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COMPETITIVE DIVISION-ACADEMIC

Examination of Counterterrorism Strategies to Reduce the Vulnerability of Mega-Event Populations

In the wake of the airborne and biological terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. in September 2001, there was growing concern among citizens that densely populated events presented prime targets for terrorists to carry out mass casualty incidents. International attacks in Indonesia (2002), Spain (2004), Britain (2005), India (2008), and France (2015) highlighted the pervasive threat posed by non-state actors to nations worldwide. On the domestic front, the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings showcased how radicalized individuals were able to operate covertly within the United States, evade detection by national security agencies, and launch successful attacks on populated events using simple, homemade devices. In response, national security policies have sought to prevent and mitigate the impact of terrorist activities by focusing on the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Despite the sustained efforts of domestic and international security organizations, the threat of terrorism remains omnipresent in large-scale events.

Presentation Theme: Counterterrorism within the Emergency Management domain

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research: Doctoral Mentor - Dr. Eric Russell