



Privacy Impact Assessment  
for the

# Comparative Case Studies of Radical Rhetoric

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## Abstract

Comparative Case Studies of Radical Rhetoric is a research effort funded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Directorate of Science and Technology (S&T), Human Factors/Behavioral Sciences Division (HFD). The goal of the research project is to determine whether various characteristics of the rhetoric expressed by groups are related to the groups' likelihood of engaging in violent extremist activity. S&T is conducting a PIA because researchers will collect personally identifiable information during this research effort.

## Overview

One of HFD's missions is to conduct social and behavioral science research that enhances DHS's capability to identify and prevent terrorist attacks. To achieve this mission, HFD must gain a better understanding of the motivation, intentions, and behaviors of individuals, groups, and movements that pose terrorist threats. The Radical Rhetoric project seeks to accomplish its mission by studying the rhetoric expressed by extremist groups and examining how it relates to the violent activities conducted by these groups. As this project is an exploratory basic research effort, its findings are intended to inform future research, as opposed to developing and delivering a specific product to an intended customer.

HFD is funding Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) through an Interagency Agreement to conduct this basic research effort in order to determine whether various characteristics of the rhetoric expressed by select groups are related to the groups' likelihood of engaging in violent extremist activity. Specifically, researchers seek to determine whether the analysis of rhetoric can (1) distinguish between radical groups that do and do not engage in violence, and (2) provide indicators that groups may be planning imminent violent acts.

During this research effort, researchers will collect and analyze open source documents. Specifically, researchers will collect speeches, statements, and position papers issued by four non-U.S. groups: (a) Central al Qa'ida, (b) al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula; (c) Hizb ut-Tahrir;<sup>1</sup> and (d) the Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia. Central al Qa'ida and al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula are known for their extremist violence and their professed leaders are Osama Bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri (discussed further below). Hizb ut-Tahrir and the Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia maintain the same ideology and goals as Central al Qa'ida and al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula. However, based upon their own claims and researchers' reviews of credible government and non-government sources, Hizb ut-Tahrir and the Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia have not engaged in terrorism. Thus, they are crucial control groups in this research project, which seeks to determine whether rhetorical differences can help distinguish between groups with radical beliefs and goals who engage in violence and groups who may have similar ideologies and goals, but who do not engage in violence in the effort to achieve their agenda. Researchers will collect and analyze documents containing radical rhetoric from publicly available websites and the Open Source Center ([www.OpenSource.gov](http://www.OpenSource.gov)). OpenSource.gov is a web-based collection of unclassified and For Official Use Only (FOUO) documents and reports related to foreign policy and

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<sup>1</sup> Hizb ut Tahrir maintains a "central office" which is located in Jordan. Researchers will use documents issued by that office.



national security issues which is maintained by the Director of National Intelligence. Researchers will also collect documents issued by Hizb ut-Tahrir from the group's official websites.

In addition to studying group rhetoric, researchers will conduct analyses to examine the relationship between the rhetoric of two particular terrorist group leaders, Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri – both of whom are non-U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents – and their respective group's violent activities. The researchers do not seek to make any determinations about Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri, rather they seek to examine the relationship between the individuals' rhetoric and the group's violent activities. None of the information conveyed by the subjects of the research in the documents will be taken as "factual," but will be assessed for what it says about the perspectives of the groups or individuals issuing the document. Furthermore, researchers will develop a timeline of the violent activities of 1) Central al Qa'ida and its affiliates and 2) al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula by examining various open source materials (e.g., the State Department's Country Reports on Global Terrorism, reports developed by the Congressional Research Service, academic databases, newspaper reports, etc.). Only attacks that have been attributed to Central al Qa'ida and its affiliates or al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula in more than one source – with greater weight given to government sources – will be included in the timelines.

