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Stop seeing what you know—Start knowing what you see!

Living the Purge – Not Loving It

Stephen Coughlin



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By Stephen C. Coughlin

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UnconstrainedAnalytics.org

“If it is possible, the practice of CVE is even more of a national security disaster than the theory. This is probably best documented by Stephen Coughlin in a recent and essential book: “Catastrophic Failure: Blindfolding America in the Face of Jihad”.

Apart from being an exceptional lawyer, Coughlin is a trained military intelligence officer who has studied sharia supremacism closely. “Catastrophic Failure” is about how the United States government has systematically stifled the study of this doctrine since before 9/11.

CVE is the paragon illustration of how the Obama administration has exacerbated this catastrophic failure that referred to as “Willful Blindness” in my memoir.

As Coughlin demonstrates, CVE is no secret. For example, the Department of Homeland Security’s Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties – which is every bit as radical as the infamous Civil Rights Division in the Obama Justice Department has – has worked with the National Counterterrorism Center to develop government-agency training programs that “bring together best [CVE] practices.”

Andrew C. McCarthy

Testimony, Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights, and Federal Courts
June 28, 2016

“So, I can understand what the FBI sometimes believes when I said there are cases they got wrong, dead wrong. Many times, and that’s owing to civil rights groups like CAIR and the MLFA and others who were able to stop Islamophobes giving lectures and, workshops, and training to our FBI agents. That’s wrong, and we’ve been able to stop them and tell the leadership.

*And I have to thank the leadership of the FBI because they did stop and cancel those trainings once we told them that those are Islamophobes, **you cannot have them train FBI agents who are going to investigate us.**”*

Oussama Jammal

Secretary General, U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO)
Director, Muslim American Society (MAS) - Public Affairs and Civic Engagement
President, The Mosque Foundation
Speech at “FBI Inventing Terrorists Through Entrapment” Forum
MAS ICNA Convention, Chicago, December 28, 2019

“Show me the man, and I’ll find you the crime.”

Lavrentiy Beria

Marshall of the Soviet Union
(and Stalin’s Henchman)

It may help the reader to watch this Aljazeera news video as they served as the leading edge of the purge that immediately followed:



ALJAZEERA News Middle East Explained Opinion Sport Video

Muslim Brotherhood & Violence

▶ 25:07

Inside Story America

The US military's 'anti-Islam classes'

How widespread is the use of anti-Islamic material in the US military?

Al Jazeera has obtained exclusive material of a course taught on a US military base implying that Hamas has influenced the US government at the highest levels.

Anand Naidoo, "Inside Story Americas – The US Military's 'Anti-Islam Classes'," Al-Jazeera-English - YouTube, May 12, 2012, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD_DW4JDcVk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Living the Purge – Not Loving It: A Deep Dive into the Systematic Undermining of U.S. Counterterrorism Efforts

Introduction

In this paper from January 20, 2020, *Living the Purge – Not Loving It*, [Stephen Coughlin](#), an attorney and former intelligence analyst at the Joint Chiefs of Staff, provides a detailed account of the systematic dismantling of fact-based, threat-focused counterterrorism efforts in the United States. This purge, which took place between October 2011 and July 2012, was orchestrated by key figures in the U.S. government and influenced by external actors, including organizations linked to the Muslim Brotherhood. The paper highlights how the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) initiative replaced professional counterterrorism analysis with politically motivated narratives, leaving the nation vulnerable to threats.

The Purge: A Timeline of Events

Coughlin traces the origins of the purge to an October 19, 2011 letter from Farhana Khera, President of Muslim Advocates, to John Brennan, then Assistant to President Obama for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism. The letter demanded a review and purge of counterterrorism training materials deemed “biased” and “offensive.” Brennan responded swiftly, committing to the creation of an interagency task force to address these concerns. This marked the beginning of a systematic effort to suppress professional counterterrorism analysis and replace it with CVE narratives.

The CVE initiative, developed with significant input from Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated organizations, sought to redefine the counterterror mission. It imposed a lexicon and narratives that downplayed the role of Islamic extremism in terrorism, effectively deracinating intelligence efforts from reality-based analysis.

The Role of Media and Advocacy Groups

Coughlin's paper highlights the role of progressive media outlets, particularly Spencer Ackerman of *WIRED Magazine*, in fueling the purge. Ackerman's articles, often based on unsubstantiated claims, were used by organizations like the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) to demand the removal of counterterrorism trainers and materials. These coordinated attacks created a hostile environment for professionals tasked with national security, leading to the dismissal of instructors and the cancellation of courses.

The Joint Forces Staff College Incident

One of the most striking examples of the purge's impact was the targeting of the Joint Forces Staff College (JFSC). A decorated combat arms officer, LTC Matthew Dooley, was falsely accused of teaching “anti-Islam” courses. Despite a formal investigation clearing him of these allegations, Dooley was fired under pressure from CAIR and media campaigns. The incident underscores the lack of due process and the influence of external actors in shaping U.S. military education.

The Role of Foreign State Actors

The paper also exposes the involvement of foreign state actors, particularly Qatar, in the information campaign against U.S. counterterrorism efforts. Al Jazeera, a media outlet funded by the Qatari government, played a significant role in amplifying the purge narratives. This raises serious questions about the influence of foreign entities on U.S. national security policies.

The Lasting Impact of the Purge

Coughlin argues that the CVE initiative has left the U.S. counterterrorism mission degraded and vulnerable. By allowing the Muslim Brotherhood and its affiliates to control the counterterror debate, the U.S. has effectively undermined its ability to address real threats. The purge, he asserts, remains a national disgrace and a testament to the dangers of prioritizing political correctness over national security.

Conclusion

Living the Purge – Not Loving It is a sobering account of how political and ideological pressures can compromise national security. Coughlin's detailed analysis serves as a warning about the consequences of allowing external actors and politically motivated narratives to dictate critical security policies. As the CVE remains institutionalized, the need for a return to fact-based, threat-focused counterterrorism efforts has never been more urgent.

INTRODUCTION

Taking stock of the roles played by national security leaders like former CIA Director John Brennan in [Crossfire Hurricane](#),¹ it is clear that “we, the purged,” never had a chance. “Wait! Purge? What purge?” you ask. Well, the Muslim Brotherhood-inspired purge of professional, fact-based, threat-focused counterterrorism products and personnel that took place from October 2011 through July 2012. Before President Trump, this same *deep state*² stratum used [active measures](#)³ to subvert America’s counterterror collection effort for ideological

¹ Crossfire Hurricane was a counter-state effort to subvert the electoral process, then a presidential candidate, then a president elect, and finally a sitting president, with the assistance of foreign state actors and actors with foreign allegiances through constructed narratives supported by manufactured evidence.

² “*Deep state*” is the popular media-driven term that replaces “*counter-state*,” a *bona fide* political warfare term. Hence, “*counter-state*” is also associated with operational schemas associated with political warfare, for example “*counter-state operations*.” Because this paper explains the purge along political warfare lines, and because *counter-state* is associated with political warfare operations, the term “*counter-state*” will be used. For a more detailed analysis of political warfare, see in Higgins and Coughlin’s [Defeating the Islamic Movement Inside the United States: A Strategic Plan](#), 2016 and [Re-Remembering the Mis-Remembered Left: The Left’s Strategy and Tactics To Transform America](#), 2019.

³ Yuri Bezmenov, “[Deception was My Job](#),” G. Edward Griffin’s 1984 Interview, Soviet Subversion of the Free World Press, 1984, YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhAzGLbj4o>; beginning 1:07:20, *Bezmenov: “Ideological subversion* is the process which is legitimate, overt, and open. You can see it with your own eyes . . . There is no mystery. There is nothing to do with espionage . . . The main emphasis of the KGB is not in the area of intelligence at all . . . only about 15% of time, money, and manpower is spent on espionage as such. The other 85% is a slow process, which we call

purposes. The purges were extra-legal and deprived those on the receiving end of due process protections. The purge was real; it included the same *counter-state*⁴ actors and media we see today; it successfully disabled America's ability to understand national security threats in support of the counterterror effort, replacing it with the seditious *Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)* memes. When the House Judiciary Committee questioned FBI Director Robert Mueller about it, he confirmed there was a purge but said it wasn't really that big.⁵ Sounds a tad over the top? Let's take a look.

either *ideological subversion*, or *active measures*, *Активные мероприятия* [*aktivniye meropriyatiya*] in the language of the KGB, or *psychological warfare*. Active Measures seek to change the perception of reality of every American, to such an extent, that despite the abundance of information, no one is able to come to sensible conclusions, in the interests of defending themselves, their families, their community, and their country.”

From Wikipedia's explanation of [Active Measures](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Active_measures#cite_note-Mitrokhin-1) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Active_measures#cite_note-Mitrokhin-1) derived from Christopher Andrew and Vasili Mitrokhin's *The Mitrokhin Archive: The KGB in Europe and the West*, Penguin, 2018 (<https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/25373/the-mitrokhin-archive/9780141989488.html>); "*Active Measures*" is a term for the actions of political warfare conducted by the Soviet and Russian security services (*Cheka*, OGPU, NKVD, KGB, FSB) to influence the course of world events, in addition to collecting intelligence and producing "politically correct" assessments of it. Active measures range "from media manipulations to *special actions* involving various degrees of violence" . . . they were used both abroad and domestically. They include disinformation, propaganda, counterfeiting official documents, assassinations, and political repression, such as penetration into churches and persecution of political dissidents.

For an excellent primer on Soviet disinformation, see Natalie Grant's *Disinformation: Soviet Political Warfare 1917 – 1992*, Leopolis Press, 2020 (Amazon: <https://a.co/d/o8EWTiMb>)

⁴ "Marcuse on Counter-State," quotes extracted from Herbert Marcuse, *Counterrevolution and Revolt*, Chapter 1 "The Left under the Counterrevolution," § VIII, Boston: Beacon Press, 1972, pp. 53 – 56 at [Internet Archive](https://archive.org/details/CounterRevolutionAndRevolt/page/n65/mode/2up?q=restructuring) at <https://archive.org/details/CounterRevolutionAndRevolt/page/n65/mode/2up?q=restructuring>, see slides here or on next pages: <http://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Marcuse-on-Counter-Counter-Revolution-and-Revolt.pdf>

⁵ Testimony of FBI Director Mueller, *Federal Bureau of Investigation, HEARING Before the Committee on the Judiciary*, House of Representatives, One Hundred Twelfth Congress, Second Session, Serial No. 112-151, U.S. GPO, May 9, 2012, 30, *Mueller stated*; "So it is not as if we have purged a substantial amount of our training materials."

NOTE: The hearing memorialized how un-American the purge was. For example, from the transcript, on page 23 of the testimony, *Rep Coble* made clear he was aware of the purge and the reasons; "The bipartisan Senate report on the Fort Hood massacre, the, quote, worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil, close quote, since 9/11, found that *political correctness inhibited Hasan's superiors from taking actions that may have stopped or at least delayed that attack.* Can you see why, given that report, why some of us may be concerned, even worried that 'materials purge' may be another issue or instance of a governmental agency compromising national security under the pressure of political correctness?"

The CVE Deracinates Intelligence

The purge imposed the CVE. While this paper does not go into the details of the CVE, there are a few aspects that are on point to the purge.⁶ The term for separating something from its native environment is “[deracination](#).”⁷ What is worse, that the counterterror community allowed the CVE to deracinate the counterterror mission from its essential national security purpose, or that nobody in that community discerns that it did? True counterterror efforts, as with all national security activities, are based on the identification, recognition, and analysis of people, places, things, doctrines, and ideologies. The CVE exists to deracinate the counterterror collection

The Judiciary Committee knew the purge was conducted under cover of darkness. The FBI knew the process would not stand up to scrutiny. Hence, the FBI refused to identify the individuals overseeing the purge when directly queried by the Judiciary Committee. Of the 5 unnamed people in charge of purging content, 3 were Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) **who stood to gain (which is illegal)**. The 3 SMEs may not have been U.S. citizens.

Rep Gohmert was aware of these circumstances when raising the point, on page 30; “*And, again, the reason I am bringing these things up is because we have got people, we know there are three subject matter experts that your office has refused to identify who have gone through and purged these materials. We were not even told whether they were U.S. citizens, whether they are one of these people that would have gotten the award, that didn’t get the award that had all these other suspected problems.*”

On page 37, *Rep Gohmert* continued; “*They also said material was pulled from the curriculum if even one component was deemed to, one, include factual errors; two, be in poor taste; three, be stereotypical and; for, four, lack precision. And then we had also gotten — one of the lines that had been purged simply says in training, other self-described jihadist groups can differ with al-Qaeda and like-minded groups in targeting tactical preference and their ultimate political goals, although many jihadist groups overlap in terms of target tactics and goals. And apparently that was found to be offensive to say that there were some jihadist groups that overlap in terms of target because apparently that fits the criteria of being stereotypical. And I want to go back to the subject matter experts. You have mentioned, as we have been told, there were five subject matter experts that were doing this purge and that two of them were interagency. But three of them were outside the agency, and we know Imam Magid, the president of the named co-conspirator in the Holy Land Foundation trial, for which there was plenty of evidence, as the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals said, to substantiate that they were supporting terrorism, even though the Attorney General decided he did not want to pursue them, or his office — he didn’t take credit for that decision, but — and, in fact, he left that to an acting U.S. Attorney to say that there wasn’t evidence when, actually, he was on the record before the district court and the Fifth Circuit saying there was plenty of evidence there.*” <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-112hhrg74121/pdf/CHRG-112hhrg74121.pdf>

⁶ For a detailed initial analysis of the substance of the issues associated with the purge and the CVE, see Part VII “Catastrophic Failures” of [Catastrophic Failure: Blindfolding America in the Face of Jihad](#), CSP Press, 2015.

⁷ “[Deracinate](#),” Merriam-Webster Dictionary; “1: uproot; 2: to remove or separate from a native environment or culture,” <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/deracinate>

effort from reality-based analysis while tying it to active measure narratives, such as complexity, that transform the knowable into the unknowable.

- As Josef Pieper would explain it, the Islamic Movement, along with its deep-state bench, ingratiated itself with the political class by offering easy solutions through CVE narratives.

The CVE narratives then marooned the counterterror effort in a pseudoreality that asserts the Islamic Movement's authority to define 'violent extremism' while demoralizing the national security community in the process – "it's complicated".⁸

The CVE not only renders the Islamic Movement harmless but also invisibly puts it in charge. As Pieper would say, the CVE is a mirage.

The CVE successfully "accomplished, [through the] art of flattery," the formation of a "deceptive mirage of the political process, that is, the counterfeit usurpation of power, a power that belongs to the legitimate political authority alone."⁹

Looking back, the purge achieved Pieper's greatest fear, that the target audience would become so comfortable with a "fabricated fictitious reality" - a pseudoreality - that it no longer cares to discern that there is an actual reality – or that this reality has been masked.¹⁰

As we witness the mass deplatforming of dissenting speech across the information domain, this is far from a theoretical crisis.¹¹ Indeed, Pieper would have invoked the "ancient saying *Corruptio Optima Pessima est*, 'the best,

⁸ Josef Pieper, *Abuse of Language – Abuse of Power*, Ignatius Press, 1992 (trans. Lothar Krauth, Kosel-Verlag, Munich 1974), 29; "Yes, indeed: there are on the one side a pseudoauthority, not legitimized by any form of superiority, and on the other a state of mental bondage."

⁹ Josef Pieper, *Abuse of Language – Abuse of Power*, 29.

¹⁰ Josef Pieper, *Abuse of Language – Abuse of Power*, 34.

¹¹ Josef Pieper, *Abuse of Language – Abuse of Power*, 29; "The sophists", he [Plato] says, "fabricate a fictitious reality." That the existential realm of man could be taken over by pseudorealities whose fictitious nature threatens to become indiscernible is truly a depressing thought. And yet, the Platonic nightmare, I hold, possesses an alarming contemporary relevance. For the general public is being reduced to a state where people are not only unable to find out about the truth but also become unable even to search for the truth because they are satisfied with deception and trickery that have determined their convictions, satisfied with a fictitious reality created by design through the abuse of language."

corrupted, become the worst”¹² in reference to the deep state stratum that dominates our national institutions.

