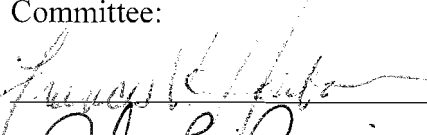
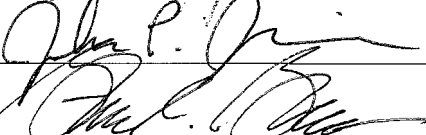
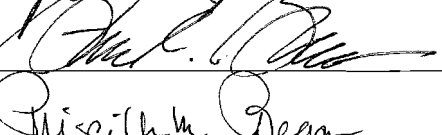
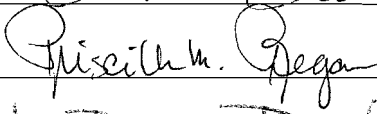

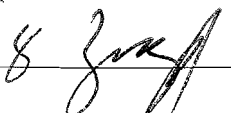
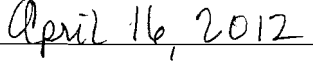


TERROR IN PLAINVIEW: TERRORIST-GANG THREATS
OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS USAGE

by

D. Darell Dones
A Dissertation
Submitted to the
Graduate Faculty
of
George Mason University
in Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirements for the Degree
of
Doctor of Philosophy
Bio Defense

Committee:

	Director
	
	
	Department Chairperson
	Program Director
	Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Date: 	Spring Semester 2012 George Mason University Fairfax, VA

Terror in Plainview: Terrorist-Gang Threats of Biological Weapons Usage

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy at George Mason University

By

D. Darell Dones
Master of Education
University of Virginia, 2004
Master of Education
Prairie View A&M University, 1983
Bachelor of Arts
Prairie View A&M University, 1981

Director: Francis V. Harbour, Associate Professor
Department of International Affairs and Public Policy

Spring Semester 2012
George Mason University
Fairfax, Virginia

Copyright © 2012 by D. Darell Dones
All Rights Reserved

Dedication

I dedicate this dissertation to the women and men representing law enforcement and intelligence agencies who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect the national security of this great nation. May God bless you all and the United States of America. I contribute the completion of this dissertation to those individuals past and present whose backs I have stood to attain this educational achievement. I express my utmost gratitude to those brave souls for their unwavering efforts and my deepest appreciation for not dropping me. I would like to further express my admiration to the countless individuals who never received the opportunity to obtain a formal education and; to those of whom the challenge may have proved too difficult and turned back. Thanks for giving me the fortitude to go forward and for paving the way for me to achieve my dream.

This accomplishment stands as a future challenge and obligation to those who dare to follow this journey including my children, siblings, friends, mentees and students and may they understand that, "*A future without an education is no future at all*". Thanks to my friends and family for giving me the strength and resilience to persevere. Especially to my brother Reginald Dones who has endured this journey with me from start to finish. We finally did it, we got our Ph.D. degree. Last and foremost, to my mother the greatest inspiration of all who has always supported my every endeavor. Without her loving guidance, strong moral values and passion for education these efforts would not have been possible. Finally, above all I give praise to my God who carried me and placed these individuals in my life to make this journey possible.

Acknowledgements

I am sincerely grateful to Dr. Frances V. Harbour, Associate Professor at George Mason University as my dissertation committee chairperson for her extreme patience, leadership and guidance during these past several years. I am extremely appreciative to my mentor, friend and dissertation committee member Dr. Stephen R. Band, retired FBI Unit Chief, Behavioral Science Unit (BSU) for his long term commitment in keeping me grounded and focused on, "*The eye of the tiger*". I am especially thankful to Dr. John P. Jarvis, FBI Chief Criminologist, Behavioral Science Unit (BSU) as my friend, mentor and dissertation committee member; who has provided professional insight and academic rigor leading to the final completion of this research. In addition, I would also like to thank the following individuals who provided me inspiration and loyal support towards obtaining this academic endeavor:

1. Adrienne L. Barr, FBI Management Program Analyst, Training Division (TD)
2. Thaddeus E. Clancy, FBI Management and Program Analyst, Behavioral Science Unit (BSU)
3. Ila Sutton-DeAbreu, DEA Deputy Director, Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF)
4. Thomas J. Dover, FBI Crime Analyst, Behavioral Science Unit (BSU)
5. Edith M. Jackson, FBI Management Program Analyst, Information Technology Division (ITSD)
6. Dr. Carl Jensen, retired FBI Supervisory Special Agent, Behavioral Science Unit (BSU)
7. Harry A. Kern, retired FBI Unit Chief, Behavioral Science Unit (BSU)
8. Eugenia Ryder, former Chief Librarian, FBI Academy Library, along with all present and former staff members
9. J. Amber Scherer, FBI Contract Analyst, Behavioral Science Unit (BSU)
10. Dr. Gregory M. Vecchi, former Unit Chief, Behavioral Science Unit (BSU)
11. The Research Participants that provided the data which made this dissertation possible.

Table of Contents

	Page
List of Tables	viii
Abstract	ix
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Relevance of the Problem	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Significance of the Study	11
2 Review of the Literature	15
2.1 Gangs	15
2.2 Terrorism	35
2.3 Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)	52
2.4 Gangs and Terrorist Activity	64
2.5 Gangs and Weapons of Mass Destruction	85
2.6 Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction	86
2.7 Gangs, Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction	91
3 Methods and Data	102
3.1 Mixed Methodology	102
3.2 Modified Delphi Data Collection	106

3.3	General Hypotheses	117
3.4	Subject Safeguards	118
3.5	Data Analysis	120
4	Results	122
4.1	Introduction	122
4.2	Hypothesis 1 Results	122
4.3	Hypothesis 2 Results	130
4.4	Hypothesis 3 Results	139
4.5	Hypothesis 4 Results	145
4.6	Hypothesis 5 Results	152
5	Discussion and Conclusions	163
5.1	Substantive Topic Conclusions	164
5.2	Discussion and Conclusions Relevant to the Hypotheses.	170
5.3	Additional Findings of Interests	172
5.4	Relevance to Existing Literature	174
5.5	Policy Relevance	178
5.6	Current Developments	182
5.7	Future Implications	185
5.8	Limitations	186
	Appendix A: Modified Delphi Methods Definition	190
	Appendix B: Federal Bureau of Investigation IRB	192
	Appendix C: George Mason University HSRB	194

Appendix D: Modified Delphi Survey Questions	198
Appendix E: Face to Face Interview Questions	213
Appendix F: Hypotheses Used to Develop Delphi Survey and Face to Face Questions	216
Appendix G: Modified Delphi Mapping Questions	217
References	218

List of Tables

Table	Page
1 Delphi Items Reflecting Gang Survey Questions	123
2 Delphi Items Reflecting Gangs and Terrorism Survey Questions	131
3 Delphi Items Reflecting Gangs and WMD Survey Questions	140
4 Gangs, Terrorism and WMD Survey Questions	146
5 Terrorism Survey Questions	153

Abstract

TERROR IN PLAINVIEW: TERRORIST-GANG THREATS OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS USAGE

D. Darell Dones, Ph.D.

George Mason University, 2012

Dissertation Director: Dr. Frances V. Harbour

This study examined the possibilities associated with whether the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist groups have the capabilities to recruit in plain-view and employ United States-based gangs to use biological weapons against this country. This study analyzed the opinions and beliefs of expert participants in a mixed methods design which suggested that gang activity in the US is not a new phenomenon but; possible terrorist recruitment of gangs for WMD usage is a new trend which made this research timely and relevant. The literature revealed there has not been a foreign terrorist attack inside the US previous to the 1993 World Trade Center attack and the subsequent September, 2001 attacks. The literature also revealed that over the past 20 years violent gangs have developed major global alliances paralleling the rise of international terrorist group activities in the US.

Most US gang studies have focused on traditional youth violence and delinquency of gang actions; the majority of terrorist studies have been aimed at criminal activity outside the US. There is comparably limited research which examines parallel terrorist-gang activities and very few studies which have suggested the potential relations of terrorist-gang usage of WMD are a major terrorist threat. This study employed a mixed methodology of a modified Delphi 105 survey questions, group discussions and face to face expert interviews to address the five hypotheses of this study.

This mixed methodology was not intended to definitively and formally test the hypotheses but; rather use the modified Delphi survey results, group discussions and face to face interviews to capture the opinions and beliefs of experts in this study. The dynamics of such terrorist-gang operations evolving in plain-view are extremely complex and challenging as this work has demonstrated. The results of this study have advanced a fresh understanding of the critical aspects of potential terrorist-gang actions in relationship to biological weapons threats against the US.

The new exploration insights gained in this study provided a broader view of other overarching possibilities and concerns of terrorist-gang partnerships relevant to closing gaps between social science research and law enforcement efforts. There was no definitive knowledge or absolute agreement found during this study which illustrated terrorists recruiting gangs for biological use currently exists. However, this dissertation has provided new knowledge regarding the creativity of plain-view criminal activity among terrorists, gangs and the potential for WMD usage that may constitute future biological threats. The relevant knowledge of understanding 21st century gangs has

served to further this research to assist law enforcement activities by 1) providing stakeholders empirical data supporting the development of specialized training and policy to confront terrorist-gang activity; 2) determining the scope of the threats of terrorists that may be recruiting gangs to use biological weapons against the US; 3) and providing recommendations for future research critical to an examination of preventing the use of biological weapons.

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Relevance of the Problem

United States Gang Involvement

The pertinence of this research is to bring forth a new breadth of knowledge to the literature and law enforcement on the potential terrorist actions occurring between the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations; the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips US-based gangs. There are several US-based gangs which have the potential of conducting biological attacks against the US but, are not as capable as the three aforementioned gangs examined in this study. This study examined the three gangs with the greatest potential, ability to radicalize and conduct a terroristic alliance for criminal intent using biological weapons of mass destruction. While gang activity in the US is not a new phenomenon; violent syndicate gangs began evolving in the US at the beginning of the 20th century. Gang activity has grown since then from social mischief and delinquents, violent gang-on-gang wars, to overwhelming violent and extreme actions in major cities throughout the US. The potential for 21st century gang actions to continue spiraling out of control at a disturbing rate is a significant issue. More alarming are the capabilities of gangs to build criminal alliances with other global criminals such as terrorist groups. Such forged relationships could damage national security and make the US an easy target for terrorist attacks. Note: This work is solely that of the author and

does not reflect the official position or policy of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), George Mason University (GMU), other agencies or institutions.

Terrorism inside the United States

The 1993 World Trade Center Attack, by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations was the first time the US had been attacked by a foreign entity on American soil. Since then, the hatred and violence generated by radical terrorists against Western democracy is more systemic causing the US to fear future covert and terrorist attacks.

The existing literature is exhaustive in discussing the ongoing battle against terrorism in this country. The 2001 World Trade Center attack became the vision of war which most Americans have vividly embedded into their psyche. Since the September, 2001 Terrorist attacks, US involvement against worldwide terrorism became mainstream and a way of life for American citizens living in daily fear of repeated atrocities by unknown terrorists while occurring without warning. The fear of future Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist attacks inside the US and other Western countries have combined psychological fear and intimidation as premiere terrorist weapons of control as terrorists attempt to become a dominant world power.

This study has produced new insights and knowledge on whether it is plausible for gangs and terrorist interactions or alliances actually to exist. Most 21st century gangs are already inclined to conduct any criminal acts for monetary gain, which may lead to terrorist organizations recruiting US-based gangs. The anticipation of such an alliance between both terrorists and gangs operating together in plain-view is a major concern of

US law enforcement. Terrorist's recruitment of gangs as subversive partners is not farfetched. Terrorists will exhaust all means to create victory against the US to include using insider means such as plain-view tactics which is just another way of extending control and power over their enemies.

Potential Terrorist-Gang Involvement

The existing literature revealed evidence that terrorist-gang activity and alliances exist through plain-view prison recruitment; but there is no empirical research or law enforcement evidence that terrorist-gang alliances for WMD usages presently exist (Beckford, Joly, & Khosarokhavar, 2005; Kirby, Eghigian, Petrenko, & Wagner, 2006; Klein, 2006; Lyman, 1989). The rise in violent criminal gang actions across the country has heightened law enforcement to take a proactive approach in suppressing gang activity. Law enforcement has teamed with Intelligence Analysts and first responder operations to prevent gang activity from becoming increasingly significant. US-based gangs are a menace to our society and continue to spiral out of control as they engage in devastating destruction and violence throughout the county. Super gangs have added to the rise of such violent tactics as: murder, kidnapping, mutilations which prompt fear and intimidation throughout America. New 21st Century Gangs such as, the Mara Salvatrucha MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips have led to recent law enforcement speculation that these three specific and other nationally syndicated gangs are being recruited by the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations for possible reasons unknown (Knox & Papachristos, 2002). While it is believed that significant terrorist-gang criminal alliances may exist; it is noteworthy to examine the research gaps of the

potential reality of any associations between terrorist-gang groups for national security purposes. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to further examine the possibility that, terrorist groups are recruiting gangs and more purposely to employ gangs to use biological weapons against the US for monetary gain.

Potential Terrorist-Gang Use of Biological Weapons

There is currently no definite evidence or empirical data linking any terrorist organizations with the recruitment of any US-based gangs to use biological weapons of mass destruction against the US. Alibek & Handleman (1999) alluded to domestic extremist's threats and usage of biological weapons but, did not implicate any such terrorist-gang biological threats. Terrorists, gangs and WMD is a new criminal speculation which gained limited notoriety during the September, 2001 Terrorist attacks and has escalated since then alongside other gang criminal activity. Gangs' conducting extreme criminal acts for monetary gain is subtly documented in the existing literature which scarcely mentioned that terrorist-gang alliances are possible (Huff, 2002). The alliance of terrorists and gangs are a plausible method of attack by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations. This study used mixed methodologies to examine these potential terrorist-gang alliances and the willingness of both groups to conduct biological attacks within the US for their mutual interests.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Since September 11, 2001 US Federal law enforcement and intelligence authorities have theorized a potential plot between Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist

Organizations to recruit US-based gang members without the direct knowledge of law enforcement in plain-view. The contention is that terrorists are conducting unknown criminal activity (in plain-view) right under the noses of law enforcement without direct knowledge of any potential actions taking place or being detected. The primary basis of this recruitment is believed to be radical religion, criminal ideology, financial gain and the exploitation of socio-economic factors. Therefore, providing empirical research has offered some potential justifications, opinions and beliefs to assist in answering these possibilities while filling both law enforcement and intelligence gaps. The answers to these contentions may not be definitive or as clear as expected due to the complexity and nature of terrorists, gang and WMD relations but; this study provided plausible answers to certain plain-view possibilities of terrorist-gang threats.

American Theory and Speculation

Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations are currently attacking and infiltrating the US by utilizing subversive operations and para-military actions. The effective covert terrorist fighting tactics used against the US are essentially unfamiliar to law enforcement, intelligence and homeland security agencies tasked with protecting US infrastructures and its citizens (Clarke, 2004). Other anonymous US government officials have further theorized that Middle Eastern countries such as Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, Pakistan and others are just a few of the State supported countries waging acts of terrorism against Western countries to include the US.

Iran and Iraq directly suggested that the US has indiscriminately violated international treaties, conducted preemptive military strikes, taken Middle Eastern land

and destroyed natural resources (Sonn, 2004). Iran and Iraq does not believe that US policy supports their fundamental cultural beliefs; while other sectarian countries believe that Western culture is also threatening Middle Eastern morals and cultural values as well. Devout Islamic leaders have claimed that Western democracy, religion and capitalism are socially corrupting young Muslims. The desire of young Muslims to mimic the American life style of greed and over indulgence is becoming very popular (Nydell, 2002).

Socio-economic Issues

Gangs and other criminal organizations often rationalize their reasons for criminal actions and radical behavior as the result of a discriminatory American society. Gang members have suggested that criminal activity is often a means of survival due to social issues such as: poverty, ethnic discrimination and slow socio-economic progress which usually plague gang neighborhoods. Whether these reasons are justified or conveniently fabricated; local governments and citizens who live amongst these gangs often expect such crime activity to take place in lower-income neighborhoods. According to most gang members (who prefer to remain anonymous) there are contentions that gang activity remains persistent across the country due to the lack of socio-economic fairness to lower-income ethnic groups and minorities (DOJ, Threat Assessment, 2005).

Researchers have suggested that the US government for decades may have discriminated socially and economically against many ethnic groups who have settled in the US looking for a better way of life (Mays, 1997). There is reason to believe that Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanics and Latino Americans are among the

largest ethnic populations in this country. These ethnic groups may project or have a disproportionate anti-social population that has refused to conform to normative societal standards. It is common for disenfranchised individuals to become violent and criminal in nature. Note: there is no suggestion that the aforementioned ethnic groups have specific terrorist-gang ties or motives (Kirby, 2006). Social scientists have suggested that because of the overwhelming socio-economic disparity of many lower economic groups the crime rate amongst these neighborhoods is often elevated (Klein, 1995). Valentine (1995) examined how certain ethnic groups such as Asians, Hispanics, Latinos and African Americans often find themselves encountering socio-economic struggles which place them outside the privileges of mainstream America. Disenfranchised individuals may often form into criminal subsets or groups (e.g. gang members) who may revolt.

There are several thoughts on why some underprivileged individuals feel disenfranchised in the US such as (poverty, lack of education, social and racial injustice) which may prompt such disparity not completely understood by those living outside of these challenges. These beliefs and contentions do not suggest that any specific immigrant, ethnic or minority group is the primary cause of any specific potential terrorist attacks against the US. Klein (1995) has suggested that the lack of cultural acceptance from mainstream America has caused some mistrust and disparity by Asians, Latinos and African Americans which have large gang populations which frequently feels culturally disenfranchised in this country. The growing social mistrust of various individuals from these and other ethnic groups may perhaps explain the continuous rise in some gang populations. Modern gangs have far-reaching tentacles which display their

ability to build global criminal alliances which was unthinkable for their predecessors (Valentine, 1995). According to Keegan, et al; (2004) gangs have become global and have means of sustaining their criminal enterprises causing violent gang activity to skyrocket. Most gangs in the US use their propensity for extreme violence and hostile actions as a method of self-protection from the socio-economic disparity and distrust of the US government.

This study is not an examination of the socio-economic issues or race relations in the US. Rather, this research focused on the five hypotheses which questioned; if the lack of social acceptance specifically pertained to the following domestic threat groups: the Mara Salvatrucha MS-13, Gangster Disciples and the Crips Street Gangs while playing a significant role in being recruited by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist groups. This research has revealed new findings about current gang activity in the US. For example, this study provided insight on how gangs have evolved from neighborhood nuisances, social misfits and school delinquents to existing global criminal syndicates. Current US-based gangs have transitioned into industrious global criminal organizations. This study bridged the research gap from early social gang activity to 21st century gang activity that has produced new knowledge in law enforcement intelligence.

According to Klein (1995) gangs will not decline as a social problem until American citizens confront our daily relationship with them. Most pre-1960s gang reports studied the significance of juvenile delinquency and school-dropout gangs. This study of 21st century gangs is of greater extraordinary extremes than earlier gang research. This study outlined a better understanding of 21st century US-based gangs for law

enforcement and intelligence agencies. Terrorists may attempt to exploit the socio-economic disparity claimed by gang members for recruitment purposes (Klein & Maxson, 2006). As such, this research will reduce terrorist recruitment by assisting law enforcement in understanding the mindset and social behaviors of terrorist-gangs.

Exploiting Gangs for Recruitment

Gangs have formidably transitioned from delinquent misfits in the 1960s to a greater criminal threat in the new millennium. Klein (1995) has suggested that US-based street gangs feel they are not an integral part of America and often are cut out of the social-economic equation for success (Klein, 1995). Criminal organizations such as gang's envision the US as their social and economic oppressors. Gang member's anti-social ways of thinking may potentially afford terrorists opportunities to recruit US-based gangs.

Terrorists practicing radical Islam religion (nontraditional Islam) have similar beliefs as US-based gang members who also exploit other religions to justify their criminal means. Gang members may not consider themselves an intricate part of the US status quo. As such, some terrorists and gang members have concluded that the US as a capitalist country is their enemy and; the only way to survive against their American oppressors is through extreme violence and war while using their religious beliefs to justify their terrorist and criminal actions (Brotherton & Barrios, 2004).

If terrorist groups are willing to capitalize on the criminal mindset of US-based gangs, it is conceivable that terrorist-gang recruiters are potentially turning gang members into lethal weapons against the US. Kirby (2006) maintained that the majority

of gangs are already inclined to conduct violent criminal acts for monetary gain.

Therefore, terrorists and other criminal subversive groups may persuade gangs to cooperate in acts of terrorism against the US for financial compensation. Due to this plausibility, this research was devoted to examining this likelihood.

Fanatical Islamic Beliefs versus Western Capitalism

(Navarro, 2005; Nydell, 2002) suggested that many fanatical Islamic religious leaders (nontraditional Islam) are teaching their followers to be true believers of their radical religious faith to Islam. It is further suggested by researchers that the fanatical beliefs of the true believers of radical Islam instruct their followers to rise up in retaliation against the US and other Western countries which threaten the Islamic faith and way of life. Delong-Bas (2004) also explained, these fanatical leaders are also teaching followers that the US is plotting to weaken the Muslim culture and religion by destroying their current and future way of life. Hazim (2005) further explored that fanatical Islam has also suggested that Western cultures have decimated their own countries by advocating free enterprise and prompting for greater socio-economic power. Interestingly, these religious fanatics have also challenged that the riches of Western countries are near depletion due to excessive and wasteful spending.

Kipel (2005) contends that radical Muslim leaders also alleged that the US government is attempting to diminish all Muslim countries through military and hostile-takeover. Radical rhetoric teaches religious fanatics that by depleting Middle Eastern countries of natural resources and progression of vast economic development, these particular actions are in opposition to the beliefs of Muslim society. This approach of

radical Islamic religious thinking, regardless of how sectarian Western democracy may believe it to be conveys a “*million deaths*” to Americans through terrorist actions (Osama bin Laden as referenced by Kipel, 2005, p. 125). Western culture thrives on the promotion of democratic growth, economic gain, social autonomy and global support. The democratic beliefs of the US and its Western allies to intervene in the civil and social affairs of other countries are to support advanced Western democracy and global economics. Hoffer (1951) and Hazim (2005) both agreed that the US is one of the richest nations on earth. The power and strength presented by Western countries as support to non-democratic countries; is sometimes discarded or interpreted as a US capitalist move of unreceptive aggression. In contrast, Sperry (1979) argued that Western countries are not looking to undermine Middle Eastern governments for economic gain; instead Western countries only want to promote global leadership and diplomacy.

Lyman (1989) stated that the interpretations of Western and Middle Eastern cultures have argued similar concerns which are commonly found in lower income ethnic groups in other countries as established in gangs in the US. This type of radical religious and fanatical thinking is found on both sides of the spectrum which represents an inflammatory common denominator that often fuels further social disparity.

1.3 Significance of the Study

The practical impact of this study was to assist law enforcement intelligence detection, early warning signals and the timely dissemination of critical information to homeland security. Also to examine whether terrorists are recruiting or forming criminal

alliances with US-based gangs in plain-view of law enforcement. This study illuminated proactive measures on how terrorist-gang alliances may conduct covert biological attacks and WMD against the US. These results will assist law enforcement and national security capabilities by providing a practical critical analysis of the criminal intent, recruitment strategies of terrorist organizations and US-based gangs.

A key contribution to this study was the usage of the modified Delphi survey, group discussions and face to face interviews (mixed methods) while using experts in the areas of (terrorism, gangs and WMD). The use of 79 subject matter experts explored the overlapping knowledge, the understanding of terrorist-gang relations, while providing an analysis of probable conditions which might occur before a terrorist-gang and WMD attack can potentially develop or take place. This study successfully used these experts to focus their ideas, opinions and beliefs towards the evaluation of possible terrorist-gang recruitment of biological WMD connections; which a small number of researchers have previously considered but, not to the extent conducted in this study. In addition, this research added new knowledge to support the strategic, tactical training received and given by law enforcement and first responders. As such, this study bridged the gap between a new era of 21st century terrorist-gang activity and the existing literature. Finally, the overall objectives are to produce new insight, relevance and add further knowledge to the existing literature by using a mixed method of modified Delphi survey, group discussions and face to face interviews to examine the five hypothesis questions in this study.

This research will significantly assist US local, state, law enforcement agencies, government policymakers, homeland defense spending initiatives and coordination in taking proactive actions to protect against potential domestic terrorist attacks. For example, policy makers can write new legislation to influence homeland defense while intensifying judicial statutes in criminal cases to prosecute terrorist-gangs matters. Currently there is little empirical research or evaluation on the likelihood of terrorists recruitment involving gangs. As such, this study considerably bridged the gap between “*new millennium terrorism*” and the academic research devoted to understanding gang activity.

Klein, et al., (2005) explained that there are an estimated 30,000 extremely violent US-based gangs and over a 1,000,000 gang members on the streets and in US prisons. There are thousands of gangs believed to be inclined to conducting extreme violence against the US for financial gain. The results of this study have specifically selected the following three domestic threats: the Mara Salvatrucha MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Street gangs because of their global connections, criminal structure, ideology and exploitation of socio-economic factors to include their fanatical beliefs.

Terrorist Organizations such as Alfu qua (Muslims of America), the Taliban and Al-Qaeda are rumored to be recruiting inside American prisons and other correctional institutions (Beckford, et al., 2005). Such actions have suggested that US Prisons and jails are providing terrorist organizations with access to disenfranchised prison and street gangs. Klein (2005) has inferred that gangs may be turning their hatred further towards

US democracy, policy and government authority. Hatred is taught through greed, radical ideology and religion by terrorists who are also serving time in US prisons (Klein, 1995).

This research served to enhance law enforcement capabilities and the potential assessment vulnerabilities directed at infiltrating specific domestic terrorist targets. The results of this study support proactive law enforcement capabilities in providing protection to its citizens by disrupting, dismantling and destroying potential acts of terrorism in support of maintaining strong nation security. The practical significance of this research will assist intelligence collectors to detect early warning signals and vulnerabilities allowing for the timely dissemination of critical information to homeland security. This study illuminated new knowledge on how terrorists may coordinate covert domestic terrorist attacks using gangs and WMD biological attacks.

In addition, this study further facilitated the development of knowledge to fill law enforcement intelligence gaps, as well as support strategic and tactical terrorist training employed by first responder agencies. Finally, the overall objectives of this research provided critical analysis of the criminal intent, social behavior, mindset, recruitment strategies of terrorist organizations and US-based gangs. This research produced imminent and pertinent knowledge as resulting from the data evaluation and analysis.

Chapter 2: Review of the Literature

2.1 Gangs

US-Based Gangs

The existing literature review presented a historical perspective on the impact of why terrorist-gang research began, the current condition and how this study provided new knowledge and insight to this topic. According to Klein (1995) a gang is defined as a group of youth's band together for antisocial and criminal activities. Despite the drama and lethality of gang violence, gang prevalence does not deserve using the label, "violent gang"; which only feeds the stereotype that gangs are violent and antisocial misfits of society. Klein (1995) concluded, "Most gang member's behavior is not criminal and most gang member's crimes are not violent and most violent people are not gang members . . . "(Klein, 1995, pp. 27-29).

The majority of gang research over the past 50 years examined the areas of non-social conformity, deviancy and gang delinquency. The major contributors and social researchers on gang violence and other criminal activities within the US eloquently captured the socio-economic aspects of gang life. Social researchers have also described what they believe to be the heart of gang activity in this country. Early studies are beneficial to the social research and impact of some gang dynamics in the US. Existing

studies of gang culture assisted in providing the foundation and framework for the understanding for the (causation, juvenile delinquency and antisocial behavior) of gangs.

The social aspects of gang studies have proven to be relevant during the past decade by addressing certain aspects of terrorist recruitment of gangs but; fall short of exposing current issues of gang-criminal alliances, socio-economic influences and connecting the dots to the likelihood for gangs to employ biological terrorism in the US. Most existing gang studies during the past century have mainly explored gang deviance, school truancy and social menace across the US. Within the last half century, researchers and social scientist have primarily examined the social concerns of gang behavior and have failed to explore the more far-reaching potentials of major gang criminal activity.

Prior to the 1960s, gangs did not appear to be a huge criminal threat. Gang activity from the early 1960s began to shape a new era of street crime that has evolved into a more violent and threatening menace in most major US cities. Early gang literature from the late 1930s to the late 1960s was adequate over the last half century but; the criminal impact of violent gang activity has significantly begun to increase over time leaving large gaps in the literature. Until recently, the greatest criminal impact and threat produced by most gangs during the last 50 years was gang-on-gang violence and delinquency.

“In later years, the study of delinquency moved away from individualized purviews of physiology, psychology to cover anthropology, cultural realms of sociology and in particular; the socializing conditions under which youth were being raised” (Brotherton, 2004, pp. 28-32). The existing literature has failed to explore in greater

detail and provide new information into the criminal structure of current global gang alliances with transnational criminals and terrorists. The impact and rise of major gangs and criminal activity was likely the beginning of potential terrorist-gang enterprises and alliances. There are few empirical studies which illustrate the relevance of terrorist's recruitment of gangs in the US. This research has explored this potential while closing the gaps in law enforcement intelligence and research referencing terrorist-gang activity.

Early History of US-Based Gangs

To understand the cause and effect of gangs it is necessary to explain the evolution of gangs which demonstrated the limitations of the existing literature and introduced new knowledge examined by this study.

According to Mays (1997) sociologists and gang researchers have recorded gang activity in the US as early as 1783. The first recorded gangs were White gangs known as, "*the Smiths Vly*"; "*Bowery Boys*"; "*Broadway Boys*" and two others were Black Gangs known as, "*the Fly Boys*" and "*the Long Bridge Boys*". During the early 1800s, European immigrants fled their countries from civil war and strife looking for a better life in the US. The majority of these immigrants came through Ellis Island, New York while gaining legal status as US citizens.

Mays (1997) described early gang activity in the US as European immigrants settling in the five boroughs of New York seeking change and a new beginning towards freedom and prosperity. European immigrants were often challenged by new settlers and other established immigrants from other countries. Settlers who arrived in New York fought violence and corruption to keep their old customs and culture while embracing

their new prosperity. Many immigrants such as the Irish, Polish, Italians, Germans, Swedish, Sicilians, Russians, Spanish and others settled into New York City (Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, The Bronx and Harlem) currently known as the five Burroughs of New York (Mays, 1997). Ultimately, some settlers now living in the US used their cultural ties and close associations to develop into violent street gangs. In the beginning, these gang members only associated as gangs for protection and survival from other rival gangs.

Traditional organized crime groups and gangs are not novel criminals. There is a long history of gangs in the US which have covered several distinct periods of gang studies and will briefly be examined in this study. Street gangs continued to evolve from violent turf battles, criminal activity and other violent activity (Rush, 2001). Some European immigrants banded together in gangs to protect themselves from marauders seeking to carve out new freedoms and liberties which were not an option in Europe.

Early studies by Klein (1995) examined how violent street gangs started to evolve along with their ability to commit criminal activity. Klein is one of the most cited existing gang researchers of early gangs. Klein's studies (1995) set the framework for understanding social gang activity over the past 50 years. During the early to late 20th century, life often imitated art as did gang activity whereas; the growing gang violence of this period was frequently underestimated. Klein (1995) reported that most early gang researchers from 1925-1932 studied gang life, the social deviance of how many community gangs were no more than truant-friends and relatives in the neighborhood. Other studies found gangs entangled in nothing more than social mischief. As gangs

evolved from social neighborhood gangs to minor street thugs who often wore cool matching jackets or shirts as gang uniforms (Klein, 1995). Gang activity continued to soar from gangs of petty crimes such as, purse snatchers from the mid 1930s to post World War II violent street gangs.

Klein (1995) described gangs during the 1940s as becoming as infamous as their criminal counter parts known as organized crime syndicates. Street gangs began to take shape and gain law enforcement attention shortly after World War II. Gang activity appeared dormant and out staged by sophisticated organized crime rivals until the early 1950s. During the early to late 1950s, gangs in the US were often romanticized in the media and in movies such as, "*Rebel without a Cause*" with actor James Dean and the "*Wild Ones*" starring actor Marlon Brando. The 1957 Broadway musical, "*West Side Story*" which depicted a glamorized view of gang life between two rivals; a Puerto Rican gang called, "*the Sharks*" and a White gang named, "*the Jets*" (Klein, 1995). Television began to shape the social lives of American citizens while displaying the bad boy images often marking how gangs were perceived and embraced as pop culture at that time. During the beginning of the 20th century, some European immigrants who transformed into gang members were known as the "*Five Points Gangs of New York.*"

The first gangs to formalize within the US were the, "The Five Points Gangs" which were divided into what is now known as the, five Burroughs of New York. During the turn of the 20th century, some of the most infamous and successful gang members during that time were organized crime and syndicate members. Many of these Irish immigrants turned to crime and formed some of the first gangs in New York (Klein,

1995). A neighborhood known as, Paradise Square was where the majority of Irish immigrants and other poor families settled in New York. Most of the immigrant leaders who moved into these communities formed gangs to ward off rival immigrants and other encroaching gangs.

Impact of US-Based Gang Studies

During the middle of the 20th century, the rules of engagement for gang fights often depicted a military style action. Gangs organized pre-fight meetings to discuss how rival gang fights would take place. Law enforcement regularly tolerated gang violence as long as gang members did not harm innocent citizens. Also during the 1950s, Klein (1995) described gang violence as a new phenomena as gang activity continued to spiral out of control around the US. Several youth organizations and social service groups formed to offset the ongoing violence conducted by the emergence of violent street gangs (Klein, 1995). The early establishments of gang intervention programs were occasionally able to curtail and disband many youth gangs. The concept of social gang intervention programs furnished alternative means of survival and social action for many gang members such as, job training, education, self help and other social options.

Klein (1995) reported by the late 1950s, gangs viewed intervention programs as a way to manipulate the “*interventionists*” who were attempting to manipulate them. Social workers known as, “interventionists” worked with the most violent gangs to assist in curtailing gang violence. Gang members saw this type of intervention as a badge of honor which gave gangs a sense of empowerment often enabling them to receive

attention from community and government agencies. The violence of the 1950s was incomparable to the violence later seen in the 1960s.

The social gang research during the 1960s continued to evolve in the same direction as in the past. The frame work of criminologists and social psychologists have always found a great fascination for researching antisocial behavior and low socio-economic status of gangs in America. The pace of fighting social deviance defined early gangs around the country and later gang studies continued to embark on social gang research of the past. The most promising early gang research examined both the social and criminal actions of social gangs such as, "wanna-be gangs, street gangs, prison gangs, political gangs, predatory gangs and party gangs" (Klein, 1995, pp. 50-57).

The existing literature also described gang activity as significant but, failed to completely close the gaps between the new periods of gangs later seen during the post 1960s Vietnam era. While, some of the more significant existing gang literature and research over the past 50 years may have been helpful in shaping the way law enforcement and policy makers established legislation to combat the gang epidemic during the 1960s era. Cozic, Bender & Leone (1996) stated that some gang policies and legislation placed into action during 1960-70s remained unchanged and is currently outdated.

The Formation of Major Violent US-Based Gangs

Street and prison gangs have evolved over the later part of the 20th century. There are several consistencies which have linked US-based gang's ability to survive with their predecessors. Some examples of socio-economic factors included: failed economics,

social deprivation, antisocial behavior and continuous development of gang criminal enterprises are examples of several reasons for the escalation of gang criminal behavior (Cozic, et al., 1996; Huff, 2002). The global impact of US-based gangs has been extraordinary. The complexity of gang involvement with other transnational and global organized criminal's has sky-rocketed over the last decade and has continued to climb at an alarming rate well into the new millennium.

According to Klein (1995) US-based gangs began to evolve during the 1960s by becoming extremely violent through organized criminal activity and the emergence of larger "*super gangs*" (Klein, 1995). Due to the increase of female criminal activity, a number of metropolitan communities formed social groups as well as charm schools to help limit female gang antisocial behavior. Other social community awareness programs started to broaden female self-esteem. Youth Board Organizations were able to intervene against anti social behavior from gang members through positive engagement, education and training programs.

During the mid-1960s, civil unrest in many urban neighborhoods culminated into the start of both ethnic and cultural organizations which led the fight for racial equality for minority citizens. Violent gang confrontations emerged as well organized civil groups during the Civil Rights era from 1957 to 1972. Many socially deprived communities credited many Black leaders for gaining affirmative action for ethnic, minority and women's rights. The Black Panther Party a self-proclaimed, social and self-help organization argued; if Blacks in America were going to gain equal rights, they would have to acquire it through non-violent social change. While working as the voice of urban

youths, the Black Panther Party attempted to promote self help for greater equality through social action within the garden cities of America such as: Newark, Chicago, Oakland, Watts, Dallas, Washington, DC, Cleveland and New York to name a few (Lyman, 1989).

Expansion of Black Gangs

Valentine (1995) gave further accounts of social disenfranchisement. This disenfranchisement led to the 1970s era, also known as the dawn of a new era of gang violence and hostility. There are several mega gangs which played a major role towards changing the face of gang activity in America during his time period such as; the MS-13, Gangster Disciples and the Crips Street gangs which added historical influence and relevance to this research and will be specifically examined accordingly. The first Black syndicate gang known as the Crips Street gang; also known as, a “*super gang*” formed on the West coast in South Central Los Angeles, California (Valentine, 1995). The Crips Street gang will be one of three gangs studied during this research based on the gang’s criminal activity, socio-economic factors and potential for recruitment by terrorists, radical ideology and connections to Islamic religious groups.

Lyman and Valentine (1995) reported how the Bloods and Crips gangs bore roots and developed gang ideology through the influence of the Black Panther Party of the 1960s. While the Crips and Bloods gangs rapidly grew into two of the nation’s most powerful and largest violent street gangs. Each gang’s membership has risen to over 10,000 members stemming from the West coast and throughout the US. During the early development and recruitment stages the Bloods and Crips gangs began to engage in fierce

turf battles. Gang wars over the sales of drugs and other criminal activity were credited with the beginning of two of the largest street gangs in the US (Lyman, 1995; Valentine, 1995).

According to Klein and Maxson (2006) other super gangs across the country also attempted to influence social and criminal change in America through violence. Klein's research argued that many other sophisticated gangs may be involved or credited in influencing local gang activity and crime through gang migration. In contrast to his earlier studies Klein, et al. (2006) later suggested that collective and organized gangs are not likely to establish gang and drug networks as widespread as once reported (Klein, et al., 2006).

Klein and others (2006) highlights another significant gang, the Conservative Vice-Lords CVL which many of its members have Islamic religious affiliations. The CVL are associated with the El Rukhns gang who also have radical Islamic religious ties but; are not believed to be as a significant factor as the three gangs being highlighted later in this study. The Conservative Vice-Lords gang located in the Great Lakes Region of the Lawn view area of Chicago, Illinois will not be examined during this study but, should be considered in future studies due to the gang's religious alliances with other Islamic based gangs and their propensity for extreme violence. However, the CVL has been widely researched by David Dawly, a Dartmouth University social activist and sociologist who teamed with Bobby Gore, the proclaimed leader of the CVL gang in Chicago. Dawley was able to assist Gore in acquiring a government grants to build urban-city self help programs, education centers and health relief stations in the Black community. Knox and

Papachristos (2002) reported that, the CVL is a known affiliate with other Islamic religious gangs in prison such as the El Rukhns (Knox & Papachristos, 2002).

