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Forensic Psychological Perspectives in Deterring the Impact of Acts of Terrorism from ISIS and Khorasan: An Antiterrorism

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Terrorism is a serious issue that affects lives around the world. Is there a way to deter terrorists from engaging in terrorist attacks? According to the Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI), there are two types of terrorism to consider: domestic and international. For the purpose of this paper, international terrorism is defined as terrorism that takes place outside of the jurisdiction of the United States and domestic terrorism occurs in the United States (FBI, 2011). Terrorism has varying definitions depending on the country and agency enforcing terrorism laws. The United Nations does not have an agreed upon definition and Bruce (2013) argued that without an agreed upon definition, counterterrorism measures will not be effective. This paper will focus deterrence of terrorist acts by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Khorasan from a forensic psychological perspective.

It was, according to Sun Tzu, Chinese military specialist and general that, "One may know how to conquer without being able to do it" (Cowley & Parker, 1996). It was nearly 2,000 years ago since *The Art of War* was written, and it still serves as material being studied across the world in military academies. Researchers have discussed the definition and impact of terrorism, and since the September 11 attacks, terrorism was coined with a new meaning. Not that the act of terror itself was uncommon in the Western world, we know that it exists, but the depth of the organized attack showed the general public how vulnerable the United States is (Habermas, 2001).

Considering the form of brutality, the unpredictability of the acts, and our frustrated attempts at trying to understand the goals of a terrorist, it is simple to say that this is a very complex topic. Terrorists and their acts have been compared to one of a psychopath (Borum, 2004). In spite of this the appeals between "a terrorist" and "psychopath," it is fair to say that terrorists are many things, but to view them as a collective group of psychopaths (Borum, 2004), may not take us one step closer to getting to know our enemy. Let us look closer at one of the points Sun Tzu made. The Western world has power, strategies, knowledge from a historical viewpoint, and contemporary warfare. Yet, the United States seems to be more and more irresolute toward how to respond to terrorism. A painful lesson learned post 9/11 is that the United States clearly did not understand our enemy. For instance, Osama Bin Laden was underestimated for his financial capacity, mission, and resources in general (Hoffman, 2002).

 As researchers strive to understand acts of terror from a political and psychological standpoint, one may try to look into strategic planning as known in warfare. However, keep in mind and see beyond pure strategic warfare acts and realize that a clean cut balance-of-power approach, will have flaws, and perhaps be prone to more failure, especially in the war on terrorism (Pease, 2003). As far as ISIS is concerned, it seems as if they are conducting warfare, but seemingly without any organizational rules.

AQI, ISI, and Now ISIL/ISIS

In 1999, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi founded the Islamic State, initially known as Jamāʻat alTawḥīd wa-al-Jihād, translating to "The Organization of Monotheism and Jihad." His background as a Sunni militant from Jordan had already made his *skin thick* from imprisonments, deaths, and other experiences (Corbett, 2014). Associations to Osama Bin Laden were contested back in 2000, but it was not until 2004 that Zarqawi formally strengthened the network of the

group by joining the forces of al-Qaeda (Simonelli, 2014). Al-Zarqawi was killed in 2006 by

U.S. troops, and this is when the name of the group became the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), but

after having expanded into Syria in 2013, its nom de guerre became the Islamic State of Iraq and

Syria, also now known as ISIS (Corbett, 2014). The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS),

sometimes known by its previous name as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), were

officially established in 2013.

 Founder of Al-Qaeda, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi copied Osama bin Laden's leadership

strategy. "Zarqawi set up numerous semi-autonomous terrorist cells across Iraq, many of which

could continue operating after his death" (Finer & Knickmeyer, 2006). The terrorist group

beheads victims, straps suicide bombs on the mentally disabled to later be detonated as well as

other heinous acts. Following the death of Zarqawi, Abu Bakr-al Baghdadi became the current

leader of ISIS.

 ISIS' aim was to establish a caliphate in which they succeeded as their current leader,

Abu Bakr-al Baghdadi, self-claimed the title. History shows us that the last caliphate was

abolished in 1924 by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, "the father of modern Turkey" (BBC News,

2014b). ISIS wants to "overthrow the existing governments of unstable and Muslim-dominated

nations to establish their own state" (Rodger, 2014). Furthermore, ISIS is ambitious about

expanding Islamist Ideology in order to "unify all Islamic countries," as a result, both ISIS and

al-Qaeda compete for influence over Islamist extremist groups around the world.

