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Predicting What They Use

The Anticipating Terrorist Technology Adoption to Secure the Homeland (ATTASH)

Project



ATTASH Mission Statement

Deliver a sustainable capability to:

- 1. Identify problematic emerging technologies with respect to terrorism against the homeland,
- 2. Prioritize actor related threats involving these technologies, and
- 3. Locate opportunities for interdiction and prevention before these emerging technologies cause harm to the homeland.



Project Overview

PROBLEMS TO SOLVE

- Emerging technologies are force multipliers that can advance more rapidly than defenses and have been successfully used by VNSAs.
- National Security
 Strategy 2002
- DHS Strategic
 Framework 2019

METHODS

Horizon Scanning

+

Terrorist Technology Adoption Model for the domestic context

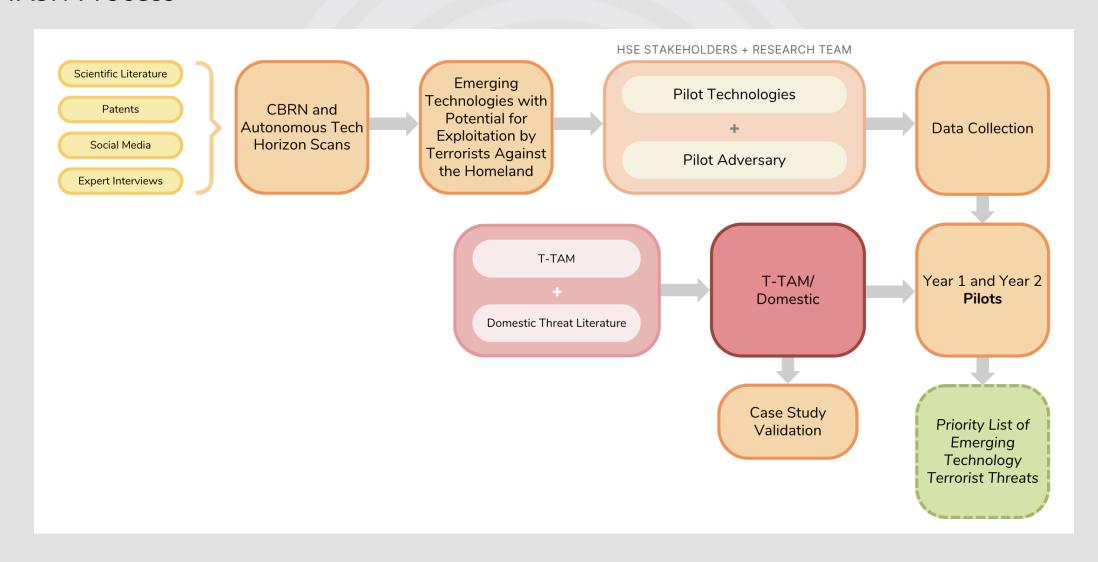
Year 1 focus: CBRN

Year 2 focus: Autonomy

PRODUCTS

- CBRN / Autonomy Threat Horizon Scans
- Validated and Revised
 Terrorist Technology
 Adoption Model/Domestic
 (T-TAM/D)
- Pilot Implementation of T-TAM/D to yield a ranking of the particular technology-terrorist dyads of greatest concern

ATTASH Process





1. Horizon Scans

- Objective: identifying those emerging technologies of potential homeland security concern.
 - Offensive focus: only those that could be utilized by violent non-state actors
 - Only technologies with developments reported in last five years
 - Looking for 'weak signals' so cast a broad net and err on the side of inclusion.
- While horizon scans often serve as the first phase in broader foresight activities, they do not by themselves constitute a threat assessment.
 - Plausibility is sufficient
 - Magnitude of the threat (e.g., technical hazard, likelihood of pursuit, capability of adversaries to exploit it) reserved for subsequent analysis [e.g., TTAM Model]
- Scan involved systematic search process to identify signals in both mainstream and "fringe" sources, as well as in-depth interviews with subject matter experts.