In 1979, the murder arrest of CVL leader Bobby Gore coordinated by then former Chicago mayor Richard Daly led to the down fall of the CVL which was once one of the most powerful and structured criminal gangs in America. The late 1970s decline of the CVL was just the start of a chain of events which took place all across the US to curtail the criminal misconduct and violent super gang activity (Knox, et al. 2002). As new leaders of the CVL gang began to emerge, the gang was unable to keep the peace between other encroaching super gangs such as, the Gangster Disciples and Black P-Stone Nation based in Chicago, Illinois. Other Black nationally syndicated gangs such as, the Black Gangster Disciples and El Rukhns started to battle the CVL over area turf and drug distribution which led to the fight for gang expansion and integration across the country. These neighborhood gangs began as warring factions. All three gangs have been connected to significant prison gangs as well as rumored to having radical Islamic religious beliefs and criminal affiliations (Knox, et al., 2002).

As more gang violence erupted over turf and drug expansion other US-based gangs across the nation followed suit which became the start of the 1980s super gang era. Gang's later known as "super gangs" started to expand by pursuing gang turf, criminal activity as a new way of life and using criminal gain as economic prosperity (Klein, 1995; Klein, et al., 2002). Only the largest US-based gangs were able to withstand rival gang challenges and law enforcement intervention which was hard pressed to stop their prosperity.

Violent gang activity became a major concern during the emergence of the infamous, “super gangs” of the early 1980s. The emergence of violent and criminal gang activity prompted a need for greater gang research and understanding detailing how to deal with these growing concerns. Super gangs by then were defined by the majority of law enforcement agencies and gang researchers as, a gang having 10, 000 nationally syndicated members with the potential for global expansion. Due to the potential for global gang expansion and criminal alliance building, this research contends that terrorist organizations are connecting with gang members through prison and criminal sources which are; strategically planning to employ gang members to conduct acts of terrorism for various reasons. As nationally syndicated gangs developed throughout the US, significant Hispanic and Latino gangs of interest also gained recognition as disenfranchised gang members. Latino and Hispanic gangs were reported to have criminal ties throughout Central and South American countries which are actively affiliated with terrorists (Barrio, 2004).

Integration and Expansion of Latino Gangs

Many Hispanic and Latino communities are the home of some of the largest and most violent of all US-based super gangs. These gangs make their own rules and by doing so, have started their criminal expansion across the US (Klein, 1995). Whereas, major gang activity is prominent in some Hispanic and Latino neighborhoods, most members of these communities are not connected to criminal activity or gangs. During the early 1930s Hispanic and Latino gangs set the criminal stage for all other US-based gangs to follow. One of the first major Hispanic gangs to expand was the powerful 18th

Street Mexican Gang that emerged from the streets and community of Pico Union in the Rampart District outside of Los Angeles, California. The 18th Street Gang is one of the largest gangs in the US, estimated at having over 6,000 members nationwide. The 18th Street Gang began its rise to prominence outside of the gang's own community while spilling violence and criminal activity nation-wide claiming their infamous spot in gang history.

Gang researcher Barrio (2004) noted, the 18th Street Gang predated such gangs as Florencia 13 and Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13). Both gangs are extremely violent and criminal. Many Latino gangs are conducting violence across the US for the same social and economic injustices as their Black gang counterparts. Other Latino super gangs such as, the Latin Kings from the state of Illinois joined in the battle against civil obedience while fighting social injustice, economic inequality and racism (Brotherton and Barrios, 2004).

Several gang researchers such as: Cozic, 1996; Huff, 2002; Klein, 1995; Knox, 1995; Peterson, 2004; also see Maxson, 2006 & Valentine, 1995 who are experts in the field of gang studies and at the forefront of gang research. Contrary to some of his earlier works Klein, et al. (2006) specifically indicated that some current gang researchers tend to place more emphasis on social issues when exploring street gangs such as, the definition of gangs, changes in violence, expansion and drug involvement. Klein, et al. (2006) agreed, while some existing gang studies have failed to discuss specific criminal acts committed by gangs; gang activity has been dismally handled through gang intervention and prevention programs (Klein, et al., 2006).

Most modern gang research studies take a noteworthy look at gang intervention, control and prospects for the future but; stop short of addressing the potential of terrorist recruitment of gangs and acts of terrorism in the new millennium. One modern gang researcher Klein (1995) openly studied the two-pole controversy of, “*gangs without reference to crime*” and the “*emphasis on crime elements and violence at the expense of other related crime elements*” (Klein, 1995, pp. 4-27). Another current gang researcher Kirby (2006) conducted a very comprehensive study on gangs but, his research was limited to US-based gangs in the Great Lakes Region of Chicago.

Other early gang studies covered the social aspects of delinquency and youth oriented mischief (Klein, 1995; 2002; 2006). This gang study provided an additional view into gang structure and criminal behavior connecting to terroristic actions where the existing gang literature does not. The majority of current researchers agreed with the social structure and ethnic differences found in criminal gangs but, current gang studies still failed to connect the dots of the new “super gangs” in the 21st century along with their potential threat to national security through terrorist means such as, biological usage and attacks.

Kirby (2006) explained that more journalists instead of social scientists and researchers usually provided writings on the criminal intent of terrorists and gangs. There is a great deal of literature which has discussed terrorist’s recruitment of gangs but, not the potential of terrorist-gang biological or WMD usage. Because terrorist-gang recruitment is virtually a new area of study, this particular research is timely and relevant.

This present study has served to inform law enforcement regarding the violent behavior and the propensity for terroristic involvement of gangs.

Disposition for Violent Gang Behavior

Illegal drug activity has produced an enormous amount of capital for gang members and other criminal groups in a short period based on drug resale and retail values on the open market (Cozic, et al., 1996). One of the primary methods for making quick and easy money is illegal drugs. Lyman (1989) described, “The American illicit drug market is the most lucrative of all criminal markets, producing revenues of an estimated \$10,000,000,000 in retail sales annually” (Lyman, 1989, p.3). Money is the common motivator of most global gangs and other criminals. Another factor is greed, which often encourages gangs to produce uncontrollable criminal violence. Gang members enjoy easy profits and have a strong urge for excitement and violence. To perpetrate this violence gang’s use a host of dangerous weapons, guns are the most pervasive in support of criminal violence. Gangs use their neighborhoods, communities, schools and other familiar havens as established business fronts to sell, distribute and purchase drugs.

Latin American drug traffickers play a significant role in the distribution and sales of a highly lucrative illegal narcotics industry where drugs are smuggled into the US at the rate of multi-billions of dollars per year and are seen as the most viable resource for most criminal activity (Lyman, 1989). Illegal drug trafficking is a highly dangerous business in which gangs are willing to engage. Over the past several decades, gangs have proven their willingness to conduct almost any type of criminal activity if highly

compensated. Therefore, it is highly plausible that gangs may engage in acts of terrorism if equally and highly compensated.

Gang Intervention and Policy Concerns

During the early 1980s a little known drug, “*crack cocaine*” was introduced into major US cities which caused violent street gangs to flourish as never before. While gangs fought each other for the right to sell and distribute this newfound money-making drug, the related violence and murder rate began to escalate. Modern gang researcher Petrone (2006) explained how gang violence and the introduction of crack cocaine made gang conduct, loyalty and obedience obsolete even to the most sophisticated and structured US-based gangs. It is due to the temptation of greed which this study contends that the majority of US-based gangs will conduct any type of violent criminal act to include biological attacks for the right amount of money or compensation.

The late 1980s brought about “*The Gang Wars Era*” perpetrated by violent super street gangs conducting violence and murder. The death rate of rival gang members and innocent bystanders soared, causing the murder rate to rival the death rate of the Vietnam War. By the early 1990s, law enforcement and policymakers were at a loss to find ways to curtail this overwhelming criminal activity that has risen to epidemic proportion. The media reported the disastrous events of “*The Drug and Gang Wars*” on the nightly news. The media also sensationalized what appeared to be uncontrollable violence by overwhelmingly reporting deadly gang activity across the country.

In 1992, the Los Angeles Riots sparked global media attention due to “the Rodney King case matter”, by the Los Angeles Police Department while being captured by the

media on television. This event which was sensationalized by the media which may have somewhat assisted the Black community of Los Angeles by adding fuel to an already simmering powder keg as the community members redirected their nonviolent approach to civil protest into major destruction (looting, violence and burning) of their own neighborhoods. This violence ultimately spilled over for weeks to other major cities around the US. From the 1990s to the present, gang violence has continued to rise to a myriad of other violent events.

The demise of the 1999 Los Angeles Police Departments, Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums (CRASH) Gang Unit, due to reports of corruption which caused more distrust of the police by local citizens and gang members. A former LAPD police officer Rafael Perez was caught selling and distributing confiscated drugs from a police property room. Perez went to prison which led to the fall of the infamous (CRASH) Gang Unit. Perez's conviction ultimately culminated in the jail release of hundreds of Los Angeles most violent gang and drug dealers (Klein, 1995; Valentine, 1995). Other major cities and police agencies across the country had similar events and situations which contributed to further mistrust of law enforcement. Many police corruption cases were exposed due to countless pay-offs and bribes which plastered prime time news.

September 11, 2001, was a day of unprecedented shock and suffering in the history of the US. The nation was unprepared. How did this happen, and how can we avoid such tragedy again? To answer these questions, the Congress and former President George W. Bush created, *The National*

Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (Public Law 107-306, November 27, 2002). During the testimony of Special Agent In-Charge, Robert B. Loosle, FBI Criminal Division, Los Angeles Field Office, before the House Committee on Government, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources Los Angeles California October 3, 2006 addressed the threat posed by gangs on all levels of government policy. This policy established a National Gang Strategy to identify the nationally syndicated gangs which posed the greatest criminal threat and danger to American communities. SAC, Loosle's testimony argued that:

Targeting gangs identified within the National Gang Strategy, the FBI utilizes the same statutes and investigative techniques that have been traditionally used against organized crime groups such as, Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) and Violent Crimes in Aid of Racketeering (VICAR) prosecutions. Some of the gangs being addressed under the National Gang Strategy in the Los Angeles area are the Bloods, Crips and MS-13. (Law 107-306: Criminal Justice Drug, 2006)

Current Legislation Reforms and Developments

According to Zegart (2009) "Intelligence reform is failing today for the same reasons it always has: transforming any organization from the inside is hard and imposing

reform from the outside is even harder” (Zegart, 2009, p.1). Between 1991 and 2001 a multitude of reports were made present examining organizational weaknesses of top US law enforcement and intelligence agencies referenced the successes and failures of their counterterrorism on which major problems were found stemming from poor coordination, terrible information sharing, inadequate human intelligence and insufficient attention in setting viable priorities.

According to Zegart (2009) “There were 268 critical findings which almost none of the suggested fixes were implemented prior to September 11. The 9/11 Commission and the Congressional Intelligence Committees found that the same weaknesses led to disaster on 9/11” (Zegart, 2009, pp. 2-4).

Finally, there is no magical fix to the reforms which may take decades. Unfortunately, there is a growing complexity to contemporary terrorism, gangs and WMD threats taking place within the US. This specific study has added new knowledge and significance to terrorist-gang threats. The timely significance of this study’s focus has examined all three Terrorism, Gangs and WMD threat measures.

Current Gang Impact

The rise of street gangs over the past half-century directed law enforcement and researchers to take notice, study the social dynamics and examine the impact of US-based gangs. The end of the 20th century brought about a change in US-based gang activity moved from a smaller less mystified social organization to major criminal

enterprise organizations with the potential for developing far-reaching criminal alliances to satisfy criminal greed for power and money.

The end of the 20th century also brought about vast changes in America such as, the demand for technology with global communications and consequences. The explosion of major US-based gangs lurking in every major city willing to engage in violent criminal activity caused by law enforcement and social scientist to take notice. Gang violence and activity in America expanded to a theme of global fear and intimidation.

The terror displayed by the overwhelming violent gang behavior is not much different from that displayed by global terrorist organizations. The social impact and violent behavior in many cases revealed that the motivations of gang members and terrorists are similar.

After the September, 2001 Terrorist attacks. US law enforcement agencies turned their security efforts towards a more proactive response rather than reactive. Law enforcement raised their efforts against major domestic criminal groups such as, gangs and foreign terrorist organizations which moved to new proactive tactics in attempt to protect the American public and its critical infrastructures. “One of the most striking elements of today’s threat pictures are the increasing plots to attack America while involving American residents and citizens” (Gunter & Levin, Fall, 2011, pp.20-21).

In January, 2007 (see Anonymous author, 2009) former United States Attorney General Alberto Gonzales established three Anti-Gang Intelligence and Coordination Centers to address violent gang criminal activity: 1) the National Gang Intelligence

Center (NGIC) which integrated gang intelligence assets of all partner agencies; the National Gang Targeting, Enforcement, Enforcement and Coordination Center (Gang TECC) which serves as the central coordinating center for multi-jurisdictional gang investigations of the Department of Justice's efforts against violent gangs. . . and the Gang Unit established to implement strategies to attack the most significant gangs. "All three entities are currently considered not effectively providing investigators or prosecutors with *one stop shopping* for gang information and assistance . . ."

(Anonymous, 2009, pp. 1-5). The economic impact of transnational criminal organizations such as, terrorist-gangs, modern organized crime and drug cartels reaping illegal profits are estimated to be approximately one trillion US dollars annually (Hesterman, 1991). In lieu of terrorist and gang actions over the past 12 years, there is still a need for the adequate implementation of more effective Terrorism, Gangs and WMD policies.

2.2 Terrorism

US-Terrorism: A New Dynamic

Over the past decade, US law enforcement and intelligence agencies have changed the way they conduct business. Law enforcement and researchers have come to realize that another major attack such as, the September, 2001 Terrorist attacks are plausible. According to Clarke (2004) since the September, 2001 Terrorist attacks and the potential of US-based gang recruitment by a terrorist group could be imminent based on

uncorroborated source information. There remains some confusion concerning the definition of the term, “*terrorism*”. Researcher Walter Laqueur (1999) reported that, “The complex definition of “terrorism” has changed throughout history because the word has a pejorative connotation” (Laqueur, 1999, pp. 8-10). Some lawmakers and law enforcement sources in the US view terrorism as an interaction against American capitalism and culture rather than a direct action against “Americans,” as a people. The FBI more broadly defines terrorism as, “the unlawful use of force or violence against persons, property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population or any segment thereof in furtherance of political or social objectives” (see FBI, as referenced by Laqueur, 1999, pp. 8-10). “Terrorism” is also described as, “domestic or international, depending on the origin base and objectives of the terrorist organization” (White, 2006, pp. 3-6).

As an example, noted terrorist expert Michael German described terrorism as: A terrorist attack against a government on the fascist end of the scale, where individual and group rights are suppressed, is more likely to be justifiable as a legitimate act of self defense. On the other hand, a terrorist attack against a free nation, where the terrorist may speak freely, petition, vote and the government protects minorities and only exercises authority through due process would be hard to justify as a legitimate strike for self discrimination. (German, 2007, p. 92)

The 1993 World Trade Center attack was the first time that the US had experienced an attack of violence of this magnitude by a foreign group or government on

the main land in modern times. The radical terrorist group, “Al-Qaeda,” led by mastermind Ramsey Yousef who claimed responsibility for the attack vowed that, this would be the first of many more subversive attacks to take place in the US. The horror displayed by this unforeseen terrorist attack brought about a monumental change in the way US citizens and the government now views the treachery and deceptive tactics of global terrorist organizations. The US had never witnessed such close up and devastating horror of terrorism (Crime Commission Report, 2002).

Americans were unfamiliar with the devastating reality of terrorism until the September 11, 2001 Terrorist attacks. Prior to then, the devastation of such actions were seen only through the eyes of other countries that have lived with these types of horror and terrorist acts for centuries. This study examined the potential for terrorist group’s abilities to continue the covert to the other unknown methods of attacking the US. A potential action of attack is recruiting gangs to wittingly or unwittingly using biological weapons or other unknown methods of attack against the US in “plain-view”. Such biological or other unknown devastating methods of war could be used in absolute plain-view without detection due to the new terroristic tactic of warfare unknown here in the US.

Potential Terrorist Actions in the United States

Terrorism and the tactics of fear and intimidation have been in existence for centuries. US law enforcement and intelligence agencies have employed social researchers to assist in making sense of these old phenomena’s by analyzing new tactical dynamics such as covert biological attacks. According to Kipel (2005) in reviewing

Osama bin Laden's point of view, "the slaughter of innocents is not terrorism. It is merely minor reparation for the countless crimes and murders committed against Islam and Muslims since the end of the 600 year-old Ottoman Empire in 1923" (Osama bin Laden as referenced by Kipel, 2005, p. 125).

The terrorist organization, Hezbollah condemned all mediation towards peace between Western allies, the Middle East and between Israel and Palestine. Hezbollah called for a violent united front of "*jihad*" for all Muslims. Top researchers such as Hamzeh (2003) also contends, that Al-Qaeda and other Muslim Terrorist Organizations are highly structured and tend to exploit whomever, where ever, however conducive or relevant to the success of terrorist organizations. "The teachings of Radical Islam (untraditional Islam) gives a message to those who fight against "*just-cause*", those who wage war or oppress are the real terrorists and their actions should be dispelled" (Hamzeh, 2003, p. 40).

Richard Clarke (2004) further offered that, "The Bush II Administration squandered the opportunity to eliminate al Qaeda . . . A new al Qaeda has emerged and is growing stronger, in part because of our own actions. It is in many ways a tougher opponent than the original threat faced before September, 2001 and we are not doing what is necessary to make America safe from that threat" (see Clark, 2004, cover page excerpt). Stern (2003) reported that, an unknown terrorist operative explained to the FBI during interrogation that recruits come from everywhere in the world and are used for specific tasks such as, explosives, intelligence gathering and surveillance. Other recruits are used for their language capability, knowledge of specific areas of interests, country

knowledge and demographics. “Then there are the dispensable operatives recruited to carry-out attacks against the enemy. These individual recruits are disposable; if a non-significant recruit is captured or killed the main terrorist cell has not lost anything of value” (Stern, 2003, pp. 243-248).

According to Greenberg (2006) the US Armies Interrogation manuals presumed that enemy combatants of either side were the mirror image of their captors, motivated by the same emotional factors found in all soldiers is untrue. “We cannot win a war that is not a war; the war on terrorism is an act not a tool of war, nor an enemy combatant that can be captured and killed” (Greenberg, 2006, p. 85). The World Trade Center attacks by foreign terrorist organizations led the American government to take a more proactive approach towards terrorism preparedness which also influenced terrorist research studies. The relevance of domestic terrorism taking place in the US has been limited in scope to the actions of individual extremists. Therefore, if law enforcement is to prevail in keeping America safe from any future terrorist actions, there must be a concerted effort by all to stay ahead of the game through proactive actions. The Western world has allowed the emergence of radical extremists who are teaching terrorism inside the US in plain-view (see Hoffer, 1951; Laqueur, 2003; Lewis, 2003; Mazrui, 2006; Sivan, 1990; Sperry, 1979).

Sanderson (2004) contends that, “As terror groups transform into hybrid criminal terror entities and partner with criminal syndicates, the threat to the US and other nation’s rises in complexity, demanding a highly flexible and tailored response” (Sanderson, 2004, p. 49).

On November 1, 2004 (CNN) news reported the Arabic-language network Al-Jazeera released a full transcript of a video tape from Osama bin Laden in which the head of Al-Qaeda said that, “As part of the “*bleed-until-bankruptcy plan*”; for every dollar spent by AL-Qaeda to carry out the September, 2001 attacks, it will cost the US a 1,000,000 dollars by the permission of Allah, besides the loss of a huge number of jobs . . .” As excerpted from Osama bin Laden, taped interview, released by (AL-Jazeera News, November 1, 2004).

Current US Terrorist Developments

Since September, 2001 Terrorist attacks; all existing and recorded domestic WMD actions in the US have been encountered from homegrown domestic extremist’s individuals and groups. The following encounters and attacks are examples of the successes and failures of such attacks. Only two domestic attacks or attempts have been terrorist-gang related which is not to say that any future attacks will or may not be at the hands of terrorist- gangs or individual associates.

Since the September, 2001 Terrorist attacks there have been numerous domestic and foreign terrorist attempts using unconventional (plain-view) tactics against the US. Such attacks have come at the hands of terrorist groups as well as lone individuals who have used and attempted to use traditional, mass causality and unconventional weapons of mass destruction. The following criminal and domestic terrorist acts of violence are examples of the types of activity which terrorists and lone individual terrorist converts have participated:

- May, 2011, two US citizens were arrested by the New York police after attempting to purchase hand grenades, guns and ammunition to attack an undetermined Manhattan, New York synagogue.
- December, 2010, a terrorist suspect was arrested by the FBI after threatening to place pipe bombs on the metro rail train and sewer systems in Washington, DC.
- November, 2010 a Somali-American, was arrested after attempting to detonate a car bomb at a Christmas ceremony in Portland, Oregon.
- October, 2010 during an Air Cargo Bomb Plot, two packages were shipped from the Yemen-based Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula to a Chicago-area synagogue where packages were discovered to contain explosive materials in printer cartridges.
- 2009, a Nigerian student from London, flew from Nigeria to Amsterdam and then to the US enroute on a flight to Detroit, Michigan where the subject attempted to detonate (PETN and TATP) plastic explosives in his underwear in effort to bring down the airliner in attempt to kill himself and all passengers on board.
- May, 2009, the New York Police announced a synagogue terror plot to blow up a New York area Jewish Center and shoot down planes at a nearby Air National Guard base.
- March, 2008, a former US Navy sailor from Phoenix, Arizona was convicted of supporting terrorism and disclosing classified information, including the location of navy ships and their vulnerabilities.
- May, 2007, The Fort Dix Plot where six men were arrested in a plot to attack a US Army Post, at Ft. Dix, New Jersey using assault rifles to kill soldiers at the post (see Carafano, McNeill, Zuckerman, 2011, pp. 1-18).

Terrorist Mindset and Beliefs

Prior to the 1993 World Trade Center attacks, the US did not place much emphasis on proactive measures against terrorism. The World Trade Center attack was the first foreign assault conducted on American soil during the 20th century. This new war tactic is currently delivering fear and psychological trauma into the minds and homes of American citizens through the sometimes daily media events of domestic terrorist attacks taking place and broadcast throughout the country. This study is limited to examining the terrorist relations between Al-Qaeda and Taliban Muslim Organizations due to the direct threats both organizations have rendered to the US and because it is presumed by the US; that there is a direct terrorist-gang correlation through monetary recruitment and religious conversion. Noted terrorist expert Walter Laqueur (2003) summed up how terrorism is currently being used:

There are very few studies on the psychological sources of terrorism and this is for obvious reasons. It is a most difficult topic to investigate and discuss; there are very few guiding posts in this uncharted territory and a great many pitfalls. The character of terrorism is undergoing changes in our age; as the old, “traditional” terrorist movements continue to operate, new ones have appeared, more now on the extreme right of the political spectrum than on the left, activist religious-sectarian groups have come into being and there has been violence even on the radical fringe of the ecological movement. The borderline between terrorism and some forms of organized crime and narco-terrorism has become far less clear than it

used to be. (see Walter Laqueur, as referenced by Reich, 1998, foreword ix)

The ideology, structure and beliefs of those using terrorism as a means of control have focused on the “us against them mentality”. The revolutionary terrorist is driven by the same subconscious emotion which is a longing for hope (Elliott, 1998, p. 248). Several terrorism experts, researchers and theorist, see Navarro, 2005; Murphy, 2002; Parfrey, 2001 and Stern, 2003 who argued that most terrorists are opportunists that operate on fear, mental intimidation and when all else fails extreme violence. Some psychologists have challenged those conventional rational choice theories of individual participation in rebellion and terrorist activity as an understood expression of political strategy rather than individual choice. In contrast, Sonn (2004) wrote that, “The concern of most Muslims today is how to deal with the Western world’s disrespect for Islam” (Sonn, 2004, p. 174). Reich (1998) further explained that, “Terrorist actions are an individual choice of the use of violence rather than for political and strategic reasons” (Reich, 1998, pp. 7-8).

The common thread of most Muslims throughout the Arab world is the rejection of Western morals, codes and behavior (Nydell, 2002; 2006). The younger generations of Arabs are influenced by Western culture to include, music, clothing, liberal ideals and equal opportunity. Navarro (2005) explained that, “At the polar end of the affable, discerning, open mind, is the intractable mind of the terrorist. A mind made up, stubbornly, resiliently, unbending even when confronted with reality. This mind refuses

to compromise and in fact readily feeds and nourishes itself with the intoxicating elixir of equally narrow, closed minded ideas and thoughts” (Navarro, 2005, p. 26).

Activists may not have the time, skills or zeal to spend conducting mass-organizational work. The leaders of these groups understand the advantages of combining mass organizations with conspiracy. It allows the terrorist organization to captivate the minds of followers and focuses the group’s attention on one commonality whether the “*cause*” is conjured or real, it focuses the group towards a specific fight usually more of an interest to the organization leader than the group. Looking at the terrorist mindset and behavior as a product of psychological factors researcher Jerrold Post theorized that, “Terrorists resort to violence as a willful choice and that terrorism as a course of action is an intentional choice selected from a range of perceived alternatives” (see Post as referenced by Reich, 1998, p. 25).

The conception of the “*Jihad’s Fifth Column*” (Trifkovic, 2002; as reviewed by Hoffer, 1951) makes a strong point which is agreed upon by several terrorist experts. This point suggested that the US and other Western countries have allowed a vast and unsupervised hostile Muslim subculture to emerge over the past several decades. According to this view Trifkovic (2002) the Western world has allowed the emergence of radical extremists who are teaching terrorism inside the US. It is ironic that the very rights and democratic freedoms that extremists fight against are the same rights which benefit their radical cause in this country. Gritz (2003) suggested that, “Muslims everywhere may not show their distrust and hatred for America but, this is a Muslims true belief”. Gritz also considered that, “Violent Islamic jihad is advanced by forcible cleric

teachings of the Muslim population along with the hope that America will fall to the sword of Muslims everywhere” (Gritz, 2003, p. 622). Hoffer and Hazim (1951) agreed that, “A minority bent on assimilation, the least and most successful (economically and culturally) are likely to be more frustrated than those in between” (Hoffer, 1951, p. 49).

John L. Esposito, Director for Muslim-Christian Understanding in Washington, DC suggested that, the US has assisted in legitimizing the militant Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR). “The (CAIR) organization has attempted to promote tolerance between the US and the Islamic community but; some Arabs have not divorced radical religion from other aspects of their life” (Patai, 2002, p. 175). The former leader of (CAIR) Abdurahman Alamoudi was quoted by prosecutors during his trial for promoting terrorism-related crimes in 1999 as remarking that, “The 1998 al-Qaeda attacks on US Embassies in Africa were not effective because they killed hundreds of Africans but no Americans” (Sperry, 1951, pp. 96-97).

Cordesman (2002) argued that terrorist threats or attacks come in many forms which can include attacks by state actors, state use of proxies, independent terrorists and residents of the US whose motives can range from religion to motives of extortion. “Political and strategic goals can well define terrorist motives by the use of ideology, crime and sabotage as criminal acts by the psychologically disturbed” (Cordesman, 2002, p. 3). There are numerous other factors which indicated a strong potential for further terrorist related actions inside the US. The following excerpt indicated how the US believed that the long-arm of terrorism would never reach the US. This study examined the potential for gang actions by terrorists in the US.

By the time the towers collapsed in a cloud of metal and dust and humanity, I knew this was the work of bin Laden. No one told me. No one had to. It has been a long time coming. I was part of the small club, regarded by many as alarmists who had been predicting a major attack on US soil since just before the millennium. Even so, I never imagined this result, nor, do I think, did anyone else. (see Miller, Stone & Mitchell, 2003, as excerpted by Don Dahler)

Radical Terrorism and Religion

The US and other allied countries have openly allowed radical Islam to prevail and to operate underground inside our territories unchallenged because we do not know the face of our enemy or their subversive tactics. American society is deeply entrenched in centuries of racial divide and social exclusion. African Americans have started to embrace traditional Islam in alarming numbers. Some African Americans express that their treatment as disenfranchised second-class citizens has destroyed all hopes of gaining social or economic autonomy with the federal government (This statement does not reflect or mean that there is a direct correlation between African Americans and Islam religion leading to acts of terrorism).

Juergensmeyer (2003) wrote that religion should protect instead of harm. Our own policies and legislation stops the US from strongly dealing with extremist religion. Many countries who have fought radical Islamic immigration, now find themselves in the midst of daily terrorist attacks, fear and intimidation in our own country with no recourse other than fear of the unknown. The potential for terrorists or gangs to use the element of

surprise such as covert tactics or attack in (plain-view) without the enemy's knowledge is not a farfetched notion which should be ignored. Terrorists are willing to use suicide to promote their cause. "The element of surprise, by the enemy to rouse our country in effort to live freely amongst us waging a war of terror and revenge in has caught those who are suppose to protect us sleep at the wheel of national security" (see Trifkovic, 2002; as reviewed by Hoffer, 1951, pp. 263-290).

During the past 20 years, a growing global movement has evolved to create a network of governments which impose a certain radical mindset of Islam thereby; creating strong terroristic states. According to former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Intelligence, Richard Clarke (2004) who criticized both the Clinton and George Bush, II Administrations described the US involvement with Al-Qaeda to be a little short of a worldwide political conspiracy which was transpired by a religious sect. The mindset of terrorists is extremely violent and believed to be fueled by radical Islamic religion. Frank Gaffney (2006) suggested that:

We are at war, primarily with adherents to a dangerous totalitarian ideology, "*Islamofacism*" and with the states and organizations that enables its global ambitions. Terror is the trademark and tool of the Islamfacists. To the extent that Islamfacists are willing to kill themselves in the process of killing others, every foot soldier in this ideological vanguard is a potentially lethal precision-guided weapon. (Gaffney, 2006, p. 1)

There is a contention that an escalation of violence usually follows as the political, religious and economic jargon has failed to captivate a greater following. Violence is an attention getter which can make mainstream thinkers take notice. This style of terrorism is mind manipulation through fear and intimidation of the unknown. Terrorism expert German (2007) explained, “When separating and identifying an identity group, terrorists can exploit a division between ethnic or social groups, religious affiliations, economic classes or any other characteristic, real or contrived, that distinguishes one person from another” (German, 2007, pp. 96-97).

There are strong implications of terrorist actions being connected with radical Islam (nontraditional Islam). For example, top terrorism experts warn of future terrorist acts in the US and why this country was unprepared for September, 2001 Terrorist attacks. There are questions on whether the US is ready for such a nontraditional war which is fought in the streets in (plain-view) rather than on the battle field. A war of sheer violence waged by fear and intimidation by an enemy who does not fear death, rather embraces it with honor in the name of religion. It is debated whether the West and Islam’s dividing fundamentals are about values, globalization, capitalism, religion or cultural differences (see Benjamin, Simon, 2003; Fuller, 2003; Roy, 2004; Sabini, 2001). Without a clear military target or objective, violence against the majority with no clear-cut enemy being fought causes fear which often turns to anger during the act of public violence in the name of religion (Juergensmeyer, 2003). Most segmentation of societies in the Middle East is not religiously defined. “The sociopolitical manifestations of Islam

cannot separate from religion. Since Islamic values and religion is a part of all aspects of a Muslims life” (Halm, 2004, p.156).

Momen (1985) wrote that the teachings of Shi’i Islam, “*Jihad Religious War*” is obligatory for all able-bodied men. Only the Imam or religious leader can call for jihad against the non-Muslim world. Momen, (1985) also stated, “Defensive jihad is a form of missionary practice, which is also a form of jihad” (Momen, 1985, p. 180). Edwards (2005) argued that, “Islam has justified violence and terrorism specifically through the use of “jihad” (Edwards, 2005, p. 74). Sivan (1985) and Spencer (2002) both described the significance of an individual’s religious beliefs by stating, “The abdication of the “*ulama*” (men of religion) combined with the ignorance of the masses in religion matters, would go a long way to account for the ease in which the powers-to-be could manipulate Islam to cover a many of sin . . .”. (Sivan, 1985, p. 54; Spencer, 2002, foreword, p. x)

Surprisingly, in contrast to other terrorist researchers, Delong-Bas (2004) argued that in connection with the September, 2001 Terrorist attacks not enough Muslims have condemned the actions of the radical few. Radical terrorist actions further explained his thoughts that the actions of an extreme few have come to define for many non-Muslims the religion of Islam triggering fear and violence by both the Islamic and Western cultures (Delong-Bas, 2004).

Further implications by Carson (1991) depicted how radical religion plays a significant role with terrorism by highlighting other perceived radical movements as seen within the Nation of Islam (NOI). During the 1960s, Malcolm X’s religious perspective

of the Nation of Islam is illuminated with a broader Pan-Africanist worldview.

Malcolm's religious and political ideas were as threatening to mainstream America as the current rhetoric of Osama bin Laden prior to his death in 2011. "It was the early actions and fear of former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover from 1954-1968 who used a non-authorized federal government counter intelligence program (COINTELPRO) of FBI agents who added the Nation of Islam to their "*hit list*" of subversive organizations" (Carson, 1991, pp. 18-28).

In 1952, Hoover requested that the NOI be placed on the Department of Justice Security Index list of subversive organizations against the US. It was not until 1959, when J. Edgar Hoover's superiors decided not to keep the NOI on the subversive Security Index list due to lack of evidence of subversive actions against the US. This small problem failed to stop or convince Hoover that the leadership of the NOI was not responsible for the mass protests during the build up to the Civil Rights Movement and beyond. NOI leaders, Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X remained targets of subversive and radical accusations by the FBI even after their deaths (Carson, 1991). According to Hazim (2005) radical Islam believers feel that Westerners are their enemies and usually targeted because of Western capitalism poisoning Muslims. Terrorists are serious about protecting their beliefs, a global power and culture for these sacred beliefs. The justification for terrorism has taken root in the hostile hearts and minds of those who follow the new doctrine of jihad (Hazim, 2005; Ledeen, 2003).

In the book, "*Through Our Enemies Eyes*," the anonymous author (2003) made a parallel connection between Osama bin Laden and the abolitionist John Brown. Brown, a

self proclaimed minister during the US Civil War from 1862-65 who used his Christian radical religious (violent actions through Christianity) beliefs to lead hundreds of followers into battle that left a large number dead. Brown's disbelief in slavery led him to mount a radical religious attack towards all those who opposed him. Brown's radical way of persuasion was mounted through fear and intimidation of violent actions against his oppressor's. Bin Laden's rhetoric and radical Islamic (nontraditional Islam) religious beliefs led his followers down the same path of destruction as Brown's by teaching that America had deadly intentions and motivations towards some religious movements. Brown believed that the Federal government harbored capitalist beliefs that only benefited the North. Brown's distrust of the Federal government and its political persuasions led him to strike chaos and violence against the North using seemingly radical motivations. On the other hand, "Bin Laden's abstract beliefs brewed total distrust and violence against the Western world" (Anonymous, pp. 7-8).

Regardless of how social researchers, law enforcement, intelligence or lawmakers view terrorist actions in the US, contributors to the literature agreed that terrorism inside the US will not stop (Clarke, 2004; Momen, 1985). The US may never be safe and economically stable as it once was before the horrific moments of the September, 2001 Terrorist attacks. Therefore, law enforcement and intelligence agencies must step up security and intelligence to protect the American people and the critical infrastructures of the US. While terrorism is not a new phenomena, it is a new war tactic within the US which may in fact bring terrorist recruitment of gangs for biological warfare usage into

play; introducing an unseen and yet little known terrorist acts of waging war in plain-view of the enemy.

2.3 Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

Potential Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the United States

There are currently no significant indications found in the existing literature which suggested that gangs are in alliance with terrorists attempting to use weapons of mass destruction against the US. The mention of biological or chemical usage is enough to strike fear in the hearts and minds of those who have little understanding of the effectiveness of biological weapons. Fear in the minds of your enemies is usually adequate enough to deter reprisals or first response. An act of successful terrorism does not always have to wage death on the enemy to be successful. The US like most countries has reason to fear and prepare for the domestic use of weapons of mass destruction attack by terrorist organizations. The use of biological and chemical weapons keep the psychological fear and intimidation in the minds of civilians and others because of the unfamiliarity of the strengths and capabilities of these weapons (Bongar, Brown, Beutler, Breckenridge, & Zimbardo, 2007). Some research studies have suggested that the possible deployment of BW has caused health services to consider the impact that BW may have on a vast population. No matter the cause of disease or an epidemic is natural or deliberate; the outcome of such a scenario could prove deadly in either case.

“Biological threats are usually caused by three basic sources: natural; accidents from

factories; or industrial plants; or biological man-made” (Zilinskas, 2003, pp. 61-68; Alibek & Weinstein, 2003, p. 3).

There has always been a high potential for pathogens to be accidentally or intentionally released in to a community. This potential could cause biological disaster or disease to spread from one part of a community to another. Biological and chemical weapons can incite panic, fear and intimidation to a nation. The use of biological weapons can also paralyze a community and strip valuable financial and health resources causing economic disaster (Weinstein, et al., 2003). Some researchers have suggested that, “There is no reason to believe there will be isolated bioterrorism attacks in the US in the near future” (Henderson, et al., 2002, p. 10). Also according to Henderson, et al. (2002); “It is unlikely that additional attacks involving anthrax (*B anthracis*) and perhaps other pathogens will take place” (Henderson, et al., 2002, p. 10).

Biological and Chemical Treaties

During the early development of BW and CW, the US took the initiative in implementing the 1925 Geneva Protocol that banned the international export and use of gases for war. Interestingly, at the suggestion of the French and the Polish, the treaty further banned the use of poisonous gases and bacterial warfare. The 1972 Biological Weapons Convention BWC which argued the widespread debate that the development of such BW and CW arsenals could potentially prevent terrorist based countries from conducting preemptive strikes on their enemies (Alibek & Handleman, 2000; Guillemin, 2005; Zilinskas, 2000).

Unstable and fragile, chemical and biological agents may be the weapons of choice, if terrorists decide to use weapons of mass destruction. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in (1998) gave several reasons why biological and chemical agents are easier to produce and use than nuclear or radiological weapons. First biological and chemical are easier to produce and deploy than nuclear weapons and second there are over 26 nations that have produced chemical and biological weapons and a significant number of others attempting to do the same (FEMA, 1998). Chemical weapons are usually man-made produce instant and dramatic affects. “Chemical and biological weapons are easier to transport, stockpile and disseminate than their nuclear counter parts making them the poor man’s weapons of choice” (Lance, 2003, p. 251; Weinstein, 2003 et al., p. 124).

Currently there are no reconciliations or treaties which prevent the accidental or intentional use of either biological or chemical weapons by any nation or terrorist organization. Also, “World protocols and sanctions have failed to deter the continued production of BW and CW weapons by rogue nations that do not recognize such sanctions and treaties as appropriate or binding” (Zilinskas, 2000, p. 12). The potential use of BW sends shivers up the spines of citizens in most countries. This type of fear is one of the reasons why US law enforcement has speculated that foreign terrorist groups have opted to use both BW and CW to strike both fear and intimidation into the hearts and minds of its enemies.