 One of their other aims is to establish Salafist ruling in parts of Syria, Lebanon, Israel,

Jordan, Cyprus and Southern Turkey, and to proclaim a new caliphate. As mentioned earlier, the

new leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, managed to get ISIS denounced from al-Qaeda's network

earlier this year in February (Giovanni, 2014). This was a result of al-Baghdadi trying to declare

the al-Nusrah front under the command of ISIS; despite the ongoing allegiance discussions

between al-Nusrah Front's leader and al-Qaeda. Since June 2014, the militant group, ISIS, has

already killed 2,000 people (Brachman, 2014).

ISIS is influenced by the Wahhabi movement, which is an ideological movement that has

turned militant. Abd al-Wahhab (c. 1702-c. 1791) was the "founder of the fundamentalist branch

of the Islamic thought and practice known as Wahhabism" (Encyclopedia of World Biography,

2015). He began teaching in his hometown based on the Quran and later was influenced by the

idea of monotheism. He did not believe in a divine figure and from this he started to gain

support and followers. He believed that Muhammad's time in Medina was the "ideal Muslim

society" in which people should aspire to recreate. He argued that all Muslims should pledge to

only one Muslim leader, a caliph. Wahhab stated that "those who would not conform to this

view should be killed, their wives and daughters violated, and their possessions confiscated"

(Crooke, 2014, para. 13). To understand this movement one must understand the scope of Islam.

The majority of ISIS' income comes from oil. They control a production of 80,000

barrels a day in Iraq; whereas, in Syria they are in charge of 60% of the production, which is

roughly 385,000 barrels a day (Iraq Energy Institute). The territory they are fighting for overlaps

with an area that possesses a lot of oil. Because there is little development in those areas, we can

infer that they continue to see oil as a large portion of their income for the future. Although oil is

their main income, they "built up something like a mini-state: collecting the equivalent of taxes,

selling electricity, and exporting oil to fund its militant activities" (Beauchamp, 2014, para. 10).

Although they have a high income, they also are formidable spenders. There are medical

expenses, safe houses, weapons and other equipment that are required. They also pay salaries to

the members based on family size and if the member is killed they promise to keep making those

payments to the family (Shatz, 2014). This by itself can become costly with several thousand members.

ISIS has important bases throughout Syria. These bases offer them a safe zone when fighting Iraqis as they can retreat to Syria. This tactic also aligns when they are fighting Syrians, as they are able to retreat to Iraq. The campaign that America launched is constructed to address this problem. They wish to destroy ISIS in both Syria and Iraq by expanding the air war. This will put pressure on ISIS in both countries and give it nowhere to retreat to. "The airstrikes in Iraq are no longer limited to limiting risks to US citizens or ending a humanitarian crisis: they'll be all over Iraq, wherever the US wants to hit ISIS" (Beauchamp, 2014).

It is rather disconcerting when attempting to understand extremist groups, and specifically ISIS who do not seem to discriminate while they recruit, are seemingly barbaric (Andersson, 2014). Because of their open mindedness of recruiting followers and fighters, they become even more dangerous to public safety due to their extended mobility. Even within their own network, they choose to defy leaders of al-Qaeda, as can be shown in the al-Nusrah Front case. Also, considering that approximately a third of the 35,000 fighters incorporated within ISIS are foreign recruits (Andersson, 2014), it is fair to state that ISIS is not simply rendered by religious fanaticism. Nevertheless, religious elements cannot be discarded. In relation to culture, Johnson (2013) spoke of how the influence of religious values remains more explicit in the Islamic world, as opposed to the Western culture. For instance, the Western culture has had influences of institutional Christianity, but as of today, it has adapted to more secular values (Johnson, 2013). Historically, we are seemingly familiar with the Ottoman Empire, the first prophet of Muhammad, and even told that Islamic jurists have always had ideas of that the end of history will see its light when "Dar Al-Islam (the house of Islam), overcomes the Dar Al-Harb

(the house of war, the non-Islamic world)" (Johnson, 2013). What else is it that fuels ISIS? Perhaps this is a part of history that perpetuates the strong desire to establish Salafist ruling and claim territories for this? Furthermore, is it a combined quest for territory, power, superiority, sovereignty, and perhaps even identity? Surely, it cannot only be religion, culture, and from a microcosm sprung from the collective group they have created? Naturally, this is difficult for us to digest; desires can have outrageous actions based on barbaric deeds, regardless of gender, age or group to form an identity of a group. This cannot be anything else than psychopathy, right? Johnson spoke of how theories of psychology are important for mental health purposes, how mental health practitioners understand theories in order to develop tangible understanding of a client. Of course, we do not believe, nor does Johnson, that any member of an extremist group would knock on our door, ready to begin a journey of self-exploration and counseling. The members of the militant group probably already see themselves as being on a self-fulfilling journey. Looking at the different psychological theories that are mostly used in our contemporary world of mental health, it is not trivial to try to understand a terrorist through the lens of any of the theories. It will help us in our understanding and war against terrorism to do so.

