BACKGROUND
This research highlight provides findings based on START’s Profiles of Perpetrators of Terrorism in the United States (PPT-US) dataset, which includes detailed information on the 143 organizations known to have engaged in terrorist attacks against targets in the U.S. homeland from 1970 through 2013.

Terrorism is defined as the threatened or actual use of illegal force and violence by a non-state actor to attain a political, economic, religious or social goal through fear, coercion or intimidation. More information is available at www.start.umd.edu/gtd.

PPT-US Data: The dataset includes information on each group’s:
- terrorist attacks
- history and base of operations
- ideology and goals
- financial resources
- engagement in other criminal and political activities
- alliances
- network and structure

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS
There is no single “profile” of organizations that target the U.S. homeland with terrorism. Rather, the groups that attacked the United States between 1970 and 2013 had widely varied ideologies, beliefs, and goals.

Of these 143 groups that attacked targets in the United States during this time:

- 88% had headquarters in the United States
- 71% carried out attacks for one year or less
- 95% emerged before the year 2000
- 55%* also engaged in non-violent political activities

*political activity was unknown for 38% of groups

55 PERPETRATOR GROUPS PARTICIPATED IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:

- Financial Crime
  - A counterfeiting operation was based at the compound of the leader of the Aryan Nations.

- Public Order Crime
  - The Animal Liberation Front participates in releasing animals from research facilities.

- Violent Crime
  - Symbionese Liberation Army members participated in multiple bank robberies.

- Drug Trafficking
  - A leader of Omega-7 had ties with major narcotics dealers. The group was financed in part by trafficking activities.
This research was supported by the Science and Technology Directorate's Resilient Systems Division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through Award Number 2009-ST-108-LR0003 made to the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START). The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as necessarily representing the official policies, either expressed or implied, of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.