



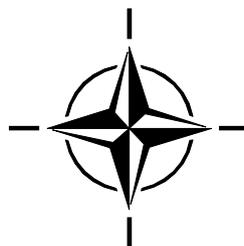
RTO TECHNICAL REPORT

TR-HFM-140

# Psychosocial, Organizational and Cultural Aspects of Terrorism

(Aspects psychosociaux, organisationnels  
et culturels du terrorisme)

Final Report of the NATO Human Factors and  
Medicine Research Task Group 140.



Published November 2011





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Edited by:

Dr. Anne Speckhard

Georgetown University Medical School – Washington, DC, USA

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# The Research and Technology Organisation (RTO) of NATO

RTO is the single focus in NATO for Defence Research and Technology activities. Its mission is to conduct and promote co-operative research and information exchange. The objective is to support the development and effective use of national defence research and technology and to meet the military needs of the Alliance, to maintain a technological lead, and to provide advice to NATO and national decision makers. The RTO performs its mission with the support of an extensive network of national experts. It also ensures effective co-ordination with other NATO bodies involved in R&T activities.

RTO reports both to the Military Committee of NATO and to the Conference of National Armament Directors. It comprises a Research and Technology Board (RTB) as the highest level of national representation and the Research and Technology Agency (RTA), a dedicated staff with its headquarters in Neuilly, near Paris, France. In order to facilitate contacts with the military users and other NATO activities, a small part of the RTA staff is located in NATO Headquarters in Brussels. The Brussels staff also co-ordinates RTO's co-operation with nations in Middle and Eastern Europe, to which RTO attaches particular importance especially as working together in the field of research is one of the more promising areas of co-operation.

The total spectrum of R&T activities is covered by the following 7 bodies:

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- IST Information Systems Technology Panel
- NMSG NATO Modelling and Simulation Group
- SAS System Analysis and Studies Panel
- SCI Systems Concepts and Integration Panel
- SET Sensors and Electronics Technology Panel

These bodies are made up of national representatives as well as generally recognised 'world class' scientists. They also provide a communication link to military users and other NATO bodies. RTO's scientific and technological work is carried out by Technical Teams, created for specific activities and with a specific duration. Such Technical Teams can organise workshops, symposia, field trials, lecture series and training courses. An important function of these Technical Teams is to ensure the continuity of the expert networks.

RTO builds upon earlier co-operation in defence research and technology as set-up under the Advisory Group for Aerospace Research and Development (AGARD) and the Defence Research Group (DRG). AGARD and the DRG share common roots in that they were both established at the initiative of Dr Theodore von Kármán, a leading aerospace scientist, who early on recognised the importance of scientific support for the Allied Armed Forces. RTO is capitalising on these common roots in order to provide the Alliance and the NATO nations with a strong scientific and technological basis that will guarantee a solid base for the future.

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## Preface

The Human Factors and Medicine Research and Technology Task Group 140, Psychosocial, Organizational and Cultural Aspects of Terrorism began meeting formally in November 2006 in Rome, Italy at the NATO Defence College (where it opened its proceedings for the Defence College members to attend and learn from the presenters) and it continued meeting twice annually finishing with the group's last meeting in June 2009 in Athens, Greece. The group included membership from Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Israel, Jordan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as temporary membership from Greece and Switzerland (two individuals who attended and contributed but did not continue as they were not formally nominated by their Nations as members).

In all of the meetings of the RTG-140 members shared rich presentations from the members of the current state of research in their fields of expertise and the new developments in the rapidly expanding fields of counter-terrorism and the studies of extremism. As these fields continue to develop at a very fast pace keeping abreast of the ever changing conditions they were studying, the presentations were always state of the art and preceded scientific work that was later to appear in academic or government reports. Many of these updated and summarized presentations are now included in this final report.

