduce terrorist attacks that affect American citizens". The response indicated that 53 percent agreed the government could do something, 38 percent stated the government could not do much, and 9 percent stated they either did not know or they did not answer the question (AARP. CBS News Poll, 2000, p. 13). CBS also reported the results from citizens questioned on if "they were personally very concerned about a terrorist attack in the U.S.?" The findings stated that 36 percent were very concerned, 62 percent not very concerned, and 2 percent did not know or did not answer (AARP. CBS News Poll, 2000, p. 13). Figure 8 illustrates these findings.

Figure 8

Pre-September 11<sup>th</sup> Survey Results

The *Gallup*, *CNN*, and *USA Today* polled citizens on if “they were concerned or worried that someone in their family would become a victim of a terrorist attack similar to the bombing in Oklahoma City.” Their responses were that 4 percent were very worried, 20 percent somewhat worried, 41 percent not too worried, 34 percent not worried at all, and 1 percent had no opinion (AARP. Gallop/CNN/USA Today, 2000, pp. 9-10). See Figure 9.

Figure 9

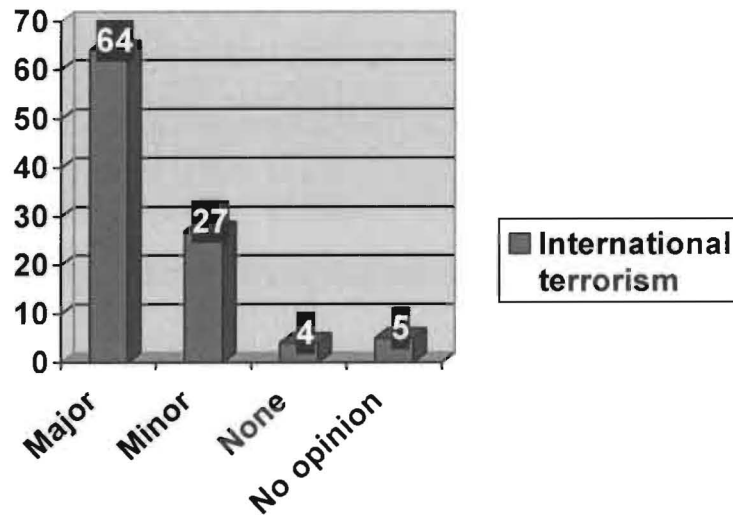
Pre-September 11<sup>th</sup>, Fear of Victimization

Citizens were asked by *People* and the *Press Foreign Threats* poll if “they felt that international terrorism is a major, minor, or not a threat to the well being of the U.S.?” The findings reported that 64 percent stated a major threat, 27 percent minor threat, 4 percent not a threat, and 5 percent did not know or refused to answer (AARP *People*, 2001, p. 2). See Figure 10.



Figure 10

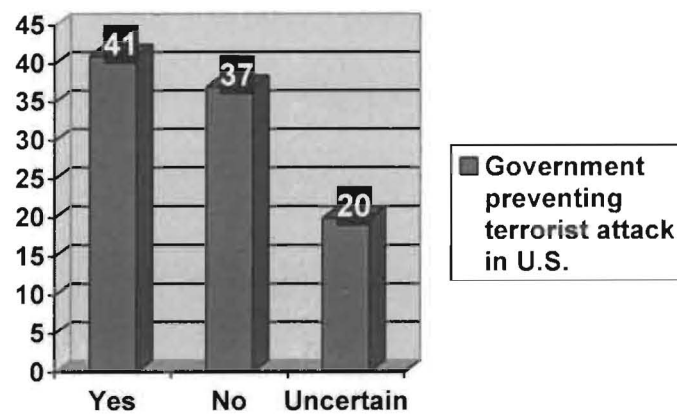
Pre-September 11<sup>th</sup>, Level of Treat from International Terrorism



*Fox News* asked if “they felt the federal government was doing enough to prevent terrorist activity in the U.S. The response was that 41 percent stated yes, 37 percent stated no, and 22 percent was not sure (AARP. Fox News, 2001, P. 2). See Figure 11.

Figure 11

Pre-September 11<sup>th</sup>, Government Doing Enough to Prevent Terrorist Activity in U.S.



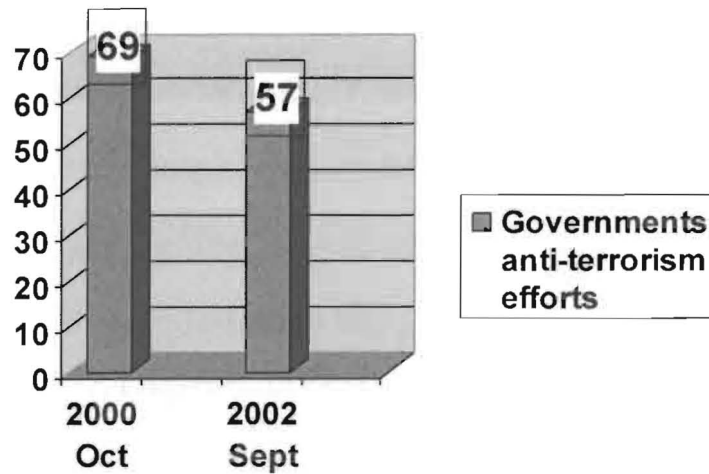
The response of these surveys indicated that the populations overall opinion was that the government can effectively defend the U.S. This faith in the U.S. government may explain why over half of these citizens were not concerned of a possible or probable attack occurring on American soil, nor were they worried about family members becoming victims. Another possibility is that they merely fell into the misconception as most Americans had that the U.S. was an untouchable country and could not be attacked. The only heightened concern the population had was on terrorism in the international arena and its effects on U.S. citizens; however, this was something that would only occur in another country and to people that did not affect them directly.

Surveys and polls used within a year following the events on September 11<sup>th</sup> display a slightly higher level of concern. Research polls that support the increased awareness include: The *Pew Research Center*, *NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll*, *ABC News/Washington Post Poll*, and *CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll*.

The *Pew Research Center* “asked the Publics assessments of the government’s anti-terrorism efforts.” The results display a decline within a year of the attacks. In October 2001 those who agreed with the governments efforts peaked at 69 percent. However, in September 2002, this percentage declined to 57 percent (*Pew Research Center*, 2001-2002, p.2-3). See Figure 12.