In 1972, the Convention of the Prohibition of the Development, Production Stockpiling of Bacteriological Toxic Weapons agreed upon the destruction and to enforce

the withdrawal of stockpiled weapons by most democratic countries. “Even though there are several countries such as Syria, North Korea, Iran, Iraq, China and Pakistan who are assumed to have no agreement or concern for the global use of biological and chemical weapons” (Zilinskas, 2000, p. 27). Without an agreement, there was a probability that both BW and CW would be used as weapons against enemy nations. Countries conducting terrorist activities could accidentally use these biological agents against their own population. Over the past several years there have been several unaccounted instances where the ban on chemical and biological weapons had been violated by nations which stock pile these weapons for war.

Civilians do not have an understanding of how and what may happen if attacked with BW or CW. The mere thought of such usage on a civilian population causes fear and panic. Some scientists believe that chemical weapons are much less lethal and effective than biological weapons. The response to such an attack could be total chaos for safety-first responders and other health care personnel who could be completely overwhelmed by a shortage of medical resources and personnel. Health care and first responders would potentially be unable to respond to such an attack (Klein, 2002).

The US and others feared that a BW based country would retaliate with the use of potentially more virulent weapons of mass destruction or mass casualties. Most major countries started to stock pile both BW and CW as a deterrent, afraid that any Western allied country may be out gunned in time of war by a terrorist country that has the potential to secure greater biological or chemical weaponry. The 1975 Biological Weapons Convention was signed into international law prohibiting the development,

production, stock-piling, acquisition and transfer of biological agents and toxins for other than peaceful uses. “The BWC was the first International treaty to ban an entire class of weapons” (Cirincione, Wolfsthal & Rajkumar, 2005, pp. 62-63). Treaties are important but, ignored when countries believe they are under attack by enemy countries with the use of BW or CW. Due to tougher international treaties and controls set up to discourage nations from seeking to acquire weapons of mass destruction to inflict mass casualties, certain countries may have been drawn to biological arms as an accessible weapon (Alibek & Handleman, 2000; Zilinskas, 2000).

According to Guillemin (2005) epidemics and natural diseases have caused global mass casualties and deaths since the establishment of major civilizations. “People commuting from one rural community to another have assisted in the spread of contagious diseases” (Guillemin, 2005, pp. 22-24). Infectious diseases can and may affect animals, plants and other food sources as well as humans. One of the most frightening natural outbreaks of disease in recent times was the April 1995, Ebola Plague which caused worldwide fear and alarm. “In approximately two months, the Ebola Outbreak claimed 93 infections and 86 deaths” (Zilinskas, 2000, pp. 57-58). The emergence of Global Health Organizations GHO has been successful at identifying the occurrence and reoccurrence of infectious diseases which affect global communities without warning.

The 1992-93 United Nations World Health Organization UNWHO and Convention on Biological Diversity CBD set forth steps to protect the accidental release of pathogens and toxins into heavily populated communities. UNWHO also set forth particular guidelines on the proper handling and disposal of such biological agents into

the environment. This and other health related programs have put into affect necessary standards to reduce the unsafe handling and transfer of toxic waste or other living organisms and hazardous biological waste (Weinstein & Alibek, 2003).

Most health care organizations and hospitals had not been seriously involved in bioterrorism planning and preparedness before the September, 2001 Terrorist attacks (Henderson, Inglesby, & O'Toole, 2002). Guillemin (2005) stated that after World War II, nuclear weapons overshadowed the threat of other weapons of mass destruction and casualties until the cold war ended. Shortly thereafter, biological weapons became the primary threat becoming more technically accessible and feasible than both nuclear and chemical weapons. However, there is no evidence that the world has ever experienced war or usage of biological weapons. Weinstein (2003) and Alibek, et al. (1999) have speculated that during the 1990, *Iraq and Iran Conflict*; Iraq used both biological and chemical weapons against Iran.

Despite the 1995 Presidential Decision Directive which laid out national strategy and policy towards the prevention and response to terrorist activity has successfully contributed to how the US now deals with terrorism matters. This Presidential Directive PDD-39 was the first policy to address counterterrorism actions with support of a major federal budget (Guillemin, p. 157). "The PDD-39, failed to address the safety of both military troops and civilians in response to weapons of mass destruction" (Clarke, 2004, p. 163).

Manufacturing and Deployment of Biological Agents

Biological weapons are relatively easy to manufacture and deploy which makes them ideal for domestic use in several target locations at one time. These BW weapons are also easy and inexpensive to produce. “Most elements used to make and weaponize many biological agents can easily be smuggled into the US or made inside the country with relative ease” (Weinstein & Alibek, 2003, p. 3). An article written in the journal of Medical and Public Management entitled, *Following the Use of a Biological Weapon: Consensus Statements of the Working Group on Civilian Biodefense*, suggested, “The working group has identified a limited number of widely known organisms that could cause disease and deaths in sufficient numbers to cripple a city or region and smallpox is one of the most serious of these diseases” (JAMA, 1999, pp. 1735-1745, as cited in Henderson, Inglesby, & O’Toole, 2002, p. 4).

Biological Weapons Constraints

There are various methods of deploying biological weapons which are only limited to time constraints, ingenuity and the ability to launch such a strike without being detected (Zilinskas, 2000). The user has to be able to accurately select the proper biological agent and efficiently calculate the dose response for each agent used. The dose calculations effectively estimate the extent BW could infect an enemy population. Alibek, et al., (1999) suggested that, at present there are no known vaccines for brucellosis, glanders and meloidosis or many other viral diseases such as, Ebola or Marburg. In addition, studies show that the plague vaccine is ineffective against aerosol

dissemination in animal studies. “The tularemia vaccine is difficult to culture and is potentially dangerous” (Alibek, et al.; 1999, p. 286).

The following lists provided some of the potential uses of biological weapons that have been employed by domestic and extremist groups and individuals, but do not allude to gangs: (Alibek, et al.; 1999, pp. 285-286).

- Use of infected vectors (mosquitoes, fleas, lice, etc.)
- Contamination of food and water supplies
- Contamination of various articles (letters, books, surfaces, etc.)
- Use of different aerosolizing devices and approaches to contaminate inner spaces of various buildings (Line and point sources)
- Use of different aerosolizing devices and approaches for open-air dissemination (Line and point sources)
- Inner-and outer-space explosive dissemination including suicide bombers
- Terrorist/sabotage methods of infecting crops and livestock

<u>Very likely to be used</u>	<u>Potential to be used</u>
• Smallpox (liquid)	- Brucellosis (dry)
• Plague (liquid)	- Japanese Encephalitis (dry)
• Tularemia (dry)	- Yellow Fever (liquid)
• Anthrax (dry)	- Tetanus (liquid)
• Marburg (dry)	- Diphtheria (liquid)
• Meloidosis (dry)	

- Typhoid (liquid)
- Q Fever (liquid)

Limited Usage and Deployment of Non-Traditional Weapons

The history of chemical weapons may answer why biological weapons were not used extensively. There were several reasons which have influenced many countries not to deploy or develop BW. Some reasons include lack of research, technology, low public opinion and political leaders fear to conduct pre-emptive strikes. The development or usage of biological and chemical weapons against other nations has mustered fear of reprisals with BW. Another possibility could have been because of fierce military retaliation, troop escalation and the fear of a sectarian country conducting retaliation with nuclear weapons. “Nuclear weapons are a more disastrous weapon which in the past may have kept the use of both biological and chemical weapons to a minimum use” (Lancer, 2003, pp. 251-252).

Brief History Chemical Weapons

Pre-World War II, chemical weapons considered, “*bacteriological weapons*”, at that time were state of the art technological warfare that could cause mass casualties and destruction. These weapons were considered more efficient than the use of conventional weapons on the battlefield. Traditional bombs and bullets usually left a lot of carnage. Lancer (2003) offered that chemical weapons are more humane, seen as a higher form of killing and maiming of troops, causing greater health support and usually caused multiple responder assistance which kept enemy combatants busy with treatment rather than fighting.

Cirincione, Wolfsthal, & Rajkumar (2005) indicated that CW is human-made substances that disseminated as: gases, liquids or solids. The use of such substances is chemical warfare. Throughout the 20th century there have been numerous substances used and stockpiled as CW components for military weaponry and deterrence from use by other warring countries. CW substances and agents are highly toxic and somewhat difficult to deploy as a weapon. The storage and maintenance of chemical weapons are vulnerable to prolonged storage, deterioration, loss of virulence, atmospheric conditions and terrain during dispersal. “Chemical weapons categorized in the following groups are highly toxic and severely deadly:

- Blood gases, such as hydrogen cyanide which poisons blood cells from producing oxygen to the lungs and brain.
- Blistering agents, such as mustard gas, phosgene oxime and lewisite penetrate both body tissues and mucous membranes while reacting with enzymes, proteins and DNA to destroy cells producing chemical burns, affecting the airway, eyes and causing major fluid filled blisters.
- Choking agents, such as chlorine and phosgene if inhaled may damage the membranes of the lungs leading to suffocation from pulmonary edema.
- Nerve agents, such as tabun and sarin disrupt nerve impulses in the nervous system causing death” (Cirincione, Wolfsthal, & Rajkumar, 2005, pp. 62-63).

Chemical and Biological Deployment

Chemical weapons used for war are considered less effective than biological weapons because of the targeting disadvantages against specific target populations. “CW

has proved to be difficult to control during the dissemination stage; whereas biological agents have grave concerns of determining exact dosages, weather, environment and deployment timing” (Guillemin, 2005, pp. 8-9). Manufacturing of BW and CW are other critical factors to consider in the successful deployment of these weapons. The mass production of these weapons requires state-supported facilities or manufacture in small amounts using knowledgeable manufacturing expertise. “Once manufactured, the specific population and terrain target effectiveness is reviewed. Delivery devices and methods can take on various characteristics adapted specifically for covert deployment” (Zilinskas, 2000, p. 22).

Nuclear Weapons Threat

Cirincione, Wolfsthal, & Rajkumar (2005) indicated that nuclear weapons are the only true weapons of mass destruction and the most deadly ever invented but, remain the most difficult to acquire, manufacture and deploy compared to biological and chemical. “Due to the difficulty of developing, maintaining and usage, it is not believed that a non-state supported terrorist organization have the capabilities to maintain or deploy a nuclear weapon” (Cirincione, Wolfsthal, & Rajkumar, 2005, pp. 5-9).

The proliferation of nuclear, biological, chemical weapons and other technologies remains one of the greatest threats to the US. In early 2001, former President George W. Bush said, “The grave threat from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons has not gone away with the cold war. It has evolved into many separate threats, some of them harder to see and harder to answer” (Cirincione, Wolfsthal, & Rajkumar, p. 4).

Current US Attacks and Developments

During the past decade, the majority of biological and WMD attacks in the US have been foiled attacks conducted by radical extremists attempting to weaponize (ricin, staph, natural anthrax and numerous chemicals). The most effective weapons to date have been the use of (traditional firearms and explosive devices). Only two noteworthy gang related terror incidents within the US have been by the following individual gang members or associates:

- August, 2005 convicted on terrorist charges of conspiring to attack National Guard facilities, synagogues and other targets in the Los Angeles area. Six (unidentified) members of the Islam-Saheeh, Jamiyyat ul-Islam Is-Saheeh (JIS) an Islamic Extremist Prison Group were also associate members of the West Coast Crips Street gang. FBI investigations determined that JIS Cell members had been plotting to attack several targets in California.
- 2005: an associate member of the Maniac Latin Disciples Street gang attended Al-Qaeda Terrorist training camps overseas. He was indicted for aiding terrorists and conspiracy to murder US Nationals abroad (Carafano, McNeill, Zuckerman, 2011, pp. 1-18).

The current status of gang recruitment, alliances with global criminals and terrorists and in prisons does exist but; terrorist-gang recruitment for biological usage is not believed to exist at the present time. Terrorist-gang and WMD threats or actions are possible and should be considered plausible.

Law Enforcement Preparedness

Law enforcement is currently faced with attempting to keep up with traditional crimes such as homicide, kidnapping, bank robbery and drug trafficking. Both terrorists and gangs deploy fear and intimidation as a form of control over their victims. Most law enforcement efforts are not fully developed to address terrorist-gang attacks and there are no empirical studies that currently address terrorist-gang biological usage. This study responds to this void in the literature. However, most WMD research, preparedness and tactics are dated. Most related research is over 10 years old (Sageman, 1998). Therefore, this study has closed gaps in the existing literature. The accidental or no intentional usage of weapons of mass destruction by any form can be disastrous to those found in the path of such an action. This study has examined the potential of a new terrorist-gang biological usage or threat to be exposed. If law enforcement and first responders are at least aware of the potential for such a grave terrorist tactic to be employed, the knowledge of this potential will save lives which make this study worthy of examination.

2. 4 Gangs and Terrorists Activity

Terrorist Prison Gang Recruitment

Knox (2006) revealed how new millennium gangs engage in criminal and terrorist activities. Knox's research, while limited in scope to terrorist-gang actions speculated the potential for terrorist-gang actions more than other researchers. Knox briefly examined extremist groups and gang connections involved in domestic terrorist activities such as: the Ku Klux Klan, Aryan Nations, the El Rukhns and Crips (Knox, 2006). Knox's

research raised questions on how and if, there are specific US-based gangs connected in acts of terrorism; but failed to give any in-depth account of the potential gang-terrorism connections with potential WMD usage.

The US Department of Corrections and other law enforcement officials have speculated that terrorist organizations maybe recruiting US-based gang members in prisons and jails. “Major prison gangs continue to thrive and conduct criminal activity both in and outside of prison” (Peterson, 2004, p.162). The US has one of the largest populations of prisoners in the world; with a disproportionate measure of Black and Latino minorities in prison. Due to the social economic deprivation faced by some ethnic groups in the US, several prison and street gang members feel that there is no choice except to conduct criminal activity for survival purposes.

Many gang members feel by engaging in criminal activity allows for a feeling of comfort and sustainment against a perceived social society which cares little about their welfare. Prison gangs have far-reaching criminal capabilities; they control street gang activity in and outside of prison and prove to be an on-going challenge for law enforcement. Some major prison gangs are able to support themselves through corruption, committing murders, drug trafficking, fraud, racketeering, extortion and other major criminal offenses through highly sophisticated networks. This type of organized criminal activity and ingenuity manifests criminal activity on both sides of prison walls, (Kirby, Wagner, Eghigian, & Petrenko, 2006).

Terrorists could readily use gangs to expand their terrorist base in and outside of prison through radical ideological thinking, religion and purpose. Bogis (2006) indicated

the September, 2001 Terrorist attacks have prompted antiterrorist actions and arrests around the country. The arrests may lead to greater numbers of terrorist incarcerations in US Prisons. Terrorist Groups such as Al-Qaeda may see this as a unique opportunity to infiltrate the US Prison system. This terrorist action is only speculation; though lawmakers have given this scenario considerable attention (Bogis, 2006). Klein (1995) argued that, most hardened prison gang members are serving long jail sentences to include life which leaves little chance of rehabilitation, the feeling of belonging or the belief that society cares about their welfare. Additionally, prison gangs are already predisposed to violent criminal activity outside the prison walls. Prison gangs are willing and capable of doing anything to make money in and outside of prison. Gang members are among the largest group of criminals believed to have the greatest distrust for US authority and government. If this is true, the recruitment and use of gangs by terrorists as a conduit wittingly or unwittingly is a major concern. "US law Enforcement has speculated that terrorist groups may have devised a plan to conduct prison recruitment of US-based Street and prison gangs to assist them in domestic acts of terrorism" (Klein, 1995, pp. 22-24).

Kirby and others (2006) share another possibility of gang recruitment due to prison over-crowding. For decades, the issue of prison and jail over crowdedness has plagued the US Prison System. In such conditions, radical religious converts may use extreme violence and radicalism as a tool to recruit gang members in plain-view. Street gang members live by very strict rules outside of prison, carrying out the orders and criminal activities of those gang leaders inside prison who often enforce their criminal gang orders

and rules by violence and intimidation. The majority of major street and prison gang leaders are serving life sentences. “Yet, gang leaders are still able to lead street gang activity while incarcerated” (Kirby, Eghigian, Petrenko, & Wagner, 2006, p. 199).

The existing literature suggested that terrorists are aware that prison gang activity is a moneymaking enterprise. The criminal power of prison gangs has become legendary and this power has given way to new terrorist and gang concerns by law enforcement officials. There is a major concern that terrorists are now connecting with gangs in prison. These concerns are reflected in the following testimony:

America faces what could be an enormous challenge if most radicalized prisoners become a potential terrorist recruit. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales recently stated that “[t]he threat of homegrown terrorist cells-radicalized online, in prisons and in other groups of socially isolated souls may be as dangerous as groups like al Qaeda, if not more so. They certainly present new challenges to detection” (Gonzales, testimony, 2007).

Lyman (1989) indicated that, for year’s alliances between gangs and terrorists may have caused gang recruitment in US prisons and jails. Beckford, Joly and Khosarokhavar, (2005) examined prison life among ethnic groups in Britain and France. A look at racism in foreign prisons has demonstrated that minorities particularly Black or African inmates suffer the same disenfranchisement in Britain and France as Blacks who are incarcerated in the US. As such, prison facilities are prime breeding grounds for potential domestic terrorist formations (This statement does not advocate that Blacks or

African Americans are more susceptible to terrorism than any other ethnic group or race). This form of swayed radical mindset and thought nurtures the psyche of gang members who are already predisposed to violent criminal activity and thinking. Such possibilities are found in the following passage:

The threat of terrorists recruiting in US prisons was highlighted in October 2003 during a hearing before the US Senate Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security which identified two major areas of concern in the US Federal Prison system. First, varieties of socioeconomic and psychological factors make inmates vulnerable to radical ideology. Second, groups known to support terrorist causes have distributed radical literature to the prison population. Although the extent of the problem was not determined, witnesses stated that serious problems with the screening of religious service providers have created an opportunity for radicalization. (Bogis, 2006, p. 1)

In contrast, Kontos (2003) implied that, the level of political and religious consciousness of prison gang members often varies based on their level of education and social awareness. Prison gang members searching to gain a new revelation through ideology, religion and politics often join specific organizations. One example of how prison gang members establish which group they will join is expressed through the following gang interview.

The basis of it is the Muslim help (sic) em, you know, the Christian, so people get influenced by different people that's already in prison, so ...

Plus prison slows you down. You can't move around in there like you can out here, so people have a lot of time to think, you know, so they stop (sic) readin' more, so they, then they start (sic) reachin' they self and then some say. Ok, well, I'm (sic) gonna put God in my life and try to have some spiritual balance. (Interview, 15 June 1999, as explored by Kontos, 2003, p. 104)

Potential Terrorist Collaborations

Law enforcement and watchdog groups have great concern that gangs and radical terrorist groups could potentially band together to conduct even greater crimes. Gangs are predisposed to conducting serious criminal acts of violence and crime for money and power, so there is anticipation by lawmakers that gangs will connect with terrorists in prison. Experts, Bergen, 2001; Esposito, 2002 and Stern, 2003 suggested that, gangs are nothing more than “*urban-terrorists*”. Terrorists like gang members separately distinguish themselves with different ideologies and philosophies. Although terrorists appear to be little more than a gang of criminals, terrorists feel offended when compared to criminals. Terrorists groups operate much like criminal gangs which often exploit disenfranchised individuals through various religious affiliations and economic classes.

Interestingly enough, terrorism examiners observe that, Al-Qaeda operatives have admitted that their organization is highly tiered and recruits individuals from all lifestyles but does not allow Africans in their upper ranks (Bergen, 2001; Esposito, 2002 and Stern, 2003). In contrast, other researchers speculated that, the Black Guerilla Family BGD has aligned themselves with disenfranchised individuals and Black gangs who may have direct

links to other domestic subversive group's o include terrorists. There also appeared to be other collaborations which also raise speculations such as; the possibility there may be recruitment actions taking place between the Black Guerrilla Family prison gang and the Black Liberation Army which are known as an anti-government and domestic terrorist organizations. It is questioned whether both organizations recruit and align themselves with radical groups as the Crips, Bloods, El Rukhns and Gangster Disciples Street gangs in prison as well as on the streets (Lyman, 1989).

According to Kirby (2006) the Italian Mafia LCN has used gang members to conduct violence, murder and other criminal acts to keep themselves out of the public eye and off the radar screens of law enforcement. Therefore, it should not appear far-fetched for terrorist groups to do the same by using prison or street gangs in plain-view. It is noteworthy for researchers to further explore the potential reaches of both organizations abilities to conduct criminal and terrorist activity within the borders of the US. Transnational and global crime syndicates are forging new criminal alliances with other major crime groups for financial gain. There is little definitive evidence linking street gangs to other organized crime groups however; there are identified possible and known connections (Kirby, 2006).

Lance (2003) suggested that in 1996, Gregory Scarpo, Jr., the son of a capo for the Colombo Organized Crime Family was an inmate on the same tier as Ramzi Yousef at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, Lower Manhattan, New York. Reportedly, Yousef and Scarpo, Jr. became friendly with each other and talked on a daily basis leading to an unlikely alliance. At one point, "The federal government considered using Scarpo, Jr. as

an informant to obtain valuable information about other terrorist plots believed organized by Osama bin Laden” (Lance, 2003, p. 338). Sociopathic thinking and greed to some extent has caused some gang leaders around the country to devote more violent criminal actions with major US Prison gangs such as; the Mexican Mafia, Mexicanemi and Texas Syndicate (Orlando-Morningstar, 1997, as referenced by Peterson, 2004, p. 162).

Law enforcement officials have speculated that, The Mexican Mafia Prison Gang (La Eme) is involved in illegal and corrupt prison gang activity across the US. Kirby et al. (2006) explained the Mexican Mafia has major criminal ties to drug gangs such as, the Mara Salvatrucha MS-13. The Mexican Mafia Prison Gang is the leadership of both prison and street gangs using their long reaching tentacles to commit violence, criminal activity and a new criminal trend of terrorist smuggling within the US and Mexico. “The Mexican Mafia maybe linked with the Mara Salvatrucha MS-13 Street Gang as their leader and partner in crime while conducting major criminal activity” (Kirby, Eghigian, Petrenko, & Wagner, 2006, p. 38). MS-13 is one of three specific gangs studied in this research as having potential terrorist ties.

Terrorist-Gang Enterprise Networks

Sageman (2004) defined a network as, “A group of individuals who unite for a common cause or connections through nodes or links” (Sageman, 2004, p. 137). Kirby, et al. (2006) indicated that the transnational alliances between the Mexican Cartels and US Prison gangs such as the Mexican Mafia suggested, “That organized criminals are capable of conducting global criminal enterprises together” (Kirby, et al., 2006, p. 214). Law enforcement sources suggest that these two gangs maybe directing their criminal

activities towards more lucrative activities such as human smuggling. The Mexican Mafia is directing MS-13 in the US and its territories and is believed to be conducting smuggling operations in the US. To support this concept, “Mexican media stations have noted several occasions where MS-13 is said to have smuggled drugs, illegal immigrants and potential terrorists through Mexico into US cities as far away as Boston, Massachusetts” (Kirby, et al., 2006, pp. 37-38).

Sageman (2004) added that the criminal hub or social network is vulnerable because most communications pass through this network. Moaddel (2005) stated that, “All ideologies display a hierarchy of constraints while some are the core and while others are peripheral”. “The Jihad is resilient to random arrests of its members but, fragile to attacks on its hubs or smaller groups of terrorists” (Moaddel, 2005, p. 18). Sageman (1998) stated, the face of terrorism have changed through new rationales, targets and motivations.

White (2006) reported that, the following established terrorist and criminal enterprises identity fraud, money laundering, human and illicit drug trafficking are only a few of several criminal activities currently being conducted by both terrorists and gangs. “These terrorist enterprises specifically narco-terrorism facilitates terrorism on American soil” (White, 2006, p. 78). Kirby et al. (2006) advised, “There are specific indicators such as terrorist enterprises i.e. (identity fraud) that are believed to be potential connections between terrorists and the Chicago Latin Kings gang activity” (Kirby, et al., 2006, p. 194). “Criminal aid may be a major factor in Osama bin Laden’s (deceased) success, his

personal fortune and global connections greatly assisted in the development of his resources and followers” (see Anonymous, 2003, as reviewed by Kirby, 2006, p. 29).

This research examined if terrorist recruitment of US-based gangs is actually occurring. Additional objectives are to examine the extent of the causation, antisocial behavior and mindset indicators to answer if they are evident in US-based gangs. This study provided a better understanding on how US-based gangs maybe used by terrorist groups to conduct domestic criminal and terrorist acts of violence within the boundaries of the US.

Beckford, et al. (2005) further explained that, some ethnic groups in Britain and France embrace religious radicalism as a way of belonging rather than embracing socio-economic oppression as experienced by ethnic groups in America. Beckford, et al. (2005) also argued that Muslims as well as ethnic groups who may endure ruthless encounters through oppression often become sympathizers of Osama bin Laden who taught that, “Ethnic groups and the oppressed are kept down by the Americans” (Beckford, et al.; 2005, p. 222).

Radical and Religious Terrorist Manipulation

Clarke (2004) has speculated that US-based gangs may fall prey to radical terrorist recruitment through fanatical religion, monetary gain or by some other forms of coercion to join the ranks of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations.

According to Knox (2002) who has extensively examined several gangs to include the Conservative Vice-Lords Gang suggested that, Islamic beliefs within the CVL may justify a greater analysis of the gang’s strategic threat as a national security risk. Knox

also theorized that the once CVL leader “Willie Lloyd may have introduced the Muslim religion of Islam into the gang while in prison as a way to reach other inmates for recruitment and economic gain” (Knox, 2002, p. 133). There is no certain proof that US-based gangs are expanding their operations abroad; as law enforcement and intelligence agencies continue to search for possible evidence supporting domestic and transnational gang actions. As long as criminal conditions facilitate an expansion and a market for illicit goods, it is likely that gang expansion may continue. Gangs may find means of connecting their business enterprises with international criminal or terrorist organizations.

Many major ethnic groups in the US are currently finding themselves falling below the status quo in terms of socio-economic status. Many individuals from these disenfranchised ethnic groups are finding attractions to criminal activities to make ends meet. Many individuals are turning to criminal activity as an alternative means of survival and are finding themselves as members of notorious street or prison gangs. According to Klein (1995) who suggested because gang members often see themselves as disenfranchised, gang members often determine that the only way to survive and get the attention of the government to address what they consider as failing social actions is to turn to violent criminal actions.

Unlike many studies of gangs which usually show a general continuation of early gang behavior and social studies, Kirby (2006) attempted to cover real-time gang dynamics by giving a more accurate depiction of gang activity in America. There are no comprehensive research studies available through open source information which looks at the potential correlation between gangs and terrorism and WMD. Kirby (2006)

commented in the Chicago Gang Book that, “There is a potential for terrorist-gang activity” (Kirby, 2006, pp. 194-195) but; does not make any terrorist-gang and WMD connections. Kirby (2006) does not explain in any depth the specifics of both past and present terrorism activities of the MS-13, Latin Counts, El Rukhns and Gangster Disciples Street Gangs.

Gang and Terrorist Psychosocial Indicators

Limited information and research has been conducted about the socialization and recruitment efforts of terrorists. It is conceivable that due to both gang and terrorists antisocial conduct; there is a parallel of mental and social behaviors, which are seen in both gang members and terrorists. Although social scientists and researchers have significantly studied the mindset and behavior of gang members for several decades; there have not been many research studies correlating the social behavior patterns and mindset between gangs and terrorists. There appears to be several similarities and comparisons to be further explored between the two groups. The antisocial behavior and sociopathic personality of gangs may have significant parallels with terrorist behavior. As such, gangs feel socially disenfranchised and economically deprived as US citizens. Clarke (2004) supported that Al-Qaeda or the Taliban Terrorist Organizations can manipulate this type of gang mindset and behavior.

Both violent gangs and terrorist groups are different in many ways the common thread that both groups may have is their antisocial behavior and propensity for extreme violence. Initial research study efforts on terrorist mindsets and psychology focused on the individual terrorist and not the group. These studies according to Tucker (2001) who

found early terrorist studies flawed due to a lack of adequate study participants. “Some individuals revealed traits of narcissistic and sociopathic behaviors as well as paranoia” (Tucker, 2001, pp. 271-272). Reich (1998) also contends that, terrorists enjoy belonging to a group and staying isolated from normal society. This type of mindset is similar to the gang-mindset which is sociopathic in nature. Sociopaths refuse to conform to normal societal standards; rather they make their own rules. Deviants tend to group together for a common cause and see the rest of society as the enemy with whom both gangs and terrorists engage in a fantasy and real war.

Many researchers, criminologists and clinicians often confuse or interchange the meaning of antisocial behavior, psychopaths and sociopaths. For example, noted psychologist, Robert Hare (1993) stated that, in his book, “*Without Conscience*”, the choice terms reflect the users on the origins and determinants of the clinical syndrome or disorder. Hare (1993) further indicated that, social forces and early experiences forged the syndrome. Whereas, others may think that psychological, biological and genetic factors may also contribute to the syndrome may generally use the term, “psychopath”. “Antisocial behavior has much the same meaning as sociopath or psychopath which is interchangeably in some academic circles” (Hare, 1993, pp. 23-30).

Terrorist and Gang Personality Indicators

Antisocial personality is observable behavior or disposition conducted by an individual that does not reflect or conform to normal societal standards. Antisocial behavior is practically synonymous with criminal behavior. Most convicted criminals display this undesirable behavior. “Antisocial personality exhibits some of the following

physical traits: irresponsible, lack of consistency, breaking laws, physical aggression and recklessness, not all-inclusive” (Hare, 1993, pp. 23-43). Sociopaths use, “*free will*” the same as physical force against their assailants to take what they want. These individuals usually make their own rules. The mental actions of sociopaths reveal adverse social dynamics that explained why they act in certain manners. Hare (1993) explained that, most sociopaths are unable to empathize or show lack of remorse due to their strong sense of entitlement. The nonsocial physical aspect of what they are doing is apparent i.e. (violent or criminal acts).

In the book, *the Torture Debate* which stated that, “The violence of terrorists are rarely controlled by their actions, rather their actions are designed to send a message using fear and intimidation” (Hoffman, 2006, p. 229). Others may contend that the mindset of captured combatants (terrorists) is the opposite of traditional detainees (their enemies). Terrorists see themselves as armies, warriors, insurgents and militias. German (2007) stated, “Terrorists resort to acts of terrorism because they may lack neither the political power necessary to advance the groups cause through peaceful means nor the military power to move it forward by force” (German, 2007, p. 97).

Other researchers such as Gabriel (2002) wrote that the Al-Qaeda Organization is a reorganization of Egyptian followers of Osama bin Laden. Gabriel (2002) also suggested that, there are three major area tiers of strategy by Al-Qaeda: (1) the mindset of attacking American targets which teaches that radical followers should first capture the blessings of their home state, then move into the presence of the enemy establishing a following solely based on Islam. “The beliefs are if the head is captured the hands will

fall exposing the body of the enemy; (2) gaining diverse world-wide membership used to kill civilians and destroy economies, forcing the enemy to lose their will to resist or fight; (3) and the implementation of attacking smaller successful targets, to promote long lasting fear and intimidation of its enemies” (Gabriel, 2003, pp. 179-180).

Frederic Thrasher as reviewed by (Klein, 1995) said early gang studies, characterized street gang members as a bit like “*happy-go-lucky urchins*.” Modern gang researchers do not report this impression; modern researchers describe gangs as violent and sociopathic. The current consensus according to modern day gang studies indicated that some gang members share satisfying social connections and commitments which set up sub cultural values. “Gang members fail to lead satisfying lives which prepare them for mainstream society” (Klein, 1995, pp. 199-200).

Some gang members contend that they are a product of racism, urban underclass poverty, rampant deprivation, political insensitivity and the gross ignorance of urban living. The mindset of gang members are often resentful, distrustful and violent against government entities; leaving gang members to believe they are socially disenfranchised. Some psychological factors such as mental illness often combined with alcohol and drug abuse can play a major role in the violent criminal behavior in gang members.

The following statement explained why mental treatment is often ignored or unwanted. “For most gang members, therapy is far less important than education skill, job skills and a chance to break out of the peer reliance group for ego satisfaction” (Klein. 1995, pp. 71-72). Incarcerated gang members examined, treated for mental illness and other behavioral disabilities, may not have otherwise been treated or even identified

without incarceration. Several (anonymous) gang members claimed to belong to a “dysfunctional family” is the single most important factor for them wanting to become a gang member.

Some social researchers claimed that there is often the lack of guidance and discipline found in the home for the majority of gang members (Valentine, 1995). Lack of family structure is another example, which may significantly contribute to why individuals may join gangs. Valentine (1995) further suggested that, some gang members have failed to learn appropriate social skills and behavior early in life because of the lack of strong role models or male influences. Some individual gang members usually fall prey to specific anti social behavior such as criminal activity. Gang members often fail to develop appropriate social behavior, instead rely on a system and structure within a gang that reinforces relying on other gang members.

Parallel Social Influences

Gang members and terrorists alike share social influences that produce a disillusionment of reality. A gang member’s inability to assimilate into normal social settings by showing a disinterest in acquiring a formal education is often another major issue. Most gang members usually do not have a formal education and fail to make it past middle school prior to dropping out of school (Valentine, 1995). Education is usually not valued or seen as essential in gang member’s survival or criminal activity. “School aged children who join gangs are be influenced by family and social experiences which depict their success based on prestige, power or personal gain” (Valentine, 1995, p. 3). In contrast to gang members, noted researcher Krueger (2002) explained it is just the

opposite for terrorists who are usually well educated, sometimes at the college or graduate school level and even beyond (see Krueger & Maleckova, 2002, as referenced in Bongar, et al., p. 70).

While there are not many research studies conducted between the social behavior patterns, mindset of gangs and terrorists; there appeared to be several similarities and comparisons to consider. Individuals who join gangs often do so at the expense of wanting to belong to something greater than themselves. Violent US-based gangs and terrorist groups are different in many ways yet, the common thread of both groups is their antisocial behavior. This type of social diversion is nonconforming to normal societal standards. Gang members have a social sense of belonging to a group or clan through friendship or unity which they associate with a gang. Some common gang social influences found in most violent street gang members are social pressures from peers or other gang members attempting to recruit non-members. Due to limited terrorist and gang behavioral studies, there is a need to conduct comparison studies between both groups.

Klein (1995) reported that, during the 1958-69 Civil-Rights era, most urban communities felt disenfranchised by disproportionate economic status, housing and jobs. Some of these concerns have not changed in the minds of many individuals who still reside in many of the same urban communities today. Many ethnic groups living in garden cities around the US spear headed by African Americans felt they had earned the same social and civil rights as other Americans. As descendents of immigrants and former slaves individuals living in urban communities felt they had invested as much as any other groups who immigrated to the US.

According to Klein, “The federal government organized law enforcement Special Task Force Operations to silence The Black Panther Party for their political actions” (Klein, 1995, pp. 82-85). Black gangs began to organize to take up the social cause of fallen organizations such as, the Black Panther Party who had begun the fight against racial inequality. “The Black experience in America has always been dominated by Anglo-Saxon racism and oppression” (Wilmore, 1972, p. 306). Both terrorists and gangs often experience parallel social factors and feelings of oppression. There does not appear to be many social differences between gang members or terrorists. Terrorists are political and religiously connected to the group. “Gang members connect to the group through both social and criminal acceptance” (Valentine, 1995, pp. 81-85).

Both gang and terrorist activity is a socially learned behavior; it is not innate or inherited. Regardless of the social, global, race or cultural makeup, the majority of gang members and terrorists learn antisocial behavior through group socialization with other members within the group network. This type of behavior often translated into non-gang members being initiated into a gang as a means of group acceptance. Gangs will recruit individuals with low self-esteem, who are introverted and without a male authority figure in the home providing guidance and direction. “Gangs recruit individuals who are in need of companionship or lack strong family and friendship connections” (Kirby, 2006, pp. 238-240).

Individuals who have low self-esteem and are introverted are usually unsuccessful at joining school groups or sports teams. Other non-gang individuals may need protection or security from neighboring gang factions in their communities and school. Many gang

members when asked reported that their parents are gang associates are have belonged to gangs themselves; therefore parents may not intervene when their children are recruited by gangs. According Keegan (2004) as referenced by Chicago Police, Gang Intelligence Commander Mike Cronin; “He (Cronin) often stops gang members who are the sons and daughters of gang members he has previously arrested for similar crimes” (Keegan, 2004, as referenced by Kirby, et al., 2006, p. 94).

“Gang members often blame their inability to join the socio-economic status quo as the cause of an individual’s inability to receive and maintain jobs” (Klein, 1995, p. 79). Once gang members have conducted criminal activity, they remain part of a gang often ignored or; not taken serious as a trustworthy prospect in the work force. In the late 1970s, Erlanger (1974) argued that, “The increase in youth gangs were a direct result of the radical and political movements of the 1960s which failed to successfully address the long term needs of both ghettos and barrios in the US” (Brotherton & Barrios, 2004, p. 43).

“Gang members do not feel like they have a place in society except for the place they create through criminal activity and extreme violence for survival” (Klein, 1995, pp. 74-76). Gang members report that normal society is unwilling to accept them as a viable and worthy entity. Gangs and terrorists have created their own society, a microcosm or subculture within the rest of society where both groups set their own rules. The majority of gang members do not expect to live past 20 years of age. The average age of most gang members is between the ages of 13 and 18 years old.

Several primary gang motives are respect, money, greed and guns. Regardless of the demographics of gang members, “respect” is critical to the survival of gang members. Gang members often demand respect but, are unwilling to give it. Receiving respect from rivals is necessary for gangs as well as individual members to sustain their violent criminal interests hold on to their turf where they conduct criminal activity as deterrence against other rival groups (Kirby, 2006).

An example of covert use of gangs for extralegal and terrorist functions is found in research on Jamaican Posse Gangs. The two examples of terrorism cited, (as referenced by McFadden, 1993) related to overt and traditional criminal gang activity which failed to focus on terrorist actions and use of BW and CW while using weapons of mass destruction (Knox, 1998).

Law Enforcement Response to Terrorism and Gang Activity

Terrorism on US soil did not become a major concern until September 11, 2001. In reference to the gang problem in America, the key buzzwords of the day remain prevention, intervention and suppression of gang activities. Some of the more prevalent programs used in the larger metropolitan communities that have significant gang problems which include: *the Illinois Attorney General’s Program; the Los Angeles Bridges Program, in Los Angeles, California; and the National Gang Resistance Program, Education and Training Program (G.R.E.A.T)*, which are a series of suppression projects.

Other community approaches include such as Federal Gang Prevention, Intervention, Suppression and Safe Futures Program. The effectiveness of these programs

usually depends on the implementation and staffing (Klein, 1995; Rush, 2001). Many gang programs are usually a futile attempt at gang suppression and intervention. In addition, nothing more than a wasteful attempt at trying to buy or arrest our way out of gang problems and other criminal activity. Gang initiatives, government grants, are all quick fix responses for politicians and lawmakers to show their voters that they are doing something about the ever-growing gang problem in America. Other growing developments of street gangs and crime has resulted in the formation of other large scale gang control programs which point to the need to rethink certain approaches and uses of gang control methods and initiatives (Klein and Maxson, 2006).

Some terrorist spending initiatives introduced by the US Government after the September 11, 2001 included: *Transportation Security Reform; International Passenger Fly Lists Reform and Physical Airport Security* which are major irritations that continue to confuse American citizens who often ask why passenger profiling is necessary for air travelers. Bongar, et al. (2007) suggested that, “The public often ignore increased security measures and the impact of government warnings, if specific measures failed to show effective action, causing additional stress on air travelers” (Bongar, et al., 2007, p. 24).

