The Threat to New York City

- Introduction
- Homegrown Extremism
- Beyond the Homegrown Threat
- Looking Ahead
Threat to NYC: Introduction

- Terrorist threat **persistent** and increasingly **diverse**:
  - New York City remains most desirable target
  - Broad range of capabilities, tactics, targets, and motivations
  - Proliferation of theaters overseas
  - Rise of “DIY” plotting
Threat to NYC: Introduction
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Sixteen plots against NYC since 9/11 – six since 9/2009

- Brooklyn Bridge
- Subway Cyanide
- Parachas
- NYSE and Citigroup
- Herald Square
- PATH Commuter Train & WTC
- JFK Airport
- Transatlantic Flights
- Long Island Railroad
- Bronx Synagogues
- NYC Subway
- Times Square
- Manhattan Synagogue
- Military Personnel
- Federal Reserve
- Wall Street & NYC Theaters
The Threat to New York City

HOMEGROWN EXTREMISM
Local | Overseas | Online | Finance
Threat to NYC: Homegrown extremism

Visualisation of Al Qaeda’s network (not exhaustive)
Threat to NYC: Homegrown extremism

- Four main categories of activity
Threat to NYC: Homegrown extremism
Threat to NYC: Homegrown extremism

Local “Do It Yourself” plotting increasing
Threat to NYC: Homegrown extremism

Capability varies widely

- From AQ-inspired autonomous actors with rudimentary skills...
- ...to sophisticated AQ-trained and directed plotters

➢ Minimal tactical skill can achieve significant strategic success
Threat to NYC: Homegrown extremism

Key role of the media sector

- Internet platforms as enabling mechanisms
- Online solicitation of violence
Threat to NYC: Homegrown extremism

Criminal enterprises facilitate material support
The Threat to New York City

BEYOND THE HOMEGROWN THREAT
Individual “entrepreneurs” | FTO | State-sponsored
Threat to NYC: Beyond homegrown

Extremism across the spectrum:

- Militias/Sovereign Citizen Movement
- White Supremacists
- Anarchists
Threat to NYC: Beyond homegrown

FTO-linked:
- Opportunistic/Directed

[Image of police officers at a crime scene]
Threat to NYC: Beyond homegrown

Individual “entrepreneurs”
- Autonomous
- Trained and untrained
Threat to NYC: Beyond homegrown
The Threat to New York City

LOOKING AHEAD
At Home | Overseas | Al Qaeda | State-sponsored
Threat to NYC: Looking ahead

Homegrown:

- More AQ-inspired than AQ-linked
- On-the-ground training increasingly irrelevant
Threat to NYC: Looking ahead

Overseas:

- More theaters will draw more fighters
- Syria as destination of choice for foreigners
Threat to NYC: Looking ahead

Al Qaeda:

- Core: loss of sanctuary not irrevocable
- Affiliates/allies: continued global power projection
Threat to NYC: Looking ahead

State-sponsored:
- Capability exists — intent is driver
Local Threat – Local Response
The Terrorist Threat to NYC Since 2009

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