Figure 12

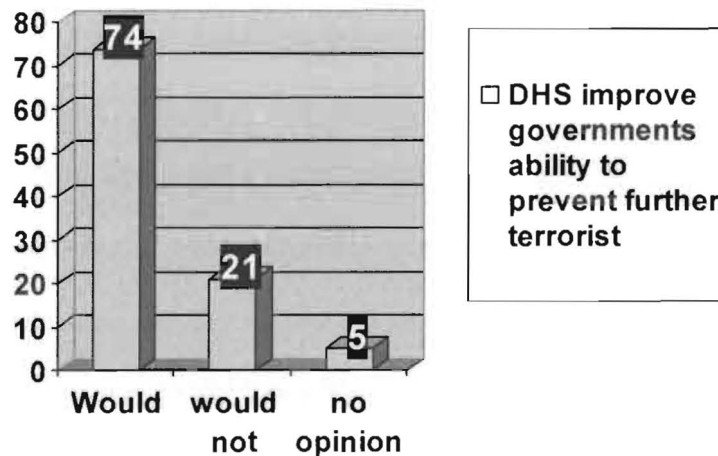
One Year After 9-11, Government's Anti-Terrorism Effectiveness



The *ABC News/Washington Post Poll* asked if “a new Department of Homeland Security would or would not improve the government’s ability to prevent further terrorist attacks”. The response was that 74 percent stated it would, 21 percent stated that it would not, and 5 percent had no opinion (ABC News, 2002, p. 1). See Figure 13.

Figure 13

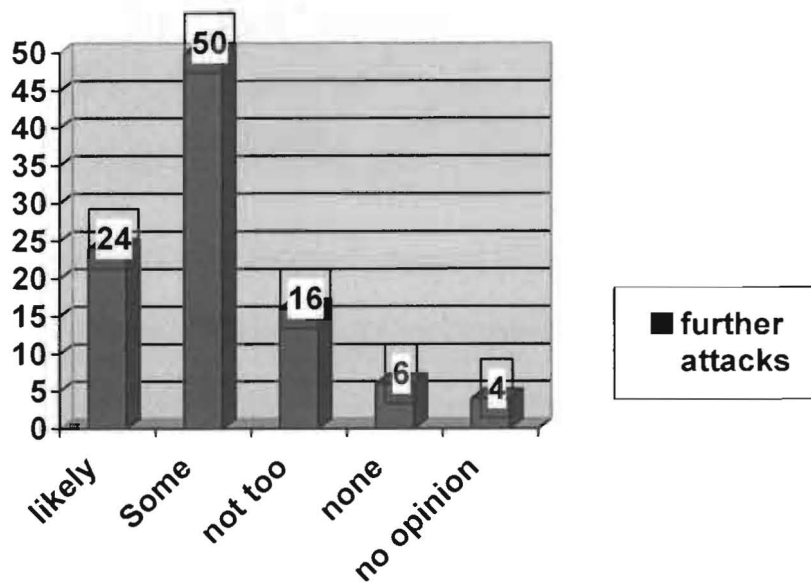
One Year After 9-11, Would a DHS Improve Security?



In the beginning of November 2001, *USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll* asked the American population, “how likely is it that there will be further acts of terrorism in the United States over the next several weeks”. The results were that 24 percent stated it was very likely, 50 percent stated somewhat likely, 16 percent stated not too likely, and 4 percent had no opinion (*USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll*, 2001, p. 5). See Figure 14.

Figure 14

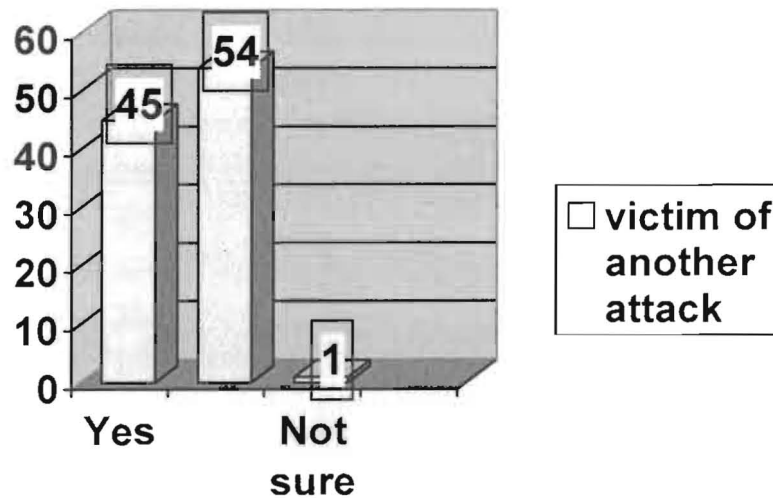
One Year After 9-11, Likelihood of Future Terrorist Attack on U.S. Soil



The *NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll* asked adults nationwide if they were “worried that you or a member of your immediate family might become the victim of a terrorist attack”. The response was that 45 percent stated yes, 54 percent stated no, and 1 percent stated they were not sure (*NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll*, 2001, p. 17). See figure 15.

Figure 15

One Year After 9-11, Fear of Victimization



If you compare the research from the pre-September 11<sup>th</sup> surveys with the survey results from within a year later, the following results are obtained:

- Those concerned about a terrorist attack was 36 percent in 2000 compared to 24 percent following the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks. Those that were not concerned was 62 percent in 2000 and 50 percent in 2001. See Figure 16.
- In regards to personal or family members being affected by a terrorist attack, 24 percent were either very worried or just worried in 2000 and in 2001, 45 percent were worried. See Figure 17.
- In regards to the government's protection reducing the risk of a terrorist attack, 53 percent stated they were successful reducing the risk in 2000, 69 percent agreed in 2001, and 57 percent agreed in 2002. See Figure 18.

- When asked if the government was doing enough, 41 percent stated yes in 2000 while 74 percent agreed in 2001. See Figure 19.

