



# NATIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT TERRORIST TRAVEL

*of the United States of America*

DECEMBER 2018







THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, DC

My fellow Americans:

The National Strategy to Combat Terrorist Travel presents an integrated plan to ensure the United States stops terrorist attempts to travel to conduct attacks on the homeland or against our interests abroad. The strategy outlines how the United States Government will expand coordination and maximize the full capabilities of Federal departments and agencies to identify, detect, and deter terrorists from transiting international borders.

The United States Government will use all available tools to constrain terrorist travel planning, facilitation, and mobilization, including providing support to law enforcement, private-sector partners, and communities. Key to detecting and interdicting terrorists attempting to travel will be enhancing systems that validate identities and advancing the use of biometric technologies. The United States Government will work closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to achieve these goals.

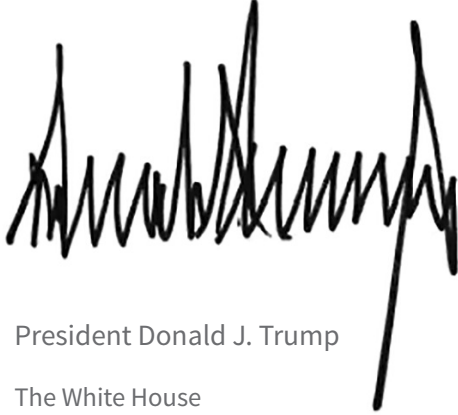
The strategy also recognizes that the United States cannot pursue these goals alone - our foreign partners are vital to the effort to identify, disrupt and deter terrorist travel. The United States Government will therefore leverage foreign partners to improve global travel security capabilities and capacity consistent with strong counterterrorism (CT) measures that the United States has pioneered since the attacks of September 11, 2001. As the strategy outlines, this will better enable our foreign partners to better protect their own borders and prevent terrorist travel, including travel that poses threats to the safety and security of the United States.

As mandated by the Congress in the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2017, the strategy also identifies security vulnerabilities that terrorists could exploit and outlines steps to address these vulnerabilities. As required by statute, the strategy also includes an appendix of all United States Government programs, projects, and activities designed to constrain terrorist travel.

---

Through enhanced integration, clear goals, and strengthened systems, this National Strategy to Combat Terrorist Travel will augment the capabilities of the United States Government and its partners to protect the homeland and American interests from the threat posed by terrorist movement throughout the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Donald Trump", with a long vertical stroke extending downwards from the end of the signature.

President Donald J. Trump

The White House  
December 2018



# Introduction

## Vision

The United States Government will work collaboratively with its trusted foreign partners to prevent terrorists from entering and attacking the United States, our citizens, our foreign partners and United States interests abroad; and evolve and increase the sophistication of our terrorism collection, sharing, identification, and detection capabilities to respond holistically and flexibly to the advancing trends and tactics of terrorist travel.

The United States and foreign partners are confronted with a significant terror threat level due in large part to globalized terrorist movements that inspire foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) throughout the world to join foreign terrorist groups. Since 2013, more than 40,000 foreign-fighters from over 120 different countries have traveled to international conflict zones, including more than 250 individuals from the United States and at least 3,000 individuals from countries that do not require a visa to travel to the United States.<sup>1</sup> As the United States continues operations to defeat jihadist terrorists and terrorist groups abroad such as ISIS and al-Qa'ida, foreign-fighters and their associates with battlefield experience, explosives training, and terrorist motivations will be returning home or seeking third-country terrorist safe havens in ever-increasing numbers from conflict zones, presenting a persistent threat to the United States.

Since the publication of the 2006 National Strategy to Combat Terrorist Travel, the United States has continued to identify and address vulnerabilities in our systems to prevent terrorists

and their associates from entering the United States. The United States Government improved its capabilities to collect and analyze intelligence and law enforcement information to identify known or suspected terrorists (KSTs). Based on this analysis, the United States Government developed processes to provide critical terrorist-identity data to frontline security screeners and the law enforcement community to protect United States borders and citizens. Additionally, the United States Government developed and expanded key relationships with foreign partners to promote worldwide collection and sharing of terrorist-identity information, increasing our understanding of the global threat environment and broadening domestic and international terrorist identification and border security efforts. Finally, the United States Government has enhanced travel document security and implemented new screening and vetting technology platforms to make it more difficult for terrorists to cross United States borders.

