

## SINGLE ARTICLE EXCERPTED

FROM VOLUME 8

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## YOU'VE GOT HATE: WEB BASED TERROR

**Captain Matthew Orris**

We assess that the global jihadist movement is decentralized, lacks a coherent global strategy, and is becoming more diffuse. New jihadist networks and cells, with anti-American agendas, are increasingly likely to emerge. The confluence of shared purpose and dispersed actors will make it harder to find and undermine jihadist groups...

Anti-US and anti-globalization sentiment is on the rise and fueling other radical ideologies. This could prompt some leftist, nationalist, or separatist groups to adopt terrorist methods to attack US interests. The radicalization process is occurring more quickly, more widely, and more anonymously in the Internet age, raising the likelihood of surprise attacks by unknown groups whose members and supporters may be difficult to pinpoint.

We judge that groups of all stripes will increasingly use the Internet to communicate, propagandize, recruit, train, and obtain logistical and financial support.

-- National Intelligence Estimate, April 2006.

“We have to understand who uses the Internet for hate purposes. It is a propaganda tool par excellence to get one’s message out to supporters and potential recruits, as well as a powerful way to denigrate one’s enemies. Thus, the Internet is a natural venue not only for amateurs, but also for organized extremist groups and terrorists.”

-- Rabbi Abraham Cooper, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, Anti-Semitism and Terrorism on the Internet: New Threats, June 1, 2003. 21st Century Terrorism and the Internet: A Natural Fit

Terrorism today seems to be a far cry from the often state-backed terrorist movements of the 1970s and 1980s (many of which were offshoots of the protest and “peace” movements of Western Europe) that were hierarchical in structure and had formalized chains of command with identifiable leaders like Andreas Baader and Ulrike Meinhof of the West German terror group, Red Army Faction (RAF). Since the early 1990s terrorism has shifted from ideologically rooted, rigidly organized, state-sponsored groups to a loosely organized network of like-minded terrorists, often religious in nature, that are based internationally throughout cyberspace. It is no accident that this shift occurred with the explosion of the Internet a global communications mode. The very nature the Internet makes it is the perfect location to “hide

in the open” and orchestrate and organize terrorist activities; the ease of access to the Internet and availability of technology, little cost to operate or to utilize Internet service, and a worldwide audience available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

One of the most successful uses of new technology for the advancement of a terrorist agenda is that of Islamists<sup>1</sup>. Many Islamist groups, and those sympathetic to their cause, already use the Internet to spread their anti-Western, anti-Israel message because the Internet, like night postings of leaflets and painted messages in years past, affords the

<sup>1</sup> Islamists: Adherents of Islamism, which refers to political ideologies derived from fundamentalist interpretations of Islam and asserts that all matters of religion, government and society must be ruled by strict interpretations of Sharia Law, all of which depends upon the group of self-appointed Imams who place themselves in charge.

The US Department of Defense defines terrorism as the unlawful use or threatened use of force or violence against individuals or property to coerce or intimidate governments or societies, often to achieve political, religious, or ideological objectives.

<http://www.periscope.usni.com>. The Federal Bureau of Investigation defines terrorism as the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a Government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives" and is either domestic or international, depending on the origin, base, and objectives of the organization. <http://www.fbi.gov>. Despite the differences both the DOD and the FBI agree a terrorist is an individual or member of a group who uses acts of violence and intimidation to force a desired social, political, or religious view on an unwilling society.