Overall the group's goals were three fold:

- 1) To map current social scientific expertise, knowledge and research activities on psychosocial, cultural and organizational aspects of terrorism including:
  - The motivations, ideologies, objectives, behaviour, and operation of terrorists – the individual actors, leadership, networks and their constituencies;
  - Processes of radicalisation recruitment, membership, and disengagement;
  - Factors influencing the resilience and regeneration of terrorists group/networks; and
  - Determinants of resilience within civil society and the military.
- 2) To identify gaps in knowledge and make recommendations for future scientific research in regard to the above topics.
- 3) To define and explore strategic, operational and tactical implications, including:
  - Recommendations for the development and refinement of concepts and doctrines;
  - Military and inter-agency training and education;
  - Military posture (e.g., minimizing the negative impact of military presence and operations);
  - Social influence and perception management (PSYOPS, INFO OPS, PI, media, etc.); and
  - Lessons learned about terrorism and counter-terrorism.

The RTG-140 determined to make full use of NATO assets in pursuing these objectives and also to contribute back to NATO in an ongoing manner. This meant the group consciously chose to meet in Paris at the RTA headquarters and invite the RTA coordinator to be present in meetings, to meet in Brussels HQ and invite NATO experts to take part, and to meet at the NATO Defense College where experts were also invited to listen to and take part in discussions when the scientific presentations were occurring. Likewise the group coordinated their activities with the Science Division as well in order to advise and sponsor two Advanced Research Workshops, one on civil and military resilience to terrorism and the other on radicalization/disengagement. Unfortunately due to one of our members dropping out who had responsibility for coordinating the resilience workshop only the radicalization/disengagement workshop was planned within the time frame of the RTG-140 lifespan. The ARW on radicalization/disengagement entitled **Home-grown Terrorism: Understanding and Addressing the Root Causes of Radicalisation among Groups with an Immigrant Heritage in Europe** focused on indigenous

terrorism in Europe. It took place successfully and resulted in an edited volume of the conference proceedings also entitled **Home-grown Terrorism: Understanding and Addressing the Root Causes of Radicalisation among Groups with an Immigrant Heritage in Europe** which is based on presentations in the group along with presentations of the invited experts who took part in the group's sponsored ARW. (This volume is co-edited by the chair of the RTG-140.) Coordination with the NATO Science division was also made in order that the RTG-140 could invite the best experts in the field from NATO Nations to help inform on these important topics taking advantage of the budgets that the Science Division has, while also contributing back to the Science Division by creating an edited volume of the Advanced Research Workshop.

The group also attempted to bring science back to the military level by conducting a survey of the military best practices regarding teaching of psycho-social cultural and organizational aspects terrorism/counterterrorism in military establishments within NATO and Partner Nations looking especially at those with deployed troops. This was done with the intent of being able to identify gaps in knowledge and teaching and to fill them with knowledge available to the group as well as to learn what are the best practices in this area and share them more widely in the NATO military community. The survey and research plan was coordinated and approved by participating members and was designed and carried out partially in the US but then discontinued due to difficulties carrying it out internationally. Unfortunately this task met insurmountable obstacles in that the Nations that agreed to participate found that their military establishments preferred to keep such information classified and did not participate in the survey making it impossible to proceed further on this task.

The membership of the RTG-140 was also opened to Partner Nations and to the Mediterranean Dialogue Nations with the express intent of including Middle Easterners and Muslims in the group to help balance some of the strong tendencies in the terrorism field to blame Islam itself as the basis for some forms of terrorism. We were very pleased to have Jordan and Israel both join, with Jordan honoring us by sending Princess (and General) Aisha al Bint as a member.

The RTG-140 membership is pleased to present the following final report to NATO with the hopes that it will benefit the NATO Nations, their Partners and Dialogue Nations in understanding and combating radicalization leading to extremism and terrorism worldwide. Special thanks are due to all the contributing authors, including the guest authors from the US, UK and Israel (Bruce Hoffman, Robert Lambert, Jonathan Githens-Mazer, Reuven Paz, and the Siraat team) all who had specific expertise that they were generously willing to contribute to this final product.

