



### Terrorism Indicators for Introduction to National Security Adjudication Course

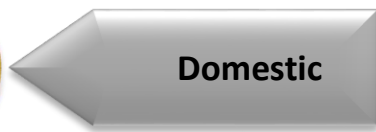
This job aid provides security personnel, adjudicators, human resources personnel, and others working within national security essential information regarding indicators of terrorism.

#### Terrorism Defined

Terrorism: The unlawful use of violence or threat of violence, often motivated by religious, political, or other ideological beliefs, to instill fear and coerce governments or societies in pursuit of goals that are usually political. Although there are many different classifications of terrorists groups and activities, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) uses two main classifications to delineate the threat of terrorism as follows:

1. Domestic Terrorism – Violent, criminal acts committed by lone offenders or groups to further ideological goals stemming from domestic influences, such as those of a political, religious, social, racial, or environmental nature. The FBI classifies threats of criminal activity but not of groups, so you will not see an official list of U.S. Domestic Terrorist groups. In recent years, more Americans have been killed by Domestic Terrorism than International Terrorism.
2. International Terrorism – Violent, criminal acts committed by lone offenders and/or groups who are inspired by, or associated with, designated foreign terrorist organizations or nations (state-sponsored).

#### Terrorism Types Side by Side



- Domestic terrorists direct their violent actions toward the American government or people in the name of a cause:
  - Hate groups
  - Political/religious/environmental
  - Separatist/Nationalist/Militia Groups
- Composition and Leadership:
  - Includes both lone offenders or groups
  - Are independent of foreign leadership, guidance, and direction

- International terrorists operate across the borders of their own country:
  - Predominantly driven by political and religious ideology
  - In accordance with Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the U.S. Department of State maintains a list of foreign terrorist organizations (FTO)
- Composition and Leadership:
  - Includes both lone offenders or groups
  - May be active in more than one country with leadership elsewhere

## Summarized Indicators

Below is a summarized list of some of the indicators you may observe in subjects. Ideological indicators represents what they may believe, whereas psychological indicators are more pertinent to how they may be feeling. Lastly, behavioral indicators represent how they are projecting.

Ideological Indicators	Psychological Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professes strong, often violent, ideological beliefs</li> <li>• Extreme in-group/out-group argumentation (focuses on perceived injustices, dehumanizes opposition, sees self as liberator/legitimate fighter)</li> <li>• Identifies with or involved in extremist groups or ideologies (online, in person)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outward signs of vulnerability (appearance, substance abuse, illegal activities, outbursts, etc.)</li> <li>• Demonstrates a cult, group-like mentality</li> <li>• Sees themselves not as individuals but as symbols</li> <li>• Perceives the world through a distorted lens of fundamentalist beliefs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participates in activities common to recruiting, training, or targeting</li> <li>• Unexplained absences, travel</li> <li>• Trouble keeping employment</li> <li>• Short of funds due to “giving to the cause”</li> <li>• Engages in criminal activity</li> <li>• Exhibits changes in character, behavior, or appearance</li> </ul>

## For More Information

- Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act: [https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=\(title:8%20section:1189%20edition:prelim\)](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:8%20section:1189%20edition:prelim))
- Foreign terrorist organizations: <https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/>
- FBI Lone Offender Terrorism Report (LOTR) <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/lone-offender-terrorism-report-111319.pdf/view>
- DHS Signs of Terrorism: <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something/recognize-the-signs>
- DHS 8 Signs of Terrorism: <https://www.in.gov/iifc/2331.htm>
- JCAT Counterterrorism Guide: <https://www.dni.gov/nctc/jcat/index.html>
- National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Study on preparatory indicators: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/214217.pdf>
- DNI Terrorist Insider Threat: [https://www.dni.gov/files/NCTC/documents/jcat/firstresponderstoolbox/94s - First Responders Toolbox - Terrorist Insider Threat-survey.pdf#:~:text=%E2%80%A2%20Unexpected%20or%20unexplained%20absences%20%E2%80%A2%20Unnecessary%20copying,workers%20while%20off%20duty%20.%20TERRORIST%20INSIDER%20THREAT](https://www.dni.gov/files/NCTC/documents/jcat/firstresponderstoolbox/94s%20-%20First%20Responders%20Toolbox%20-%20Terrorist%20Insider%20Threat%20-%20Survey.pdf#:~:text=%E2%80%A2%20Unexpected%20or%20unexplained%20absences%20%E2%80%A2%20Unnecessary%20copying,workers%20while%20off%20duty%20.%20TERRORIST%20INSIDER%20THREAT)
- DNI JCAT Counterterrorism guide: <https://www.dni.gov/nctc/jcat/index.html>
- Classifications of terrorism: <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/terrorism>
- U.S. Government terrorism definitions: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2009-title18/html/USCODE-2009-title18-partl-chap113B-sec2331.htm>