Figure 16

Comparison Before and Shortly After 9-11, Future Attacks

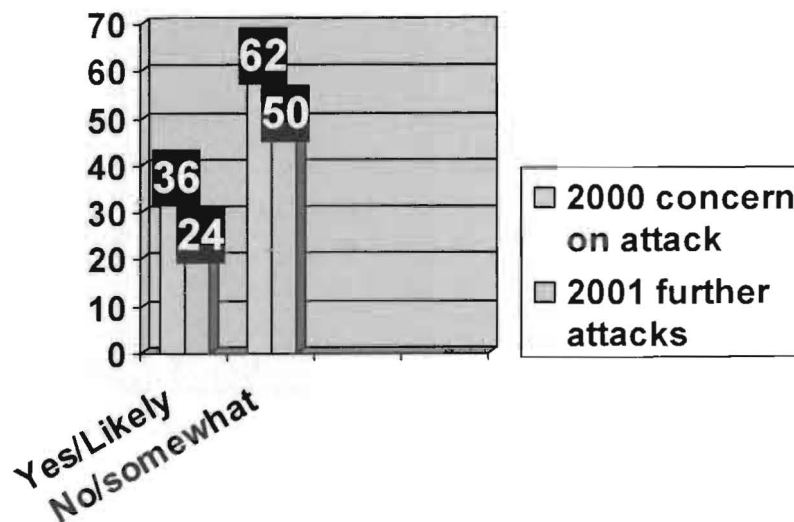


Figure 17

Comparison Before and Shortly After 9-11, Fear of Victimization

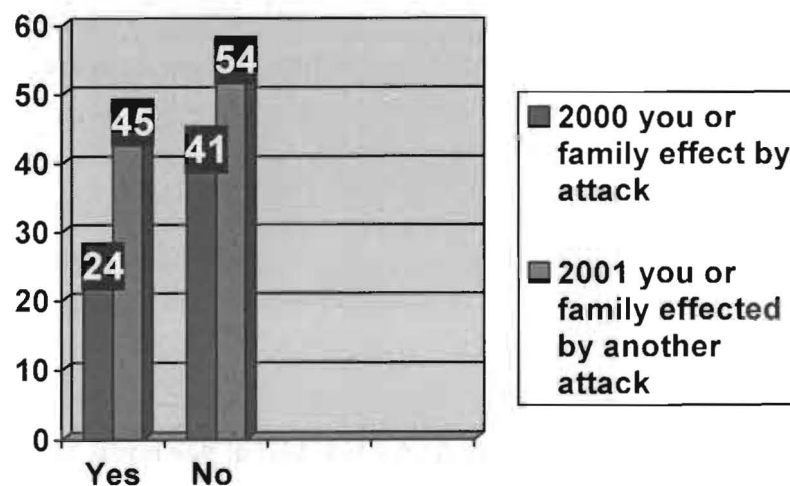




Figure 18

Comparison Before and Shortly After 9-11, DHS Reduces Future Attacks?

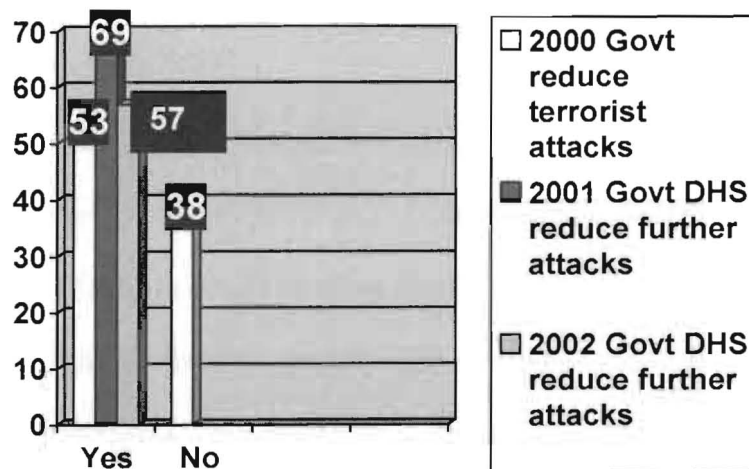
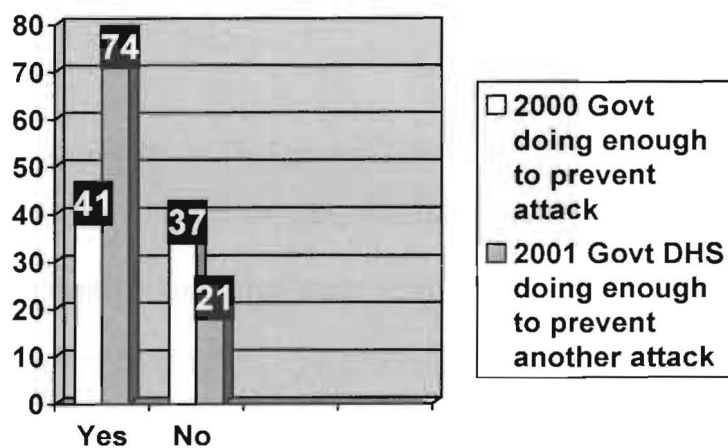


Figure 19

Comparison Before and Shortly After 9-11, Government Doing Enough?



It was somewhat surprising to find that a high percentage of the population polled do not have alarming concerns on the possibilities of further attacks, even after the events

of 9-11. What was also surprising was the disbelief that if another attack occurs that the percentage of those that do not believe themselves or family members will be affected ranges in the 54 percentile. The populations indicated that they support and have confidence in the government and the DHS. This support and confidence did increase.

#### Five Years After the Attacks on 9-11:

Now that five years have past with little or no terrorism attacks in America, has the population lowered their guard and fell back into the misconception that terrorism is in the past, with little possibilities of affecting our country as it did on September 11<sup>th</sup>? Is the government once again perceived as our protectors shielding us from this evil? In order to address these questions a survey was administered to the citizens working or attending college in Trumbull or Mahoning Counties in Ohio. By focusing on the population's views, or change in perceptions, a survey was chosen as the best approach for this project. This will permit for the evaluation of the citizens' viewpoints concerning their fears towards terrorism. This questionnaire consisted of eleven questions which can be viewed in Appendix D.