Despite these considerable improvements to security, the United States Government must remain poised to meet the challenges of the dynamic threat environment. As terrorists and their associates pursue new methods to circumvent United States and international security measures, the United States Government must ensure its intelligence, security, and law enforcement operations continually evolve to improve capabilities designed to identify and detect terrorists and prevent their travel to the United States.

---

<sup>1</sup> The term "terrorist(s)" includes known terrorist or suspected Terrorist (KST) and any unknown threat actors who may have terrorist intent or motives. Further distinctions between actions that apply solely to KST or that include unknown threat actors will be covered in more detail in the Implementation Plan following this strategy.

---

# NATIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT TERRORIST TRAVEL

The United States Government's approach to combating terrorist travel will remain consistent with the following guiding principles:

## GOAL 1: IDENTIFY AND DETER TERRORISTS BEFORE THEY TRAVEL

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

1.1: Constrain and deter terrorist travel planning, facilitation, and mobilization through support of Federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement, private sector partners and communities.

1.2: Enhance intelligence and law enforcement terrorist information collection and analysis.

1.3: Improve sharing of terrorist-related identity data and enable near real-time information-sharing.

## GOAL 2: DETECT AND INTERDICT TERRORISTS DURING THEIR TRAVEL

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

2.1: Develop and maintain the equipment and technology necessary to validate passenger identities.

2.2: Provide personnel access, as appropriate, to near-real-time information on terrorist travel.

## GOAL 3: ENHANCE TRAVEL SECURITY CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITY OF FOREIGN PARTNERS

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

3.1: Support and enable foreign partners to improve terrorist-related information collection, analysis, and sharing.

3.2: Strengthen foreign partner capacity to conduct CT screening and vetting to identify, detect, and disrupt terrorist travel.

3.3: Encourage and support foreign partners' capacity to investigate and prosecute terrorists in a manner consistent with their obligations under international law.

3.4: Collaborate with foreign partners to enhance border security, especially in areas frequently used for terrorist transit.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The United States Government's approach to combating terrorist travel will remain consistent with the following guiding principles:

- Identify and interdict terrorists as early as possible in the travel process to extend security efforts beyond the United States border;
- Prioritize activities based on risk and foreign-partner capacity;
- Remain committed to maintaining long-term alliances and partnerships, respect international obligations, and leverage established institutions, information-sharing arrangements, and bilateral and multilateral partnerships;
- Protect classified information, sensitive sources and methods, and investigations, and operate in accordance with department and agency authorities;
- Emphasize public awareness, engagement, and community partnerships;
- Safeguard the integrity and quality of terrorist-related identity data through formal watch-listing and screening review processes;
- Ensure nothing in this Strategy shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals;
- Implement this strategy subject to the availability of appropriations; and
- Conduct these activities in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the Constitution, applicable law, Presidential guidance, and policies and procedures pertaining to: (1) the appropriate handling of information about United States persons and other individuals who may have rights under United States law; (2) the protection of intelligence sources, methods, and activities; and (3) the protection of other sensitive information.



---

# STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

Pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of Fiscal Year 2017, this strategy builds on the 2006 National Strategy to Combat Terrorist Travel and establishes a clear vision that advances United States Government efforts to identify, prevent, detect, and disrupt terrorist travel, while recognizing the importance of lawful, legitimate travel. This strategy integrates the full authorities of the United States Government with opportunities for expanded international cooperation to optimize the reach and breadth of the Nation's capabilities to combat terrorist travel.