YEAR 1 CBRN Horizon Scan Overview

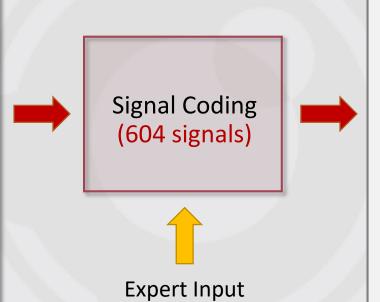
Broad/Concentric Signal Search (>800 sources)

- Mainstream Literature
- Fringe Materials









(13 interviews)





YEAR 1 CBRN Horizon Scan Write-Up Samples

Electromagnetically Activated CW or BW



Electromagnetically-Activated CW or BW

BACKGROUND

Microwave- and light-activated chemical reactions are recent developments in which light or microwaves are used to catalyze chemical reactions.[A,B,C] These technologies often arise as part of the shift to "green chemisty", where researchers are seeking to develop new chemical production pathways that utilize fewer solvents, raw materials, or heat to have environmental benefits.

CURRENT STATUS AND EXPECTED TRAJECTORY

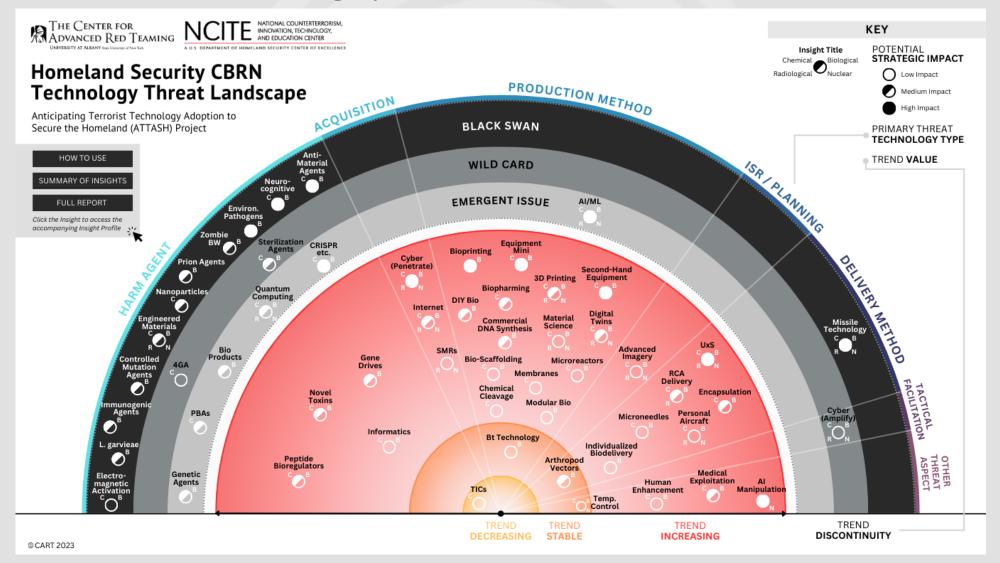
Light- and microwave- assisted chemical synthesis is mostly still located at the prototype stage, but is widespread in many laboratories. Additionally, research in this area has become increasingly popular over the past decade. One illustrative approach that is undergoing research is photodynamic therapy, which has potential use in treating cancer. The salient finding is a cancer killing molecule where precisely targeted light is used to activate or "turn on" a drug to kill cells. While currently used mostly to treat skin cancers, researchers want to know iff there is a way to safely get the light to cancers that are deeper inside the hoofy (DI)