Johnson (2013) stated understanding terrorists with the existential theory is explained. Other theories can assist with understanding as well, for instance, Adlerian theory speaks of the innate need for belonging, which may perpetuate an inferiority complex, and as a result lead to desperate actions to fulfill self (Sharf, 2012). It would be naïve to remain in some kind of belief and to simply dismiss acts of terror as the doings of a psychopath, even if it may seem to be the most satisfying way to identify a terrorist by (Andersson, 2014). We have a need to label things, people and situations for a moment of false comfort. Keep in mind, just because we put a name

to something, does not automatically mean we understand it. "Psychopath" as a personality

disorder which is not even listed in the recently updated DSM-V (Sellborn, 2013).

How does one easily respond to acts that are besotted by such cruel violence and

demands or cultural indications we cannot understand? How do we even start to understand

terrorism and from which aspect can we deter the impact of contemporary warfare that the grand

acts of terrorisms imply? How can we fully understand who ISIS is? As Johnson (2013)

believed *more questions than answers*, appear when looking at the mindset of a terrorist.

Perhaps, viewing this extremist group, as a social collective might be a universal way to help us

understand the historical elements of a group we are unfamiliar with. We need to approach it

with strategies of contemporary warfare, and as it is, war on terror. We need to take in account

tangible elements such as ethnicity, history, and other cultural factors, even intangible elements

such as ideology (Johnson, 2013). We need to start understanding the depth of the history,

culture, ideology, the complexity, and historical trauma that comes with ISIS. This is not to

serve as a defense for their actions, but merely a standpoint to argue for how to not forget the

tentative categorization of terrorist acts as simply uncontrollable, extreme, unpredictable and

cruel. Again, the world population must still remember it as very much so, a strategic warfare.

Looking at the followers of ISIS and the group itself, one can ask, is it an innate but a

subconscious quest of identity, so strong it has lost all its rationale? According to Maslow and

the hierarchy of needs, as illustrated by McLeod (2014), the need for belonging and the search

for an identity and self-actualization are innate within us. Moreover, can the lack of rationale

become a quest for immortality in some way? Because surely, the sense of power when causing

so much terror must somewhat satisfy that desire? In theoretical approaches, such as the

Adlerian theory, it is believed that each individual is born with inferiority and then strives for

superiority. Many contributing factors play a role, but the social demands are a big part of it, and

if disregarded, an inferiority complex can develop. This can, for instance, result in great

arrogance and egocentric motives to lead a life (Sharf, 2012). For instance, it is not impossible

to identify in followers and fighters of ISIS.

ISIS is known for their brutality and public and mass executions. Footage and pictures of

the gruesome killings have been posted online. An Islamist militant who goes by the name

"Jihadi John" beheaded two American journalists, James Foley and Steven Sotloff. The

beheadings took place in just two weeks. The first journalist was James Foley who went missing

in 2012. A video was then released in August 2014 warning the United States to stop airstrikes,

which then ended with Foley's death (Beauchamp, 2014). Steven Sotloff was the second

American to get captured and killed. A video was released in which he was wearing an orange

jumpsuit and a masked man with a knife was standing behind him. In the video Sotloff stated

that he is "'paying the price' for U.S. airstrikes against the group" (Democracy Now, 2014, para.

5). He is also one of 71 journalists that have been killed in the last 3 years while reporting on the

Syrian conflicts.

There is also a civil war in Syria between the Syrian government and affiliated parties,

and the opposition parties such as Jabhat Al-Nusra, Free Syrian Army, and ISIS. The war began

in March 2011 as public protests spread around the country due to the arrest and torture of

children who wrote anti-government graffiti on a wall. The protesting was peaceful in the

beginning but the government responded with anger and violence. The people of Syria want

greater freedom and for President Bashar al-Assad to resign as the Assad family has held power

since 1971 (BBC News, 2014a). Since the conflict began, roughly 203,000 deaths have been

counted for; but the real toll is estimated to be 280,000 since not all deaths have been verified

(Syrian Observatory for Human Rights).

