



Welcome to the inaugural edition of *On the Front Lines*--an e-newsletter highlighting the activities of the Jebesen Center for Counter-Terrorism Studies at The Fletcher School, Tufts University!

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Exclusive JCCTS Publications: JCCTS *Research Briefing Series* Features New Pieces by Senior Fellows Rohan Gunaratna and Zachary Abuza

The Jebesen Center hosts a robust research and analysis program, with a goal of placing researchers in the field and disseminating their findings to a range of academic, law enforcement, and policymaking audiences. The Jebesen Center's Senior Fellows are a key part of that program. Senior Fellows are scholars and practitioners who bring their unique expertise to bear on critical issues in counter-terrorism and security studies. Through our *Research Briefing Series*, an online periodical offered on the Jebesen Center's website, JCCTS Senior Fellows offer their perspectives on current counter-terrorism topics.



Past and current issues of the JCCTS Research Briefing Series are available online.

The Jebesen Center is announcing the release of two new Research Briefing Series papers this month. Senior Fellow **Rohan Gunaratna**, bestselling author of *Inside al Qaeda*, continues his series on strategic counter-terrorism with "**Strategic Counter-Terrorism: Part 2, The Ideological Response.**" One of the Center's newest Senior Fellows, **Zachary Abuza**, a noted Southeast Asia terrorism expert and professor at Simmons College (Boston), gives a thoughtful overview of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) organization and its future in "**The State of Jemaah Islamiyah: Terrorism and Insurgency in Southeast Asia Five Years After Bali.**" Both pieces are now available for download on our [Publications page](#).

The Jebesen Center will continue to release new editions of the *Research Briefing Series* throughout the year, so please check back often for updates.

In the Field: JCCTS Interns Span the Globe

In the summer of 2007, the Jebesen Center for Counter-Terrorism Studies



funded several student internship placements at government offices, law enforcement agencies, and nonprofits through the JCCTS Summer Internship Fund. All have been working in the field to learn more about applied counter-terrorism practice and strategy.

For more information on Jebesen Center summer 2007 internships, which included placements in counter-terrorism and security agencies in Africa, Central Asia, the Middle East, and New York City, please click [here](#).

Below, two interns share their experiences in their own words:

JCCTS Interns Kyle Dietrich (top) and Stephen Heitkamp (bottom) conducted hands-on research and policy work for several months through the JCCTS Summer Internship Fund.

Kyle Dietrich, USAID Africa Bureau, Conflict Prevention, Democracy, and Governance Division, Washington, DC:

Kyle Dietrich is currently completing a dual master's degree from the Fletcher School and Harvard Divinity School. Kyle spent summer 2007 working as a research analyst in the Africa Bureau of USAID in Washington, DC. His main role was to examine the spread of unique forms of violence throughout Africa and to present analysis aimed at improving the impact of development interventions in offsetting conditions which give rise to local and transnational crime, gang violence, radicalization, and terrorism on

the continent.

At present, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is undergoing a transformation, both in its identity and its purpose. My role within the agency, while brief, has been quite unique. I've had the opportunity to work with a small team of people to advance our understanding of the need for development assistance to play a central role in U.S. government efforts to counter the spread of extremism and terrorism in Africa. This ongoing work includes actors from various agencies, including the Department of Defense, the Department of State and USAID.

Previously, the mandates of these three key agencies were clearly defined, and highly independent, rooted in the "3 D's": defense, diplomacy, and development. With the advent, or resurgence, of international terrorism, the US government realized the need to not only de-conflict the agendas of the various agencies, but also improve information-sharing, and create a space for agencies to harmonize their work both at home and in the field. While this recognition of the need for increased coordination is a step in the right direction, I became concerned that some agencies may have more to gain from this new interagency approach, whereas USAID may have more to lose.

After sitting through numerous interagency meetings and workshops on the subject of counter-terrorism (CT) in Africa, I began to appreciate my own development lens, recognizing both the strengths and the weaknesses of the agency I represented. My initial conclusion is that medium to longer-term sustainable development thinking is needed to adequately address the conditions which lead to terrorism, made evident by the inclusion of USAID at the CT table. As it were, Africa seems an unlikely destination for international terrorism. To my mind, there is an apparent disconnect between larger transnational and ideological movements driven by highly educated and affluent individuals, such as al-Qaeda, and Africa's highly localized, political, and nationalistic movements which by-and-large represent grievances of lower income populations.

I'm hopeful that this new interagency approach will continue to be explored and closely monitored. A culture of violence, of which terrorism is but one small derivative, is on the rise in Africa. For obvious reasons, counter-terrorism efforts are at the center of our national interests. As a development agency which characterizes a compassionate nation, we need to find a way of maximizing our own self-interest – minimizing the spread of terrorism – while infusing targeted development programs that are capable of providing social outlets and economic alternatives to violence and instability.

Stephen Heitkamp, Al-Akawayn University and Independent Research, al-Maghrib and Ifrane, Morocco

Stephen Heitkamp is a candidate for a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy at The Fletcher School. This summer he traveled to al-Maghrib, Morocco, where he studied Arabic at Al-Akawayn University in Ifrane while conducting independent research on globalization, radicalization, and terrorism throughout the country.