In order to obtain a sample of the U.S. population, 80 surveys were administered. Twenty (n = 20) surveys were given to military, full-time Security Forces. They have knowledge concerning terrorism and the procedures of the DHS. This group was perceived to have the highest level of knowledge on this subject. Twenty (n = 20) part-time military Security Forces were surveyed to incorporate a wide variety of employment from law enforcement careers to college students. This group addressed the portion of

the population that had an above average knowledge on terrorism and DHS procedures. Twenty (n = 20) employees working at a High School in Brookfield Ohio provided guidance from citizens that do not necessarily work with terrorism or DHS in their line of work. This group encompassed an older generation possessing knowledge of past world events, possible live experiences, and media coverage on the topic. The last group included twenty college students (n = 20) attending an introductory course on criminal justice Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. They represent the youngest population and were considered to have the least amount of knowledge on terrorism or DHS. These groups and knowledge can be viewed in Table 2.

Table 2

Respondents' Perceived Level of Knowledge Concerning Terrorism

Survey Group	knowledge of Terrorism	Knowledge of DHS
Full-Time U.S. Air Force Security Forces	1	1
Part-Time U.S. Air Force Security Forces	2	2
Brookfield High Schools Employees	3	3
YSU College Students beginner Criminal Justice Course	4	4

Level of Knowledge Ranking - Highest level #1 High #2 Medium #3 Lowest #4

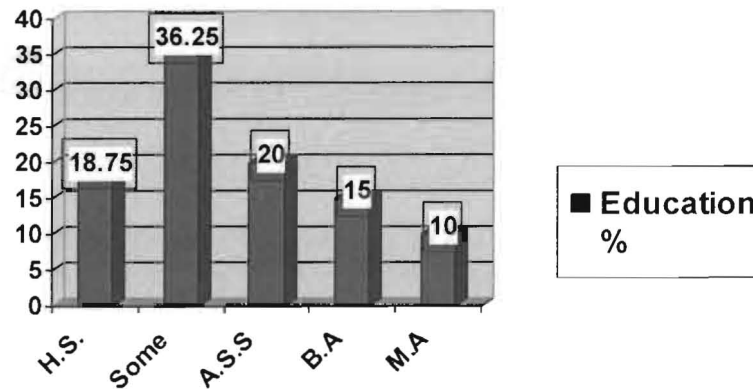
The questionnaires were administered by a friend, co-worker, and college classmate of the researcher to help assure that bias or influences would not occur. The surveys were administered to participants on a strictly voluntary basis. Only those willing and interested in completing the survey did so by their own choice.

The respondents were asked 11 questions. The following is a summary of the finding from the 2006 survey concerning terrorism:

1. Have you witnessed first hand, any Anti-terrorism measures since the attacks on 9-11? 75 percent stated yes while 25 percent stated no
2. Have you witnessed some form of Anti-terrorism measures implemented in your office or specific job? 65 percent states yes and 35 percent stated no
3. How do you rate the job performance of the Department of Homeland Security? 12.5 percent reported poorly, 37.5 percent fair, 42.5 percent good, and 7.5 percent excellent
4. Do you believe the Department of Homeland Security is effectively addressing all the weak areas in the U.S. that need extra security? 35 percent stated yes and 65 percent stated no
5. Do you believe there will be another terrorist attack on U.S soil? 52.5 percent stated a major attack, 45 percent a minor attack, and 2.5 percent stated none
6. As a U.S. citizen, do you feel that you are more likely to be a victim of a terrorist attack? 43.75 percent stated yes and 56.25 percent stated no
7. Which area/area's are you most concerned of being a victim of a terrorist attack? 17.5 percent stated their home town, 37.5 percent while on a vacation in the U.S., and 45 percent in another country
8. Have you lowered your concern or fear on terrorism since the event on 9-11? 26.25 percent stated yes while 73.75 percent stated no
9. What is your age? The average age was 35 years and 9 months old
10. What is your gender? 37.5 percent were female (n = 30) and 62.5 percent were male (n = 50)
11. What is your highest schooling degree? See Figure 3.13

Figure 20

## Education Level of 2006 Respondents



## Results

This data obtained in the review of previous surveys and the recent survey conducted in 2006 support the research hypotheses for this project:

H<sub>1</sub> Terrorism is still predominately on the minds of Americans; however, the frequency may have diminished or their concerns lowered.

Citizens surveyed responded with 43.75 percent fearing they are more likely to be a victim of a terrorist attack while 56.25 percent did not.

H<sub>2</sub> Americans still believe another major attack will occur.

Citizens response was 52.5 percent surveyed stated there would be a major terrorist attack on U.S soil, 45 percent stated a minor attack, while 2.5 percent stated none.

H<sub>3</sub> If another attack occurs, those surveyed do not believe it will happen in their community.



There is an overall heightened awareness of terrorism by. Citizens do agree another major attack will occur however, it will not affect them directly.

Citizens response to the location most presenting the risk of attack was 17.5 percent felt their home town, 37.5 percent was while on vacation, and 45 percent stated while they were in another country

H<sub>4</sub> Awareness towards the Department of Homeland Defense (DHS) is limited.

Citizens surveyed on DHS effectively addressing all the weak areas in the U.S. that need extra security displayed a 35 percent support and 65 percent in disagreement.

H<sub>4</sub> Awareness towards the Department of Homeland Defense (DHS) is limited.

It was reported that 65 percent of respondents are in agreement that DHS is not effectively providing adequate safety for the American population.

The results from the questionnaire revealed a slight contradiction in their belief with over 52 percent in agreement another major attack will occur in the U.S.; however, 45 percent of those participating stated they are more concerned about being attacked while on vacation in another country. Even with this large percentage in agreement of another attack, there is a large decrease in their overall concern with terrorism. This representation of the population seems to be falling back into the false securities once experienced as over 56 percent acknowledged they are no more of a target as a U.S. citizen than any other nationality. Is this opinion due to the lack of education in the field of terrorism and DHS procedures?

As mentioned earlier, the sampling size included two groups viewed to have the most knowledge on terrorism and implemented DHS procedures, the military security

forces full-time and part-time members. By comparing their surveys with the two least knowledgeable in this field, the college students and high school employees, some differences can be seen. A Chi-square test was administered dividing the military member's verses non-military, college students and high school employees. In reference to question three on how they rate job performance of the DHS, the non-military respondents felt that the DHS was performing relatively poorly. The military personnel respondents felt that DHS was performing overall well ( $p = .02$ ). See Table 3.