This strategy will be interpreted, implemented, and executed consistent with existing national strategies, Executive Orders (E.O.), and Presidential guidance, including:

**Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-6:** Integration and Use of Screening Information (September 16, 2003);

**E.O. 13388:** Further Strengthening the Sharing of Terrorism Information (October 25, 2005);

**E.O. 13767:** Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements (January 25, 2017);

**E.O. 13780:** Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States (March 6, 2017);

**E.O. 13815:** Resuming the United States Refugee Admissions Program with Enhanced Vetting Capabilities (October 24, 2017);

**Presidential Proclamation 9645 (as amended by presidential proclamation 9723):** Enhancing Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry Into the United States by Terrorists or Other Public-Safety Threats (September 27, 2017, amended April 10, 2018);

**National Security Presidential Memorandum-7:** Integration, Sharing, and Use of National Security Threat Actor Information to Protect Americans (October 5, 2017);

**National Security Presidential Memorandum-9:** Presidential Memorandum on Optimizing the Use of United States Government Information in Support of the National Vetting Enterprise (February 6, 2018);

**The 2017 National Security Strategy:** (December 18, 2017); and

**The 2018 National Counterterrorism Strategy:** (October 2018).

## SCOPE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This strategy identifies actions necessary to reform, improve, and streamline existing and future efforts to identify terrorists and inhibit or disrupt their travel, consistent with law. As necessary, the United States Government may issue complementary strategies and implementation plans to further delineate priorities for countering transnational organized crime, individuals in the homeland radicalized to violence by external terrorists or terrorist groups, and other issues related to terrorist travel.

The National Strategy to Combat Terrorist Travel (NSCTT) embodies a whole-of-government approach to protecting the nation's borders, citizens, and interests from terrorism. The strategy consists of three goals each designed to facilitate coordination and management across the United States Government to achieve the desired outcomes against the threat posed by terrorist travel. As required by the NDAA Section 3 (B), the unclassified National Strategy to Combat Terrorist Travel is accompanied by a classified Strategy, which identifies the current vulnerabilities, the steps to close those vulnerabilities, and a comprehensive list of programs and projects designed to constrain terrorist travel.

Within 180 days of this strategy's approval, departments and agencies will conduct a capabilities-based assessment of the United States Government's current performance and will develop and deliver to the Congress a corresponding implementation plan outlining lead and support roles, responsibilities, programs, and timelines for meeting this strategy's goals, objectives, and outcomes. Departments and agencies will use this strategy and its corresponding implementation plan to inform resource allocation

decisions to achieve the specified outcomes over the next 5 years. Department and agency heads will provide annual reports to the President and the Congress that describe progress made toward this strategy's implementation.

The National Security Council staff will lead the execution of this strategy by developing a government-wide implementation plan and coordinating assessments that measure progress toward the strategy's goals and objectives. As lawfully permitted and appropriate, all United States departments and agencies will support these initiatives with timely submission of relevant data and information.

Departments and agencies will assess and synchronize planned programs and activities throughout a 5-year period aligned with this strategy.

### GOAL 1

#### ***IDENTIFY AND DETER TERRORISTS BEFORE THEY TRAVEL***

To execute this strategy, departments and agencies will prioritize the following:

**Strategic Objective 1.1: Constrain and deter terrorist travel planning, facilitation, and mobilization through support of Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement, private sector partners, and communities.**

The following actions will enable law enforcement and communities to recognize and prevent terrorism recruitment, radicalization, and inspiration to violence:

Increase community awareness of the

---

threats posed by terrorists and foreign fighters and encourage reporting to law enforcement regarding suspected travel;

Support first-line, community-led intervention programs at home and abroad for those who are on the pathway towards terrorism;

Identify and deploy efforts to counter terrorist efforts to lure followers to conflict zones or safe havens by increasing international strategic messaging campaigns, as appropriate;

Increase partnerships between private-sector companies and law enforcement and/or IC actors to better identify potential terrorist travelers online and share suspected travel plans; and

Deter terrorist-travel facilitation and financing by designating and prosecuting terrorist groups and individuals under strong legal regimes.

