TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS:
WITH FOCUS ON TERRORISTS IN PRISONS

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I. TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS: WITH FOCUS ON TERRORIST IN PRISONS

A correctional officer is the core of a facility; he/she is juggling and performing multiple tasks at a given time and also balancing the performance with heightened awareness of himself/herself with situational awareness in the designated operation environment. Correctional facilities house various kinds of inmates and all have different needs based on their risk-level, needs and behaviour.

A. The Categories of Offenders

Prisoners who are “security risks” and a potential public risk but who are not a significant risk to staff or other inmates, prisoners with serious criminal records, prisoners who are “dangerous”, those involved in coup attempts or terrorist-related activities, gangs and other affiliations of prisoners sometimes pose a danger in terms of their power and influence in prisons, their capacity to intimidate or influence staff and other inmates, and their role in illegal activities such as contraband, prisoners with serious medical conditions or mental health problems— they are all risks as they indulge in high-risk behaviour. Similarly, many people who suffer from mental illness or intellectual disability are not dangerous but some may be unpredictable and violent, especially if their medication is not monitored or if they have access to illicit drugs, issues of people diagnosed as “psychopaths” or as having anti-social personality disorders, socio-dynamic groups, those that show “symptoms” of change towards extremism or violent extremism (VE).

Then there are variables within the context of the global rise in religious extremism and ethnic

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conflict; the growth of radical Islam is also on the rise within this context. New developments in youth subcultures and the “low-functioning” conditions of incarceration inside maximum-security prisons, in many countries, all these variables trigger high on demand for enhanced performance of a correction officer.

- Correctional systems are affected by economic, political and structural constraints within their particular jurisdiction and by broader pressures such as globalization, international security and even natural disasters.

- International political and economic issues continue to create challenges for justice systems and are impacting on correctional services in a number of ways.

- Macro-economic factors are affecting correctional services too. Economic growth appears to have positive impacts in some places and negative impacts in others.

- Declining crime rates do not always translate to a decline in prisoner numbers.

- With the rapid expansion of globalization, problems caused by various crimes are not confined to only one country. In this sense, the need for international cooperation in the correctional field is growing more than ever.

Furthermore, globalization and rapid economic change are contributing to an increase in the crime rate.

Terrorists are not “ordinary” offenders. Organized crime-related inmates are very sophisticated in using the correctional environment to their advantage and the business of terrorism forms part of their larger criminal enterprise. In this context prisons are no different than universities or social networking groups — a gathering of likeminded individuals, or association by opportunities.

Incarcerated terrorist, often use their time in prison to mobilise outside support, radicalise other prisoners, and — when given the opportunity — will attempt to recreate operational command structures.

Forensic evidence suggests, that prison and correctional facilities have been and are increasingly becoming congregations where terrorists and organized criminals establish channels of communication and cooperation, and more importantly recruit new members.

Organized crime inmates on the other side might be model inmates. They are careful to deflect any attention to their schemes and communication strategies. Their M.O. within the prisons is strategic and based on their own intelligence collection process and supply of contrabands.

Research in prison systems, prisoner-staff relationships and prisoner-rehab programmes has currently brought a lot of factors into light. Much research around the world shows that effective programmes address dynamic criminogenic needs, that is individual deficits directly associated with criminal behaviour. A human service component is necessary to address the criminogenic needs. A belief-re-patterning component is necessary to address the extremist-inclined needs. And above all, the most significant need is to supply with rehabilitation programmes, which address stress, anxiety-disorders and trauma. In my empirical research, I have not found extensive evidence on these components in rehab methods and in my professional view these components must rank high above in the list of programmes installed.

Prison environments are replete with aggressive behaviours, and people learn from watching others acting aggressively to get what they want. Mirroring is the first step towards learning in a “given” environment that leads to behaviour modification, be it in positive or negative direction. Evidence from neuroscience research lends us insight on how important mirror neurons are for reshaping thoughts, emotions and behaviour.
Applying behaviour modification, mirroring and social learning principles can work in corrections by using systematic reinforcement of pro-social behaviours. This is a powerful and effective way to change behaviour. But behaviour is hard to change if not supported by emotional meaning. We have to remember; we feel first and then think!

Cognitive approaches to rehab can be made more affective if supported by emotional intelligence (E.I) components. E.I directly relates to our perception of the world and what meanings we make out of it.

Till the leadership in prisons is that of a culture of recovery these likeminded people will only get more fuel for their distorted mind-maps. So how staff manage themselves and perform is of utmost importance and is directly related to correction management and administration. Incarceration can become part of the game-plan for these inmates: it is a time to rest, recoup, and recruit.

Many experts believe that there is a correlation between potential for radicalisation and the degree to which prisons are safe and orderly. If one can say a prison can operate as a “stable society”, then it means it would require sufficient space as opposed to overcrowding, thorough staffing analysis and a sufficient number of staff who are high performing and install positive personal development along with educational opportunities to minimize the opportunity of sub-cultures, reducing inmate-conflicts with inmates being “just prisoners” and not “rebels with a cause”. But findings also suggests that active, high-risk members of prison gangs, potentially the most disruptive inmates in a prison, may be best controlled by implementing programmes that strengthen inmates’ ties to prison programmes.

Research shows that the collective opinion of hundreds of inmates about violence has been that violence diminished as prison management improved. Inmates prefer safety over danger. In a real sense, good correctional management empowers inmates to strengthen informal social control by giving them confidence that staff would respond to curtail and prevent violence.

However, inmates only feel a sense of safety when institutions create an overall “correctional-cultural-context” conducive to safety. At the end of the day, just like the staff, an inmate wants to go back “home” safe and sound.

Also important to note that safe and orderly prisons assist the authorities to collect intelligence and pick up information on indicators on emerging signs of radicalization. But do note that focus entirely on “safe & orderly” prison environment could also suit a convicted terrorist and this safety and order can work for the terrorist waiting to be released.

