



COMBATING TERRORISM CENTER
at West Point

APPLYING THEORY TO PRACTICE



OUR VISION

Applying Theory to Practice

The events of September 11, 2001 reinforced the perilous nature of the international security environment. The present and future leaders of our country must therefore be armed with the tools to make sense of new terrorist threats, to lead our nation and to succeed in an increasingly complex and hostile world. The Combating Terrorism Center at West Point combines the United States Military Academy's tradition of academic excellence with applied operational expertise to deliver cutting-edge policy recommendations. Taking a holistic approach to terrorism studies allows the Center to leverage its expertise from the operational, academic, intelligence and policy-making communities.

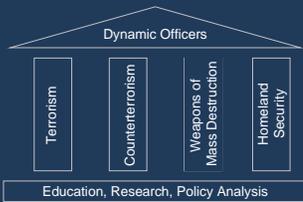
The Center is at the forefront of terrorism research and its application. Drawing together internationally recognized experts from academic, policy and military field, the Center seeks to create a dynamic intellectual and practical knowledge base for leaders at all levels. Our research program, curriculum and analytical products provide the necessary insight to counter urgent security challenges creatively.

The Combating Terrorism Center at West Point endeavors to develop an internationally recognized center for terrorism studies to better understand the foreign and domestic terrorist threats to security, to educate leaders who have responsibilities to counterterrorism and to provide relevant policy analysis and assistance to leaders dealing with the current and future terrorist threats.

foresight

A HOLISTIC APPROACH

Strategically Integrating Expertise



West Point is uniquely positioned among other elite academic institutions to house the Center because of its interdisciplinary structure, and mission to educate and train cadets. The Center's personnel are equipped with not only exceptional academic credentials but on-the-ground experience generating a comparative advantage to advance timely and applicable policy recommendations.

The Center expands balanced perspectives centered on its four core pillars of terrorism, counterterrorism, weapons of mass destruction and homeland security.

Education is a critical component in combating the dynamic nature of the terrorist threat. Without a comprehensive understanding of terrorism – one informed by history, culture, religion, economics – we are resigned to repeating past mistakes. The Center therefore places significant emphasis on developing curriculum models that are broadly inclusive of theoretical and practical knowledge.

The Center consists of three components: a Fellows Program; a Research Program for Scholars, Faculty and Cadets; and an Outreach Program. Together they comprise a synergistic education and research model that will have an immediate and significant impact on understanding, teaching and analyzing terrorism and counterterrorism issues.

The Senior Fellows Program provides unparalleled subject matter expertise and expands the Center's educational value to students. The Center is equally dedicated to supporting emerging experts and has developed opportunities specifically targeting young scholars through the Fellows Program.

The Center's Research Program uniquely positions it to build bridges between policy makers and academics. Through its pioneering research efforts, the Center is dedicated to advancing focused solutions for recognizing and combating terrorist threats.

Through its Outreach Program, the Center collaborates with numerous federal, state and local agencies including the Department of Defense, the Fire Department of New York City and private enterprise.



strategy

THE COMBATING TERRORISM CENTER

Educating Leaders of the Nation

The United States Military Academy at West Point has been providing commissioned leaders to the nation for over two hundred years. Established in 1802, West Point's distinguished alumni include names such as Eisenhower, MacArthur, Schwarzkopf, Downing and McCaffrey. West Point educates, trains and inspires its graduates to a career of commissions service in the US Army, and to a lifetime of selfless service to the nation. Inherent with that mission, West Point provides cadets with a first-class undergraduate education. Part of that education includes understanding the current security environment facing the nation.

Recognizing the immediate need for a superior education in terrorism and counterterrorism studies and new techniques for analyzing and resolving issues, the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point was formed in 2003. Through the generosity of Vincent Viola, a 1977 graduate of West Point, the Center was officially launched in February 2003 within the Department of Social Sciences.

“The only certainty of twenty-first century life is rapid change – social, political, economic, technological. Those who learn quickest and best will lead and shape this change to build the future of our Army, our country and our world.”

Brigadier General (Ret.) Daniel J. Kaufman
Dean of the Academic Board
2000-2005



leadership