**Strategic Objective 1.2: Enhance intelligence and law enforcement terrorist information collection and analysis.**

The following actions will equip the United States Government and state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners with relevant and appropriate terrorism-identity and travel data, as well as the tools and technology necessary to identify terrorists at the earliest opportunity:

Prioritize intelligence and information collection related to the travel and movement of terrorists into and out of conflict zones;

Increase the quantity and improve the quality of information sharing with foreign partners, either through bilateral or multilateral sharing mechanisms;

Encourage timely reporting to and from foreign partners of international terrorist-related

encounters and derogatory information to improve United States threat awareness and CT activities;

Improve and expand the collection of suspicious travel indicators and travel patterns;

Improve functionality of identity-management systems and expand the collection and use of biometric, biographic, and derogatory data for vetting and screening;

Develop procedures to coordinate capabilities to target enabling networks that support terrorist travel; and

Strengthen efforts to identify terrorist financing operations facilitating terrorist travel.

**Strategic Objective 1.3: Improve sharing of terrorist-related identity data and enable near-real-time information-sharing.**

The following actions will equip the United States Government with the information, technology, and techniques to effectively prevent terrorists from exploiting the travel system:

Ensure that appropriate law enforcement and screening personnel are able to effectively screen and vet travelers through access to appropriate systems, data, and analytic tools to identify terrorists prior to travel and, as appropriate, prevent embarkation.

Unify and expedite United States Government coordination to provide near-real-time situational awareness of international terrorist encounters and events.

## GOAL 2

### ***DETECT AND INTERDICT TERRORISTS DURING THEIR TRAVEL***

To execute this strategy, departments and agencies will prioritize the following:

**Strategic Objective 2.1: Develop and maintain the equipment and technology necessary to validate passenger identities.**

The following actions will enable the United States Government to reduce terrorist mobility and prevent and take action against terrorism-related travel-enabling networks:

Enhance and further automate recurrent traveler and immigration vetting processes and capabilities, as appropriate, to accurately detect terrorists' movements throughout their travel and/or immigration lifecycle;

Ensure accurate and timely document security and fraud-detection capabilities are available to frontline screeners, as appropriate; and

Expand the use of biometric technologies to identify terrorists and prevent their travel.

**Strategic Objective 2.2: Provide personnel, as appropriate, access to near-real-time information on terrorist travel.**

Establish uniform baseline standards for data collected from terrorist screening and vetting, interviews, and systems checks;

Expand connectivity to field locations so that personnel can access terrorist-related information, as appropriate; and

Promote greater awareness of terrorist-travel threat and tactics to frontline screeners to prevent terrorist activities and disrupt terrorist travel.

## GOAL 3

### ***ENHANCE TRAVEL SECURITY CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITY OF FOREIGN PARTNERS***

To execute this strategy, the Departments and Agencies will prioritize the following:

**Strategic Objective 3.1: Support and enable foreign partners to improve terrorist-related information collection, analysis, and sharing.**

The following actions will enable the United States Government to support foreign-partners' efforts to identify, detect, and interdict terrorists throughout their transit, in compliance with appropriate safeguards, international standards, and private-sector best practices:

Engage international organizations to maintain and raise existing global standards on information exchange, identity information, and document security;

Press all nations to meet the existing United States information-sharing baseline requirements;

Establish new information-sharing arrangements with foreign partners to disrupt terrorist travel and encourage foreign partners to fulfill the requirements of existing information-sharing arrangements;

Increase the quality, quantity, frequency, and integration of intelligence and law enforcement information-sharing within and among foreign partner governments and agencies within applicable law and policy to increase awareness of travel;

Identify, prioritize, and support partner-nation efforts to enhance information quality, collection, analysis, and sharing regarding terrorists; and

---

Leverage multi-national, private-sector innovation and encourage private sector adherence to global standards related to data collection, use, and security.