II. INTELLIGENCE AS A MANAGEMENT TOOL

A. Leadership Intelligence

Premeditated minds, like parachutes, work best when open. Bringing intelligence to work we use 3 kinds of reasoning:

- Inductive
- Deductive
- Abductive

Through reasoning, humans process information and formulate explanation; it is through reasoning we transform information to applicable intelligence.

1. Induction

Fragmented information is combined to form general rules. Through this we demonstrate the validity of relationship between observed phenomenon without really associating with the chain of events.
2. Deduction

Through this we apply general rules to specific issues and form a conclusion. We interpret data through the set rules. Deductions work best in “close systems” but in forecasting human behaviour this method of reasoning is not recommended.

3. Abductive

This form of reasoning is always accompanied by “insight” and “intuition”. Here we use “why?” “How?” when the information does not match the expected outcome. This leads us to meta-analysis and meta-cognition. This is a combination of holistic view and also in parts.

This form also requires that the individual utilizing this technique is fully prepared beforehand of both positive and negative factors and basic assumptions to come to an explanation. (This is often used for generating new approaches for a given condition, however does not bring a solution to the immediate situation.)

The role of corrections in dealing with intelligence, if expanded within the criminal justice system, provides additional options for intelligence policy. It will mean not only additional information but also new ways and methods of testing the integrity and veracity of this information. Inmates are gathering information at all times and sharing with each other. Simple observations of body language, verbal habits, and communication amongst staff — all are used to assess the temperature of the prison system.

Staff members also collect information but a methodology must be constructed to transform the information into actionable intelligence, which becomes a management tool. A brief part of a table below shows how inmates function within the prison in order to assess the officers and gather information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observation</th>
<th>Selection</th>
<th>Test of Limits</th>
<th>Support System</th>
<th>Sympathy</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Rumor Clinic</th>
<th>Shopping list</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How do new/old officers behave? (bend rules, rigid etc)</td>
<td>Select officers most likely to agree</td>
<td>Bend rules in order to test the limits and reaction of officers</td>
<td>Use compliments, win hearts and minds</td>
<td>Develop similarity base in terms of emotions</td>
<td>Destroy credibility of staff members with other inmates and staff</td>
<td>Keeping a log to expose &amp; compromise staff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Language</td>
<td>Select officers most vulnerable</td>
<td>Ask for favors to assess the attitude</td>
<td>etc</td>
<td>We/They syndrome so the staff identifies more with inmates</td>
<td>etc</td>
<td>etc</td>
<td>etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal Habits</td>
<td>etc</td>
<td>etc</td>
<td>etc</td>
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Understand the core of Operations Security (OPSEC)

- Define & identify targets and threats
- Establish countermeasures
- Identify the Critical Information Commandments
Decipher the value of information

Training is first explained in Theory and then installed as practice.

In prison the weakest link is the staff, and have direct interaction on a daily basis with the inmates. All levels of staff in my view should be trained in the tools of intelligence collection for management of offenders.

B. Fundamentals of OPSEC

OPSEC can be used to facilitate a check and balance.

OPSEC can be used to assist to apply counter-measures

OPSEC can be used to identify the CRITICAL INFORMATION - not from the institution’s eyes but from the prisoners mind.

Most importantly OPSEC can assist in IDENTIFYING the THREATS.

The watchers and the catchers need to coordinate together especially in terms of Intel. This has become crucial because of prisons being breeding grounds for terrorist and homicide bombers; missions are being planned and carried out once they are released, so emphasis on deception detection of conversion to violent extremism and radicalization. Along with this, organized-crime-related inmates are very sophisticated in using the corrections environment to their advantage. Incarceration is part of the game for these inmates: it is a time to rest, recoup, and recruit. Organized-crime inmates are model inmates.

They are careful to deflect any attention to their schemes and communication strategies.

Mindlessness arises from “automatic behaviour.” Here, professionals rely on automatic responses as the basis for their behaviour.

Both fixation and relaxation contribute to intelligence failures. For intelligence practitioners, focusing on the wrong factors and failing to recognize the significance of novel indicators are examples of fixation. Looking wrong, basically.

The antithesis of mindlessness is mindfulness

- A mindful state corresponds with: situational awareness, basic assumption consideration and creation of new categories

- Openness to new information and knowing what can be utilized

- Awareness of more than one perspective (the most important factor)

C. Metacognition

Metacognition is concerned with what you are thinking about. Mindfulness is concerned with how you think as you go about what you are doing.

Noticing involves remaining open to both internal and external stimuli. Through much research we know that ultimately, situational information is conveyed from external sources through sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste. People can think consciously about these but they tend to process them using more autonomic brain structures, often without noticing they are doing so. The unease one feels about getting into a taxi or onto an elevator in an unfamiliar setting are examples of such input.

In intelligence work this might be represented as a hunch about what an adversary will do. When we learn the bodily cues of environment, this intuition may be accurately turned into info and applied
as Intel. Mindful detachment from the situation through absorption is an asset for correctional officers.

Predictive Profiling is also an applicable management tool. It is a method of situation and behavioural assessment designed to predict and categorize the potential for inappropriate, harmful, criminal and/or terrorist behaviour, and consequently, allows for deployment of procedures required to eliminate these threats.

Security Threat Units within a facility are responsible for the identification, monitoring, and management of prison and street gang members incarcerated and must be trained in all the above mentioned techniques.

These are turnkey solutions for securing and managing correctional facilities. The solution implements a “multiple security ring” concept. The rings begin with the cell itself and on to the wards, the perimeter and gates, etc. Each security circle implements various security solutions for its specific threats and requirements.

The correctional environment, as a source of information and production of intelligence useful to law enforcement, remains an essentially untapped domain. The total prison environment, including the physical plant, the schedule regimens of both staff and inmates, and all points of ingress and egress can be legitimately tapped for intelligence purposes. Police and corrections personnel need immersion in the intelligence operations and strategies of their respective agencies. This linkage will result in the production of mutually beneficial intelligence tools and operations.

Police and corrections officers must develop a more coordinated and effective production of intelligence — intelligence that can be transformed into useful policy aids and operational tools. This development includes, of course, a willingness to examine “disconnects” between the intelligence processes of law enforcement and correctional agencies.