POTENTIAL RELEVANCE FOR VNSA USE IN THE DOMESTIC CONTEXT

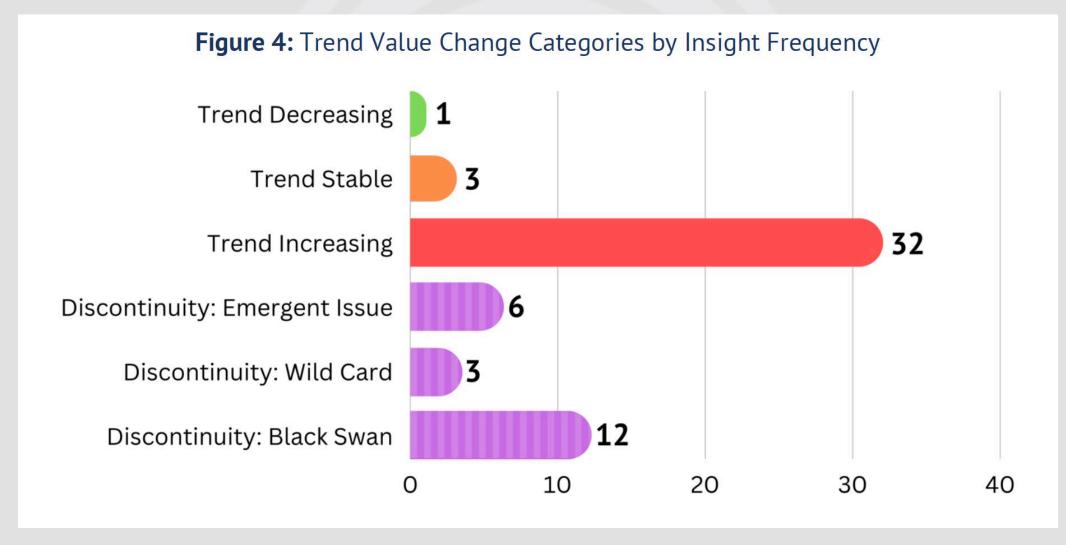
- Novel forms of Binary CW: The basic idea of binarization as it relates to CW is to have two relatively non-toxic / innocuous chemicals which when combined produce a highly toxic chemical agent. This facilitates delivery (and often production as well), since the non-toxic components can be easily and safely stored and transported while separated, but then combined at or shortly before the time of the attack. While binary CW have a long history, synthesis by exposure to light or microwaves could perhaps even lead to CW which are inert until exposed to electromagnetic radiation of certain wavelengths. New technologies that utilize electromagnetic waves such as light or microwaves to catalyze chemical reactions might allow for new forms of binarization either membranes that can be perforated from some distance away or perhaps for non-toxic chemicals to convert to toxic chemicals directly upon exposure to electromagnetic radiation of a specific wavelength. This could be especially problematic from a Homeland Security perspective if it allows a chemical to spread widely (e.g., be ingested by many people) and then at a predetermined time expose them to the EM waves to make the previously inert chemical toxic.
- Novel activation of BW: While more speculative than on the CW side, it is conceivable that similar
 methods could at some point be used to activate or facilitate the growth of specific microorganisms,
 or induce them to release toxins, upon exposure to light or other electromagnetic radiation.

CBRN HORIZON SCAN - Anticipating Terrorist Technology Adoption to Secure the Homeland (ATTASH). ©CART2023

YEAR 1 CBRN Horizon Scan Infographic



YEAR 1 CBRN Horizon Scan Analysis – Characterization of Change



YEAR 1 CBRN Horizon Scan Analysis – Potential Strategic Impact

Figure 2: Frequency of Insights by Potential Strategic Impact

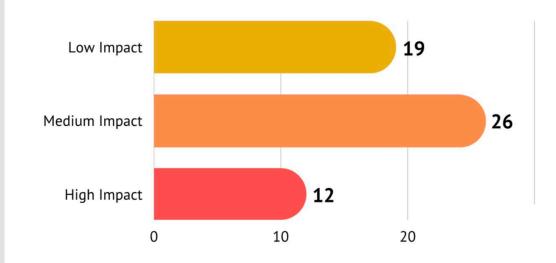


Table 3: List of Emerging CBRN Technologies or Technological Developments with Potentially High Strategic impact on Homeland Security

Technology / Technology Cluster (alphabetical order)					
Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML)	Cyber to Penetrate CBRN Facilities				
Anti-Materiel Agents	Missile Technology				
Bioprinting	Neurocognitive Technologies				
Broad-Spreading Environmental Pathogen	Production Equipment Miniaturization				
Manipulating AI to Escalate Conflict	Second-Hand Equipment Availability				
CRISPR and Other Advanced Gene Editing Techniques	Unmanned Systems (UxS)				



Year 2 Autonomous Technology Horizon Scan

- In conjunction with DHS, the selected technology domain was: Autonomous Technologies
- This covers recent and future developments in:
 - Autonomous vehicles as weapons
 - Drone swarms
 - Al systems
 - *Etc.*
- Horizon Scan to be completed in Summer 2024



2. TTAM (Domestic) Model & Tool

- Integrates technical aspects of emerging technologies + social, organizational and strategic features of the malicious actors who could employ them.
 - Focuses on the terrorist-technology dyad as the primary unit of analysis
- Builds on a novel socio-technical model of terrorist technology adoption
 - Embeds model in a practical tool to analyze the relative likelihood of successful pursuit and adoption



TTAM (Domestic) Model & Tool (Cont.)

