CPD 023 The Genesis & Sustainment of Terror Organizations

COURSE SYLLABUS

SECTION I: COURSE IDENTIFICATION

Course Number and Title:

CPD 023 The Genesis & Sustainment of Terror Organizations

Course Description:

This course examines the creation, evolution, modus operandi and political savvy of four major terrorist organizations: Al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah and the Tamil Tigers. It studies the true momentum behind the causes for which these terrorists fight. This course discusses how these groups raise money, recruit, plan and conduct operations, exploit the Internet and work from within traditional, political structures to gain and maintain public support.

Contact Hours: 12

Time/Day: 24/7

Location: Online

Instructor: Joseph Ruffini

Instructor Email: eena10jo@frii.com

Instructor Phone: 719-930-4776

Technical Assistance Phone: 866-357-0841

Course Format:

- **Weekly Readings:** Each week the student will read assigned articles from online resources listed in the online course.

- **Weekly Written Assignments:** Each student will download the weekly assignment sheet from the online course, answer the questions on the

sheet and submit the document in the online course. The weekly assignment is due by Friday, midnight Eastern Time.

- **Weekly Live Instructor Session:** On the Saturday ending each week, a live session online using Elluminate will be held with your instructor. This will be an interactive session offering an overview of the latest breaking news in the course topics and a chance to share real world experiences and practices. This session will be held each Saturday at 11:00 Eastern Time and will run for 90 minutes. The link to the session is in the online course.

Course Materials:

● **Required Readings:**

All required reading materials are listed in the weekly assignments in the online course and are accessible via the Internet.

● **Recommended, Optional Readings:**

- The following selected reading from: Griset, Pamela L. and Mahan, Sue. *Terrorism in Perspective.* Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications, 2003: Chapter 2: International Terrorism*,* pages 45-85.

- The following selected readings from: Howard, Russell D. and Sawyer, Reid L. *Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding the New Security Environment.* Guilford, Connecticut: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2004:

  - *Al Qaeda: Origins, Goals and Grand Strategy* by Ahmed S. Hashim, pages 9-37.
  - *Al Qaeda: Terrorist Selection and Recruitment,* by Scott Gerwehr and Sara Daly, pages 73-91.
  - *Hizballah* by Danial Byman, pages 195-207
  - *Counterterrosim Policy and the Political Process* by Martha Crenshaw, pages 450-459.

- The following selected readings from: Cronin, Audrey Kurth and Ludes, James M., editors. *Attacking Terrorism: Elements of a Grand Strategy.* Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2004.

  - *Sources of Contemporary Terrorism,* by Audrey Kurth Cronin, pages 19-46.

- *The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism,* by David A. Rapoport, pages 74-97.

■ *Hezbollah: A Short History,* by Augustus Richard Norton, Princeton University Press, ISBN -13-978-0-691-13124-5.

■ *Inside Hamas: The Untold Story of the Islamic Movement,* by Zaki Chehab, Nation Books, ISBN 978-1-56858-395-2.

Mandatory Equipment/software:

A personal computer with direct access to the Internet, WWW, or a computer service, either the Microsoft Word® or WordPerfect® word-processing program if used to cut and paste into the email box, and a modem with a minimum speed of 28K.

ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASS POLICIES:

This is an e-learning course. All assignments will be submitted to the instructor not later than midnight Mountain Time on the date that they are due. Assignments are to be submitted in the online course in Microsoft Word format. It is the responsibility of each student to scan their email attachments for viruses and all other infections before transmitting them to the instructor. Corrupted files will not be reviewed or graded. If an assignment cannot be submitted on time, it is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor BEFORE the assignment due date. Unexplained, late assignments will receive a grade of "0."

It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that submitted assignments are in the online course by verifying in the gradebook online that the assignment attachment is in the proper location in the course.

You may contact the instructor at any time by email or telephone if you have questions or need assistance. If you need technical assistance with the course, contact OnLine Training Institute technical assistance phone number- 866-357-0841. It is recommended that you **phone your instructor on matters of urgency or emergency.**

SECTION II: COURSE OUTLINE AND STUDENT OUTCOMES

Instructional Goals: This course reinforces critical workplace skill sets deemed to be an integral and essential part of any college education to include: written and oral communicative skills, the ability to ask well-defined questions and intelligently challenge

the instructor and fellow students, personal responsibility, the ability to provide adequate documentation as necessary, and confidence to both express and defend one's own convictions and opinions. All are essential to successful course completion, as they play key roles in this course's goal to build greater self-confidence, enhance oratory abilities and debating skills, and expand the comprehension and analytical capabilities of each student.