Fear, intimidation and violence reinforce terrorism when used as a tool for achieving political goals. Terrorism Reform similar to Gang Initiatives are political concessions from the government which may reward terrorists with greater support from those who may not yet be in full support of the terrorist group (German, 2007). Terrorist groups have shown success in getting governments to spend astronomical amounts of money to combat potential violent attacks.

Terrorists have been successful at placing fear and intimidation into the hearts and minds of American citizens. In response to these fear tactics, the US government has attempted to address terrorism through questionable spending which has proven to be as effective as a paper tiger with teeth. Domestic terrorists and individual extremists conduct the majority of terrorist activity in the US for political or anti-government reasons (Gunter & Levin, 2011). Since the September, 2001 Terrorist attack, the US has feared that other acts of terrorism are yet to come. The greatest fear of US law enforcement and intelligence agencies tasked with combating terrorism is preparedness for weapons of mass destruction attack.

2.5 Gangs and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

Whereas, the existing literature failed to propose whether there is any significant correlation between gangs, terrorism and WMD. As previously noted this study found that the mix of terrorists, gangs and WMD is plausible but; gangs and WMD combined shows no relations in the existing literature. This study hypothesized that, terrorist organizations are acquiring the capability to covertly operate and recruit US-based gang members to conduct terrorist activity inside the US. The possibility that gang members are already inclined to conduct violent criminal activity and would readily accept monetary payment from terrorists to commit domestic acts of terrorism using WMD inside the US.

Preventing a biological or chemical terrorist-gang attack as a terrorist deployment requires understanding and new knowledge in the field of Gangs, Terrorism

and WMD. Additional and timely training, intelligence information and resources deterring such a domestic attack within the US in the near future will assist law enforcement and intelligence capabilities to be better prepared against such an attack. There is no existing evidence of gangs displaying the intent of using weapons of mass destruction inside the US; but based on this study, it is conceivable that this type of terrorist action is plausible.

2.6 Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

Klein (1995) speculated that, “Writings on terrorist gangs are generally provided by journalists rather than social scientists” (Klein, p. 22). Klein (1995) further suggested, law enforcement and intelligence agencies must prepare and coordinate proactively against potential subversive attacks (Klein, 1995; Lance, 2003).

Some experts such as Zilinskas (2003) suggested that, terrorists are potentially interested in BW because they are mass casualty weapons which allow their users to promote fear and intimidation. The usage of BW weapons may enable terrorists to effectively sicken or even worse cause death to their enemies. If their enemy lacks proper training or protective gear, the fear of such an attack using a biological weapon BW may also cause severe and prolonged psychological affects leaving enemy communities totally annihilated (Zilinskas, 2003).

Biological Weapons Availability and Usage

Shortly after World War I, the potential global use of biological weapons started to escalate. Arguably, one of the reasons biological weapons failed as an innovation is

due to scarce funding for non-traditional methods of war to be developed and tested. For over 50 years, the former Soviet Union was able to maintain one of the largest biological programs in the world. Shortly after the dissolution of the Soviets BW program in 1992. Russian scientists found themselves without work, a number of scientists found their way to third world countries which support terrorism such as: Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and Syria (Weinstein & Alibek, 2003). According to Weinstein and Alibek (2003) some scientists left Russia with biological and chemical materials used to develop new and more deadly bio-weapons. “Due to the hiring and relocation of scientists, there is a potential that unknown sources of deadly weapons may have found their way into the hands of terrorist organizations that now employ former Russian bio-scientists” (Weinstein & Alibek, 2003, p. 3).

While there are no reports of gangs conducting acts of terrorism using biological or chemical weapons in the US. There have been domestic attacks by extremists. In 1994, the Minnesota Patriots Militia group attempted to use ricin beans to kill government officials. In 1995, a suspected domestic terrorist Larry Wayne Harris planned to use a biological weapon using anthrax but, was later acquitted. Terrorists may wittingly or unwittingly place a BW or CW devices as an act of terrorism for monetary gain or may be influenced to conduct such actions due to a radical change in religion (Guillemin, 2005).

“In 1984 Dulles, Oregon the Rajneesh Religious Cult, used salmonella in 10 restaurants which all were unsuccessful” (Bongar, et al., 2007, p. 96; Cirincione, 2005, p. 12). A month later, “A White Supremacist group in Ohio ordered three vials of plague

from the American Type Culture Collection catalog” (Alibek, et al., p. 279). During the past several decades, terrorist attempts to acquire biological agents within the US have been dismal. Almost all attempts to use biological agents including hundreds of anthrax hoaxes have failed. Bongar (2007) revealed that, the difficulty to weaponize and deploy biological agents has shown only two significant terrorists usage of WMD against US citizens. The Aum Shinrikyo, Oregon-based Terrorist Organization attempted use of botulinum toxin to poison salad bars to further the group’s terrorist cause.

Currently there are only three successfully recorded BW attacks which have been verified during modern times: (1) by the Japanese during World War II using bubonic plague; (2) in Oregon 1984, Aum Shrinkyo Cult infected a salad bars with salmonella; (3) and in 2001, a terrorist sent anthrax through the US mail. Barry (2004) suggested that a successful biological attack could lead to short and long term negative effects on community infrastructures. The economy could also see major destruction and devastation (see Barry, 2004; Cole, 2003; Zilinskas, 2000).

A recent example of a foiled attack against the US using WMD explosives was reported on January 6, 2010 when Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, a 23-year-old Nigerian national was charged in a criminal indictment for his alleged role in the attempted Christmas Day Bombing of Northwest Airlines (Flight 253) from Amsterdam, Netherlands, to Detroit, Michigan. “The saboteur was captured in the US while attempting to use an explosive weapon of mass destruction on an aircraft within the US in effort to commit a terrorist act” (Department of Justice, FBI, 2009, para. 1-8).

Potential Biological and Chemical Use by Terrorists

The US could face attacks from Al-Qaeda or from other terrorist countries such as: Yemen, Pakistan, Syria, North Korea, Iran, Iraq and the Horn of Africa all of whom have the capability of using biological or chemical weapons against the US. Another US concern is whether a strike could potentially employ either chemical or biological weapons rather than the use of an explosive device (Zilinskas, 2000). Another concern is the US may face potential terrorist attacks from domestic gang members who have converted to radical-Islam religion and may be inclined to conduct terrorist based attacks against their own country (see Klein, 2006). Bukay (2004) suggested that the basic assumption of the Islamic system is that Western countries and their allies maintain nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons therefore, so should Islamic countries should be able to do the same (Bukay, 2004). Zilinskas (2000) has speculated on whether or not a “*lone wolf*” or radical extremist may be self training and preparing to pose a future domestic threat as well (Tucker, 1996; as cited by Zilinskas, 2000). While no one knows if, where or when the next terrorist attack could potentially take place; US lawmakers, biodefense scientists, law enforcement and the intelligence community remain concerned that the next terrorist strike could be one of many types to include an explosive bomb, biological or chemical attack (Alibek & Handleman, 2000).

Currently the potential for terrorist backed countries to acquire and use biological and chemical weapons against their enemy states as weapons of mass destruction is overwhelmingly high (Alibek, et al., 1999). During a June, 1990 speech by former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (deceased) who stated, “We will strike at them (Israel) with all

the arms in our possession if they attack Iraq or the Arabs . . . Whosoever strikes at the Arabs, we will strike back from Iraq” (Baghdad Radio, 1990 as cited by Zilinskas, 2000, p. 32). Subject matter experts such as, Kaplan and Marshall, (1996) have long speculated that, major and smaller countries alike continue to stock pile aging and defective biological and chemical weapons in fear that without a massive stock pile enemy countries may fall vulnerable to other countries with such capabilities. While the ease of obtaining, making and deploying chemical and biological weapons inside the US; scientists and others use the concept, “*bioprospecting*”, or looking for bioactive compounds in natural plants, animals, microorganisms and water to make lethal mixtures (Kaplan & Marshall, 1996).

There exists a potential for domestic attack to occur utilizing natural pathogens with an enhanced virulence level possessing lethal compounds (Kaplan & Marshall, 1996; Garrett, 1995; Patrick, 1994; Mukerjee, 1994, as cited by Zilinskas, 2000). This type of covert planning potentially with a little more ingenuity could easily become either a biological or a chemical attack. Alibek (2000) indicated, customarily governments have thought of national security measures as protecting vital international infrastructures such as (water, air and ground borders) part of safeguarding international boundaries from foreign attack. “Early detection is the best method of biological defense” (Alibek, 2000, p. 284). In the US, it is believed that biological terrorist attacks are plausible. Most terrorist attacks and indicators of such a magnitude currently appear possible but, unlikely at the present time. Such biological terrorist-gang attacks should not be dismissed as impossible, only unlikely at the present time. While there is little agreement

among first responders how to best coordinate and protect against biological attacks (Alibek, 2000).

The security of the US is paramount and must ensure that a BW attack will not take place. It is plausible, that a singular group attack, such as: gangs, terrorist or individual WMD maybe more feasible than a combination of them all taking place at once. No one can say for sure what the motivations; mindset or cause will or could be to spark a WMD event. Therefore, it is the contention of this study that proactive measures are better at preventing potential terrorist actions rather than fielding a reactive attempt of deterrence. The existing literature examined in some detail the relations between terrorism and WMD; there are no identified links between gangs, terrorists and WMD.

2.7 Gangs, Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction

This study reviewed seven areas: gangs, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, gangs and terrorism, gangs and WMD, terrorism and WMD, gangs, terrorism and WMD proposing that there are several indications these linkages may exist. This study also examined the alliances and plausibility between gangs, terrorist and the use of WMD.

This research can significantly assist US law enforcement, intelligence agencies, homeland security, policy and security spending with proactive measures against potential domestic terrorist attacks in the near future. This research has explored other areas of interest to US law enforcement and intelligence agencies reference the behavior and social relationships between US-based gangs and terrorist groups.

Potential Terrorist, Gang and WMD Usage

According to two of the leading authorities in biological and chemical weapons respectively Alibek (1999) and Handleman (2003) there are growing fears of hostile countries or terrorists with the capability to strike the US using bio-chemical means (Alibek & Handleman, 1999). There is little existing literature of terrorist-gang encounters using biological and chemical weapons. The majority of literature on terrorist-gang interactions is mainly in relation to prison radicalization and not potential WMD usage. Existing research has failed to explore combined gang and terrorist activity within the US but, widely covers foreign terrorist attacks and threats in other countries. Law enforcement must proactively explore all potential terrorist threats to the US. In addition, existing research has revealed that there is some validity of gangs switching from Christianity to radical Islam which is a major threat to US national security but, has failed to connect the dots with potential terrorists, gangs and WMD usage. While there are believed to be several US-based gangs with the potential to connect with terrorists organizations in carrying out domestic threats against the US. Some research experts contend that terrorist-gang prison recruitment for unknown reasons does exist (Klein, 2006; Kontos, et al., 2003).

Kirby, et al. (2006) indicated that, there has been wide speculation by the media and other non-law enforcement entities that MS-13 has terrorist links with Al-Qaeda terrorist cells and the Los Zetas Mexican gang and Drug Trafficking Organization. These drug trafficking organizations due to significant criminal global affiliations are currently being targeted by US and Mexican law enforcement in connection with terrorist activity

in both countries (Kirby, et al., 2006). The MS-13 gang and the Los Zetas Drug Trafficking Organization have the ability to conduct criminal activity such as alien smuggling in the US and Mexico. Such actions may also allow terrorists and gangs to smuggle WMD as well.

Current Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Developments

According to Carafano, et al. (2011) reported that, “The following six terrorist plots since September, 2001 using weapons of mass destruction WMD in the US have been recorded as (explosive devices) rather than traditional biological explosive devices:

- February, 2011 a Saudi citizen, studying in Lubbock, Texas was arrested by the FBI after placing an order for the toxic chemical phenol to make a weapon of mass destruction (explosive device).
- December, 2010 an American citizen arrested for conspiring to bomb a military recruiting center in Maryland and attempted murder of federal employees and the attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction (explosive device).
- May, 2010, a naturalized Pakistan citizen, plead guilty to conspiring to detonate a weapon of mass destruction (explosives) in an SUV vehicle parked in Times Square, New York.
- September, 2009, federal investigators foiled a plot by a terrorist suspect to use weapons of mass destruction (TATP explosives) in a New York subway.

- June, 2008, a US citizen from Columbus, Ohio joined Al-Qaeda in the 1990s and involved in conspiring to kill Americans overseas and; was arrested for conspiring to use weapons of mass destruction (explosives).
- August, 2004, eight members of a terrorist cell were arrested for a plot to attack the New York Stock Exchange and other financial institutions. The plot described a “*memorable black day of terror*” where the attempt of a dirty bomb was foiled“ (Carafano, McNeill, Zuckerman, 2011, pp. 1-18).

Ainscough (2002) predicted that, “The US will be threatened with not only biological attacks but; emerging infectious diseases, as well as genetically engineered agents, potentially one of the country’s greatest biological challenges. “A new tactic of bioterrorism is the production of genetically engineered agents which may resist known vaccines and antidotes” (Ainscough, 2002, pp. 1-12). Genetic engineering is the process of human manipulation and transfer of functional genes (DNA) between two biological organisms. Organisms with altered characteristics can increase the survivability of such a gene increasing its strength and survivability to existing drugs and vaccines.

The expertise to produce new strains of viruses and bacteria for bioweapons can be conducted in most university labs. “Some American scientists predict that it will take approximately 20 years of engineering research before genetic engineering will effectively make current biological defenses completely ineffective and obsolete against BW attacks” (Ainscough, 2002, pp. 1-12).

As biotechnology continues to advance, so will the expertise of those who choose to use it for terroristic and criminal use. The good news is, the criminal advancement

and technological knowledge is not currently as sophisticated as previously expected due to several constraints. Efforts to successfully conduct a biological attack would depend on several factors (the selection, growth of the correct pathogen, containment, proper conditions and dissemination process) which are not as easy as one would expect. Although biological weapons are a threat as the US was made aware by the 2001, Anthrax attacks. The US has not received an additional recorded biological terrorist attack to date. There may be no specific knowledge or indicators which reflect terrorist recruitment of gangs for biological usage; but this study's contentions are specifically designed to address these potential threats. There have been no recorded biological attacks in the US by gang members; most biological plots conducted in the US have been by domestic extremists and lone individuals.

21st Century Terrorists, Gang and Other Criminal Groups

Future 21st century gang research should further examine the gang criminal trends, integration and expansion which give a better explanation of how US-based gangs has evolved to their present state of gang activity. While gangs and their related antisocial activity have become commonplace in American society, researchers must recognize that gang criminal behavior and activity is an evolving phenomena. Keeping up with the social behavior and futuristic criminal enterprises conducted by gangs enable gang researchers and law enforcement investigators to keep close watch and have a better understanding of future threats from gangs.

Gang specialist and social researcher Brotherton (2004) suggested that new millennium gangs and their criminal activity have significantly changed since their

infamous rise to national notoriety during the 1960s. The resurgence of US-based gangs in the new millennium may be the most significant gang development period since the 1960s Gang Formation Movement which established street and prison gangs as two of the most viable criminal organizations in America (Brotherton, 2004).

The current gang growth and development of “super gangs,” has in part motivated this study. US-based gangs may be a source of recruitment by terrorist groups. This concept is based on the ability street and prison gangs ability to build a gang hierarchical alliance together. Organized gangs and terrorists can achieve an alliance through innovative thinking and global coordination with other organized criminals. This research examined the connection or alliances emerging between terrorists and US-based gangs. The focus of this study narrowed the research and concentrate on the potential ability of the Mara Salvatrucha MS-13, Gangster Disciples and the Crips Street gangs to interact with terrorists. These three major US-based gangs have the most significant predisposition and ability to connect with terrorist groups. This research focused on the potential abilities, influences, operational means and intent of these gangs to support terrorists.

Gangs Building Global Criminal Alliances

Modern day gangs (1960s to the present) began a new era that produced a criminal enterprise focusing on drugs and other illegal criminal activity within the US. Cozic (1996) suggested that gangs found intricate ways of reorganizing and building both influential alliances and affiliations with other foreign and domestic criminal groups (Cozic, et al., 1996). There are presumably several major American Street gangs

operating in over 56 foreign countries and there are approximately 30,000 gang members within the US and its territories. US law enforcement reports, currently predict that US-based street gangs will continue to organize and operate criminal enterprises to include terrorist activities. Some gang researchers believe that terrorist groups are connecting in US-based Prisons and jails (Klein, 2002).

US-based gangs have the far-reaching ability to connect with foreign criminals, and fight for greater superiority and turf control over drug and money flow within the US (Lyman, 1989). The building alliances between criminals and terrorist organizations could potentially cause “super gangs” to become more susceptible to terrorist recruitment for other moneymaking ventures. This study examined the ability of gangs to expand their criminal activities through associations with terrorists.

It was the contention of Knox (2002) that, CVL has far-reaching tentacles outside the US and maintains the ability to connect with terrorists. Knox further offered that foreign terrorists may have attraction to American gang members of all ethnic origins due to their ability to provide weapons, etc, communicate through the internet and other various means from prison (Knox, 2002). The gang threat analysis conducted by Knox, et al. (2002) graded the Gangster Disciples and the Vice Lords Gangs as two of ; “The most dangerous gangs in America giving them a 9.0 and 9.25 respectively on a 10 point scale of dangerousness compared to other gangs” (Knox, 2002, p. 134).

Immigrant Alliances and Enterprises

Today’s immigrants did not begin their new life in America as gang members; but may have become ruthless gang members to provide protection from encroaching

rivals for personal protection and to make a living. Immigrants who turned to crime and gangs often state that this is the only means of making a living in the US. Most immigrants entering into the US have limited work skills to make a living. Criminal groups often, recruit them to do their criminal bidding and take the risks of jail if caught. Because there are very few opportunities offered to illegal immigrants entering the US, it is suggested by some social researchers that, illegal immigrants could be used by gangs to carry out very serious atrocities for the right price (Klein, et al., 2006).

An alliance among terrorist groups and gangs may provide an opportunity for domestic attack in plain-view which may not have been feasible in the past. Today's vast global economy is currently allowing international cooperation's and businesses to development through the connection of global commodities and infrastructures. Lyman, (1989) stated the dwindling supply and demand for major commodities added to the growing numbers of social and economic factors plaguing most nations. Because foreign countries have a need to do business together, some countries have been able to forge partnerships and liaisons that have aided economic development. For future growth and economic sustainment, countries must find innovative ways to conduct more conducive international business partnerships (Lyman, 1989).

Major enterprising businesses in most countries are exploring new ideas which will allow global businesses to create more successful ventures through the development of partnerships. As businesses grow and become more profitable as international relationships will develop while influencing global partnerships. It is conceivable the same kind of relationship could occur between criminal gangs and terrorist groups. The

forging of supply and demand business relationships could cause the development of a new form of terrorism in the US. The failure of other countries such as Canada, Mexico, as well as the US to address the problem of weak borders and illegal immigration laws has allowed greater criminal alliances to be established (Bender, 1996).

According to Bender (1996) international criminal organizations are likely to follow traditional immigration patterns and seek entrance into the US causing wide spread turmoil in border towns and areas where criminal activity is rising which will likely push border crime further into the US (Bender, 1996). Border countries which are able to maintain good business practices show how global businesses can thrive.

Criminal affiliations and illegal business expansion between US-based gangs and other international criminal groups may mimic similar business practices while facilitating criminal activities such as extortion, drug trafficking and random violence (Rush, 2001).

At the center of this controversy, is the question of how to stop increased foreign criminal enterprises in the US?

Criminal Enterprise Connections

Failing infrastructure to include social and economic programs, public corruption and a crashing economy has led to the down fall of urban prosperity. Residents of major urban cities across America are looking for social reform and see no hope. Peterson (2004) advised that, some prosperity may come through engaging in illegal criminal activity. Individuals who are part of low socio-economic status may be only one piece of the growing crime problem (Peterson, 2004).

US-based gangs are expanding internationally and their expansion appears to be unlimited and unsystematic. Major US-based gangs are operating in Australia, Asia, Canada, the Caribbean, Central America, Europe, Mexico, South America and New Zealand (Klein, 1995). Some law enforcement analyst and researchers believe most foreign gang members could be “*homegrown*” or “*wanna-be*” gang members influenced by the media and pop-culture as seen in the US. Other criminals such as outlaw motorcycle and street gangs operate on or near US Military bases. Many US-based gangs maintain ties to foreign criminal organizations (Valentine, 1995).

Valentine (1995) reported that international law enforcement has speculated criminal gangs are involved in drug trafficking and have made alliances with other global criminal organizations and possibly with terrorists as well (Valentine, 1995). Because of the global impact of international drug organizations, organized crime syndicates and other criminal organizations; criminal alliances have ultimately facilitated US-based gang expansion abroad. With the expansion and development of criminal alliances, there is a potential for extended collaborations between foreign criminal organizations and terrorist groups.

Outlaw motorcycle and street gangs have established strong international links and a presence in many foreign countries where they currently operate. According to Valentine (1995) and other researchers, an illicit drug market and international suppliers encourage overseas gang expansion. Law enforcement also reported that US-based gangs are currently expanding faster in foreign countries than in the US and will likely continue to do so (Valentine, 1995).

Researchers have further suggested there is an influx of criminal groups participating in organized crime. There is reason to believe that gangs and other criminals have begun to increase their networking efforts to expand their criminal territory and to integrate with stronger and more structured organized criminal groups (Peterson, 2004). Steve Wambir (2005) wrote, in “Mobs Latest Trend: *Farming out hits to gang bangers*,” that traditional organized crime groups, such as the Italian Mob, are conducting criminal activity with gangs (Chicago Crime Commission Report, 2006; Cozic, et al., 1996).

Peterson (2004) noted that, US-based prison and street gangs are already inclined to conduct criminal activity for increased monetary gain. Gang members have shown no remorse or fear in trafficking in drugs, homicide, murder for hire or committing other criminal acts of violence (Peterson, 2004). Most criminal activity conducted by gang members eventually cost criminal participants their life or serious bodily injury. Gang members understand the risks, but are still willing to commit crime regardless of the risk of life and limb. Usually gang members accept taking criminal risks and are mostly motivated by monetary gain for their participation in criminal activity.

Chapter 3: Methods and Data

3.1 Mixed Methodology

The following mixed methodology was employed in the outlined survey and research strategy which allowed for the successful completion of this research. This study employed both a modified Delphi including (deliberation and discussion groups) and face to face interviews which examined the five hypotheses. Together, these two methods established a basis for examining the overarching contention of whether experts believe it is plausible that the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations could be recruiting US-based gang members to assist in criminal and biological attacks against the US.

The Delphi Method Suitability and Selection

The flexibility and ease of the original Delphi allowed it to be modified to fit the needs of this research and led to the selection of this method over other methodologies such as case study, observation and experiment. In this study the original Delphi method was modified to assist in explaining highly complex terrorist- gang biological WMD relations.

The Original Delphi Method

The original Delphi method was developed by Norman Dalkey of the RAND Corporation in the 1950s for a US sponsored military project (see Appendix: A). The Delphi method has its origins in the American business community, and has since been

widely accepted and used throughout the world. The Delphi method's flexibility has led to its use in social research, including health care, defense, business, education, information technology, transportation and engineering to explain other complex phenomena (Dalkey, 1963).

The Delphi method was designed to allow for basic adjustments and modifications without disrupting the validity of the method and its intent. The original Delphi method involved conducting over four to five rounds during a three week period. In this modified Delphi, a 105 item survey was developed to answer the five hypotheses in the areas of terrorism, gangs and weapons of mass destruction. However, it was believed that taking the survey rounds too far would cause the study participants to shop for answers leading to flawed data.

The Modified Delphi Method

The uniqueness of the original Delphi allows for modification to meet the specific needs of a study in lieu of forecasting military data as with the development of the original Delphi method. In this study, after three rounds all the questions were deemed to be adequately answered. The survey rounds were purposely modified to extend over a three day period with discussions spanning up to 12 hours or more each day. The modified Delphi also employed a quantitative measurement through use of a 105 questions survey which yielded reporting of the mean, median and standard deviation for each survey question. This modified Delphi method also yielded qualitative analysis to assist in explaining potential terrorist-gang use of WMD by combining the modified Delphi 105 survey data results and the group discussions data. The 40 face to face

interviews combined with the Delphi data and group discussions are conducive for investigating the questions posed (see Creswell, 1994).

Key Delphi Features

These minor Delphi modifications did not limit or affect the integrity of the original Delphi method intentions due to maintaining the mandatory use of the four key features. The modified Delphi method is used when there is incomplete knowledge about a problem or phenomena, which characterizes the classical Delphi method by using the four key features noted below:

Anonymity of Delphi Participant Answers: allowed all participants to openly express their opinions and have the ability to give equal in-put towards the relevance and focus of the study during testing. There were no social pressures based on rank or title from other members in the group. Decisions were evaluated and selected based on the relevance and ability to direct the study towards the next round of discussions.

Iteration: allowed the participants to build consensus in their views as each discussion round continued and each participant was able to solidify their position in light of earlier decision data.

Controlled feedback: allowed the participants to hear and see the other participant's perspectives and provided the chance for Delphi participants to clarify or change their views based on prior discussions and data made during the initial processes.

Statistical aggregation of group response: allowed for a quantitative analysis and interpretation of data which was yielded from the modified Delphi 105 survey questions.

It is a method for configuring group communication processes to assist with group

problem solving and to structure models to assist in forecasting large amounts of new information as summarized by (see Rowe, 1999; as cited by Skulmoski; etal, 2007).

Modified Delphi and Group Participant Selection

The 39 modified Delphi participants were randomly selected from a list of subject matter experts in the categories of (terrorism, gangs and weapons of mass destruction) and based on four basic requirements used in the original Delphi method. These following four basic requirements are considered essential in order to keep the integrity of both the original and modified Delphi methodologies: 1) willingness to participate in the modified Delphi; 2) participants willingness to discuss their opinions and answers to the 105 survey questions during group discussions; 3) each participant's ability to answer the five hypotheses; 4) and each participants ability to provide both work and personal experiences in the categories of: terrorism, gangs and weapons of mass destruction (see Dalkey, 1963).

Pilot Testing of the Survey Instrument Selection

There were twenty pilot-test participants randomly selected from the same list of subject matter experts and the same expert requirements were maintained. Note: these pilot participants were not used later in the Delphi survey or face to face interviews. The primary researcher contacted each of the pilot participants via e-mail or telephone in a timely manner and explained the selection process in order to take part in this study. Each pilot participant was provided the general hypothesis question which was reviewed to narrow the focus of the general hypotheses in relations to the following areas of concentration (terrorism, gangs and WMD). According the following researchers this

process ensured expert knowledge and credibility in the research design (see Adler & Ziglio 1996; Ashton 1986; Bolger & Wright 1994; Fink & Kosecoff 1985; Parente, et al; 1994, as cited in Skulmoski; et al, 2007).

3.2 Modified Delphi Data Collection

To fully understand the dynamic relationships between terrorism, gangs and weapons of mass destruction the results must be interpreted in connection with the five hypotheses. This study does point out potential and feasible actions for terrorist-gang biological attacks. The development and use of the modified Delphi survey, group discussions and face to face interviews (mixed methodology) to assist in explaining the extremely complex and potential relationships between terrorist-gangs and WMD.

This mixed methods study provided new knowledge in explaining the following relations of (terrorism, gangs and WMD) in a diverse manner contrasted with the existing literature or other conducted studies: contending that for terrorism, gangs and WMD relations to be probable, several preconditions as reflected in the five hypotheses must exist. This study is not testing these five hypotheses. Rather, this research explored the expert opinions, knowledge and beliefs which indicated whether such an attack or threat is plausible based on 1) the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban terrorists groups need or required assistance to carry out biological attacks using the recruitment tactic of gangs for monetary gain; 2) while the MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips gangs must have the willingness to carry out such an attack with the technological capability ; 3) and finally both terrorist-gang groups must have the knowledge to make such a dynamic scheme

plausible (see the end of Chapter 3: Five hypotheses). The modified Delphi may not give definitive support to each of the five hypotheses but; this instrument does explain the plausibility for such terrorist-gang connections to be considered for such biological threats and attacks to take place.

Development of Delphi Survey and Data Collection Steps

The primary researcher developed the following broad based research question based on the statement of the problem and its significance which revealed a gap in the existing literature and law enforcement intelligence. The general question is stated as; is there a potential for the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips Street Gangs to be recruited by Al-Qaeda, and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations to assist in biological attack against the United States of America for monetary gain?

The following steps explain how the modified Delphi 105 survey questions was developed and used in this study:

Step 1: A general hypothesis (broad based question) was peer reviewed by approximately 20 study participants and used as a pretest. The pilot participants were used to assist the primary researcher in developing the five hypotheses and 105 questions survey only. These pilot participants were major stakeholders in the categories of: terrorism, gangs and weapons of mass destruction that were unrelated to the later parts of this study.

Step 2: After three weeks of deliberation led by the primary researcher, the study pilot participants finally agreed to accept the new general hypothesis which stated that, Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations are recruiting for payment of US-based

gang members to assist in criminal and biological attacks against the US. Several original Delphi researchers further suggested that the expert participants were provided the general hypothesis question to brainstorm to further analyze and narrow the focus in order to yield a new general hypothesis question. Those same steps were applied in similar studies (see Delbeq et al; 1975, Schmidt, 1997 as cited in Skulmoski; et al, 2007).

Step 3: The primary researcher held further deliberations with the same team of study participants as previously mentioned in steps two and three. The participants provided the primary researcher two questions each which totaled approximately 40 questions that were finally condensed to reflect the five hypotheses used in this study (formal statement of hypotheses later in this chapter).

Step 4: The five hypotheses were then used to develop as many specific questions as related to the following seven areas of concentration (1) gangs; (2) terrorism; (3) WMD; (4) gangs and terrorism; (5) gangs and WMD; (6) terrorism and WMD; (7) gangs, terrorism and WMD. The questions which could be selected for more than one category were placed in the most relevant area.

Step 5: This process produced approximately 150 survey questions which were determined by the primary researcher and the selected study participants based on questions most agreed upon would best assess the five hypotheses.

Step 6: The primary researcher with the assistance of the pre-test participants then vetted the 150 survey questions down to 105 survey questions to be used in the modified Delphi process. The vetting process again, was based on the use of the participant's knowledge and work experience in the areas of terrorism, gangs and WMD.

Step 7: This study's research committee approved the modified Delphi 105 survey questions which were used in this study.

Step 8: The modified Delphi 105 survey questions were used with the Likert Scale of measurement which allowed each of the individual questions to be rated according to a numerical value on a scale from one to five (see Appendix: B). Each scale number was measured by selecting one of the following five indications of belief (1) strongly disagrees with the content of each question; (2) disagrees; (3) neutral; (4) agrees (5) and strongly agrees.

Step 9: The primary researcher designed a numerical scale to track the modified Delphi participant's responses after completion of the 105 survey questions (see Appendix: G and the Delphi Mapping Chart).

Step 10: The primary researcher developed a Delphi Mapping Chart from which each survey question was identified and associated with the specific hypothesis category to match the 105 modified Delphi Survey Questions. The numerical scale was designed to show the number of responses by numeric sequence in the following seven categories as they related to this research: (1) gangs; (2) terrorism; (3) WMD; (4) gangs and terrorism; (5) gangs and WMD; (6) terrorism and WMD; (7) gangs, terrorism and WMD (see Appendix: G).

Step 11: At the beginning of the modified Delphi process, the 105 survey questions was completed by the 39 research participants. Each participant completed and returned the survey instrument, testing lasted for approximately one hour. Prior to testing,

each participant was reminded of the consent form which was signed in agreement to participate (see Appendix: C).

Step 12: The results of the modified Delphi survey; for each three rounds of testing and group discussions were analyzed and recorded as findings on-site according to the research paradigm as suggested in the original Delphi (see Chapter 4; e.g. qualitative coding; or statistical summarizing; into means), (Lindstone; et al., 1975 as cited in Skulmoski, et al., 2007).

Step 13: After three rounds of testing, the 39 participants were divided into four separate discussion groups. The groups then engaged in dialogue by giving expert opinions, individual and group views based on their personal knowledge while examining the data retrieved from the five hypotheses and the 105 survey questions. The group discussions and findings were later considered as part of the overall modified Delphi results (see Chapter 4). The aggregate response results of round one testing were shared for each question which influenced the answers later found in round two testing (see Appendix: C).

Step 14: According to Schmidt (1997) as instructed in the original Delphi, the second round of survey results established the baseline of results for the last two rounds of testing (Schmidt, 1997). As such, during the second day of testing, the round two surveys were conducted and completed. Each participant was given the opportunity to review the aggregate responses of other participants during round two. Afterwards, each participant was afforded the opportunity to verify his or her own personal responses and

opinions from round one and two consistent with the overall modified Delphi paradigm (e.g. qualitative coding or statistical summarizing into means).

Step 15: After the completion of the final survey (round 3) the results were tabulated for the 39 participant results. Each participant was afforded the opportunity to verify his or her own personal responses and opinions from round one, two and three. The participant findings were then used with the modified Delphi group discussions in conjunction with the face to face interview findings to further the opinions and possibilities of terrorist, gangs and WMD relations.

Step 16: Several social science researchers promote the use of data charts which were used in this study to record the output of each of the three test rounds to verify and improve the reliability of the data (see Adler; et al., 1996; Delbeq; et al., 1975; Linstone; et al., 1975; Schmidt, 1997 as cited in Skulmoski; et al., 2007).

Step 17: Finally, after all three modified Delphi rounds of testing were complete and the data was collected, the results were verified and examined. The final research results were reported and explained using both a qualitative and quantitative methods as reported in Chapter 4. This research design used survey analysis methods, to conduct combined and separate expert group discussions pertaining to terrorism, gangs and weapons of mass destruction. Each data collection step was analyzed after each group discussions to ensure academic rigor was met.

Delphi Mapping Chart

A numerical modified Delphi Mapping Chart was used to show the number of responses and means in the following seven categories as they related to the research

results: (1) gangs; (2) terrorism; (3) WMD; (4) gangs and terrorism; (5) gangs and WMD; (6) terrorism and WMD; (7) gangs, terrorism and WMD (see Appendix G). The numerical responses are not equal in number for each specific group but, the total combined questions make up the Delphi 105 survey questions.

Face to Face Questions and Data Collection

The second part of this mixed methodology was face to face interviews. The following details reveal how the interviews were conducted:

Step 1: This process further supported the data collection and analysis of the five hypotheses by providing both validity and reliability in concurrence with the findings of the modified Delphi method as noted earlier.

Step 2: To develop the 25 face to face interview questions, the participants were asked to develop interview questions by using four randomly selected questions taken from the Mapping Questions Chart which totaled 28 questions. These 28 questions were narrowed to a total of 25 final face to face interview questions (see Appendices: E and G).

Step 3: The final 25 questions were derived from the mapping chart questions and were developed directly by the use of expert peer review participants. These pre-test participants only assisted in developing the 25 face to face questions; these participants are not associated with the data collected in the modified Delphi or the face to face interviews (see Chapter 3: Pilot Testing above).

Step 4: These questions were used to explain and evaluate the interview participant's beliefs, understanding and knowledge of terrorists, gangs and WMD as each question pertains to plausible threats and actions derived from each question.

Step 5: The interview questions assisted in the evaluation and analysis of the five hypotheses pertaining to: 1) criminal and terrorist intent; 2) terrorist recruitment and alliance strategies with US-based gangs; 3) terrorist, gang and WMD usage; 4) terrorist motivations and WMD usage directly related to the Al-Qaeda, Taliban Terrorists Organizations and the Mara Salvatrucha MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips US-Based gangs; 5) and significant socioeconomic factors, which influence terrorist and gang recruitment by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations (see Appendix: D).

Step 6: The 25 question interview responses were analyzed using the five hypotheses research questions and the mean responses of the modified Delphi survey questions and the group discussions (mixed methods) which provided a clearer more concise explanation of the data (Keil, Tiwana, & Bush, 2002 as cited in Skulmoski, et al., 2007).

Step 7: These 25 interview questions were derived from the modified Delphi 105 survey questions which were further used to explore the over arching and complex relations, additional contentions and possibilities of terrorist-gang and WMD activity in relation to the five hypotheses.

Step 8: The qualitative analysis generated by the interviews yielded additional expert opinions, beliefs, demonstrated themes and other findings which emerged from

this study. Excerpts from these interviews were used to assist in explaining the very complex findings from the modified Delphi data (see Chapters 4 and 5).

Step 9: The evaluation and the assessments of the interview participant results connected the expert opinions, knowledge and beliefs while yielding additional information and data in identifying whether the dangerous connections between terrorist recruitment of US-based gangs to use biological weapons of mass destruction actually exists.

Step 10: The data extracted from the Delphi 105 survey questions, group discussions and the 25 interview questions yielded data reflecting the five hypotheses which indicated probable and motivational prerequisites by terrorist-gang actions.

Step 11: Finally, the 25 questions, the modified Delphi 105 survey questions and group discussions data only suggests what may, can, or will occur. As such, several primary findings emerged along with other additional findings which fell outside the scope of the five hypotheses. These additional findings were analyzed and reported in Chapter 5 and provided context for those results reported in Chapter 4 (see Chapter 5: Future Implications).

Face to Face Participant Selection

Step 1: The face to face methodology randomly selected 40 interview participants resulting from a population of experts working in the fields of academics, law enforcement, intelligence, government policy and research science in and outside the jurisdiction of the US.

Step 2: The selection of the face to face interview participants in this qualitative method was also based on the four basic criteria of the original Delphi method selection process which was duplicated here. The basic criteria: 1) each participant's ability to answer the research questions; 2) time to participate in the research study; 3) effective communications 4) and the ability to provide both work and personal experiences. These basic requirements were approved by the original Delphi method and are considered essential in order to keep the integrity of this methodology (see Dalkey, 1963).

Step 3: The interview participants were contacted before the start of this research via e-mail, telephone or in person to voluntarily participate in this research without any compensation.

Step 4: The primary researcher issued each interview participant an interview consent form prior to the interviews explaining to each interviewee their rights to privacy and voluntary interview participation (see Appendix: C). Each interview participant signed this agreement indicating consent to participate. For any reason if the primary researcher was unable to conduct a participant interview an alternate plan of execution was conducted by a telephone interview when applicable.

Face to Face Interview Steps

Step 1: The face to face methodology was developed by first selecting 40 random participants with expert work experience and understanding of (terrorism, gangs, biological and weapons of mass destruction).

Step 2: The 25 face to face questions were developed by the primary researcher as an interview instrument used to solicit expert participant beliefs, opinions and

knowledge of each question used to explore the possibilities of terrorist-gang threats and actions in relations with the five hypotheses.

Step 3: The researcher did not expose or reveal the modified Delphi 105 survey questions findings or group discussions to the interviewees at the time of each interview as not to bias their responses.

Step 4: All interview participants were afforded the opportunity to express their direct views and opinions without interruption other than for clarity and understanding which allowed for a greater amount of information to be revealed based on both work and each participants personal experiences. In most cases a two hour or more face to face interview was conducted on the topics of: terrorism, gangs and weapons of mass destruction.

Step 5: Forty interviews were conducted using 25 interview questions which were formulated directly from the modified Delphi 105 survey questions and five hypotheses (see the face to face questions development in Chapter 3 and Appendix: D).