Researchers will analyze documents and "code" them based on existing social and behavioral theories. "Coding" entails reviewing the specific language used in each document and applying standardized categories to the rhetorical elements. These standardized categories can then be used to compare the rhetoric in documents issued by different individuals/groups and/or the same individual/group over time in order to examine whether there are relationships between rhetorical elements and violent acts. See section 2.2, below, for further information about the coding systems to be used in this study. The coding systems will focus on research variables that prior research demonstrates have had, or are theoretically expected to have, a relationship with group violence. For example, prior research on this topic has demonstrated that there is a relationship between group violence and the morality and religion values that groups use to describe themselves and their enemies. In FY 2007, a similar project examined documents containing the radical rhetoric the aforementioned groups through 2006.<sup>2</sup> During that effort, which concluded in September 2007, researchers applied three coding systems to the documents. The current effort will collect more recent documents containing the radical rhetoric of these groups (2007-2008), and researchers will apply additional coding systems to both these more recent documents and the original sample of documents. Rhetorical analysis of this sort looks beyond the dictionary meanings of words and examines the imagery, tone, and context of the rhetoric. Once the rhetorical variables have been coded, the relationship between these variables and whether the group did or did not engage in violence will be examined to determine which, if any, of the coded variables serve as indicators of a group's past likelihood to commit violent acts.

The timeline of the violent activities of 1) Central al Qa'ida and its affiliates and 2) al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula will be developed through an examination of various open source materials (e.g., the State Department's Country Reports on Global Terrorism, reports developed by the Congressional Research Service, academic databases, newspaper reports, etc.). Only attacks that have been attributed to these groups in more than one source – with greater weight given to government sources – will be included in the timelines.

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<sup>2</sup> The earlier project was also funded by the government. Many of its findings were published in an open source



Researchers will take reasonable measures to ensure that all documents collected and analyzed during the research effort are authentic and authored by non-U.S. groups and non-U.S. persons located outside the U.S. These measures will include restricting document collection to documents attributable to the selected groups and Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri. Researchers will obtain documents from trusted sources, such as the Open Source Center. Documents contained on [opensource.gov](http://opensource.gov) are vetted by analysts from the U.S. intelligence community prior to publication on the website. Researchers will also obtain documents issued by Hizb ut-Tahrir directly from the group's websites. For purposes of this project, researchers will assume that the documents found on the websites are authentic and attributable to those groups. Researchers will include only open source documents that were issued by the subjects of the research in Arabic, and which are available in English translation (either through the Open Source Center or the official websites of Hizb ut-Tahrir, which provides its own translations). (The Open Source Center does not translate Hizb ut-Tahrir documents issued in Arabic). If researchers cannot confirm that a document was issued by the subjects of the research, the document will not be included in the study.

- Central al Qa'ida - researchers will collect documents issued by Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri.
- Hizb ut-Tahrir - researchers will collect documents issued by the group's central office in Jordan.
- al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula and the Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia - researchers will collect documents that were issued in Arabic and translated by the Open Source Center.

Researchers will refer to the groups as the authors of specific documents (unless the documents were issued by Osama bin Laden or Ayman al-Zawahiri, in which case they will be attributed to those two individual authors). Researchers will not link any other names to the documents with a few limited exceptions. In certain instances it may be necessary to link an individual to specific rhetoric. In those instances, researchers will cite the individual's role, as opposed to referencing the individual's name. For example, if a group refers to a specific moderate Muslim leader as a 'dog,' researchers will not reference the name of the moderate Muslim leader, and would instead indicate that the rhetoric concerned a 'moderate Muslim leader.' It should be noted, however, that in certain limited circumstances researchers may need to specifically reference well-known world leaders to assess whether the references are related to subsequent activities targeting the leaders or their countries. Records concerning U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents will not be collected during this research effort. HFD will not use the information to make operational determinations or judgments about or take actions regarding the individuals or groups.

The research participants for the project include:

1. S&T HFD: HFD will provide funding and general oversight for the Radical Rhetoric research effort. The Program Manager will oversee the research and as an SME in this area, may independently analyze documents collected during this research project, including analyses conforming to the above specifications and limitations.



2. Oak Ridge National Laboratory: Researchers from ORNL and selected subcontractors of ORNL will conduct the research described in this PIA. As discussed further below, researchers involved in this project will be required to execute non-disclosure agreements prior to participating in this research effort.