Assessment methodologies include behavioural, psychological and observational techniques, among others, used to attempt to identify potential threats. This system yields results by predicting both positive or neutral intentions, as well as negative intentions.

Evidence suggests that detention facilities have been and are increasingly becoming congregations where terrorists and organized criminals establish channels of communication and cooperation, and more importantly recruit new members. (Please refer to the case studies in the Radicalization document). Here a systematic capturing and analysis of the social processes within detention facilities can enhance intelligence and law enforcement agencies' understanding of the groups’ operation and behaviour.

The role of corrections in dealing with intelligence, if expanded within the criminal justice system, provides additional options for intelligence policy. It will mean not only additional information but also new ways and methods of testing the integrity and veracity of this information. Inmates are gathering information at all times and sharing with each other. Simple observations of body language, verbal habits, and communication amongst staff — all are used to assess the temperature of the prison system.

Staff members also collect information but a methodology must be constructed to transform the information into actionable intelligence, which becomes a management tool. It can be taken for granted that terrorists will conceal their intentions and capabilities from prison authorities.

III. POSSIBLE PREDICTIVE INDICATORS

If these indicators are developed in correctional facilities, it may include changes in inmate appearance or diet, expressions of hostility, acquisition of materials leaning towards extremist views and/or radicalized jihadist views. Latent indicators may include covert operational planning documents and discoverable networks or communication. Implanting the knowledge of indicators in correctional facilities is another source of information for intelligence collection.
However the information must be integrated and results evaluated which also include how the information was utilized by the staff and acted upon, the need to be vigilant on sensitivity and false alarms. Maintaining awareness of base rate fallacy theory is to be considered, and brain-sabotage occurs because what assumptions were appropriate yesterday can easily be null today, misleading us.

We start with what is our basic assumption of our collective reality in a set-up (team, unit, organization, institution) and then evaluate to see if things are really as they seem to be or is it because of our assumption that in our jails we seem to have no issues leading to a view which is infused with false positives. To genuinely evaluate the assumption, then tackle and then construct new realities should be a point to consider, first amongst the staff and then to use the same strategy for prison gangs and the social gatherings of sorts.

In the prison context, most difficulties in dealing with terrorists are caused by the fact that these offenders do not see themselves as criminals. They carry on with their cause for the “struggle”; they believe they have been incarcerated for their beliefs as opposed to the crime they have committed. They might take the time in prison to develop their “movement” and ideology. And not to forget some of the most influential articles in the history of militant and/or terrorist movements were written while their authors were in prison.

The prison environment can lend voice to their cause through allegations of discrimination, torture, etc., resulting in media coverage and creating more supporters.

Extremism has an objective of either or both a) undermining the existing democratic social order b) to reach a specific political objective. Extremists internalize through a hostile imagery and a division of “them” and “us”. They might resort to violence as a tool to reaching their goal.

Radicalization is the process where the individual begins to identify with the extremist propaganda and gradually begins to accept the ideas and methods leading to joining of extremist organizations.

However religious conversion is not the same as radicalization. There is a difference between legitimate expression of faith and extremist ideologies.

It is an individual-belief phenomenon but with the “help” of external stimulus. The cognitive path is re-patterned as the individual compares the world-view of extremist ideologies and correlates with his/her life-view, and upon finding meaning the behaviour goes through a change. Perception is demonstrably an active rather than a passive process; it constructs rather than records “reality.” Perception brings understanding as well as awareness. It is a process of inference in which people construct their own version of reality on the basis of information provided through the stimulus in the environment and senses. Perceptual shifts are the prerequisites for changing the belief and hence changing the biochemistry of our body favourably.
Beliefs (internal representations/interpretations) thus hold the magic wand of remarkable transformations in our biochemical profile.

The place to start when developing strategies for countering violent extremism is to consider how to define achievable goals. For example, achieving the deradicalization of individuals or even groups is extraordinarily difficult. Many of the notable examples of deradicalization (change in violent extremist beliefs) have been, in fact, examples of disengagement (stopping the violent behaviour).

Most religious terrorist groups can trace their origin to key historical events. Institutional memory is long.

More than one criminologist (research by Stitt and Kramer) has pointed out that the disciplines of theology, religion, and philosophy have had important things to say about terrorism.

In the book “Fertile soil of Jihad”, the author mentions “What may the appearance be of prison walls, they are porous, it is easy for outside influence to reach those on the inside and the other way around for the inmates. A common criminal can convert to [swear] his allegiance to AQ and the convert can embark to recruit and convert selectively other minds. It can begin at the county jail continue through state prison system and the post release period. Radicalization by definition means to change fundamentally and a “change” takes place due to an insertion. This insertion can be in any form — social interactions, reading materials, Internet, or gatherings of like-minded individuals.

In “Terrorist Beliefs and Terrorist Lives”, Ted Goertzel points out that terrorists think rationally, but they think within the limits of belief systems that may be irrational. Unlike the delusions of psychotics, these belief systems are social constructs shared by large numbers of people. Chris Stout in his “The psychology of terrorism” conveys that terrorist belief systems are rigid and simplistic and they are defended with great emotional intensity. Anyone who wishes to remain within a terrorist group must limit his thinking to the parameters of the group’s belief system.

Terrorist belief systems are absolutely defended with great emotional intensity, anything which is learnt with a “feeling” gets seared in the brain, changing the cognition literally at the neuronal level.

Beliefs are basically the guiding principles in life that provide direction and meaning in life. Beliefs are the preset, organized filters to our perceptions of the world (external and internal). Beliefs are like “Internal commands” to the brain as to how to represent what is happening when we congruently believe something to be true. In the absence of beliefs or inability to tap into them, people feel disempowered.

Other research in belief systems presented in the Indian Journal of Psychiatry states accurate facts of our belief systems and how what we believe makes us who we are.

In a very interesting study titled “Biochemistry of Beliefs” the findings state that beliefs originate from what we hear - and keep on hearing from others, ever since we were children (and even before that!). The sources of beliefs include environment, events, knowledge, past experiences, visualization etc. One of the biggest misconceptions people often harbor is that belief is a static, intellectual concept. Nothing can be farther from truth! Beliefs are a choice. We have the power to choose our beliefs. Our beliefs become our reality.

