



Department of Justice

STATEMENT OF

**JOHN M. VANYUR
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS DIVISION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS**

BEFORE THE

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, INFORMATION SHARING, AND
TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENT
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

CONCERNING

**RADICALIZATION, INFORMATION SHARING AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH:
PROTECTING THE HOMELAND FROM HOMEGROWN TERROR**

PRESENTED ON

APRIL 5, 2007

**STATEMENT OF
JOHN M. VANYUR
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS DIVISION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS**

**BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, INFORMATION SHARING,
AND TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENT
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

April 5, 2007

The Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is pleased to submit this statement for the record regarding the efforts our agency is taking to ensure we are preventing the recruitment of terrorists and extremists in Federal prisons.

The BOP is responsible for the custody and care of approximately 195,500 inmates confined in 114 Federal prisons and facilities operated by private companies, State and local governments. Our mission is to protect society by confining offenders in the controlled environments of prisons and community-based facilities that are safe, humane, cost-efficient, and appropriately secure; and to provide work and other self-improvement opportunities to assist offenders in becoming law-abiding citizens.

The BOP is committed to ensuring that Federal prisoners are not radicalized or recruited for terrorist causes. The support that has been provided by the FBI, the agencies represented on the National Joint Terrorism Task Force (NJTTF), other components of the Department of Justice, and many other members of the law enforcement and intelligence communities has been invaluable to our efforts in this area.

We understand the importance of controlling and preventing the recruitment of inmates into terrorist activities and organizations. We also acknowledge that this is an evolving issue, especially as it relates to the relationships between terrorism, certain radical or extremist ideologies, and the penchant of those who adhere to these ideologies to recruit others to their positions. The BOP's efforts at preventing radicalization focus on:

- (1) managing and monitoring inmates who could attempt to radicalize other inmates
- (2) screening religious service providers to avoid hiring or contracting with anyone who could radicalize inmates, and
- (3) providing programs to help inmates become less vulnerable to attempts at radicalization.

We know that some inmates may be particularly vulnerable to radical recruitment and we must guard against the spread of terrorism and extremist ideologies. Our practices in institution security and inmate management are geared toward the prevention of any violence, criminal behavior, disruptive behavior, or other threats to institution security or public safety, which includes the radicalization of inmates.

Over the last several years, our agency has taken a number of significant measures, and we are actively engaged in several ongoing initiatives to ensure that inmates in Federal prison are not recruited to support radical organizations or terrorist groups. For example, we have eliminated most institution-based inmate organizations with community ties to control the influence that outside entities have on Federal inmates. We also have enhanced our information and monitoring systems, intelligence gathering and sharing capabilities, and identification and management of disruptive inmates.

For over a decade, we have been managing inmates with ties to terrorism by confining them in more secure conditions and closely monitoring their communications. We have established a strategy that focuses on the appropriate levels of containment to ensure that inmates with terrorist ties do not have the opportunity to radicalize or recruit other inmates.

We define terrorist inmates as those having been convicted of, charged with, associated with, or linked to terrorist activities or belonging to organizations that planned and/or executed violent and destructive acts against the U.S. Government and/or privately owned American corporations.

All inmates determined to have terrorist ties are clearly identified and tracked in our information systems. The most dangerous terrorists are confined under the most restrictive conditions allowed in our most secure facility, the Administrative Maximum United States Penitentiary (ADX) in Florence, Colorado. We have also transferred a number of terrorist inmates to the Federal Correctional Complex in Terre Haute, Indiana, to consolidate them at one facility and increase the monitoring and management of these inmates.

We monitor, record, and translate if necessary, all telephone communications (except attorney-client conversations) involving inmates with terrorist ties. We then share any relevant information with the FBI, the NJTTF, and other agencies.

We also monitor all of the general mail delivered to or sent from terrorist inmates. Mail is not delivered to or sent from terrorist inmates until it is read, and if necessary, translated and/or analyzed for intelligence purposes. If suspicious content is found, the correspondence is referred to the FBI for analysis before being processed any further. In addition, we have

eliminated outgoing “special mail” drop boxes.¹ Inmates must deliver outgoing special mail directly to a staff member for further processing. All outgoing special mail is subject to scanning by electronic means such as x-ray, metal detector, or ion spectrometry equipment.

We recently established a Counter-terrorism Unit in Martinsburg, West Virginia. One of the responsibilities of that Unit is to process inmate correspondence that requires language translation and content analysis. The Unit will improve our ability to monitor correspondence and analyze it for potential terrorism-related intelligence. The Unit also oversees telephone monitoring systemwide and has implemented mechanisms to ensure phone calls by terrorist inmates are being monitored.

In addition, an FBI special agent and an FBI intelligence analyst are assigned to assist ADX Florence with communication and intelligence matters.

We have worked diligently, particularly since 9/11, to enhance our intelligence gathering and sharing capabilities in order to ensure a seamless flow of intelligence information between our agency and other law enforcement and counter-terrorism agencies.

We have two individuals (one employee and one contractor) detailed to the NJTTF to facilitate our involvement on this task force and to coordinate the exchange of intelligence related to corrections. These two members of the NJTTF manage the Correctional Intelligence Initiative (CII), a nationwide NJTTF special project involving correctional agencies at the Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local levels, designed to detect, deter, and disrupt the radicalization and recruiting of inmates. This initiative involves training of correctional administrators by each local JTTF; exchanging of intelligence; communicating best practices to local JTTFs in order to detect, deter, and disrupt radicalization; and coordinating of liaison and intelligence-sharing activities between local JTTFs and corrections agencies.

