

## Terrorist Threat and U.S. Response:

### A Changing Landscape

by [Matthew Levitt \(/experts/matthew-levitt\)](#), [Michael Jacobson \(/experts/michael-jacobson\)](#)

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#### ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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Matthew Levitt is the Fromer-Wexler Senior Fellow and director of the Reinhard Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence at The Washington Institute.

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#### In-Depth Reports

Featured presentations:

- Rolf Mowatt-Larssen, Energy Dept. director of intelligence, on nuclear terrorism
- Donald Kerr, principal deputy DNI, on emerging threats and challenges in the Middle East
- Charles Allen, under-secretary of homeland security, on terrorism's 21st-century evolution
- Juan Zarate, deputy national security advisor, on U.S. successes and challenges in the war on terror
- Patrick O'Brien, assistant Treasury secretary, on financial pressure on terrorist groups and rogue regimes
- Michael Leiter, NCC director, on looming challenges in the war on terror
- Dell Dailey, State Dept. counterterrorism coordinator, on an "all elements of power" strategy to defeat terrorism

In December 2007, The Washington Institute's [Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence \(http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateI02.php?SID=11&newActiveSubNav=Stein%20Program%20on%20Counterterrorism%20and%20Intelligence&activeSubNavLink=templateI02.php%3FSID%3D11&newActiveNav=researchPr](#) initiated a [lecture series \(http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateC11.php?CID=485\)](#) featuring senior U.S. counterterrorism officials. With the Bush administration's second term winding down, the series has given policymakers a chance to assess progress in the war on terror since the 9/11 attacks, as well as the challenges that remain. It has also provided valuable insights for the next administration regarding the CT environment it will inherit and identified where U.S. leaders need to focus their priorities. In this Policy Focus, Institute senior fellows Matthew Levitt and Michael Jacobson compile and analyze seven of these presentations:

These key U.S. officials discussed a spectrum of terrorism-related topics, with three major themes emerging: how the threats facing the United States have evolved, how the government has adapted its counterterrorism approach, and how the U.S. government has revised its very structure to address these threats.

### the Editors

**M** [atthew Levitt \(templateC10.php?CID=5\)](#) is a senior fellow and director of The Washington Institute's [Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence \(templateI02.php?SID=11&newActiveSubNav=Stein%20Program%20on%20Counterterrorism%20and%20Intelligence&activeSubNavLink=templateI02.php%3FSID%3D11&newActiveNav=researchPr](#). Previously, Dr. Levitt served as deputy assistant secretary for intelligence and analysis at the U.S. Department of the Treasury where he played a central role in efforts to protect the U.S. financial system from abuse by terrorists, weapons proliferators, and other rogue actors. His areas of focus include Middle Eastern terrorist groups, terror finance, state sponsorship of terrorism, and logistical and financial support networks -- subjects covered in his 2006 book [Hamas: Politics, Charity and Terrorism in the Service of Jihad \(templateC04.php?CID=265\)](#). He is the author of the forthcoming book [Negotiating under Fire: Preserving Peace Talks in the Face of Terror Attacks \(templateC04.php?CID=294\)](#).

**M** [ichael Jacobson \(templateC10.php?CID=14\)](#) is a senior fellow in The Washington Institute's [Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence \(templateI02.php?SID=11&newActiveSubNav=Stein%20Program%20on%20Counterterrorism%20and%20Intelligence&activeSubNavLink=templateI02.php%3FSID%3D11&newActiveNav=researchPr](#), where he was previously a Soref fellow. Previously he served as senior advisor in the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence and as counsel on the 9-11 Commission. His areas of focus include sanctions and financial measures to combat national security threats, as well as other issues related to counterterrorism, national security law, and intelligence reform -- subjects covered in his 2006 Institute monograph [The West at War: U.S. and European Counterterrorism Efforts, Post-September 11 \(templateC04.php?CID=237\)](#).

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Counterterrorism Lecture Series, Volume 1

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