

## Central Ohio InfraGard Chapter

November 21, 2019 Meeting

### **The Profile of an American Terrorist**

#### Abstract

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This research identifies the attributes of an American terrorist by studying the patterns within up to 50 demographic variables and exploring their correlation with the motivation to commit crimes related to terrorism. We believe that such an understanding will help to halt the recruitment of American citizens by instructing concerned parents, coaches, teachers, and family members how to quickly identify a person that is susceptible to radicalization and how to intervene. Studies conducted 20 years ago have identified some markers by examining international terrorists: single, male, early 20's, university education, and from an affluent middle or upper-class. This study confirms the previous findings and expands upon them by examining 519 U.S. citizens convicted of crimes related to terrorism. Additional characteristics scrutinized include the location of residence, crime and imprisonment, religion, organizational alliances, race, heritage and path to citizenship, field of study and occupation, social status, military experience, mental health, marriage and family, conviction, punishment, and target. We endeavor to continue identifying the common traits of terrorists and the social circumstances that render a person susceptible to radicalization and prime them to commit acts of terrorism. By creating a well-sourced and researched list of behaviors we offer methods for community-based curbing of radicalization.