**Strategic Objective 3.2: Strengthen foreign-partner capacity to conduct CT screening and vetting to identify, detect, and disrupt terrorist travel.**

The following actions promote foreign partner responsiveness and collaboration in support of robust screening to identify terrorists among immigrants and travelers:

Engage with foreign partners to share best practices that identify and detect terrorists and prevent or disrupt their travel;

Encourage and support efforts by foreign partners to bolster traveler screening, data collection, data analysis, and data sharing, including biometric and other traveler data, to improve capabilities to identify or detect terrorists;

Encourage foreign partners to apply travel bans in a timely fashion per UN resolutions sanctioning terrorist actors, facilitators, and financiers;

Expand and enhance the performance and reliability of joint and combined screening and vetting activities with foreign partners to detect terrorist travel as early as possible through all stages of travel; and

Develop a prioritized, integrated, tailorable, and coordinated whole-of-government interagency approach to building partner capacity to counter terrorist travel, particularly in key areas of terrorist transit.

**Strategic Objective 3.3: Encourage and support the capacity of foreign partners to investigate and prosecute terrorists in a manner consistent with**

**their obligations under international law.**

The following actions promote foreign partner capacity to investigate and prosecute terrorists and those who enable their travel:

Assess, where feasible and appropriate, individual foreign partner limitations, capabilities, and legal frameworks, and develop tailored strategies to bolster foreign partner ability to investigate and prosecute terrorists;

Enable foreign governments to strengthen CT and foreign-fighter laws and to more effectively prosecute individuals enabling terrorist travel, including the prosecution of individuals that provide material support to terrorists;

Strengthen foreign government capacity to investigate and prosecute KST-related cases through training programs and case mentorship; and

Bolster foreign central authorities and their abilities to request critical law enforcement evidence through mutual legal assistance requests and other appropriate mechanisms.

**Strategic Objective 3.4: Collaborate with foreign partners to enhance border security, especially in areas frequently used for terrorist transit.**

The following actions encourage foreign partners to employ best practices, use appropriate technology, collaborate along and across borders, and leverage cross-border communities to safeguard against terrorist travel:

Offer United States best practices on border security to foreign governments to help them identify and eliminate routes susceptible to terrorist transit;

Provide United States capacity building assistance in areas where terrorist travel threatens the homeland or United States interests; and

Encourage foreign partners to focus on cross-border collaboration along routes susceptible to terrorist movement and regional approaches to countering terrorist travel.

---

# APPENDIX A: LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

This strategy is provided pursuant to the following statutory requirement of Section 1908 of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2017:

## Section 1908. NATIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT TERRORIST TRAVEL.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS. It is the sense of Congress that it should be the policy of the U.S. to:

- (1) Continue to regularly assess the evolving terrorist threat to the U.S.;
- (2) Catalog existing United States Government efforts to obstruct terrorist and foreign fighter travel into, out of, and within the U.S., and overseas;
- (3) Identify such efforts that may benefit from reform or consolidation, or require elimination;
- (4) Identify potential security vulnerabilities in U.S. defenses against terrorist travel; and
- (5) Prioritize resources to address any such security vulnerabilities in a risk-based manner.

(b) NATIONAL STRATEGY AND UPDATES.

(1) IN GENERAL. Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate congressional committees a national strategy to combat terrorist travel. The strategy shall address efforts to intercept

terrorists and foreign-fighters and constrain the domestic and international travel of such persons. Consistent with the protection of classified information, the strategy shall be submitted in unclassified form, including, as appropriate, a classified annex.

(2) UPDATED STRATEGIES. Not later than 180 days after the date on which a new President is inaugurated, the President shall submit to the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate congressional committees an updated version of the strategy described in paragraph (1).