Beliefs then motivate to construct emotion-thought patterns which produce the behavior which fulfils a specific need.
IV. OFFENDER MANAGEMENT & REHABILITATION IS A MISSION

A. Like all Missions, It Needs a Strategy, Best Suited for a Particular Facility

1. Strategic Guidance Helps the Mechanism of the Prison System and looks into Solutions to Reach the Best Effective way to Attain the Objective of the Mission

   This will also take into consideration the planning constants: Planning has three constants:
   - Known-knowns
   - Known-unknowns
   - Unknown-unknowns

   Each of these constants is recognizable as functions we work through daily while planning:
   - Guidance (known-knowns)
   - Assumptions (known-unknowns)
   - Variables (unknown-unknowns)

2. Planning Guidance

   Helps in trainings keeping Staff-inmate Continuum to take the Solutions from Strategic Guidance and Convert them into Best Effective Tools for Action.

   All this leads to clear analysis of the mission objective, influencing rehabilitation positively, followed by assessing best practice fitting the facility, implementation of it, evaluating assumed threats and developing assumptions as guidelines to assist in reducing recidivism.
V. OFFENDER MANAGEMENT & REHABILITATIVE SYSTEMS MODEL

This starts with the sentenced offender and takes a full circle to the end product — a Rehabilitated Offender.

We all know the regular intervention programmes for example:

Vocational Trainings, Health & Nutrition, Education, Life and Social skills, Employment then we also know about offence specific programmes like violence prevention programmes, sexual behaviour clinics, making changes programmes based on “life-skills”, domestic violence and literacy, numeracy and IT programmes.

In my view it is crucial that along with standard programmes we insert “Goal-Setting plans”. The human brain is geared to survive in the presence of stimulus, neuronal pathways are always on a quest to find “new”, meaningful” things. The brain thinks in patterns and the trajectory of our emotions, behaviour and action follow set or new patterns of our brain at all times. But like all quests there must be a picture of a goal. Successful reintegration back into the society is “our” goal for “them” but there is a need to “find out” what is “their goal” and which form of motivational “tags” can be induced in their “thinking pattern”.

Human design needs neurogenesis through reinvention, which happens in novel environments through focus to provide the context and define meaning. Positive emotional elements and its neural substrates make us who we are, and through learning and sharing we can only get better.

A. Instrument of P.O.W.E.R for Goal Success

Prepare (knowing what you want), Organize (the road needed for success), Work (experiment, hands-on practice hands-on learning sessions), Evaluate (to determine how effectively you have learned), Rethink (reviewing, questioning and challenging = Smart Protocol Thinking).

B. Goal Success Plan

- Is the goal specific, challenging, approachable, measurable, inspirational?
- What are the steps necessary to achieve this goal?
- What might be the barriers and what will I do to overcome them?
- How to enhance my commitment and motivation?
Who else, or what else do I need to be successful?

One of the affective styles is the capacity to regulate negative emotions and specifically to decrease the duration of that negative affect once it arises.

When we recognize our inherent potential through our visible signature strengths through which we receive and give recognition, encouragement, ability and curiosity to explore, and develop.

Key components to recognize inherent potential within:

- Identity Development
- Values Assessment
- Discovering purpose
- Goal Planning and setting
- Time Management
- Feedback task learning & Performance

Full Circle of Goal Planning

C. Psychographic Segmentation

1. Self-Concept
   Totality of the individual’s thoughts and feelings having reference to himself as an object. People have a strong need to act consistently with who and what they think they are.

2. Personality
   Distinctive patterns of behaviour, including thoughts & emotions, that characterize each individual’s adaptation to the situations of his or her life (internally based dispositions).

3. External Manifestations
   How people live, how they allocate their time.
4. Values
   Enduring beliefs that specific modes of conduct or end-states of existence are preferable to maintain social and self identity.

5. Attitude
   Learned predisposition to respond in a consistently favourable or unfavourable manner with respect to a given situation/event/incident.

6. Involvement
   Feeling of group identity, a sense of belonging.

7. Motivation & Motivational Conflict
   Incongruence or congruence between the current and desired state.

8. Need
   Fundamental requirement to be met for the ultimate goal/behaviour.

9. Want
   Utilization of components for the desire that satisfy a need.

The issue is not limited to Islamic fundamentalists, when facilities concentrate only on religious-based programmes then they are limiting the success of the programme. Along with imams, psychologists and a team of mentors should also be included.

Radicalization involves many group dynamics and individual vulnerabilities that are best addressed using psychological methods in conjunction with other programmes. Many psychological tools (cognitive therapy, guided imagery, etc.) can be used to help militant jihadi prisoners envision restoring themselves to a non-violent stance, rebuilding to engage with their social environment positively.

A programme is also only as good as the quality of the people that carry it out. A hard core militant jihadi who knows the Koran well will likely demand a very highly trained imam to speak with and is unlikely to respect anyone other than a Salafi scholar, stated by Anne Speckhard in her article “Prison and community-based disengagement and de-radicalization programmes for extremists involved in militant jihadi terrorism ideologies and activities.”

Psychologists suggest (research in 2005) that for all terrorists, involvement is attributable to the supportive qualities of extreme movements, for the individual, for the group, and the relationship which these have with each other and the surrounding environment.

No single factor or process leads to radicalization; for each individual the transformative influences are unique. Once begun, however, there appears to be a momentum which leads recruits inexorably from support activities to violence. Jihadi and extremist literature finds its way in through the mail and through the Internet as well, even though it is largely prohibited. Anything can be gotten in a prison including a PDA or a Smartphone with Internet access. More commonly access is facilitated through third party cooperation. Someone on the outside may set up a Facebook page on an inmate’s behalf, or get them information from a jihadi website. It would not be unthinkable or impossible for someone to provide an inmate with a copy of Al Qaeda’s magazine, Inspire, even in the most secure correctional facility.