I began my summer study and research in Morocco on a \$15 RyanAir flight, going from Covent Garden in London to the ancient city of Fez in a matter of hours. The flight was a mixture of young British couples on holiday, backpackers, families returning home, families visiting relatives, and more. It was a fitting start to my research on how globalization processes are influencing inter-group dynamics and personal identity within Europe and North Africa.

While in Morocco I studied Arabic intensively at Al-Akawayn Univeristy. Like my flight, the university was as much a place to research as it was a place to do research at. Constructed by decree of King Mohammed VI as an American styled university, classes are taught in English to mostly French-speaking Moroccan elites while American undergraduates and graduates come there to study Arabic. There is a Hillary Clinton Women's Empowerment Center even as women in *hijab* pull weeds by hand in the summer heat, making

sure that the school grounds are perfectly kept.

Traveling throughout Morocco, the influence of globalization was often present. Fast-food chains were next to mosques, bootleg Hollywood DVDs could be bought for less than a dollar, Internet cafes often existed in even the smallest and most obscure villages, and countless Moroccans had family working abroad, either in the Europe or the United States. However, these signs of globalization were frequently overshadowed by poverty and despair, with children known as “glue sniffers” wandering the streets, beggars on many corners, and aggressive tour guides ready to harass anyone who looked like an outsider. Even more apparent was the difference between the cities—Rabat, Tangiers, and Casablanca with their nightclubs and fashionably dressed men and women—and the small towns throughout the country, dominated by the local mosques and livestock: two worlds living side by side.

The question that remains is: how are these globalization processes affecting individuals, the likelihood of terrorism, and/or the prevention of terrorism? Are individuals feeling more isolated into groups or more integrated into a world community within this globalized space? There is no easy answer to these questions, and after spending my summer in Morocco I think much depends on individual experience. No two people experience globalization in the same way, nor do they respond to globalization in the same way.

The likelihood that an individual will turn to extremism is impossible to predict. It follows that prevention is inherently difficult. Yet, there are certain areas where the United States and other governments (including Morocco and the EU) can work together to decrease the negative impacts of globalization on individuals while increasing the positive impacts.

My Fletcher MALD thesis will attempt to provide policy recommendations on these issues by focusing on the role national governments must play in supporting local governments and organizations collaborating “translocally” to not only prevent terrorists from successfully carrying out attacks, but to also prevent individuals from reaching the point where they decide their best option is to turn to extremism. My experience in Morocco was critical to helping me form this framework and will be an important anchor as I move forward. Without the support of The Jebson Center for Counter-Terrorism Studies to travel and conduct research in Morocco, none of this would be possible.

Intelligence Fusion: October 16, 2007 Conference Overview and Products



On October 16, 2007, the Jebson Center, sponsored by [Sayres & Associates](#), hosted an invitation-only professional conference entitled **“Defining State and Regional Intelligence Fusion: Experiences and Lessons Learned in Interdisciplinary Collaboration.”**

Local, state, and federal officials from the offices of the MA Undersecretary of Homeland Security, the Department of Homeland Security Directorate of State and Local Fusion Centers, the United Nations Department of Safety and Security, and the former Deputy Commissioner for the New York City Counter-Terrorism Division of the NYPD (Michael Sheehan, pictured) presented critical issues in information-sharing, and attendees included regional practitioners of intelligence, law enforcement, and homeland security. Participants discussed the state of information-sharing systems, the roles of various departments in coordinating and innovating intelligence solutions, and future challenges in counter-terrorism.

Michael Sheehan, former NYPD Deputy Commissioner for Counter-Terrorism and U.S. Department of State Ambassador-at-Large for Counter-Terrorism, spoke at the conference lunch.

A summary document of this informative and successful conference will be available on the Jebson Center’s website in the coming weeks. Now available is a Jebson Center Special Release by panelist Martin Murphy, Research Fellow, Corbett Center for Maritime Studies, Kings College London. His paper on “The Role of Public-Private Partnerships in Maritime Awareness and Security” is available for download on our [Publications page](#).



JCCTS Research Activities and Opportunities

The Jebson Center conducts customized research projects for government agencies, law enforcement officials, and private sector corporations that focus on counter-terrorism and security policy. Recent projects include a field survey of port security compliance and operations, a content analysis of jihadist websites, and the

development of an original terrorist profile database. For more information on Jebesen Center research capabilities, please contact [Stacy Neal](#), Associate Director for External Affairs, or visit our [website](#).

The Jebesen Center also provides travel and research funding to select graduate students and Ph.D. candidates from greater Boston academic institutions. Candidates must submit a fully developed research proposal for consideration, and all proposed costs must be applied to direct research and travel expenses. To see examples of past funded projects, please click [here](#). For more information and our full research guidelines, please click [here](#).

About *On the Front Lines* and the Jebesen Center

On the Front Lines is distributed by the Jebesen Center for Counter-Terrorism Studies, a research center established at The Fletcher School, Tufts University in September 2005. Our mission is to increase the understanding and competency of counter-terrorism professionals and academics around the world. To accomplish this mission, the Jebesen Center funds a robust research and analysis program, hosts conferences and a visiting fellows program, and conducts outreach activities. We promote research and dialogue with an emphasis on predicting, preventing, and preempting terrorist activity. *On The Front Lines*, an e-newsletter launched in Fall 2007, reflects our commitment to field-based, practical research and inquiry to promote innovative, proactive solutions in the field of counter-terrorism. For more information about the Jebesen Center, please visit our [website](#).

The Jebesen Center for Counter-Terrorism Studies

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