It is important to keep in mind that ISIS is a product of the Iraq War and not a product of the Syrian Civil War. "It has been enhanced by the conflict in Syria, but not created by it" (Prashad, 2014). The war was and still is an opportunity for ISIS to gain territory and seize power and control.

Khorasan

There is a separate al-Qaeda cell in Syria known as Khorasan. President Barack Obama called the Khorasan group *seasoned al-Qaeda operatives* (Yan, 2014). The group is trying to achieve success in the way that ISIS did by using social media to recruit Westerners. The difference between the two groups is that Khorasan wants to attack mainly the United States and other parts of the world; whereas, ISIS wishes to gain territory in the region. What distinguishes Khorasan from the rest of the organizations is that they expressed little interest in the outcome of the war (Masi, 2014).

The Khorasan Group first appeared in mainstream media in 2012, but they have been around for much longer than that. The Khorasan Group is made up of high-ranking members of Al-Qaeda who relocated after 2001. Information about this group is scarce and many people do not know this group exists and/or believes the United States government created this group as a reason to attack Syria. What we do know tells us that this group is small and made up of only elite members. The Khorasan group's affiliation and status in the jihadist movement speaks to the threat it poses.

The Khorasan group is a separate entity from the Islamic State. These two groups share similar views on Islam, but the Khorasan group does not condone the acts of their fellow terrorist group, ISIS. The group believes that the attacks against Muslims depreciate the main goal of the

movement, which is to take control of a wide range of Western nations. One of the main reasons

we have not heard much about this group is because they keep a low profile, while instructing

others to do their bidding. Unlike ISIS, this publicly demonstrates their power and range by

broadcasting attacks in the media. ISIS can be viewed as the little brother to the Khorasan

group. ISIS does not yet understand how to break the rules without getting caught nor do they

understand that a low profile is the best way to cause the most damage without being suspected.

The Khorasan group, being Al-Qaeda members; has also demonstrated that they can attack

foreign nations including the United States and have the means to do so. ISIS has only ever

attacked in the areas surrounding their central location (Thompson, 2014). Despite being

overshadowed by ISIS in the general media, The Khorasan group's existence demonstrates the

strength and resilience of Al-Qaeda and shows the West that this group continues to be a real

threat on foreign soil. The group's presence also demonstrates that taking down one key member

will not disband the entire group. The United States killed Osama Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda is

still in existence. Western nations have a much bigger problem on their hands than ISIS. The

focus should be destroying the jihadist movement at its most basic level rather than attempting to

go after the different groups separately.

        The Khorasan group poses a serious threat to western nations merely because the group is

made up of members with excessive experience on terrorist attacks, a wide range of adversaries

in different countries, and the ability and knowledge on how to recruit members both domestic

and foreign. This group has a high level of intelligence and has managed to stay well below the

radar of the West until recent years. The United States and other nations still do not know how

far their reach extends and that alone speaks to their level of threat. The American Enterprise

Institute published an article on the current events stating, "The Khorasan group's precise role in

Syria is not fully known, but it is behind efforts to recruit and train Americans and Europeans for operations in the West."

Information about this group has been mixed. Some individuals believe this group is a real threat, which is described in the previous section and in later sections. Many people in the United States and other nations believe this is a new terrorist organization and do not realize that this group is essentially Al-Qaeda minus a few players. Controversial perspectives have emerged as to origins and influence of this group, but gaining information on the origin will be difficult to obtain. Attempting to conduct research on this group has not been fruitful in the past and will not become any easier. The Khorasan group has lasted so long because of the tactics they employ. The United States and other Western nations have work to do if they want to successfully stop the spread of this group and ultimately deter attacks from the Khorasan group.

Global Perspective

The United States and global perspectives on ISIS and the Khorasan group can be found in popular magazines, news outlets, and social media. However, abundant research on United States and global perspectives and how it impacts the lives of those countries citizens is lacking. In the United States and worldwide, perspectives on these groups and how they should be handled are controversial. Research on ISIS and the Khorasan group is rare; however, research on terrorism perspectives is more abundant. In this section, we will discuss United States and global perspectives on terrorism as well as ISIS and the Khorasan group. In 2012, 6,771 terrorist's attacks occurred worldwide, resulting in more than 11,000 deaths and more than 21,600 injuries. Of those attacks and casualties, 1,141 were perpetrated by ISIS and Al- Qaeda in Iraq. Those numbers rose in 2013 to 9,707 terrorist attacks and resulted in 17,800 deaths and 32,500 injuries. According to 2013 statistical data, ISIS and Al-Qaeda were responsible for

2,126 attacks and casualties (National Consortium, 2012, 2013).