Step 6: All interview participants were asked the same 25 interview questions. Each interview was individually conducted over a six month period at the location of the interviewee's request. The primary researcher conducted and collected the interviews for data and analysis.

Step 7: A journal for documenting reflective notes during the interviews were used. The primary researcher used a qualitative analysis approach after gathering the findings and placing this information into reflective categories, then formatting the

information into a story or picture and writing the qualitative text and analysis which is essential and found in Chapters 4 and 5 in this study (Creswell, 2004).

3.3 General Hypotheses

The overarching contention of this study; is there a potential for the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples, and Crips Street Gangs to be recruited by Al-Qaeda, and Taliban Terrorist Organizations to assist in a biological WMD attack against the United States of America for monetary gain or otherwise?

The Five Hypotheses Questions

This study contends for the above captioned overarching question to be probable, the following preconditions as reflected in five hypotheses must exist. This study is not testing these five hypotheses. Rather, the rigorous examination and use of the modified Delphi survey questions, group discussions and face to face interviews as the data related to the five hypotheses; to include the expert opinions, knowledge and beliefs which indicated whether such an attack or threat is plausible. These hypotheses are as follows:

Hypothesis 1: US-based Gangs Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips Street Gangs have the capabilities to conduct criminal and terrorist activity with the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations.

Hypothesis 2: The Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations are recruiting and forming criminal alliances with the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs.

Hypothesis 3: The Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs have the capability to conduct biological and weapons of mass destruction WMD terrorist attacks against the United States.

Hypothesis 4: Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations are offering Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips US-based Gangs monetary gain as motivation to use weapons of mass destruction WMD against the United States.

Hypothesis 5: There are significant socio-economic factors that influence US-based gang recruitment by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations.

3.4 Subject Safeguards

The following safeguards are in accordance with the need to protect the subject's rights: 1) all formal survey questions were established in accordance with the Human Protections and policies prescribed by both George Mason University and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Institutional Review Boards IRB were strictly adhered to throughout this research process. 2) The modified Delphi research objectives were articulated verbally and in writing by the researcher to each individual research participant to include a description of how the data was to be used (Creswell, 2004; Krathwohl; et al. 2005). Written permission to participate in this study was obtained from each research participant prior to proceeding. 4) Each modified Delphi survey, group discussions and face to face participants were informed of all the data collection devices and activities as they may have pertained to the research. 5) The study participant's rights, wishes and interests were always considered first when reporting the data 6) and

all the study participants had the right to complete anonymity during all portions of the research. This research examination focused on (terrorist groups, gangs and weapons of mass destruction) and events relating to open source information within the past 11 calendar years from (July 2001 to April, 2011).

Research Limitations

The modified Delphi group discussions and face to face interviews were limited to producing expert opinions and beliefs rather than providing definitive assessments and testing of the five hypotheses. The group discussions may have suffered some degree of social desirability bias from the fear of peer pressure or judgment. In contrast, the interview participants were not as reluctant to disclosing their true opinions or beliefs in relation to the five hypotheses as the group participants. The modified Delphi approach tempered this limitation by allowing the interview participants to be at ease while expressing individual interpretations of their experiences, opinions and beliefs during one-on-one participation as opposed to the group participants in relation to the five hypotheses.

No classified law enforcement and intelligence documents were utilized in this research study. To avoid compromise of classified law enforcement information, this study was limited in scope to “open source” and public information.

Sample Collection and Analysis

The previous outlined mixed methods (modified Delphi survey, group discussions and face to face interviews) as well as media reports, archival material, official memos, congressional testimony and other public documents pertaining to this topic were reviewed in forming conclusions from the data analysis performed during this research (see Chapters 4 and 5).

Resources and Funding

The researcher traveled to conduct this study during normal business and during weekend travel from March, 2011 to August, 2011. Minimum funding was supplied in part by the FBI to conduct the modified Delphi portion of this research only.

3.5 Data Analysis

Data analysis from the modified Delphi survey, group discussions and the face to face interviews of data collection were accomplished using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The quantitative information from the modified Delphi survey and the qualitative information from the Delphi group discussions and face to face interviews were examined separately and jointly. This data analyzed dissimilar types of data on the same topic, the same methods or different methods during this research. Data analysis from the two methods (the modified Delphi survey, group discussions and the face to face interviews) attempted to produce understanding and new knowledge in this area of consideration (Creswell, 1994).

Subject interviews, interpretations of data, field notes, and recorded notes when permissible were collected and chronicled. The modified Delphi data were analyzed using univariate statistical analysis. The results of this study produced insight as to the veracity of the hypothesis offered. The hypotheses were analyzed and conclusions were drawn from this research.

The intended subject of this study effort was not about specific research participants. The focus of this research was to assess each of the five hypotheses and other contentions in this study which directly related to answering whether; Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations are capable of recruiting Mara Salvatrucha MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips, US-Based Gang members to assist in criminal attacks against the United States of America.

Chapter 4: Results

4.1 Introduction

This chapter reported the results from the modified Delphi 105 survey questions, group discussions and the 40 face to face interviews that comprised the mixed methodology for each hypothesis sequentially comprising the overall results of this study.

4.2 Hypothesis 1 Results

Hypothesis 1: The Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips Street Gangs have the capabilities to conduct criminal and terrorist activity with the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations.

Modified Delphi Survey Results

When reviewing the following modified Delphi survey results, note that no specific item alone explicitly reflects hypothesis 1. The evidence is found by considering all 20 items as a whole as noted in Table 1.

Select results show the highest mean value is 4.33 (item # 104) and 4.29 (item # 11) of all the 20 items in Table 1 which reflect the notion that gangs are a serious national threat and has criminal significance as long as illicit market conditions facilitate crime.

While the lowest mean value is 1.64 (item # 48) and 2.77 (item # 96). These lower mean scores indicated that, gangs are predisposed to conduct many types of criminal activity for the right payment within limits; and current gang prevention strategies are served as an unsuccessful deterrent.

When reviewing all 20 items found in Table 1, the majority of these results to include the lowest scores suggest further agreement than disagreement with the notions suggested by hypothesis 1. The complexity of the findings indicated that all three gangs are capable of conducting both criminal and terrorist actions but, such gang actions may not be immediately feasible.

Table 1: Delphi Items Reflecting Gang Survey Questions

	Hypothesis 1	mean	stdev	n
11	The past violent criminal behavior of major US-based gangs has justified the need for a national strategic threat risk assessment.	4.29	0.69	38
13	Gang members often conduct criminal activity in retaliation for feeling disenfranchised by the broader society.	3.56	0.85	39
14	Gang members switching from Christianity to Islamic religion pose a significant threat to national security.	3.38	0.81	39
19	The emergence of US-syndicated gangs has led these gangs to becoming more violent during the past decade.	3.44	0.72	39
21	US-based prison and street gangs are predisposed to conducting violent criminal acts.	4.15	0.78	39
23	The global enterprise market facilitates US-based gang expansion in other countries.	4.08	0.53	39

25	The religious consciousness of gang members varies based on their social awareness.	3.72	0.79	39
27	Gangs recruit individuals who are in need of social companionship.	4.13	0.61	39
40	Gang members conduct criminal activity as an alternative means of survival due to socio-economic deprivation.	4.13	0.61	39
44	Gang members will do anything for money.	3.41	1.16	39
48	Gang prevention, suppression and intervention programs are a wasteful crime control strategy.	1.64	0.84	39
54	Gangs recruit individuals that have lack of guidance.	4.08	0.58	39
58	Gangs acquiring biological weapons will cause greater domestic attacks in t he US within the next three years.	3.03	0.90	39
61	Gang members believe that criminal activity is the gang's best means of making a living.	4.26	0.50	39
64	Major gangs support themselves by any criminal means necessary.	3.85	0.84	39
79	US-based gang members view themselves as disenfranchised individuals in American society.	4.08	0.74	39
84	Gang members show no remorse or fear towards conducting violent crimes for hire.	4.03	0.84	39
94	Islamic religion influences some gang members to become extremists in their beliefs.	4.03	0.67	39
95	Terrorist use biological and chemical weapons more than nuclear and radiological weapons.	3.95	0.60	39
96	Gang members take suicide risks for monetary gain.	2.77	1.11	39

104	Gangs will continue to expand as long as illicit market conditions continue to facilitate crime.	4.33	0.58	39
-----	--	------	------	----

* Note: The above 20 item gang survey question results reflect the mean scores and indicated the extent to which the group as a whole may have agreed or disagreed with sentiments concerning hypothesis 1.

Delphi Group Discussion Results

The following Delphi group discussions also revealed data opinions and possibilities with hypothesis 1. As with the survey results reported above, discussions may have overlapped with other hypotheses questions and findings.

The Delphi group participants agreed that; “The MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs have the capability to conduct both criminal and terrorist activity with any global criminal organization to include the Al-Qaeda and Taliban”.

The results further explored other potential motivations which do not show direct evidence of hypothesis 1 but, does reflect actual prerequisites for hypothesis 1. These findings were interpreted to support the contentions of hypothesis 1.

In light of hypothesis 1, the MS-13 Gang is viewed as the most potential threat against the US over other gangs having the capability to conduct both criminal and terrorist activity.

The MS-13 gang is viewed as a transnational gang with criminal ability and affiliations with other global violent criminal organizations. The group participants also asserted it is plausible for terrorist-gang affiliations to currently exist.

The Delphi group participants also suggested that; “The MS-13 Gang has employed a covert delivery system used for human smuggling. The gang is capable of conducting other smuggling ventures such as (weapons, explosives, terrorists, money laundering, biological or chemical weapons) for other criminal organizations”.

Additionally, the Delphi group participants further concluded that; “The MS-13 gang is predisposed to conduct certain or any criminal acts for monetary gain therefore; may also be willing to conduct non-traditional criminal activities such as acts of terrorism”.

The group participants suggested there are several supporting indicators such as: “US-syndicated gangs are familiar with US-cities, regions and infrastructures therefore, have greater access to US areas of interest than foreign criminals or terrorists operating inside the US.”

There were two Delphi group participants who offered a cautionary view point stating that; “Terrorist and gangs are capable of developing (method and modes) of operations inside this country”; while indicating that, “the overall criminal-terrorist objectives and feasibilities may vary”.

Lastly, the group participants concluded that; “The severity of law enforcement responses and penalties towards gang criminal activity is a major point of debate as to why gangs may choose not to conduct terrorist-gang activity in the near future”.

The Delphi group participant's overall assessment of terrorist-gang capabilities were also broadly based on several social factors which are also noteworthy. "These factors are based on the terrorist-gang's ability to accept a "*hierarchical pyramid*" such as: criminal structure; social order; ideally one leader; network affiliation; multiple criminal enterprises; declaration of power and leadership for the terrorist-gang group through the tactical use of fear and intimidation".

Other relative viewpoints and preconditions revealed by group discussions include: "Well defined common structures" within the group such as: specific terrorist-gang roles; concurring terrorist-gang allegiances; terrorist-gang patriotism; social exploitation and disenfranchisement of gangs; leadership ability to manage bureaucracy; the gang members willingness to support terrorism; maximize size of gang recruits inside the US; the financial strength and sustainment for the terrorist-gang organization". Obviously, this is a complex problem with many possible determinants.

Face to Face Interview Results:

The following results are taken from the 25 questions asked during the face to face interviews in relation to hypothesis 1.

There were 34 of 39 face to face interview participants which illustrated support for the notion that; "The Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs all pose the same major threat to the US due to their violence, national gang affiliation, structure and global alliances".

The other five interview participants asserted other actual prerequisites for hypothesis 1, based on personal knowledge, that; “Due to the Mara Salvatrucha MS-13 gang’s (transnational criminal scope, location, extreme violence, global affiliations, communications, nexus with other global criminals and terrorist organizations) of the three aforementioned gangs”.

In accordance with hypothesis 1 interview participant (# 09FF) also indicated that; “The MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs definitely pose a significant threat to US- national security; but the Bloods Street Gang should not be over-looked due to the gang’s violent scope and propensity to have a national and global criminal impact as well”.

There were 28 of 39 interview participants who agreed that; “Terrorist-gang relationships should be considered a threat to the US due to: having similar mindsets; violent behavior; terrorist-gang relationships which could potentially destabilize the US. US-based gangs global expansion; securing a global criminal nexus; gangs will conduct any type of criminal activity for monetary gain”.

There were 38 of 39 interview participants who also concluded that; “US-based gang members are “*urban terrorists*”; based on extremely violent global criminal activity; radicalized recruitment; community exploitation ; use of fear and intimidation; violence for control; criminal ideology; structure; criminal objectives; violent social actions; use of covert methods-actions and the gangs ability to causes mayhem”.

Another interview participant who requested complete anonymity stated, “MS-13 currently posed the greatest capable violent threat to the US closely followed by the Gangster Disciples”.

Six interview participants (# 09FF); (# 25FF); (# 24FF); (#13FF); (# 12FF); (# 11FF); respectively agreed that; “US-based gangs have a direct global impact on the United States as well as other foreign countries such as: Mexico, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, France, Spain ,Italy, Switzerland and Greece due to US-based gangs ability to globally expand their criminal operations, propensity for violence and ability to conduct other criminal alliances and activities”.

Interview participant (# 09FF), further suggested that; “The Bloods and Crips Street Gangs may have a greater impact on inner-city children than the MS-13 Gang. Due to the nature of how gangs are able to recruit, commit children to violence and other major criminal activities”.

In contrast and contrary to hypothesis 1 interview participant (# 02FF) advised that; “US-based gangs do not pose a significant threat to the national security of the United States because of the gang’s failure to have a national political agenda”.

In further contrast, interview participant (# 02FF) that; “US-based gangs are not anti-government therefore; the majority of gang violence is projected towards rival gangs and other adversaries and not the US government”.

There were two other interview participants who provided additional cautions asserting that;” US-based gang members are “urban terrorists” because; gangs have

began to meet the definition of “domestic terrorists”. While in opposition, gangs do not see themselves as terrorists and terrorists do not see themselves as criminals”.

Hypothesis 1: Overall Summary of Results

The combined results of the modified Delphi survey questions, group discussions and the face to face interview findings essentially agreed but, some respondents did not definitively support hypothesis 1. Both bases of data from the mixed methods yielded overall support for the contention that gangs such as MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs are capable of conducting criminal and terrorist activity with any terrorist organizations as suggested in hypothesis 1. However, the overall respondent findings are not definitive but, are more suggestive that these contentions are possible rather than immediately probable.

4.3 Hypothesis 2 Results

Hypothesis 2: The Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations are recruiting and forming criminal alliances with the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs.

Modified Delphi Survey Results

Select results show the highest mean value is 4.13 (item # 32) and 4.18 (item # 41) of all the 24 items in Table 2 which support, albeit indirectly, the contentions of hypothesis 2 that: MS-13 is one of several gangs with far reaching tentacles that use fear

and intimidation to build global alliances and criminal connections. These alliances may allow the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations greater ability to recruit and conduct criminal or terrorist activity with the MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs.

While the lowest mean values are 2.46 (item # 92) and 2.67 (items # 90) which suggested that the Delphi group participants do not definitively accept the notion that gangs are trained by terrorists in biological attacks. However, the group participants do agree that gangs are thought to be affiliated with terrorist groups and gangs are more likely to expand their domestic criminal activity rather than affiliate with terrorists abroad. When reviewing the total of all 24 items found in Table 2, the majority of these mean results reflected general support with some variations to the contentions of hypothesis 2.

Table 2: Delphi Items Reflecting Gangs and Terrorism Survey Questions

	Hypothesis 2	mean	stdev	N
4	Terrorist organizations are connecting with US-based gangs in prison to further acts of Terrorism.	3.51	0.85	39
29	Increased terrorist arrests have caused a rise in terrorists being incarcerated with gang members in the US.	3.51	0.82	39
32	US-based gangs and terrorist groups both display antisocial behavior through extreme violence.	4.13	0.47	39
36	Terrorist groups have formed an alliance to recruit gang members in US prisons and jails.	3.23	0.84	39
41	Terrorist groups operate much like criminal gangs by	4.18	0.60	39

exploiting disenfranchised individuals.

45	Gangs will find the means of connecting their criminal business enterprises with international terrorist organizations.	3.28	0.83	39
50	Currently there is little research information which supports the existence of terrorist recruitment of US-based gangs.	3.36	0.87	39
59	Terrorist organizations are recruiting the MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Street Gangs by religious manipulation.	3.08	0.93	39
60	Gang members should be considered urban-terrorists.	3.82	0.97	39
65	US-based Gangs MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Street Gangs have the capabilities to connect with Al-Qaeda and the Taliban terrorist organizations.	3.62	0.67	39
70	Any gang's willingness to conduct violence criminal acts influence terrorist recruitment.	3.71	0.77	38
71	Terrorists who practice radical Islamic religion have similar beliefs as US-based gang members who practice various forms of Christianity.	3.18	0.94	39
74	US-based prison gangs may fall prey to terrorist organizations by converting to fanatical religion.	3.69	0.92	39
76	The Taliban terrorist organization has offered MS-13, Gangster Disciples and the Crips Street Gangs monetary gain to facilitate domestic acts of terrorism.	3.16	0.68	38
78	MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Street Gangs are seeking an alliance with the Al-Qaeda Terrorist Organizations.	2.69	0.69	39
83	The MS-13 Gang has terrorist-smuggling connections in the US.	3.92	0.58	39
85	Disenfranchised ethnic groups in the US join criminal groups such as terrorist groups and gangs.	3.62	0.81	39

87	US-based prison and street gangs are susceptible to terrorist organizations recruitment through extremist religion.	3.64	0.78	39
88	Both terrorist and gang leaders understand the advantages of combining mass organizations with conspiracy to gain power.	3.90	0.72	39
89	Gang alliances have strengthened collaborations between gang members and terrorist groups.	3.08	0.84	39
90	Al-Qaeda and Taliban terrorist organizations are providing necessary training to the MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs to conduct biological attacks in the United States.	2.67	0.87	39
91	US-based gangs have far-reaching tentacles with the ability to build global criminal and terrorist alliances.	3.85	0.81	39
92	US-based gangs are more likely to affiliate in foreign countries with terrorists than to expand their criminal activities in the US.	2.46	0.91	39
100	The Al-Qaeda terrorist organization is recruiting gang members inside American prisons and correctional institutions.	3.56	0.75	39

* Note: The above 24 item gang question results reflect the mean scores and indicated the extent to which the group as a whole may have agreed or disagreed with sentiments concerning hypothesis 2.

Delphi Group Results

The following Delphi group discussions reflect the contentions of hypothesis 2. As noted earlier, some group discussions may have overlapped with other hypotheses questions and findings.

The Delphi group participants overwhelmingly suggested, based on their personal knowledge, work experiences and plausible support that, “The MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs are currently being recruited by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations.

The Delphi group participants also suggested support for the notion that; “The MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs are capable of building alliances, being recruited by terrorists and may be currently conducting both criminal and terrorist activity inside the US with the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Organizations”.

The Delphi group participants offered the following observations in relation to hypothesis 2 with other conditions and motivations which do not directly attend to the hypothesis but, show measurable possibilities which should be considered.

“Gangs as well as other extremist groups are vulnerable to recruitment by the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations (AQAT). A potential reason for terrorist-gang recruitment and relations could be; terrorist-gang anti-government sentiment; monetary gain for gangs and terrorist-gang infiltration inside government agencies. Other potential terrorist-gang benefits which may occur are financial benefits and terrorist-gang force multipliers inside the US.”

“Terrorist recruitment is compartmentally taking place with transnational criminals specifically (Mexico) recruiting individual gang members, versus group recruitment.”

Face to Face Interview Results:

The following results are taken the face to face interviews in relation to hypothesis 2. These factors do not support or refute the hypothesis but reveal insight as to the possible conditions for the hypothesis to occur.

There were 33 of 39 face to face participants which indicated that: “Terrorist-gang criminal enterprises and alliances are being conducted for power and monetary gain such as: kidnapping, extortion, human smuggling, weapons smuggling, drug trafficking and other illegal commerce which significantly impacts and strengthens US-based gang expansion outside the US and inside other countries as well”.

All interview participants agreed with the general notion that that: “The Mara Salvatrucha MS-13, Gangster Disciples or Crips US-Based Gangs can be recruited by the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations to conduct any acts of terrorism against the US”.

There were 28 of 39 interview participants which indicated that; “Terrorist groups have formed an alliance to recruit gang members in US prisons and jails. Terrorist prison and jail recruitment is also being conducted using similar recruitment techniques as with gang members”.

One interview participant also noted based on personal work experience that; “In the United Kingdom and Spain, where terrorist recruitment has been great. There is a strong indicator that terrorist-gang recruitment is taking place inside the US as well”

There were 38 of 39 interview participants who also agreed with the contention that; “Terrorist organizations operate similar to gangs by exploiting and recruiting disenfranchised individuals”.

Similarly, 33 of 39 interview participants noted that some preexisting conditions may influence this outcome. That is, “The MS-13 is the easiest gang to recruit for acts of terrorism due to their global criminal affiliations, low socio-economic status and willingness to participate in other extremely violent criminal acts”.

There were 37 interview participants who also indicated that; “Terrorist organizations operate similar to gangs by exploiting and recruiting disenfranchised individuals due to the following reasons: numerous US citizens have been converted, are being currently recruited or trained by Al-Qaeda since 2001”.

Summarizing this thought, other interview participants indicated that, “Gangs can be recruited for monetary gain; gangs recruit sociopaths for greater criminal control; highly sought collective terrorist-gang behavior; social and political recruitment strategies; terrorist-gangs recruit socioeconomic disenfranchised immigrants; manipulation of recruits who lack family; education and has a desire to belong to a group”.

In contrast, interview participant (# 27FF) qualified the above contentions by pointing to more traditional notions of gang behavior by stating that; “Prison gangs

recruit other inmates in effort to gain rank; power and structure. Once some gang members are back on the streets, members may find themselves out of touch with current criminal activity therefore; may have to re-earn their status with the gang through rebuilding criminal alliances. For example, Gangster Disciples gang members keep their criminal rank due to active criminal actions and commitment to the gang while in prison”.

Interview participant (# 35FF) elaborated on this recruitment strategy by noting; “The Al-Qaeda Terrorist Organization is recruiting any interested inmates to convert to Islam religion”. Another interview participant (# 12FF) also reported that; “In Greece, terrorist organizations recruit and build alliances in prison which are similar to large schools for terrorist recruits to learn their trade craft. This type of recruitment and criminal association is no different than what could be taking place in American prisons”.

Lastly, interview participant (# 20FF) contended that; “Radicalized terrorist-gang conversion is being conducted in California prisons. Most recruitment of Southern California Street and Prison gang members (SUR) is being converted to (non-traditional) radical Islam religion”.

Interview participant (# 32FF) based on personal experiences provided firsthand knowledge which suggested how terrorist recruitment occurs. This statement is highly accommodating of hypothesis 2 by advising that; “I was recruited by a radical Muslim group (terrorist group name withheld) similar to the radical Muslim Brotherhood during my early adulthood”. I later converted to traditional Islam (nonviolent) after learning of the recruitment deception used to recruit me. Non-traditional radical Islamic clergy often

recruits unsuspected converts identical to how I was recruited. Therefore; street and prison gang recruitment is being conducted as easy”.

Tempering these notions of whether gang recruitment and alliances are feasible, interview participant (# 21FF) stated that; “Global criminal enterprises (major criminal activity) does not significantly impact US-based gang recruitment or assist any gangs ability to criminally affiliate across the US or into other countries”. This interview participant also suggested that; “The expansion of gangs only happens to a small degree or to a lesser extent; but does not directly affect or connect with gang criminal enterprises”.

Hypothesis 2: Overall Summary of Results

The overall results of the modified Delphi survey questions, group discussions and the face to face interviews related to the contentions suggested by hypothesis 2. As such the evidence yielded from this research effort is supportive and in agreement of the contention that; the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations are recruiting and forming criminal alliances with the MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs as suggested in this hypothesis.

4.4 Hypothesis 3 Results

Hypothesis 3: The Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs have the capability to conduct biological attacks using weapons of mass destruction WMD terrorist attacks against the US.

Modified Delphi Survey Results

When reviewing the above modified Delphi survey results, the highest mean value is 3.18 (item # 67) and 3.74 (item # 69) of all the 10 items in Table 3 which suggested that gangs have the potential to form alliances with other criminal organizations to acquire WMD but; currently do not have the capability to carry out such an attack.

The lowest mean value is 2.21 (item # 86) and 2.67 (item # 68). These results indicated limited support for the assertion that, US-based gangs are unlikely to have terrorist alliances, expertise and knowledge to use biological weapons against the US. The low mean results also suggested both law enforcement and intelligence is unlikely able to protect the US against biological or chemical attacks.

When reviewing all 10 items found in Table 3, the differences in support for hypothesis 3 as stated yields the results that, the MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs are highly capable of building terrorist alliances but not likely to conduct biological attacks against the US.

Table 3: Delphi Items Reflecting Gangs and WMD Survey Questions

	Hypothesis 3	mean	stdev	n
33	MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Street Gangs have the potential to conduct a biological attack.	3.13	1.06	39
39	US-based gangs will seek the technological knowledge in order to successfully use WMD within the next three years.	3.18	0.72	39
56	Gangs will gain greater power through the use of WMD.	2.90	0.94	39
67	There is no substantial evidence that gangs are capable of carrying out an attack using biological weapons.	3.18	0.94	39
68	Gang members have the expertise to successfully use WMD against the US.	2.67	0.93	39
69	Gangs and terrorists can achieve a criminal alliance with other organized criminals to acquire WMD.	3.74	0.75	39
81	US- based gangs will use WMD against their enemies.	2.69	0.83	39
86	Law enforcement and intelligence agencies are prepared to protect the US against the use of weapons of mass destruction by gangs.	2.21	0.83	39
96	Gang members take suicide risks for monetary gain.	2.77	1.11	39
99	Islam plays a significant role with gangs actively seeking to advance their WMD skills through terrorist alliances.	2.95	0.83	39

* Note: The above 10 item gang survey question results reflect the mean scores and indicated the extent to which the group as a whole may have agreed or disagreed with sentiments concerning hypothesis 3.

Delphi Group Discussion Results

The Delphi group participants offered the following observations in relation to hypothesis 3 which also underscored some other conditions and motivations which may related to the contentions examined.

The Delphi group participants indicated that, “The MS-13 gang is believed to pose the greatest terrorist-gang threat to the US and is the most likely potential gang to use WMD devices such as: improvised explosive devices, chemical, biological ingestible inhalants, traditional firearms and explosives”.

The group participants also suggested that, “The Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations have the potential to conduct biological and chemical attacks by radicalizing or recruiting street gangs inside the US”.

During the group discussions there were relevant areas of debate between participants which revealed contrasting views such as, “There are specific notable contentions and capabilities which must be considered before US-based gangs are capable of carrying out WMD attacks such as; gang motivations, desire, ability, opportunity, target situation, social disenfranchisement and group radicalization”.

The Delphi group discussions also noted particular examples by participant observations that, “Two of the most significant cases are the convicted terrorist Richard Reid, aka; *“the Shoe Bomber”* and the most significant incident of a terrorist-gang individual convicted convert Jose Padilla, aka; *“The Dirty Bomber”*, who is a former member of the Maniac Latin Disciples gang”.

Interestingly, 22 of 39 group participants suggested that, “Terrorist groups may fear using biological or chemical weapons; so they recruit gang members to use these types of weapons due to: using gangs for risk taking; subordinate level terrorist soldiers do not fear death; terrorist leaders rarely take major risks for the cause; terrorists can afford to pay gangs to take major risks; this tactic lowers the probability that terrorists will be captured and also present terrorist leaders unwillingness to suffer the high consequence of being captured”.

In contrast, 28 of 39 group participants offered cautionary observations suggesting that, “Terrorists will not use gangs for WMD usage and may not recruit gangs for lack of trust because gangs do not traditionally use WMD or explosives”.

Others indicated that, “Before potential terrorist-gang relations can take place the following event would likely occur. Gangs and terrorists will have to establish a broad knowledge base for terrorist-gang linkages”.

Yet, 17 of 39 group participants observed that, “ US-based gangs MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs have the expertise and training to use biological or chemical weapons based on the following: military training; producing chemical drugs; internet information; criminal expertise; gangs will become innovative for monetary gain; other unknown resources and opportunity”.

Conversely, 10 of 39 group participants argued to the contrary by noting that, “Due to the difficulty of maintaining both biological and chemical weapons has caused terrorists to delay the use of such weapons against the US because of the following

reasons: traditional weapons are as effective; terrorists are waiting for the appropriate time to use biological weapons and terrorists may not trust gangs to use biological weapons on their behalf or due to the gangs lack of knowledge to use biological weapons”.

Since, 10 group participants disagreed over the methods and interpretations with the other 29 group participants; the results revealed mixed support for the contentions of hypothesis 3.

Face to face Interview Results:

The following results are taken from the 25 questions asked during the face to face interviews in relation to hypothesis 3. This data does not definitively support the hypothesis while some information yielded possibilities of occurrences as illustrated below.

In opposition with the previous data, 18 of 39 interview participants reported mixed contentions by noting that, “It is plausible for US-based gangs MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips gangs to have the expertise, training and knowledge to use biological and chemical weapons”. Note as a cautionary measure: that the majority of all respondent participants agreed that gangs do not currently the technical skills, knowledge base or understanding to adequately use biological weapons; but may acquire such skill sets in the near future.

There were 10 interview participants who reported in complete disagreement with this notion. In fact, (# 29FF) totally disagreed insisting that; “Gangs must have more training and knowledge in order to successfully conduct either chemical or biological attacks. Gangs have been delayed from using CW or BW due to the difficulty of maintaining these weapons of mass destruction”. “It is not plausible that gangs will use or have the knowledge to employ any type of WMD against the US”. “Gangs may somehow learn how to use biological or chemical weapons against other adversaries for protection if there is a financial incentive”.

There were 36 of 39 interview participants who observed differing modalities while suggesting conflicting viewpoints that; “The terrorist weapons of choice against the US continue to be fear and intimidation and usage of non conventional domestic attacks such as: improvised explosive devices; light military grade munitions; social networking multimedia; disenfranchised citizens; suicide bombers; economic disaster; fear; explosive devices inserted in domestic pets; biological vector infestations; chemical gases; nerve agents; traditional firearms and explosives against children on buses; in schools; shopping malls; in public entertainment venues and sporting events”.

Hypothesis 3: Overall Summary of Results

The Delphi survey questions, group discussions data and the face to face interview participants reported mixed evidence regarding the capabilities of US-based gang’s ability to conduct biological attacks using biological or chemical weapons. This is highlighted by the suggestion that; “Terrorist-gang actions and relations although

plausible; may not be feasible based on gang knowledge and expertise to use any type of biological, chemical or WMD”. Overall, the majority of evidence does not support the contention that, “The MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips gangs have the capability to conduct biological attacks using WMD against the US”. However, the qualifying information provided suggested that, “WMD usage is currently unlikely but, gangs may be willing to use less lethal weapons to conduct terrorism”.

4.5 Hypothesis 4 Results

Hypothesis 4: Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations are offering Mara Salvatrucha MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Street gang’s monetary gain as motivation to use biological and weapons of mass destruction against the US.

Modified Delphi Survey Results

When reviewing the above Delphi survey results, again remember (as in all cases in this study) note that no specific item alone reflects hypothesis 4. The evidence is found by considering all 29 items as shown in Table 4.

These results revealed the highest mean value of 4.36 (item # 24) and 4.41 (item # 73) which does not directly reflect support for hypothesis 4. While the review of all 29 items in Table 4 does show some support with mixed contentions for hypothesis 4. For example, there is general agreement that, Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations are attempting payment to recruit US-based gangs. Yet, terrorists may connect with gangs by offering monetary gain or other motivations in relation with item #

75; there are few indications that terrorists will use gangs for biological weapons usage as seen in item # 9. This is thought to be that, all three gangs lack the knowledge or technical skills.

The lowest mean value is 1.62 (item # 101) and 1.64 (item # 26); indicated little support for hypothesis 4. These results suggested that, terrorist organizations are unlikely to use gangs to deploy biological or chemical weapons against the US. The low mean scores also revealed that this is due to a limited degree of likelihood that gangs have the technical skills or knowledge to use WMD. Overall, the mixed contentions based on the overall mean scores indicated support for monetary exchange between gangs and terrorists; but little likelihood that WMD weapons would be used in this fashion at the present time.

Table 4: Gangs, Terrorism and WMD Survey Questions

	Hypothesis 4	mean	stdev	n
1	Law enforcement is prepared for terrorists and gangs to use WMD against the US.	2.13	0.80	39
2	The use of biological weapons is not an immediate threat to the US.	2.15	0.90	39
8	Terrorists fear using biological and chemical weapons; therefore are paying gang members to use WMD.	1.74	0.97	39
9	The MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs are being persuaded by terrorists to use WMD against the US.	2.62	0.88	39
18	The US is over reacting to potential terrorist use of WMD			

	weapons beyond the next three years.	2.08	0.81	39
22	US law enforcement has the necessary training and resources to combat terrorist-gang activity involving WMD.	2.08	0.81	39
24	Al-Qaeda has shown success in forcing the US to spend large amounts of money to protect against WMD attacks.	4.21	0.80	39
26	A WMD attack is not a viable threat to the US.	1.64	0.78	39
34	US WMD involvement and preparedness is outdated.	3.51	0.82	39
46	Biological weapons are easier to transport, stockpile and disseminate than chemical weapons.	2.90	0.97	39
47	Chemical weapons are easier to produce and use than nuclear weapons.	2.90	0.97	39
49	The successful use of anthrax will not reoccur in the US during the next three years.	2.18	0.64	39
52	There are growing fears by law enforcement of terrorist strikes against the United States using biological and chemical weapons.	3.90	0.55	39
53	The greatest fear of US law enforcement and intelligence agencies is the lack of preparedness against weapons of mass destruction.	3.64	1.01	39
55	A biological attack can paralyze a community by depleting it of valuable financial and health care resources.	4.36	0.63	39
63	Because of past terrorist attacks in the US there is fear that other WMD acts of terrorism will occur within the next three years.	3.97	0.67	39
72	There is an ongoing effort between Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations to recruit US-based gang members to use WMD.	3.26	0.75	39
73	The potential use of biological weapons sustains the	4.41	0.50	39

psychological fear and intimidation in the minds of civilians.

75	Gangs are willing to conduct acts of terrorism using WMD for financial gain.	3.36	0.81	39
77	During the past several decades, successful attempts to use biological weapons within the United States have been in effective.	3.26	0.75	39
80	There are many terrorist tactics that use WMD which are unfamiliar to law enforcement.	3.59	0.79	39
82	There is no scientific evidence that terrorist groups are recruiting gang members.	2.79	0.80	39
93	The devastating use of biological weapons by terrorists has caused the United States to fear the use of a WMD attack.	3.82	0.79	39
95	Terrorist use biological and chemical weapons more than nuclear and radiological weapons.	3.95	0.60	39
97	Terrorist partnerships increase the likelihood of the use of WMD.	4.03	0.49	39
101	Terrorists and gangs will only use weapons of mass destruction against law enforcement.	1.62	0.81	39
102	WMD is believed to be the weapon of choice for terrorist-gang use.	2.51	0.94	39
103	US Law enforcement is capable of protecting citizens from terrorist WMD attacks.	2.10	0.85	39
105	Extremist Islamic leaders are training terrorists to use WMD.	4.05	0.89	39

* Note: The above 29 item gang survey results reflect the mean scores and indicated the extent to which the Delphi group participants as a whole may have agreed or disagreed with sentiments concerning hypothesis 4.

Delphi Group Discussion Results

The following Delphi group discussions explained the relations between the mean results in accordance with the plausible relations with hypothesis 4. The evidence is better reflected when considering all 29 items as noted in Table 4.

The group participants evidenced mixed contentions for notions indicating gangs are likely being recruited by terrorists for biological weapons usage. Yet, 38 of 39 group participants did support the contention that; “The Taliban or Al-Qaeda would use or deploy a weapon of mass destruction chemical, biological or nuclear weapons against the US if the opportunity arises.”

In contrast, 30 of 39 group participants who supported hypothesis 4 stated that, “The difficulty of maintaining biological and chemical weapons have caused terrorists to delay the use of weapons of mass destruction against the US in the near future therefore; may not offer US-based gangs monetary gain to deploy these weapons”.

Interestingly, some group participants advised that, “Terrorist recruitment will be conducted through individual gang members instead of group recruitment. Gang recruitment is reportedly plausible for monetary gain. Due to anti-government sentiment gangs may be used for terrorist usages other than WMD attack. There are mounting indications that terrorist-gang actions could potentially be financed only for transnational

and global criminal actions such as: drug trafficking, human smuggling, kidnapping, murder for hire, money or *drug laundering*".

However, some group participants also showed some partial support for hypothesis 4 by suggesting, "Future terrorist-gang recruitment for weapons of mass destruction usage may come in the surprise of many ordinates to include: biological toxins, ricin, dirty bombs and industrial chemical attacks such as: cyanide, sarin gas and nerve agents".

Other group participants further suggested that; "Since 2002, several individual domestic and extremists groups have conducted threat activities such as (acquisition, production and usage of biological and chemical weapons) for attacks against the US. There is no reason not to believe that it is only a matter of time before gangs will do the same".

The group participants also maintained that; "Gangs are not as likely to use weapons of mass destruction as other domestic extremists because; gangs usually do not have political agendas and have nothing to gain by attacking or destroying their own communities where their predatory actions supply them financial stability".

Other group participants reported to a lesser extent that; "Future terrorist-gang activity using weapons of mass destruction may take place against the US for reasons that are currently unknown".

In contradiction, 29 of 39 group participants advised that; "There is no evidence that terrorists are recruiting gangs to use WMD against the US for monetary gain or for any reason".

Furthermore, the group participants indicated that it is more plausible that, “Terrorists would use their own members for biological usage rather than use US-based gangs who may be untrustworthy”.

Finally, two group participants’ highlighted mixed evidence by suggesting, “It is unknown to what extent US-based gangs would conduct violent or criminal acts for money; but stated that gangs can be persuaded to do almost anything for money to include biological or WMD usage”.

Face to Face Interview Results

The following results are taken from face to face interviews in relation to hypothesis 4. This evidence corroborated much of what was found in the Delphi method results but seemed to point to a more visible threat.

During the face to face interviews, participant (# 27FF) contended that; “A Gangster Disciples gang member (unidentified) suggested, “There is currently no plan to conduct any terrorist-gang actions but, some gang members have discussed future terrorist-gang affiliations for monetary gain”.

In contrast, interview participant (# 11FF) advised that; “Al-Qaeda’s financial ability to pay gangs to conduct acts of terrorism is not without merit. If the right amount of money is offered, then gangs are willing to meet any terrorist-gang commitment to include the use of WMD”.

Interview participants (# 25FF) and (# 28FF) concurred with hypothesis 4 based on personal experiences respectively that, “Al-Qaeda can recruit US-based gangs to conduct

terrorist-gang activity for monetary gain”. “There is a need for terrorist organizations to recruit gangs for WMD deployment rather than acquisition; which accounts for the delay in attack against the US”.

Interview participant (# 25FF) further explained a personal scenario where it was witnessed that; “A terrorist group in his country was successful in paying drug dealers to conduct acts of terrorism against the Kuwait government”.

Finally, interview participant (# 11FF) also agreed with hypothesis 4 in reporting that; “The MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips US-Based Gangs can be recruited by the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations to conduct acts of terrorism against the US”.

