

SAVE THE DATE
THE NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER (NCTC) NET ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP SERIES

“AMERICA WILL NEVER BE DESTROYED FROM THE OUTSIDE. IF WE FALTER AND LOSE OUR FREEDOMS, IT WILL BE BECAUSE WE DESTROYED OURSELVES.” – ABRAHAM LINCOLN

“HISTORY OFFERS NO RESPITE TO COUNTRIES THAT SET ASIDE THEIR SENSE OF IDENTITY IN FAVOR OF A SEEMINGLY LESS ARDUOUS COURSE. BUT NOR DOES IT ASSURE SUCCESS FOR THE MOST ELEVATED CONVICTIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF A COMPREHENSIVE GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGY.”
– HENRY KISSINGER

On behalf of the National Counterterrorism Center, you are invited to attend a two-day workshop on U.S. CT policy in the **Washington, D.C. metro area on November 5-7, 2014.**

- Please RSVP by Thursday September 25! (see details below)

Who We Are: NCTC has established an office within its Directorate for Strategic Operational Plans (DSOP) with the express purpose of deliberately devising and implementing a core capability to produce terrorism-focused, forward-looking, diagnostic counterterrorism (CT)-focused net assessments.

Our Mission and Objective: Developing a new and different way of looking at the problem of terrorism will not be easy. It will challenge the epistemology and conventional wisdom of existing conceptions of and responses to terrorism. Our objective, through net assessments, is to provide the strategic foundation and comparative analysis for senior-level CT discussions and decisions that will shape future action.

We Need You: To fulfill our mission and achieve our objective we must collaborate with and leverage the intellectual, experiential, and methodological strengths of academics and other thought leaders across the public and private sector from a variety of industries, fields and agencies. You have been identified as a strategic, global thinker with unique perspectives to share with us. We request your support and engagement as we embark on our journey.

Three workshops

To launch our initiative, we will hold three distinct workshops, from which we will synthesize and capture the strategic environment, articulate our framework for analysis, and identify 3-5 CT net assessment topics that will become the focus of future research efforts. We need your voice and experience to make our first workshop in November a success. We highlight our future workshops, as well, to provide context for our vision.

Workshop 1: The United States and Her Allies: November 5-7, 2014, we will explore American identity, values, interests, purpose, aspirations and influence in the context of global transition from the Industrial Age into the Information Age. Integrating these national traits with those of an evolving set of American partners and allies (state and non-state) will describe an inclusive and evolving notion of “Blue” that will become the conceptual cornerstone for the other workshops.

Workshop 2: The Future Strategic Ecosystem: January 14-16, 2015 (tentative pending venue availability), What are the key drivers and relationships among and between the actors and forces

interacting in the complex strategic ecosystem? Net assessments will explore a variety of approaches for appropriately selecting, characterizing, and correlating the influence and impact of the strategic environment (Green) on Blue and Red (adversary) interactions.

Workshop 3: The Terrorist Threat: February 4-6, 2015 (tentative pending venue availability), What is the nature and character of the “global others” that find dislocations in the global rule sets and rise up violently to change them? These violent non-state actors will be assessed across the same factors, highlighting areas where competitions or meaningful balances exist, the salient features of those balances, as well as the relative strengths, weaknesses, and dependencies of each actor through that lens.

Workshop 4: Synthesis: February 25-27, 2015 (tentative pending venue availability), we will convene to synthesize the proceedings from the three workshops.

Specifically, we request *your* participation in the workshop in November.

When: November 5-7 (the evening of the 5th is a reception at the 18th century Gadsby’s Tavern in Old Town Alexandria)

Workshop venue: We have a block of rooms set aside at the Lorien Hotel and Spa, also in Old Town Alexandria, VA, just two blocks from the King Street Metro and convenient to Reagan National Airport. The workshop will take place on site.

Getting here: You are responsible for booking/scheduling your own travel arrangements, but travelers outside of the Washington Metro Area will be reimbursed for economy-class airfare, taxis to and from the airport as necessary (rental cars are not authorized), lodging, and meals/per diem plus any other pre-approved direct costs.

We’ve contracted with Kiernan Group Holdings (KGH) and their propriety method of facilitation known as “Crafty Bastards” to support NCTC. Crafty Bastards Workshops examine and exploit complex problem sets at a visceral level, blending the talent of experienced practitioners from across the public and private sectors to identity levels of influence to counter emergent national security challenges. They will help answer any questions you may have about the logistics of getting to the workshops.

Please contact Deborah Gunn, gunn@kiernan.co from KGH to note your RSVP and to discuss any travel/logistics-related questions.

Please contact Amy Choi, amymc@dni.gov from NCTC if you have any questions about the substance of the workshop.

We look forward to hearing from you!

A formal invitation with read-aheads and details will follow!