The Purge

The purge was launched when Farhana Khera posted her October 19, 2011, [Letter to John Brennan](#) (“*Khera Letter*”) demanding a “review of trainers and training materials,” a “purge” of those materials, and “mandatory re-training.”¹³ At the time, Khera was President and Executive Director of *Muslim Advocates*, while Brennan was the Assistant to the President (Obama) for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism – Assistant National Security Advisor. While *Muslim Advocates*’ tagline, “[Freedom and Justice for All](#),”¹⁴ evokes “Liberty and Justice for All” among the uninitiated, it is actually a [Muslim Brotherhood designation](#).¹⁵ Of course, the *Muslim Advocates*’ tagline is Milestones-esque in resonating with Sayyid Qutb’s ‘[freedom from the laws of man, justice according to shariah](#)’.¹⁶

¹² Josef Pieper, *Abuse of Language – Abuse of Power*, 34.

¹³ [Farhana Khera Letter to John Brennan](#), Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism and Deputy National Security Advisor, The White House, signed by, among others, numerous organizations known to be associated with the Muslim Brotherhood, PDF document dated 19 October 2011. “We urge you to create an interagency taskforce, led by the White House, tasked with the following responsibilities: **2. Purge all federal government training materials of biased materials**; **3. Implement a mandatory re-training program for FBI agents, U.S. Army officers, and all federal, state and local law enforcement who have been subjected to biased training**; **4. Ensure that personnel reviews are conducted and all trainers and other government employees who promoted biased trainers and training materials are effectively disciplined**; **5. Implement quality control processes to ensure that bigoted trainers and biased materials are not developed or utilized in the future; ...**”

¹⁴ James Barrett, “[Loretta Lynch Vows to Prosecute those Who Use ‘Anti-Muslim’ Speech the ‘Edges Towards Violence’](#),” *DailyWire*, December 4, 2015, 2015, <https://www.dailywire.com/news/loretta-lynch-vows-prosecute-those-who-use-anti-james-barrett>; see also [Muslim Advocates Tagline](#) – Freedom and Justice for All – an MB Indicator, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Muslim-Advocates-Tagline-Freedom-Justice-for-All-an-MB-Indicator-r.pdf>

¹⁵ “[MB Announces Establishment of Political Party: Freedom and Justice](#),” *IkhwanWeb*, February 21, 2011, <https://ikhwanweb.com/article.php?id=28077>; see also [Freedom & Justice a Muslim Brotherhood Indicator](#), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Freedom-Justice-a-Muslim-Brotherhood-Indicator-r.pdf>

¹⁶ For example, see Sayyid Qutb, *Milestones, Salimiah*, (Kuwait: International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations. 1978 [written 1966]), 30, 31. Cite hereafter as Qutb, *Milestones*, Salimiah edition. See also [Muslim Brotherhood Freedom & Justice is Milestones F & J](#), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Muslim-Brotherhood-Freedom-Justice-is-Milestones-F-and-J-r.pdf>.

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Khera's letter was signed by, among others, the same organizations that a Federal Court successfully identified as the Muslim Brotherhood just a few years earlier, most notably through a document entered into evidence, popularly known as the "[Explanatory Memorandum](#)," that included ISNA, the MSA, CAIR, and ICNA.

As government action letters go, [Brennan's response to Khera](#) was light speed. In his response, Brennan agreed with Khera. In fact, he committed to Khera that the "White House [would] immediately create an interagency task force to address the problem."¹⁷ Thus began the systematic purge of personnel and products that the Muslim Brotherhood deemed "biased, false, and highly offensive."¹⁸

These charges lead to the suppression of professional counterterrorism analysis and its replacement by *faux* CVE narratives. As purges are wont, the "purged" were never allowed to defend either themselves or their work product — no due process. In fact, they were [not even allowed to know who they were](#).¹⁹ With Brennan's concurrence, careers and professional reputations were deliberately targeted for attack, destroyed, and left in ruins.

This paper will discuss the Muslim Brotherhood's influence in the Pentagon in light of my experience of that purge. Recognizing the Muslim Brotherhood's preference for destroying America through "civilizational jihad by [our] hands,"²⁰ i.e., by getting Americans to undermine our national security on their behalf, it should come as no surprise that most of my experiences came at the hands of hapless counter-state bureaucrats and committed "progressives" operating through a united front.²¹ This will be done in three clusters; they are not exhaustive:

¹⁷ [John Brennan Letter to Farhana Khera](#), the White House, 3 November 2011, (Brennan Letter), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/November-3-2011-John-Brennan-Response-Letter-to-Farhana-Khera-r.pdf>

¹⁸ [Khera Letter](#), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/October-19-2011-Farhana-Khera-Letter-to-John-Brennan-r.pdf>

¹⁹ See Footnote 4 for the reading of the statements: Testimony of FBI Director Mueller, [Federal Bureau of Investigation, HEARING Before the Committee on the Judiciary](#), House of Representatives, One Hundred Twelfth Congress, Second Session, Serial No. 112-151, U.S. GPO, May 9, 2012, 30, 37.

²⁰ [Explanatory Memorandum](#): On the General Strategic Goal for the Group," Mohamed Akram, May 22, 1991, Government Exhibit 003-0085/3:04-CR-240-G U.S. v. HLF, et al., United States District Court, Northern District of Texas, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/HLF-Evidence-Explanatory-Memorandum-seachable-Muslim-Botherhood-NA-1991-r.pdf>, 24.

²¹ "[United Front](#)" is a term associated with the Marxist lexicon. Hence, in 2016, *Unconstrained Analytics, Inc* used "[united front](#)" to explain the actual relationship between the Islamic Movement and Marxist organizations in [Defeating the Islamic Movement Inside the United States: A Strategic Plan](#), in 2019, the concept of united fronts was further developed from the perspective of the Left in [Re-Remembering the Mis-Remembered Left: The Left's Strategy and](#)

October 19, 2011

The Honorable John Brennan
Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and
Counterterrorism and Deputy National Security Advisor
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Brennan,

The undersigned Muslim, Arab, and South Asian organizations write regarding the federal government's use of biased, false and highly offensive training materials about Muslims and Islam. The seriousness of this issue cannot be overstated, and we request that the White House immediately create an interagency task force to address this problem, with a fair and transparent mechanism for input from the Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities, including civil rights lawyers, religious leaders, and law enforcement experts.

While recent news reports have highlighted the FBI's use of biased experts and training materials, we have learned that this problem extends far beyond the FBI and has infected other government agencies, including the U.S. Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Councils, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Army. Furthermore, by the FBI's own admission, the use of bigoted and distorted materials in its trainings has not been an isolated occurrence. Since last year, reports have surfaced that the FBI, and other federal agencies, are using or supporting the use of biased trainers and materials in presentations to law enforcement officials. Disclosures of materials through a Freedom of Information Act request by civil rights organizations and in-depth reporting by *Wired* magazine show just how prevalent this issue is throughout the federal government.

Recently disclosed materials, include:

- ❖ A 2006 FBI intelligence report stating that individuals who convert to Islam are on the path to becoming "Homegrown Islamic Extremists," if they exhibit any of the following behavior:¹
 - "Wearing traditional Muslim attire"
 - "Growing facial hair"
 - "Frequent attendance at a mosque or a prayer group"
 - "Travel to a Muslim country"
 - "Increased activity in a pro-Muslim social group or political cause"

¹ Spencer Ackerman, *New Evidence of Anti-Islam Bias Underscores Deep Challenges for FBI's Reform Pledge*, WIRED MAGAZINE, Sept. 23, 2011, available at <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/09/fbi-islam-domination/all/1>.

- ❖ In 2007, William Gawthrop, a FBI intelligence analyst who has stated that the Prophet “Muhammad’s mindset is a source for terrorism” taught a class at the National Defense Intelligence College, the professional education institution run by the Defense Intelligence Agency.²
- ❖ A January 2009 powerpoint presentation by the FBI’s Law Enforcement Communications Unit, which trains new recruits, states that Islam is a religion that “transforms [a] country’s culture into 7th-century Arabian ways.”³ A reading list accompanying the presentation includes books such as:
 - *The Truth About Mohammed: Founder of the World’s Most Intolerant Religion*, by Robert Spencer, the co-founder of a group called Stop Islamicization of America—designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center—and a well-known Muslim-basher who was cited by the Oslo, Norway terrorist 65+ times in his manifesto “justifying” his attack.
 - *The Arab Mind*, by Raphael Patai (which contains such quotes as “In the Arab view of human nature, no person is supposed to be able to maintain incessant, uninterrupted control over himself. Any event that is outside routine everyday occurrence can trigger such a loss of control . . . Once aroused, Arab hostility will vent itself indiscriminately on all outsiders”)
- ❖ A report, authored by Army Command and General Staff at the Fort Leavenworth School of Advanced Military Studies, dated May 21, 2009, includes statements such as:⁴
 - “Moderate Muslims are not exercising moderation; they are simply applying other means to accomplish the same goal of establishing global Islamic dominance.”

² Spencer Ackerman, *Justice Department Official: Muslim ‘Juries’ Threaten ‘Our Values’*, WIRED MAGAZINE, Oct. 5, 2011, available at <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/10/islamophobia-beyond-fbi/2/>; see also *Ex-official: Muhammad Reveals Key to Overcoming Jihadists*, WorldNetDaily, Oct. 31, 2006, available at <http://www.wnd.com/?pageId=38575>.

³ Spencer Ackerman, *FBI ‘Islam 101’ Guide Depicted Muslims as 7th-Century Simpletons*, WIRED MAGAZINE, July 27, 2011, available at <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/07/fbi-islam-101-guide/>.

⁴ See Major David A. Strauss, *Global Insurgency to Reestablish the Caliphate; Identifying and Understanding the Enemy*, School of Advanced Military Studies, United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 2009, available at <http://handle.dtic.mil/100.2/ADA506224>.

- “Islamic doctrine is based upon the establishment of its culture in dominance of all others. In essence, all other cultures must not only accept, but convert or submit, to Islam.”
- ❖ A May 19, 2010, powerpoint presentation prepared by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and delivered at a Defense Department conference, states that “Internal Islamic Failures/Collapse . . . Did NOT Start on 9/11,” but instead date back “~1400 years” (to the birth of Islam and the death of the Prophet Muhammad)⁵.
- ❖ In July 2010, Robert Spencer presented a two-hour seminar on “the belief system of Islamic jihadists” to the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) in Tidewater, Virginia. He presented a similar lecture to the U.S. Attorney’s Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council, which is co-hosted by the FBI’s Norfolk Field Office.⁶
- ❖ In January 2011, Stephen Coughlin, a former consultant on Islamic law for the Joint Chiefs of Staff who criticized ex-President George W. Bush’s assurances that the U.S. is not at war with Islam for having a “chilling effect” on intelligence analysis, gave a presentation to the FBI’s D.C. field office, during which, according to attendees, he claimed that Islamic law was incompatible with the U.S. Constitution and that there is no such thing as a loyal American Muslim.⁷
- ❖ A power point presentation from a March 21, 2011, FBI training, “Strategic Themes and Drivers in Islamic Law,” included statements such as:⁸
 - “Accommodation and compromise between [Islam and the West] are impermissible and fighting [for Muslims] is obligatory”
 - “There may not be a ‘radical’ threat as much as it is simply a normal assertion of the orthodox ideology . . . [t]he strategic themes animating these Islamic values are not fringe; they are main stream”
 - The Islamic practice of *zakat*, alms-giving, is characterized as a “funding mechanism for combat”
- ❖ An undated FBI powerpoint presentation titled “Militancy Considerations” shows a comparative line graph where the Torah, Bible, and Quran are charted on an axis showing a trajectory of the sacred texts from “violent” to “non-violent.” The Torah and Bible are graphed until 2010, reaching the zenith of “non-violent,” while the line

⁵ Ackerman, *supra* note 2.

⁶ Ackerman, *supra* note 1.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Spencer Ackerman, *FBI Teaches Agents: ‘Mainstream’ Muslims Are ‘Violent, Radical,’* WIRED MAGAZINE, Sept. 14, 2011, available at <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/09/fbi-muslims-radical/>.

- for the Quran stops at 622 AD and remains at the “violent” stage, with a parenthetical that “this moderating process has not happened.”⁹
- ❖ During a June 8, 2011, presentation by FBI analyst William Gawthrop to Infragard, a partnership organization between the FBI and the private sector, Gawthrop stated that al-Qaida was “irrelevant” compared to the threat of Islam itself. He also compared Islam to the Death Star and stated that it needs to be shot with a “torpedo.”¹⁰
 - ❖ As recently as September 1, 2011, mandatory orientation material for all 4,400 members of the FBI’s JTTF’s stated:¹¹
 - “Sunni Muslims have been prolific in spawning numerous and varied fundamentalist extremist terrorist organizations. Sunni core doctrine and end state have remained the same and they continue to strive for Sunni Islamic domination of the world to prove a key Quranic assertion that no system of government or religion on earth can match the Quran’s purity and effectiveness for paving the road to God.”
 - ❖ The FBI’s intranet features antiquated and offensive documents about Muslims and Islam, including:¹²
 - “The Personal Law of The Mahommedans.” (19th Century text)
 - “Mohammed Or Christ: An Account Of The Rapid Spread of Islam In All Parts of The Globe, The Methods Employed to Obtain Proselytes, Its Immense Press, Its Strongholds, & Suggested Means to be Adopted to Counteract the Evil.” (1915 text)
 - ❖ The FBI’s library at the FBI training academy in Quantico, Virginia holds books from a number of authors who have publicly defiled and maligned Islam and Muslims, including:¹³
 - *Militant Islam Reaches America*, by Daniel Pipes
 - *Islamikaze: Manifestations of Islamic Martyrology*, by Raphael Israeli, who equated “normative Islam” to “horrendous cruelty and inhumanity”

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Spencer Ackerman and Noah Shachtman, *Video: FBI Trainer Says Forget ‘Irrelevant’ al-Qaida, Target Islam*, WIRE MAGAZINE, Sept. 20, 2011, available at <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/09/fbi-islam-qaida-irrelevant/>.

¹¹ Ackerman, *supra* note 1.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

- *Muhammad's Monsters*, by David Bukay, who wrote "Islam and democracy are totally incompatible, and are mutually inconclusive"
- *Onward Muslim Soldiers*, by Robert Spencer

The use of bigoted trainers and materials like those above is not only highly offensive, disparaging the faith of millions of Americans, but leads to biased policing that targets individuals and communities based on religion, not evidence of wrongdoing. Inaccurate and bigoted training materials also foster fear and suspicion of American Muslims amongst law enforcement and the general public, increasing discrimination, bullying, harassment and anti-Muslim violence.

In response to these recent disclosures, federal officials across the country—particularly FBI field offices—have been reaching out to local Muslim communities to state that the offensive training materials do not reflect the opinion of the FBI, its field offices or the federal government. Until the following steps are taken to remedy this problem and to prevent it from recurring, we will not be confident in these assertions. We urge you to create an interagency task force, led by the White House, tasked with the following responsibilities:

1. Review *all* trainers and training materials at government agencies, including all FBI intelligence products used such as the FBI intranet, FBI library and JTTF training programs; US Attorney training programs; U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Defense, and US military intranet, libraries and training materials, resources and experts;
2. Purge *all* federal government training materials of biased materials;
3. Implement a mandatory re-training program for FBI agents, U.S. Army officers, and all federal, state and local law enforcement who have been subjected to biased training;
4. Ensure that personnel reviews are conducted and all trainers and other government employees who promoted biased trainers and training materials are effectively disciplined;
5. Implement quality control processes to ensure that bigoted trainers and biased materials are not developed or utilized in the future; and
6. Issue guidance clearly stating that religious practice and political advocacy are protected activities under the First Amendment, not indicators of violence, and shall not be the basis for surveillance or investigation.

The interagency task force should include a fair and transparent mechanism for input from the Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities, including civil rights lawyers, religious leaders, and law enforcement experts.