Hypothesis 4: Overall Summary Results

In summary, the captioned 29 items in the Delphi survey questions, group discussions and face to face interviews revealed overall mixed evidence pertaining to the hypothesis 4 contention. Instead, it may be more representative of the evidence which concluded that it is unlikely that gang’s can or will be recruited to use biological or WMD using monetary gain as the mechanism at the present time.

4.6 Hypothesis 5 Results

Hypothesis 5: There are significant socio-economic factors that influence US-based gangs to be recruited by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations.

Modified Delphi Survey Results

When reviewing the following modified Delphi survey results, the evidence is found by considering all 21 items indicated in Table 5. These results show the highest mean value is 4.64 (item #5) and 4.69 (item #12). However, these items reflect more gang operations than hypothesis 5. When considering all 21 items in Table 5 there are mixed contentions and the results from all items suggested that, “There are several socio-economic factors such as social disparity, *jihadist religion* and extremism which are influencing US-based gangs to be susceptible to being recruited by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations”.

The lowest mean value is 2.08 (item # 51) and 2.31 (item # 20) also offer little support for hypothesis 5. The total mean scores however, do suggest overall support that, “The social disparity and disenfranchisement taught by non radical religion of terrorists and gangs may influence each group to further connect through oppressive beliefs allowing gangs to be easier recruited by terrorists”.

Table 5: Terrorism Survey Questions

	Hypothesis 5	mean	stdev	n
3	The terrorist mindset is sociopathic in nature.	2.67	1.03	39
5	Terrorist attacks come from both foreign and domestic groups.	4.64	0.49	39
6	Terrorists are able to gather a group following using violent means rather than using revolutionary beliefs.	2.92	0.81	39

10	True believers of Islam instruct their followers to rise up in retaliation against the US and other Western countries.	2.74	1.21	39
12	A tactic of terrorist manipulation is to deliver psychological trauma.	4.69	0.47	39
15	Al-Qaeda and Taliban terrorist groups are currently infiltrating the US by using covert tactics of operations.	3.92	0.81	39
16	The relevance of domestic terrorism in the US has been limited to the actions of individual extremists.	2.49	0.94	39
17	Muslims living in the US experience the same issues of racism as lower income ethnic groups living in this country.	3.44	0.85	39
20	Domestic terrorism in the US has been limited to extremist groups.	2.31	0.89	39
28	The US is not prepared to fight another terrorist attack similar to 9-11.	2.95	0.94	39
30	Terrorist motives range from criminal to religious activity.	4.36	0.63	39
31	There is speculation that the next terrorist threat will come from a "lone wolf" individual instead of a major terrorist group.	4.00	0.56	39
35	The Al-Qaeda Terrorist Organization attempt to financially bankrupt their enemies through excessive homeland security spending.	3.61	0.97	38
38	US lawmakers view the dynamics of terrorism as a direct attack against American capitalism.	3.97	0.67	39
42	Terrorists have concluded that American capitalists are their enemy.	4.26	0.50	39
43	Terrorists use their revolutionary beliefs to recruit group followers, as opposed to using violence as a recruitment tool.	3.92	0.66	39
51	Most terrorist attacks in the US come from foreign terrorist groups.	2.08	0.84	39

57	Terrorists have justified the use of violent "jihad" through radical Islamic religion.	4.44	0.55	39
62	Terrorism has caused violent revolts against the US government.	2.85	1.06	39
66	Terrorists use extreme violence as the primary means of fighting against their "American oppressors".	4.13	0.61	39

* Note: The above 21 item gang survey results reflect the mean scores and indicated the extent to which the group as a whole may have agreed or disagreed with sentiments concerning hypothesis 5.

Delphi Group Discussion Results:

The following Delphi group discussions are also relevant to hypothesis 5. The majority of the group participants agreed with hypothesis 5 by indicating that, both religion and other social factors are presumed to be relevant reasons for gang recruitment by terrorist organizations.

Several factors are reported and reflect the notions of hypothesis 5. For example, group participants noted that; “Gang members are being recruited through religion, social internet media, financial gain, personal social interaction and motivation”. An additional supporting contention further revealed that; “Several gang behaviors and mental factors such as: gang member’s mental weakness; group social disparity and lack of gang member formal education are also tributary to gangs being recruited by terrorists”.

The group participants also revealed personal accounts and knowledge indicating that, “Individual gang members may be recruited into radical Islam for personal reasons such as: group fellowship, prison protection, personal religious beliefs or reward and other unknown motivational promises to convert”.

The group participants also consistently suggested that, “Terrorist-gang recruitment is being conducted in prisons, schools, communities and places of religious worship. Individual gang members in and outside of prison may be recruited due to social disparity and economic disenfranchisement in the community”.

The group participants further noted that, “The following socio-economic factors allow gang members to believe they are socially disenfranchised, abused and economically deprived in the US. Most gangs are predisposed to conducting any violent and criminal terrorist activity for monetary gain. It is not clear if terrorist-gang relations provide any specific value to other criminal groups rather than for pro-exploitable terrorist-gang means of terrorist multiplication; to include risk taking and monetary gain for participating gangs”.

There were 26 of 39 group participants who agreed with hypothesis 5 that, “Muslims living in America express the same racial disparity as some lower socio-economic ethnic groups that also live in the US based on the following: Muslims have experienced a large increase of racial sentiment since September, 2001; Muslim racial sentiments in some cities are worse than others; Muslims suffer from both religious and racial sentiments; economic disparity is everyone’s problem and many American citizens fear Muslims out of ignorance to the religion”.

There were three group participants who specifically noted that, “The MS-13 Gang is the easiest gang to recruit for acts of terrorism due to their global criminal affiliations, low socio-economic status and willingness to participate in other extremely violent criminal acts”.

There were 10 of 39 group participants who reported mixed contentions which do not agree that, “Muslims living in America express the same racial disparity as some lower socio-economic ethnic groups which also live in the US”. While in contrast, not all Muslims are violent or radical; American Muslims does experience the same racial disparity as Blacks and Hispanics racial and cultural biases”.

There were 4 of 39 group participants who reported a strong belief that, “The direct attack of terrorism is not against US citizens or capitalism; rather, radical hatred is against the strength of Western culture; the symbols of freedom such as: building infrastructures, monuments and the flamboyant American way of living”.

Interestingly, all 39 group participants agreed that, “The low socio-economic status of minority or immigrant gang members critically impacted all three gangs propensity to engage in violent criminal behavior”.

Finally, 33 of 39 group participants supported the notion that, “Terrorists are willing to exploit their enemies using money or religion to succeed at accomplishing their goals”. “Terrorist organizations exploit gangs for recruitment and as converts to radical Islam for tactical and planning purposes. Any individual criminal or group will exploit their enemy to succeed with their objectives of terror, fear, and intimidation. The Al-

Qaeda and Taliban are using ethnic disenfranchisement and socio-economic disparity against Western countries as a means to provoke hatred and terrorist gain”.

There were 37 of 39 group participants who also reported that, “The conversion from Christianity to radical Islam posed a significant impact on the criminal and fanatical beliefs of gang members. The lack of monetary gain, structure and education are the basic elements considered on whether religious or other conversion tactics in recruiting gang members is possible”.

Lastly, the group participants also agreed with the observation that, “Gang conversion may not take place if religion goes against the gang’s social norm or stifles their ability to make money. Radical Islam (violent teachings) instead of traditional Islam (non violent) is instrumental in prompting violence and religious conversion from Christianity”.

Face to Face Interview Results

The following results were taken from the face to face interviews which allowed participants to give explanations in relation with the contentions of hypothesis 5. These factors do not definitively support each hypothesis but may extend the conditions which possibly will occur in support with the Delphi results.

Interview participant (# 27FF) observed the following occurrences in regards to hypothesis 5; “Prison gangs recruit other inmates in effort to gain rank; power and structure. Once some prison gang members are back on the streets, they may be out of touch with current criminal activity therefore; may have to re-earn their status with the

gang. While it is common practice that certain Gangster Disciples members keep their rank if gang members remain criminally active and committed in prison”.

Interview participant (# 32FF) a former radical convert explained that, “Radicalization through religion is part of how recruitment takes place. The terrorist group’s social dynamic is important and is generally systematic during the following specific steps of: “*sense of belonging*”; “*following a dynamic leader*” and as a “*radical ideology*”. There seemed to be a multiplicity of other factors involved which must be explored that pulls the converts towards the Imam (spiritual leader) and the social dynamics of being involved and successfully recruited”.

Another interview participant (# 35FF) reported that, “The Al-Qaeda Terrorist Organization is recruiting any disenfranchised inmates to convert to nontraditional radical Islam religion”. Interview participant (# 12FF) reported the following information also in agreement with hypothesis five and based on personal knowledge; “In Greece, terrorist organizations recruit and build alliances in prison which are similar to large schools for recruits to learn their trade craft”.

Interview participant (# 39FF) stated, “I witnessed gang members being recruited on the streets and in prison by gang leaders who use social disparity, disenfranchisement, lack of family and a need to belong to a seemingly strong group structure as means of successful recruitment tactics”.

Interview participant (# 32FF) based on firsthand knowledge and also in agreement with hypothesis five reported that; “I was recruited by a radical Muslim group similar to the Muslim Brotherhood during early adulthood while being exploited by

social disparity and delusionment as means of recruitment. I later converted to traditional Islam (nonviolent) after learning of the recruitment deception. Radical Islamic clergy often recruit unsuspected converts identical to how I was recruited. Street and prison gang recruitment is recruited as easy”.

Face to face interview participant (# 26FF) in agreement with hypothesis 5 and based on personal experience reported that, “Poverty and racism for Muslims in lower socioeconomic neighborhoods in America are the same. The poor are the poor”.

One face to face interview participant who wished to remain totally anonymous reported that; “Muslims traditionally draw parallels with Blacks, Latino’s and immigrants in America due to social and racial disparity”.

In contrast, face to face interview participant (# 38FF) in disagreement with the contentions of hypothesis 5 stated that, “I do not believe that a low socio-economic status affects a gang’s propensity for violent criminal acts” (but refused justification or further comment).

However, face to face interview participant (# 27FF) expressed strong agreement with hypothesis five due to personal experiences and knowledge of both the Gangster Disciples and Crips gangs that, “The low socio-economic status of some minority groups are influenced to conduct violent criminal behavior due to there being no other course of action that the a gang is willing to accept”. This interview participant further indicated that through personal Gangster Disciples and Crips gang interviews; “I have witnessed and heard of gang strategies being used to recruit children in low economic neighborhoods by both gangs specifically using social disparity as a recruitment tool”.

In further support of the contentions for hypothesis 5, face to face interview participant (# 40FF) also based on personal work experiences and knowledge stated, “I have witnessed gangs using socio-economic disparity as a reason to conduct violent gang activity. Gang members think they have no other recourse of survival but to conduct violent criminal activity due to having little or no education or financial support”.

Face to face interview participant (# 31FF) reported, “Due to socio-economic disparity; I have witnessed gang members from the Rolling 60’s Crips gang in California convert to Islam-Saheeh (JIS) an American Al-Qaeda Prison Gang”.

Interestingly, another face to face interview participant (# 13FF) noted parallel instances which were personally witnessed that; “Germany has the same issues as the US with both religious and racial sentiments being used for gang recruitment by terrorists”.

Another face to face interview participant agreed as to the possibilities that, “There are specific socio-economic factors which may reveal greater understanding of why US-based gangs may be influenced for recruitment by terrorist organizations; these factors are associated with social derivation, racism, sexism and classism which have often been ignored by other Western countries with the same terrorist concerns”.

Yet another face to face interview participant concluded that, “Certain aspects of Christianity teach tolerance; while certain aspects of nontraditional Islam teaches fanaticism and extremism. Both religions may evolve into becoming one or the other, and should not be considered exclusive to one religious group”.

Interview participant (# 40 FF) maintained that, “Two main social factors (education and structure) must be considered when inquiring on whether religious

conversion of gang members is possible. Gang conversion may not take place if the religion goes against the gang's social norm or stifles their ability to make money. It should be noted that all gang members may not believe in or practice religion”.

Face to face interview participant (35FF) contends, “The world will never truly understand or deal with terrorism until we understand and deal with social disparity and disenfranchisement. The majority of terrorist experts and researchers would like to believe terrorism is more sinister than the simple reasons which we often ignore“.

Hypothesis 5: Overall Summary of Results

The evidence found in the mixed methodology used in this study support the contentions of hypothesis 5 that there are plausible socio-economic factors that influence US-based gangs to be recruited by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations. This is particularly relevant from the observation of the Delphi survey, group discussions and face to face interviews that, “The social disparity and disenfranchisement taught by non radical religion of terrorists and gangs may influence each group to further connect through oppressive beliefs which allow gangs to become easily recruited by terrorists”.

Chapter 5: Discussion and Conclusions

This study investigated the overarching contention of whether, Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations are recruiting US-based gang members to assist in criminal attacks against the United States of America. The findings of such an action could lead to a viable and potentially dangerous connection between terrorist recruitment of US-based gangs and the use of biological and weapons of mass destruction by terrorist-gang groups.

Since September 11, 2001 US Federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies have theorized that a potential terrorist plot could take place which made this study highly relevant (Clarke, 2004). Note that the contentions of this study are more complex than just addressing the five hypotheses as earlier stated. In reference to the modified Delphi survey data, group discussions and the face to face interviews which together yielded combined bases of information. This mixed methodology was designed to specifically use the data findings with the expert opinions, knowledge and beliefs of the interview participants to examine and analyze each hypothesis question. As a bonus, some survey items, group discussions data and interview findings were found to overlap with different hypotheses considerations and were reported in this chapter.

The explanation of this combined data is highly complicated and must be considered in its entirety in order to understand and interpret the scope and dynamics of the possibilities and options in relations between terrorist, gang and weapons of mass destruction. The dimensions of these concerns lead to the following discussions and conclusions which will be discussed in three ways.

First, these categories are discussed in terms of the seven substantive topics as they relate to this research: (1) gangs; (2) terrorism; (3) WMD; (4) gangs and terrorism; (5) gangs and WMD; (6) terrorism and WMD; (7) gangs, terrorism and WMD. Second, conclusions relative to the five hypotheses considered are offered. Lastly, the implications for policy and practice are discussed before concluding this dissertation.

5.1 Substantive Topic Conclusions

Terrorism

The overall findings in this study supported the notions of hypothesis 2 that: The Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations are recruiting and forming criminal alliances with the Mara Salvatrucha MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips gangs.

The data and findings show both mixed and some supporting evidence that, the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations are recruiting gangs for criminal affiliations and other unspecified reasons. This finding is consistent with the literature which maintained that, the tactical uses of terrorism to exploit the use of fear and

intimidation have been in existence for centuries (Sageman, 2004; German, 2007).

Hamzeh (2003) reported that, Al-Qaeda and other Muslim terrorist organizations are highly structured and tend to exploit whomever, wherever, however conducive or relevant to the success of the terrorist organization. Supporting this notion, the respondent findings in this study suggested that, “Gangs have become an instrument for recruitment that terrorist organizations are willing to exploit”.

Gangs

The data provided general support for hypothesis 1 that; US-based gangs Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips Street gangs have the capabilities to conduct criminal and terrorist activity with the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations. US-based gangs are a serious national threat.

These findings also suggested that other motivational factors are in play. The evidence suggested that gangs are inclined to conduct several types of criminal activities for the right payment within limits and current gang prevention strategies have served as an unsuccessful deterrent to this threat. The 21st century has revealed a parallel increase in domestic gang and foreign terrorism activity since the September, 2001 Terrorist attacks. In fact, after September, 2001 law enforcement and intelligence agencies had a defining moment of turning their security efforts towards a more proactive response than reactive.

US-based gangs will remain a significant national threat as long as illicit drug market conditions continue to facilitate crime, terrorism and other threats to public safety (Rush, 2001). The global impact that US-based gangs have made on American society is

extraordinary. The results of this study have revealed significant evidence in support of the extensive gang violence and criminal increase over the last two decades (see Chapter 4). The complexity of gang involvement with other transnational and global organized criminals has sky-rocketed over the last decade and has continued to climb at an astronomical rate of speed (Klein, 2006).

Weapons of Mass Destruction WMD

The respondent findings in this study do not convincingly indicate that gangs are being currently trained by terrorists to conduct biological attacks. While the mixed methods data support that, “Terrorist-gang affiliations are a definite threat”; there was no specific respondent support for the explicit threats reflected in hypothesis 3 and 4 respectively which indicated that, “The Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips gangs have the current capability to use biological weapons as a tool of mass destruction”; while only mixed support was found for the contention that, “The Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations are offering Mara Salvatrucha MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips US- based gangs monetary gain as motivation to use WMD against the US”.

While biological attacks in the US are contrary to what is expected by some observers, researchers and the data findings; the study respondents have suggested in full agreement with the existing research that, “There is no reason to believe there will be an isolated biological terrorist attack in the US in the immediate future”. Yet Henderson

(2002) persists in suggesting; “It is likely that additional attacks involving anthrax (*B anthracis*) and perhaps other pathogens will take place” (Henderson, et al, 2002, p. 10).

Gangs and Terrorism

The respondent findings clearly indicated support for hypothesis 5 that, “The Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations are recruiting gangs for criminal affiliations and other unknown reasons” which were noted earlier. These findings were not surprising as MS-13 is one of several gangs that use their far reaching tentacles to facilitate fear and intimidation to build global alliances and criminal connections. “These alliances allow the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations to have greater ability to recruit and conduct criminal or terrorist activity with the MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips gangs”. Whereas, the majority of the mixed methods results reflected general support with some variations to the general notion that terrorist recruitment of MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips gangs are currently being conducted; the exact extent remains largely unknown.

Perhaps in keeping with traditional thoughts on gang dynamics the findings do not indicate that gangs are currently being trained by terrorists in biological attacks. Rather the evidence in this study suggested; “Gangs are more likely to expand their domestic criminal activity rather than affiliate with terrorists abroad”. This reflected more certainty of traditional gang activity with possible awareness of new traditional threats rather than; terrorist-gang biological threats or attacks at the present time. Note, that

terrorist-gang threats should not totally be discounted as impossible only unlikely at the present time.

Gangs and Weapons of Mass Destruction WMD

These study findings are not indicative of the specific argument that, US-based gangs are being recruited by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Organizations to use biological or weapons of mass destruction against the US for monetary gain. The impact and history of street gangs over the past half-century has directed law enforcement and researchers to take notice, study the social dynamics and examine the future growth of US-based gangs (Gonzalez, 2005; Guillemin, 2006). As such, continuing to examine these areas with an eye toward terrorist traits and future plain-view tactics is important towards the future detection of terrorist attacks and recruitment of gangs.

From a historical perspective, the end of the 20th century brought about a change in US-based gang activity. Gangs moved from a smaller less mystified social organization, culminating into a major criminal enterprise organization with the potential of developing far reaching criminal alliances. The end of the 20th century also brought about vast changes in America, such as the vast demand of technology and global enterprises. According to the respondent findings, “The beginning of the 21st century has witnessed a morphing of US-based gangs into a global criminal entity willing to conduct violent criminal acts for monetary gain”.

However, while the respondent findings here have suggested that; “Gangs are a national criminal threat but; gangs are not being recruited for monetary gain to conduct biological attacks and may not be a current specific threat”. These findings are more supportive of the respondent notions that; “Any current terrorist-gang threat is more likely to be with the usage of traditional weapons such as firearms, chemicals, missiles and explosives”.

Terrorism and WMD

The respondent findings clearly support contentions that; “Terrorists are willing and able to use weapons of mass destruction against the US”. These respondent findings are consistent with previous literature, where the findings have suggested that; “Terrorist groups will use any weapon of attack available against the US”. However, this study has also suggested through respondent findings that; “Gangs do not currently have the full technological capability to use biological or other WMD”. The study data generated here supported that, “ Terrorist usage of WMD is a definite threat; but the specific threat of Al-Qaeda or the Taliban Terrorist Organizations currently using any gangs to conduct biological and weapons of mass destruction terrorist attacks against the US is not definitive”. One explanation for this respondent finding is; “Gangs (as considered here) are not believed to have the technological ability or knowledge to conduct such terrorist actions as first believed by law enforcement”.

Gangs, Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction

The respondent data gathered here is supportive of traditional notions that; “Gangs are capable of conducting all types of criminal enterprises for monetary gain”. However, “Gangs are not thought to be currently capable of biological attacks due to the lack of technological expertise and knowledge”. The respondent findings also support that, “The Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations wish to and will use any arsenal of weapons to include WMD against the US; but gangs are not thought to be capable of delivering this threat”. This notion is best illustrated as articulated by face to face interview participant (#28FF) “ The real terrorist threat against the US in the near future will be small arms usage, explosives, suicide bombings and mass casualty attacks such as; shopping malls, mass transit and school attacks against our greatest resources which is our children”.

5.2 Discussion and Conclusions Relevant to the Hypotheses

This study provided insight into the overarching research question: Are the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations recruiting US-based gangs to use biological weapons of mass destruction and casualties against the US for monetary gain? Before concluding a succinct answer to this question; a summary of the respondent findings relative to the five hypotheses examined is offered: (1) The belief that, US-based gangs Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips Street gangs have the

capabilities to conduct both criminal and terrorist activity with the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations was found to have mixed support; (2) the belief that Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations are recruiting and forming criminal alliances with the Mara Salvatrucha MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips gangs were found to have clear support; (3) the belief that, the Mara Salvatrucha MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips gangs have the capability to conduct biological and weapons of mass destruction terrorist attacks against the US was not supported. In part, this was due to the belief that, “No gang currently has the technological expertise or knowledge to conduct biological attacks”; (4) the belief that, the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations are offering Mara Salvatrucha MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips gangs monetary gain as motivation to use weapons of mass destruction WMD against the US was not supported”. However, a modification of this contention suggested that; “Terrorist groups may be offering gangs monetary gain for recruitment” was supported. The point of dissention was, whether gangs would be recruited to use biological or WMD for any reasons; this particular contention is still unknown at the present time and should continue to be addressed for purposes of national security; (5) and finally, the belief that there are significant socio-economic factors that influence US-based gang recruitment by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations was clearly supported.

5.3 Additional Findings of Interest

The results of this study also yielded additional relevant findings which should be considered. These respondent findings are based on the participant interviews, modified Delphi data and group discussions which expressed that, the dynamics of the relationship between terrorists, gangs and weapons of mass destruction are not restricted only to the five hypotheses in this study.

The respondent findings agreed that, “The MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips gangs have the global alliances and criminal capabilities to gain the technical expertise and usage of biological, chemical or other weapons of mass destruction but; gangs do not currently have these capabilities”. The data further suggested that, “All three gangs have the capabilities to use traditional criminal means such as firearms, missiles, chemicals and explosives which are effective means of producing fear and intimidation which are the hall marks of terrorist actions and highly capable of creating mass casualties”. This mixed methods study gave support to the notion which also connected the respondents aforementioned contention that, “Modern gangs have the far-reaching tentacles and ability to build global criminal alliances; the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations are successfully recruiting the MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs which in the past was very unthinkable for their gang predecessors”.

Early gang research studied the delinquency and social rebellion of gang actions in this country. This study’s findings contend that, “Contemporary gangs have become global with the means to sustain their operations through the development of major criminal alliances and enterprises. This may be the reason for violent gang activity

skyrocketing”. The findings also suggested that; “US-based gangs have the propensity to conduct extreme violent and hostile actions for monetary gain. Therefore, the threat that gangs can be persuaded to conduct acts of terrorism for the right amount of monetary compensation is not negligible”.

New Insights and Linkages

The respondent findings in this study also supported the belief that, “Many fanatical Islamic leaders are teaching their followers to be true believers of their religious faith to Islam”. This notion reflected the fanatical beliefs of the converts of radical Islam (violent beliefs), “Which instruct followers to rise up in retaliation against the US and other Western countries as these countries are believed to be threatening the Islamic faith and way of life”. The respondent findings further suggested that, “These fanatical leaders are also teaching followers that the US is plotting to weaken Islamic religion and the Muslim culture by destroying their pious ways of life”.

Due to the continuing global economic influence of Western countries, radical Muslim leaders are believed to be employing innovative covert means of attack against the US. This mixed methods study provided new knowledge and support for this contention that; “The MS-13 gang is working with the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations conducting human smuggling activity from Mexico into the US for monetary gain”. As such, this research supported the respondent findings and the opinions and works of other researchers who have suggested that, terrorist organizations are also recruiting through radical religious conversions and potentially paying the Gangster Disciples and Crips gangs for criminal actions (Knox, 2004).

This mixed methodology research has revealed how US-based gangs have transitioned into an industrial worldwide criminal organization interconnecting with terrorist groups and other global criminals. This study has also bridged the gap between early social gang activity that in the past consisted primarily of social delinquency and truancy; into the 21st century gang activity of global criminal dimensions significantly producing new knowledge into the field of criminal intelligence and law enforcement. As such, this study provided further insight for proactive efforts by law enforcement, intelligence, first responders and policy makers to develop strategies to disrupt and dismantle threats of terrorist-gang activity.

Finally, this research has examined the five specific hypothesis and related dynamics which further identify and reveal support for the notion that, “Contemporary gangs, terrorist alliances and recruitment have moved beyond the criminal scope of past gang activity found in the existing literature”. The new dimensions between terrorist groups and gangs have morphed into a more sophisticated and complex criminal partnership than ever deemed possible by early gang studies which have highlighted gangs as delinquents and social misfits.

5.4 Relevance to Existing Literature

Current US Gang Involvement

The majority of gang research during the past century has explored gang deviance, school truancy and persistent gang problems across the US. The major contributors and

social researchers on gang violence and other criminal activities within the US have eloquently captured the socio-economic aspects of gang life; but have failed to explore the more far-reaching potentials of major gang criminal alliances and activity (see Chapter 2).

While the social aspects of gang studies have proven to be relevant during the past century, existing gang literature has not adequately addressed current issues of gang criminal alliances, socio-economic influence, terrorist recruitment of gangs and the potential for gangs to utilize biological terrorism in the US.

Current Terrorism inside the United States

The 1993 World Trade Center attack was the first time that the US had experienced an assault of violence of this magnitude by a foreign group or government on the main land in modern times. The US has never witnessed such close up and devastating horror of terrorism. Americans have only been familiar with the devastating reality of terrorism through the eyes of other countries which have lived with such horror and terrorist acts for centuries. Over the past 11 years, for these reasons, US law enforcement and Intelligence Agencies have changed the ways that they conduct business (Bogis, 2006; DOJ, 2005).

Current Terrorist-Gang Use of Biological Weapons

While there is little available literature which examined the interconnections of gangs, terrorism and WMD actions; relevant empirical research in the biodefense and counterterrorism fields of study is necessary for security and law enforcement purposes. Whereas, the US like most Western countries has reason to fear the domestic use of

attack with weapons of mass destruction attack by terrorist organizations. The devastating potential of any type of biological or chemical attacks has caused the US to fear the use of WMD as a terrorist action (Cirincione, 2005).

The use of biological and weapons of mass destruction keep the psychological fear and intimidation in the minds of Americans and researchers because of the unfamiliarity of the strengths and capabilities of these weapons (Bongar, Brown, Beutler, Breckenridge, & Zimbardo, 2007). However, this studies respondent findings have suggested that; “Biological weapons are not currently the most likely method of attack by terrorists or gangs. Biological weapons usage is still a major global threat consideration; but due to such complex matters as maintaining technological expertise and knowledge, WMD threats are diminished. Terrorists and gangs are potentially more likely to use traditional rather than biological weapons”.

US Gang involvement in Terrorism

This study brought forth a new breadth of knowledge to the literature and law enforcement on the current and potential extremist actions occurring between the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations and US-based gangs. Gang activity in the US is not a new phenomenon; modern gangs began evolving in the US at the beginning of the 20th century. Until recently, the greatest criminal impact and threat produced by most gangs during the last 50 years was gang-on-gang violence and delinquency. The heart of this study on gangs, terrorism and WMD was able to place new knowledge on the impact and rise of major gang dynamics and criminal activity in the new millennium. This research has revealed what is characterized as an emerging threat of nationally

syndicated gang criminal activities, alliances with other global organized criminals to include, terrorist-gang actions and recruitment in the US.

The global connections between US-based gangs and other major global criminal organizations such as terrorist groups, supremacist groups, traditional organized crime groups, militias and drug cartels are the beginning of this new threat of terrorist-gang enterprises, alliances and attacks in the US. The results of this research has supported the contention that, “The MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips gangs are the most likely US-based gangs in the 21st century capable of being recruited by a terrorist group to form terrorist-gang enterprises and alliances”.

Terrorism inside the United States

The terrorist tactic of using fear and intimidation against their enemies has been in existence for centuries. US law enforcement and intelligence agencies have employed social researchers to assist in making sense of the previous phenomena by analyzing new terrorist tactical dynamics (Laqueur and others, 2003). This research on terrorist, gangs and WMD provided both relevant and new information on the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations recruitment efforts of US-based gangs for monetary gain and to build criminal alliances. Additional findings in this study highlighted that, “Gangs may not be engaging in specific biological actions for any terrorist organization; but may conduct traditional terroristic actions of attacks such as (traditional firearms, improvised explosives and chemical weapons) due to the gang’s lack of technological expertise or knowledge to conduct WMD attacks”.

5.5 Policy Relevance of Study

Law enforcement and Homeland Security

Over the past 11 years since September 11, 2001 the US government and others have implemented new strategic law enforcement policy and efforts to assist in curtailing the on-going and prevailing violence of terrorists, gangs and other transnational organized crime groups operating inside the US. The following policies and measures are only a glimpse of determinants implemented in the fight against the perceived threat measures of terrorist-gang activities. A small glimpse of these policies revealed the relevance of changes which have and must continue to be updated in order to prevent continued terrorist actions.

Rep. Jane Harmon (D-CA), chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk Assessment implemented, *The Home Grown Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007* on April 19, 2007, the 12th anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing stated that, “Since the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, which claimed 168 lives and injured over 800 citizens, is eclipsed only by September, 2001 Terrorist attack as the deadliest act of terrorism on US soil” (Harman, 2007, p. 1). Also according to Harman (2007) this legislative bill sought to address the root causes of radicalization and established a grant program which provided funds to combat domestic terrorism throughout the country as she concluded that, “The bill also created a Center of Excellence for the Prevention of Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism to examine the social, criminal, political,

psychological and economic roots of domestic terrorism; while proposing solutions and promoting international collaboration on strategies to combat radicalization ” (Harman, 2007, p. 1).

According to David T. Johnson, Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law enforcement Affairs on April 29, 2008 during opening remarks before the Ministry of Justice or Attorney Generals of the Americas in Washington, DC. While speaking on, *Transnational Crime and Unity of Effort to Combat Gangs, Criminals and Terrorists*; Johnson discussed the core mission of Mexico, Central America and the United States to safeguard the Western Hemisphere from the interrelated threats of drug trafficking and other transnational crimes.

As we are all aware, terrorism, illegal drugs and other forms of organized crime share an unholy partnership in many parts of the world and the Western Hemisphere is no exception . . . Criminals however . . . such as, Mara Salvatrucha MS-13 are becoming more dangerous as they expand their illicit activities of drug trafficking, kidnapping, prostitution, extortion and murder. (Johnson, 2008, pp. 1-2)

Most recently Mexican Cartels such as the Gulf, Los Zetas, Sinaloa Cartels in conjunction with the MS-13 Gang and others have inflicted unprecedented violence along the borders of Mexico and the US over the past several years. With the support of the US, Mexico and other Central American countries there has been a strengthening in collaborations which are extending partnership cooperation's against the continued

growth of terrorists, gangs and organized crime groups who have taken advantage of the closeness of transnational borders by building vast criminal alliances (Johnson, 2008).

Future Relevant Policy and Practices

This study revealed that after 11 years of on-going terrorist actions taking place against the US, terrorism policies at a glance are not as effective and specific as they should be. It is essential that legislation and policy continue to keep pace with the growing threat of terrorism which these policies are meant to challenge. As such, this study has addressed the need for continued research and policies to combat these global threats.

Policy Strategies to Address Terrorism-Gangs and WMD

The problem of terrorist-gang and WMD attacks is currently not as critical as it first appeared before conducting this study; but this does not mean we should ignore the possible capabilities of such a strategic threat or attack as indicated by the findings of this research.

Investigative policies should continue their focus on traditional crime tactics which often have failed to attract the sufficient attention of law enforcement intelligence while fearing that the larger more sinister attacks may prevail; while leaving doors open for the (simple in plain-view) attacks to occur. Gangs for example, have become more organized than ever before through global connections by conducting major criminal enterprises with traditional and sophisticated global organized crime groups and terrorists

(see Chapter 2 and 4). Gang and terrorist activity is a major threat but should not be considered the only national security concern. Law enforcement and new policy efforts should focus on innovative ways to slow the growth of gangs. Instead of fighting a losing battle of attrition between law enforcement and violent gangs; the development of a policy conducting more proactive prevention strategies to directly attack the growth of gangs could essentially curtail new members.

Policy Strategies and Implications

The following policy and strategy recommendations are suggested based on the data and findings of this study:

There is currently a need for transnational and global law enforcement policies which will; 1) address the continuing criminal enterprises of major criminal groups such as terrorists who are currently outsourcing criminal activity to US-based gangs as never seen before; 2) specify policy and legislation making it a priority that all law enforcement agencies address specific: law enforcement, first responder, community, school-based education and awareness training; directed at understanding, interpreting and reporting criminal and terrorist actions; 3) the development of a cross border and global criminal policy with teeth; 4) while addressing this growing gang and drug cartel problem with a different perspective by strengthening policy with specific directives to implement (specialty teams) to assist law enforcement intelligence in combating these criminals; 5) by forecasting criminal and terrorist motivations through understanding the specific (causations, mindsets and behaviors); 6) streamlining biological directives to enhance the

congruency of training and research aspects for scientists, law enforcement and first responders to work closer together; 7) there should be a continued biological awareness or threat alert initiative, training and education plan implemented for all schools and communities to give a better understanding of the capabilities, vulnerabilities and other critical aspects of dealing with biological threats and assessments; 8) eventually curtailing the growth and global connections of such criminal enterprises as: terrorists, traditional organized crime groups, militias, extremists, outlaw motorcycle groups, drug cartels and other unknown global criminals who have organized and connected with street and prison gangs to further their global criminal enterprises.

5.6 Current Developments

In this study, terrorism alone does not appear to be the overarching threat. Lack of understanding the continuum motivations of terrorist parallel actions with gangs and other global criminal groups have allowed the covert tactics and capabilities of terrorists to freeze the US economy and infrastructures. These strategic plain view measures of attack have forced the US to categorically react to every firecracker that pops; while producing the greatest requirements to streamline government policy (see policy relevance Chapters 2 and 5). This study has suggested there is no need to make more cumbersome policy to address terrorism in the US; there are already policies in place which cover and address every aspect of counterterrorism in the US.

Terrorists are opportunistic therefore; US Anti-terrorism policies which are already in affect need to be streamlined to address the smaller dynamics of national security concerns which often goes unnoticed such as (traditional less complex threats) which allow terrorist to continue using less strategic tactics of attacks exemplified by (using box cutters and over the counter products) that have proven to be just as effective as employing a more dynamic attack.

Terrorists within the last 10 years since the September, 2001 Terrorist attacks have failed to make a substantial blow in the US. There have been several dramatic and dynamic attempts but; none have been earth shattering or with the successful use of a biological weapon (see Chapters 2 and 4). Since the criminal actions, motivations, mindset and behavior of terrorist-gangs are paralleled as revealed in this study. It is the suggestion of this research to reevaluate the existing policy already in place and streamline it to concentrate on unaddressed opportunistic terrorist concerns as: lone domestic actors, radicalization and religious recruitment of extremists and gangs.

The biological aspects of policy concerns for WMD are not as high as first believed. It should be emphasized that these potential threats and likelihoods can and may occur in the near future. These current biological threat concerns may not appear as highly technical attacks as suspected due to the lack of technical capabilities, expert knowledge and dissemination skills by the attackers but, these findings are relevant to the existing literature and the prevention of future attacks.

The following respondent findings reveal some examples of the contentions evidenced in the existing literature which has proved the significance for this study (see biological threats, Chapters 2 and 4). “Biological weapons are relatively easy to acquire, the usage and their effectiveness as a terror weapon is more complicated than may be expected. Bioterrorism poses many challenges for the producers of such a complex weapon as well as for law enforcement that has the challenge of disrupting, dismantling or preventing such a threat”. Other respondent concerns point out that; “The major and current threat of biological weapons is more the strategic use of psychological fear and intimidation than the attack of toxins and pathogens which are in some instances invisible to the naked eye”. This study has revealed that; “The majority of terrorist attacks in the US have been conducted by religious converts and domestic extremists using traditional weapons (firearms, explosives, missiles and make shift chemical devices)”. It should be noted that; “Currently, there has only been a handful of individual gang member threats or attacks using any WMD (see Gangs and WMD attacks in Chapter 4). To date, there have been no successful recorded biological attacks in the US by gang members using biological agents; most biological plots conducted in the US have been by domestic extremists and lone individual actors”. While there has been no successful WMD since September, 2001; “The efforts of this study are highly relevant and timely in examining the potential for such BW threats to take place through the terrorist recruitment of gangs to conceivably conduct such a threat in the future”.

5.7 Future Implications

Terrorists and gangs are inclined to conduct violent actions for political and monetary gain respectively. The dynamics on how these violent events may take place is influenced by opportunity and ingenuity. Whereas, such criminal enterprises and alliances are complex, resulting in the potential for such violent measures occurring inside the US has prompted the forecasting of the following future implications which were derived from this study:

- 1) Global criminal alliances (traditional organized crime groups, terrorist groups, major syndicated gangs, extremist groups and drug cartels) will lead domestic criminals into highly susceptible criminal acts; prompting significant violence in the US by foreign subversives or terrorist groups.
- 2) Future terrorist attacks against the US will more likely target major sporting events, mass transportation, shopping malls and schools than other targets.
- 3) Future terrorist attacks will be conducted against civilians and children to influence change in US sanctions or policy.
- 4) Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations will continue to conduct deadly intentions in support of radical terrorism as revenge for terrorist leaders who were killed by the US within the past 12 years.
- 5) Future terrorist biological or WMD usage is plausible but, instead of WMD; the usage of traditional (small arms, explosives, chemicals, kidnappings and mass hysteria) which are effective weapons of choice may be more likely.

- 6) Future terrorist attacks against the US will deploy the unconventional use of females and children in plain-view as weapons.
- 7) Future biological terrorist attacks will not be supported by most gang syndicates. Instead, attacks will be conducted by individual or former gang members, if at all.
- 8) Future media sensationalism will continue to influence terrorist actions within the US. Subversive attackers will claim socio-economic disparity and hostile attacks will primarily occur with the use of traditional weapons such as (firearms, rockets, explosives and industrial chemicals) by radical religious converts and domestic citizens.
- 9) Terrorist motivations and weapons are not always used to destroy or kill. Thereby, the future primary terrorist weapons of choice will more likely be (conventional weapons) of mass casualties instead of biological weapons of mass destruction.
- 10) Future terrorist recruitment will use radical religion and monetary gain while converting multicultural individuals for attacks to include US citizens. Each of the 10 aforementioned implications merits further examination and study to determine the actual threats, likelihoods and timeline of potential occurrences.