Most importantly, through the CII, intelligence regarding any attempts by inmates, religious providers, or others to radicalize any segment of the population is gathered and shared, and interdiction action is taken by the appropriate correctional authority.

In addition, we have established intelligence officers at the majority of our metropolitan detention centers under a Joint Intelligence Sharing Initiative. These intelligence staff members gather and share intelligence information with the FBI and with our Central Office intelligence operations. This staff also coordinate with the local JTTF and act as full JTTF members in some cases. All BOP facilities are required to coordinate with their local JTTFs on matters with a connection to terrorism.

¹Special mail is privileged communication between an inmate and his or her attorney or government officials. Federal regulations prohibit the BOP from monitoring the content of special mail (28 CFR 540.18).

In addition to managing and monitoring inmates who could attempt to radicalize other inmates, we help inmates become less vulnerable to any such attempts.

Experts have identified the societal marginalization of inmates as a key factor in their becoming radicalized. Our agency provides inmates with a broad variety of programs that are proven to assist in the development of key skills, thereby minimizing the likelihood of the inmates being marginalized.

The programs we provide include work in prison industries and other institution jobs, vocational training, education, substance abuse treatment, religious programs, and other skills-building and pro-social values programs.

Moreover, we are very aware of the important role religious programs play in preparing inmates to reintegrate successfully into society following release from prison. Religious programs and chaplaincy services are provided to the approximately 30 faiths represented within the Federal prison population. Within the constraints of security, we provide worship services, study of scripture and sacred writings, and religious workshops; and we make accommodations to facilitate observances of holy days. Full-time civil service chaplains in the BOP lead worship services and provide pastoral care and spiritual guidance to inmates, and chaplains oversee the breadth of religious programs and monitor the accommodations provided by contract spiritual leaders and community volunteers. The overwhelming majority of inmates participate in religious programs in a positive, healthy, and productive way.

We screen all of our civil service staff, volunteers, and contractors to avoid hiring or contracting with anyone who would pose a threat to institution security. Every BOP civil service chaplain must meet all the requirements for employment as a Federal law enforcement officer, including a field investigation, criminal background check, reference check, drug screening, and pre-employment suitability interviews and screenings. In addition, chaplains must meet requirements unique to their employment and the scope of their duties. Like all BOP employees, chaplains are strictly prohibited from using their position to condone, support, or encourage violence or other inappropriate behavior.

Our religious contractors and volunteers are also subject to a variety of security requirements prior to being granted access to an institution, including criminal background checks, law enforcement agency checks to verify places of residence and employment, a fingerprint check, information from employment over the previous 5 years, and drug testing.

The BOP continues to work closely with the FBI and the NJTTF with regard to the screening of contract service providers. Information on contractors and volunteers (whether the contractor or volunteer is being considered to help provide religious services or not) is checked against databases supported by the FBI. Moreover, over the last 4 years, we have enhanced supervision of programs and activities in our chapels.

We also have increased the training of our staff in the areas of counter-terrorism and recognition of potential radicalization. All BOP staff receive basic correctional skills training at the beginning of their career, and on an annual basis, BOP employees receive additional training that addresses current security and inmate management issues. Since 2004, our agency has included a training segment titled "Terrorism Management and Response" in Annual Training for all BOP staff. In addition, Religious Services personnel present a segment during Annual Training that emphasizes an awareness of discriminatory language, behaviors, rhetoric, and speech that could indicate the presence of radical ideology in the inmate population.

In 2003, we distributed a Terrorism Training for Law Enforcement CD, developed by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, to all of our facilities. We are in the process of distributing the updated 2006 version of the Terrorism Training for Law Enforcement CD to all institutions. Among the activities of our Martinsburg Counter-terrorism Unit are the production and distribution of intelligence-related documents to BOP staff and the development and provision of counter-terrorism training programs for BOP staff.

Every BOP facility has one or more Special Investigative Supervisors/Special Investigative Agents who serve as the focal point in our agency's efforts to manage all security threat groups, including terrorists. This staff helps identify and track members and associates, monitor mail and telephone communications, provide enhanced supervision of identified security threat group members, and share intelligence on the activities of any security threat group. Special Investigative Agents serve as a liaison to the FBI, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the U.S. Secret Service regarding the activities of security threat group members and the investigation of criminal activity in BOP facilities.

In 2004 and 2005, Special Investigative Supervisors and Special Investigative Agents from every BOP institution received specialized training in the control and management of terrorist inmates. In December 2006, twenty BOP intelligence staff participated in a 32-hour intelligence gathering and analysis training course provided by the FBI. Two additional classes are planned for over 45 special investigative supervisors and special investigative agents in June and August of this year.

BOP chaplains receive specialized training to ensure they have the necessary information about each religion to oversee and manage religious services and programs effectively. Our agency has prepared a comprehensive technical reference manual that describes appropriate religious services procedures and behaviors. The manual is available for use by any staff member overseeing a religious service or activity. Thirty chaplains recently participated in mandatory training designed to enhance their awareness and knowledge about identifiers of radical religious groups. The training will be repeated each year until all BOP chaplains have attended.

I hope the information provided in this statement will be beneficial to the Subcommittee in its investigation of efforts underway to prevent radicalization in America's prisons.