#### The Truth About Al Qaeda, Iraq, and the Future of Global Terror

**Presented by** 

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#### **TODAY'S OBJECTIVES**

- Acknowledge that we are a nation at War.
- Accept that the best defense is a strong offense.
- Know our enemy.
- Know our enemies tactics, techniques, procedures, intent AND risk adversity.
- Plan Worst Case: learn what our communities can do to make the bad guys go somewhere else.
- Be motivated to make our community the most terror aware and prepared in the Union.

# WE ARE A NATION AT WAR (Really?)



# THE BEST DEFENSE IS A STRONG OFFENSE

One Fact That Dominates

<u>ALL</u> Homeland Security

Threat Assessments:



Terrorists are strategic actors . . . They choose their targets deliberately based upon the weaknesses they observe in our defenses and our preparedness.

# VIGILANCE. NOT PARANOIA

#### **VIGILANCE IN COMBATING TERROR**

- . . . Must be PROACTIVE rather than REACTIVE
- . . . Must be EMBRACED by
  - Mayor & city officials at all levels
  - Law Enforcement
  - Business Leaders
  - Schools
  - Citizens at large



# READINESS MOT

## REACTIVE PANIC

# COMMON SENSE AND A

# SENSE OF COMMUNITY

#### An Informed And Proactive Citizenry Is An Invaluable Asset For Our Country In Times Of War And Peace





#### **DENVER, COLORADO**

# Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC)

At the CIAC, about 65 percent of the information it analyzes comes from traditional law enforcement sources, Leffler said. *The rest comes from tips from the public, including businesses.* 



### SIX CHARGED IN PLOT TO ATTACK FORT DIX May 9, 2007

CHERRY HILL, N.J., May 8 -- A group of would-be terrorists, allegedly undone after attempting to have jihad training videos copied onto a DVD, has been charged with conspiring to attack Fort Dix and kill soldiers there with assault rifles and grenades, authorities said Tuesday.



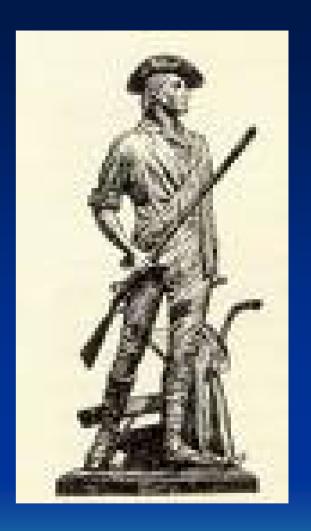
The Washington Post

### THE MILLENNIUM BOMBER THWARTED DECEMBER 14, 1999

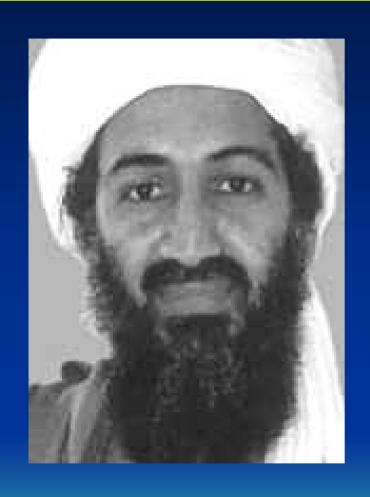


Ahmed Ressam aka "The Millennium Bomber" was convicted and given a prison sentence of 22 years in a plot to bomb Los Angeles International Airport on New Year's Eve 1999.

"Homeland defense must be built from the ground up by citizens uniting in local, state, and national causes that provide for the common defense."



#### **KNOW OUR ENEMY**



"Every American man is an enemy to us."

"In our religion, there is a special place in the hereafter for those who participate in jihad."

"We -- with God's help -- call on every Muslim who believes in God and wishes to be rewarded to comply with God's order to kill the Americans and plunder their money wherever and whenever they find it."

#### **KNOW OUR ENEMY**



- How the U.S. plays into Al Qaeda's propagandist hands.
- How all of Osama's warnings to the Muslim world have come true to America's detriment.
- How the insurgency in Iraq was really created.
- Al Qaeda's strategy for victory in Iraq (and its working!).
- Why this may be a hundred years war.

# KNOW THE ENEMY'S TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, PROCEDURES INTENT & RISK ADVERSITY

- The objectives of terror attacks
- Sleeper cells and how they are instructed
- How Al Qaeda selects targets
- The terror siege scenario



# LACKAWANNA, NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 2002

All six pleaded guilty in court to terrorism related charges. They were Mukhtar Al-Bakri, Sahim Alwan, Faysal Galab, Shafal Mosed, Yaseinn Taher, and Yahya Goba.



#### American-born Muslims

# WORST CASE SCENARIO: THE SCHOOL SIEGE



Beslan, Russia September 2004

- 338 dead
- 700 wounded
- 161 children
- 38 terrorists

# WHAT CAN WE DO NOW TO BUILD AWARE & PREPARED COMMUNITIES?

# A TRAINED AND EMPOWERED CITIZENRY

- Remember Civil Defense in the '60s?
- Learn from the Israelis and Russians.
- First responders "respond." Who will preempt?

# CITIZENS MUST BE FIRST PREEMPTORS!

# ESTABLISHING THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR VIGILANCE

- Education
- Observation
- Empowerment
- Action
- Patience & Teamwork
- Legal Protection



#### **COMMUNITIES TAKING CHARGE**



### Operation Terror Aware & Prepared (OPTAP) Programs

#### **OPTAP-HOW?**

- Sessions such as this one
- Town hall meetings
- School assemblies
- Student community service door-to-door activities
- Public information campaigns (PACs) –they work!



#### Not HERE. Now NOW.

NOT EVER!