So in order to understand the motivations, one should first determine the particular goals of the group. Though it may seem like an exercise in semantics, it is vital in helping to understand the what, how and why the terrorist is trying to accomplish their stated goal and how to best prevent this from happening. The reasons behind terrorism are as diverse as the types of people who commit the attacks. Every type of rationale ranging from political oppression, religious intolerance to divine revelations is used to justify their actions. All terrorists state that they have exhausted all attempts at legitimate change but to no avail, and thus they have been "forced" to carry out acts of violence to effect those changes they desire.

individual a level anonymity and allows the individual (or small clique) to act as though they are part of a much larger and better organized group. Other uses for the Internet include, but are not excluded to, intimidation, extortion, instructions on the manufacture of explosives, poison, weapons familiarization, how to coordinate attacks on websites they deem as a threat, intelligence sharing, or providing a forum for propaganda.<sup>1</sup>

Web based terror is focused at the micro level of a loose net of groups or individuals that share common held beliefs such as the hatred of "Jews," the United States, "capitalism" or "globalization." The process from political or religious extremism to terrorist is now just a

mere mouse click away thanks to the increasing access throughout the world of technology and information needed to commit acts of terrorist violence.

After the attacks on 9/11, the Internet became essential for the survival of many of these terrorist groups. On the Internet terrorist groups and their supporters are able to sidestep, with relative ease the few impediments imposed on their activities by democratic governments and are unhindered by effective monitoring or censorship and allows terror groups to easily disseminate their messages.

Not every terrorist or sympathizer website will actually enlist recruits for violent action; most sites stop short of enlisting and instead inform how one can show their commitment to the "cause" in other ways. An example of this can be found on the Kahane Chai website under

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<sup>1</sup> Several Internet sites created by Hamas supporters carry the group's charter and communiqués (both political and military) that call for the killing of Jews. Other groups, such as the Iranian sponsored Hezbollah use the Internet to raise additional funds and to drum up support worldwide. Hezbollah also sells books and other publications through its own website based in southern Lebanon.

the heading of "How can I help the struggle: A few suggestions."<sup>1</sup> While the Peruvian Maoist terror group Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) website one can receive helpful hints under the title, "Action alert: What you can do." Often times when part of a larger multi-media campaign the Internet can be quite effective in helping to mobilize activists, such was the case in 2003 and 2004 when International A.N.S.W.E.R.<sup>2</sup> utilized the Internet to great effect to protest the U.S. led invasion of Iraq in which tens of thousands, and in some case hundreds of thousands, people around the world responded with well organized demonstrations within a matter of hours.

Generally, individual group websites such as the Colombian based Marxist-Leninist groups ELN and FARC are designed more to raise funds and generate global propaganda than as a recruitment tool. Enlistments into terror groups still happen face-to-face, and in the more sophisticated groups the potential candidate is vetted, especially if the individual wanting to join is a foreigner, as in the case of U.S. citizen Lori Berenson.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately there are increasing exceptions to this rule, especially among jihadist groups, in which small groups give themselves grandiose titles with "Army" or

"Brigades" as a means of intimidation by non-existent numbers. Currently in North America the jihadi trend is for ad hoc groups to sprout up such as the six Yemeni-Americans who were arrested in upstate New York in April 2003 and convicted of being a "sleeper cell" for Al-Qaeda,<sup>4</sup> and the seventeen in Toronto Canada.

It should be stressed that not every website is an all encompassing "one stop shop" for aspiring terrorists or revolutionaries; simply logging will not make one an effective fighter. What one will find on most sites is information and lots of it. Most websites have hyperlinks and file sharing with other sites that contain information such as the "Terrorist's Handbook" and the cult classic "The Anarchist Cookbook." The "Mujahideen Poisons Handbook" is replacing those older sources.<sup>5</sup> Another much heftier tome, by Al-Qaeda, "The Encyclopedia of Jihad" is distributed through the Internet and offers detailed instructions on how to establish an underground organization and execute attacks. There are many books along similar lines are already easily accessible in bookstores, public libraries and gun shows.<sup>6</sup>

The more sophisticated groups and their support sites have gone through the Internet and data mined the sites of others (anarchist, communist, radical environmentalists, white supremacists, black supremacists, etc.) that have posted detailed instructions in manufacturing bombs, chemical weapons, and

<sup>1</sup> Kahane Lives: A splinter group of Kach, a Zionist terror group founded by radical Israeli-American rabbi Meir Kahane whose stated goal is to restore the biblical state of Israel. Kahane Chai, which means "Kahane Lives," was founded by Meir Kahane's son Binyamin following his assassination in the US were declared to be terrorist organizations in March 1994 by the Israeli Cabinet under the 1948 Terrorism Law.