Table 3

Perception of DHS's Performance, Military vs. Non-Military Personnel

mil vs. non DHS performance				
Q-3 DHS	actual	groups		
		Military	Non-military	
	poor	3	7	12.5%
	fair	10	20	37.5%
	good	23	11	42.5%
	excellent	4	2	7.5%
		40	40	80
	expected	7.5%	17.5%	
		25%	50%	
		57.5%	27.5%	
		10%	5%	
CHI TEST		P=.02		
	The non-military respondents felt that the DHS was performing relatively poorly. The military personnel respondents felt that DHS was performing overall well ( $p = .02$ ).			

Questions that did show a variable independent of one another could be viewed with questions six and seven. The military are more likely to believe that a terrorist attack will occur on U.S. soil than non-military respondents ( $p=.042$ ). See Table 4. When the respondents were asked about where terrorist attacks were more likely to occur, the military personnel said their own communities or outside the U.S. soil then did the non-military. The non-military although reported earlier they did not think an attack would occur in the U.S., when asked specifically where a future attack would occur they said U.S. soil. ( $p=.001$ ). See Table 5.

Table 4

		mil vs. non us more target		
actual		Groups		
		Military	Non-military	
Q6 DHS	yes	22	13	43.75%
	no	18	27	56.25%
		40	40	80
observed		55%	32.5%	
		45%	67.5%	
CHI TEST		P= .042		

The military are more likely to believe that a terrorist attack will occur on U.S. soil than non-military respondents ( $p=.042$ )

Table 5

mil vs non Terrorist attack location				
Q-7 DHS	actual	Groups		
		Military	Non-military	
	home	11	3	17.5%
	us	7	23	37.5%
	other	22	14	45%
		40	40	80
	observed	27.5%	7.5%	
		17.5%	57.5%	
		55%	35%	
CHI TEST		P= .001		

When the respondents were asked about where terrorist attacks were more likely to occur, the military personnel said their own communities or outside the U.S. soil then did the non-military. The non-military although reported earlier they did not think an attack would occur in the U.S., when asked specifically where a future attack would occur they said U.S. soil. (p=.001)

A difference on several responses between military respondents and non-military was found. The next logical subdivision would be on gender. Several studies have shown that women tend to be more fearful of crime than men. In order to see if this is the same with the fear of terrorist attacks, a chi-square was conducted to see if a difference exist between the genders. There was not a significant statistical difference between male and female respondents as to their concern for future attacks. Almost three fourths of the respondents have little fear of a future attack. See Table 6.

Table 6

males vs. females on lowered concern				
actual		Gender		
		Males	Females	
Q-8	yes	10	11	26.25%
	no	40	19	73.75%
		50	30	80
observed		Males	Females	
		20%	36.7%	
		80%	63.3%	
CHI TEST		P= .10		
There was not a significant statistical difference between male and female respondents as to their concern for future attacks. Almost three fourths of the respondents have little fear of a future attack.				

This overall finding on the survey conducted in 2006 reveals some resemblances to the surveys conducted prior to the September 11, 2001 attacks. The opinion of the government or DHS can protect Americans and, although another attack was viewed as probable, it would not affect those polled directly to include their family members.

The main differences between the two surveys suggested that there is a more heightened awareness of terrorism in general and the government or DHS needs to improve in their procedures. This difference may not prove a change in the populations fear towards terrorism as much as a more awareness because of the attention terrorism has gained by the media after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks. If that is the reason for the slight difference, then in general, the population's viewpoint towards this issue has changed minimally if at all over the past years since the earlier survey that was conducted in 2000.

This study coupled with further research and surveys may support these research findings and prove that the U.S. population is either digressing back into the pre

September 11<sup>th</sup> misconceptions or have not altered their perceptions that Americans do not need to fear or be concerned with terrorism on U.S. soil. This includes the perceptive that terrorism would not affect them directly or indirectly as U.S. citizens. A much larger and in depth study would be necessary to identify this study as accurate in its findings. As mentioned, this study only encompassed eighty citizens in Trumbull and Mahoning Counties in Ohio and does not include all states throughout the U.S. In order to deter and prevent future attacks, every citizen must have a heightened awareness around them in order to identify and report suspicious activities that could possibly lead to the build up of another attack. Attacks are effective at disrupting our way of life whether occurring in New York, Washington, or any other city. An attack in Youngstown or Warren can bring the same effects, the deaths of innocent Americans and instilling fear and lack of security throughout the country.



## Chapter 4

### Summary

The research studies conducted prior to the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks used to identify the changes in the population's sensitivity and levels of fear coupled with the 80 participants selected within four separate groups in 2006 support the hypotheses conducted.

H<sub>1</sub> Terrorism is still predominately on the minds of Americans; however, the frequency may have diminished or their concerns lowered.

Citizens surveyed responded with 43.75 percent fearing they are more likely to be a victim of a terrorist attack while 56.25 percent did not.

H<sub>2</sub> Americans still believe another major attack will occur.

Citizens response was 52.5 percent surveyed stated there would be a major terrorist attack on U.S soil, 45 percent stated a minor attack, while 2.5 percent stated none.

H<sub>3</sub> If another attack occurs, those surveyed do not believe it will happen in their community.

Citizens response to the location most presenting the risk of attack was 17.5 percent felt their home town, 37.5 percent was while on vacation, and 45 percent stated while they were in another country

H<sub>4</sub> Awareness towards the Department of Homeland Defense (DHS) is limited.

Citizens surveyed on DHS effectively addressing all the weak areas in the U.S. that need extra security displayed a 35 percent support and 65 percent in disagreement.

### Limitations and Future Studies

The study had three major limitations. One was the sample size of the surveyed population. Only 80 individuals were surveyed. The second limitation was that all of the individuals surveyed did live in northeast Ohio. Finally, the researcher of this study is employed by the U.S. armed forces.

In future studies, the research should be conducted in major cities such as New York and Washington D.C. It would be interesting to see if these individuals would have the same responses as the individuals living in northeast Ohio. The sample size should also be much larger to assure that a true representation of the U.S. populations is being sampled.