Upon the conclusion of the research effort, HFD will assess the research results to determine whether the efforts have established a relationship between any specific variables appearing in a group's rhetoric and that group's commission of a violent act. HFD will, applying its own expertise and/or with the aid of external SMEs, determine whether this avenue of research merits further pursuit based on common research metrics such as the statistical significance of the findings as well as the practical feasibility of conducting these types of analyses more broadly. Should an additional project be funded, privacy considerations will be addressed prior to launching the additional project.

## Section 1.0 Characterization of the Information

The following questions are intended to define the scope of the information requested and/or collected as well as reasons for its collection as part of the program, system, rule, or technology being developed.

### 1.1 What information is collected, used, disseminated, or maintained in the system?

Researchers will collect English translations of documents (speeches, statements, position papers, etc.) issued by: (a) Central al Qa'ida; (b) al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula; (c) Hizb ut-Tahrir; and (d) the Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia. As discussed above, researchers will not link individual authors' names to any documents with the exception of documents issued by Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri. References in source documents to other individuals, if rhetorically important, will be reported by reference to the individual's role rather than that person's name. For example, if a group refers to a specific moderate Muslim leader as a 'dog,' researchers will not identify the name of the moderate Muslim leader, and would instead indicate that the rhetoric concerned "a moderate Muslim leader". It should be noted however, that in certain limited circumstances researchers may need to identify well-known world leaders referenced in the documents in order to demonstrate how these references are related to subsequent activities targeting the leaders or their countries. For example, it may be much more informative to examine a group's rhetoric related to specific U.S. Presidents versus U.S. Presidents in general. Again, none of the information conveyed by the subjects of the research in the documents will be taken as "factual;" rather it will be assessed for the rhetoric being used by the groups or individuals issuing the document.

### 1.2 What are the sources of the information in the system?

This research effort will collect documents issued by Central al Qa'ida (Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri); al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula; Hizb ut-Tahrir; and the Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia. Researchers will collect speeches, statements, and position papers issued by the aforementioned groups and Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri from the Open Source Center. Researchers will also collect documents from Hizb ut-Tahrir's official websites.



Researchers will develop a timeline of the violent activities of 1) Central al Qa'ida and its affiliates and 2) al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula by examining open source documents (e.g., the State Department's Country Reports on Global Terrorism, reports developed by the Congressional Research Service, academic databases, newspaper reports, etc.).

### **1.3 Why is the information being collected, used, disseminated, or maintained?**

Researchers are collecting and using this information to determine whether various characteristics of the rhetoric expressed by select groups are related to the groups' likelihood of engaging in violent extremist activity. Specifically, researchers seek to determine whether the analysis of rhetoric can (1) distinguish between radical groups that do and do not engage in violence; and (2) provide indicators that groups may be planning imminent violent acts.

### **1.4 How is the information collected?**

Researchers will search the Open Source Center and Hizb ut-Tahrir's websites for documents. Researchers will search for documents collected and translated by the Open Source Center by group name or by the names of two individual leaders, (Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri). Researchers will collect documents issued by Hizb ut-Tahrir by searching the group's official websites for documents issued by the group's central office located in Jordan. Only documents issued from the central office of Hizb ut-Tahrir will be used because this provides for the most rigorous comparison with the documents issued by Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri.

### **1.5 How will the information be checked for accuracy?**

Open Source Center intelligence analysts thoroughly vet documents for accuracy prior to including them in the Center's collection. Thus, the documents will be presumed to be accurate. As discussed above, documents collected from Hizb ut-Tahrir official websites will be presumed to be accurate because those documents are posted by that group.

### **1.6 What specific legal authorities, arrangements, and/or agreements defined the collection of information?**

The Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296, §302(4) authorizes the Science and Technology Directorate to conduct "basic and applied research, development, demonstration, testing, and evaluation activities that are relevant to any or all elements of the Department, through both intramural and extramural programs...." In exercising its responsibility under the Homeland Security Act, S&T is authorized to collect information, as appropriate, to support research and development related to improving the security of the homeland.