The Honorable John Brennan

October 19, 2011

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The gravity of this issue and the need for an independent, effective investigation into the federal government's training of its agents and other law enforcement is imperative. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

AlMaghrib Institute
American Coalition for Good Government
American Muslim Association of Lawyers
American Muslim Voice
American Pakistan Foundation
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
Arab American Association of New York
Arab American Institute (AAI)
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)
Arab Muslim American Federation (AMAF)
Bay Area Association of Muslim Lawyers (BAAML)
Capitol Area Muslim Bar Association
Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC)
Council of Islamic Organizations of Michigan (CIOM)
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
DRUM - Desis Rising Up and Moving
EMERGE-USA
Florida Muslim Bar Association
Georgia Association of Muslim Lawyers
Houston Shifa Services Foundation
Indian Muslim Relief & Charities (IMRC)
Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)
Islamic Information Center
Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA)
Islamic Networks Group (ING)
Islamic Relief USA
Islamic Shura Council of Southern California
Islamic Society of Greater Houston (ISGH)
Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)
KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights
Majlis Ash-Shura (Islamic Leadership Council) of Metropolitan NY
Michigan Muslim Bar Association
Muslim Advocates
Muslim American Civil Liberties Coalition (MACLC)
Muslim American Society (MAS)
Muslim Bar Association of Chicago
Muslim Bar Association of New York
Muslim Bar Association of Southern California

The Honorable John Brennan

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Muslim Congress/Justice360

Muslim Consultative Network (MCN)

Muslim Lawyers Association of Houston

Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA)

Muslim Peace Coalition USA

Muslim Progressive Traditionalist Alliance

Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)

National Muslim Law Students Association

National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)

New England Muslim Bar Association

Northern California Islamic Council

Ohio Muslim Bar Association

Pakistani American Bar Association (PABA)

Pakistani American Leadership Center (PAL-C)

Pakistani American Public Affairs Committee

Somali Action Alliance

South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)

South Asian Network (SAN)

Women in Islam, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Eric Holder, Jr., U.S. Attorney General
The Honorable Leon Panetta, Secretary of Defense
The Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security
The Honorable Robert Mueller, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigations
The Honorable Thomas E. Donilon, National Security Advisor
The Honorable Denis McDonough, Deputy National Security Advisor

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 3, 2011

Dear Ms. Khera:

Thank you for your letter of October 19, 2011 in which you raise a number of important issues regarding the training provided to law enforcement, the military, and other government officials on cultural competency and countering violent extremism (CVE). Please allow me to share with you the specific steps we are taking to ensure that federal officials and state, local, and tribal partners receive accurate, evidence-based information in these critical areas.

I am aware of the recent unfortunate incidents that have highlighted examples of substandard and offensive training that some United States Government elements have either sponsored or delivered. Any and all such training runs completely counter to our values, our commitment to strong partnerships with communities across the country, our specific approach to countering violent extremist recruitment and radicalization, and our broader counterterrorism (CT) efforts. Our National Strategy for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States highlights competent training as an area of priority focus and states that "misinformation about the threat and dynamics of radicalization to violence can harm our security by sending local stakeholders in the wrong direction and unnecessarily creating tensions with potential community partners." It also emphasizes that our security is "inextricably linked to our values," including "the promotion of an inclusive society."

Your letter requests that "the White House immediately create an interagency task force to address this problem," and we agree that this is necessary. That is why the White House's National Security Staff identified training as a critical area for improvement last November, and tasked the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to form an Interagency Working Group on Training to catalogue, review, and improve CVE-related instruction across

all levels of government. Recent efforts of this working group include: (1) a CVE Training Guidance and Best Practices paper, which will give specific guidance to federal, state, local, and tribal government officials charged with organizing training related to CVE, CT, or cultural awareness; and (2) an Information Bulletin on CVE Training, which provides additional guidance to state, local, and tribal entities that regularly leverage federal grants to fund CVE-related trainings. DHS has sent both documents to all DHS grantees, state and local governments, state and local law enforcement, relevant community stakeholders, and interagency partners.

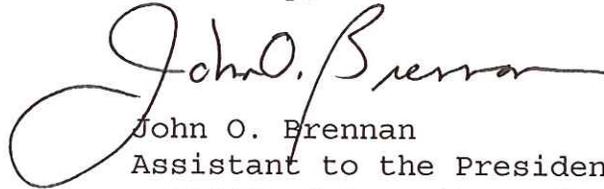
In addition to these specific actions, Departments and Agencies are taking aggressive steps to create broader review processes and build rigorous CVE curriculum standards. These include: (1) collecting all training materials that contain cultural or religious content, including information related to Islam or Muslims; (2) establishing a process, in consultation with subject matter experts, to ensure that such materials comply with core American values, professional standards, and the United States Constitution; and (3) writing guidance for CVE training, which will be shared with components, field offices, and external partners. Moreover, we are committed to engaging in a sustained dialogue with all relevant stakeholders on these issues as we move forward.

We share your sense of concern over these recent unfortunate incidents, and are moving forward to ensure problems are addressed with a keen sense of urgency. They do not reflect the vision that the President has put forward, nor do they represent the kind of approach that builds the partnerships that are necessary to counter violent extremism, and to protect our young people and our homeland. America's greatest strength is its values, and we are committed to pursuing policies and approaches that draw strength from our values and our people irrespective of their race, religion or ethnic background.

Finally, we are currently developing an implementation plan for our Domestic CVE Strategy, which will provide further detailed information on the specific steps necessary to improve CVE and cultural competency training across the United States Government and measure progress.

While much work remains, I am confident that concrete actions are being taken to address the valid concerns you raised. Thank you again for your letter and for your leadership in addressing an issue that is critical to ensuring the security of the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John O. Brennan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning of the first name.

John O. Brennan
Assistant to the President for
Homeland Security and
Counterterrorism

Ms. Farhana Khera
President & Executive Director
Muslim Advocates

- 1) Pre-Purge activity leading to the deployment of the CVE active measure as the replacement to *bona fide* counterterror efforts in tandem with escalating media support that included the manipulation of terrorism’s statutory framework.
- 2) The Execution of the Purge
- 3) The Joint Forces Staff College (the JFSC) Experience.

I. Pre-Purge Activity

Pre-purge activity refers to the development and preparation of the CVE in anticipation of the purge, as well as activities that logically precede the purge while running concurrently with it.

Pre-purge activity can be traced to the January 2010 exchange of e-mails that a *Judicial Watch* FOIA made public in which Kareem Shora, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL), set the attendance list for a January 28, 2010, Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) meeting.

The focus of these meetings was on crafting the CVE active measure. Individuals from the Muslim Brotherhood and associated Islamic Movement organizations were overrepresented in these meetings.²² Khera was on the HSAC advisor list. The January 2010 meeting was followed in May 2010 with a “[Countering Violent Extremism \(CVE\) Working Group](#)” meeting of the HSAC in which, again, the Muslim Brotherhood and associated Islamic Movement organizations were well represented.²³ From the

[Tactics To Transform America](#), and then, later in 2019, how “hate speech” narratives execute out of a converged united front effort in the memo “[Warning on Racism](#).”

²² [Kareem Shora E-Mails with list of prominent Muslim Brotherhood affiliations](#), January 2010, *Judicial Watch* FOIA to DHS Regarding January 2010 Meeting, *Judicial Watch*, March 16, 2010, <http://www.judicialwatch.org/files/documents/2010/dhs-napolitano-jan-meeting-docs-1.pdf>. For example, January 22, 2010 Kareem Shora Letter “Hard Count / CRCL – Communities Participation” included: Nawar Shora, Salam al Marayati (MPAC), Hassan Jaber (ACCESS), Imad Hamad (American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; ADC-MI), Imam Yahya Hendi (Georgetown University), Ingrid Mattson (ISNA), Mohamed Madid (ISNA), Farhana Khera (Muslim Advocates), Dalia Mogahed (Gallup), Mohamed Elibiary (Freedom & Justice Foundation), J Saleh Williams (Congressional Muslim Staffers Association – CMSA), Dr. Zaher Sahloul (Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago – CIOIGC), and Imam Hossam al Jabri (Muslim American Society – MAS)

²³ [Countering Violent Extremism \(CVE\) Working Group](#), Homeland Security Advisory Council, Spring 2010, “U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Advisory Council”,

beginning, actually pre-dating these events, DHS CRCL was at the center of the CVE effort.

As preparation for the release of the CVE approached readiness later in 2010, [low-level complaints](#) of biased “extremism” in training programs, routinely raised by organizations like the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)²⁴, began giving way to pre-operational narratives in preparation for the CVE’s release.

For example, on July 15, 2011, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met in Istanbul, Turkey, with the General Secretary of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (the OIC).²⁵ At that meeting, Secretary Clinton committed to the curbing of disfavored speech from American citizens through “old-fashioned techniques of peer pressure and shaming so that people don’t feel that they have the support to do what we abhor” when exercising their First Amendment rights to express their concerns.²⁶ With this statement, the Secretary of State committed to the suppression of an American citizen’s protected speech through extra-legal means to a foreign supra-state actor.

Clinton’s commitment was followed by a sustained, coordinated information campaign that interlaced “exposés” on “bigoted” counterterror trainers from “progressive” news outlets alongside CAIR press releases demanding that action be taken based on those “exposés”. This began with a July 18, 2011, NPR article by Dina Temple-Raston titled “[Terrorism Training Casts Pall Over Muslim Employee](#)”²⁷ that

May 26, 2010 (modified August 3, 2010),
https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/hsac_cve_working_group_recommendations.pdf

²⁴ E. Dyer, “[Pentagon Memo Fishing for Counterterrorism Training Standards Leaned Heavily on WIRED Reporter’s Assertions](#),” *Daily Caller*, November 30, 2011,
<https://dailycaller.com/2011/11/30/pentagon-memo-fishing-for-counterterrorism-training-standards-leaned-heavily-on-wired-reporters-assertions/>

²⁵ Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State, “Remarks at the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) High-Level Meeting on Combating Religious Intolerance,” Center for Islamic Arts and History, July 15, 2011, <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/07/168636.htm> See, <http://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/July-15-2011-Hillary-Clinton-to-OIC-Peer-Pressure-and-Shaming-UN-Resolution-16-18.pdf>

²⁶ Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, “[Remarks at the Organization of the Islamic Conference \(OIC\) High-Level Meeting on Combating Religious Intolerance](#),” Given at the Center for Islamic Arts and History, Istanbul, Turkey, *United States Department of State Release*, 15 July 2011, <https://2009-2017.state.gov/secretary/20092013clinton/rm/2011/07/168636.htm>, accessed July 21 2011.

²⁷ NPR published “[Terrorism Training Casts Pall Over Muslim Employee](#),” Dina Temple-Raston, NPR, July 18, 2011.

was immediately followed by a [CAIR demand](#) that the CIA drop a trainer from its upcoming conference.²⁸ As Temple-Raston concluded:

- “Omari filed suit last week against the Ohio Department of Public Safety and several individuals for wrongful dismissal. He said he'd love to get his job back. And the trainers who came to the Columbus police department? One of them is scheduled to hold another training session in August at the CIA.”²⁹

I was the trainer whom CAIR demanded be dropped. Omari attended the Spring 2010 *Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Group* meeting mentioned above.³⁰ For the record, Omari's suit was thrown out of court. On July 22, 2011, I received an [e-mail from the CIA](#) announcing the cancellation of the 10-12 August “Conference on Homegrown Radical Extremism” along with the suspension of the mission until DHS released its new “National Strategy for Counterterrorism,” which, of course, would be the CVE.³¹

By design, DHS CRCL, a non-counterterror, non-law-enforcement, non-intelligence organ of the government, assumed control of the counterterror mission through the enforcement of CVE narratives, including the imposition of the CVE lexicon.

Following mass line formation practices, DHS CRCL directed those responsible for executing the statutory counterterrorism and counterintelligence missions to power down. When Pieper spoke of the “deceptive mirage of the political process, that is, the counterfeit usurpation of power, a power that belongs to the legitimate political

²⁸ CAIR demands “[CAIR Asks CIA to Drop Islamophobic Trainer](#),” American Muslim News Brief, CAIR, July 18, 2011, https://www.cair.com/cair_asks_cia_to_drop_islamophobic_trainer. “Trainer exposed by NPR for Smearing Ohio Muslim scheduled to lecture at Agency, (WASHINGTON, D.C., 7/18/11) – A prominent national Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization today called on the CIA not to use one of the Islamophobic counter-terror trainers who were exposed this morning on National Public Radio (NPR) for allegedly smearing a respected Ohio Muslim. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) also asked the CIA to conduct an agency-wide investigation of the use of taxpayer funds for outside trainers who offer stereotypical and inaccurate information about Muslims and Islam.

²⁹ NPR published “[Terrorism Training Casts Pall Over Muslim Employee](#),” Dina Temple-Raston, NPR, July 18, 2011.

³⁰ [Countering Violent Extremism \(CVE\) Working Group](#), Homeland Security Advisory Council, Spring 2010, “U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Advisory Council”, May 26, 2010 (modified August 3, 2010), https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/hsac_cve_working_group_recommendations.pdf

³¹ [Redacted - Unclassified - E-Mail Postponement Announcement](#), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/July-22-2011-REDACTED-UNCLASSIFIED-E-Mail-from-CIA-Postponement-Announcement-Conference-on-Homegrown-Radical-Extremism-r.pdf>

E-Mail Cancellation of
"Conference on Homegrown Radical Extremism in the United States"
August 10-12, 2011

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Postponement Announcement

From:

Date: Fri, July 22, 2011 11:28 am

To:

I am writing to inform you that the Conference on Homegrown Radical Extremism in the United States, previously scheduled for 10-12 August at CIA, is being postponed. The Threat Management professionals associated with the Intelligence Subcommittee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments are proud to sponsor conferences for law enforcement professionals from the region. We regret any inconvenience caused by this change.

The conference topic is a critical one for domestic law enforcement, and the sponsors – in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security – have decided to delay the conference so it can include insights from, among other sources, the new National Strategy for Counterterrorism in an updated agenda.

The goal is clear and critical – to ensure that conference participants receive material that is as current and comprehensive as possible to support the essential mission of safeguarding Americans here at home. The Department of Homeland Security, Office for State and Local Law Enforcement will be in touch with new dates and other logistical details.

With thanks and best wishes,

authority alone,”³² he was referring to the type of maneuver CRCL executed against both the counterterror and counterintelligence missions with the CVE.

The “progressive exposé / CAIR demand” formula continued, with Spencer Ackerman of *WIRED Magazine* taking the lead in producing exposés. For reasons that will become obvious, Ackerman’s background is disturbing. As [J.E. Dyer](#) pointed out, Ackerman was a member of *JournoList*. This group crossed the line from biased reporting to the obvious coordination and dissemination of disinformation, including coordination with state actors. Before that, *The New Republic* found it necessary to fire Ackerman in 2006.³³ Ackerman cuts a profile that resonates with the rising, violent, Marxist left. From a 2010 [Politico](#) article:

- “At another point, Ackerman acknowledged that, while he didn’t like having to toe a partisan line, ‘what I like less is being governed by racists and warmongers and criminals.’ ... ‘In other words, find a right winger’s [*sic*] and smash it through a plate-glass window. Take a snapshot of the bleeding mess and send it out in a Christmas card to let the right know that it needs to live in a state of constant fear. Obviously, I mean this rhetorically.”³⁴

Because *WIRED Magazine* was [aware](#) of Ackermann’s compromised reporting when they hired him, it gets no pass.³⁵ While specific aspects of Ackerman’s reporting will be addressed later, a few examples of how his products interoperated with the Islamic Movement are in order:

- September 18, 2011, in “[M. Elibiary – FBI Training, the Ackerman](#)
- [Exposé & American Muslim Community Concerns](#),” Mohamed Elibiary’s article in *Muslim Matters*³⁶ was followed on September 20, 2011, by Ackerman’s “[Video: FBI Trainer Says Forget ‘Irrelevant’ al-Qaeda, Target Islam](#)” in *WIRED Magazine*.³⁷

³² Josef Pieper, *Abuse of Language – Abuse of Power*, 29.

³³ J.E. Dyer, “[Pentagon Memo Fishing for Counterterrorism Training Standards Leaned Heavily on WIRED Reporter’s Assertions](#),” *Daily Caller*, November 30, 2011, <https://dailycaller.com/2011/11/30/pentagon-memo-fishing-for-counterterrorism-training-standards-leaned-heavily-on-wired-reporters-assertions/>

³⁴ Keach Hagey, “[Unlike Weigel, Ackerman Keeps Job](#),” *Politico*, July 20, 2010, <https://www.politico.com/story/2010/07/unlike-weigel-ackerman-keeps-job-039974#ixzzoufuJQdHC>

³⁵ “[Unlike Weigel, Ackerman Keeps Job](#),” <https://www.politico.com/story/2010/07/unlike-weigel-ackerman-keeps-job-039974#ixzzoufuJQdHC>

³⁶ Mohamed Elibiary, “[M. Elibiary – FBI Training, the Ackerman Exposé & American Muslim Community Concerns](#),” *Muslim Matters*, September 18, 2011.