### Summary

Defining terrorism has proven to be a difficult task involving the interpretations and perceptions of society. It is examined by a wide range of professionals that may never come to a single agreed definition. Everyone will agree that terrorism does exist without boundaries in the world. History has shown that terrorism has escalated to becoming the number one choice in violence for hate groups. These violent groups have been discovered throughout the world to include the United States. For reasons not limited to political, religion, and fear these groups perceive violent acts as the answer to their controversy. Today's reflection on terrorism suggests that attacks will continue to escalate in the years to come with the potential of violent incidents on American soil. The media's support of terrorism is only half fulfilling, it is the top ratings that television and newspapers use to determine what they will or will not cover. Although media may

discuss minut subjects as a form of society awareness, it is truly a finance aspect that drives their mission. Both the terrorist and government use the media to address society on what they feel are important issues. Terrorist use media for recognition, funding, and support that is necessary to continue their quest. The government uses the media to gain support on areas that need to be addressed such as the war against terrorism nationwide. The media is almost too willing to oblige their requests. Only time, patience, and deterrence will provide the opportunity to eliminate this form of violence, if it can be eliminated at all. The comparison in the studies conducted in 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2006 shows a close resemblance in the lack of fear the population should have in reference to terrorist and their deadly acts. Only when a large scale catastrophes occur in the U.S. where all citizens are affected, does the population open their eyes to the seriousness of this form of violence. A need for better education and proactive actions will provide a safer atmosphere and country.

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**APPENDIX A**

**Pre Test Questionnaire**

## Terrorism Pre-Test

1. The universally accepted definition was derived from the Department of Defense stating; "The calculated use of violence or threat of violence to inculcate fear, intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological".
  - a.) True
  - b.) False
  
2. The term terrorism was derived from the state-run terror campaign waged by Maximilien Robespierre and the committee of Public Safety during the French Revolution in what year.
  - a.) 1795
  - b.) 1759
  - c.) 1803
  - d.) 1816
  
3. Incendiary devices are cheap, require little technology and are easy to hide.
  - a.) True
  - b.) False
  
4. In what year did terrorism become a formidable force in the international arena with distinctive traits, structure, and objectives?
  - a.) 1930's-1940's
  - b.) 1940's-1950's
  - c.) 1960's-1970's
  - d.) 1980's-1990's
  
5. What Types of tools are normally used to perform terrorist activities?
  - a.) Bombing
  - b.) Arson
  - c.) Kidnapping
  - d.) All of the above

6. Which of these terrorist activities is designed for maximum media attention?
  - a.) Kidnapping
  - b.) Hostage taking
  - c.) Hijacking
  - d.) None of the above
  
7. Terrorist recruitment and funding is conducted only outside the United States.
  - a.) True
  - b.) False
  
8. Within the United States, how many states contain "Hate Groups".
  - a.) 50
  - b.) 36
  - c.) 48
  - d.) 27
  
9. Threat of terrorism activity is high in the local area due to the military installation located at the Youngstown-Warren regional airport.
  - a.) True
  - b.) False
  
10. Terrorist groups claim responsibility immediately after the attack in order to receive the most media coverage possible.
  - a.) True
  - b.) False



**APPENDIX B**

**Answer Sheet**

## Terrorism Answers

1. The universally accepted definition was derived from the Department of Defense stating; "The calculated use of violence or threat of violence to inculcate fear, intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological".

B. False

2. The term terrorism was derived from the state-run terror campaign waged by Maximilien Robespierre and the committee of Public Safety during the French Revolution in what year.

A. 1795

3. Incendiary devices are cheap, require little technology and are easy to hide.

A. True

4. In what year did terrorism become a formidable force in the international arena with distinctive traits, structure, and objectives?

C. 1960's-1970's

5. What Types of tools are normally used to perform terrorist activities?

D. All of the above

6. Which of these terrorist activities is designed for maximum media attention?

B. Hostage taking

7. Terrorist recruitment and funding is conducted only outside the United States.

B. False

8. Within the United States, how many states contain "Hate Groups".

A. 50

9. Threat of terrorism activity is high in the local area due to the military installation located at the Youngstown-Warren regional airport.

B. False

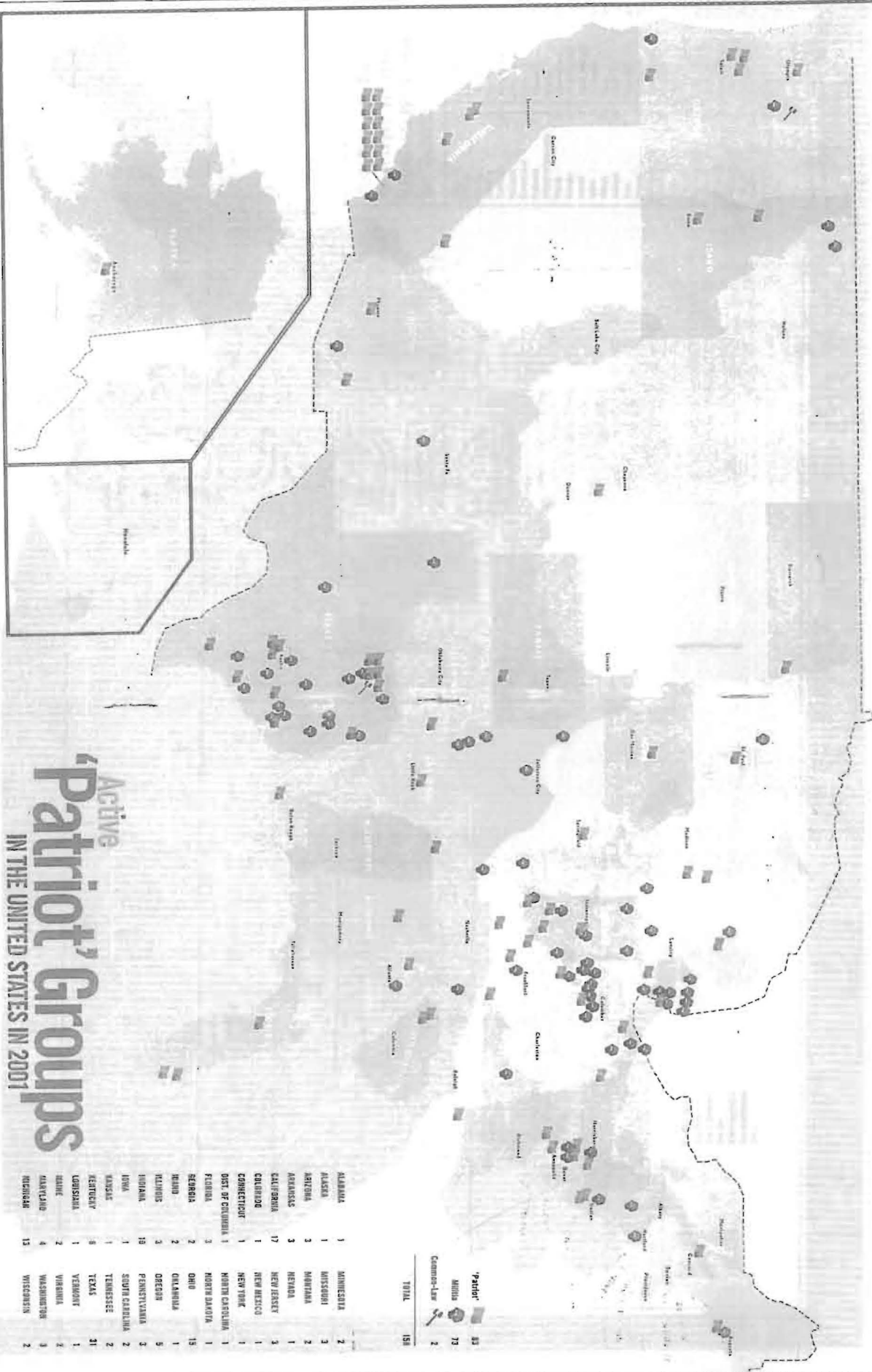
10. Terrorist groups claim responsibility immediately after the attack in order to receive the most media coverage possible.