In 2008, researchers converged for an international conference to discuss terrorism, modernity, and the global perspective on violence (German Historical Institute, 2008). Alexander Demandt explained that terrorism has been around for more than two millennia. He described that if violence is effective; it becomes a "rational means to an end." Demandt also offered that if there is no immediate result, the violence will escalate until the ultimate goal is achieved. From that, he concluded that terrorism is just a part of history. In opposition, David Rapoport spoke of terrorism appearing only in modern times and explained that terrorism in the last two centuries is dissimilar from past historical violence. Rapoport called for researchers to look critically at modern culture and technology. Dan Edelstein from Stanford University (2015) offered the idea that terror came from the tradition of natural rights in which he referenced the French revolution as well as the Nazi and Soviet regimes. Joshua Goldstein and Gavin Cameron viewed terrorism philosophically and described it as a "modern process of simultaneous identity construction and destruction," and explained that "this dynamic of violence exposes contemporary terrorism as a logical articulation of modern identity" (German Historical Institute, 2008). Researchers from institutions worldwide came together to present their work on terrorism. From this conference, we get a glimpse of the research that has already been done on terrorism.

Perspectives on ISIS vary from country to country as well as the interpretation of the threat they pose. Even within one country the perspectives can be quite different. Mark Thompson (2014) wrote in Time Magazine that ISIS as well as Al-Qaeda is weak and only gained recognition after attacking western nations. ISIS demanded the United States and their allies attention when they kidnapped and murdered innocent people and beheaded journalists on

the Internet for everyone to see. Thompson presents two very different points of view about the potential threat of ISIS. Quoting Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, "They (ISIS) marry ideology, a sophistication of strategic, and tactical military prowess, they are tremendously well-funded. Oh, this is beyond anything that we've seen. So we must prepare for everything." Secretary of State John Kerry expresses the opposite point of view; saying "These guys (ISIS) are not 10 ft. tall. They're not as disciplined as everybody thinks; they're not as organized as everybody thinks." He goes on to describe Pentagon reports about ISIS targets which shows that their resources are no match for western nations. Thompson does not want citizens to underestimate ISIS and their abilities, but wants to put the potential threat into perspective. His belief is that the best way to deal with ISIS terrorists is to understand how they came about and deal with it before they pose a larger threat worldwide (Thompson, 2014).

Those attitudes reflect what government officials and media experts believe; however, the general public in the United States seems to feel differently. Polling done by NBC News/Wall Street Journal showed that 47% of Americans believe the United States is unsafe and only 26% believe that the United States is safe (Murray, 2014). Previous interventions have been met with little acceptance as Americans believe that the Iraq war failed to reduce the threat of terrorism and 38% believe the war made the United States less safe. Polls show that Americans have a strong belief on how to handle the ISIS situation. Ekins (2014) recorded that the Reason-Rupe poll found that more Americans favor airstrikes over sending troops. The majority of Republicans believe the United States should send troops and will need a large number of troops as well. The differences among different age groups in the United States are noteworthy. The majority of individuals 18 to 29 oppose airstrikes, but the majority of older age groups actually support military action; however, the majority across age groups opposes sending ground troops

(Ekins, 2014).

Across the globe, individuals from different countries offer their perspectives on ISIS. Syrian activist, Yassin al-Haj Saleh; stated he is *ambivalent about a Western attack against ISIS*. He believes that ISIS should be eradicated from the world because of the harm they have done to Syrians and their revolution. However, he also believes that an intervention from the West would make Syrians suspicious of western motives for intervention. His belief is that fault lies with Americans role in the region and problems within Islam. Another Syrian activist explains that ISIS will not be destroyed until there is analysis of their uprising. Kadouni continued to say that many Syrians believe ISIS to be their liberator from the Assad regime and stopping the Assad regime is necessary (Postel, 2014). Mike Ghouse, an Islamic leader; presents the perspective that what ISIS is doing goes against their holy book and religion should not be used for justification. His Holiness the Dalai Lama, a Buddhist leader; offers a similar perspective as Ghouse explained that acts from ISIS contradict the Koran which condemns such acts from ISIS contradict the Koran which condemns such acts (Boothe, 2014). More information is necessary to provide statistically significant information. Perspectives in the United States and globally tend to overlap and each country has views on the best way to combat terrorist acts from this group.