## Programme Committee

**Laila Bokhari**

Political Section  
Royal Norwegian Embassy Islamabad  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pb 8144 Dep  
0032 Oslo  
NORWAY  
Email: [lailabokhari@yahoo.no](mailto:lailabokhari@yahoo.no)

**Laurie Fenstermacher**

Principal Electronics Engineer  
Air Force Research Lab  
711 HPW/RHXB  
2255 H Street, Bldg 248  
WPAFB, OH 45433  
UNITED STATES  
Email: [Laurie.Fenstermacher@wpafb.af.mil](mailto:Laurie.Fenstermacher@wpafb.af.mil)

**Albert Jongman**

Ministry of Defence  
Van de Burchlaan 31  
2597 PC The Hague  
NETHERLANDS  
Email: [berto.jongman@gmail.com](mailto:berto.jongman@gmail.com)

**David R. Mandel**

Senior Defence Scientist and Group Leader  
Thinking, Risk, and Intelligence Group  
Adversarial Intent Section, DRDC Toronto  
1133 Sheppard Avenue West, P.O. Box 2000  
Toronto, Ontario M3M 3B9  
CANADA  
Email: [David.Mandel@drdc-rddc.gc.ca](mailto:David.Mandel@drdc-rddc.gc.ca)

**Yoram Schweitzer**

Director, Terrorism Project  
Institute for National Security Studies  
Tel Aviv University  
ISRAEL  
Email: [yorams@inss.org.il](mailto:yorams@inss.org.il)

**Elias Shawash**

Consultant Clinical Psychologist  
Royal Medical Services  
Amman  
JORDAN  
Email: [tayseershawaf@yahoo.com](mailto:tayseershawaf@yahoo.com)

**Anne Speckhard, Chair**

Georgetown University Medical School  
Department of Psychiatry  
Corresponding Address: 509 East 84<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10028  
UNITED STATES  
Email: [anne.speckhard@gmail.com](mailto:anne.speckhard@gmail.com)

**Yantsislav Yanakiev**

Rakovski National Defence Academy  
Defense Advanced Research Institute  
Chief of Strategic Studies Department  
82 Evlogi & Hristo Georgievi Blvd  
Sofia  
BULGARIA  
Email: [yanakiev@md.government.bg](mailto:yanakiev@md.government.bg)

### Research Intern to the Programme Committee

**Beatrice Jacuch**

Psychologist  
Prague  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
Email: [bjacuch@gmail.com](mailto:bjacuch@gmail.com)

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<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Al Qaeda</td> <td style="width: 33%;">IRA</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Rehabilitation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Counter radicalization</td> <td>Militant jihad</td> <td>Resilience</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deradicalization</td> <td>Motivation</td> <td>Risk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disengagement</td> <td>Political violence</td> <td>Salafism</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extremism</td> <td>Posttraumatic stress</td> <td>Takfir</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ideology</td> <td>Prison</td> <td>Terrorism</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Instigator</td> <td>Radicalization</td> <td>Threat</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Internet</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				Al Qaeda	IRA	Rehabilitation	Counter radicalization	Militant jihad	Resilience	Deradicalization	Motivation	Risk	Disengagement	Political violence	Salafism	Extremism	Posttraumatic stress	Takfir	Ideology	Prison	Terrorism	Instigator	Radicalization	Threat	Internet		
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<b>14. Abstract</b>																											
<p>The NATO Human Factors and Medicine Research and Technology Task Group 140, Psychosocial, Organizational and Cultural Aspects of Terrorism Final Report gives a comprehensive look at the issues of terrorism, radicalization, counter radicalization, and deradicalization and addresses resilience to terrorism as well. It examines the role of instigators, ideologues, supporters and operators, and the effects of terrorism on those working to fight it, those who work in high threat security environments and on the general public. Reports regarding Europe, Pakistan, and the Middle East highlight changes in terrorism leadership, groups, strategies, ideologies, recruitment and the use of the Internet. Holistic models of terrorism as well as resilience to terrorism are presented by the group, with research into counter-terrorism efforts within prisons, in communities and efforts to understand the motivations and psychology of terrorists and their victims.</p>																											





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