(3) CONTENTS. The strategy and updates required under this subsection shall:

(A) Include an accounting and description of all United States Government programs, projects, and activities designed to constrain domestic and international travel by terrorists and foreign-fighters;

(B) Identify specific security vulnerabilities within the U.S. and outside of the U.S. that may be exploited by terrorists and foreign-fighters;

(C) Delineate goals for:

(i) Closing the security vulnerabilities identified under subparagraph (B); and

(ii) Enhancing the ability of the United States Government to constrain domestic and international travel by terrorists and foreign-fighters; and

(D) Describe the actions that will be taken to achieve the goals delineated under subparagraph (C) and the means needed to carry out such actions, including:

(i) Steps to reform, improve, and streamline existing United States Government efforts to align with the current threat environment;

(ii) New programs, projects, or activities that are requested, under development, or undergoing implementation;

(iii) New authorities or changes in existing authorities needed from Congress;

(iv) Specific budget adjustments being requested to enhance U.S. security in a risk-based manner; and

(v) The U.S. departments and agencies responsible for the specific actions described in this subparagraph.

(4) SUNSET. The requirement to submit updated national strategies under this subsection shall terminate on the date that is seven years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEVELOPMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS. For each national strategy required under subsection (b), the President shall direct the heads of relevant U.S. agencies to develop implementation plans for each such agency.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION PLANS.

(1) IN GENERAL. The President shall submit to the majority leader of the Senate, the minority

leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate congressional committees an implementation plan developed under subsection (c) with each national strategy required under subsection (b). Consistent with the protection of classified information, each such implementation plan shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(2) ANNUAL UPDATES. The President shall submit to the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate congressional committees an annual updated implementation plan during the ten-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) DEFINITION. In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means:

(1) In the House of Representatives:

(A) The Committee on Homeland Security;

(B) The Committee on Armed Services;

(C) The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence;

(D) The Committee on the Judiciary;

(E) The Committee on Foreign Affairs;

(F) The Committee on Appropriations; and

(2) In the Senate:

(A) The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs;



- 
- (B) The Committee on Armed Services;
  - (C) The Select Committee on Intelligence;
  - (D) The Committee on the Judiciary;
  - (E) The Committee on Foreign Relations;  
and
  - (F) The Committee on Appropriations.

(f) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN RECEIPT. The definition under subsection (e) shall be treated as including the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate for purposes of receipt of those portions of—(1) the national strategy (including updates thereto), and (2) the implementation plan (including updates thereto), required under this section that relate to maritime travel into and out of the U.S.

## APPENDIX B: TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Derogatory information:** This is intelligence or information that demonstrates the nature of an individual's or group's association with terrorism and/ or terrorist activities.

**Detection:** This is the means used to assist in the discovery and identification of anomalies or the presence of property or person that may pose a threat or are not in compliance with law.

**Disruption:** This describes the identification and prevention of terrorist nodes that were planning to conduct an attack. All source analysis conducted by specialized intelligence organizations, integrating intelligence provided by United States Government and partner nations, facilitates the identification and targeting of key network nodes. Disruption contributes to degrading terrorist capabilities by eliminating or temporarily neutralizing organizational nodes.

**Foreign Partners:** The term describes specified sub-regional, regional, international organizations, private entities and businesses, and partner nations with which the United States shares common values and cooperates to safeguard these values and defeat terrorism. The efforts of foreign partners are essential in achieving United States Government counter-terrorism (CT) goals because the United States cannot accomplish these goals alone and finds strength in numbers. Foreign partners also provide broader legitimacy to United States CT efforts, particularly in certain parts of the globe.

**Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF):** The term is defined by U.N. Security Council Resolution 2178, as individuals who travel to a state other than their states of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or

preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict.

**Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs):** This describes foreign organizations that are designated by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended. FTO designations play a critical role in our fight against terrorism and are an effective means of curtailing support for terrorist activities; they provide an incentive for the designated groups to not engage in terrorist activities.

**Intervention:** The term refers to immediate action taken to confront, resolve or reduce impact by way of hindrance or modification. Intervention is an effect, or force, action that modifies a situation or condition. An intervention is a process that modifies behavior or the outcome of an event.

**Identification:** This describes methods employed to identify and collect data regarding a specific item and entering that data into a management information system.