³⁷ Spencer Ackerman, “[Video: FBI Trainer Says Forget ‘Irrelevant’ al-Qaeda, Target Islam](#),” *Wired Magazine*, September 20, 2019.

- Ackerman’s April 24, 2012, article “[Exclusive: Senior U.S. General Orders Top-to-Bottom Review of Military’s Islam Training, Spencer Ackerman](#) in *WIRED Magazine*,³⁸ was followed the next day by the CAIR demand, “CAIR Commends Pentagon for Dropping Islamophobic Course.”³⁹
- Ackerman’s attack on the Joint Forces Staff College, “[U.S. Military Taught Officers: Use ‘Hiroshima’ Tactics for ‘Total War’ on Islam](#)” in *WIRED Magazine* on May 10, 2012,⁴⁰ was followed by the CAIR demand that “[CAIR Asks Pentagon to Dismiss Officer Who Taught ‘Total War’ on Islam](#).”⁴¹

DHS unveiled the CVE in October 2011 with the release of the October 7, 2011, “[Countering Violent Extremism \(CVE\) Training Guidance & Best Practices](#)”⁴² along with the imprecisely dated “[Countering Violent Extremism \(CVE\) Training – Do’s and Don’ts](#).”⁴³ From the beginning, the purpose of the CVE was the suppression and replacement of professional national security analysis with *faux* narratives designed to enforce Islamophobia speech codes, which enforce Shari’ah law speech codes, which, to this day, remain hostile and foreign.

[CAIR bragged](#) about its role in the purge in an October 2017 press release when stating that the “*Do’s and Don’ts*” was implemented to “prohibit the federal use of funding of Islamophobic trainers.”⁴⁴ In other words, the Muslim Brotherhood-inspired “*Do’s and Don’ts*” implemented by DHS was among the mechanisms used to terminate careers based on Brotherhood claims of Islamophobia. Islamophobia remains a hostile foreign attack on protected speech.

It should be noted that the narrative arc associated with these activities culminated shortly after the September 11, 2012, Benghazi attack, which Secretary Clinton

³⁸ Spencer Ackerman, “[Exclusive: Senior U.S. General Orders Top-to-Bottom Review of Military’s Islam Training, Spencer Ackerman](#),” *WIRED Magazine*, April 24, 2012

³⁹ “CAIR Commends Pentagon for Dropping Islamophobic Course,” CAIR Presser, April 25, 2012 ([archive link](#))

⁴⁰ Ackerman *WIRED* attack on JFSC, “[U.S. Military Taught Officers: Use ‘Hiroshima’ Tactics for ‘Total War’ on Islam](#),” Spencer Ackerman, *WIRED Magazine*, May 10, 2012

⁴¹ “[CAIR Asks Pentagon to Dismiss Officer Who Taught ‘Total War’ on Islam](#),” CAIR Presser, May 10, 2012 ([also](#))

⁴² “[Countering Violent Extremism \(CVE\) Training Guidance & Best Practices](#),” Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, U. S. Department of Homeland Security, October 7, 2011 (modified October 11, 2011), <https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/cve-training-guidance.pdf>

⁴³ [Countering Violent Extremism \(CVE\) Training – Do’s and Don’ts](#), Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, October 2011 (estimated date), <https://www.scribd.com/document/293418782/Countering-Violent-Extremism-CVE-Training#>

⁴⁴ “[Facts on FBI Director Candidates](#),” Key Issues in Islamophobia, CAIR, October 11, 2017, <http://www.islamophobia.org/articles/205-facts-on-fbi-director-candidates.html>

misrepresented to the public. This was done in an effort to force conformance to a coordinated⁴⁵ Islamophobia / CVE campaign already choreographed to peak later that month. It was on September 25, 2012 that [President Obama declared to the UN General Assembly](#) that “the future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam,”⁴⁶ followed later by his October 12, 2012 statement on *60-Minutes* that, “I was certain and continue to be pretty certain that there are going to be bumps in the road because, in a lot of these places, the [one organizing principle](#) has been Islam, the one part of society that hasn’t been completely controlled by the government.”⁴⁷ Obama’s General Assembly statement asserted the Islamophobia standard while the CVE denied national security assessments of Islamic based terrorism based on Islam’s “one organizing principle.” The Obama administration had its cake and ate it, too.

II. Executing the Purge, from the White House to the Pentagon

As the CVE narrative phase transitioned to the execution phase, it should be noted that the October 19, 2011, [Khera Letter](#) named me in that correspondence:⁴⁸

- “In January 2011, Stephen Coughlin, a former consultant on Islamic law for the Joint Chiefs of Staff who criticized ex-President George W. Bush’s assurances that the U.S. is not at war with Islam for having a ‘chilling effect’ on intelligence analysis, gave a presentation to the FBI’s D.C. field office, during which, according to attendees, he claimed that Islamic law was incompatible with the U.S. Constitution and that there is no such thing as a loyal American Muslim.”⁷

Footnote 7 referred to a Spencer Ackerman article in *WIRED Magazine*:

- Spencer Ackerman, [New Evidence of Anti-Islam Bias Underscores Deep Challenges for FBI’s Reform Pledge](#), *WIRED MAGAZINE*, Sept. 23, 2011, available at <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/09/fbi-islam-domination/all/1>. (as cited in the *Khera Letter*)

⁴⁵ For example, see *Catastrophic Failure: Blindfolding America in the Face of Jihad*, 321 – 332.

⁴⁶ President Obama’s “[Remarks by the President to the UN General Assembly](#),” September 25, 2012 (at the 1:14 mark on “[President Obama Remarks to the United Nations General Assembly](#)” (2012))” C-SPAN User Clip created May 12, 2013.

⁴⁷ President Obama, “[President Obama: The Full ‘60 Minutes’ Interview](#),” October 12, 2012.

⁴⁸ [Khera Letter](#), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/October-19-2011-Farhana-Khera-Letter-to-John-Brennan-r.pdf>

Of the 13 times that [Khera footnoted](#) a source for her accusations, all of which were stated as facts, 12 of them were to Spencer Ackerman.⁴⁹ This means the entire Khera/Brennan exchange was based on Ackerman's scribbblings, a known left-wing agitator.

At one point, [Ackerman was forced to disclose](#) that his wife worked for the ACLU.⁵⁰ The same ACLU that wrote the [ACLU Letter to FBI Director Robert Mueller](#) on October 4, 2011, which was co-signed by MPAC, Khera's *Muslim Advocates*, ISNA, MAS, and CAIR.⁵¹ As with Khera's, the [ACLU](#) Letter also relied on Ackerman for its claims, again stated as facts, citing him four times.⁵² From the beginning, and including state actor guidance, the Islamic Movement and the left synchronized their efforts along common attack narratives to neutralize America's counterterrorism analytical capabilities for the benefit of a threat that depends on subversion – “civilization jihad by [our] hands” – to succeed.

As noted, the *Khera Letter* used Ackerman to say that I “criticized ex-President George W. Bush's assurances that the U.S. is not at war with Islam for having a ‘chilling effect’ on intelligence analysis, [at] a presentation to the FBI's D.C. field office.”⁷ As actually stated in [Ackerman's FBI “exposé”](#):

- “Coughlin's 2007 master's thesis at the *National Defense Intelligence College* claimed that President George W. Bush's reassurance that the U.S. was not at war with Islam had a “chilling effect on those tasked to define the enemy's

⁴⁹ *Khera Letter*, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/October-19-2011-Farhana-Khera-Letter-to-John-Brennan-r.pdf>, other articles as cited by Khera are:

- 2. Spencer Ackerman, [Justice Department Official: Muslim ‘Juries’ Threaten ‘Our Values’](#), *WIRED Magazine*, Oct. 5, 2011, available at <https://www.wired.com/2011/10/islamophobia-beyond-fbi/>
- 3. Spencer Ackerman, [FBI ‘Islam 101’ Guide Depicted Muslims as 7th-Century Simpletons](#), *WIRED Magazine*, July 27, 2011, available at <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/07/fbiislam-101-guide/>
- 8. Spencer Ackerman, [FBI Teaches Agents: ‘Mainstream’ Muslims Are ‘Violent, Radical,’](#) *WIRED Magazine*, Sept. 14, 2011, available at <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/09/fbimuslims-radical/>

⁵⁰ Spencer Ackerman, [“FBI Crime Maps Now ‘Pinpoint’ Average Muslims,”](#) *WIRED Magazine*, October 24, 2011, <https://www.wired.com/2011/10/fbi-geomaps-muslims>

⁵¹ [ACLU Letter to FBI Director Robert Mueller](#), ACLU, October 4, 2011, https://www.aclu.org/files/assets/sign_on_letter_to_dir_mueller_re_radicalization_report_10.4.11.pdf

⁵² [ACLU Letter to FBI Director Robert Mueller](#), ACLU, October 4, 2011, https://www.aclu.org/files/assets/sign_on_letter_to_dir_mueller_re_radicalization_report_10.4.11.pdf

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doctrine by effectively placing a policy bar on the unconstrained analysis of Islamic doctrine as a basis for this threat.”⁵³

What was actually stated in the [thesis](#):

- Following the catastrophic events of 9/11, when 19 Muslim men attacked U.S. targets for reasons associated with *jihad* in furtherance of Islamic goals, President George Bush made broad statements that held Islam harmless:
 - “The terrorists are traitors to their own faith, trying, in effect, to hijack Islam itself. The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends; it is not our many Arab friends. Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists, and every government that supports them.”

While there is little doubt that the President made these comments to allay fears in the Muslim community while staring down thoughts of vigilante justice in some circles, his statements exerted a chilling effect on those tasked to define the enemy’s doctrine by effectively placing a policy bar on the unconstrained analysis of Islamic doctrine as a basis for this threat.⁵⁴

I believe this assessment is as valid today as it was when written. There is no question that my thesis stirred the pot. Within five months of its production, [I read in the papers](#) of my planned removal from the Joint Staff, Intelligence Directorate, the “J2”.⁵⁵

⁵³ Spencer Ackerman, [New Evidence of Anti-Islam Bias Underscores Deep Challenges for FBI’s Reform Pledge](#), WIRED MAGAZINE, Sept. 23, 2011, available at <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/09/fbi-islam-domination/all/1>.

⁵⁴ Major Stephen Coughlin, [‘To Our Great Detriment,’ Ignoring what Extremists say about Jihad](#), Joint Military Intelligence College – JMIC (now the National Intelligence University) in furtherance of his Master of Science Strategic Intelligence, July 2007, 4.

⁵⁵ Bill Gertz, [“Bhutto Failure,”](#) Inside the Ring, *The Washington Times (The Gertz File)*, December 28, 2007, <https://gertzfile.com/gertzfile/ring122807.html> NOTE: While not the point of this paper, no religious references were made in the meeting with Hesham Islam, Christian or otherwise. Also, the leaked document in question, which I played no role in its release, was unclassified, titled [Analysis of Muslim Brotherhood’s General Strategic Goals for North America Memorandum](#), (Stephen Coughlin, *The Pentagon*, September 7, 2007, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Analysis-MB-Strategic-Goals-Memo-Coughlin.pdf>).

This “Analysis” was the first of the infamous *Holy Land Foundation* document, popularly known as the [“Explanatory Memorandum,”](#) that laid bare the Muslim Brotherhood’s mission of “*grand jihad*” in America.

As the Hisham Islam issue heated up, I received strong support precisely because the work product and presentations were factual and professionally presented, see. Bill Gertz, [“Coughlin Backed,”](#) Inside the Ring, *Washington Times (The Gertz File)*, January 11, 2008,

The thesis has increased in stature since its submission in 2007. For example, in 2008, David Yerushalmi, Esq, published a law review article that heavily relied on the thesis's underlying research on Islamic law. Not only did an elite litigator accept the legal analysis of the thesis, but, given the contentious nature of the subject matter, the staff of the *Utah Law Review* undertook its own peer review of the thesis before agreeing to publish Yerushalmi's [Shari'ah's 'Black Box': Civil Liability and Criminal Exposure Surrounding Shari'ah-Compliant Finance](#).⁵⁶

At the time, I often joked that the thesis was, in reality, a brute force legal brief masquerading as an intelligence thesis. It was written to be evidentiary. The evidentiary nature of the thesis was not just recognized by the legal community, but also by the Intelligence Community - the "IC". At the very time Brennan and his cohorts were preparing to spring the purge, professionals in the IC were working with George Mason University's Learning Agents Center to develop [evidence-based tools](#) (and the [Abstract](#)) based mainly on my thesis, but also supported by another paper I wrote in 2010: "[The Killing without Right: Islamic Concepts of Terrorism](#)".⁵⁷ As this assessment transitions to the purge, the recognized stability of the papers I wrote, of the products I prepared, and of the presentations I gave should be kept in mind.

Brennan's commitment to Khera was no empty gesture. In fact, the purge began days before Khera wrote her October 19 Letter. Based on "recent media attention on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) training and DoD lectures," Assistant Secretary of Defense (ASD) José Mayorga sent a [Memorandum for the Director](#), Joint Staff to "Request for Joint Staff Coordination"

<https://gertzfile.com/gertzfile/lingo11108.html> (see also [this](#), [this](#) and [this](#)) As it turns out, and not surprisingly so, Hesham Islam likewise had a dubious background, as Claudia Rosett exposed in "[Questions for the Pentagon – Who is Hesham Islam](#)," Claudia Rosett, *National Review*, January 25, 2008, <https://www.nationalreview.com/2008/01/questions-pentagon-jrinternet/>

⁵⁶ David Yerushalmi, Esq., "[Shari'ah's 'Black Box': Civil Liability and Criminal Exposure Surrounding Shari'ah-Compliant Finance](#)," *Utah Law Review*, 2008, 1019 -1106, <http://www.saneworks.us/uploads/application/35.pdf> (which cites to the thesis over 40 times)

⁵⁷ "[Modeling Violent Extremists with TIACRITIS](#)," CDRL Aoo6: Training Support, GMU Learning Agents Center, George Mason University, August 8, 2011 (and [Abstract](#), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/ABSTRACT-Modeling-Violent-Extremists-with-TIACRITIS-GMU-Learning-Agents-Center-September-27-2011-r.pdf>) produced in furtherance of "Intelligent Software Agent for Training Intelligence Analysts," Task 1.6.5 Textbook Publication, under the supervision of an IC Advisory Board, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Modeling-Violent-Extremists-with-TIACRITIS-GMU-Learning-Agents-Center-August-8-2011-r.pdf> This paper heavily relied on the Joint Military Intelligence College – JMIC (now the National Intelligence University) Master of Science Strategic Intelligence thesis '[To Our Great Detriment,' Ignoring what Extremists say about Jihad](#), July 2007; and "[The Killing without Right: Islamic Concepts of Terrorism](#)," *Jorge Scientific*, July 1, 2010.

dated October 14, 2011.⁵⁸ The Memorandum was based exclusively on an Ackerman article.⁵⁹ Not surprisingly, the article in question, “[Justice Department Official: Muslim ‘Juries’ Threaten ‘Our Values’](#),”⁶⁰ was among those named in the [Khera Letter](#).⁶¹ The staff coordination Mayorga tasked was for the suppression of counterterrorism analysis through the forced imposition of CVE active measures. In the [Memorandum](#), ASD Mayorga placed special emphasis on targeting those national security elements responsible for eternal vigilance; i.e., those functions that are always ‘looking out’ or ‘listening in’:

- “The intent is to determine the criteria used to establish professional qualifications for teachers and lecturers providing instruction on countering violent Islamic extremism, with particular focus on **Military Information Support Operations**, **Information Operations**, and **Military Intelligence** curriculum.”⁶²

Military Information Support Operations, popularly known as Psyops, and Civil Affairs. **MISO**, **IO**, and **MI** are the ever-vigilant “eyes out” and “ears always listening” components of our intelligence collection effort. What does it mean that an ASD would deliberately suppress fact-based threat-focused intelligence analysis in favor of CVE narratives that deliberately cloud the collection effort by forcing missions to conform to - and support - hostile narratives that, by virtue of their implementation, enforce Islamic speech codes on American citizens tasked with the national security of this country, undertaken, no less, at the bidding of resident Islamic Movement actors expressly committed to “[‘sabotaging’ \[America’s\] house by \[our\] hands](#) and the hands of the believers so that it is eliminated?”⁶³

⁵⁸ [The Staff Package](#), Mayorga Memorandum, October 14, 2011, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/STAFF-ACTION-Package-October-14-2011-Violent-Extremist-Briefers-ASD-Mayorga-OSD-SACCP-JS-JSAP-TAB-A-r-.pdf>

⁵⁹ [The Staff Package](#), Mayorga Memorandum, TAB A – The Ackerman Article, October 5, 2011. (NOTE: “*The Staff Package*” refers to ASD Mayorga’s Memorandum, the associated TAB A - Ackerman article, the associated OSD SACCP, and the Joint Staff JSAP), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/STAFF-ACTION-Package-October-14-2011-Violent-Extremist-Briefers-ASD-Mayorga-OSD-SACCP-JS-JSAP-TAB-A-r-.pdf>

⁶⁰ [The Staff Package](#), Attachment: TAB A: Spencer Ackerman’s *Wired.com* Article refers to Ackerman’s, [Justice Department Official: Muslim ‘Juries’ Threaten ‘Our Values’](#), *WIRED Magazine*, Oct. 5, 2011, <https://www.wired.com/2011/10/islamophobia-beyond-fbi/>

⁶¹ [Khera Letter](#), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/October-19-2011-Farhana-Khera-Letter-to-John-Brennan-r.pdf>

⁶² [The Staff Package](#), Mayorga Memorandum, October 14, 2011, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/STAFF-ACTION-Package-October-14-2011-Violent-Extremist-Briefers-ASD-Mayorga-OSD-SACCP-JS-JSAP-TAB-A-r-.pdf>

⁶³ [Explanatory Memorandum](#): On the General Strategic Goal for the Group,” Mohamed Akram, May 22, 1991, Government Exhibit 003-0085/3:04-CR-240-G U.S. v. HLF, et al., United

ASD Mayorga’s Memorandum was the cover sheet to an Office of the Secretary of Defense Staff Action Control and Coordination Portal ([OSD SACCP](#)) tasking⁶⁴ that the Joint Staff acknowledged on October 25, 2011, with a Joint Staff Action Process tasking ([JS JSAP](#)).⁶⁵ From the beginning and running through Brennan’s perch in the White House, the entire Pentagon purge was based on uncorroborated claims by Ackerman, promoted by Khera. This was an op.