General Learning Outcomes: At the completion of this course, successful students will have demonstrated an ability to learn and retain knowledge, analyze and intelligently question information and data presented to them, evaluate the significance and current-day applicability of what they have learned, synthesize ideas from multiple sources, organize thoughts and words, and possess the confidence to apply what has been learned in a real-life, operational environment (on the job).

Specific Course Outcomes:

Through assigned readings, online class participation, graded assignments and a final research paper, students will:

1. Possess a sound, working knowledge of the history, evolution, and strategic objectives of four of the world's most infamous terrorist organizations: Al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah and the Tamil Tigers.

2. Understand the political and religious factors that fuel each of these terror groups.

3. Comprehend how these terror organizations recruit new members and sustain their rank and file.

4. Know the modus operandi of each terror organization by examining the major attacks carried out by each of them.

5. Understand the major sources of funding that sustain each of these terror organizations.

6. Realize the strengths and weaknesses inherent in each of the terror groups.

7. Gain an appreciation for how the leaders of these terror organizations think by reading their own words.

8. Appreciate how well terror organizations can work within legitimate social and political systems in order to defeat them.

Course Topic Schedule:

Week 1. Knowing Al Qaeda
    1.1 History, Key Dates and Events
    1.2 Guiding Principles & Strategic Objectives
    1.3 Recruiting & Funding
    1.4 Training & Tactics
    1.5 Leadership
Week 2. Knowing Hamas
    2.1 History, Key Dates and Events
    2.2 Guiding Principles and Strategic Objectives
    2.3 Recruiting & Funding
    2.4 Training & Tactics
    2.5 Leadership
Week 3. Knowing Hezbollah
    3.1 History, Key Dates and Events
    3.2 Guiding Principles and Strategic Objectives
    3.3 Recruiting & Funding
    3.4 Training & Tactics
    3.5 Leadership
Week 4. Knowing the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
    4.1 History, Key Dates and Events
    4.2 Guiding Principles & Strategic Objectives
    4.3 Recruiting & Funding
    4.4 Training & Tactics
    4.5 Leadership
Week 5. The Rhetoric of Terror: From the Mouths of the Leaders
    5.1 Osama bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi
    5.2 Sheikh Ahmed Yassin
    5.3 Hassan Nasrallah
    5.4 Velupillai Prabhakaran
Week 6. Terror Web Sites: Perception Management, Funding & Recruiting
    6.1 Al Qaeda
    6.2 Hamas
    6.3 Hezbollah
    6.4 Tamil Tigers
Week 7. Nation State Support of Terror
    7.1 Iran
    7.2 Syria
    7.3 Pakistan
Week 8. What Does the Future Hold For:
    8.1 Al Qaeda?
    8.2 Hamas?
    8.3 Hezbollah?
    8.4 Tamil Tigers?
Week 9. Course Research Paper

SECTION III: EVALUATION PROCEDURES

This course is designed for you to learn in an independent study environment. By reading the required web site materials, participating in discussions with the instructor and other students, and answering the instructor's assignment questions via email response, and submitting a final paper, each student will experience the maximum benefit from this course.

Grading/Evaluation: Grades will be awarded based upon the following, 1,000 point system:

Final grades will be determined as follows:

> A = 90 – 100 pts.
> B = 75 – 89 pts.
> C = 60 – 74 pts.
> D = 50 – 59 pts.
> F = 49 points and below

■ Points are awarded based upon each student's demonstrated grasp of the salient points of the readings as evidenced by written answers to assigned questions.

■ All assignments will receive a numerical grade based upon that week's maximum point value. For example, assignments submitted for week 1 can be awarded from 1 to 15 points by the instructor.

■ DO NOT presume that because one week's study material may be worth fewer points than some of the others that the subject material is any less important. Think of weeks 4, 5 and 7 as opportunities to maximize scores for those weeks while having additional time begin work on the final paper.

