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## **JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCES IN THE FIGHT OF TERRORISM IN THE USA**

Combating terrorism is the FBI's top investigative priority. Working closely with a range of partners, they use their suite of investigative and intelligence capabilities to neutralize terrorist cells and operatives in the U.S., to help dismantle extremist networks worldwide, and to cut off financing and other forms of support provided by terrorist sympathizers. Their overall goal, as they lead law enforcement and domestic intelligence efforts to defeat terrorism, is to eliminate the risk of terrorism, both international and domestic.

Terrorism means activities with the following three characteristics:

Involve violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that violate federal or state law;

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.

There are more than 104 FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces around the country, where local, state, and federal agencies work together to combat terrorism on a regional scale. And coordinating the efforts of all those regional task forces is the National Joint Terrorism Task Force, a fusion of local, state, and federal agencies acting as an integrated force to combat terrorism on a national and international scale.

The National Joint Terrorism Task Force, or NJTTF, was established in 2002 to manage the burgeoning Joint Terrorism Task Force program—the number of task forces almost doubled overnight, from 35 pre-9/11 to 56 soon after 9/11 (50 more have been established since then). Of course, JTTFs have been around since the 1980s, starting in New York and Chicago.

So what exactly is the NJTTF's mission? Managing the Bureau's JTTFs around the country is major part of the operation, and it's a huge job—there are currently approximately 4,000 JTTF task force members from over 500 state and local agencies as well as 55 federal agencies.

NJTTF members are also working together on joint initiatives designed to address broader terrorism threats. For example:

Operation TRIPWIRE focuses on information and intelligence-sharing operations from the NJTTF's participating agencies to help identify terrorist sleeper cells in the U.S.

Correctional Intelligence Initiative assists JTTFs and correctional facilities to combat prison radicalization and recruitment of prisoners within federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial prisons.

Rail Liaison Agent Program works to protect the country's critical mass transit and freight rail infrastructure by collecting and disseminating rail-related terrorism intelligence info to JTTFs and critical rail partners nationwide.

Military Operations Support Team looks at military-specific terrorism threats.

The NJTTF and the JTTFs work tirelessly to protect Americans from terrorism, but they can't do it alone—every law enforcement officer, first responder, military member, intelligence

analyst, and private citizen has a role to play in the global war on terror.

Suspicious activity of any kind can be reported to your local JTTF or FBI field office.

Counterterrorism remains the FBI's number one priority. The terrorism threat has changed in two ways. First, the core al Qaeda tumor in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region has been reduced significantly, thanks to our men and women in uniform working with our allies around the world.

These groups offer terrorism training and experience to people all over the world, including those in the United States. These incredibly misguided people think the way to impart meaning in their lives is to wage jihad. This remains a huge, diverse, and significant threat to us.

ISIL today occupies much of Syria and Iraq. The world has watched in horror as ISIL savages have beheaded captives, and called for attacks on law enforcement, military, journalists, and Western civilians.

Khorasan is also at the top of the list-for a couple of reasons. It's a collection of experienced and well-funded terrorists operating in a safe haven of Syria, where FBI doesn't have complete visibility.

So the evolution and the dispersion of the threat itself is the first change. The second way in which the terrorism threat has changed is through the explosion of terrorist propaganda on the Internet.

Groups like ISIL have created targeted, slick media campaigns to recruit fighters and people who would be spouses of fighters. They're trying to attract them from all over the West to come to their so-called caliphate to start families in their warped world.

Some months ago they intercepted three Denver school girls who were trying to make their way to Syria via Germany to join ISIL. The sheer volume of terrorist-related material on the Internet makes more difficult the challenge from homegrown violent extremists. Some call them lone wolves. This term conveys dignity they don't deserve. It's better to think of them as lone rats. These are people who are not directed by al Qaeda, but who are inspired,

radicalized, and trained through this propaganda to emerge from their basement or their bedroom and do something terrible. It's very hard for to find and stop them before they take action.

Across the country, state and local departments contribute hugely to the work of the joint terrorism task forces, and it is their officers who are often the first to notice something unusual happening in their communities. They also rely heavily on the eyes and ears of the community partners and private citizens to stay ahead of the evolving terrorist threat. The entire nation needs to familiarize itself with the signs of radicalization. Given the complexity of the threat and the danger posed by these so-called lone rats and larger, more organized terrorist groups overseas, the safety will be a collective effort.

In the past, conducting electronic surveillance was more straightforward. They identified a target phone with a single carrier, being used by a bad guy. They obtained a court order for a wiretap, and, under the supervision of a judge, they collected the evidence they needed for prosecution. Today, there are countless providers, networks, devices, apps, and ways of communicating. The bad guys have those same devices, the same networks, and the same apps to target their victims, and to cover up their tracks.

It makes it tough for them to keep up. Because if a suspected criminal is in his car and switches from cellular coverage to WiFi, they may be out of luck. If he goes from one app to another, or from cellular voice service to messaging, they may lose him.

They were taken aback when the good people at Apple and Google announced that their new smartphone operating systems will encrypt data by default. This means the companies themselves won't be able to unlock phones, laptops, and tablets to reveal photos, documents, e-mail, and recordings stored within, even pursuant to a court order.

There is no question that our world has changed in recent years and that terrorist threats continue to evolve. But as things change, certain things remain the same—the collective desire to keep the country and our loved ones safe. It is this wish for continued

peace and prosperity that the good people of the FBI, with your help, strive to protect each and every day.

**Список використаних джерел:**

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