The Ackerman article “[Justice Department Officials](#),” included as TAB A, drew from the same information provided in the previous week’s article, “[New Evidence of Anti-Muslim Bias](#),” dated September 23.⁶⁶ This point is noted because the video embedded in the October 5 article does not work, while the video in the September 23rd article still does. As both articles were identified in the *Khera Letter*, and they both drew from the same YouTube published example of the briefing “[America at the Crossroads – 2010](#)” given at the *Freedom Defense Initiative* at CPAC on February 19, 2010,⁶⁷ a comparison of what was briefed in the recording to what Ackerman suggests will demonstrate the lack of integrity in Ackerman’s reporting.

The misrepresentations were blatant. Had those in the purge-chain been interested in the truth, a simple sampling of the evidence Ackerman provided would have clarified the situation. The following examples are limited to those that can be answered by comparing Ackerman’s statements to the video of the presentation THAT ACKERMAN PROVIDED as his demonstration of proof.

States District Court, Northern District of Texas, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/HLF-Evidence-Explanatory-Memorandum-seachable-Muslim-Botherhood-NA-1991-r.pdf>, 21. In full, from “4. Understanding the Role of the Muslim Brotherhood in North America,” the sentence is; “The *Ikhwan* must understand that their work in America is a kind of *grand Jihad* in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within and “sabotaging” its miserable house by their hands and the hands of the believers so that it is eliminated and God’s religion is made victorious over all other religions.”

⁶⁴ *The Staff Package*, OSD SACCP, October 17, 2011, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/STAFF-ACTION-Package-October-14-2011-Violent-Extremist-Briefers-ASD-Mayorga-OSD-SACCP-JS-JSAP-TAB-A-r-.pdf>

⁶⁵ *The Staff Package*, JS JSAP, October 25, 2011, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/STAFF-ACTION-Package-October-14-2011-Violent-Extremist-Briefers-ASD-Mayorga-OSD-SACCP-JS-JSAP-TAB-A-r-.pdf>

⁶⁶ Spencer Ackerman, [New Evidence of Anti-Islam Bias Underscores Deep Challenges for FBI’s Reform Pledge](#), WIRE MAGAZINE, Sept. 23, 2011, available at <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/09/fbi-islam-domination/all/1>.

⁶⁷ Stephen Coughlin, “[America at the Crossroads – 2010](#),” February 19, 2010 as posted on YouTube as “Steve Coughlin’s Speech on Jihad and Islam for Freedom Defense Initiative,” at CPAC, posted by UAC4America on YouTube, February 21, 2010, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tyoxe8OyPjY>

- Ackerman engages in a narrative ripe with inferences. For example, I engage in broad categorical statements concerning “all Muslims”. Yet, the [frozen image](#)⁶⁸ of “[America at the Crossroads – 2010](#)” captured by the “New Evidence” article shows the second slide of the briefing ([3:43– 4:58](#)) that states:

- (I’m) Not asking you to believe (in) this presentation -

Rather, just pointing out that this **is an issue of fact** that can be resolved by way of direct analysis of peer-reviewed and authoritatively approved English language translations of authoritative treatments on Islamic law!

There is also the matter of the professional duty to know!

- What is clear – even if this understanding of Islamic law is in error, it is still in error in **EXACTLY** the way the enemy in the WOT got it wrong and, hence, is still an accurate reflection of the enemy’s stated threat doctrine.

- How about a return to fact-driven analysis!

*“My job as an intelligence analyst was never to know ‘True Islam.’ ”
It was to define the doctrine the enemy fights in furtherance of.”*

- Ackerman suggests that my briefings are based on claims or opinions tangentially related to reality, suggesting a conspiracy theory orientation toward events. Hence, for Ackerman:
 - I “claim” Muslim Nations have a “[Ten Year Plan](#)” as if the idea was conjured up from spending too much time in online conspiracy theory forums, when in fact, the “Ten Year Plan” was a formally stated initiative of the OIC. The “America at the Crossroads – 1010” briefing clearly showed that I was briefing directly off OIC documents.⁶⁹
 - From 22:14 to 22:52, the concept of slander in Islamic law is explained, drawing on direct references to Islamic slander law to underscore the seriousness of the OIC’s “Ten Year Plan”.

⁶⁸ “[Ackerman innuendo in ‘New Evidence’](#) – Sept 23 2011 – Refuted by his own Source America at the Crossroads plus,” PDF from presentations Ackerman published, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ackerman-innuendo-in-New-Evidence-Sept-23-2011-Refuted-by-his-own-Source-America-at-Crossroads-plus-r.pdf>

⁶⁹ “[Ackerman innuendo in ‘New Evidence’](#), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ackerman-innuendo-in-New-Evidence-Sept-23-2011-Refuted-by-his-own-Source-America-at-Crossroads-plus-r.pdf>

- From 22:53 to 25:08, the OIC’s Ten-Year Plan is explained directly through the OIC’s Ten-Year Plan document, which is clearly visible.
- That I engage in obscurantist flights when discussing [abrogation](#):⁷⁰
 - From 7:20 to 8:25, the concept of abrogation was explained by direct reference to formally approved English language translations of Islamic law.
 - From 8:26 to 10:32, the briefing transitions to the Muslim Brotherhood’s reliance on abrogation as the engine of their doctrine, relying heavily on Sayyid Qutb’s *Milestones* to make the point.
 - Then, from 10:33 to 19:1, the briefing provides direct reference to Qur’anic, hadith, and *shari’ah* authority for abrogation and then demonstrates how Major Hasan, the Fort Hood shooter, appealed directly to the doctrine of abrogation for his authority to engage in his mass-shooting terrorism at Fort Hood. Regarding Major Hasan and Fort Hood, *people are dead because our national security leaders embargoed our understanding of the Islamic doctrine of abrogation*.⁷¹
 - While Ackerman would have the reader scoff at analyzing “obscure” doctrines like the “Rule of Abrogation,” it is essential to recognize that people died because we don’t understand such concepts, even as we know they inform the strategy and decision-making of the Islamic Movement from the Muslim Brotherhood to Al Qaeda. It was not obscure to Major Hasan, or Anwar al-Awlaki, or Ayman Zawahiri, or Sayyid Qutb.

As Major Hasan explained in detail, he took up the jihad because the “Rule of Abrogation” compelled him in that direction. In fact, he put his rationale in a *PowerPoint* presentation and briefed it to officers and staff over 20 times. The few officers who raised concerns were brushed back under threat of being labeled “bigoted” in their next efficiency report. Just forty-three

⁷⁰ Ackerman innuendo in ‘New Evidence’, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ackerman-innuendo-in-New-Evidence-Sept-23-2011-Refuted-by-his-own-Source-America-at-Crossroads-plus-r.pdf>

⁷¹ Stephen Coughlin, *Catastrophic Failure: Blindfolding America in the Face of Jihad*, CSP Press, 2015, 20 - 21, 69 – 75, 383 – 399. Part VII “Catastrophic Failures” breaks down Major Hasan’s e-mails to Al-Awlaki to explain how, in his announced intent to engage in jihad, he literally briefed it to fellow officers for months, was ignored by military leaders and law enforcement because they lacked even a basic understanding of how certain Islamic doctrines, like Abrogation, informs decision-making, including that associated with mass-killings.

days after the Fort Hood shootings, I briefed William Webster, the head of the *Webster Commission*, on the details of Major Hasan’s briefing, showing how Hasan’s rationale lined up precisely with what I’d been warning in my briefings, so much so that associates at the FBI asked if I’d ever briefed him. (I didn’t).

So close was my presentation to Hasan’s that I superimposed his slides over mine to show the “word-for-word” exactness. Those slides were included in the “America at the Crossroads – 2010” briefing Akerman posted.

I briefed Webster on these slides and other factual findings. Not one of those findings made it into the 2012 *Final Report of the Webster Commission*.⁷² What America got instead was an institutionalized refusal to acknowledge Hasan’s own stated reasons for engaging in jihad, replacing his truth with a [CVE-inspired “workplace violence” report](#) that came out in January 2010.⁷³

- With comments like, “But not everyone was comfortable with the presentation. Some walked out in boredom or disgust, according to the source. Others made fun of it,” Akerman suggests a seething dissent, a sense of offense, a rancorous divide among professional staffs concerning my briefings. Yet, while the briefings were often long and tediously fact-laden, they were also popular, never mocked, and met almost no dissent. I have no recollection of “walkouts.”
- Because purge narratives often suggest the need for intervention to avoid dissent among the ranks, and are used to justify heavy-handed responses on behalf of those who make a living off of being aggrieved victims, it worth pointing out that, in 2012, [the GAO](#) looked into such CVE enforcing memes and discovered, to no-one’s surprise, that there was virtually no dissent or offense taken, in fact, less than *one half* of **1%**.⁷⁴ As will be discussed, Major

⁷² [Final Report of the William H. Webster Commission on The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Counterterrorism Intelligence, and the Events at Fort Hood, Texas, on November 5, 2009](#), 19 July 2012, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Final-Report-of-the-William-Webster-Commission-FBI-on-Events-of-Fort-Hood-July-19-2012.pdf>

⁷³ [Protecting the Force: Lessons from Fort Hood](#), Report on the DoD Independent Review, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, 15 January 2010, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Protecting-the-Force-Lessons-from-Fort-Hood-OSD-January-15-2010.pdf>

⁷⁴ [Countering Violent Extremism – Additional Actions Could Strengthen Training](#), GAO Report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, United States Senate, GAO-13-79, October 18, 2012, <https://www.gao.gov/assets/650/649616.pdf>

General Rudesheim reached the same conclusion when [investigating allegations](#) at the Joint Forces Staff College.⁷⁵

- Whenever Ackerman needed dissenting voices, he was never able to associate a name with any of those “sources”. Not so, however, for those who came to my support. Ackerman’s “[Justice Department Official](#)” article targeted my briefings at the FA-30 Information Operations Course at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In the article, Colonel Mike Dominique spoke favorably of my efforts:
 - "What Mr. Coughlin brings is a certain level of expertise on these extremist groups. He brings a perspective to the audience."

While Lt. Colonel Steve Leonard at the Combined Arms Center noted that I “do not cross a line into anti-Islam sentiment,” adding:

- "He helps the students develop a mental model of extremist groups and the process they use to influence moderate Muslims. "He explains how extremists use the Quran and Sharia law to build a jihadist narrative that creates significant influence within a moderate population."⁷⁶

For those who supported me, it came at a price. When reading about the support I received from places like Ft Leavenworth, I was told those individuals were singled out and sanctioned. For his efforts, I was told in confidence that the White House intervened to inform COL Dominique that they were not satisfied with his response. In fact, one person joined in the beat-down to tell COL Dominique that my briefings violated White House Policy on Islamophobia.

In fact, whether it was the person informing me of the cancellation of my CIA presentation in August, or the FBI Washington Field Office informing me of the White House request for my briefing materials, or from the instructors at the FA-30 “Information Operations” course at Ft Leavenworth, they all spoke with an

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- Of 24,700 who attended 8,424 provided feedback
 - 54 cited political bias .2% of the 24,700 (or .6% for the 8,424)
 - 12 cited offensive .05% of the 24,700 (or .1% of the 8,424)
 - 11 cited inaccurate .04% of the 24,700 (or .1% of the 8,424)

⁷⁵ Major General Rudesheim, Memorandum for: Director, Joint Force Development, “[Preliminary Inquiry](#)”, May 17, 2012, 9 (hereafter “Preliminary Inquiry”), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Preliminary-Inquiry-MG-Rudesheim-of-JFSC-and-LTC-Dooley-May-17-2012-r.pdf>

⁷⁶ Spencer Ackerman, [Justice Department Official: Muslim ‘Juries’ Threaten ‘Our Values’](#), WIRED Magazine, Oct. 5, 2011, <https://www.wired.com/2011/10/islamophobia-beyond-fbi/>

embarrassed sadness when apologetically informing me that “it was coming from the White House.”

Transitioning to Part III, over time, what stands out is the compressed timeline of events, beginning with Secretary Clinton’s remarks to the OIC in Mid-July 2011, through the full-scale deployment of the CVE and the initiation of the purge in October. As the Soviets would say: “Comrade, there are no coincidences.”

III. Colonel David Cade and the Joint Forces Staff College (JFSC)

On June 20, 2012, [Reuters reported](#) that a spokesperson for the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced that:

- The instructor of a college course that taught top military officers the United States was at war with Islam has been relieved of teaching duties, and the course was ordered redesigned to reflect U.S. policy, a military spokesman said on Wednesday.
- A review of the course found that “institutional failures in oversight and judgment” led to the course being modified over time in a way that “portrayed Islam almost entirely in a negative way.”
- “The elective course’s military instructor has been relieved of his instructor duties.”
- A second military officer will receive administrative counseling.⁷⁷

The 2012 *Reuters* article mirrored the demands of the 2011 *Khera Letter*. This announcement struck a professional low. The “college” was the Joint Forces Staff College (the JFSC); the instructor was a decorated combat arms Lieutenant Colonel; it was **not true** that the course taught that the “United States is at war with Islam,” and a Marine Corps LtCol was forced to undergo career-arresting “re-training.”

From the beginning, the school knew that the entire affair was a witch hunt. It took less than a year for *Reuters* to register Khera’s success in the “purging of all federal government training materials,” the “implementation of a mandatory re-training program for . . . U.S. Army officers,” with “assurances of . . . effective discipline.”⁷⁸

⁷⁷ “[Military Instructor Suspended over Islam Course](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-defense-islam/military-instructor-suspended-over-islam-course-idUSBRE85JoXJ20120620),” *Reuters*, June 20, 2012, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-defense-islam/military-instructor-suspended-over-islam-course-idUSBRE85JoXJ20120620>

⁷⁸ *Brennan Letter*, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/November-3-2011-John-Brennan-Response-Letter-to-Farhana-Khera-r.pdf>

I was present at one of the events that initiated the JFSC raid. This paper will conclude with an account of activities at the JFSC, in the hope of shedding light on how heavy-handed, dishonest, and unfair the purge could be for those on the receiving end.