- Contributing factors approach based on prior theoretical and empirical work in both the terrorism and technology adoption literatures (incl. sociology, management science, cognitive psychology, military history)
- Two sub-models with very different types of outputs:
 - Decision Sub-Model: likelihood of a terrorist actor seeking to pursue the acquisition of a particular technology (focuses on subjective choice).
 - Success Sub-Model: likelihood that the terrorist actor will successfully adopt the technology (focuses on objective outcome).
- Innovations: Updated theoretical foundation; Deterministic→Probabilistic; Known Terrorist Groups Only→Lone Actors / Cells / Archetypes; Interaction Effects



T-TAM (Domestic) Advantages

- Built to reflect **specific actors** known to be prevalent *domestic threats* + *ability to model terrorist archetypes*
 - => lone actors and autonomous cells, which by their nature are almost never known to law enforcement agencies prior to their becoming involved in criminal activity, can be modeled in T-TAM (D).
- For example, T-TAM (D) can model potential adoption by an Incel-inspired lone actor
 - Input probability distributions that reflect:
 - Prior behaviors of similar actors in the United States
 - Analyst expert judgment
 - Monte Carlo analysis then constructs thousands (or millions) of plausible individual Incelinspired lone actors and assesses the adoption likelihoods of each of these, yielding an overall threat picture.

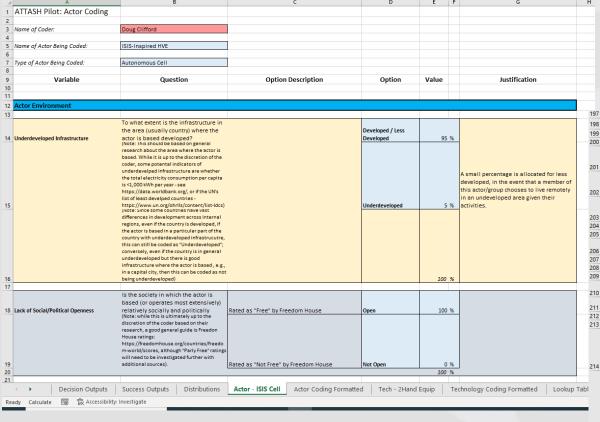


T-TAM Domestic Variables

Actor Variables					
Actor Environment					
	Success	Decision			
Variable Name	Model	Model			
Underdeveloped Infrastructure	Yes	Yes			
Lack of Social/Political Openness	Yes	Yes			
Intense Security Pressure	Yes	Yes			
Very Low Security Pressure	Yes	Yes			
Possesses State Sponsor	Yes	Yes			
Highly Networked (In General)	Yes	Yes			
Highly Networked (With Other VNSAs)	Yes	Yes			
Demonstration - 1st Degree (Matched with Technology Type)	Yes	Yes			
Homophily Boost: Dem 1st Degree	No	Yes			
Demonstration - 2nd Degree (Matched with Technology Type)	No	Yes			
Homophily Boost: Dem 2nd Degree	No	Yes			
Change Agent Proselytization (General)	No	Yes			
Homophily Boost: Change Agent Proselytization (General)	No	Yes			
Change Agent Proselytization (Specific Technology)	Yes	Yes			
Homophily Boost: Change Agent Proselytization (Specific Tech)	No	Yes			
Opinion Leader Proselytization (General)	No No	Yes Yes			
Homophily Boost: Opinion Leader Proselytization (General) Opinion Leader Proselytization (Specific Technology)	No	Yes			
Homophily Boost: Opinion Leader Proselytization (Specific Tech)	No	Yes			
Serendipitous Acquisition	Yes	Yes			
Actor Structural Characteristics	163	163			
Actor Structural Characteristics	Cuasas	Desision			
Variable News	Success	Decision			
Variable Name Cohesiveness	Model Yes	Model Yes			
Group Size	Yes	Yes			
Group Age	Yes	Yes			
Specialized R&D	Yes	Yes			
Centralization	Yes	Yes			
Spatial Proximity of Organization Elements	Yes	No			
Actor Decision Making Characteristics	100	.,,			
Actor Decision Flatting Characteristics	Success	Decision			
Variable Name	Model	Model			
Risk Tolerance	No	Yes			
Determination	Yes	No			
- · · · · ·	103	INU			