■ Weekly point scale is as follows:

o Week 1: Knowing Al Qaeda	100 points
o Week 2: Knowing	100 points
o Week 3: Knowing Hezbollah	100 points
o Week 4: Knowing the Tamil Tigers	100 points
o Week 5: The Rhetoric of Terror	50 points
o Week 6: Terror Web Sites	50 points
o Week 7: Nation State Support of Terror	100 points
o Week 8: What Does the Future Hold	100 points
o Week 9: Course Research Paper	300 points
TOTAL	**100 points**

■ **BONUS POINTS:** From week 1 through week 8, students can be awarded up to 2 bonus points each week for their verbal participation and contribution. These additional points – up to 16 achievable -will be added to the student's final total out of the possible 100. These bonus points could very well result in the student's final grade being pushed up to higher letter grades. For example, if a student's final point total for the written assignments and final research paper is 74, that student would be given a grade of "C" for the course. If, however, that student's weekly, verbal participation was exceptional, and that student was awarded 16 out of a possible 16 points, then that student's final point total would raised to 90, bringing the final grade from a "C" to an "A." Bottom line, **IT WILL PAY TO DO THE READINGS; MAKE NOTES, BE PREPARED AND PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSIONS.**

Points will be awarded based upon the *quality* (not quantity) of student's verbal contributions as follows:

> 1 Point: Demonstrated understanding and in-depth analysis of the assigned readings.

> .5 Points: Willingness to effectively challenge the opinions of the instructor.

> .5 Points: Strength of conviction and ability to "hold one's own" in the discussions.

Late Assignment Policy:

Late submissions without prior notification to and discussion with the instructor will receive a 20% deduction in points from the grade awarded for the assignment. For example, if the instructor grades that week's assignment as 10 out of a possible 15 points, but the assignment was submitted late without prior discussion and explanation, then the final grade for that submission would be 8 points out of 15 possible points. The instructor understands that many students have jobs, families and other additional responsibilities; ergo, the instructor will extend student deadlines based upon individual requests. The objective of this course is to teach, not to sanction. The instructor will trust students to tell the truth when exceptions are requested and granted. If a student takes advantage of or lies to the instructor, and the instructor finds out, that student will be receive a grade of "0" points for the assignment in question.

Guidance for the Weekly Assignments that must be submitted to the online course:

> ■ The instructor DOES NOT specify how long written answers to any questions must be. ALL questions must be answered to the instructor's satisfaction;

specifically, the student must demonstrate to the instructor that he/she had performed the required reading and grasped the important points. Some students are more succinct and to-the-point than others. Some require more words to state their opinions. No matter, as long as the requirements are met.

■ It is recommended that before performing the reading assignments, students review the questions that they must answer in order to highlight sections of the readings and/or take notes most appropriately and expeditiously.

The Research Paper:

The research paper for this class is due not later than midnight on the Saturday ending Week 9.

This paper must be a minimum of fifteen (15) pages double-spaced in narrative content (not including cover page and bibliography), in Arial, 12 point font, with left, right, top and bottom margins of one inch. There is no maximum length for this research paper.

Students may choose one of the following topics for their research paper:

1. Hezbollah: A Terrorist Organization, A Freedom-Fighting Militia, or an Iranian, State-Sponsored Arm of Persian, Islamist Aggression?

2. Hamas: A Positive or Negative Force in the Struggle to Establish a Palestinian State?

3. The Tamil Tigers: Was it Worth the Fight against the Sri Lankan Government?

4. Al Qaeda: the "Poster Child" for all Islamist Movements

All papers must be of college-level, academic quality. All papers must be grammatically correct and spell-checked. They must flow in a logical sequence, stating an initial premise, presenting an argument with documentation as appropriate, and ending with a logical and substantiated conclusion. Document references using the APA style citations with a separate Reference page. Include <u>no</u> pictures, <u>no</u> flow charts, and <u>no</u> diagrams. Use narrative text only. References obtained from the Internet must be properly cited according to APA style.

All of your homework assignments and papers will be graded based upon what is called the "REOS" method: Strength of your "Reasoning" (Logic); What, and how much "Evidence" (Sources) you present; Your own "Observations" on the material and its meaning; and the "Substance" of the paper (how much significant, new, and innovative information you present).