



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Title of Instruction:	Prison Radicalization in the Context of Global Jihadism
Time of Instruction:	2 hours
Target Group:	Varied – content tailored to audience
Instructor:	CTC Staff
Methods of Instruction:	Lecture with Q & A throughout the course of discussion
Additional Information:	N/A
Date:	Habitual

Statement of Goals and Objectives

Instructional Goal:

This lesson addresses the issue of radicalization in United States prisons, specifically in the context of global jihadism. U.S. prisons have seen the radicalization of prisoners representing a broad range of faiths and ideologies. Radicalization within each of these communities represents unique and significant challenges. To support the overarching objectives of the course of which this lesson is a part, this lesson focuses specifically on the spread of jihadist ideology within U.S. prisons. The block will introduce students to the topic by providing an overview of the role of prisons in the evolution of Islamic extremism. It will then present to students key theories explaining the phenomenon of prison radicalization. Students will also be exposed to the results of the key academic studies that have been conducted on this topic, to include their conclusions regarding the current status of the threat.

Instructional Objectives:

After this block of instruction, the learner will be able to:

- Understand the role of prisons in the evolution of Islamic extremism
- Explain theories behind prison radicalization
- Describe the results of key studies completed on the topic of prison radicalization
- Understand the current state of the threat
- Describe key cases involving prison radicalization
- Discuss recommendations for addressing the challenge of prison radicalization

List of Items and Materials

Equipment / Aids Required for Instructor:

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- Overhead [] projector
- Computer
- Pointer
- PowerPoint

Equipment / Aids Required for Students:

- CTC West Point handbook with note-taking space provided
- Pencil/pen

Power Point Slides or Outline:

Outline:

1. Title Slide: Prison Radicalization in the Context of Global Jihadism
2. Historical Context: The Role of Prisons in the Evolution of Islamic Extremism
3. Theories Explaining Prison Radicalization
4. History of Islamic Extremism in U.S. Prisons
5. The Current State of the Threat
6. Case Study: []
7. Recommendations for Countering Prison Radicalization
8. Take-Aways

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Handouts:

- Provided by CTC West Point

Outline of Activities

Content	Instructor Notes
Grabber: <i>Please see attached presentation</i> Introduction: Instructors introduce themselves and their credentials. Thesis Statement: The topic of radicalization in prisons is often raised as a key threat, but is also often poorly understood. Understanding the history, context, and theories behind prison radicalization is key to understanding the true nature of the threat. Several recent studies have assessed the level of jihadist radicalization in U.S. prisons, and have concluded that jihadist prison radicalization leading to violence is quite rare and is not the systemic problem it is often thought to be. That said, these same studies also conclude that instances of such radicalization do occur periodically, with potentially grave consequences. Understanding these cases that have occurred will help one to develop necessary countermeasures to this threat. Needs Statement: Understanding the landscape of jihadist prison radicalization is essential to the investigation of current threats. Objective #1: Understand the Role of Prisons in the Evolution of Islamic Extremism Prisons have played a significant role in the evolution of Islamic extremism. Numerous key leaders and ideologues spent time in prisons around the world, and often used that time to both recruit followers and develop/refine their ideologies. This section will provide an overview of this history and discuss key cases and individuals. Objective #2: Explain theories behind prison radicalization Academics and analysts have developed numerous theories regarding why radicalization has occurred in prisons. Many of these theories address radicalization across the full spectrum of ideologies, while others specifically address jihadist radicalization. This section will present the most significant and relevant theories, and discuss the merits of	

each.

Objective #3: Describe the results of key studies completed on the topic of prison radicalization and explain the current state of the threat

Several studies have been conducted over the past five years that examine recent trends in prison radicalization. The results of these studies will be presented in this section. The most significant studies generally concur that jihadist prison radicalization leading to violence is quite rare and is not the systemic problem it is often thought to be. That said, these same studies also conclude that instances of such radicalization do occur periodically, with potentially grave consequences.

Objective #4: Describe key cases involving prison radicalization

This section will take a closer look at the key instances of jihadist prison radicalization that have occurred. The primary case study will be on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This case, which took place in [REDACTED] unfolded between [REDACTED] and is commonly cited as a prime example of the threat of jihadist prison radicalization. This section will provide a close examination of this case and discuss key lessons learned.