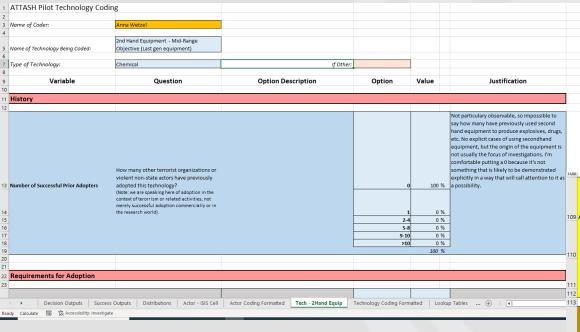
Technology Variables					
History					
	Success	Decision			
Variable Name	Model	Model			
Number of Successful Prior Adopters	Yes	Yes			
Requirements for Adoption					
	Success	Decision			
Variable Name	Model	Model			
Technology Techne Required (Production/Weaponization)	Yes	Yes			
Technology Techne Required (Deployment)	Yes	Yes			
Technology Techne Required (Overall)	Yes	Yes			
Technology Metis Required (Production/Weaponization)	Yes	Yes			
Technology Metis Required (Deployment)	Yes	Yes			
Technology Metis Required (Overall)	Yes	Yes			
Technology Acquisition Resources Cost	Yes	Yes			
Domain Modification Required	Yes	Yes			
Performance Characteristics					
	Success	Decision			
Variable Name	Success Model	Decision Model			
Variable Name Lethality Provided (Candidate Technology)					
130.000	Model	Model			
Lethality Provided (Candidate Technology)	<i>Model</i> No	<i>Model</i> Yes			
Lethality Provided (Candidate Technology) Safety Provided (Candidate Technology)	<i>Model</i> No No	<i>Model</i> Yes Yes			
Lethality Provided (Candidate Technology) Safety Provided (Candidate Technology) Operational Footprint Provided (Candidate Technology)	Model No No No	Model Yes Yes Yes			
Lethality Provided (Candidate Technology) Safety Provided (Candidate Technology) Operational Footprint Provided (Candidate Technology) Novelty Provided (Candidate Technology)	Model No No No	Model Yes Yes Yes Yes			
Lethality Provided (Candidate Technology) Safety Provided (Candidate Technology) Operational Footprint Provided (Candidate Technology) Novelty Provided (Candidate Technology) Reliability Provided (Candidate Technology)	Model No No No No	Model Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes			
Lethality Provided (Candidate Technology) Safety Provided (Candidate Technology) Operational Footprint Provided (Candidate Technology) Novelty Provided (Candidate Technology) Reliability Provided (Candidate Technology) Size of Requirement Deployment Team (Candidate Technology)	Model No No No No No No No No	Model Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes			
Lethality Provided (Candidate Technology) Safety Provided (Candidate Technology) Operational Footprint Provided (Candidate Technology) Novelty Provided (Candidate Technology) Reliability Provided (Candidate Technology) Size of Requirement Deployment Team (Candidate Technology) Socio-Economic Disruption Provided (Candidate Technology)	Model No	Model Yes			
Lethality Provided (Candidate Technology) Safety Provided (Candidate Technology) Operational Footprint Provided (Candidate Technology) Novelty Provided (Candidate Technology) Reliability Provided (Candidate Technology) Size of Requirement Deployment Team (Candidate Technology) Socio-Economic Disruption Provided (Candidate Technology) Ability to Overcome Countermeasures (Candidate Technology)	Model No	Model Yes			
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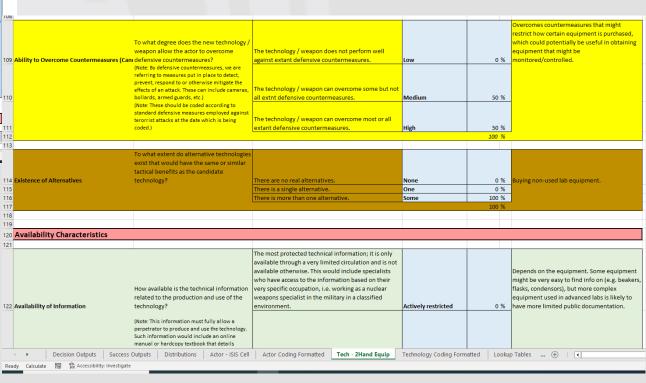
T-TAM Domestic Actor Input Sample