In “[U.S. Military Taught Officers: Use ‘Hiroshima’ Tactics for ‘Total War’ on Islam](#),”⁷⁹ Ackerman provided a link to a briefing I gave at the JFSC dated [March 14, 2011](#).⁸⁰ This briefing, which was proprietary and made available to the JFSC archive in accordance with the institution’s non-attribution policy, was stolen by a JFSC student and made available to *WIRED Magazine* and *Al-Jazeera* in direct violation of [Article 32 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice](#). All JFSC students are informed of the college’s strict non-attribution policies, and violation of them constitutes a violation of a lawful order. Because Ackerman posted my presentation, however, a few pointers are in order:

- The presentation was not the one I briefed the class on in the February–March 2012 cycle.
- With the passage of time, what stands out about the March 14, 2011, presentation is how closely it covered the Arab Spring. In September 2010, I was part of a small group that briefed on Capitol Hill on the imminent Muslim Brotherhood plan to bring down Arab states in what came to be known as “the Arab Spring.” What also stands out is that the purge in the United States ran concurrently with the Arab Spring in the Middle East, especially in Egypt.
- In the “[New Evidence](#)” article,⁸¹ Ackerman claimed that I “*allegedly* told the agents that Muslims believe Islamic law to be all-encompassing” as if such claims were ridiculous on their face. In “[Justice Department Officials](#),”⁸² Ackerman suggested that I was “*allegedly* claiming Islamic law was incompatible with the U.S. Constitution.” It’s impressive what Ackerman gets away with by simply putting the word “alleged” in front of veiled false light accusations. My focus was never on what “all Muslims believe” but rather on

⁷⁹ Spencer Ackerman, “[U.S. Military Taught Officers: Use ‘Hiroshima’ Tactics for ‘Total War’ on Islam](#),” *WIRED Magazine*, May 10, 2012, <https://www.wired.com/2012/05/total-war-islam/?pid=1192>

⁸⁰ Linked PowerPoint (presentation converted to PDF) from Spencer Ackerman’s ““[U.S. Military Taught Officers: Use ‘Hiroshima’ Tactics for ‘Total War’ on Islam](#),” given to at the JSFS dated March 14, 2011 and titled “[Imposing Islamic Law – or – These Aren’t the Droids Your \(sic\) Looking For](#),” https://www.wired.com/images_blogs/dangerroom/2012/05/coughlin-14-March-2011-JFSC.pdf

⁸¹ Spencer Ackerman, [New Evidence of Anti-Islam Bias Underscores Deep Challenges for FBI’s Reform Pledge](#), *WIRED MAGAZINE*, Sept. 23, 2011, available at <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/09/fbi-islam-domination/all/1>.

⁸² Spencer Ackerman, [Justice Department Official: Muslim ‘Juries’ Threaten ‘Our Values’](#), *WIRED Magazine*, Oct. 5, 2011, <https://www.wired.com/2011/10/islamophobia-beyond-fbi/>

what Islamic Movement entities claim all Muslims are required to believe when credibly supported by reference to authentic Islamic law. This was done to warn the counterterror community that “radical” claims should not be too easily discounted. In the March 14, 2011, brief posted by Ackerman, there were [two slides](#): one citing Imran Ahsan Khan Nyazee’s book, and the other citing the American-based Feisal Abdul Rauf’s. Both books concerned Islamic law, and both stated the all-encompassing nature of Islamic law that Ackerman characterized as my subjective “[claim](#)” – which was never attributed to “all Muslims” regardless.⁸³

- In the pictorial box of “[U.S. Military Taught Officers: Use ‘Hiroshima’ Tactics for ‘Total War’ on Islam](#),”⁸⁴ Ackerman included a screenshot of slide 112 titled “Complexification,” that has a sleeping dog, a boxer, ruminating, “*Ohh Shteve The world is shoo complex, all I can do is manage chaos . . . or take a nap! . . . Ohhh But I’m just a dog!*” It is a humorous slide that was never actually briefed and resided close to the backups. The reason I believe Ackerman posted this slide to the article is that it was one of the few slides in the presentation that did not include a primary Islamic source among the information provided. That said, the “[complexification](#)” slide was meant to raise longstanding concerns over the debilitating effects that institutionalized “complexity” narratives have wreaked on national security analysis.⁸⁵ Appendix A: “Bertrand Russel Cracks the ‘Complexity’ Code,” beginning on page 159 of [Re-Remembering the Mis-Remembered Left](#), explains the logic trap underlying the “complexity” phenomena.

In the February – March 2012 cycle, I returned to the JFSC to give my presentation. By this time, I had been briefing the course for some years, always at the school’s request, long before the current instructors came on board.

In fact, around the time General Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, ordered that the class be stood up, it was Lt General Charles “Chuck” Cunningham, then the Senior Seminar Advisor and Instructor at the JFSC, who approached my seniors on the Joint Staff Intelligence – J2 to express interest in my briefing the course. It was also Lt. Gen. Cunningham who insisted that I write my Joint Military Intelligence

⁸³ Regarding Slides 36 & 37, “[Ackerman innuendo in ‘New Evidence’](#),” <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ackerman-innuendo-in-New-Evidence-Sept-23-2011-Refuted-by-his-own-Source-America-at-Crossroads-plus-r.pdf>

⁸⁴ Spencer Ackerman, “[U.S. Military Taught Officers: Use ‘Hiroshima’ Tactics for ‘Total War’ on Islam](#),” *WIRED Magazine*, May 10, 2012, <https://www.wired.com/2012/05/total-war-islam/?pid=1192>

⁸⁵ “[Complexification](#)” a Satire on Complexity, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Complexification-from-Imposing-Islamic-Law-JFSC-March-14-2011-posted-on-WIRED-r.pdf>

College thesis; he even “agreed” to chair it, which made my life miserable until it was completed. It turns out that Lt. Gen. Cunningham was also the dean of the JMIC.

A quirk of briefing in military institutions is that one must bring one’s presentation on a thumb drive for use on JFSC systems. This time, my presentation was in a more advanced version of PowerPoint than the one on the JFSC system, so, while waiting for the staff to provide a workaround, I played two brief video clips that are usually shown at the beginning of the presentations. They are popular. They set the tone for the instruction.

The first video was a satire from FOX News’s *Half Hour News Hour* titled “[What do they have in Common](#).”⁸⁶ It was posted on YouTube in 2007 but dated back to the 2005 London Bombings. The satire consisted of newscasters asking straightforward questions in plain language reflecting the obvious *jihadi* nature of the attack, only to be met with the counterterror expert’s ridiculous pol-sci/policy speak that rendered him insensitive to the facts of the event. The unsettling nature of the humor lies in the fact that everyone recognizes that the bureau-academic speak used to discuss terrorism plainly obstructs the “expert’s” ability to articulate the most basic answers to questions concerning terrorism. Everybody laughs because everyone gets it.

The second clip is, in many respects, a repeat of the first. But this time, it is not funny. This video was of a Joint House and Senate Oversight Hearing on Homeland Defense held on December 7, 2011. It was at this time that the CVE was being aggressively deployed in the Pentagon. In the video, Representative [Dan Lungren](#) asked the Assistant Secretary of Defense (ASD) for Homeland Defense, Paul Stockton, basic questions about Islamic terrorism, only to be met with Stockton’s militant refusal to answer, hiding his non-responses in CVE-speak to stonewall the Congressman. No matter how many times this clip is shown, and to whom, the response has always been one of shocked disbelief and anger, until that class.

In that class, the response was typical except for one student, Air Force Colonel David Cade. Cade responded that he’d been associated with ASD Stockton at the time of the hearing. He then added that the reason Stockton was so abrasive was that, in testimony preparation, the decision was made not to answer such questions.

In response, I commented on the inappropriateness of an ASD being deliberately uncooperative in oversight testimony before Congressional committees when Congress exercises its Article I (of the Constitution) oversight authority. Cade doubled down on his answer. In an instant, the classroom became tense, with many of the students, all military officers, piqued by the belligerence underlying the Colonel’s comments. With the briefing slides ready, the tension was broken, and the

⁸⁶ “[What do they have in Common](#),” *Half Hour News Hour*, Fox News, posted on YouTube by *InTheBullpen*, March 4, 2007, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rd8cRvZZv44>

presentation began. I was later told that Colonel Cade was not registered for the course but had abandoned his assigned elective and inserted himself into that class.

Not much came of the event until Ackerman's "[U.S. Military Taught Officers: Use 'Hiroshima' Tactics for 'Total War' on Islam](#)" was published on May 10, 2012.⁸⁷ In that article, Ackerman made accusations based on briefings and work-product stolen from the class archive. A JFSC investigation confirmed that Colonel Cade appropriated course materials under questionable circumstances.⁸⁸ It also confirmed that Cade made unauthorized contact with Ackerman.⁸⁹

From Cade's statement in a formal inquiry, one could see that Ackerman's emphasis was similar to Cade's.⁹⁰ That said, aside from the fact that briefing materials were known to have been provided to Ackerman by a JFSC student, it remains an officially sanctioned mystery as to who that student was.

Right on schedule, immediately following the Ackerman article, CAIR issued a release demanding the termination of the instructors associated with the course.⁹¹ While the article focused on the JFSC, special attention was paid to the lead course instructor, LTC Matthew Dooley. The Ackerman attack was personalized to make an example of Dooley.

As with the entire WIREDCAIR op, the illusion of objectivity masked a pure *ad hominem* attack. The article was based on briefings stolen from the JFSC archive that were harvested for salacious bullets presented in an "inflammatory" context detached from the products as they were actually briefed - if they were ever briefed at all. It was obvious that the slides were selected to populate preconceived narrative arcs by individuals who never attended the briefings. While this is not the place to correct the systematic misrepresentations in what can only be called a disinformation activity, three examples will be provided:

⁸⁷ Ackerman WIREDCAIR attack on JFSC, "[U.S. Military Taught Officers: Use 'Hiroshima' Tactics for 'Total War' on Islam](#)," Spencer Ackerman, WIREDCAIR Magazine, May 10, 2012, <https://www.wired.com/2012/05/total-war-islam/?pid=1192>

⁸⁸ [15-6 Investigation](#) - Memorandum for Mr. Steven Williams, Joint Forces Staff College, Notice of Proposed Removal, July 30, 2012, 1, 20 "Evidence of Findings," (Hereafter, *15-6 Investigation of Williams*), NOTE: A *15-6 Investigation* is a formal Army investigation, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/15-6-Investigation-of-Steven-Williams-PAO-JFSC-July-30-2012-r.pdf>

⁸⁹ [15-6 Investigation of Williams](#), 1 "Evidence of Findings," <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/15-6-Investigation-of-Steven-Williams-PAO-JFSC-July-30-2012-r.pdf>

⁹⁰ [Preliminary Inquiry](#), "extreme hypotheticals," 10, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Preliminary-Inquiry-MG-Rudesheim-of-JFSC-and-LTC-Dooley-May-17-2012-r.pdf>

⁹¹ CAIR Presser in support, "[CAIR Asks Pentagon to Dismiss Officer Who Taught 'Total War' on Islam](#)," CAIR Presser, May 10, 2012 ([also](#))

- Regarding my briefing, [Ackerman stated](#), “In [his talk to Dooley's class](#) (.pdf), Coughlin suggested that al-Qaida helped drive the overthrow of Egyptian strongman Hosni Mubarak and Libyan dictator Muammar Gadhafi . . . And Coughlin mocked those who didn't see this plot as clearly as he did, accusing them of "complexification."⁹²
 - I did not brief that Al-Qaeda was instrumental in the Arab Spring effort to remove Mubarak or Gaddafi. As the briefing slides themselves indicate, intense attention was directed at Muslim Brotherhood activity in Egypt and internationally. Observations so accurate that later Egyptian authorities asked me to explain how I reached such an assessment.
 - As noted, the “Complexification” slide was a stand-alone slide that was not briefed. It was used to raise concerns about the damaging effects of institutionalized “complexity” narratives that posit the unknowability of otherwise knowable events, which the briefing could then address, as the slides themselves indicated. The “Complexification” slide had nothing to do with the Arab Spring – and this was obvious.
- [Ackerman stated](#): “For the better part of the last decade, a small cabal of self-anointed counterterrorism experts has been working its way through the U.S. military, intelligence and law enforcement communities, trying to convince whoever it could that America's real terrorist enemy wasn't al-Qaida – but the Islamic faith itself. In his course, Dooley brought in these anti-Muslim demagogues as guest lecturers.”⁹³
 - **This is conspiratorial nonsense.** As noted, I, along with most of the briefing contingent, was briefing the course years before LTC Dooley showed up. At least one other briefer was a Muslim. I was approached and asked to brief at the JFSC. The presentations were always sourced, vetted, approved, and quite popular. I never marketed myself. From the beginning, the interest in bringing me in and the decision to do so were at the General Officer/Joint Staff level. For better or for worse, LTC Dooley inherited the course; he did not make it.

⁹² Ackerman WIRED attack on JFSC, “[U.S. Military Taught Officers: Use ‘Hiroshima’ Tactics for ‘Total War’ on Islam](#),” Spencer Ackerman, *WIRED Magazine*, May 10, 2012, <https://www.wired.com/2012/05/total-war-islam/?pid=1192>

⁹³ Ackerman WIRED attack on JFSC, “[U.S. Military Taught Officers: Use ‘Hiroshima’ Tactics for ‘Total War’ on Islam](#),” Spencer Ackerman, *WIRED Magazine*, May 10, 2012, <https://www.wired.com/2012/05/total-war-islam/?pid=1192>

- Regarding LTC Dooley, [Ackerman stated](#): “International laws protecting civilians in wartime are ‘no longer relevant,’ Dooley continues, and that opens the possibility of applying ‘the historical precedents of Dresden, Tokyo, Hiroshima, Nagasaki’ to Islam’s holiest cities, and bringing about ‘Mecca and Medina’s destruction’.”

Ackerman provided no context for the scenario concept he mischaracterized. That is, he could not provide context while also successfully carrying off the smear. Rather, he deliberately portrayed Dooley as a wild-eyed extremist operating off the reservation. Ackerman’s directive was to silence academic freedom at a senior military college, suppress dissent, and shut down debate while simultaneously shutting down the course.

- Much of the information scraped from archived documents was unused work product and briefing materials. When such materials were briefed, the so-called “inflammatory” language was used at the beginning of the course to stir the pot in a block of instruction on military ethics and LOAC (Law of Armed Conflict), where it was later explained why such activity is not only criminal, but counterproductive to military considerations.

At one end of the use of force spectrum was nuclear war, at the other, no action. To find precedence for such a teaching technique, not to mention guidance, one need look no further than Chairman Dempsey’s own 2012 “[Chairman’s Reading List](#)”⁹⁴ (see also [here](#)) in which he recommended Andrew F. Krepinevich’s [7 Deadly Scenarios: A Military Futurist Explores War in the 21st Century](#).

When military leaders issue reading lists, they are guidance, **not** reading circle recommendations. Hence, when a Chairman adds a book to his reading list on future deadly warfighting scenarios, he is issuing guidance to the officer corps to develop threat awareness in that vein.

As a Joint Staff organization, the JFSC is the type of institution responsible for developing that awareness. Specifically, *7 Deadly Scenarios* has a vignette of Islamic radicals detonating nuclear devices in American cities. It was written to put readers in the role of recommending appropriate strategic responses. Hence, not only was the discussion of nuclear options not inappropriate in Dooley’s case,

⁹⁴ “[Chairman’s Reading List](#),” Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey’s 2012 Reading list, <https://www.jcs.mil/Portals/36/Documents/Publications/CJCSReadingList2012.pdf> (See also, [here](#))

but it was also endorsed by Chairman Dempsey’s own choice of nightmare wargame scenarios.

Wild-eyed LTC Dooley was a combat arms officer who had recently returned from a successful combat-arms combat tour in which he served in a senior leadership role. This, along with his appointment as course instructor at the prestigious JFSC, strongly suggests that Dooley was a competent officer with a very bright future – and recognized as such.