<sup>2</sup> International A.N.S.W.E.R.: (or simply ANSWER) is the front group for the Marxist-Leninist Workers World Party (WWP), which uses the anti-war movement to promote Communist ideals and condemn American foreign policy, and capitalism and was founded shortly after the attacks in September 2001. ANSWER's protests have been staged in numerous cities worldwide and have drawn thousands to hundreds of thousands of participants.

<sup>3</sup> Berenson, a self-proclaimed journalist of dubious credibility was arrested in Lima, Peru on November 30, 1995 for collaboration with the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), and used her cover to gather information on the Peruvian Congress building (floor plans, security, etc.) as well as renting an apartment and a house for the group to use. Subsequent police raids netted fourteen terrorists and a large cache of weapons and explosives. She is currently serving a twenty-year prison sentence in Peru for supporting terrorist activities.

<sup>4</sup> The "Lackawanna Six" had engaged in training at the al-Farooq terrorist camp in Afghanistan prior to the 9/11 attacks.

<sup>5</sup> Written by the Palestinian terror group Hamas the book details how to prepare various homemade poisons, poisonous gases, and other deadly materials for use in terrorist attacks.

<sup>6</sup> According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Federal agents investigating at least 30 bombings and four attempted bombings between 1985 and June 1996 recovered bomb-making literature that the suspects had obtained from open sources to the Internet. Among them, in February 1996, three junior high school students from Syracuse, NY, were charged with plotting to set off a homemade bomb in their school, based on plans they had found on the Internet.

poisons.<sup>1</sup> Practically one cannot become an effective fighter by studying such manuals; reading the “Ranger Handbook” won’t make one a US Army Ranger. Still there is no limit from theory to execution when it comes to the amount of terrorist and extremist propaganda that can be downloaded and used. And in any case, one does not have to be a Ranger to kill innocent people.

Conducting an attack is one thing, inciting others do it is quite another, and often a lot easier. Quite simply, the spread of any radical ideology is far more dangerous than an individual armed with an AK-47. A lone gunman may kill a few people, but by doing so he exposes himself and in turn he himself can be killed. It is the propagandist who moves unseen and whose message that reaches thousands and whose aim is to inspire others to kill millions, which is the true benefit of online terrorism, especially in coalescing views.

## CONVERGING, DIVERGENT HATE GROUPS

One of the most disturbing trends is the growing willingness of these fringe groups to work together in a very disjointed way. Although the core beliefs of such groups and their public rhetoric may seem to limit their cooperation, they share “common enemies” – the government of the U.S. and of course, “the Jews.” According to the old adage, politics makes strange bedfellows, meaning that sometimes circumstances compel adversaries to temporarily join forces. It presupposes that such cooperation is not a situation sought after

<sup>1</sup> Supposedly a captured Al-Qaeda laptop found in Afghanistan had information downloaded from a French site run by the Société Anonyme (a self-described “fluctuating group of artists and theoreticians who work specifically on the relations between critical thinking and artistic practices”) that offers a two-volume “Sabotage Handbook.”

solution, but rather one that is thrust upon the parties involved. It is no different in the world of radical ideology. Since 2005 there has been an increase in the rather bizarre trend of cooperation between of radical Islam and neo-Nazis; such an alliance seems unlikely at face value since neo-Nazis view Arabs as racially inferior and Islamists contend that neo-Nazis are just another infidel that they will either have to convert or kill.<sup>2</sup> While there is little evidence of fully operational links between Islamist terror groups and neo-Nazis, some of these groups have indicated a certain measure of solidarity – due to their shared beliefs of Holocaust denial and hatred for the Jews. To make this unlikely alliance even sound remotely logical to fellow the white supremacist Aryan Nations website claimed that the idea of “holy war” is not limited to Islam but is available to Christians.<sup>3</sup>

