



New Agents Training Program
Counterterrorism Division
Combating Terrorism Center – Section 2
Curriculum Map



Block Description: These seventeen individual blocks of instruction present an overview of International Terrorism, to include a focus on understanding the origins of Islam, the development of Sunni Islamism and associated extremist groups, the development of Shi'i extremism and associated groups, methods of terrorist radicalization, and understanding Diaspora communities. This block of instruction is provided by the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) out of West Point.

Block time: 4 Hours.

Pre-requisite Block(s): Combating Terrorism Center – Section 1.

Requisite Block(s):

- 1) Combating Terrorism Center – Section 3.
- 2) Combating Terrorism Center – Section 4.
- 3) Combating Terrorism Center – Section 5.

Instructional Goal:

Block 5

To provide the student with an overview of the Muslim Brotherhood in relation to all Islamist groups of the 20th century. During this block of instruction, students will trace the Muslim Brotherhood from its inception in Egypt through its splintered and multifaceted rise across the Middle East.

Block 6

To provide the student with an overview of Hamas, the most well known variant of the Muslim Brotherhood. It also examines one of the issues at the core of Sunni extremism: Palestine. Students will learn how Hamas balances social welfare programs and religious nationalism with terrorist activities sustained by a worldwide funding network.

Block 7

To provide the student with the origins and evolution of al-Qa'ida. With roots tracing back to the Afghan jihad, al-Qa'ida has morphed into a social movement that has grown increasingly cellular and diffuse. The lesson will include a discussion of al-Qa'ida's grand strategy, along with its theaters of operation, affiliates, and adherents.

Block 8

To provide the student with an overview of the various ways that terrorist groups use the internet as well as the content found on terrorist websites.

Instructional Objectives:

Block 5

- 1) Describe the history and significance of the Muslim Brotherhood.
- 2) Describe how the Muslim Brotherhood achieved incredible growth in the 20th century.
- 3) Explain the importance of Sayyid Qutb.
- 4) Explain that the Muslim Brotherhood is not a monolithic organization, but has manifested in different ways in different countries.
- 5) Describe offshoot terrorist groups from the Muslim Brotherhood and where they operate.

Block 6

- 1) Explain the significance of Palestine in Islam.
- 2) Explain the origin and development of Hamas.
- 3) Explain the ideology and pragmatism of Hamas.
- 4) Explain the various sources of funding for Hamas.
- 5) List indicators of Hamas activity in the United States.
- 6) Explain the ideological and operational distinction between Hamas and al-Qa'ida.

Block 7

- 1) Describe the origins of al-Qa'ida and identify its different cadres.
- 2) Describe al-Qa'ida's post-9/11 evolution.
- 3) List the different levels of association with al-Qa'ida (affiliates and adherents).
- 4) Describe why al-Qa'ida attacks the United States.
- 5) Describe al-Qa'ida's grand strategy.

Block 8

- 1) Explain how a regional terrorist organization's use of the internet varies from that of the global Salafi-jihadis.
- 2) Explain the difference between static and dynamic websites.
- 3) Explain the variety and quality of the content found on terrorist websites.

Instructional Strategies:

- 1) Lecture.
- 2) Question and Answer.
- 3) Video.

Classroom Requirements:

- 1) UNCLASS computer with Power Point for instructor.
- 2) Projector and screen.
- 3) Whiteboard.

Supplemental Materials:

- 1) Power Point presentation (UNCLASS).
- 2) CTC International Terrorism notebook.
- 3) Terrorism and Political Islam textbook.
- 4) Survey of Prevalent Al-Qa'ida Manuals handout.
- 5) The Big Three Group Summaries handout.

Assignments: None.

Key Points for Instructors: This block of instruction is provided by the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) out of West Point.