In the Joint Staff’s May 17, 2012 “[Preliminary Inquiry](#)”⁹⁵ into LTC Dooley and the course, Major General Rudesheim acknowledged that his investigation was made necessary by media attention, noting the same October 2011 *Staff Action* initiated by ASD Mayorga that was based exclusively on Ackerman’s unsubstantiated article. As part of the investigation, Rudesheim said that there “were no specific student complaints in 2011” concerning either the “Perspectives” course generally, or LTC Dooley specifically. The general found that the only complaint in 2012 came from Colonel David Cade.⁹⁶ ([page 9](#)) In reaching this finding, Rudesheim found that the course was popular, with many students rating it a “huge success.” As General Rudesheim concluded:

- “I believe that LTC Dooley fully understands the Judgment errors he made, and, if allowed, would continue to serve honorably, having learned some very hard lessons.”⁹⁷ ([page 13](#))

A close reading of the *Inquiry* suggests that LTC Dooley’s only “judgment errors” were that he put comments on a secure document that, if stolen for the purpose of using it in a delegitimization campaign, could be used to make misrepresentations to the public that assured “inflammatory” results, as happened. A related “judgment error,” it would seem, was that Dooley preserved the class archive, composed of draft work-product and discontinued briefings, for development and tracking purposes (as it had been, up until that point, the purpose of the *archive*).

The JSFC maintained the PIIR elective’s *archive* for years before Dooley’s arrival. What is certain is that the actual on-site investigation, conducted by a Joint Staff General Officer, cleared Dooley of the “inflammatory” views attributed to him. This came as a surprise to nobody at the JFSC. As will be seen, Major General Rudesheim’s boss, Lt General George Flynn, fired Dooley in spite of the *Inquiry*’s finding but in full

⁹⁵ [Preliminary Inquiry](#), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Preliminary-Inquiry-MG-Rudesheim-of-JFSC-and-LTC-Dooley-May-17-2012-r.pdf>

⁹⁶ [Preliminary Inquiry](#), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Preliminary-Inquiry-MG-Rudesheim-of-JFSC-and-LTC-Dooley-May-17-2012-r.pdf>

⁹⁷ [Preliminary Inquiry](#), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Preliminary-Inquiry-MG-Rudesheim-of-JFSC-and-LTC-Dooley-May-17-2012-r.pdf>

compliance with CAIR demands that heads be delivered on a platter, fueled by Ackerman's top-covered activity.

This raises a question: Just how did Ackerman get copies of those proprietary non-attribution briefings? When it became reasonably clear that the focus was shifting to Col Cade, Col Cade said the Supervisory Public Affairs Officer, Steven Williams, permitted him to speak to Spencer Ackerman. In a formal [15-6 Investigation](#)⁹⁸ directed at the removal of Williams for, among other things, "the unauthorized disclosure of sensitive information," the investigating officer strongly believed Williams' explanation while remaining highly skeptical of Col Cade's. He just could not prove it. From the [15-6 Investigation](#):⁹⁹

- "I believe the preponderance of evidence suggests Colonel Cade never contacted Mr. Williams, and thus conclude Mr. Williams did not grant the student permission to talk with Mr. Spencer Ackerman of *WIRED magazine*."
- "Thus, the evidence strongly indicates Mr. Williams could not have given permission for Col Cade to talk to the media, because the two never had contact with one another."
- "Cade says Ackerman did not know [the] JFSC speakers until he revealed that information to the *WIRED* journalist (indicating Cade was the original source for this information for Ackerman)."
- "Thus, as before, this calls into question Col Cade's version of events of what happened."
- "Col Cade's answers to the two questions above are inconsistent. In answer to my **Interview Question #6**, he states that he was in contact with Mr. Ackerman on the very day Ackerman published his hard-hitting article on the cancellation of the JFSC 'Perspectives on Islam' course. He also says Ackerman asked him for permission to use specific words from Col Cade as a quote for the article (Col Cade declined to be a named source). Clearly, even as he was expressing concerns to the highest levels of the JFSC, Col Cade had insider knowledge straight from the journalist that an article related to the JFSC's 'Perspectives on Islam' course was teed up and about to be published."

Clearly, Col Cade was protected. In military parlance, he had 'top-cover.' Addressing General Rudesheim's May 17, 2012, *Inquiry* and the July 30, 2012, *15-6 Investigation* at the JFSC, we jumped ahead in the timeline to establish that formal determinations

⁹⁸ [15-6 Investigation of Williams](https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/15-6-Investigation-of-Steven-Williams-PAO-JFSC-July-30-2012-r.pdf), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/15-6-Investigation-of-Steven-Williams-PAO-JFSC-July-30-2012-r.pdf>

⁹⁹ [15-6 Investigation of Williams](https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/15-6-Investigation-of-Steven-Williams-PAO-JFSC-July-30-2012-r.pdf), <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/15-6-Investigation-of-Steven-Williams-PAO-JFSC-July-30-2012-r.pdf>

were made that LTC Dooley did not advocate extreme positions, that this was known, and that Col Cade was in contact with Ackerman.

The low point came on May 12, 2012, when *Al Jazeera* launched a media blitz on the JFSC in conjunction with CAIR. All three stories acknowledged that they were based on Ackerman's articles. On May 12, *Al Jazeera*:

- Published, "[The US military's 'Anti-Islam Classes'](#) - How widespread is the use of anti-Islamic material in the U.S. military?"¹⁰⁰ In this article, *Al Jazeera* suggested a working relationship with *WIRED.com* to collect JFSC course materials.
- Broadcast a three-minute hit piece on the JFSC, "[US Military Teaches Islam a Threat to America](#),"¹⁰¹ hosted by Josh Rushing:
 - The story focused on one of the presentations stamped "The Outlaw Brief," ridiculing the term and treating the material as if it reflected an incoherent conspiracy rant. The reason the briefing was titled "The Outlawed Brief" is because there was an acute awareness that there was an effort to outlaw the content of the briefing (It was among those briefings that were purged!) The purging of data deemed upsetting to the Muslim Brotherhood is the basis of the "Banned by the White House" claim stamped on the cover of *Catastrophic Failure: Blindfolding America in the Face of Jihad* (It was purged as well!) **It is no accident** that the slides the story focused on when ridiculing the presentation as 'tin-foil hat' crazy were those that were actually [stamped as evidence](#)¹⁰² in a Federal trial, the *Holy Land Foundation Case*, that demonstrated the truth of the points that were presented in the briefing, which *Al Jazeera* and *CAIR* targeted for ridicule. The evidence proving that *CAIR* was formed out of Hamas is not only dispositive, but also so because it was proven in a Federal court of law.
 - Rushing states that he received the briefing slides from a concerned student at the school (the JFSC).

¹⁰⁰ "[The US military's 'Anti-Islam Classes'](#) - How widespread is the use of anti-Islamic material in the US military?," *Al Jazeera*, May 12, 2012, <https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/insidestoryamericas/2012/05/2012512105527585215.html>

¹⁰¹ Josh Rushing, "[US Military Under Fire for 'Anti-Islam Class'](#)," *Al-Jazeera-English on YouTube*, May 12, 2012, https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=170&v=2swVVfZ05eM&feature=emb_logo

¹⁰² *Al Jazeera Ridicules Accurate HLF Documents*, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Al-Jazeera-Ridicules-Accurate-HLF-Documents-r-.pdf>

- *Al Jazeera* interviewed Nihad Awad, Executive Director of CAIR, for comments on the presentation, identifying CAIR as “mainstream”.
- *Al Jazeera* interviewed Navy Captain John Kirby, the Pentagon Spokesperson, who said the briefed materials were “warped.” When *Al Jazeera* targeted individuals for ridicule, Captain Kirby provided the elicited responses, all of which were derogatory. It should be noted that Captain Kirby would later become the [State Department spokesperson](#) under Secretary Hillary Clinton.¹⁰³ Kirby retired as a Rear Admiral.
- *Al Jazeera* also broadcast a 25-minute news segment the same day. Moderated by Anand Naidoo, “[Inside Story Americas – The US Military’s ‘Anti-Islam Classes’](#)”¹⁰⁴ was formed around a panel of speakers that included CAIR’s Ibrahim Hooper, *Al Jazeera*’s Josh Rushing, and Morris Davis, a retired Air Force Colonel. The entire panel functioned like a controlled infomercial – or – like a line of effort in a foreign information campaign. The low point of the report came when General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was pressured into making derogatory and erroneous statements about U.S. military officers and briefing personnel:
 - **General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:** “It’s totally objectionable. And, so, we are looking at how that course was approved, what motivated the individual to adopt that - it was an elective - but what motivated that elective for being part of the curriculum. And we are looking across the institutions that provide our professional military education now to make sure there’s nothing like that there. It was just totally objectionable, against their values, and it wasn’t academically sound. This wasn’t about, you know, we’re pushing back on liberal thought. This was just objectionable, academically irresponsible.”¹⁰⁵
 - **“Objectionable.”** Why was the JFSC scenario objectionable, and the Krepinevich scenario it was patterned after, which was on General Dempsey’s reading list, not?

¹⁰³ “[John Kirby on Hillary Clinton Emails](#),” C-Span – Clip of State Department Daily Briefing, July 1, 2015, <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4542706/john-kirby-hillary-clinton-emails>

¹⁰⁴ Anand Naidoo, “[Inside Story Americas – The US Military’s ‘Anti-Islam Classes’](#),” *Al-Jazeera-English - YouTube*, May 12, 2012, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD_DW4JDcVk

¹⁰⁵ Anand Naidoo, “[Inside Story Americas – The US Military’s ‘Anti-Islam Classes’](#),” *Al-Jazeera-English - YouTube*, May 12, 2012, at 12:50 to 13:28), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD_DW4JDcVk

- **“And, so, we are looking at how that course was approved?”**
General Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, directed and approved the course.
- Dempsey’s comments are textbook responses to information blitzes (mass-line attacks in the language of political warfare) structured to create stampedes that catch bureaucratic decision-makers cravenly off-guard. Leading into the Dempsey interview, the moderator made it clear that Dempsey’s comments were in response to Ackerman’s innuendo (that Dempsey never investigated):
 - **Anand Naidoo:** “Okay, well, as you also mentioned earlier, Josh, on Thursday, the General of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff spoke about the material that WIRED.com obtained. That’s General Martin Dempsey. Let’s listen to what he had to say.”¹⁰⁶
- Prominently marked on YouTube’s *Al Jazeera-English* portal is the statement: **“*Al Jazeera is funded in whole or in part by the Qatari government.*”**¹⁰⁷ This, by itself, is an indicator that the *Al Jazeera* attack was a hostile foreign information campaign. Hence, General Dempsey didn’t just throw his fellow U.S. military officers and national security professionals under the bus; he did so to an organization under the actual control of a foreign state actor, Qatar. This is the same Qatar that:
 - Protects the Muslim Brotherhood’s spiritual leader and senior jurist, Yusuf al-Qaradawi, who was [banned from entering the United States](#) (and [here](#)) since the Clinton administration because of his links to terrorism.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁶ Anand Naidoo, “[Inside Story Americas – The US Military’s ‘Anti-Islam Classes’](#),” *Al-Jazeera-English - YouTube*, May 12, 2012, at 12:34 to 12:33)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD_DW4JDcVk

¹⁰⁷ For example, see Anand Naidoo, “[Inside Story Americas – The US Military’s ‘Anti-Islam Classes’](#),” *Al-Jazeera-English - YouTube*, May 12, 2012,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD_DW4JDcVk

¹⁰⁸ David Martosko, “[EXCLUSIVE: Deputy of banned cleric Yusuf al-Qaradawi](#) who endorses Palestinian suicide bombers had White House meeting with National Security Council staff,” *Mail (London)*, 25 June 2013, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2348479/EXCLUSIVE-Deputy-banned-suicide-bomb-endorsing-cleric-Yusuf-al-Qaradawi-White-House-meeting-National-Security-Council-staff.html>; see also, *Yusuf al-Qaradawi*, Wikipedia, 2019, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yusuf_al-Qaradawi#cite_note-157

- Under the leadership and protection of the al-Thani Family, Yusuf al-Qaradawi also founded the *International Union of Muslim Scholars (IUMS)*,¹⁰⁹ a Muslim Brotherhood-centric group of Islamic jurists that issues fatwas that, with the support of the Qatari leadership, make credible claims of legal authenticity.¹¹⁰
- Oversaw the translation and production of Ibn Rushd's *The Distinguished Jurist's Primer* through an organization that the royal family presided over, which also had Qaradawi on the Board of Trustees. *The Distinguished Jurist's Primer* has a substantial chapter on the law of *jihad*, which defines it the same way today's "violent extremists" do.¹¹¹ *The Distinguished Jurist's Primer* was among the sources used to brief students at the JFSC that Dempsey declared "objectionable" and "academically irresponsible."
- Continues to provide [material support](#) to Hamas.¹¹² The same Hamas that the U.S. State Department continues to designate as a terrorist organization, as listed on [the](#)

¹⁰⁹ David H. Warran, "Qatari Support for the Muslim Brotherhood is More Than Just Realpolitik, it has a Long, Personal History," *Maydan – Islamic Thought*, July 12, 2017, <https://themaydan.com/2017/07/qatari-support-muslim-brotherhood-just-realpolitik-long-personal-history/>

¹¹⁰ "The International Union of Muslim Scholars Honors the Legacy of Qatari Scholars: A New Headquarters Bearing Timeless Names and Renewed Scholarly Heritage," Content Details, International Union of Muslim Scholars, January 21, 2025, <https://iumsonline.org/en/ContentDetails.aspx?ID=37222>

For Footnotes 109 & 110, see <http://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Qatar-IUMS-Qaradawi-The-Muslim-Brotherhood.pdf>

¹¹¹ [Qatari Family Oversaw](#) the Translation of Islamic Law Text Promoting Classical Jihad, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Qatari-Royal-Family-Oversee-Translation-of-Islamic-Law-Text-Promoting-Classical-Jihad-r.pdf>

¹¹² Khaled Abu Toameh, "[Hamas, Islamic Jihad agree to Stand Together in Future Fight with Israel](#)," *The Jerusalem Post*, December 20, 2019, <https://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Hamas-PIJ-agree-to-stand-together-in-future-confrontation-with-Israel-611458>, "Earlier this week, a delegation from Hamas headed by Ismail Haniyeh met in Doha with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. The talks focused on the latest development in the region, specifically the Gaza Strip, and Qatar's role in providing financial aid and funding relief and humanitarian projects."

[Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#) (FTO) list.¹¹³ The same Hamas from which CAIR was formed, as proven in the *Holy Land Foundation* case. The same CAIR that *Al Jazeera* relied on for expert analysis (Nihad Awad and Ibrahim Hooper) in the two *Al Jazeera* broadcasts, intent, among other things, on leaving the impression that CAIR's formation out of Hamas is conspiratorial nonsense — a perfect, self-contained circle.

- According to a July 23, 2019 “[Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial](#),” filed at the Federal Court of Florida, Middle District, a member of the Qatari royal family, H.E. Sheikh Khaled bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani “solicited . . . for the murder of two (American) individuals,” “held an American citizen against the American citizen’s will on at least two occasions,” and threatened to kill the plaintiff, “bury his body in the desert, and kill (the plaintiff’s) family.”¹¹⁴

¹¹³ [Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#), Bureau of Counterterrorism, U.S. Department of State, <https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/>, Hamas has been on the FTO since October 8, 1997.

¹¹⁴ [Matthew Pittard; and Matthew Allende v. H.E. Sheikh Khaled bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani et al](#), Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial, Case No.: 8:19-CV-1784, United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, July 23, 2019, <https://www.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.flmd.366358/gov.uscourts.flmd.366358.1.o.pdf>, from the Complaint:

- **29.** During his employment, Pittard was solicited by Defendant Khalid for the murder of two individuals. In approximately late September of 2017 and November of 2017, in Los Angeles, California, Defendant Khalid asked Pittard to murder a male and a female who Defendant Khalid viewed as threats to his social reputation and personal security. Pittard refused to execute these unlawful requests.
- **30.** During Pittard’s period of employment, from approximately July 7-10, 2018, Defendant Khalid and his private Qatari security staff held an American citizen against the American citizen’s will on at least two occasions in one of Defendant Khalid’s personal residences. At Defendant Khalid’s request, the American citizen was arrested and jailed at the Onaiza Police Station in Doha, Qatar. Pittard and the United States Embassy came to the aide of the American citizen, and helped the American citizen reach a point of safety, and eventually safely depart from the country of Qatar.
- **31.** On July 7, 2018, Defendant Khalid learned that the American citizen was no longer in his personal residence, and upon learning that Pittard had assisted in securing the American citizen’s safety, began contacting Pittard. Defendant Khalid, and individuals at the direction of Defendant Khalid, including employees of Defendant Geo Strategic Defense Solutions, LLC and Defendant KH Holding, LLC, demanded that Pittard return

- Has been developing a long-term strategic partnership with Turkey,¹¹⁵ including the provisioning of military bases in Qatar, even as Turkey develops a leadership role over Islamic Movement organizations in America, specifically the Muslim Brotherhood.