Now even the radical left and it’s associated “peace movements” are increasingly finding themselves in agreement with Islamists and neo-Nazis. They all share the view that capitalism in general and the U.S. in particular are oppressive. The Global War on Terror and especially Operation Iraqi Freedom are designed to benefit only Israel and “international Jewry.” White supremacists and neo-Nazis like David Duke were quick to add support to the anti-Israel, Jewish conspiracy theories spouted publicly by various peace activists in the summer of 2005. Various neo-Nazi websites since that time have posted

<sup>2</sup> In an interview with CNN in March 2005, August Kreis, leader of the Aryan Nations said of al Qaeda, “You say they’re terrorists, I say they’re freedom fighters. And I want to instill the same jihadist feeling in our peoples’ heart, in the Aryan race, that they have for their father, who they call Allah.”

<sup>3</sup> “All the sons of Abraham, all descendants of his three wives, Sarah, Hagar and Ketourah, the parties of the Islamic and Aryan World, all need to understand their duty to enact Holy Jihad, we need to live this Jihad; total war, death to our enemy, the insidious, poisonous and rabid satanic Jew.”

glowing op-ed piece of why these “peace movements” are right.<sup>1</sup>

## THE INTERNET REVOLUTIONIZES TERROR

The Internet has changed organization and management of terror groups. Groups such as the Aryan Nations and the American militia movement were the first to embrace the Internet as a means to organize, recruit and control activities. Their near monopoly of the Internet was soon challenged by religious terrorism, which like its racist counterparts also promoted either an uncompromising world-view, or used religion as a cloak for its revolutionary and violent theology. In short order virtually every terror group with the basest of means was on the Internet.

This Internet-based terrorism is far more diffused than traditional terrorist structures. It embraces the concept of “leaderless resistance” and relies on lone acts of terror first advocated by William Pierce, a former leader in the Aryan Nations.<sup>2</sup> Louis Beam<sup>3</sup> best articulated the concept of “leaderless resistance” and the “lone wolf.” Beam suggested that hierarchy should be downplayed in favor of a network of “phantom cells,” which would communicate covertly and act through ideology rather than formal organizational structures for offensive

<sup>1</sup> In August 2005 neo-Nazis around the country praised Cindy Sheehan for her public statements such as, “My first born was murdered. Am I angry? Yes, he was killed for a PNAC (Project for a New American Century) neo-con agenda to benefit Israel. My son joined the Army to protect America, not Israel.” The current anti-war movement is popular with the American Nationalist Union, the National Socialist Movement, and at racist websites like [www.stormfront.org](http://www.stormfront.org), [www.altermedia.info](http://www.altermedia.info), [www.davidduke.com](http://www.davidduke.com).

<sup>2</sup> Louis Beam, “Leaderless Resistance,” *The Seditonist* (Feb. 1992), [www.louisbeam.com](http://www.louisbeam.com)

<sup>3</sup> Louis Beam is a former Klansman and neo-Nazi from Texas who was one of the first published proponents of the “lone wolf” or “leaderless resistance” to encourage anti-government and racist terrorism by small cells. He has written that the attacks on 9/11 are part of a larger government sponsored conspiracy.

flexibility. Such networking would protect the security of the organization as a whole.

Not all of what Pierce or Beam proposed was novel; the lone wolf gunman is nothing new in terrorism and has produced some of the worst cases of terrorism the U.S.<sup>4</sup> Below are some examples of what Beam advocated. They are not tied to a specific group. All but one are offshoots of radical ideologies and all were forms of terrorism.

### PHANTOM CELL:

- April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City by Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols.
- October 2002: John Allen Mohammed and John Lee Malvo carry out 13 deadly sniper attacks in the Washington DC area.
- April 20, 1999 shooting at Columbine High School by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

### LONE WOLF:

- The eighteen year long bombing campaign against progress carried out by Theodore Kaczynski--the “Unabomber”.
- Serial bomber Eric Rudolph who carried out the 1996 bombing of the Olympic Village in Atlanta Georgia, and the 1998 abortion clinic in Alabama.