## **1.7 Privacy Impact Analysis: Given the amount and type of data collected, discuss the privacy risks identified and how they were mitigated.**

Most of the documents that researchers will collect will not be attributed to an individual author, but rather to the group that issued it. In certain limited circumstances, however, researchers may include the name of an individual when it provides context for the analysis of the rhetoric. The potential risk to the individual would be that an individual could inappropriately be associated with a violent group. This risk will be mitigated in various ways. First, with the exception of documents issued by Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri, researchers will not refer to the individual authors of the documents but will instead attribute the documents to the select groups that issued them. Second, as discussed above, references in source documents to other individuals, if rhetorically important, will be reported by reference to the individual's role rather than name. In certain limited circumstances however, researchers may specifically reference well-known world leaders to assess whether the references are related to subsequent activities targeting the leaders or their countries.

## **Section 2.0 Uses of the Information**

The following questions are intended to delineate clearly the use of information and the accuracy of the data being used.

### **2.1 Describe all the uses of information.**

Researchers will collect documents (speeches, position papers, statements, etc.) issued by the subjects of the research to analyze the relationship between the characteristics of a radical group's rhetoric and whether it engages in violence. Researchers will collect documents from the Open Source Center and Hizb ut-Tahrir's official websites and code them based on social and behavioral science theories. The researchers will then analyze the relationship between 1) the variables assigned to the rhetoric of the groups and Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri and 2) these groups' violent activities to examine whether various characteristics of the rhetoric are related to the groups' likelihood of engaging in violent extremist activity. Specifically, researchers seek to determine whether the analysis of rhetoric can (1) distinguish between radical groups that do and do not engage in violence; and (2) provide indicators that groups may be planning imminent violent acts.

### **2.2 What types of tools are used to analyze data and what type of data may be produced?**

Several of the researchers involved in the project have developed content analysis tools which identify particular words or phrases present in the text of the documents. The tools provide overall counts of the number of times certain words or phrases appear in a document (e.g., the density of positive or negative emotion words in a document). These densities will be used as variables in the analyses (e.g., the relationship between the density of negative emotion words used in a document and the group's violent activities will be examined).



## **2.3 If the system uses commercial or publicly available data please explain why and how it is used.**

Researchers will collect documents from the Open Source Center and Hizb ut-Tahrir's official websites. Researchers will analyze the documents to test the relationship between characteristics of radical rhetoric and group violence.

## **2.4 Privacy Impact Analysis: Describe any types of controls that may be in place to ensure that information is handled in accordance with the above described uses.**

This is a research effort in which only S&T, ORNL, and its subcontracted researchers directly involved in the project will have access to the information. All researchers involved in the project will be required to sign non-disclosure agreements which mandate that researchers use the information solely for authorized purposes.

## **Section 3.0 Retention**

The following questions are intended to outline how long information will be retained after the initial collection.

### **3.1 What information is retained?**

Researchers will collect and retain the source documents in English (speeches, position papers, statements, etc.) in order to analyze the group's rhetoric.

### **3.2 How long is information retained?**

Depending on the results of this research, the information may be used for future projects. Researchers may retain the information pending S&T's decision as to the information's potential uses in other research. S&T, ORNL, and its subcontracted researchers will retain the information solely for use in approved research projects.

The documents will not be retained for more than five (5) years after the completion of this project. S&T submitted a request for a retention schedule to the DHS records retention officer and is awaiting a determination.

### **3.3 Has the retention schedule been approved by the component records officer and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)?**

S&T's records retention officer is currently reviewing the project.



### **3.4 Privacy Impact Analysis: Please discuss the risks associated with the length of time data is retained and how those risks are mitigated.**

There are no significant risks associated with the retention of this data. Nonetheless, S&T will restrict access to the data to approved staff for authorized purposes. Furthermore, the records will be maintained securely with access limited to authorized personnel. ORNL researchers and its subcontractors will be required to sign non-disclosure agreements agreeing to these restrictions. In addition, the terms of the contract will require that the documents be secured and that they not be retained for more than five (5) years after the completion of this project.

## **Section 4.0 Internal Sharing and Disclosure**

The following questions are intended to define the scope of sharing within the Department of Homeland Security.

### **4.1 With which internal organization(s) is the information shared, what information is shared and for what purpose?**

HFD will share information with ORNL researchers and its subcontractors. At this time, S&T does not have any plans to share the information with other internal DHS entities. If HFD determines that there is a need to share the information, all sharing will be reviewed by S&T to ensure it is compatible with the protections embodied in the existing PIA.