The flow of correctional intelligence must be a two way street. There should be a consistent methodology for data collection in correctional departments nationwide, so that trends can be analyzed more quickly and effectively. Correctional departments should ensure that they are using the same variables. For example, all departments should collect data on change of religion during incarceration. The system for vetting clergy and religious volunteers who have access to the prison population should conform to a set of approved standards that are applied to prison systems in every state. (Patrick Dunleavy Testimony before the House Committee on Homeland Security “The Threat of Muslim American Radicalization In U.S. Prisons” June 15, 2011.)
Another study of Chechen suicide bombers highlighted the fact they volunteered for their mission either after being tortured or having a family member being tortured in prison.

On the other side of the spectrum, few facts from al-Qaeda operatives state that the decency, respect and extension of human care by their interrogators in prison turned them away from the movement.

Many experts believe that there is a correlation between potential for radicalisation and the degree to which prisons are safe and orderly.

A policy report published by the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence (ICSR) 2010 Radicalization and de-radicalization in 15 countries stated:

The contrast between the well-resourced and well-staffed prison system in the Netherlands, where the authorities were able to stop instances of radicalisation from spreading at an early stage, and those in Afghanistan, the Philippines and Pakistan could not be starker. In all three countries, prisons are not only understaffed and over-crowded, there are no provisions for monitoring terrorist inmates who — with the possible exception of the Philippines — are free to mix with ‘ordinary’ inmates. Bribery and corruption are common, meaning that militant groups can frequently count on the complicity of prison staff when targeting inmates for radicalisation and recruitment. Furthermore, instead of preventing the use of violence and ensuring the safety of all inmates, it is the prison staff who initiates many violent attacks.

Arguably, such conditions not only provide the “breeding ground” for radicalisation but may represent one of its causes.
VI. REHAB SHOULD BE STRATEGIC IN NATURE

As shown in this illustration the motivational process for a goal starts with instinct approach (what we naturally are good at), and if it satisfies our needs; if not then we need an incentive to move forward, and once the right incentive is found it triggers an arousal state of wanting to move forward using our cognitive and emotional make-up, and we succeed in reaching our goal.

This is a complete process, but without utilizing all the approaches together one can reach a goal by a combination of just 2 of the steps mentioned in the illustration.

A. Peer Mentoring Programmes

This is a highly affective programme based on a close relationship between mentor and mentee. And through a well-chalked learning ladder they learn and work towards the goal of a personal development plan. Every mentor is a serving prisoner and all have been mentees.

The scheme builds bridges between the prison and outside world. It supports offenders to set realistic and achievable goals, aspirations and expectations. It provides informed, relevant and valued practical support. The scheme is owned by the participants and, consequently, encourages buy-in by those who participate. The scheme supports the development of positive role models, commitment, motivation and credibility.

Although prison staff at all levels provide important support and encouragement, they cannot themselves (for a variety of reasons) deliver the same type of scheme. Offenders are able to set themselves short-, mid- and long-term goals and the creation of an action plan to reach them.

For the success of this programme the project is tailored to each institution and each individual. It is led by mentors and supported by outside people with specialist knowledge.

B. Rehabilitative Thinking: “Sentire, Sapere” (feel to know)

A living being is made up of various levels of organization. The result is that a single process may be defined differently depending on the level used as a reference. Learning all kinds — in healthy or impaired individuals — has a biological substrate, so from this point of view learning is the result of integrating all information perceived and processed.

A considerable body of research has shown that the provision of appropriate and targeted programmes that focus on effective methods of bringing about changes in an offender’s functioning may have a significant impact in reducing crime.
A few issues which can lead to failure of rehabilitation measures can be:

- Poor targeting of needs.
- Lack of incentives to learn.
- Absence of rounded assessment of offender’s skills, needs and aspirations.
- Difficulties experienced as a result of the prison regime.
- Lack of links between education and training, inside and outside prisons.
- Failure to change the belief system.
- Confinement without an avenue for neurogenesis (the most crucial point to think on and address, confinement with an avenue for neurogenesis will be affective).

In the report “Roots of Radicalisation” Abu Hamza, who is detained in Belmarsh as he fights extradition to the US on terror charges, Hamza denied that his sermons contributed to radicalisation, telling the MPs he believed “it was enough for people to watch the news to be radicalised”. He claimed that prisoners turned to extremism because of a combination of “grievance, guilt and capability”.

According to the report, Hamza claimed: “Grievances were driven by British foreign policy, relating to Palestine and Afghanistan, and a sense that the Prophet [Mohammed] was being mocked.”

In the online version of “The Telegraph” an article by Martin Evans and Duncan Gardham (February 2012) titled: Radical Muslims “target young inmates in prison”) mentions that extremist are preaching hate in maximum security prisons and breeding a fresh generation of radicals and the nine month inquiry report by the home affairs found that inmates were being persuaded to carry out suicide missions within days of entering prison.

In prisons and corrections we need out of the box thinking and methodology to capture and hold, analyze and neutralise the process which leads an inmate from radicalisation to violent extremism. Handling and rehabilitation of offender’s with violent extremist tendencies and or connections with past acts of terrorism is not “one-design fits all” plus it is also different when dealing with young offenders and also installing prevention programmes addressing issues of conversion towards violent extremism for young offenders.

In one of my articles from August 2012, I have stated a methodology to capture and hold, analyze and neutralise the process which leads an inmate from Radicalization to violent extremism. Prisons are places of vulnerability, highly unsettling environments in which individuals are more likely than elsewhere to explore new beliefs and associations. An understanding is needed to capture the groups and individuals, operations and behaviour within the prison walls. To detect, markers for conversion and construction of prediction maps of capabilities, inside and outside the prison walls, critical observation of movement needs to be mapped, cell-to-cell, zone-to-zone. Combating radicalisation in prison begins by first recognising that there is a threat and also identifying radicalisation in society more broadly. There is a vast difference between religious faith and radical beliefs. Prison staff must be trained appropriately and specifically of this issue — to identify pockets of radicalisation in their prisons. To generate awareness through specific training for “identification markers”, the difference between religious conversion and convictions that take place within the framework of a prison, the social dynamics of joining gangs, differentiating between political preachers, radical extremists and just pure religious converts.