B. False

**APPENDIX C**

**Domestic Terrorist Groups in U.S.**

# Active 'Patriot' Groups IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2001



ALABAMA	1	MINNESOTA	2
ALASKA	1	MISSISSIPPI	3
ARIZONA	3	MONTANA	2
ARKANSAS	3	NEBRASKA	2
CALIFORNIA	17	NEW JERSEY	3
COLORADO	1	NEW MEXICO	1
CONNECTICUT	1	NEW YORK	1
DEL. OR DELAWARE	1	NORTH CAROLINA	1
FLORIDA	3	NORTH DAKOTA	1
GEORGIA	2	OHIO	13
IDAHO	2	OKLAHOMA	1
ILLINOIS	3	OREGON	5
INDIANA	19	PENNSYLVANIA	3
IOWA	1	SOUTH CAROLINA	2
KANSAS	1	TENNESSEE	2
KENTUCKY	5	TEXAS	31
LOUISIANA	1	VERMONT	1
MAINE	2	VIRGINIA	2
MARYLAND	4	WASHINGTON	1
MICHIGAN	13	WISCONSIN	2



### Active Hate Groups in the United States in 2000

Alabama	39	New Hampshire	1
Alaska	1	New Jersey	12
Arizona	6	New Mexico	3
Arkansas	18	New York	23
California	25	North Carolina	27
Colorado	7	North Dakota	1
Connecticut	3	Ohio	26
Delaware	2	Oklahoma	5
District of Columbia	3	Oregon	5
Florida	39	Pennsylvania	22
Georgia	30	South Carolina	12
Idaho	1	South Dakota	1
Illinois	6	Tennessee	14
Indiana	15	Texas	38
Iowa	18	Utah	3
Kansas	2	Virginia	25
Kentucky	4	Washington	12
Louisiana	8	West Virginia	3
Maine	15	Wisconsin	8
Maryland	1	Wyoming	1
Massachusetts	8		
Michigan	6	Ku Klux Klan	110
Minnesota	14	Neo-Nazi	180
Mississippi	8	Fascist Skinhead	39
Missouri	27	Identity	32
Montana	17	Black Separatist	48
Nebraska	4	Neo-Confederate	88
Nevada	5	Other	105
New York	8	TOTAL	622

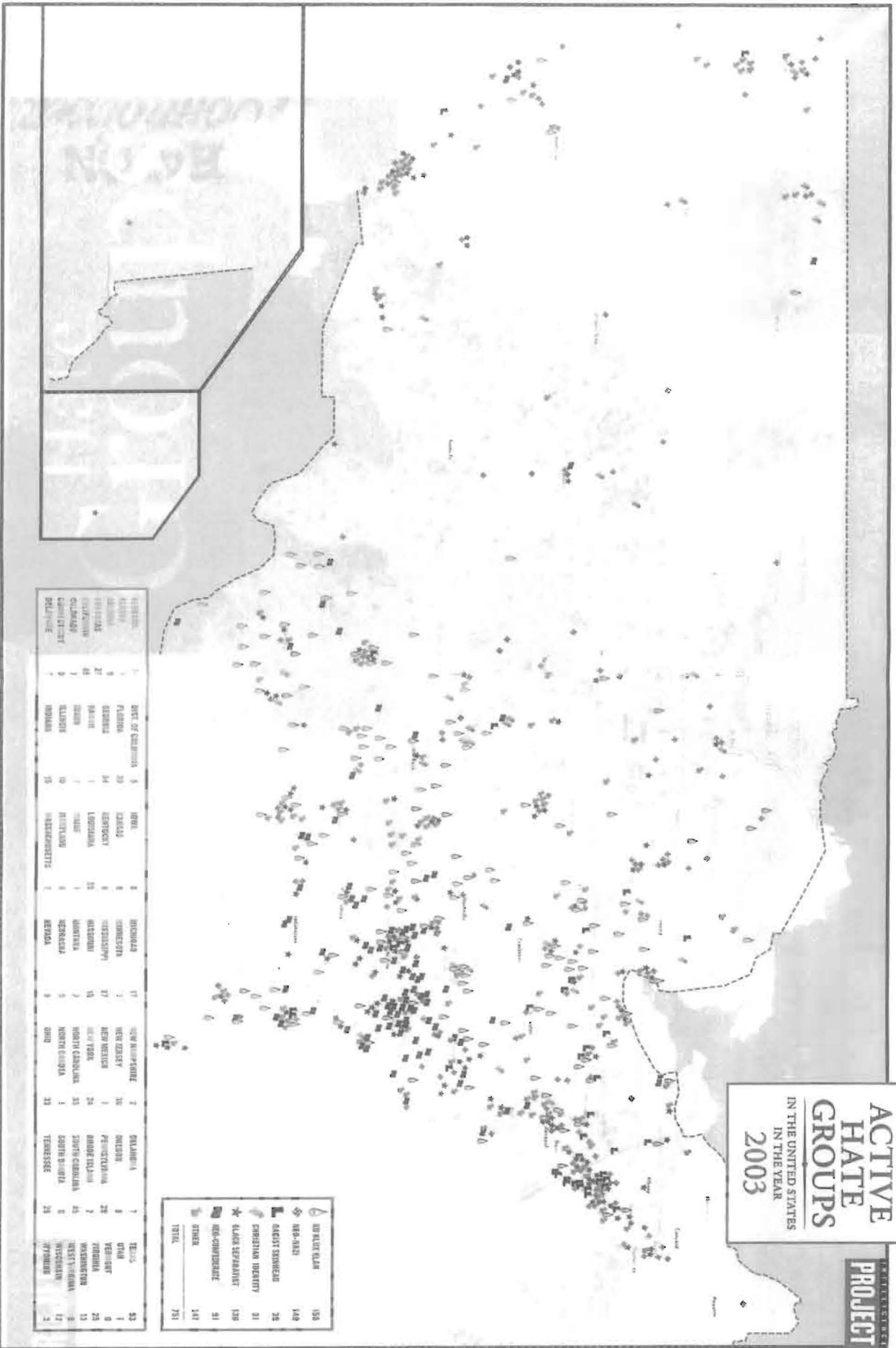
Ku Klux Klan  
 Neo-Nazi  
 Fascist Skinhead  
 Identity  
 Black Separatist  
 Neo-Confederate  
 Other