The global perspective of the Khorasan group in this section is given from the United States perspective of the group's threat worldwide. Information on United States and global perspectives on the Khorasan group and how to deal with them moving forward is not readily available. The Khorasan group has not been prominent in media outlets and has not been the focus of public attention for a few years. A small percentage of individuals in the United States have offered their perspectives on the threat of the Khorasan group and what should be done.

Researcher, James Phillips (2014) of The Heritage Foundation; reminded us that the Khorasan group is compiled of high status Al-Qaeda members. He explained that the rise of this group shows how much of a threat this group is. The Khorasan group took information gained through Al-Qaeda and recruited individuals who were already suffering. In other words, the Khorasan group capitalized on vulnerable states and their people. Phillips referenced United States official's statement to further explain the perceived threat: "U.S. officials now see the Khorasan group as, 'the primary Al-Qaeda entity plotting near-term attacks against the west'" (2014, p. 3). Dissimilar to ISIS, the Khorasan group main focus is direct attacks on western nation's soil. The groups continued presence may mean that they have support from the Iranian government which allows them to continue recruiting more domestic and foreign adversaries. Phillips explained that the Khorasan group will become a larger threat if intervention on Al-Qaeda as a unit is not done. Analysis of the groups rise to power and intervention on a basic level is necessary to ward off potential attacks in the future. Recently, many foreign citizens have showed support for the Islamic revolution and have joined terrorist organizations. Matthew Levitt from the Washington Institute points out that the Khorasan group is such a huge threat because of their presence in Syria. They have access to supportive foreigners and the knowledge to carry out their cause effectively. The Khorasan group has a big range including members and countries they are active in (Levitt, 2014). However, Obama spoke on the recent airstrikes in Syria and confirmed that the leader of the Khorasan group, Fadhli, was killed. This act of counterterrorism is considered a success, but it may not slow the progress this group has made in the Middle East. This new information is the only information given by government officials and almost nothing is known about the actual impact of the recent attacks. The lack of information on the Khorasan group makes it difficult to obtain a well-rounded perspective of this group worldwide. As

mentioned previously in this section, there is a deficit in the information that is available about

cultural perspectives on ISIS and the Khorasan group. It is hard gaining a clear, complete view

of public attitudes and perspectives on these groups and how to deter acts of terrorism by them.

Research on terrorism needs to be updated constantly to keep up with current events. That type

of research could provide information on how best to counteract terrorist progress. Research on

ISIS and the Khorasan group is non-existent and obtaining evidence-based research would not be

easy with the process being on going and gradual. However, evidence based research is

necessary to develop a good grasp of how best to deter terrorism.

Deterrence and Counterterrorism Measures

According to Kroenig and Pavel (2012), deterrence is a strategic interaction in which an

individual prevents the opposition from taking action that the opposition otherwise would have

taken by convincing the opposing party that the cost of taking the action will outweigh potential

gains. In other words, the individual can shape the opposition's perception of the cost or benefit

of the concerned action. Kroenig and Pavel (2012) suggested it is necessary to separate a

terrorist network into its various functional roles.

We are not going to deter or defeat terrorism by viewing them through the lens of pure

warfare strategies. The understanding of our enemy and ourselves are paramount, as is the

understanding of the culture, religion, ISIS as a social collective, psychological and political

aspects; all of this together as an anti-terrorist framework, could possibly lead us closer to an

even start to deter some of the impact impinged upon us. For instance, for now, ISIS has chosen

to fight their enemies on their home ground instead of trying to threaten the United States

specifically (Simonelli, 2014). While this may be true and perhaps a relief, it is crucial for us to

not allow ourselves into a blind spot where we end up underestimating the network,

organizational skills, capacity or agenda of ISIS. There might not be a solution to end the war on

terrorism in this century; however, we must keep looking for understanding, and look at their

weaknesses. Perhaps long-term airstrikes ordered by President Obama is not the best way to

reduce threats of ISIS (Corbett, 2014). While we have no answers, we hope to find other

solutions in attempts to reduce ISIS and their mobility. The airstrikes might just perpetuate their

mobility by an expansion? Undoubtedly, many factors play a part and while it may be difficult,

one should start and look more into the topic of gender (Soussan & Weingarten, 2014) as one of

the ingredients necessary to incorporate in future anti-terrorism strategies? Regardless of how

we respond to ISIS in this war against terrorism, we can be sure to initiate more aggression and,

supposedly, their plans for retaliation. We must then not let the impact of ISIS shake our ground

and remember one of the other principles taught by Sun Tzu: "Rouse him, and learn the principle

of his activity or inactivity. Force him to reveal himself, so as to find out his vulnerable spots."