**VII. RELIGION**

Another very interesting study titled “Religion, Brain & Behaviour” might correlate to religion as a binder on a neuronal level, and it might provide some insights for new methods to handle and treat
terrorists in prisons.

“The need to believe: a neuroscience account of religion as a motivated process” has brought a new understanding to me. The study states that religious belief has been shown to offer substantial benefits to its adherents, including improved well-being and health. It suggests that these benefits might be explained, at least in part, from a “motivated meaning-making” perspective. This model holds that people are motivated to create and sustain meaning (i.e., a sense of coherency between beliefs, goals, and perceptions of the environment, which provides individuals with the feeling that the world is an orderly place), and that religious beliefs buffer the distress associated with disruptions to meaning, thus leading to decreases in distress.

This meaning making change is important and we do see that religiously inclined programmes do assist in “healing” but this also has a “flip-side”, strong religious beliefs also coats the otherwise conscious awareness of indulging in negativity as the study has shown.

The anterior cingulated cortex is located towards the front of the cingulated cortex-a region that circles above the corpus callosum. This region is involved in decision making and emotional regulation as well as vital to the regulation of physiological processes, such as blood pressure and heart rate. In particular, the key functions of the anterior cingulated cortex revolve around:

- Detection of errors or shortfalls from some standard.
- Anticipation and preparation before task performance.
- Regulation of emotions.

Religion’s palliative attributes can be measured at the level of the brain, specifically in the anterior cingulate cortex (ACC), which produces a “distress signal” upon the detection of errors, conflict, and expectancy violation.

The study’s predictions were:

- Religion should be associated with activation in the ACC
- Religion should decrease activation in the ACC
- This attenuation of ACC activity should be related to religion's ability to buffer bodily states of distress, and not to decreases in motivation, attention, or control
- Religion should have these effects because it provides meaning and thus buffers people from uncertainty.

All predictions were supported, thus providing evidence, at the neural level, for the motivated meaning-making model’s account of the salutary properties of religion.

Humanistic Psychology is based on the idea that each person has within a nature and potential that can be actualized and through which a sense of purpose and meaning in life can be found. Humanism shares with Existentialism a common emphasis on the vocabulary of freedom, choice, values, personal responsibility, autonomy, purpose, and meaning. A nurturing climate can facilitate this growth.

A. Existentialism

The value of having a sense of purpose and meaning in life is a common tenet shared by Humanistic Psychology and Existentialism. Viktor Frankl, (Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist) while imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp, discovered that those who had a life purpose were more likely to survive than those who didn’t. He came to believe so strongly that a sense of purpose was key to a quality life, that he created Logotherapy to assist people in finding meaning in their lives. (McGee-Cooper, 1990). Logotherapy is a therapy through finding meaning (logos = meaning).
Basic assumptions of logotherapy:

i) Life has meaning under all circumstances.

ii) People have a will to meaning.

iii) People have freedom under all circumstances to activate the will to meaning and to find meaning.

Irvin Yalom (1980) reported that, the empirical research on meaning corroborates the following:

- Psychological sickness results when individuals suppress or deny their essential core.
- A lack of sense of meaning in life is associated with psychopathology in a roughly linear sense; that is, the less the sense of meaning, the greater the severity of psychopathology.
- A positive sense of meaning in life is associated with deeply held beliefs.
- A positive sense of life meaning is associated with self-transcendent values.
- A positive sense of meaning is associated with membership in groups, dedication to some cause, and adoption of clear life goals. Life meaning must be viewed in a developmental perspective: the types of life meaning change over an individual’s life; other developmental tasks must precede development of meaning.

A large body of research (Subjective Well-being) suggests that, on average, religious people are happier and healthier than nonreligious people. For example, individuals with strong religious faith report higher levels of life satisfaction, greater personal happiness, and fewer negative psychological consequences of traumatic life events compared to those without faith (In the book: Culture and Mental Health: Sociocultural Influences, Theory, and Practice).

Studies have also suggested that belief is prevalent because people need to believe; they are strongly motivated to create meaning within their world.

Meanings, as perceived, bring coherence between beliefs, salient goals, and perceptions of the environment. When this coherence exists, we feel that the world is an orderly, controlled place that we can understand and explain (Frankl, 1946; Heine, Proulx, & Vohs, 2006; Peterson, 1999). Although people orient and react strongly to negativity (Baumeister, Bratslavsky, Finkenauer, & Vohs, 2001), they react even more strongly to uncertainty, the unknown (Hirsh & Inzlicht, 2008; Tritt, Peterson, & Inzlicht, 2011). That is why when people’s needs for order, control, and explanation are met, people feel calm; when, however, these needs are not met, people feel anxious, afraid, and inhibited, and they are highly motivated to reduce these states of distress. Through these studies it was suggested that religion provides meaning, and reduces anxiety and distress as a result. This account explains why religion is correlated with, and in fact leads to, a reduction in a brain-based “distress signal”.

Marginalization, discrimination, and stigmatization all lead to uncertainty of existence, of what one believes in and value one might hold. Prison environment may aggravate these factors making the individual inclined towards seeking a religion, to find order and meaning in their life of uncertainty.

The account of religion as motivated meaning-making is by no means new. Scholars of religion, from James (1902/2002) to Durkheim (1912/1954), have noted that religion imbues life with meaning. Freud (1939/1955) commented that religion structures the outside world thus giving people a sense of control. Furthermore, this feeling may act as a kind of palliative against life’s trials and may have contributed to Marx’s view that religion is a kind of opiate of the masses. While the theory is not new, what is new is the evidence that there are clear neural indications in the human brain which suggest how religious inclination supports motivated meaning-making paths.
There has been considerable research on the “negativity bias,” which is the tendency to orient and react to negative more than positive things. Recent research, however, suggests that although “bad is stronger than good” (Baumeister et al., 2001), uncertainty may be even stronger (Tritt et al., 2011). For example, in a recent meta-analysis of acute psychological stressors and their impact on cortisol response (stress-response), Dickerson and Kemeny (2004) found that psychological stressors related to uncertain, uncontrollable threats increased cortisol levels more dramatically than any other stressor.