197						
198	Actor Structural Characteristics					
199						
200	Cohesiveness	How cohesive is the group?	Active infighting / on the verge of a split	Very Low	0 %	
			Characterized by a high degree of internal	·		
			factionalization and/or extensive divisions of			
201	(N/A for lone actors)		authority.	Low	5 %	
	,.,.,,		Exhibits some internal factionalization and/or			Often these small HVE Cells are highly
			divisions of authority, but the majority of			motivated/inspired, and suffer from less
202			members are aligned with the goals of a central	Moderate	15 %	infighting that larger groups.
			Exhibits little or no internal factionalization and			
			almost all members are aligned with the goals			
203			of the central leadership.	High	80 %	
204				Total	100 %	
205						
		Does the actor have 100 or more				
206	Group Size	members?	If group has >= 100 members	Yes	0 %	Small ISIS Inspired Cell
207			If above does not apply	No	100 %	
208				,	100 %	
209						
		Has the group existed for 5 or more				
210	Group Age	vears?		Yes	50 %	An inspired cell could exist for extended perio
		(Note: only applies to formal organization or				
211	(N/A for Ione actors)	cell)		No	50 %	
212					100 %	
213						
						Most small HVE Inspired cells do not have
						dedicated personnel for R&D, however,
		Does the actor possess a specialized				this can certainyl take place depending on
		unit / organ whose purpose is to	There is evidence that the actor has a			how organized the cell is, and who the
214	Specialized R&D	conduct research and development?	specialized R&D unit.	Yes	10 %	members are (their education,
		(Note: This refers to a formal functional				
		element that is responsible for conducting research and development that is to at least				
		some degree insulated from the day to day				
		operations of the organization. It can range				
		from a separate unit that the leaders				
		dedicate to developing new weapons to a				
		single member who is given their own				
		workshop and allowed to take the time to				
	(N/A for lone actor)	tinker to see what new things they can come	If above does not apply.	No	90 %	
216					100 %	
217			A -!!- ! d 1 d ! 1 1			
		Hannest Hand In the annual state	A single leader or set of leaders in a home base			
		How centralized is the group with	making all major decisions and/or hierarchical			
240	Centralization	respect to its structure and decision	organization of command.		400.00	Small Cell
218	Centralization	making authority? (Note: take into account both the	[Mechanistic/Hierarchical]	Highly Centralized	100 %	Small Cell
	1		Control landership but multiple colle that have		. 1	
	Decision Outputs	Success Outputs Distributions	Actor - ISIS Cell Actor Coding Formattee	d Tech - 2Hand B	Equip Te	chnology Coding Formatted Lookup Ta
Rea	dy Calculate 📆 🛣 Accessibility:	Investigate				
Red	outcollete Em MX Accessionity.			And are a second second second second	and the second second	