<sup>4</sup> Bath School bombing: Bath Township Michigan. May 18, 1927: 45 people were killed and 58 injured in a series of bombings at the Bath Consolidated School. Perpetrator was Andrew Kehoe, a school board member upset about taxes to build the school. After murdering his wife he then detonated a massive bomb he had placed inside the school. As first responders worked at the scene Mr. Kehoe drove up and detonated another bomb he had inside of his own car killing himself, the school superintendent and others. Another 500lbs of explosives were discovered in the school put had failed to detonate.

- March 5, 2006: Mohammed Reza Taherizar, a student at UNC–Chapel Hill, who ran down at least nine other students in his SUV in because of “America’s continued insult to Muslims.”

Beam's suggested methodologies do have obvious weaknesses centered on sustainment. A lone actor must know exactly how to do what he wished to accomplish. He depends on their ability to put into practice what he has gleaned from the Internet or sympathetic newspapers, magazines and DVDs. And no matter how frightful the concept of the “phantom cell” may be, if a cell is to remain “phantom,” it must limit its operations to its own means. Still the fundamental impact of the Internet remains one of decentralization.

## ISLAMIST SUCCESSES IN APPLYING THEORY TO INTERNET REALITY

Thus far, the Islamists have been the most effective with the implementation of “strength-in-dispersion” theory to carry out and coordinate attacks. The wide dispersion of their activities makes the coordination between various law enforcement agencies, let alone between nations, extremely difficult and assists the groups in avoiding detection.<sup>1</sup> At the individual level the very ideology of Islamic jihad combines a nihilistic character with a religious fervor, which appeals to a global audience. This duality makes Islamic extremism it far more unifying than themes of racial superiority or of social-economic models such as Communism. The nature of the movement meshes well with the dispersed but one nature

<sup>1</sup> Bombing attacks in Paris carried out by the Algerian based Armed Islamic Group (known by its French acronym GIA) in 1995 and whose operations depended on cells in England, Belgium and France; the 9/11 attack in which operations were dispersed between the U.S., Germany and Afghanistan; the Madrid train station bombing on March 11, 2004; the London subway and bus bombings on July 7 and 21, 2005.

of the Internet, offering an easy means to recruit, educate, and inspire fellow travelers along the jihadist path. In this regard, the NIE quoted as the opening to this article misses the point on jihadist strategy; like the Internet it does not have to be a logical, progressive plan for accomplishing an end state to successfully reach that end state.

A textbook example of this dispersion of an organization is the terror group Hamas. The organization has separated its political and military wings, its leadership is divided between Gaza and Syria, and much of its political planning and fund-raising efforts is carried out overseas, mostly in the U.S. in places like metro-Detroit and Chicago.<sup>2</sup> This allows Hamas to collect and analyze intelligence reports and conduct financial transactions in the safety of places such as Dearborn for the parent organization back in Gaza.

The methodology of Internet-based terrorism is becoming increasingly more difficult to track as terrorists exploit widely available and affordable commercial encryption technology worldwide to communicate covertly to fellow members.<sup>3</sup> Terrorist and their facilitators who live outside of the Middle East have little difficulty in obtaining state-of-the-art technology like satellite telephones, discount disposable cell phones, and of course the Internet itself. Additionally, the lax immigration laws in much of the world has helped to ensure that such de-centralized command and control models used by Hamas and Al Qaeda can work and survive. All of this

<sup>2</sup> This trend is not new; the FARC has employed this technique for years with success by keeping its political leadership, Secretariat, based quite openly in sympathetic nations in South America and Europe.

<sup>3</sup> The increased sophistication of terror groups to encrypt their communication on the Internet has led to the activity called, “Steganography” which means imbedding messages on a normal looking website. Only those holding the required code can decipher the messages placed in otherwise innocuous images or text messages.

has created a nightmare for governments to simultaneously protect their citizens from harm while protecting their privacy.