**Information:** This describes the knowledge or intelligence representing facts, concepts, or instructions in any medium or form suitable for communication, interpretation, or processing by humans or by automatic means.

**Known Terrorist:** This is an individual who has been (1) arrested, charged by information, or indicted for, or convicted of, a crime related to terrorism and /or terrorist activities by the United States Government or foreign government authorities; or (2) identified as a terrorist or member of a terrorist organization pursuant to statute, Executive Order or international legal obligations pursuant to

---

a United Nations Security Council Resolution.

**Suspected terrorist:** This is an individual who is reasonably suspected to be engaging in, has engaged in, or intends to engage in conduct constituting, in preparation for, in aid of, or related to terrorism and /or terrorist activities.

**Terrorism:**

**1. International Terrorism:** These are activities that involve violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any state. These activities are intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping; they occur primarily outside the territorial jurisdiction of the United States or transcend national boundaries.

**2. Domestic Terrorism:** These are activities that involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State; appear to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping; they occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the States.

**Terrorist:** See definition of known terrorist or suspected terrorist.

**Terrorism and or Terrorist Activities:** These activities involve violent acts or acts dangerous to human life, property, or infrastructure that: (1) may be a violation of United States law, or

may have been, if those acts were committed in the United States; and (2) appear intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian populations, influence the policy of a government by intimidations or coercion, or affect the conduct of government by mass destruction, assassination, kidnapping, or hostage-taking. These activities include activities that provide material support or facilitate terrorism and/or terrorist activities.

**Travel System:** This describes the international and/or domestic air, ground, and sea travel available for use by the general public.

**Prevention:** This term describes actions that are taken and measures that are put in place to reduce risk of threats and vulnerabilities, to intervene and stop an occurrence, and to mitigate effects of a natural or man-made disaster from adversely affecting the safety, security, or continuity of the Nation, including its critical infrastructure. Intelligence information is used to prevent terrorist attacks by taking steps such as analyzing and exploiting information to prevent or hinder efforts that would negatively affect the homeland. Prevention can mean a range of activities such as deploying countermeasures or an increase in surveillance and other security measures. Prevention can also describe steps taken by law enforcement to deter, preempt, interdict, or disrupt illegal activity. Prevention can also include offensive steps to target and preclude the movement, deployment and integration efforts of terrorists and other criminals prior to their attack on a community, system or infrastructure.

**Screening:** This describes the process that may include, but is not limited to, government officials searching for available information on an individual in various databases. For example, a person may go through a screening process when:

1. Applying for a visa;
2. Attempting to enter the United States through a port of entry;
3. Being stopped by a local law enforcement officer for a traffic violation; or
4. Attempting to travel internationally on a commercial airline.

**Vetting:** This activity describes the combined automated and manual processes used by United States Government officials to match an individual's information against threat factors and known derogatory information in an effort to determine potential risk and/or initiate additional lines of inquiry. Vetting includes automated biographic and/or biometric matching against watchlists and threat information as well as manual and automated processes used to resolve potential matches and false positives. Vetting does not include the physical screening or inspection of people or goods that may occur at the border, United States Secret Service venues, or transportation checkpoints.

**Unknown Threat Actors:** The term describes an unidentified entity who may be engaging in, has engaged in, or intends to engage in conduct constituting, in preparation for, in aid of, or related to terrorism and /or terrorist activities.

**Vulnerability:** This describes a physical feature or operational attribute that renders an entity open to exploitation or susceptible to a given hazard; includes characteristic of design, location, security posture, operation, or any combination thereof, that renders an asset, system, network, or entity susceptible to disruption, destruction, or exploitation. In calculating risk of an intentional hazard, the common measurement of vulnerability is the likelihood that an attack

is successful, given that it is attempted.

**Watchlist:** The term describes the consolidated United States repository of terrorism screening information known as the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB). The TSDB was created and is maintained by the Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) and includes terrorist identifiers (e.g., name, date of birth, citizenship) that are provided to screeners to help them identify and respond accordingly during encounters with known or suspected terrorists.