# ACTIVE HATE GROUPS

IN THE UNITED STATES  
IN THE YEAR  
2003

PROJECT  
HATERS



	AD FALC KLAN	150
	KKK (KLAN)	140
	GAYST STRIKE	25
	CHRISTIAN IDENTITY	91
	BLACK SEPARATIST	130
	WIA-SUPREMACY	91
	OTHER	147
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>751</b>

ALABAMA	1	ARIZONA	3	ARKANSAS	1	CALIFORNIA	1	CONNECTICUT	1	DELAWARE	1	FLORIDA	3	GEORGIA	3	HAWAII	1	ILLINOIS	1	INDIANA	1	IOWA	1	KANSAS	1	KENTUCKY	1	LOUISIANA	1	MAINE	1	MARYLAND	1	MASSACHUSETTS	1	MICHIGAN	1	MINNESOTA	1	MISSISSIPPI	1	MISSOURI	1	MONTANA	1	NEBRASKA	1	NEVADA	1	NEW HAMPSHIRE	1	NEW JERSEY	1	NEW MEXICO	1	NEW YORK	1	NORTH CAROLINA	1	NORTH DAKOTA	1	OHIO	1	OKLAHOMA	1	OREGON	1	PENNSYLVANIA	1	RHODE ISLAND	1	SOUTH CAROLINA	1	SOUTH DAKOTA	1	TENNESSEE	1	TEXAS	1	UTAH	1	VERMONT	1	VIRGINIA	1	WASHINGTON	1	WEST VIRGINIA	1	WISCONSIN	1	WYOMING	1
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# Hate Groups

ACTIVE IN THE YEAR 2005



**APPENDIX D**

**Questionnaire**

## QUESTIONNAIRE

(Anti-Terrorism measures – Intended to prevent or counteract terrorism. These measures are used to reduce the vulnerability of individuals and property to terrorist acts)

PLEASE CIRCLE ANSWERS

1) Have you witnessed first hand, any Anti-terrorism measures since the attacks on 9-11? (Example- additional security or searches at airports)

YES                      NO

2) Have you witnessed some form of Anti-terrorism measures implemented in your office or specific job?

YES                      NO

3) How do you rate the job performance of the Department of Homeland Security?

POOR              FAIR              GOOD              EXCELLENT

4) Do you believe the Department of Homeland Security is effectively addressing all the weak areas in the U.S. that need extra security?

YES                      NO

5) Do you believe there will be another terrorist attack on U.S soil?

MAJOR ATTACK                      MINOR ATTACK                      NONE  
(500 or more casualties)                      (500 or less casualties)

6) As a U.S. citizen, do you feel that you are more likely to be a victim of a terrorist attack?

YES                      NO

7) Which area/area's are you most concerned of being a victim of a terrorist attack?

HOME TOWN/CITY/STATE    U.S. VACATION    VACATION IN ANOTHER  
COUNTRY

8) Have you lowered your concern or fear on terrorism since the event on 9-11?

YES                      NO

9) What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_

10) What is your gender?

FEMALE

MALE

11) What is your highest schooling degree?

HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATE SOME COLLEGE BACHELORS

MASTERS OR HIGHER

**APPENDIX E**  
**Agency Approvals**



# Brookfield Middle School

7000 Grove St., P.O. Box 209  
Brookfield, Ohio 44403  
Phone: 330-448-3003 Fax: 330-448-5028

Timothy S. Filipovich  
Principal

Louise Mason  
Assistant Principal

**Brain Power: Turn It On!**

Susan Horvath  
Guidance Counselor

Sandy Sydlowski  
Secretary

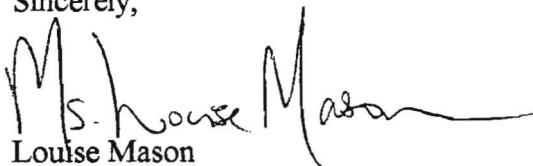
June 14, 2006

To Whom it May Concern:

Renee Noel has permission to conduct a survey here at Brookfield High School.

Should you need any further information, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Louise Mason  
Assistant Principal  
Brookfield Schools



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
910TH SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON  
3976 KING GRAVES RD UNIT 41  
VIENNA OH 44473-5941


13 June 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: CONCERNED PERSONNEL

FROM: 910 SFS/CC

SUBJECT: SURVEY

1. Permission has been granted to MSgt Renee Noel to conduct a survey in completion of her thesis requirements for her Masters Degree at Youngstown State University. Survey administered will be on a strictly voluntary basis and may encompass both Security Forces full time and reserve members.

  
RONALD E. COBURN, MAJOR, USAF  
Commander, 910 Security Forces