According to Abrahms (2014), there are two traditional ways of looking at deterrence.

The first way of deterring terrorists is by punishment, which ultimately punishes someone from

their actions. The second way of deterrence is deterrence by denial, which denies an individual

benefits. Terrorists tend to be undeterrable, especially when it comes to recruitment. New

terrorist recruits obtain benefits from joining a terrorist group. New members gain a sense of

purpose and belonging. Many gain respect and join to end their lives or the lives of others

(Abrahms, 2014).

Similarly, Kroenig, and Pavel (2012) created a direct and indirect approach to deterring

terrorists. The direct response is when a direct threat is made to respond against the terrorists or

threaten to deny tactical success including strengthening homeland security. Often terrorist

groups can be deterred by simple threat of retaliation. Terrorist may also respond differently

with the possibility publicizing their resilience, such as adequate disaster planning and emergency response systems. The indirect response to terrorist includes threatening to respond against assets valued by terrorist groups. This indirect method includes imposing costs or restrictions on the families of terrorist members. One must identify what the objectives being sought in their terror strategy. For example, if terrorist group's primary goal is to gain exposure through the media, the country could limit the publicity and coverage or that terrorist attack or organization. One could also use the strategic level of denial. This could include keeping United States troops in the Middle East despite increasing demands to remove the troops. Explaining to the terrorist group that no matter how much violence they inflict, the U.S. troops will remain, will in theory lessen the incentive to carry out attacks.

Sandler and Arce (2003) discussed how game theory can be used to deter terrorism as well as strategic and mathematical calculations to make decisions. Although generally used in economics, psychologists have been able to study game theory by looking at human behavior and emotion. Sandler and Arce stated that game theory captures the strategic interactions between terrorists and a targeted government. It also helps those who are trying to act according to how they think their counterparts will act and react. Each side issues threats and promises to gain a strategic advantage and one can analyze the costs and benefits of a decision. A psychologist can use this strategy to deter both Khorasan and ISIS terrorists.

One group that may be possible to deter are supporters of terrorists (Abrahms, 2014). Knox (2014) described two statutes that prohibit providing material support or resources used to aid in carrying out terrorist attack, specifically 18 U.S.C. Sections 2339A and 2339B. Section 2339A makes it illegal to demonstrate support for crimes terrorist committed and providing assistance or materials to facilitate terrorist attacks. Section 2339B extends 2339A to supporting

foreign terrorists. To violate this statute, one must knowingly assist a foreign terrorist

organization in which the individual is aware they are engaging in terrorist activities (Knox,

2014). Unfortunately there are currently no statutes regarding recruitment of individuals,

although with the recent advances in technology, online recruitment is becoming more prevalent

and is difficult to prove. Forensic psychologists can assist policy makers in developing policies

to address crimes related to terrorism. The USA PATRIOT Act was created following 9/11 to

help fight terrorism and is set to be updated in summer 2015. Forensic psychologists could play

a key role in developing this act and can assist with creating new strategies for deterring

terrorism (Weimann, 2006).

        Stevens (2005) suggested a multidisciplinary approach to countering terrorism.

Behavioral sciences, such as psychology, assist with profiling terrorists, teaching tolerance and

acceptance, modifying images of terrorism in the media, and by assisting building international

policy and conflict resolution. Currently there are 12 psychological associations that help United

Nations policy makers work towards peace, security, economic and social advancement, and

human rights (Stevens, 2005). Policy makers should obtain various perspectives when creating

policies and psychologists can provide key insight.

        According to Torres-Soriano (2013), it is difficult to deter terrorist from using social

media. Once one website is taken down, another one is quickly put back up. To create a social

media account on sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, all an individual needs is an

email address. This means that an individual does not need to provide name or contact

information besides an email. There is no shortage of emails for an individual or group to create

(Torres-Soriano, 2013).

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