### **4.2 How is the information transmitted or disclosed?**

Researchers will transmit all research products associated with this project to the S&T, HFD Program Manager via encrypted email, a secure website, or registered U.S. mail.

### **4.3 Privacy Impact Analysis: Considering the extent of internal information sharing, discuss the privacy risks associated with the sharing and how they were mitigated.**

There may be a minimal privacy risk that S&T would share information with an internal organization that could use the information in a way that is incompatible with the purposes identified in this PIA. As stated above, S&T does not currently plan to share this information. If it does, S&T will ensure all proposed uses of the information are compatible with this PIA.



## Section 5.0 External Sharing and Disclosure

The following questions are intended to define the content, scope, and authority for information sharing external to DHS which includes Federal, state and local government, and the private sector.

### **5.1 With which external organization(s) is the information shared, what information is shared, and for what purpose?**

While there are currently no plans to share the data with external organizations, the actual results of the analyses will likely be shared outside of DHS. For example, certain aspects of this research effort may be published in academic journals after being reviewed and approved by the S&T Contracting Officer. In addition, pursuant to the terms of the non-disclosure agreement, ORNL researchers and subcontractors will be prohibited from disclosing the results of the analyses without the express written permission of the S&T Contracting Officer. If HFD determines that there is a need to share the information with other external organizations, all sharing will be reviewed by S&T to ensure it is compatible with the protections embodied in the existing PIA.

### **5.2 Is the sharing of personally identifiable information outside the Department compatible with the original collection? If so, is it covered by an appropriate routine use in a SORN? If so, please describe. If not, please describe under what legal mechanism the program or system is allowed to share the personally identifiable information outside of DHS.**

The source data for this project comes from open source materials. The use of the data is intended to determine whether the analysis of rhetoric can (1) distinguish between radical groups that do and do not engage in violence; and (2) provide indicators that groups may be planning imminent violent acts. Because this research effort concerns non-U.S. groups and non-U.S. persons, and the information will not be retrieved by name or personal identifier, a SORN is not required.

### **5.3 How is the information shared outside the Department and what security measures safeguard its transmission?**

Except in those circumstances described above, information will not be shared with any external organizations. For example, ORNL researchers, ORNL subcontractors, and HFD employees may publish certain aspects of the analyses in academic journals. Pursuant to the terms of the contract, ORNL researchers and subcontractors must obtain the approval of the Contracting Officer prior to publication. HFD employees must go through established internal procedures for approving publications. As noted above, in all other instances, if HFD determines that there is a need to share the information with other external organizations, all sharing will be reviewed by S&T to ensure it is compatible with the protections embodied in the existing PIA.



## **5.4 Privacy Impact Analysis: Given the external sharing, explain the privacy risks identified and describe how they were mitigated.**

There may be a minimal privacy risk that S&T would share information with an external organization that could use the information in a way that is incompatible with the purposes identified in this PIA. As stated above, S&T does not currently plan to share this information. If it does, S&T will ensure all proposed uses are compatible with this PIA. If an HFD employee proposes to publish an article related to this research, the employee must go through established internal procedures for approving publications.

## **Section 6.0 Notice**

The following questions are directed at notice to the individual of the scope of information collected, the right to consent to uses of said information, and the right to decline to provide information.

### **6.1 Was notice provided to the individual prior to collection of information?**

This PIA serves as notice to the public regarding the data collection performed by ORNL and its subcontractors on behalf of S&T. Because this research effort will comprise information that was publicly issued, researchers will not provide notice of the collection directly to the affected groups and individuals.

### **6.2 Do individuals have the opportunity and/or right to decline to provide information?**

No. Researchers will only collect and analyze speeches, statements, and position papers that 1) have been publicly issued by the subjects of the research and 2) are either available from the Open Source Center (OpenSource.gov) or from Hizb ut-Tahrir's official websites. Researchers will develop a timeline of the violent activities of 1) Central al Qa'ida and its affiliates and 2) al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula through an examination of various open source materials (e.g., the State Department's Country Reports on Global Terrorism, reports developed by the Congressional Research Service, academic databases, newspaper reports, etc.). Researchers will not collect any information directly from individuals. To that end, there is no opportunity for individuals to decline to provide information for use in this research effort.