This study brought forth the result that when religious believers were primed with religion they showed muted error-related brain responses. Non-believers, in contrast, showed elevated levels of such brain activity. After being primed with religion, non-believers seemed to be more distressed about their errors, which is in line with the idea that the religious primes violated their own meaning-system. Taken together these two experiments indicate that religion is not only associated with lower error-related brain states, but that it has the potential to actually lower these brain states. This is consistent with the idea that religion buffers against distress when people face error and uncertainty and supports our view of religion as the product of a motivated process to create and sustain meaning.

Inmate leadership plays a significant role in prisons particularly in overcrowded maximum-security prisons where there are few rehabilitation programmes, a shortage of chaplains to provide religious guidance and serious gang problems.

These prisons were more vulnerable to prisoner radicalization and terrorist groups that infiltrate, recruit and operate behind the walls.

The ten randomly selected current cases mentioned below show the characteristics of the offender and the time he is sentenced for. To try and imagine how they would be inside the prison, how would they behave, would they add more to the “conveyor belt” of spawning new jihadist and aspiring terrorists? Not all are followers of Islam or radical Islam but every single one of them in these cases have been radicalised to join.

B. Case 1

http://www.thelocal.se/46986/20130328/#.UYnRfq1JYUU

Published: 28 Mar. 13

A New York court sentenced a man who left his home in Sweden to join the al-Shabaab guerrillas to nine years in prison Wednesday for aiding a US-designated terror group.

The man, originally from Eritrea, left his home in Sweden to join the Somali militants in their war against the chaotic country’s government. He was arrested while in Nigeria in 2009 and, after being sent to the United States, pleaded guilty in June 2012 to conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization and to receive military training from the US-banned group.

In Manhattan federal court, the 38-year-old was sentenced to 111 months behind bars. “(He) travelled thousands of miles to align himself with al-Shabaab, to aid their campaign of terror and to learn their ‘ways of war,’” Manhattan US Attorney Preet Bharara said.

C. Case 2

07 May 2013

1. Danish Jihadist Killed while Fighting for Muhajireen Brigade in Syria

The Muhajireen Brigade, a unit made up of foreign jihadists who fight in Syria, has announced that a fighter from Denmark was killed while battling the Syrian government in early March. More than 500 Europeans are thought to be fighting with the rebels in Syria.

In a video released on jihadist forums yesterday, the Muhajireen Brigade (Emigrants Brigade),
which is allied with the Al Nusrah Front, al Qaeda’s affiliate in Syria, announced the death of Danish citizen Kenneth Sørensen. The video was obtained and translated by the SITE Intelligence group.

Sørensen, who was also known as Abu ‘Aisha al Dinmarki and Abdul Malik al Dinmarki, was killed on March 3. He had “an appointment with martyrdom to attain what he wished for in the countryside of Latakia, in a fierce battle between the heroes of Islam and the soldiers of the regime,” the video said, according to SITE.

“Our brother Abu ‘Aisha stood bravely and charged head on and didn’t run away, until he passed,” the video continued.

The Muhajireen Brigade recounted that Sørensen had traveled to Yemen, Lebanon, Egypt, and Libya before deciding to join the group. He was reportedly “detained in Yemen and Lebanon, because he frequented mosques and religious scholars.” Sørensen had claimed he was tortured while in custody, and the Muhajireen Brigade said that a Danish television channel did a story on his detentions.

While in Yemen, Sørensen attended the radical Imam University in Sana’a, which is run by Abdulmajid al Zindani, who is on the US’s list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists for his ties to Osama bin Laden. The US Treasury Department has described Zindani as a “bin Laden loyalist” who has provided crucial support to al Qaeda. Anwar al Awlaki, the American who served as a key leader in al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, also lectured at Imam University.

2. Iran-Backed Terror Cell Exposed in Nigeria
By DAVID BARNETT: February 20, 2013 8:48 PM

50-year-old Shiite leader, Abdullahi Mustapha Berende
http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2013/02/iran-backed_cell_exposed_in_ni.php#ixzz2SfjLZgz4

Nigeria’s State Security Service (SSS) announced the arrest of three members of an Iranian-backed terror cell that was reportedly planning to carry out attacks on US and Israeli interests as well as former Nigerian officials.

Nigerian secret police on Wednesday paraded a 50-year-old Islamic cleric and two accomplices who they alleged were spying on prominent individuals and targets in the west African nation for Iran.

Berende underwent his training in Iran and his Iranian sponsors requested him “to identify and gather intelligence on public places and prominent hotels frequented by Americans and Israelis to facilitate attacks,” she said.

Ogar said the suspect confessed that he was recruited by “some Iranian elements” during his studies in Iran in 2011 and that he was trained in the use of AK 47 rifles and pistols.

He was trained in the production and detonation of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and tasked to establish a terrorist cell in the South-Western part of Nigeria with particular emphasis on Lagos.

The reports detail two plots in Bangkok and one each in New Delhi, Tbilisi, Baku, Mombasa and Cyprus. Each plot was attributed to Iran or its Lebanese Hezbollah militant allies, said the reports, which were produced following the bombing in Burgas, Bulgaria of a bus carrying Israeli tourists. Between May 2011 and July 2012, over 20 attacks tied to Iran and Hezbollah against Israelis and Jews abroad were thwarted. These thwarted attacks, not all of which were publicly reported, took place in Cyprus, Turkey, Kenya, India, Thailand, and Azerbaijan, and elsewhere.

D. Case 3

http://www.nbcnews.com/id/51623866/ns/local_news-los_angeles_ca/#.UYnoUqIYUYW
154TH INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE
VISITING EXPERTS' PAPERS

- On 15 April 2013, William James Burley, 33, was arrested for being a felon in possession of a firearm; he flashed his badge during a traffic stop and claimed he was a federal agent.
- Authorities found body armor, firearms, and fraudulent law enforcement identifications in the trunk of his vehicle and weapons and body armor in his home.
- If convicted, Burley will face prison time in California, after which he may be extradited to Rhode Island where he could spend an additional eight years in prison.
- Burley has a history of impersonating a Navy SEAL; he served three months in a SEAL apprentice school but was asked to leave for bad conduct.

