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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
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NATIONAL PARKS



ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

TERRORISM, UNCONVENTIONAL
THREATS AND CAPABILITIES
CHAIRMAN

PROJECTION FORCES

MILITARY PERSONNEL

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2006

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf, Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary
Committee on Appropriations
H-309 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf:

As you consider legislation for the FY 2007 Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations bill, I respectfully request your continued support for the Higgins Counterterrorism Research Center, listed under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants Program as "Law enforcement training activities in Hughesville, PA."

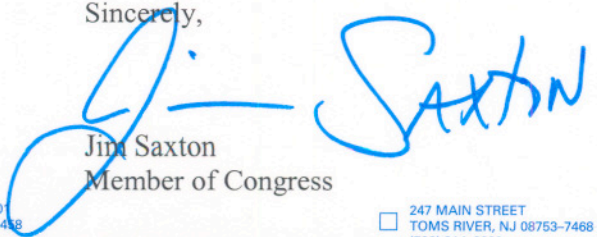
The Higgins Counterterrorism Research Center is a non-profit organization staffed by former U.S. Government, anti-terrorism/counter-terrorism, intelligence and defense experts who are committed to providing Anti-Terrorism training to America's first responders. The pre-emption, dissuasion, and disruption of terrorist organizations and their support networks is the mission of the Higgins Center.

Prior to September 11, local, state and federal law enforcement agencies were unprepared to contend with organized radical Islamists. Many did not even regard Islamist terrorism as a threat to American communities. As a result, the only type of briefings available to U.S. federal, state and local law enforcement officers focused on traditional organized crime groups. To fill this void, the Higgins Counterterrorism Research Center specifically created the Islamist Terrorism 101 seminar. Designed to provide law enforcement officers with a comprehensive understanding of Islamist terrorist groups, the two day-seminar provides educational information on the history of the Islamist movement, the crimes they commit, and an explanation of their use of suicide bombing. To the credit of the Higgins Center, in nearly every jurisdiction that has received training, new investigations have been initiated or old cases have been reviewed as a result of the information provided.

The importance of this program transcends local communities. In addition to over 7,000 law enforcement officials, the Higgins Center has also provided training to groups within each branch of the armed forces. The requested funding will go towards providing additional seminars to organizations such as local police officers, State Troopers and other first responder groups who would otherwise not have access to such information.

Thank you for your continued support of this critical program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joni Zielinski in my Washington, DC office at (202)225-4765.

Sincerely,


Jim Saxton
Member of Congress

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION COMMAND
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5109

IN REPLY REFER TO
10 Nov 06

From: Director, Marine Corps National Capital Region Command, Antiterrorism/Force Protection Staff
To: The Higgins Center for Counter Terrorism Research
Subj: LETTER OF APPRECIATION

1. Thank you for your outstanding presentations and your organization's participation in support of the Marine Corps National Capital Region Command's Antiterrorism/Force Protection Staff quarterly seminar series, conducted at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia. The courses you presented on both Arab Cultural Operations and Islamic Terrorism has directly helped to provide insights and perspectives in support of efforts to combat dynamic and emerging threats. Your dedication to support, positive attitude and professionalism directly contribute to our goal of conducting seminars in the spirit of Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-5, by fostering a collaborative environment for interagency and supporting organizations with the common goal of Homeland Security/Homeland Defense.

2. Thanks again, for a job well done. Your "can do attitude" and excellent performance significantly and positively impact seminars and directly reinforced positive relations among a variety of organizations. Your efforts are appreciated and reflect highly on your commitment and selfless dedication to our great country. I wish you success in your future endeavors.

James Mead
LtCol USMC

To Whom It May Concern:

I have worked with Brian Fairchild, Vaughan Forrest, and Dr. Peter Leitner of the Higgin's Counterterrorism Research Center for over a year now, and cannot overstate their positive impact on educating relevant folks involved in the CT mission at the federal, state, and local level.

Since 2003, I have been educating and briefing members of the US government, primarily the FBI and elements of DoD on the Islamic Movement and the domestic threat posed by US Islamic organizations. Although well intentioned, my message was not as crisp as it needed to be. After a strong recommendation from a colleague who was trained by Higgin's, I met up with and began working with them. More than any other organization or group, Higgin's delivers a powerful, fact-based set of lectures and tailors them for their audience. No other group is teaching this material, which is paramount if we are to understand our enemy and his intentions.

In August of 2006, I proctored the FBI's Pilot Counterterrorism Course, which was two weeks in duration. Higgin's provided two days of training on the Islamic Movement, the Muslim Brotherhood, the domestic Islamic Insurgency, and related topics. The nearly 50 students, without exception, felt the material taught by Higgin's and their overall shared experiences were well-delivered and a critical part of their education with regard to understanding the enemy and how to begin defeating them. Dr. Peter Leitner also participated as a part of a 6-man panel, along with four senior managers from the FBI and the CIA to evaluate the student research projects.

I am also personally aware that these three gentlemen also work directly with law enforcement organizations providing information and guidance which directly positively impacts CT investigations on an operational level.

Due to their success and overwhelming impact thus far, we are expanding our relationship with Higgin's and will have them provide instruction on a larger scale as a part of programs with the US Attorney's Office, the US Capitol Police, and programs within the FBI.

The two-day Higgin's seminar should be mandatory for every FBI special agent, CIA case officer, elected official, and community leader. I cannot give this group any higher recommendation.

If you need to contact me, please do so at this email address or via my office phone at 202-233-1228. Thank you.

Respectfully,

John D. Guandolo

FBI, Washington Field Office

Joint Terrorism Task Force