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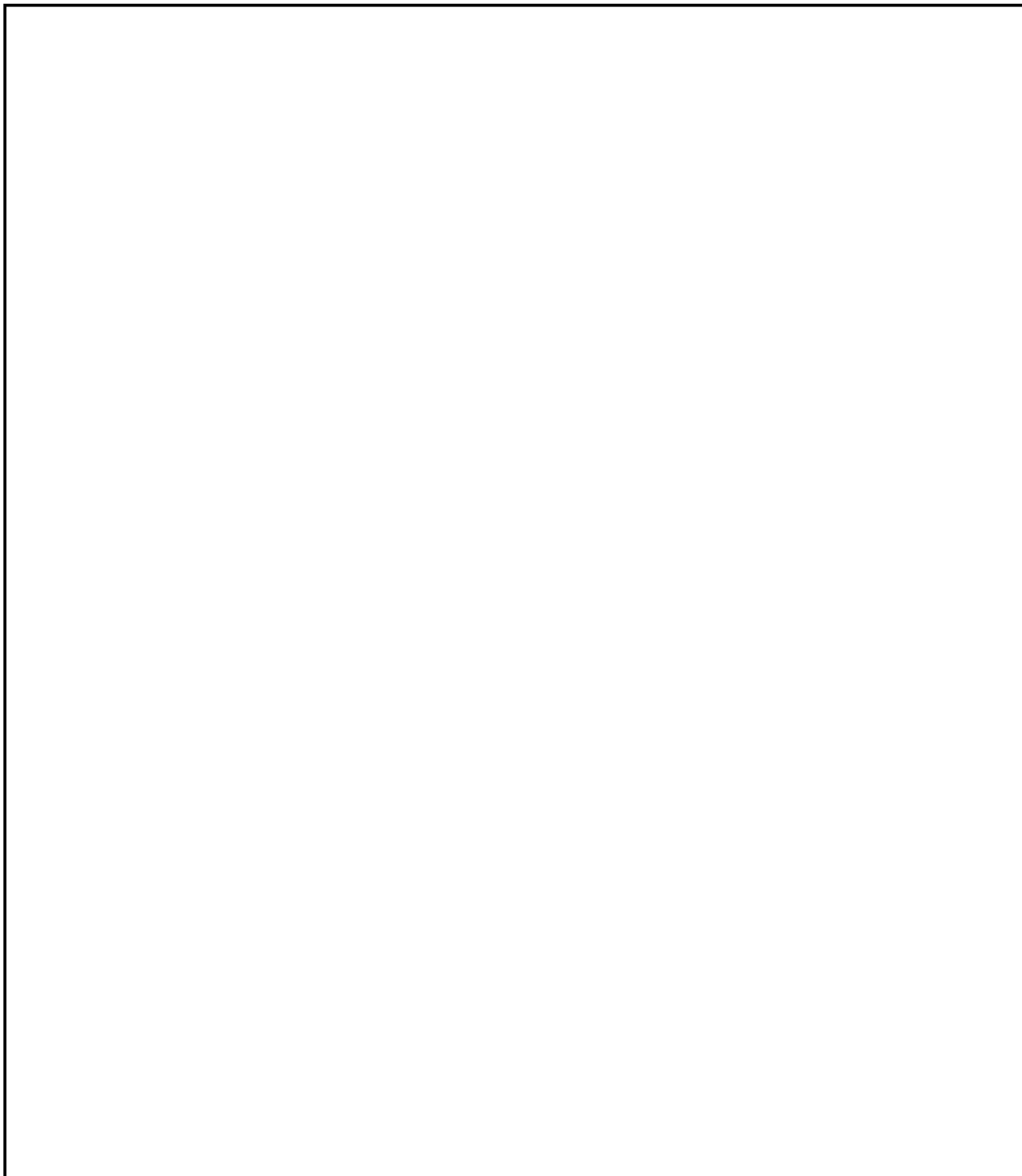
Objective #5: Discuss recommendations for addressing the challenge of prison radicalization

Numerous recommendations for improving our nation's ability to detect and counter prison radicalization have been proposed by various government and non-government analysts and organizations. The most significant recommendations will be presented and evaluated in this concluding section of the lesson.

Summary/Conclusion:

Prison radicalization, particularly in the context of global jihadism, is a complex and often controversial phenomenon. By having a more comprehensive understanding of the history, context, theory, and current threat of prison radicalization, practitioners will be better equipped to execute counterterrorism investigations.

Bibliography



Internet:

<http://icsr.info/publications/papers/1277699166PrisonsandTerrorismRadicalisationandDeradicalisationin15Countries.pdf>

Office of the Inspector General, *A Review of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Selection of Muslim Religious Service Providers* (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, April 2004)

Smith, Kevin, *Hearing Before the House Committee on Homeland Security, "The Threat of Muslim-American Radicalization in U.S. Prisons"* June 15, 2011

Internet: http://homeland.house.gov/sites/homeland.house.gov/files/Testimony%20Smith_1.pdf

Useem, Bert, *Hearing Before the House Committee on Homeland Security, "The Threat of Muslim-American Radicalization in U.S. Prisons"* June 15, 2011

Internet: <http://homeland.house.gov/sites/homeland.house.gov/files/Testimony%20Useem.pdf>

Useem, Bert and Obie Clayton, "Radicalization of U.S. Prisoners," *Criminology and Public Policy*, Volume 8, Issue 3 (2009)

Internet: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1745-9133.2009.00574.x/pdf>