## TERRORISTS WITHOUT BORDERS (OR LIMITS)

Terrorism, whether ideologically or religious based, is no longer limited by geographic borders. When terrorism was backed by states, namely the Soviet Union, there were limits on just how far groups such as the Red Brigades in Italy could or would go. Moscow was not going to sanction or supply any of their groups with a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) because the risk far outweighed any perceived benefit. With the growth of Islamist terrorism—including groups backed by Iran—such rules no longer apply. Now the stated aim of the state sponsor is to literally destroy the U.S. and “wipe Israel off of the map.” No longer are targets strictly symbolic like the killing of Deutsche Bank chief Alfred Herrhausen by the Red Army Faction in Bad Homburg on November 30, 1989. Today the terrorist goes for the greatest number of casualties in any event as in the attacks on the World Trade Center bombing on September 11, 2001, the Beslan school massacre in southern Russia on September 1, 2004, and the bombing of the wedding party in Amman Jordan on November 9, 2005 have shown.

Islamist terror's ideology and worldwide presence make it the most dangerous for the moment. Islamist terror groups will continue to thrive in Muslim nations where such beliefs can find a ready audience and around the world as long as they can map out a cohesive strategic agenda “to wage jihad in order to reconstitute the Muslim community beyond the national

divides.”<sup>1</sup> Such a strategy can support the never-ending jihads on the periphery of the Muslim world such as Kashmir in India, the Philippines, Chechnya, Uzbekistan, East Timor, Indonesia, Sudan, and so forth. In this manner, Islamist terror can not only survive but also perpetuate itself. New causes and newer fronts inspire and enlist ever more fighters and auxiliaries, especially the more technically savvy and directionless.

The websites of Islamist groups are not recruiting villagers living along the Pakistan–Afghanistan border; rather they are recruiting the young aspiring jihadist militant who may have immigrated to find employment or education opportunities, speaks English, and is familiar with technology. The very by-products of the globalization (command of English and availability of technology, ease of travel and immigration, mainly in Western Europe and North America) have dramatically helped groups such as Al–Qaeda to operate with relative ease worldwide. All that is needed is access to the Internet and a desire to be taken in by, and to spread, the message of jihad. In the security and privacy of one's own home or dorm room, a potential terrorist can download all that will help inspire and prepare the viewer for waging jihad.

It is important that the public does not confuse groups such as the Taliban in Afghanistan or Muqtada al–Sadr's militia in Iraq with the far more sophisticated Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and Hamas terrorist groups or those individuals wishing to enter into the world of web-based terror. Those who rely on Internet-based terror to further their ends, such as Al–Qaeda, have smart, capable and extremely

<sup>1</sup> Olivier Roy, “Islam, Iran and the New Terrorism”, published in “[A Response to America and the New Terrorism: An exchange](#)”, p160, International Institute for Strategic Studies Vol. 42 No. 2, Summer 2000



dedicated members within their respected organization; in fact Al-Qaeda actually recruits university students, preferably graduates, to become its members, even those enrolled in programs sponsored by the National Security Agency.<sup>1</sup> This is why terrorist websites are extraordinarily more dangerous than they would be if the field of potential terrorists was restricted to just computer illiterates.

Obviously, those attracted to such extremist causes are discontented and frustrated with the world as they see it; terrorism today still resembles the terrorism of yesterday in that the rationales given and the use of violence to achieve their goals remain largely the same. But their conversion occurs with less risk of discovery than members of traditional terror groups who came up through the ranks of the student protest movement with accompanying police records. A member of an Internet terror group is less likely to have a criminal record. The difference now lies in the lack of any restraint, diffusion of the groups involved or the ability for law enforcement to identify, track and interdict the groups.