5.8 Limitations

The limitations in this study did not directly affect the outcome or conclusions of this research but are important to note. The brief limitations shared from this research were examined to advance other future studies of terrorism, gangs and weapons of mass destruction.

Potential Subject Interviews

This study was unable to conduct an adequate sample of interviews and discussions with terrorists, prison, street gang members or domestic extremists due to time constraints, respondent access and the potential danger of directly encountering these extremely violent criminals. Future studies could specifically target potential interviews with these target populations which may produce added value to the bio defense and counterterrorism areas of study.

Analytical Concerns

The findings revealed in the data extracted from the mixed methodology were paralleled; but proved to be extremely complex when addressing one single group or individual findings without mixed considerations being used when examining and addressing the total data in relations to all five hypotheses together.

Expert Panel Selection

The panel selection had its challenges with the physical coordination of hosting experts on terrorist, gangs and WMD in one setting for an extended three day time period. Additionally, the selection criteria for subject matter experts may be expanded in future studies in attempt to find new knowledge and opinions. The expert selection and criteria used in this study did not cause any limitations to the findings.

Methodological Concerns

Finding the proper mixed methods selection for this specific research topic; *Terror in Plainview: Terrorist-Gang Threats of Biological Usage* proved quiet challenging. The use of both quantitative and qualitative investigations of raw data was supportive; but posed a challenge during the explanation of the data generated to assess the expert opinions and discussions in relation to the five hypotheses.

Sensitivity and Classification of Methodology Concerns

Note: This study does not contain classified or official law enforcement information. The researcher exercised due diligence in limiting this study to substantial open-source research materials which produced scholarly and relevant findings. This work is solely that of the author and does not reflect the official position or policy of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), George Mason University (GMU) or any other agency or institution.

Alternative Methodologies

The use of case studies or other methodologies may have yielded different or corroborating results but, the choice of using mixed methods in this research yielded value in the results revealed in this study.

In conclusion, this dissertation has provided fresh insights regarding the dynamic relationships among the threats of terrorists, gangs and WMD usage that specific threats

may occur in plain-view. The value added from the new findings of this research have closed the knowledge gaps with the existing literature and the assistance provided to law enforcement to confront such threats. The findings of this study and recommendations for future research will prevent future terrorist-gang actions.

Appendix A: Modified Delphi Methods Definition

The original Delphi method was developed by Norman Dalkey of the RAND Corporation in the 1950s for a US sponsored military project. The original Delphi method has its origins in the American business community and has since been widely accepted throughout the world in the original Delphi method's flexibility is evident in how it has been used (Dalkey, 1963). It is a method for configuring group communication processes to assist with group problem solving and to structure models (Linstone & Turloff, 1975 as cited in Skulmoski, Hartman, & Krahn, 2007). In this study the original Delphi can also be utilized as a judgment or decision-making or forecasting tool and may be useful to facilitate planning and administration (Delbeq, Van de Ven, & Gustafson, 1975; Rowe & Wright, 1999 as cited in Skulmoski; etal, 2007).

The original Delphi method is used when there is incomplete knowledge about a problem or phenomena which characterizes the classical Delphi method by four key features:

Anonymity of Delphi participants: allows all participants to openly express their opinions and have the ability to give equal in-put towards the relevancy and focus of the study. There are no social pressures based on rank or title from other members in the group.

Decisions will be evaluated and selected based on the relevance and ability to direct the study towards the next round of discussions.

Iteration: allow the participants to narrow their views as each discussion round continues and will allow each participant to verify their position against earlier decisions (Adler & Ziglio, 1996; Delbeq et al., 1975; Rowe; et al, 1999 as cited in Skulmoski; et al, 2007, pp. 2-3).

Controlled feedback: allows the participants to hear and see the other participant's perspectives, and provides the chance for Delphi participants to clarify or change their views on prior decisions made during the initial process.

Statistical aggregation of group response: allows for a quantitative analysis and interpretation of data (Skulmoski; et al, 2007, p.3).

Some researchers suggest that only those studies that have the aforementioned four characteristics are classified as Delphi studies (Adler; et al, 1996; Delbeq et al., 1975; Linstone; et al, 1975; Rowe; et al, 1999 as cited in Skulmoski; et al, 2007, p. 3). Others show that the technique was effectively modified to meet the needs of the given study. The researcher will modify the original Delphi to suit the particular study as long as the four key features noted above are used as summarized by (Rowe; et al, 1999; as cited in Skulmoski; et al, 2007, p.3). The original Delphi has been successfully used in industry sectors including health care, defense, business, education, information technology, transportation and engineering (Skulmoski; et al, 2007, p.5).

Appendix B: Federal Bureau of Investigation IRB

December 9, 2010

Dr. John Jarvis
Training Division, Behavior Sciences Unit
Quantico, VA 22135

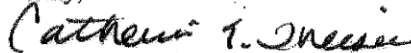
RE: 180-10 Terror within Plainview: US-based Gangs, Terrorism and the Threat of Biological Weapons Use

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) conducted a review of the captioned research project. Following a review of the information you provided, the IRB voted to approve the initiation of this project with the following stipulations:

1. The researcher should provide a more thorough explanation of the Delphi Method in the consent form at a level that can be understood by an individual with a 6th grade reading ability.
2. Prospective participants should be notified that by participating in the research, they may be assisting in completion of the researcher's thesis and or dissertation.
3. The IRB Committee needs to be informed, prior to the initiation of the research, from which community the researcher will be recruiting..

Please remember that any significant changes in your project or adverse effects suffered by a subject must be reported to the IRB immediately. If you close this project within the year, please inform the IRB. . If you have any questions, or need further assistance or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Withnell, Privacy and Civil Liberties Unit, OGC, (202) 324-3396, or Scott Brotherton, (703) 632-8061.

Sincerely,



Catherine E. Theisen, Ph.D., Chair

IRB

1 - Ms. Withnell
1 - PCLU Tickler
1 - PCLU Library
1 - File 180-10

SHB

December 16, 2011

John Jarvis
BSU
Quantico, VA 22135

RE: *180-10, Terror Within PLain View: US Based Gangs, Terrorism*

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) conducted an annual continuing review of the captioned research project. Following a review of the information you provided, the IRB voted to approve the continuation of the project.

Please remember that any significant changes in your project or adverse effects suffered by a subject must be reported to the IRB immediately. Also you must receive IRB approval before making any changes to the incentive amount offered to recruit research projects. If you close this project within one year please inform the IRB.

If you have any questions, or need further assistance or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Withnell, Privacy and Civil Liberties Unit, OGC, (202) 324-3396, or Sonia Biggs-Knight, IRB Administrator, (703) 632-1107.

Sincerely,



Steve Krueger, Chair
IRB

1 - Ms. Withnell
1 - PCLU Tickler
1 - PCLU Library
1 - File 180-10


Appendix C: George Mason University HSRB



Office of Research Subject Protections

Research 1 Building
4400 University Drive, MS 4C6, Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Phone: 703-993-4121; Fax: 703-993-9590

TO: Francis Harbour, Public & International Affairs

FROM: Sandra M. Sanford, RN, MSN, CIP 
Director, Office of Research Subject Protections

PROTOCOL NO.: 7244 Research Category: Doctoral Dissertation

PROPOSAL NO.: N/A

TITLE: Terror within Plainview: US-based Gangs, Terrorism and the Threat of Biological Weapons Use

DATE: December 15, 2010

Cc: Darvis Darell Dones

On 12/15/2010, the George Mason University Human Subjects Review Board (GMU HSRB) reviewed and approved the above-cited protocol following expedited review procedures.

Please note the following:

1. A copy of the final approved consent document is attached. You must use this copy with the HSRB stamp of approval for your research. Please keep copies of the signed consent forms used for this research for three years after the completion of the research.
2. **Any modification to your research (including the protocol, consent, advertisements, instruments, funding, etc.) must be submitted to the Office of Research Subject Protections for review and approval prior to implementation.**
3. Any adverse events or unanticipated problems involving risks to subjects including problems involving confidentiality of the data identifying the participants must be reported to Office of Research Subject Protections and reviewed by the HSRB.

The anniversary date of this study is 12/14/2011. **You may not collect data beyond that date without GMU HSRB approval.** A continuing review form must be completed and submitted to the Office of Research Subject Protections 30 days prior to the anniversary date or upon completion of the project. A copy of the continuing review form is attached. In addition, prior to that date, the Office of Research Subject Protections will send you a reminder regarding continuing review procedures.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 703-993-4015.

Terror within Plainview: US-based Gangs, Terrorism and the Threat of Biological Weapons Use

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

RESEARCH PROCEDURES

This research is being conducted to conduct interviews with subject matter experts (SME's) in the areas of (academia, research science, law enforcement, and intelligence). Each interview will meet the standards set forth by the following Institutional Review Board: George Mason University (GMU).

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to be interviewed utilizing the modified Delphi questionnaire methods regarding motivations, behaviors, knowledge acquisition, technological and methodological details of respective terrorism, gang, and potential use of weapons of mass destruction and casualties, intended target(s) of the activity, and including, but not limited to, the perception of how past terrorism- gang criminal activity was detected, and/or how they eluded detection.

Please note that the (modified Delphi Method) will use the same standards and methods of conducting survey analysis and interviews for this research project as the original Delphi Method protocol. The only difference is, due to limited funding, and research participant time. The (modified Delphi Method) protocol will require multiple participant group meetings, interviews, and analysis during a (3) day period; instead of conducting several extended participant group meetings over several weeks. The modification of the Delphi Method time frame does not change any other research standards or protocols.

There will be no experimental, or medical research conducted during this research. The duration of this research will take place over a (3) day work period, beginning at 8:00 a.m. until 5:00p.m., to include a one hour lunch break, and incremental breaks in between.

RISKS

There are no foreseeable risks or discomforts, or concerns either psychologically or physical. All research questions, interviews, and analysis has no bearings on the individual group participants.

BENEFITS

There is no direct benefit to the research participants. The primary and most important benefit of this study is the potential of determining the threats of US- gangs being recruited to conduct terrorist actions using (WMD) weapons of mass destruction and casualties. Additionally, the results and benefits of this research project will provide empirical data supporting the development of specialized training, research, operational consultations, in matters involving terrorist- gang activity. As such several reports, presentations, and publications from this research project will specifically address law enforcement, intelligence, academic concerns pertaining to terrorist- gang threats, and actions.

Approval for the use
of this document
EXPIRES

DEC 14 2011

A. May assist in determining the course of future investigations by identifying behavioral characteristics, methods, and technology which are common to these criminal behaviors. Such information will assist law enforcement to a more expedient identification of subject threats and criminal actions against national security matters within the United States.

B. Will further training, research and investigative activities related to counter terrorism and criminal activity in support of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

C. Will support development of blocks of instruction for a behavioral assessment capacity relative to gang- terrorism, criminal behaviors, criminal recruitment, and potential use of weapons of mass destruction and casualties (WMD), and violent criminal enterprises.

D. Will develop a body of knowledge, research, to support and enhance law enforcement operations and intelligence- based training. Also to identify, disrupt, and dismantle national security threats which may be employed by terrorist organizations.

E. Will contribute to the development of criminal and behavioral consultations useful in the enforcement of domestic terrorism laws of the United States and assist in filling intelligence gaps considering terrorist- gang threats in the near future.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The data in this study will be confidential. For coded identifiable data (1) your name will not be included on the surveys and other collected data; (2) a code will be placed on the survey and other collected data; (3) through the use of an identification key, the researcher will be able to link your survey to your identity; and (4) only the researcher will access to the identification of each participants identification key; (5) confidentiality of all research group participants will be established and maintained by the researcher; (6) all research materials will be controlled by the principal researcher (7) security measures regarding research data will be safeguarded through locked and concealed containers to be kept in both locked and secured GMU, FBI, or other participating law enforcement facilities.

PARTICIPATION

Your participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study at any time and for any reason. If you decide not to participate or if you withdraw from the study, there is no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. There are no costs to you or any other party. There will be no compensation given for participation in or during this research. This research project will be strictly voluntary.

The recruitment of participants will be conducted based on each individual's expertise (SME) in the following categories of interest: domestic terrorism, gang, and weapons of mass destruction and casualties (WMD). All participants will be asked to voluntarily participate in this research study via e-mail and telephonic contact. Other participants are members of academia, research, government, or law enforcement entities.

ALTERNATIVES TO PARTICIPATION

Approval for the use
of this document
EXPIRES

DEC 14 2011

All participation is voluntary. If research participants agree to either audio / video taped interviews, consent should be noted by circling your choice and placing your initials next to the statement of consent at the bottom of this page.

CONTACT

This research is being conducted by Darvis Darell Dones at George Mason University. He may be reached at (571) 259.1948 for questions or to report a research-related problem. Or you may contact: Dr. Francis Harbour, research chair-person at in the Humanities and Social Sciences Department, George Mason University at (703) 993.1406, office. You may contact the George Mason University Office of Research Subject Protections at 703-993-4121 if you have questions or comments regarding your rights as a participant in the research.

This research has been reviewed according to George Mason University procedures governing your participation in this research.

CONSENT

I have read this form and agree to participate in this research study

Name

Date of Signature

Please initial here, and circle your choices or if you agree to be either audio / video taped interviews during research_____

Version date:

Approval for the use
of this document
EXPIRES

DEC 14 2011

Protocol # 7244
George Mason University

Appendix: D: Modified Delphi Survey Questions

Questionnaire Preamble:

This research focuses upon your assessment and knowledge relative to Al-Qaeda, and more generally the Taliban Terrorist Organizations who may or may not be attempting to recruit US-based gang members to assist in criminal attacks and biological (WMD) attacks against the United States of America. The aim of this exercise is to understand if there are identifiable connections between terrorist recruitment of US-based gangs and the potential use of weapons of mass destruction.

The primary and most important benefit of this study is the development of specialized training, research, operational consultations, in matters involving such activities, if they exist. As such, please follow the directions provided below and provide answers based upon your knowledge and understanding of these matters

Directions:

For each of the following questions, please circle the answer which corresponds to your current opinion about each question. (Please circle one answer for each question).

Key:

- 1 = Strongly Disagree**
- 2 = Disagree**
- 3 = Neutral**
- 4 = Agree**
- 5 = Strongly Agree**

Modified Delphi Survey Questionnaire

Strongly Disagree= 1

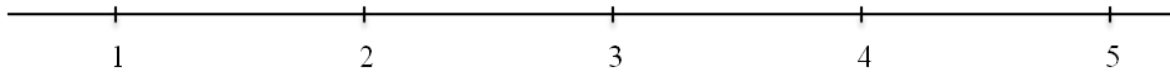
Disagree= 2

Neutral= 3

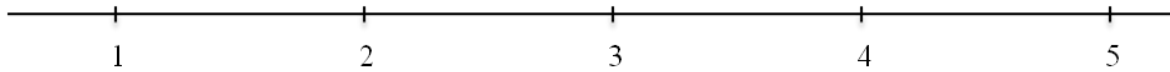
Agree= 4

Strongly Agree= 5

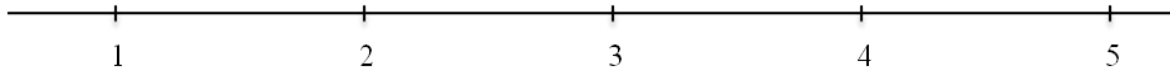
1. Law enforcement is prepared for terrorist and gangs to use WMD against the US.



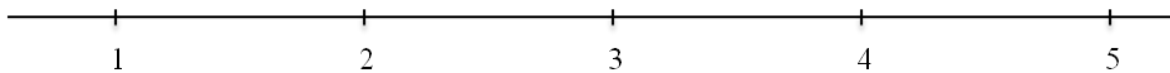
2. The use of biological weapons is not an immediate threat to the US.



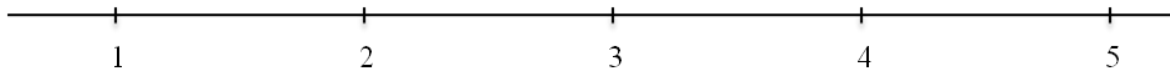
3. The terrorist mindset is sociopathic in nature.



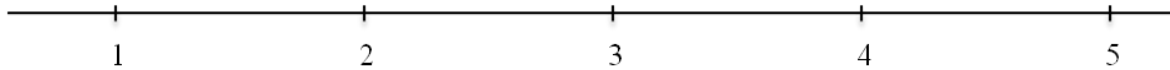
4. Terrorist organizations are connecting with US-based gangs in prison to further acts of terrorism.



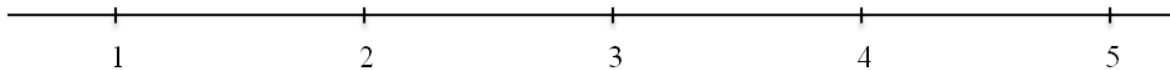
5. Terrorist attacks come from both foreign and domestic groups.



6. Terrorists are able to gather a group following using violent means rather than using revolutionary beliefs.

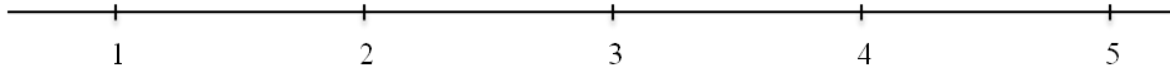


7. The difficulty of maintaining biological weapons has caused terrorists to delay the use of weapons of mass destruction against the US beyond the next three years.

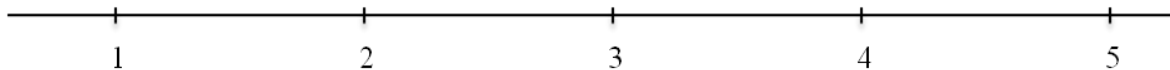


Strongly Disagree= 1 Disagree= 2 Neutral= 3 Agree= 4 Strongly Agree= 5

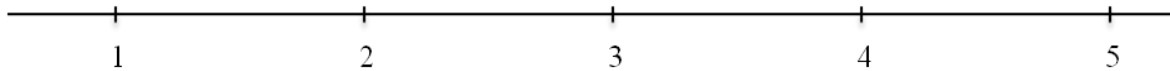
8. Terrorists fear using biological and chemical weapons; therefore are paying gang members to use WMD.



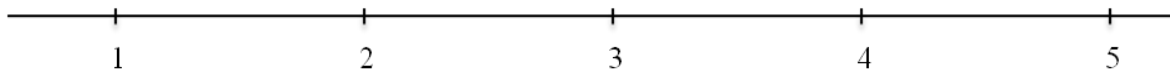
9. The MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs are being persuaded by terrorists to use WMD against the United States.



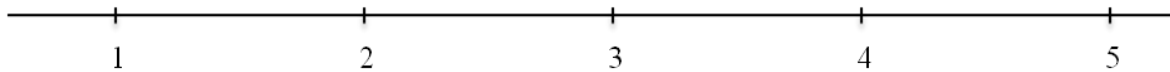
10. True believers of Islam instruct their followers to rise up in retaliation against the United States and other Western countries.



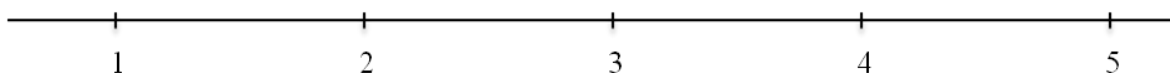
11. The past violent criminal behavior of major US-based gangs justifies the need for a national strategic threat risk assessment.



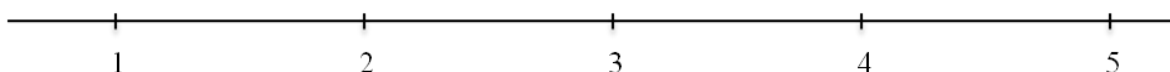
12. A tactic of terrorist manipulation is to deliver psychological trauma.



13. Gang members conduct criminal activity in retaliation for feeling disenfranchised by the broader society.

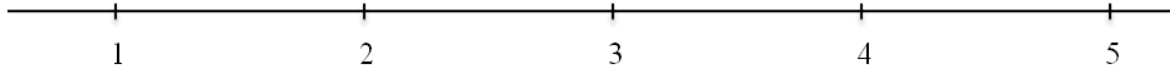


14. Gang members switching from Christianity to Islamic religion pose a significant threat to National Security.

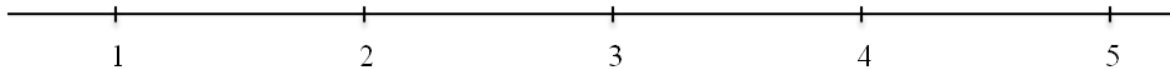


Strongly Disagree= 1 Disagree= 2 Neutral= 3 Agree= 4 Strongly Agree= 5

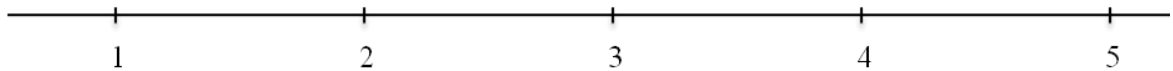
15. Al-Qaeda and Taliban terrorist groups are currently infiltrating the United States by using covert tactics of operations.



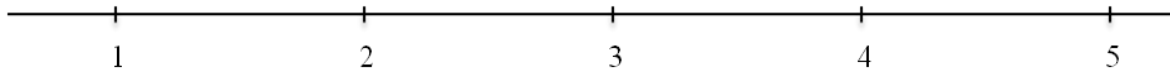
16. The relevance of domestic terrorism in the US has been limited to the actions of individual extremists.



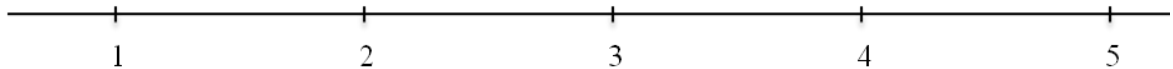
17. Muslims living in the US experience the same issues of racism as lower income ethnic groups living in this country.



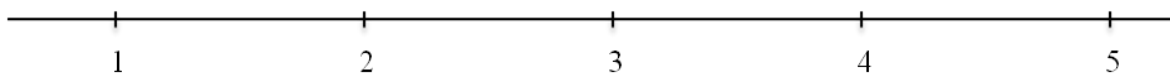
18. The US is over reacting to potential terrorist use of WMD weapons beyond the next three years.



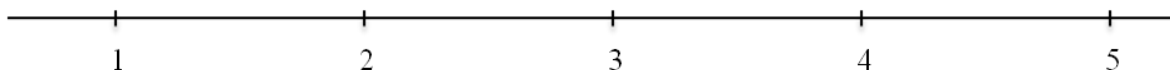
19. The emergence of US-syndicated gangs has led these gangs to become more violent during the past decade.



20. Domestic terrorism in the US has been limited to extremist groups.

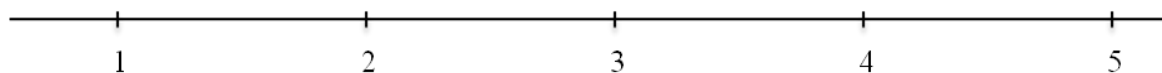


21. US-based prison and street gangs are predisposed to conducting violent criminal acts.

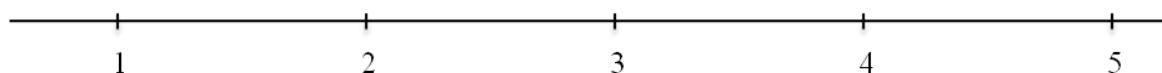


Strongly Disagree= 1 Disagree= 2 Neutral= 3 Agree= 4 Strongly Agree= 5

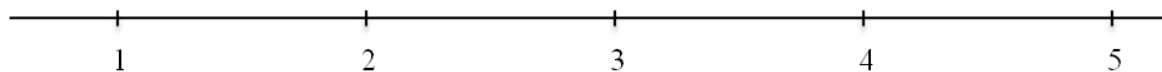
22. US Law enforcement has the necessary training and resources to combat terrorist and gang activity involving WMD.



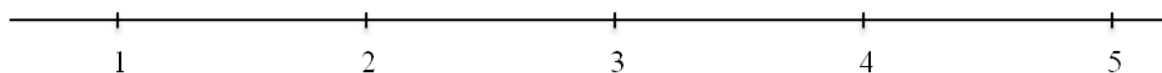
23. The global enterprise market facilitates US-based gang expansion in other countries.



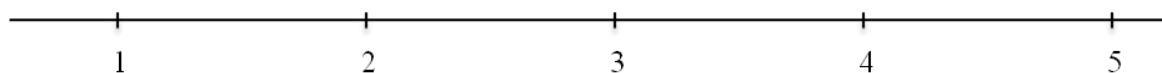
24. Al-Qaeda has shown success in forcing the US to spend large amounts of money to protect against WMD attacks.



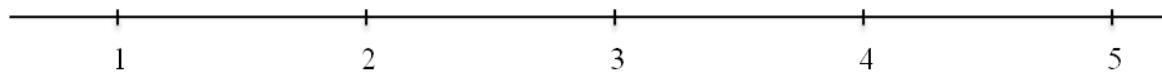
25. The religious consciousness of gang members varies based on their social awareness.



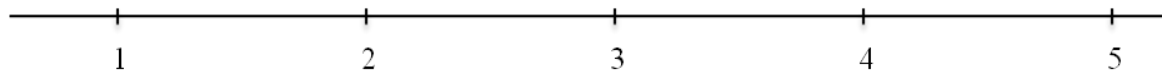
26. A WMD attack is not a viable threat to the US.



27. Gangs recruit individuals who are in need of social companionship.



28. The US is not prepared to fight another terrorist attack similar to 9-11.



Strongly Disagree= 1

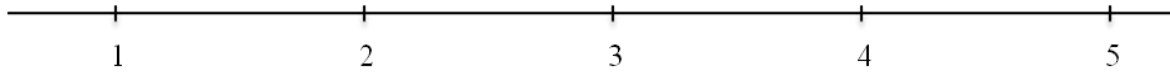
Disagree= 2

Neutral= 3

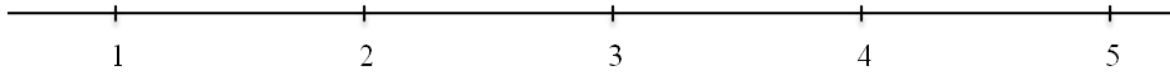
Agree= 4

Strongly Agree= 5

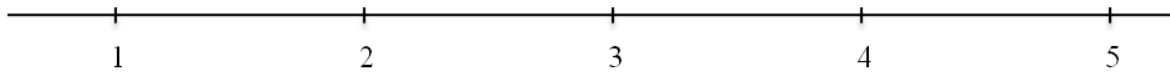
29. Increased terrorist arrests have caused a rise in terrorists being incarcerated with gang members in the US.



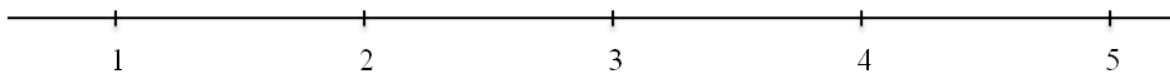
30. Terrorist motives range from criminal to religious activity.



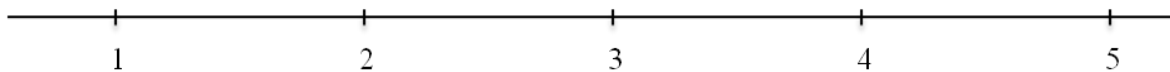
31. There is speculation that the next terrorist threat will come from a “lone wolf” individual instead of a major terrorist group.



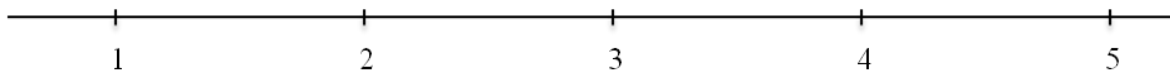
32. US-based gangs and terrorist groups both display antisocial behavior through extreme violence.



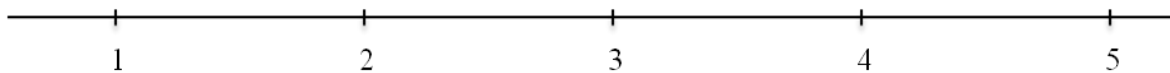
33. MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Street Gangs have the potential to conduct a biological attack.



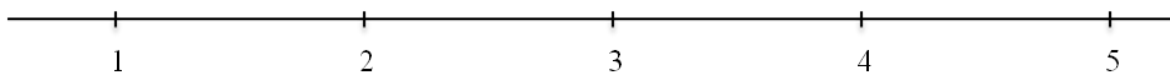
34. US WMD preparedness is outdated.



35. The Al-Qaeda Terrorist Organization has attempted to financially bankrupt their enemies through excessive homeland security spending.

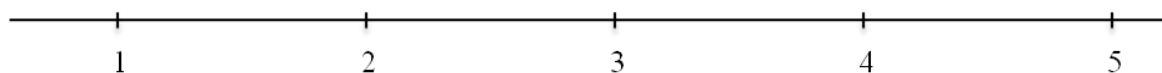


36. Terrorist groups have formed an alliance to recruit gang members in US prisons and jails.

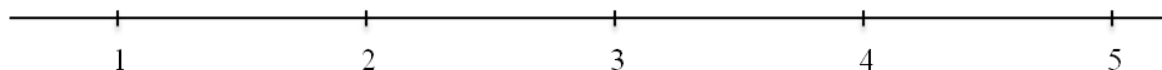


Strongly Disagree= 1 Disagree= 2 Neutral= 3 Agree= 4 Strongly Agree= 5

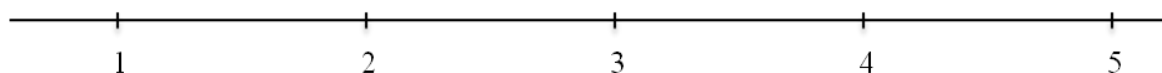
37. Terrorists may use human-suicide explosives against the United States.



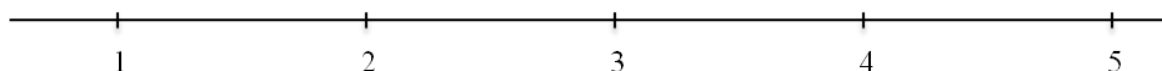
38. US lawmakers view the dynamics of terrorism as a direct attack against American capitalism.



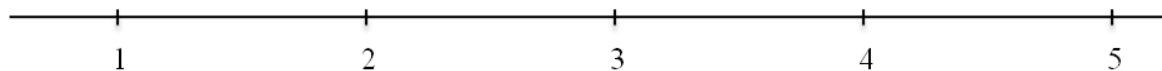
39. US-based gangs will seek the technological knowledge in order to successfully use WMD within beyond the next three years.



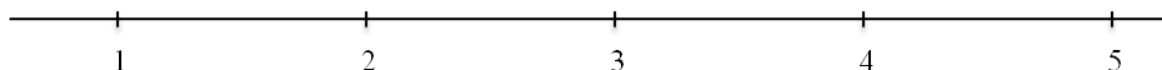
40. Gang members conduct criminal activity as an alternative means of survival due to socio-economic deprivation.



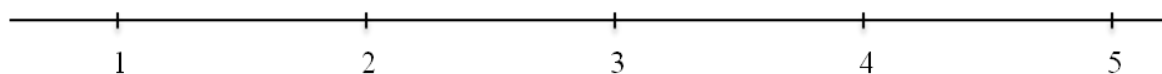
41. Terrorist groups operate much like criminal gangs by exploiting disenfranchised individuals.



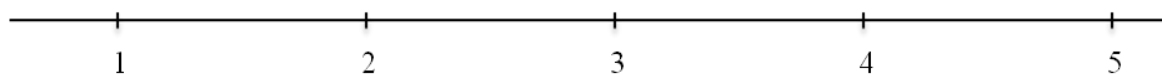
42. Terrorists have concluded that American capitalists are their enemy.



43. Terrorist use their revolutionary beliefs to recruit group followers, as opposed to using violence as a recruitment tool.

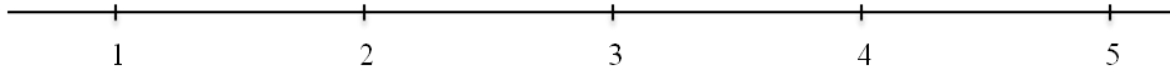


44. Gang members will do anything for money.

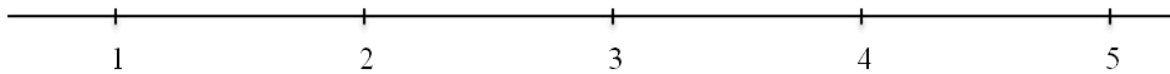


Strongly Disagree= 1 Disagree= 2 Neutral= 3 Agree= 4 Strongly Agree= 5

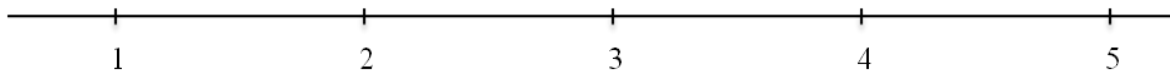
45. Gangs will find the means of connecting their criminal business enterprises with international terrorist organizations.



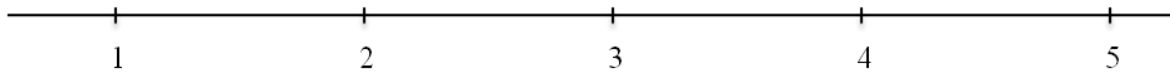
46. Biological weapons are easier to transport, stockpile and disseminate than chemical weapons.



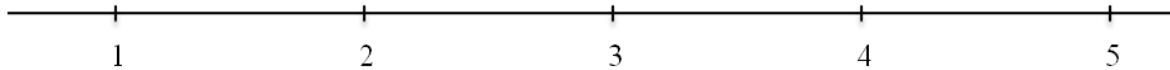
47. Chemical weapons are easier to produce and use than nuclear weapons.



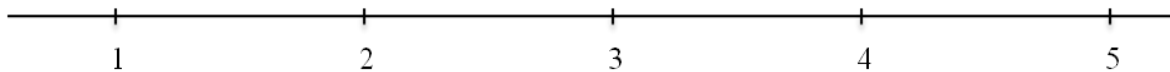
48. Gang prevention, suppression and intervention programs are a wasteful crime control strategy.



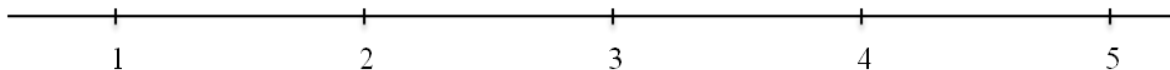
49. The successful use of anthrax will not reoccur in the US during beyond the next three years.



50. Currently there is little research information which supports the existence of terrorist recruitment of US-based gangs.

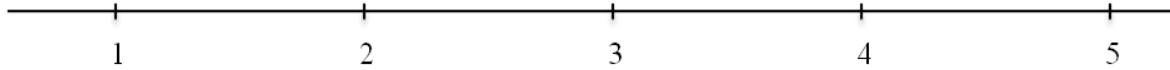


51. Most terrorist attacks in the US come from foreign terrorist groups.

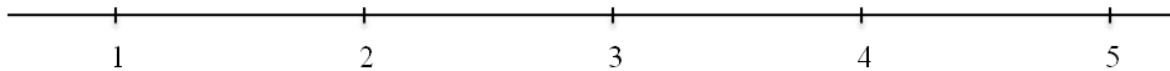


Strongly Disagree= 1 Disagree= 2 Neutral= 3 Agree= 4 Strongly Agree= 5

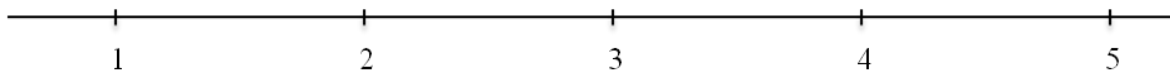
52. There are growing fears by law enforcement of terrorist strikes against the United States using biological and chemical weapons.



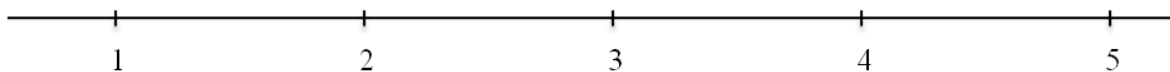
53. The greatest fear of US law enforcement and intelligence agencies is the lack of preparedness against weapons of mass destruction.



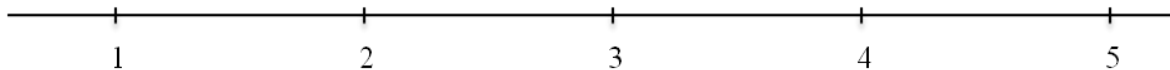
54. Gangs recruit individuals that have lack of guidance.



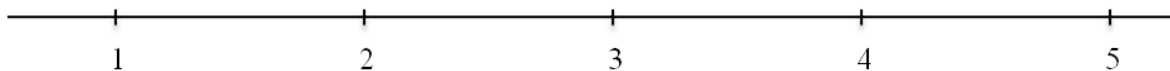
55. A biological attack can paralyze a community by depleting it of valuable financial and health care resources.



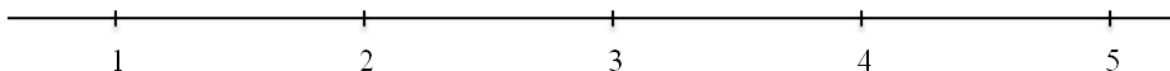
56. Gangs will gain greater power through the use of WMD.



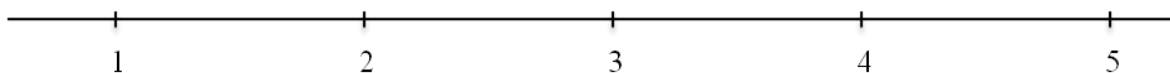
57. Terrorists have justified the use of violent “jihad” through radical Islamic religion.



58. The gangs acquiring biological weapons will cause greater domestic attacks in the US beyond the next three years.

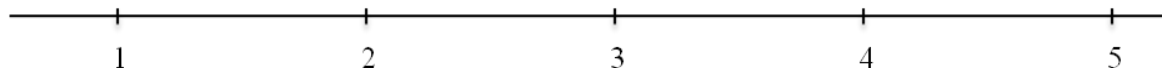


59. Terrorist organizations are recruiting the MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Street Gangs by religious manipulation.

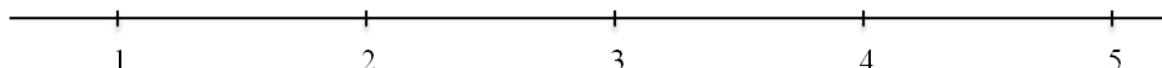


Strongly Disagree= 1 Disagree= 2 Neutral= 3 Agree= 4 Strongly Agree= 5

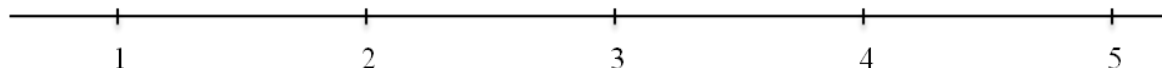
60. Gang members should be considered urban-terrorists.



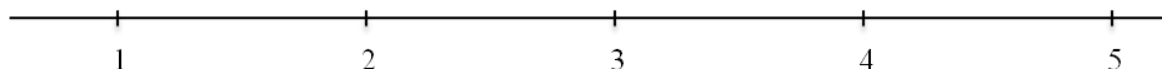
61. Gang members believe that criminal activity is their best means of making a living.



