

# **Inverting our Concepts of Borders and Surveillance in order to Curtail the Expansive Reach of Jihad Support Networks**

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## **Abstract**

Methods of countering terrorist actions and defeating their planning, logistic and support networks, including those of a “soft” nature (e.g., finances and communications) have been based substantially upon a historical model that considers nations, states, and local regions (including facilities) as physical units with definable borders and, within those borders, gateways of one form or another. The nature of the modern, 21<sup>st</sup> century Jihad, particularly that which is evolving in strength following the onset of the Iraq War, requires a different modus operandi for intelligence and countermeasures if we are to protect our people and institutions. Fully equipped with the resources of the internet and operating with substantial in-country, close-to-target human resources and an amorphous community support structure, the Jihad networks operating today are more adaptive, self-modifying, and innovative than any time ever before in history. This is not the terror of abu Nidal or Red Brigade nor even of al Qaeda 2001. The Jihad networks of post-2003, by analogy, are more like the HIV virus in capability of adaptive transformation and camouflage with respect to the immune system than the classical virus or bacterium.

Many factors not the least of which are rooted in commonplace technologies and means of communication, transportation and habitation, make imperative fundamental changes in how security and countermeasure operations are conducted. These changes affect every aspect of the lifecycle of planning and organizing both defensive and proactive measures at the human and technological levels, affecting also legal and social structures. These changes are hardly going to be easy for people – particularly those who have been accustomed to doing things in a traditional, “tried-and-true” manner – to accept and undertake, but the argument as presented here today is that we have no choice but to adapt to a new form of warfare entirely, one that changes our concepts about borders, about surveillance and intelligence gathering, and also about the actual process of overcoming the enemy.

The ancient martial arts of Kendo and Akido, among others, emphasize the importance of technique in offensive and defensive maneuvers and the typical first reaction to thinking about either discipline is to conceive of skillfully learned moves of hands, feet and body. Most fundamental in all of these disciplines, however, as in the related practices of medicine, is the emphasis upon knowledge and information that can be used to change the source of the problem from being a negative force, a dis-ease into being a positive and healthy component – of the body or the body politic.

Today I am not going to speak much about technology such as the sensors, diagnostics, and analytics that make up the components of our work in homeland security and counterterrorism. Rather, I am going to speak about how to redeploy and rearrange people, devices, systems, and information in manners that will be more effective to deter, in advance of the action, terrorist operations that are initiated by not a state, not an army, not a Jihadist Mafia, but a growing and highly motivated movement that is already on all sides of all traditional borders and has at its disposal sufficient tools and ingredients to conduct physical and informational acts of destruction more effectively today, in 2006, than ever before. My purpose is to show how we as defenders and protectors have the tools at our disposal presently in order to use the forces of Jihad themselves to work in our favor at interdicting and dismantling movement of operatives, supplies and weapons before they can be used against our populations.

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