While the Dempsey interview was broadcast on May 12, he appears to have sat for it on Thursday May, 10, 2012, the same day Ackerman's article and the CAIR demand were issued. As a general officer on the Joint Staff, Major General Rudesheim was just a week away from publishing his findings. Dempsey could have checked with him, tasked his staff to look into Ackerman's claims, or even had his staff contact the parties who were cast in a false light to get their side of the story.

Dempsey did none of those things. In fact, throughout this information campaign, it doesn't appear that anyone thought to fact-check Ackerman before rendering judgment. Quite simply, the Chairman allowed himself to be stampeded into a panic response. As noted in other writings, this has become a predictable tactic – it's also the engine that drives "Day of Rage" events.

Because the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is technically not in a command relationship, his comments in advance of an official investigation do not constitute undue command influence in the investigation he ordered. While the *Inquiry* cleared Dooley, the Joint Staff ensured his firing - Dempsey made that a *fait accompli*. Everyone was aware of the injustice of it all. Maybe that was the point. Beria would be proud.

This is not the forum to launch a personal defense against Dempsey's accusations of being "objectionable," "academically unsound," or to respond to his suggestions that my work product somehow slipped into the national security apparatus through subterfuge. It was the Joint Staff that approached me and brought me in; they asked me to develop the products, they vetted them, and they approved them. As already addressed in my thesis, my work product was designed not only to meet professional standards but also to meet evidentiary standards. In effect, I was purged for doing precisely what I was approached to do, unsolicited.

Because there was an emphasis on briefing Islamic law and its nexus to jihad in a manner that not only transcended questions of interpretation or opinion, but

the American citizen, and provide information about the American citizen's whereabouts to Defendant Khalid or Pittard "would pay the price." Defendant Khalid's threats to, and requests of, Pittard continued to escalate; Defendant Khalid directly told Pittard that he would kill him, bury his body in the desert, and kill Pittard's family.

¹¹⁵ Yigal Carmon & C Meital, "[Turkey-Qatar Relations: From Bilateral Ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership](https://www.memri.org/reports/turkey-qatar-relations-bilateral-ties-strategic-partnership-coverage)," Inquiry & Analysis Series No. 1482, MEMRI, November 12, 2019, <https://www.memri.org/reports/turkey-qatar-relations-bilateral-ties-strategic-partnership-coverage>

demonstrably so, the presentations took the extraordinary step of making available a small library of books on Islamic law, Islamic instructional materials, Muslim Brotherhood publications, and even publications from jihadi organizations to emphasize the authoritative nature of the materials being briefed. If challenged, I would stop the briefing, grab the relevant Shari’ah text, authenticate its authenticity, and then have the student read it aloud. “Damn, it really does say that - no confusing what it said.”

From a professional analysis perspective, it is essential to distinguish between “opinions” and demonstrable facts. Hence, this was not done to prove that I was right, but rather to argue that for professionals with responsibility to defend against a threat, there is a professional duty to know that threat, including reading their own materials. This cannot be done when orienting threat assessments on narratives.

Alongside complexity narratives, the institutionalized permissiveness of discounting factual analysis through thought-terminating clichés that reduce them to “opinion” or “interpretation” is deliberately debilitating. It’s a part of a process that makes the world too “complicated” to make easy decisions.

A final observation on *Al Jazeera’s* “[Inside Story Americas – The US Military’s ‘Anti-Islam Classes’](#).”¹¹⁶ When asked to brief national security or Federal law enforcement, it was never done under the aegis of the *Strategic Engagement Group (SEG)*. When supporting USG organizations, it was always done in support of the *Irregular Warfare Support Program* to which I was associated. Having said that, to ensure quality control when engaging in activities through SEG, SEG opened its briefings for review and [secured endorsements](#) from senior members of the Intelligence Community:

- “While all four of us were in senior positions in the U.S. Intelligence Community and should have been aware of this information, we were not.”¹¹⁷
 - William G. Boykin, Under-Secretary of Defense (Intelligence)
 - Joseph E. Schmitz, Inspector General – Department of Defense
 - Harry “Ed” Soyster, Director – Defense Intelligence Agency
 - R. James Woolsey, Director – Central Intelligence Agency

¹¹⁶ Anand Naidoo, “[Inside Story Americas – The US Military’s ‘Anti-Islam Classes’](#),” *Al-Jazeera-English - YouTube*, May 12, 2012, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD_DW4JDcVk

¹¹⁷ See April 7 2011 - [SEG SR Intelligence Endorsement Letter](#), William Boykin, Joseph E. Schmitz, Harry “Ed” Soyster, and R. James Woolsey, April 7, 2011, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/April-7-2011-SEG-SR-Intelligence-Endorsements-r.pdf>



STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT GROUP

7 April 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

We want to strongly encourage you to host a National Security Presentation by the Strategic Engagement Group (SEG), including their 3-day "Understanding the Threat to America" program. While all four of us were in senior positions in the U.S. Intelligence Community and should have been aware of this information - we were not. We first heard this critical information from the two primary presenters. The information is of utmost importance to the security of the United States, is critical to formulating National Security Strategies, and is vitally important to local and state law enforcement and intelligence professionals.

The primary presenters, Stephen Coughlin and John Guandolo are national treasures. They are courageously crisscrossing America sounding the alarm about the realities of the most significant threat to the nation to day - the comprehensive threat from the Global Islamic Movement in the form of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the Jhadi organizations, and how they weaken our nation to other external threats such as Russia, China, and others. Every citizen in this country should hear what they have to say. The facts they present speak for themselves and require no commentary. For local and state law enforcement and intelligence officials, this information is critical to identifying, understanding, and thwarting threats in your locale. The team gives specific details on how to practically implement this information in your area, which directly affects your community and your families.

Steve and John are our go-to guys concerning these issues. Their research is thorough, fact-based and logically presented. They are only biased by reality. We applaud these men of courage and hope you will make the time to hear this presentation.

Sincerely,

William G. Boykin

Joseph E. Schmitz

Harry "Ed" Soyster

R. James Woolsey

While all four of us were in senior positions in the U.S. Intelligence Community and should have been aware of this information - we were not.

Former:

**Under-Secretary of Defense (Intelligence)
Inspector General - Department of Defense
Director - Defense Intelligence Agency
Director - Central Intelligence Agency**



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Sincerely,

William G. Boykin

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R. James Woolsey

Bringing the Qatari Effort Full Circle

In an offhand way, the Al Jazeera panel [recognized](#) the Strategic Engagement Group's success as the common “string” in the opposition the Islamic Movement faced. The SEG had “a disproportionately large voice” in countering the Islamic Movement’s efforts to silence resistance to its strategic influence campaigns, in furtherance of controlling the U.S. counterterror mission by controlling the inputs to its collection effort to subvert it.

Simply stated:

A foreign state actor successfully executed an aggressive information campaign through its state-controlled media, with support from Muslim Brotherhood front groups formed out of Hamas, to intimidate the U.S. national security leadership into banishing professional analysis that consistently succeeded at cutting through the hostile narratives the Movement sought to impose - and still seeks to enforce; getting that leadership to disparage non-conforming American citizens in the process.

This came at a time when CIA Director Brennan embarked on a “[modernization plan](#) [that] systematically dismantled and destroyed the CIA’s operations division” because “he no longer regarded CIA as being in the espionage business,” choosing instead to rely on “other nations’ intelligence services to provide the CIA with spies as intelligence collectors.”¹¹⁸ As Brennan declared to [NPR in 2016](#), “We don't steal secrets.”¹¹⁹

In other words, Brennan disabled operations-driven intelligence at roughly the same time that ASD Mayorga disabled the military’s. It turns out we have a [pretty good idea](#) where that replacement intelligence comes from, and yes, it really is that bad!¹²⁰ This is **THE** strategic level example of what the Muslim Brotherhood means when saying it will destroy America “by (our) own hands.”

¹¹⁸ Brad Johnson, “[Fixing a Weakened Espionage Brand](#),” *The Washington Times*, April 25, 2018, <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/apr/25/fixing-a-weakened-espionage-brand/>

¹¹⁹ Mary Louise Kelly, “[Why Former CIA Director John Brennan’s Criticism of Trump is Extremely Rare](#),” *NPR*, April 27, 2018, <https://www.npr.org/2018/04/27/606580127/why-former-cia-director-john-brennans-criticism-of-trump-is-extremely-rare>

¹²⁰ For a sense for how this activity plays out through interlocking transnational NGOs, see Stephen Coughlin, “[Exploiting Ignorance in the Post Subversion Phase: Assessing ‘What ISIS Wants’ in Light of the ‘Countering Violent Extremism’ Narrative](#),” *Unconstrained Analytics, Inc*, August 14, 2015, pp. 8 to 18, <https://unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Exploiting-Ignorance-14AUG15b.pdf>

Summation

This paper ends as it began. Brennan served as the conduit to execute Khera's demands, and those demands were met. Then as now, Brennan used the immense powers of his office to orchestrate hostile information campaigns directed against American citizens and institutions.

Progressive media, especially Spencer Ackerman and *WIRED Magazine*, published accusations that positioned CAIR to make demands that, with each turn in the narrative, escalated in targeting specific institutions. **It was a hostile, active-measures information campaign, pure and simple.** It was directed against America itself and its citizens. It was a purge.

The target audience of the *Ackerman/WIRED Magazine* - CAIR attacks was not the average reader but rather the associated leadership of the organizations that were the objects of attack. The colonels in the FA-30 class drew the ire of the White House for standing by my side. The Chairman was not going to make that mistake.

Stampedes in nature are natural phenomena; in government, they are orchestrated events. The attack narratives relied on false-light innuendo and ridicule, suggesting that a substantive review of the materials was undertaken, leaving the reader with the impression that no further inquiry was necessary.

My briefing schedule was not publicly available. Yet, from the CIA Conference to the FBI Washington Field Office, to the FA-30 "Information Operations" course at Fort Leavenworth, to the Joint Staff raid on the JFSC, I was stalked by those positioned to be able to do so - inside.

There was no due process for those targeted by this campaign. It was guilt by accusation, and hence the accused were never allowed to defend themselves or their work product. This was the "peer pressure and shaming" Secretary Clinton committed to the OIC, a hostile foreign supra-state actor, when promising to direct U.S. Government offices to silence American citizens engaged in disfavored speech or, in this case, professional fact-based analysis.

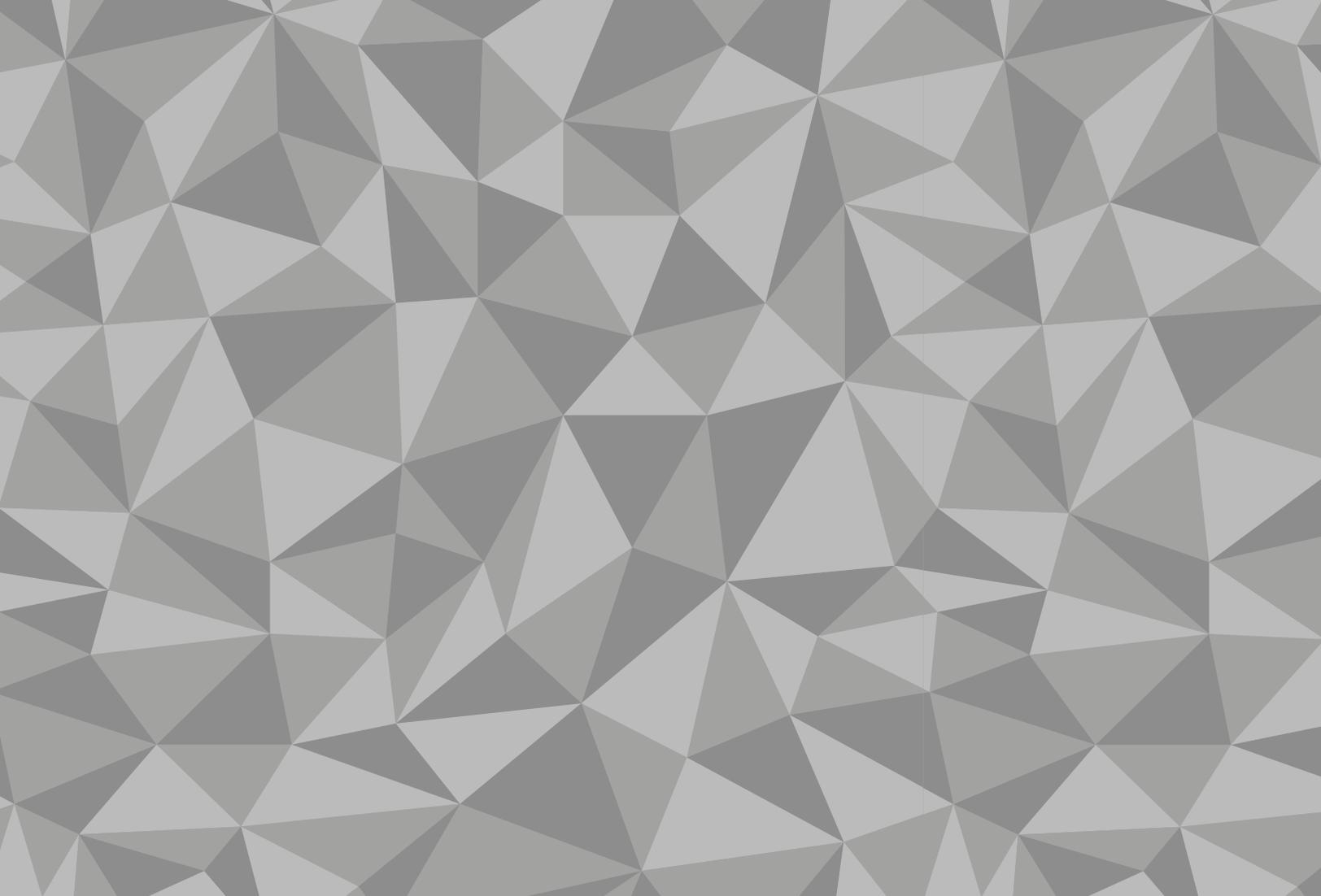
Targeted by the Muslim Brotherhood, overseen by Brennan from his perch in the White House, and executed by ASD Mayorga, the eyes and ears of the Pentagon were closed. They remain so to this day. The CVE remains intact and institutionalized.

While the CVE remains in effect, the counterterror effort will remain degraded. The CVE is a continuing monument to the purge and remains a national disgrace. This will not change as long as the Muslim Brotherhood remains comfortably in control of the counterterror mission through its enforcement of the narratives it institutionalized through the purge.

Nothing has changed. As recently as December 28, 2019, to a group at the MAS ICNA Convention, Secretary General of the USCMO Oussama Jammal reaffirmed both the mission and the role that groups like the USCMO and CAIR continue to play in controlling the counterterrorism mission through control of the counterterrorism debate:¹²¹

- “We are here to protect the entire community . . . We will not allow anyone to mess with our community, with our safety, the safety of our mosque, our school, our community.” [Replace “community” with the term “Ummah”]
- “How many of you receive CAIR E-Mails . . . Did you notice that when somebody is doing something against the community, what’s the first thing that CAIR says *“We demand the FBI to investigate this or that, or this case or that case.”* Right? . . . So, when there’s something, who are we going to call? . . . We have a way to, and thanks to organizations like this, who are trying to take and expose all the wrong *“don’ts”* that have been done before. And they have been successful, in many cases. The point is, even our civil rights groups, when they see something, they say, ‘We asked the FBI to investigate, we asked the FBI to go after this group or that group, or so on and so forth.’ So, we are not talking out of the town.”
- “We are not done. They know we are no longer done. But it is the fight that we have to take every single day, and that’s why we’re becoming resilient now. *We now understand the system.*”

¹²¹ Oussama Jammal, Speech Given at the “FBI Inventing Terrorists Through Entrapment” forum, 18th Annual MAS ICNA Convention, McCormick Place, Chicago, Illinois, December 28, 2019.



Unconstrained Analytics is a 501(c)3 dedicated to analysis of evidence unconstrained by preconceptions and biases. This includes thorough analysis of an enemy's threat doctrine unconstrained by bias, preconceptions and influence operations coming from the same. ***Stop seeing what you know—Start knowing what you see!***

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