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TERRORISM RESEARCH SERIES OFFERS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOMELAND SECURITY POLICY

TALLAHASSEE, Fla—In a series of studies published in *Criminology & Public Policy's* (CPP) special issue on homeland security and terrorism, researchers examined terrorist group attack patterns, the formation and life span of terrorist groups, and the criminal justice processing of terrorism. Almost immediately following the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush declared a global war on terrorism. Special Issue Editor Gary LaFree of the University of Maryland explained that this is not the first time a U.S. president has used the term "war" to garner national support for a cause relating to criminal justice issues: President Lyndon Johnson catapulted the war on crime into the national spotlight in 1964 and President Ronald Regan enacted the war on drugs in 1980.

Gary LaFree, with Professors Sue-Ming Yang of Georgia State University and Martha Crenshaw of Stanford University, found that although only 3% of all terrorist attacks globally were directed at the United States as opposed to other nations, terrorist attacks aimed at the United States have been far more lethal than those aimed elsewhere. LaFree, Yang, and Crenshaw believe international counterterrorism cooperation is the best way to protect against future terrorist attacks.

Professors Brent Smith of the University of Arkansas and Kelly Dampousse of the University of Oklahoma examined the life span of terrorist groups and found that recruitment practices, security measures, and ideological relevance contributed to the group surviving. Authors Joshua Freilich of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Steven Chermak of Michigan State University, and David Caspi of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice examined the evolution of four racist U.S. organizations and found that they were able to expand because they had necessary leadership and finances, took advantage of political opportunities, and were internally cohesive. Smith and Dampousse—as well as Freilich, Chermak, and Caspi—found that the terrorist groups disbanded primarily due to law-enforcement response and intervention.

Looking within the U.S. criminal justice system, Professor Richard Legault and doctoral student James Hendrickson of the University of Maryland examined firearm-related offenses and found that terrorists are more likely than other federal felons to be convicted of a firearm-related crime. Professors Bert Useem of Purdue University and Obie Clayton of Morehouse College found that the probability is modest for a terrorist attack to be planned in prison. Prison officials have responded with urgency to the threat and have successfully implemented antiradicalization techniques.

Special Issue Editor Jessica Stern of Harvard University—author of *The Ultimate Terrorists* (Harvard University Press, 1999) and *Terror in the Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill* (HarperCollins, 2003), as well as one of *Time Magazine's* seven thinkers whose innovative ideas would change the world in 2001—agrees with LaFree that criminological literature and research relating to terrorism should be increased. Stern argues that to better understand terrorism, the United States needs more expertise on rehabilitation in prisons, more specialists to analyze terrorist threats, and greater collaboration between law enforcement, government agencies, and researchers.