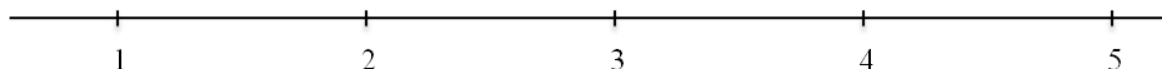
62. Terrorism has caused violent revolts against the US government.



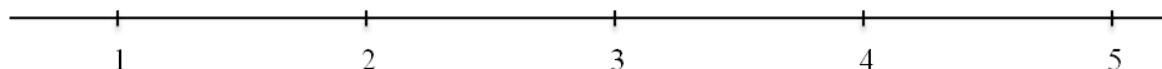
63. Because of past terrorist attacks in the US there is fear that other WMD acts of terrorism will occur within the next three years.



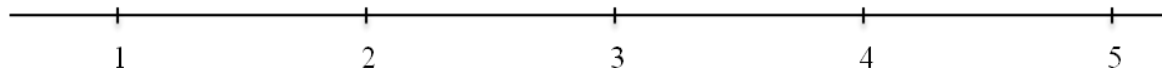
64. Major gangs support themselves by any criminal means necessary.



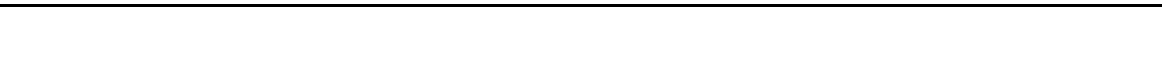
65. US-based MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Street Gangs have the Capabilities to connect with Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations.



66. Terrorists use extreme violence as the primary means of fighting against their "American oppressors."



67. There is no substantial evidence that gangs are capable of carrying out an attack using biological weapons.



Strongly Disagree= 1 Disagree= 2 Neutral= 3 Agree= 4 Strongly Agree= 5

68. Gang members have the expertise to successfully use WMD against the US

1 2 3 4 5

69. Gangs and terrorists can achieve a criminal alliance with other organized criminals to acquire WMD.

1 2 3 4 5

70. Gangs willingness to conduct violent criminal acts influence terrorist recruitment.

1 2 3 4 5

71. Terrorists who practice radical Islamic religion have similar beliefs as US-based gang members who practice some forms of Christianity.

1 2 3 4 5

72. There is an ongoing effort between Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations to recruit US- based gang members to use WMD.

1 2 3 4 5

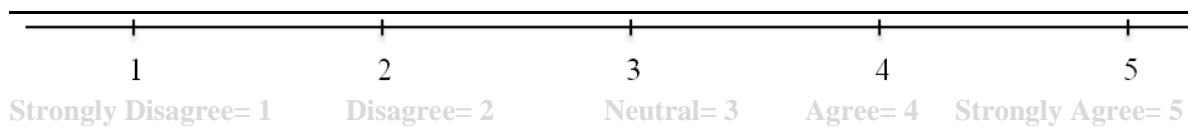
73. The potential use of biological weapons sustains the psychological fear and intimidation in the minds of civilians.

1 2 3 4 5

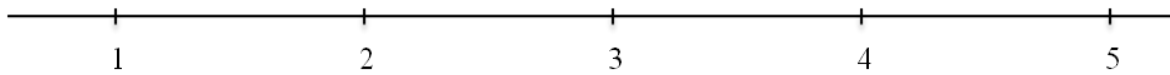
74. US-based prison gangs may fall prey to terrorist organizations by converting to fanatical religion.

1 2 3 4 5

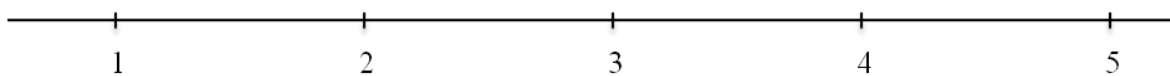
75. Gangs are willing to conduct acts of terrorism using WMD for financial gain.



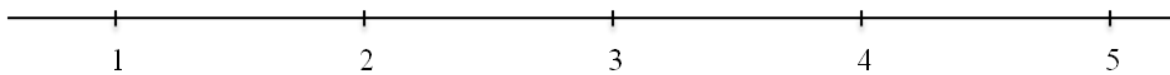
76. The Taliban Terrorist Organization has offered MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Street Gangs monetary gain to facilitate domestic acts of terrorism.



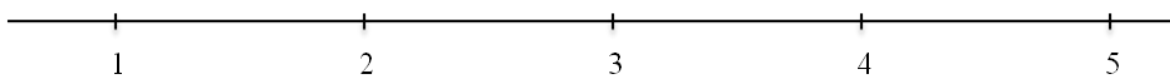
77. During the past several decades, successful attempts to use biological weapons within the United States have been in effective.



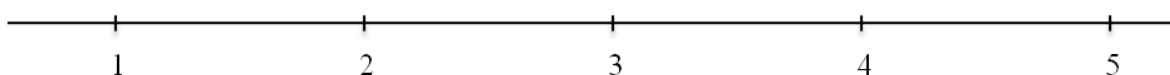
78. MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Street Gangs are seeking an alliance with the Al-Qaeda Terrorist Organizations.



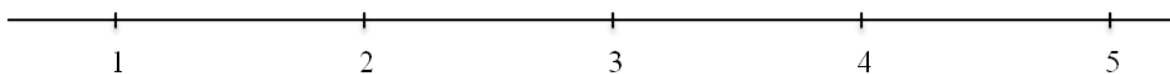
79. US-based gang members view themselves as disenfranchised individuals in American society.



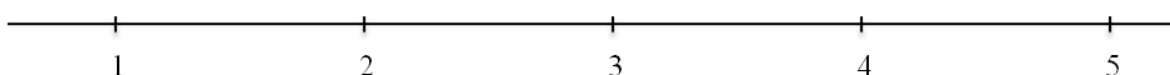
80. There are many terrorist tactics that use WMD which are unfamiliar to law enforcement.



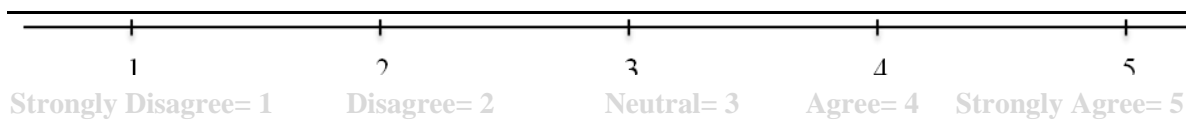
81. US-based gangs will use WMD against their enemies.



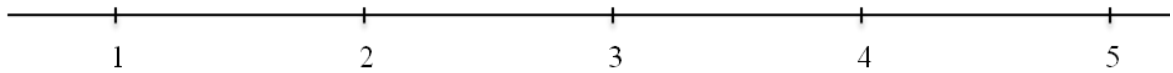
82. There is no scientific evidence that terrorist groups are recruiting gang members.



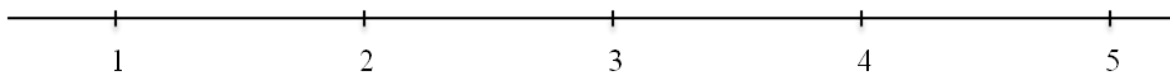
83. The MS-13 gang has terrorist-smuggling connections in the US.



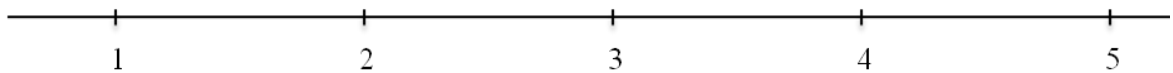
84. Gang members show no remorse or fear towards conducting violent crimes for hire.



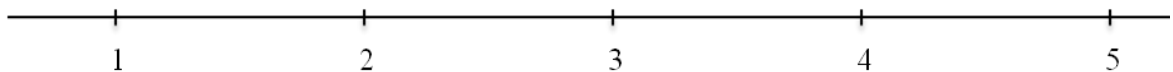
85. Disenfranchised ethnic groups in the US join criminal groups such as terrorist groups and gangs.



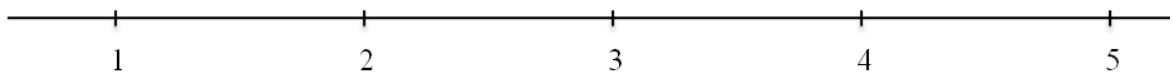
86. Law enforcement and intelligence agencies are prepared to protect the US against the use of weapons of mass destruction by gangs.



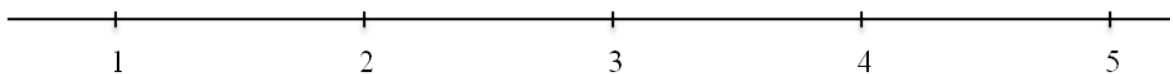
87. US-based prison and street gangs are susceptible to terrorist organizations through extremist religion.



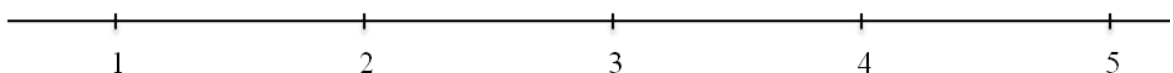
88. Both terrorist and gang leaders understand the advantages of combining mass organizations with conspiracy to gain power.



89. Gang alliances have strengthened collaborations between gang members and terrorist groups.

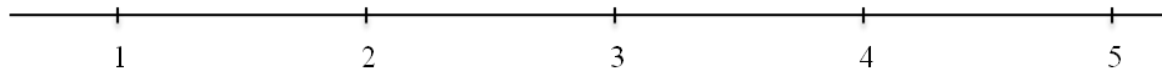


90. Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations are providing necessary training to the MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs to conduct biological attacks in the United States.

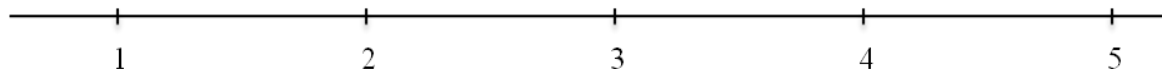


Strongly Disagree= 1 Disagree= 2 Neutral= 3 Agree= 4 Strongly Agree= 5

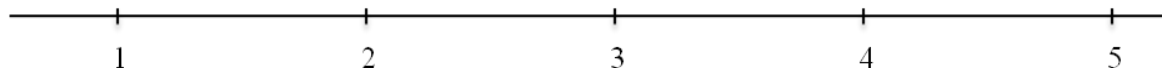
91. US-based gangs have far-reaching tentacles with the ability to build global criminal and terrorist alliances.



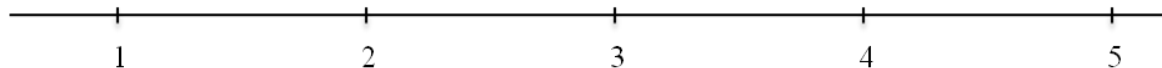
92. US-based gangs are more likely to affiliate in foreign countries with terrorists than to expand their criminal activities in the US



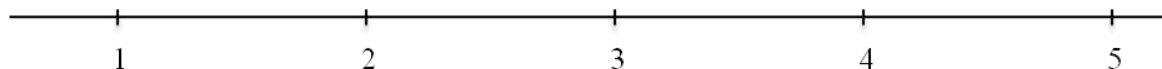
93. The devastating use of biological weapons by terrorists has caused the United States to fear the use of a WMD attack.



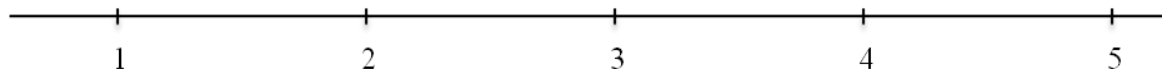
94. Islamic religion influences some gang members to become extremists in their beliefs.



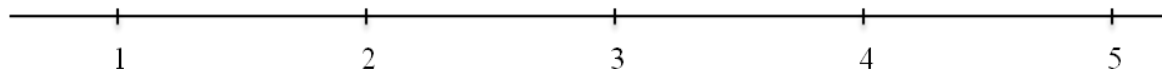
95. Terrorist use biological and chemical weapons more than nuclear and radiological weapons.



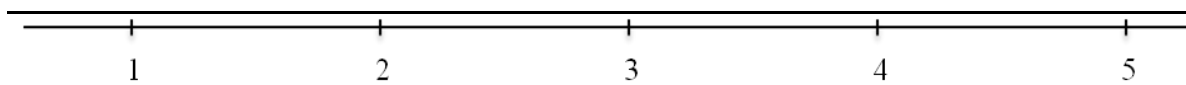
96. Gang members take suicide risks for monetary gain.



97. Terrorist partnerships increase the likelihood of the use of WMD.

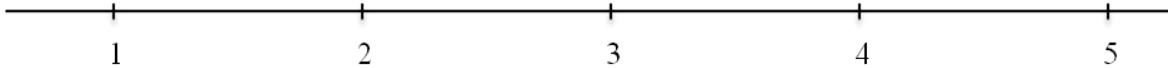


98. WMD can be used by US-based gangs to foster fear in the eyes of their enemies.

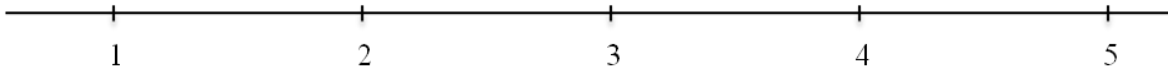


Strongly Disagree= 1 Disagree= 2 Neutral= 3 Agree= 4 Strongly Agree= 5

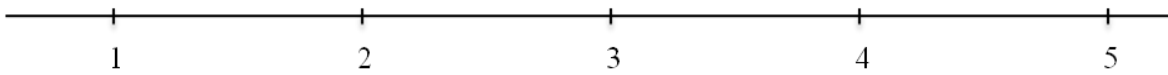
99. Islam plays a significant role with gangs actively seeking to advance their WMD skills through terrorist alliances.



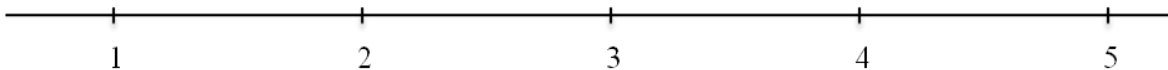
100. The Al-Qaeda terrorist organization is recruiting gang members inside American prisons and correctional institutions.



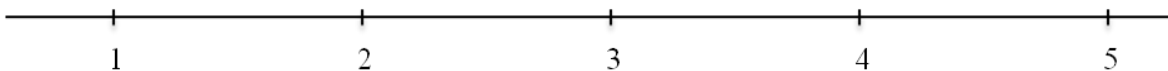
101. Terrorists and gangs will only use weapons of mass destruction against law enforcement.



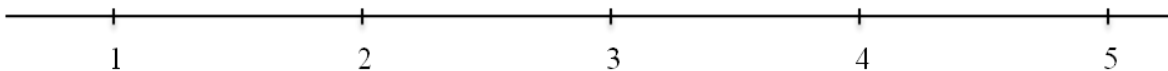
102. WMD is believed to be the weapon of choice for terrorist-gang use.



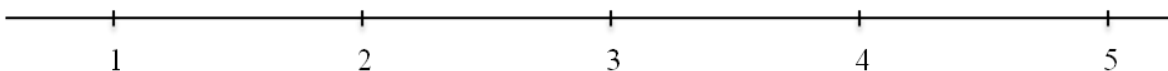
103. US Law enforcement is capable of protecting citizens from terrorist WMD attacks.



104. Gangs will continue to expand as long as illicit market conditions continue to facilitate crime.



105. Extremist Islamic leaders are training terrorists to use WMD.



Appendix E: Face to Face Interview Questions

1. Do you think that the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples or Crips US-based Gangs pose a significant threat to national security, if so or not, please explain?
2. How does global criminal enterprise impact or affect US-based gang expansion in foreign countries?
3. Are the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples or Crips US-based Gangs predisposed in committing violent criminal acts for money and if so; to what extent?
4. Has Al-Qaeda shown success in forcing the US to spend astronomical amounts of money to protect against WMD attack?
5. Do you think that the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples or Crips US-based Gangs can be recruited by the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations to conduct acts of terrorism against the United States. Is either gang capable?
6. Do you think that the low socio- economic status of minority or immigrant gang members critically affect or impact their violent criminal behavior?
7. How do gang member's religious beliefs affect their criminal behavior?

8. Does switching from Christianity to Islam pose a significant impact on the criminal or fanatical beliefs of gang members.
9. What are the significant (social, mindset and behavioral) parallels or differences between terrorists and gang members?
10. How does Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations exploit their enemies?
11. Is the U.S. prepared to sustain or prevent another terrorist attack similar to the September, 2001 Terrorist Attacks?
12. Does the US government consider the dynamics of terrorism as a direct attack against American capitalism or American populaces? Explain.
13. What are the current weapons of choice for terrorist organizations against their enemies?
14. Do you think that the Taliban or Al-Qaeda would ever use or deploy chemical, biological or nuclear weapons against the US?
15. How does the fear of the use of biological and chemical weapons psychologically affect or intimidate US citizens and first responders?
16. Is US WMD research, preparedness and defensive tactics obsolete?
17. Do terrorist organizations operate similar to gangs by exploiting and recruiting disenfranchised individuals?
18. US-based gang members are urban terrorists?
19. Terrorist groups have formed an alliance to recruit gang members in US prisons

and jails?

20. The difficulty of maintain both biological and chemical weapons by terrorists has caused terrorists to delay the use of weapons of mass destruction against the US in the near future?
21. There is no empirical evidence that terrorists are recruiting gangs to use WMD inside the US?
22. Do US-based gangs have the technological expertise to use biological or chemical weapons?
23. Muslims living in America express the same disparity of racism as lower income ethnic groups that also live in the US?
24. Do terrorist groups fear the use of biological or chemical weapons therefore; are recruiting gang members to use WMD?
25. Should terrorist-gang relations be considered a threat to the US?

Appendix F: Hypotheses Used to Develop Modified Delphi Survey
And Face to Face Interview Questions

Hypothesis 1: these three US-Based Gangs, the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips Street Gangs have the capabilities to conduct both criminal and terrorist activity with the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations.

Hypothesis 2: these two terrorist organizations, the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Terrorist Organizations are recruiting and forming criminal alliances with the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs.

Hypothesis 3: The Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips Gangs have the capability to conduct biological and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) terrorist attacks against the United States.

Hypothesis 4: Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations are offering Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Gangster Disciples and Crips US- based Gangs monetary gain as motivation to use weapons of mass destruction (WMD) against the United States.

Hypothesis 5: There are significant socio-economic factors that influence US-based gangs to be recruited by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban Terrorist Organizations.

Appendix G: Modified Delphi Mapping Chart

	Categories
Gang Items	11, 13, 14, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 40, 44, 48, 54, 58, 61, 64, 79, 84, 94, 96, 104
Terrorism Items	3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 20, 28, 30, 31, 35, 38, 42, 43, 51, 57, 62, 66
WMD Items	2, 26, 34, 46, 47, 49, 53, 55, 73, 77, 103
Gangs and Terrorism Items	4, 29, 32, 36, 41, 45, 50, 59, 60, 65, 70, 71, 74, 76, 78, 83, 85, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 100
Gangs and WMD Items	33, 39, 56, 67, 68, 69, 81, 86, 98, 99
Terrorism and WMD Items	7, 18, 24, 52, 63, 80, 93, 95, 97, 105
Gangs, Terrorism and WMD Items	1, 8, 9, 22, 72, 75, 82, 101, 102

References

References

- Adler, M. & Ziglio, E. (1996). *Gazing into the oracle: The Delphi method and its application to social policy and public health*. London, UK: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
- Alibek, K. & Handleman, S. (1999). *Biohazard*. New York, NY: Dell Publishing Random House, Inc.
- Anonymous. (2003). *Osama Bin Laden, radical Islam, and the future of America: Through our enemy's eyes*. Dulles, VA: Brassey's, Inc.
- Anonymous. (2009). National Gang Intelligence Report. Inspector General: U.S. Department of Justice, Gang Intelligence Unit.
- Ainscough, M. J. (2002). *Next generation bioweapons: Genetic engineering and bioweapons warfare*. Retrieved from http://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/ciencia/ciencia_virus08.htm.
- Anti-Defamation League. (1999). The militia watchdog. *Militia history and law FAQ*. Retrieved from http://www.adl.org/terror/counter_home/13_counter_home.html.
- Anti-Defamation League. (2008). Extremism in America. *Dallas Morning News Report* (2005). Retrieved from http://www.adl.org/terror/counter_home/13_counter_home.html.
- Anti-Defamation League. (2008). Extremism at home. *Recent trends in domestic extremist groups*. Retrieved from <http://www.adl.org/NR/exeres/5/4/2008>.
- Armanios, F. (2003). *Islamic Religious Schools, Madrasas: Background*. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.
- Ashton, R. (1986). Combining the judgments of experts: How many and which ones? *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, 38(3), 405-415.
- Barry, J. (2004). *The great influenza: The epic story of the greatest plague in history*. London, UK: Penguin Books.

- Beckford, J., Joly, D., & Khosarokhavar, F. (2005). *Muslims in prison: Challenge and change in Britain and France*. New York, NY: Pal Grave MacMillan Publishing.
- Benjamin, D., & Simon, S. (2002). *The age of sacred terror: Radical Islam's war against America*. New York, NY: Random House.
- Bergen, P. (2001). *Holy war inc.: Inside the secret world of Osama Bin Laden*. New York, NY: Touchstone.
- Bogis, A. (2006). U.S. Senate subcommittee on terrorism, technology and homeland security. Retrieved from [http:// www.homelandsecurity.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.gov).
- Bogis, A., Cardash, S., Cilluffo, F., Saathoff, G., Whitehead, A., Lane, J. Raynor, J. (2006). Out of the shadows: Getting ahead of prisoner radicalization. *A special report by George Washington University Homeland Security Policy Institute and The University of Virginia Critical Analysis Group*. Retrieved from <http://www.jihadis.terrorism.com>.
- Bolger, F. & Wright, G. (1994). Assessing the quality of expert judgment: Issues and analysis. *Decision Support Systems*, 11(1), 1-24.
- Bongar, B., Brown, L., Beutler, L., Breckenridge, J., & Zimbardo, P. (Eds.). (2007). *Psychology of terrorism*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, Inc.
- Brotherton, D. & Barrios, L. (2004). *The almighty Latin king and queen nation: Street politics and the transformation of a New York City gang*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.
- Bukay, D. (2004). *Muhammad's monsters: A comprehensive guide to radical Islam for Western audiences*. Green Forest, AR: Balfour Books, Inc.
- Baker- McNeill, J., Carafano, J., Zuckerman, J. (2011, May 20). *39 Terrorr plots failed since 9/11: Examining counterterrorism's success stories*. Retrieved from <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2011/05/39-terrorr-plots-foiled-since-911-exami> . . .
- Carson, C. (1991). *Malcolm X: The FBI files*. New York, NY: Carroll and Graf Publishers, Inc.
- Clarke, R. (2004). *Against all enemies: Inside America's war on terror*. New York, NY: Free Press.
- Cirincione, J., Wolfsthal, J., & Rajkumar, M. (2005). *Deadly arsenals: Nuclear, biological and chemical threats* (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

- Cole, L. (2003). *The anthrax letters: A medical detective story*. Washington, D.C.: Joseph Henry Press.
- Cordesman, A. (2002). *Terrorism, asymmetric warfare, and weapons of mass destruction: Defending the U.S. homeland*. Washington, D.C.: Center for Strategic and International Studies.
- Cozic, C., Bender, D., & Leone, B. (1996). *Gangs: Posing view points*. San Diego, CA: Green Haven Press, Inc.
- Cragin, K. (2007). *Understanding terrorist ideology: Testimony before the select committee on intelligence, June 12, 2007*. Retrieved from <http://www.rand.org>.
- Creswell, J. (1994). *Research design: Qualitative and quantitative approaches*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Dalkey, N. & Helmer, O. (1963). An experimental application of the Delphi method to the use of experts. *Management Science*, 9(3), 458- 468.
- Delbeq, A., Van de Ven, A., & Gustafson, D. (1975). *Group techniques for program planning: A guide to nominal group and Delphi processes*. Retrieved from <http://informingscience.org/documents/Vol6/JITEv6p001-021212.pdf>.
- Delong-Bas, N. (2004). *Wahhabi Islam: From revival and reform to global jihad*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, Inc.
- Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Assistance. (2005). *National gang threat assessment*. Retrieved from http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/what/2005_threat_assessment.pdf.
- Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2006). *Prison Statistics*. Retrieved from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/correct.htm>.
- Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs. (2010). Retrieved from <http://detroit.fbi.gov//dojpress//09/1226009.htm>.
- Dietz, T. (1987). Methods for analyzing data from Delphi panels: Some evidence from a forecasting study. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 31(1), 79-85.
- Edwards, B. (2005). *Islamic fundamentalism since 1945*. New York, NY: Rutledge Publishing.

- Elliott, P. (1998). *Brotherhoods of fear: A history of violent organizations*. London, UK: A Cassell Imprint, Wellington House.
- Esposito, J. (2002). *Unholy war: Terror in the name of Islam*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2009). *Nigerian national charged with attempting to destroy Northwest Airlines aircraft*. Retrieved from <http://www.fbi.us.gov>.
- Fink, A. & Kosecoff, J. (1985). *How to conduct surveys: A step-by-step guide*. London, UK: Sage Publications.
- Fowler, F. (1993). *Survey research methods*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Fuller, G. (2003). *The future of political Islam*. New York, NY: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Gabriel, M. (2002). *Islam and terrorism: What the Koran really teaches about Christianity, violence and the goals of the Islamic jihad*. Lake Mary, FL: Charisma House.
- Gaffney, F. (2006). *War footing*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press.
- Garrett, L. (1994). *The coming plague: Newly emerging diseases in a world out of balance*. New York, NY: Penguin Books.
- German, M. (2007). *Thinking like a terrorist: Insights of a former FBI undercover agent*. Dulles, VA: Potomac Books, Inc.
- Gonzalez, A. (2006). Stopping terrorists before they strike: The Justice Department's power of prevention. *Testimony before the World Affair Council of Pittsburgh, delivered on April 16, 2006*.
- Greenberg, K. (Ed.). (2006). *The torture debate*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Griffin, S. & Dordrecht, P. (2003). *Philadelphia's "black mafia": A social and political history*. Netherlands: Kluwer Academic.
- Gritz, J. (2003). *My brother's keeper*. Sandy Alley, NV: Lazarus Publishing Company.
- Guillemin, J. (2005). *Biological weapons: From the invention of state sponsored programs to contemporary bioterrorism*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

- Gunter, B., & Levin, B. (2011). Ten years after. *Intelligence Report: Southern Poverty Law Center*, 143, 20-21.
- Gustafson, D., Shukla, R., Delbecq, A., & Walster, G. (1973). A comparison study of differences in subjective likelihood estimates made by individuals, interacting groups, Delphi groups and nominal groups. *Organizational Behavior and Human Performance*, 9(2), 280-291.
- Halm, H. (1997). *Shi'a Islam: From religion to revolution*. Princeton, NJ: Markus Weiner Publishing.
- Hamzeh, A. (2004). *In the path of Hizbullah*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press.
- Hare, R. (1993). *Without conscience*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press.
- Harman, J. (2007, April 20). *Harman, Reichert introduce legislation to address threat of "Homegrown" terrorism*. Retrieved from http://www.house.gov/list/press/ca.36_harman/04_20_07.shtml.
- Hazim, H. (2005). *American realism revisited: Lethal minds and threats*. New York, NY: I Universe, Inc.
- Henderson, D., Inglesby, T., & O' Toole, T. (Eds.). (2002). *Bio terrorism: Guidelines for medical and public health management*. Chicago, IL: AMA Press.
- Hesterman, J. L. (1991). *Gangs, organized crime & terrorist groups: A threat assessment at the crossroads*.
- Hoffer, E. (1951). *The true believer: Thoughts on the nature of mass movements*. New York, NY: Harper- Collins Publishing, Inc.
- Hoffman, B. (2006). *Inside terrorism*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.
- Huff, R. (2002). *Gangs in America*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.
- Inglesby, T., Henderson, D., Bartlett, J., et. al, (1999). Anthrax as a biological weapon: Journal of the American Medical Association, Medical and public health management. *JAMA*, 281, 1735-1745.
- Johnson, D. T. (2008). *Transnational crime and unity of effort to combat gangs, criminals and terrorists*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of State.
- Juergensmeyer, M. (2003). *Terror in the mind of God: The global rise of religious violence*. Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press.

- Kaplan, D. & Marshall, A. (1996). *The cult at the end of the world: The incredible story of Aum*. New York, NY: Crown.
- Thomas Kean, H. (2002). *The 9/11 Commission Report*. Washington, D.C.: W. W. Norton & Company Ltd, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10110.
- Keegan, A. (2004). *Gangs in the suburbs: Deadly migration*. Springfield, IL: University of Illinois.
- Keil, M., Tiwana, A., & Bush, A. (2002). Reconciling user and project manager perceptions of IT project risk: A Delphi study. *Information Systems Journal*, 12(2), 103-119.
- Kepel, G. (2004). *The war for Muslim minds: Islam and the West*. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.
- Kirby, K., Eghigian, M., Petrenko, J., Wagner, J. (Eds.). (2006). *The Chicago crime commission Gang book*. Chicago, IL: Chicago Crime Commission.
- Klein, G. C. (2006) Catastrophe! On the inevitability of nuclear, biological, or chemical terrorism: Oakton Community College, prepared for the FBI Academy, Behavioral Science Unit (BSU), (unpublished presentation).
- Klein, M. (1995). *The American street gang: its nature, prevalence, and control*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Klein, M. & Maxson, C. (2006). *Street gang patterns and policies*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Kody, S. (1993). *Autobiography of an LA gang member*. New York, NY: Grove Press.
- Kontos, L., Brotherton, D., & Barrios, L. (2003). *Gangs and society*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.
- Knox, G. (1997). *Gang profile update: The Black P. Stone Nation (BPSN)*. Retrieved from <http://www.ngcrc.com/bpsn2003.html>.
- Knox, G. (1998). *An introduction to gangs*. Peotone, IL: New Chicago School Press, Inc.
- Knox, G. & Papachristos, A. (2002). *The vice-lords: A gang profile analysis*. Peotone, IL: New Chicago School Press, Inc.
- Krathwohl, R. & Smith, N. (2005). *How to prepare a dissertation proposal: Suggestions for students in education & the social and behavioral sciences*. Syracuse, NY:

- Syracuse University Press.
- Krueger, A. & Maleckova, J. (2002). Education, poverty, political violence, and terrorism. Is there a casual connection? *NBER Working Paper No. W9074*.
- Laden, O. (1998). *Fatwah urging jihad against Americans*. Retrieved from <http://www.mideastweb.org/osmabinladen1.htm>.
- Lance, P. (2003). *1000 years for revenge*. New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, Inc.
- Laqueur, W. (2003). *No end to war: Terrorism in the twenty-first century*. New York, NY: The Continuum International Publishing Group, Inc.
- Ledeen, M. (2003). *The war against the terror masters*. New York, NY: Truman Talley Books.
- Lewis, B. (2004). *The crisis of Islam: Holy war and unholy terror*. New York, NY: Random House Trade Paperbacks.
- Linstone, H. & Turloff, M. (1975). *The Delphi method: Techniques and applications*. Retrieved from <http://informingscience.org/documents/Vol6/JITEv6p001-021212.pdf>.
- Robert B. Loosle. (2006, October 03). *Testimony of SAC Robert Loosle, LA, re gangs 10/03/06*. Retrieved October 05, 2006, from <http://oca.fbinet.fbi/Congressional%20Testimony%20Photo%20Documents/Testimony%20..fbinet.fbi/Congressional%20Testimony%20Photo%20Documents/Testimony%20...>
- Lowenthal, M. (2006). Intelligence: From secrets to policy (3rd ed.). *Congressional Quarterly*.
- Lyman, M. D. (1989). *Gangland: Drug trafficking by organized criminals*. Springfield, IL: Thomas Publishers.
- Mays, G. (Ed.). (1997). *Gangs and gang behavior*. Chicago, IL: Nelson- Hall Publishers.
- Mazrui, A. (2006). *Islam: Between globalization and counterterrorism*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, Inc.
- Miller, J., Stone, M., & Mitchell, C. (2003). *The cell*. New York, NY: Hyperion.
- Moaddel, M. (2005). *Islamic modernism, nationalism, and fundamentalism: Episode and discourse*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.

- Momen, M. (1985). *An introduction to Shi'i Islam*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Mukerjee, M. (1994). Little winners: Bio prospectors reap rewards from third world microbes. *Scientific American*, 270(6), 105.
- Murphy, J. (2002). *Swords of Islam: Muslim extremism from the Arab conquests to the attack on America*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books.
- Navarro, J. (2005). *Hunting terrorists: A look at the psychopathology of terror*. Springfield, IL: Thomas Publishers.
- Nydell, M. (2002). *Understanding Arabs: A guide for Westerners*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Cultural Press, Inc.
- Nydell, M. (2006). *Understanding Arabs: A guide for modern times*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Cultural Press, Inc.
- Patrick, W. (1994). Biological warfare: An overview. *Director's Series on Proliferation*, (4), 2-3.
- Parente, F., Anderson, J., Myers, P., & O'Brien, T. (1994). An examination of factors contributing to Delphi accuracy. *Journal of Forecasting*, 3(1), 173-183.
- Parfrey, A. (Ed.). (2001). *Extreme Islam: Anti-American propaganda of Muslim fundamentalism*. Los Angeles, CA: Feral House.
- Patai, R. (2002). *The Arab mind*. Long Island City, NY: Hatherleigh Press.
- Petersen, R. (2004). *Understanding contemporary gangs in America: An interdisciplinary approach*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall Publisher.
- Petrone, F. (2001). *The truth about street gangs*. Chicago, IL: Gang Prevention, Inc.
- Prescott, P. & Soeken, K. (1989). The potential uses of pilot work. *Nursing Research*, 30, 60-62.
- Reich, W. (1998). *Origins of terrorism: Psychologies, ideologies, theologies, states of mind*. Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press.
- Rowe, G. & Wright, G. (1999). The Delphi technique as a forecasting tool: Issues and analysis. *International Journal of Forecasting*, 15(4), 353-375.
- Roy, O. (2004). *Globalized Islam: The search for a new Ummah*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

- Rush, G. (2001). *Organized crime, drugs and street gangs: The connection* (2nd ed.). San Clemente, CA: Law Tech Publishing Co., Ltd.
- Sabini, J. (2001). *Islam: A primer*. Washington, D.C.: Amid East.
- Sageman, M. (1998). *Inside terrorism*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.
- Sageman, M. (2004). *Understanding terrorist networks*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Sanderson, T. M. (2004). Transnational Terror and Organized Crime: Blurring the Lines. *SAIS Project Muse*, 24(1), 49.
- Schmidt, R. (1997). Managing Delphi surveys using nonparametric statistical techniques. *Decision Sciences*, 28(3), 763-774.
- Seger, K. (1999). *Right-wing extremism: The current threat*. Retrieved from <http://www.terrorism.com>.
- Sivan, E. (1990). *Radical Islam: Medieval theology and modern politics*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Skulmoski, G., Hartman, F., & Krahn, J. (2007). The Delphi method for graduate research. *Journal of Information Technology Education*. Retrieved from <http://informingscience.org/documents/Vol6/JITEv6p001-021212.pdf>.
- Sonn, T. (2004). *A brief history of Islam*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, LTD.
- Spencer, R. (2002). *Islam unveiled: Disturbing questions about the world's fastest growing faith*. San Francisco, CA: Encounters Books.
- Sperry, P. (1979). *Infiltration: How Muslim spies and subversives have penetrated Washington*. Nashville, TN: Nelson Current.
- Stern, J. (2003). *Terror in the name of God: Why religious militants kill*. New York, NY: Harper-Collins Publishers, Inc.
- Trifkovic, S. (2002). *The sword of the prophet: Islam history, theology, impact on the world*. Boston, MA: Regina Orthodox Press, Inc.
- Tucker, J. (1996). Chemical/ biological terrorism: Coping with a new threat. *Politics and the Life Sciences*, 115(2): 167-183.

- Tucker, J. (Ed.). (2001). *Toxic terror: Assessing terrorist use of chemical and biological weapons*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Valentine, B. (1995). *Gang intelligence manual: Identifying and understanding modern-day violent gangs in the United States*. Boulder, CO: Paladin Press.
- Walker, R. (1999-2010). The original prison gangs. *Gangs or Us*. Retrieved from <http://www.gangsorus.com/prisongangs.html>.
- Walmsley, R. (2003). *World Prison Population* (5th ed.). London, Thousand Oaks & New Deli, Sage Publications and the British Society of Criminology.
- Wambir, S. (2005). "Farming out hits to gang bangers." *Chicago Sun- Times*. (NDF), Retrieved from Track Back URL: <http://blogs.suntimes.com/cgi-bin/mt-tb.cgi/21703>
- Weinstein, R. S. & Alibek, K. (2003). *Biological and chemical terrorism: A guide for healthcare providers and first responders*. New York, NY: Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc.
- White, J. (2006). *Terrorism and homeland security* (5th ed.). Florence, KY: Thomson-Wadsworth.
- White, J. (2002). *The Wadsworth contemporary issues in crime and justice series: Terrorism an introduction* (4th ed.). Florence, KY: Thompson-Wadsworth.
- Wieczorek, M. (2011). *2011 National debt, budget, and deficit*. Retrieved from http://www.marktaw.com/culture_and_media/TheNationalDebt.html.
- Wilmore, G. (1972). *Black religion and black radicalism*. Garden City, NY: Double Day and Company, Inc.
- Zegart, A. (2007). *Spying Blind: The CIA, the FBI, and the Origins of 9/11*. Priceton University Press.
- Zilinskas, R. (Ed.). (2000). *Biological warfare: Modern offense and defense*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Mr. D. Darell Dones received his Bachelors of Arts in Special Education and Master of Education in Counseling Psychology from Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas, in 1981 and 1983, respectively. Mr. Dones received an additional Master of Education degree in Applied Psychology and Social Foundations from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia in 2004. Mr. Dones also received a post-baccalaureate Certificate in Biological Threat and Defense from George Mason University in 2007.

Mr. Dones is a 24 year law enforcement veteran and a Supervisory Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Behavioral Science Unit and currently assigned as an adjunct instructor with the University of Virginia at the FBI National Academy, Quantico, Virginia for FBI new agent training; local, state, federal, senior international law enforcement executives and administrators.

Mr. Dones is responsible for instructing basic and advanced investigative techniques and conducting class room instruction in violent criminal and behavioral analysis. This instruction examines the causation, mindset, behavior and intelligence trends of global gangs, terrorists and other violent offenders. Mr. Dones has lectured for numerous domestic, international law enforcement agencies and universities on these topics. Mr. Dones has received numerous awards and accommodations for his law enforcement efforts from the Federal Bureau of Investigation as well as other federal, local, state and international agencies.

Mr. Dones was selected by George Mason University faculty of the Department of Public and International Affairs as the proud recipient of the prestigious 2012 *Outstanding Biodefense Graduate Student* award signifying his excellence in academic achievement. This award is given each year to the student who has shown the highest standards of academic excellence. Awardees have frequently provided service to the department, have shown a professional commitment to the field of biodefense and are likely to make further contributions to the national security of our nation.