

Public Affairs Guidance
POC: FBI National Press Office, 202-324-3691

Issued as of 12/13/2011

Topic: Counterterrorism Training materials: Comprehensive review completed and impending FOIA release of documents.

Press Guidance:

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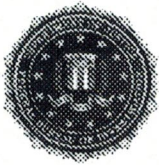
Background:

In September 2011, Wired.com and others published a series of articles regarding some FBI counterterrorism training materials that portrayed Islam in a negative light. The articles have generated significant interest from Muslim community leaders, members of the Congress and media, and others. Further, the ACLU recently alleged that this training contributes to a stereotyped view of Muslims throughout the FBI that has resulted in racial profiling and the mapping of ethnic communities. Immediately, a comprehensive review of all counterterrorism and related training material at Quantico and across the country was launched.

In March 2010, the ACLU of Northern California, the Asian Law Caucus, and the San Francisco Bay Guardian, requested via FOIA all documents pertaining to investigative policy and procedures guidance; training materials relating to policy involving use of informants, domain management, assessments, and investigations; and training on Muslim culture and communities in the US; and use of race and religion in law enforcement. In December, 2010 plaintiffs sued the FBI on grounds relating to this release. The court ordered all subject materials to be released by December 13, 2011. Another round of materials will be released beginning in January 2012.

The training materials initially identified and those found in the comprehensive review do not reflect the views of the FBI and are not consistent with the overall instruction provided to FBI personnel.

A comprehensive and unprecedented review of all counterterrorism training materials was conducted. Ultimately, approximately 160,000 pages of documents were reviewed as a part of this scrutiny. The FBI developed a "guiding principles" document which was used to conduct the review of materials, which included information that related in any way to religion or culture in the context of our training. Experts outside of the FBI were included in the development of these principles and in the actual review of material. While the great majority of FBI counterterrorism training materials were found to be appropriate for FBI and



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other audiences, a very small percentage --less than 1% -- of the material was determined to be inaccurate or otherwise inappropriate and has been eliminated.

The FBI will continue to consult with outside subject matter experts on training materials to ensure the highest level of quality and standardization for new Agent training, continuing education for employees, and any FBI-affiliated training. All training will be consistent with FBI core values, the highest professional standards, and adherence to the Constitution.

The FBI is committed to protecting Americans' rights under the U.S. Constitution and strong religious beliefs should never be confused with violent extremism. Views that are contrary should not and will not be taught to or by FBI employees.

The FBI has reached out to community advocates and leadership to provide background on how these events came to pass and the corrective actions that are being taken. This has taken place in Washington DC and in field offices around the country.

Community leaders have provided honest and candid advice on how trust can be rebuilt with the community, which includes transparency, accountability, and an outside review of training materials which are used by the FBI.

Q & As:

FBI has said that it considers the Muslim community a partner in the fight against terrorism. How can FBI expect to work with the Muslim-American community if it trains its agents that Islam is a highly violent, radical religion?

- The Muslim American community is an essential partner in our efforts to stop terrorism.
- The training materials that have been the subject of media reports do not reflect the views of the FBI and are not consistent with the overall instruction provided to FBI personnel. They have been discontinued.
- The FBI has over 36,000 employees. When we learn an employee is doing something that is inconsistent with our core values, we stop it and we learn from it.
- To learn what the scope of the problem is and to prevent it from happening again, starting in September, the FBI initiated a comprehensive review of all FBI counterterrorism training materials.
 - To date, the review has covered approximately 160,000 pages.
 - A team of approximately 25 inspectors has been part of the review, along with other personnel who have subject matter expertise (including professors and others from outside the FBI).
 - To date, the review process has determined that a small percentage of the documents (less than one percent) have factual or other issues



- The review has also involved approximately 150 interviews to identify the source of the materials and their potential impact. Additional interviews are on-going.
- Finally, we have contacted community advocates and leadership to provide background on how these events came to pass and the corrective actions that are being taken. We will continue those meetings.

What is the status of the employee who provided the instruction described in this summer's media reports? Why hasn't he been fired? What will you do with the authors of materials that your review has flagged as problematic?

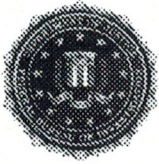
- As of August 2011, the analyst described over the summer was no longer in any teaching position within the FBI, nor is he permitted to instruct on behalf of the FBI outside the agency.
- The review process has involved a range of materials that present complicated issues – some materials contain simple factual errors while others are wholly inconsistent with FBI's values.
 - All FBI employees who prepared material that has been identified as inappropriate material for training purposes have or will be contacted to determine the intent and usage of their material.
 - The materials that cannot be rehabilitated according to the guiding principles have been removed from the FBI's training curriculum.

What is the FBI doing to re-train personnel exposed to these faulty materials?

- Considerations are being made to determine if corrective training needs to be provided to audiences within the FBI. Standardized training will be provided on religious and cultural topics going forward.
- In the interim, our operations guide – the DIOG – addresses issues of national origin and religion and provides examples of what is and is not permissible/acceptable in the area of operations, investigations, source development, and interaction with the American public.

What went wrong here? How did you allow this to happen given the importance of getting this right?

- The vast majority of the training materials that have gone through our review are in keeping with FBI's high standards.
- Some do not. We lacked internal controls for the creation of CT Training materials. As a result, we failed to detect that personnel without the proper foundation and academic training created training materials.
- We have discontinued use of those materials. And we are establishing a validated library of CT training materials and processes to validate new materials.



What impact has the disclosure of the training materials had on the FBI's outreach efforts to the Muslim Community? What is the FBI doing to repair this relationship?

- The FBI has reached out to community advocates and leadership to provide background on how these events came to pass and the corrective actions that are being taken. This has taken place in Washington DC and in field offices around the country.
- Community leaders have provided honest and candid advice on how trust can be rebuilt with the community: transparency, accountability, and an outside review of training materials which are used by the FBI.
- The FBI has also consulted with educators and academic policy experts who have provided valuable guidance on how to develop and validate training materials that will be uniform and appropriate for the CT training arena.

How can you expect to repair your relationship with the Muslim community and work with it if you are using outreach as a tool for intelligence collection, as reported by the ACLU?

- Outreach is not a tool for intelligence collection. Our outreach program is designed and carried out to develop relationships with the community, and to open lines of communication.
- FBI policy requires that outreach and operational activities be kept separate. Our policy also requires that information about our outreach efforts be kept separate from our investigative data.