



Center for Strategic & International Studies  
Washington, DC

**FIFTH ANNUAL TRANSNATIONAL THREAT ASSESSMENT**

Looking Over the Horizon  
to Threats and Security at Home and Abroad

The CSIS Transnational Threats Project (TNT) and the Homeland Security Program co-hosted its fifth annual Transnational Threats Assessment on April 27, 2007. This off-the-record closed forum was attended by over 100 Fortune-500 senior corporate security executives and members from U.S. and foreign government and intelligence agencies. This year's conference focused on emerging threats worldwide, as well as crises at home, and ways to strengthen private sector and government responses to these challenges.

CSIS' President Dr. John Hamre introduced the morning keynote speaker, Richard Clarke, Chairman of Good Harbor Consulting LLC. Mr. Clarke presented an intriguing analysis on current and evolving threats to U.S. national security and the challenges posed to both public and private sectors. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive threat assessment and the development of a strong and multi-faceted response system jointly developed by the private sector and the government to counter vulnerabilities.

This year's conference presented its widely recognized panel of experts on global and regional threats posed by violent radical groups. Dr. Anthony Cordesman, CSIS' Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy, discussed the current developments in the Middle East, specifically, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He emphasized that the U.S. has already decisively lost the war in Iraq and highlighted the sharp decline in security in Afghanistan in recent months. Dr. Cordesman warned that the global negative perception of U.S. foreign policy has become the number one fuel for terrorism. Dr. Sidney Jones, Southeast Asia Director of the International Crisis Group, presented an in-depth analysis of the Indonesian terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah and its current operational capabilities. She stressed that whereas Indonesian jihadis currently focus their activities on local targets and not the Western world, certain individuals have solid ties to al Qaeda and the risk of operationally activating those ties is prevalent. Dr. Jones reiterated the need for counterterrorism measures that recognize the complex realities on the ground rather than applying a general strategy. One example of a poor counterterrorism approach is the vigorous closing of Islamic schools which potentially destroys social networks and educational possibilities, while only a few schools are actually involved in terrorism recruitment. Aimee Ibrahim-David, Vice President for Counterterrorism, DeticaDFI, addressed the increasingly sophisticated use of the Internet by terrorists creating a dangerous global network easily accessible for jihadis worldwide. She described how terrorists recruit, radicalize, and organize their actions online and addressed the difficulty countering these developments in cyberspace. Ms. Ibrahim-David also detailed how terrorists exploit the Internet for important information about the west.



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The second panel addressed the role of the private sector in responding to and serving the public in restoring infrastructure and basic services following a disaster. The panel discussed ways to move to a more dynamic enterprise model for crisis and catastrophic response five years after 9/11. Panel speakers included David Paulison, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency; General Charles Boyd, President and Chief Executive Officer, Business Executives for National Security; and Dr. Stephen Flynn, Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Senior Fellow for National Security Studies, Council on Foreign Relations. The panel recognized that the focus of fighting the enemy abroad significantly reduces the attention on measures to improve security inside the United States. The private sector has a unique vantage point on issues of critical importance to protecting national security and economic interests, however strong political leadership is required. The U.S. government and the private sector should actively engage in defining clear tasks and responsibilities, as well as setting standards and developing a basic infrastructure for crisis management.

Keynote luncheon speaker, Dr. John Gannon, Vice President for Global Analysis, BAE Systems, discussed national law enforcement and intelligence responses to the emerging threats. Dr. Gannon stressed the need for a comprehensive national system to respond to new challenges, especially stressing the need to recognize the use of open source information and integrating foreign and domestic intelligence.

The Transnational Threats Assessment is overseen by TNT's Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG), a forum of 30 senior corporate security executives, representing Fortune 100 companies from a cross-section of key infrastructure sectors, and senior national security specialists. Since its inception in February 2003, the PSAG regularly convenes in off-the-record sessions to discuss mutual concerns on information sharing, improved national security measures, and global security threats with ranking U.S. government officials and the intelligence community. The group is co-chaired by Carol Hallett, Counsel, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Robert Littlejohn, Vice President of Global Security, Avon Products.