E. Case 4

- On 27 April 2013, federal investigators arrested James Everett Dutschke, 41, for allegedly sending poison letters to President Obama, Senator Roger Wicker, and Mississippi Judge Sadie Holland.
- Authorities initially arrested Paul Kevin Curtis, 45, but released him after they determined Dutschke held grudges against Curtis and Holland and appeared to send the letters to falsely implicate Curtis.
- Dutschke faces charges of making and possessing ricin, which carry a potential sentence of life in prison. He claims he is innocent.

F. Case 5

- On 23 April, a federal judge sentenced Usama bin Ladin’s former personal secretary Wadih El-Hage, 52, to life in prison for a second time.

G. Case 6

Published April 30, 2013
Associated Press http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/04/30/6-men-plead-guilty-in-uk-over-terror-plot-targeting-far-right-rally/#ixzz2Sg6xc4IU

- 6 men plead guilty to planning terrorist attack in England
- The men were arrested in July 2012 after authorities discovered weapons, a nail bomb, and a partially assembled pipe bomb in an impounded vehicle belonging to one of the defendants.

H. Case 7
1. Saudi Arabia: Court Convicts Terrorism Defendants
   On 29 April, a court convicted eight men on terrorism-related charges, including plotting attacks on an oil refinery. The seven Saudis and one Yemeni were given sentences ranging from four months to eight years and were prohibited from travelling abroad for a year after their release.

I. Case 8

- On 25 April, Spanish authorities arrested a 35-year-old Dutch citizen on suspicion of launching what some describe as the biggest cyberattack in Internet history.
- The attack consisted of a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) that targeted a non-profit anti-spam organization as well as Internet servers in the United States, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.
- He allegedly launched the attack from Spain and travelled in a van equipped with mobile
computing capabilities and antennas to scan frequencies.

J. Case 9

Three members of a Birmingham terror cell have been jailed for planning an attack to rival the 7 July and 9/11 atrocities. http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-22290927

Irfan Naseer, Irfan Khalid and Ashik Ali had planned to set off up to eight bombs in rucksacks, using timers to detonate the charges. Khalid was sentenced to 18 years. He had boasted that the attack would be “another 9/11”. The court heard how he told police he would have donned a suicide vest and shot soldiers. The judge singled out Naseer as the driving force behind the plot and described him as a “skillful bomb-maker”.

K. Case 10

1. France: Basque Separatist Leader Sentenced

A Paris court sentenced Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) military leader Mikel Sarobe to life in prison for the 2007 murder of two Spanish police officers in southern France.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Looking at the cases mentioned above the first and foremost need the prison system has is that of indicators on flow of information if we need to make intelligence as a management tool to handle terrorist offenders. The decentralized network of terrorist makes detection difficult and intention and activities more concealed. The need to develop indicators to point towards potential terrorist, individual & group behaviour is on par with the need to assess how they communicate with each other.

A. Terrorist Entrepreneurs

In the study of social movements, researchers have found that people almost never join a social movement unless someone personally asks them to join, and usually this is done through some sort of prior social relationship or social network.

To translate the new “member’s” “meaning” “identity” and “anger” into commitment and common loyalties requires extensive communication, exchange of materials and “gatherings” and separation from mainstream society.

The principle of “group polarization,” in which group members move towards an extreme position though discussion, suggests that this concentration may itself cause extremism.

Prisons as a “society,” the implication would follow that isolation of terrorist-leaning inmates would deepen their commitment to that goal. Deep commitments are more likely to be acted upon.

- Extremist recruiting and operational planning in prisons.
- Command and control between prison systems and the external world.
- Develop unique characteristics of extremist activities in women’s prisons which may lead to increased use of female suicide bombers.

That is, US corrections has, over the last two decades, become focused on reducing danger and disorder behind bars. Yet terrorism poses no threat to disorder behind bars; in fact, terrorists would probably be well served by maintaining order, so as to ensure the earliest possible release date and furthering of their objectives while in custody.

The implication to be drawn, then, is that, a custodial culture must be supplemented by an intelligence culture of systematic data collection and concern with early warnings.1 In the latter, the focus is on the prevention of future crimes. It is forward looking, and preventive in orientation with an eye

1Please refer to the various other cases mentioned in the separate document titled: “Radicalization in Prisons”.

66
toward a dynamic threat. At the most basic level, prisons must infuse intelligence-oriented anti-terrorism as a core mission of corrections.

This is achieved primarily through training and retraining correctional staff. Another aspect of this would be an increased need to “liaise” with external law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

Current efforts along these lines will be identified, including (ultimately) variation among correctional agencies. Recommendations will be developed that will serve as a framework for future work.

Prison staff who work at facilities in which terrorist convicts are held should receive specific training, using the Canadian guidelines, in recognizing the difference between religious faith and radical beliefs. Guards do not have to become experts on theology or jihadism, but they should know enough about Islam and Islamist terrorism to be able to keep a watchful eye on social developments taking place within the boarder prisoner community. In addition, front-line staff that regularly interact with Islamist terrorist convicts should receive additional, specialized training in radicalisation awareness and should be regularly briefed on the personal details and social interactions of each particular terrorist convict.

The point is that terrorist convicts are not ordinary prisoners. Some charismatic individuals may use their time behind bars to promote their extremist views, proselytizing radical ideologies in an attempt to attract and recruit members of the general prison population. Toronto 18-member, Ali Dirie, is the best known example of a terrorist convict actively promoting terrorism behind bars.

IX. APPENDIX


doi: 10.4103/0019-5545.58285, PMCID: PMC2802367.

Anne Speckhard, PRISON AND COMMUNITY-BASED DISENGAGEMENT AND DE-RADICALIZATION PROGRAMS FOR EXTREME INVOLVED IN MILITANT JIHADI TERRORISM IDEOLOGIES AND ACTIVITIES.


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