### **6.3 Do individuals have the right to consent to particular uses of the information? If so, how does the individual exercise the right?**

No. There will not be an opportunity to consent to the uses of the information. The only information researchers will collect and analyze will be the information these groups and Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri have issued publicly.



## **6.4 Privacy Impact Analysis: Describe how notice is provided to individuals, and how the risks associated with individuals being unaware of the collection are mitigated.**

This research effort will only use information that these groups and Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri have issued publicly. This PIA serves as notice of the information used and the manner of that use.

## **Section 7.0 Access, Redress and Correction**

The following questions are directed at an individual's ability to ensure the accuracy of the information collected about them.

### **7.1 What are the procedures that allow individuals to gain access to their information?**

Individuals will not have access to the data collected by the researchers or the results of the research, except that the results of the analyses may be published in academic journals by DHS employees and ORNL researchers and subcontractors. Individuals may have an opportunity to access the information from the original speeches, statements, and position paper – all of which have been issued publicly.

### **7.2 What are the procedures for correcting inaccurate or erroneous information?**

Researchers will collect documents from the Open Source Center (which is vetted by intelligence analysts) or Hizb ut-Tahrir's official websites (which is presumably posted by the group) to ensure the accuracy of the information.

### **7.3 How are individuals notified of the procedures for correcting their information?**

Individuals could contact the original source of the data and request a correction.

### **7.4 If no formal redress is provided, what alternatives are available to the individual?**

Because this research effort will comprise information that was publicly issued, individuals may have an opportunity to contact the original source of the data and request a correction.



## **7.5 Privacy Impact Analysis: Please discuss the privacy risks associated with the redress available to individuals and how those risks are mitigated.**

This research effort will use information issued by these select groups and Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri thus there is no need to provide redress.

## **Section 8.0 Technical Access and Security**

The following questions are intended to describe technical safeguards and security measures.

### **8.1 What procedures are in place to determine which users may access the system and are they documented?**

This project does not involve the use of a centralized “system.” All researchers involved in the project will sign a non-disclosure agreement and agree to use the data for authorized purposes.

### **8.2 Will Department contractors have access to the system?**

Yes, ORNL researchers and subcontractors will collect and have access to the source documents and the research analyses.

### **8.3 Describe what privacy training is provided to users either generally or specifically relevant to the program or system?**

All DHS employees and contractors receive annual privacy awareness training. DHS will provide privacy training to all contracted researchers involved in this research effort.

### **8.4 Has Certification & Accreditation been completed for the system or systems supporting the program?**

No, this project is a research effort that does not involve the creation or development of a specific technology. Certification and accreditation is not required.

### **8.5 What auditing measures and technical safeguards are in place to prevent misuse of data?**

Researchers involved in the project must sign a non-disclosure agreement which stipulates that the data will be used for authorized purposes. Pursuant to the terms of the contract, ORNL is responsible for enforcing the non-disclosure agreement. The information in the study has all been issued publicly, and individuals will not be referenced except as noted above.



## **8.6 Privacy Impact Analysis: Given the sensitivity and scope of the information collected, as well as any information sharing conducted on the system, what privacy risks were identified and how do the security controls mitigate them?**

The use of the information will be limited to authorized personnel for authorized research and development purposes. Furthermore, ORNL researchers and subcontractors will be required to sign non-disclosure agreements.

## **Section 9.0 Technology**

The following questions are directed at critically analyzing the selection process for any technologies utilized by the system, including system hardware, RFID, biometrics and other technology.

### **9.1 What type of project is the program or system?**

Comparative Case Studies of Radical Rhetoric is a social science research effort.

### **9.2 What stage of development is the system in and what project development lifecycle was used?**

This project is a research effort rather than a system development or project development effort. This research aims to examine the relationship between elements of a group's rhetoric and that group's likelihood of committing violent acts.

### **9.3 Does the project employ technology which may raise privacy concerns? If so please discuss their implementation.**

No, this research project does not employ privacy-sensitive technologies.

## **Approval Signature**

Original signed and on file with the DHS Privacy Office

Mary Ellen Callahan  
Chief Privacy Officer  
Department of Homeland Security