## A DECREASED FUNDING TRAIL IN A DISPERSED CYBER BATTLEFIELD

Following the money trail has also become harder. Funding, if any is required, for the “phantom cell” can easily be provided by legitimate enterprises that can generate and launder large volumes of money like restaurants, party stores and laundromats; or from the proceeds of criminal enterprises such

as prostitution, black marketing, and identity theft. And in the case of the “lone wolf” or “phantom cell” the funding can simply come out of the pocket of the would-be terrorist; none of the operations carried out by Timothy McVeigh, Ted Kaczynski, and Rudolph or John Mohammed were particularly cost prohibitive. As long as an act, no matter how small, can be attributed to acting in concert with a much larger agenda or group than the act itself is magnified that much more and achieves the additional benefit of terror due to its seemingly randomness.

At the same time divergent actors achieve combined effects, those using the Internet benefit from the reality of a dispersed cyber battlefield, one with an ill defined, emerging status around the globe. In the U.S. legal responses to terrorist websites are extremely sensitive because what is posted on the Internet is considered protected speech under the First Amendment. And unless a law enforcement agency actively pursues an investigation they cannot save the material they find on the Internet. Meanwhile the terrorists using the Internet to operate globally are careful to use Internet service providers (ISP) outside the U.S. and thus not subject to our laws/jurisdiction. In some cases the ISPs have been hijacked without the owner even knowing.

For example, Hamas has a policy of placing its top-tier websites on ISPs that are not based in the U.S. Instead they use ISPs in countries such as Russia and Ukraine where they feel that the history of corruption and anti-Semitism makes it highly unlikely that their websites will ever be targeted.<sup>2</sup> Meanwhile their bottom-tier websites are provided by ISPs in America. This

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<sup>1</sup> In January 2004, a federal grand jury charged Saudi national Sami Omar Hussayen, a doctoral candidate in computer science at the University of Idaho with conspiring to help terrorist organizations wage jihad by using the Internet to raise funds, recruit, and locate perspective U.S targets, both military and civilian, in the Middle East; and for creating websites and e-mail groups to disseminate messages from himself and two radical clerics in Saudi Arabia.

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<sup>2</sup> According to Hamas, in October of 2004 the Russian government had ordered the shutdown of a server. However, a visit to the Hamas website indicates that the move may not have been permanent.

strategy is probably based on a risk assessment that the damage inflicted at any one server would not cease operations completely and should any one ISP be permanently shut down the impact would not be significant enough to hinder any of their long-term operations. In any case, American privacy laws and protection of free speech limit monitoring and counteraction options against such sites. One of the appeals of Internet-based terror is that the user is always on the lookout for other ISPs in different locations, and with cash in hand Hamas, and others, will likely find businesses that will work with them.<sup>1</sup> This might explain why terrorists use the Internet far more than they attack it. While groups may post sites, message boards or chat rooms that glorify a wide assortment of views, no matter how repugnant, as long as they do not specifically engage in any criminal acts, they can continue unimpeded.

## THE FUTURE

Our enemies--and there are many--are very imaginative, hard working, cunning and unscrupulous. And regardless of the cause they espouse they are only loyal to their kind and their only true objective is to have the world fit to their view – regardless of the cost. The threat will continue to morph as they adapt to new technologies, laws and procedures. The Internet is an emergent technology in the current struggle. Like the radio or the airplane, each side in this struggle will seek to use the Internet to its advantage even as it limits its opponent's use of the medium. Such struggles are cyclic; we must anticipate change if we are to get ahead of our enemies' adaptations. The only question is will we be able to keep pace?

<sup>1</sup> Hamas has diversified even further and expanded their ISP support to countries such as Malaysia and Singapore to help in protecting their sites from cyber attack. They are also looking at basing them in predominately Muslim nations where they feel secure in being tolerated.

*Captain Matthew Orris, U.S. Army, is the senior intelligence observer controller for the Special Operations Training Detachment at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He received a B.S. from Eastern Michigan University. He has served in various command and staff positions in the continental United States, Germany, Kosovo, Colombia, Afghanistan and Iraq.*



*Iraqi police officers talk on the radio at the Al-Taji Police Station, April 17, 2006. Soldiers of the 463rd Military Police Company at Camp Liberty, Iraq, trained the Iraqi officers and make daily checks to ensure they are providing the best service to the Iraqi people. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin L. Moses Sr.*