T-TAM Domestic Technology Input Sample

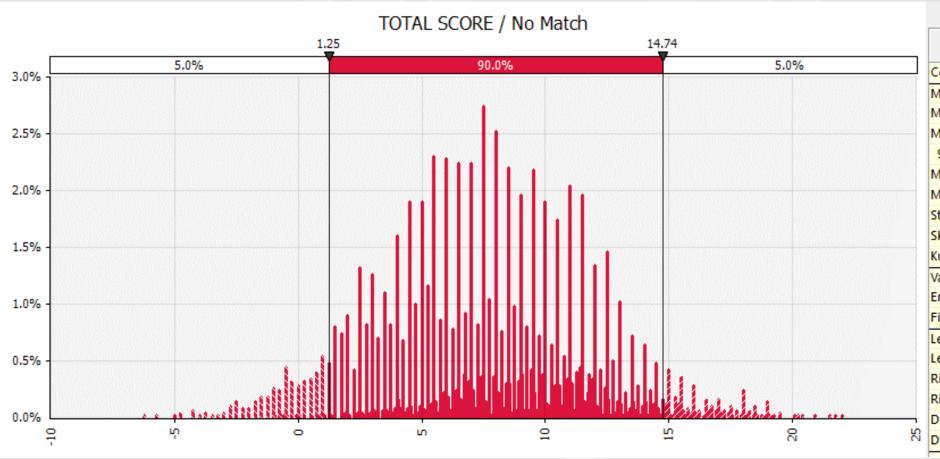




T-TAM Domestic Decision Sub-Model Sample Calculation

31 Specialized R&D	1	2	1					
	1	2	1					
2 Centralization	1	0						
Spatial Proximity of Organization Elements								
Actor Decision Making Characteristics						Group / Cell / LA		
Risk Tolerance	4				Risk Tolerance	1.5		
Risk Tolerance Impact		0.75	0.75	0.75	"Adoption Riskiness" Modifier	0.5		
Determination							Change wording of guardian s	tatus quo vari
Perception of Urgency	1	0	0	0	Development Cycle Length	1		
Decision Maker Attitude to Innovation	3	1	1	1				
Centralization Boost	1	0.5	0.5					
Decision Maker Affinity for Weapon/Technology	0	0	0	0				
Internal Champion	1	1	1					
Guardians of the Status Quo	1	0	0					
Knowledge Institutionalization	1	0	0					
Penchant for Improvement	2	0	0	0				
Cognitive and Related Bias 1	0				Cognitive Bias 1 Effect:	0	Change wording on Cognitive	Biases to: Mo
Cognitive and Related Bias 2	0				Cognitive Bias 2 Effect:	0		
Cognitive and Related Bias 3	0				Cognitive Bias 3 Effect:	0		
Overall Cognitive Bias Effect		0	0	0	3			
Desire for Prestige / Self-Glorification	0	0	0	0	If group has low centralization, le	ess of an effect: -1: AN	D/OR if group is highly cohesive, then no effect. If moderate	ely cohesive.
Follow-The-Leader Bias	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	Cohesiveness (Co)	Very Low	1	1
Total the season state	-	2.0	2.0	2.0	(N/A for lone actors)	Low	2	
Actor Strategic Characteristics					(14) 11) 2112 221212	Moderate	3 If D=1 and Ce = 3, then -1;	
Active Searching (General)	1	1	1	1		High	4 if D=1 AND Co = 4, then 0	
Active Searching (Technology Type)	0	0	0	0			If D=1 AND Co = 3, then -1;	
Ideological/Cultural Incompatibility (Technology Type)	0				Centralization (Ce)	Highly Centralize	1 if D=1 AND Ce = 3 AND Co = 3,	then = 0
Ideological/Cultural Incompatibility - Degree (Technology Typ	0	0	0	0	(N/A for lone actor)	Somewhat Decer	2 otherwise, if D=1, -2	
Innovation Without Conscious Intention	0	0	0	0		Extremely Decen	3 else 0	
Disruption to Organization (Technology Type)	0	Ō	o					
Rivalry With Other VNSA(s)	2	1	1	1	If D=1 and Central = 3, then 0; if D	=1 AND Co = 4, then 0;	if D=1 AND CO = 3, then -1; if D=1 AND Ce = 3 AND Co = 3, the	en = 0, other
Escalatory Pressures: Countermeasures	1	2	2	2				
Escalatory Pressures: Overcome Desensitized Audience	0	0	0	0		Group / Cell / LA		
Lethality Desired	5				Lethality Desired Effect	5		
Lethality Provided (Status Quo)	3				Lethality Provided Effect	3		
Safety Desired	2				Safety Desired Effect	2		
Decision Outputs Success Outputs Distribution	utions Actor - ISIS Cell	Actor Coding Formatted	Tech - 2Hand Equip	Technology Coding Forma	tted Lookup Tables (+)	1	i	
ady Calculate 🗑 🖔 Accessibility: Investigate							■ □	+

T-TAM Domestic Decision Sub-Model Sample Output



	TOTAL SCORE / No Match
Cell	Decision Outputs!D1
Minimum	-6.250
Maximum	22.000
Mean	8.008
90% CI	± 0.0951
Mode	7.500
Median	8.000
Std Dev	4.088
Skewness	-0.0041
Curtosis	2.9650
/alues	5000
Errors	0
Filtered	0
.eft X	1.25
eft P	5.0%
Right X	14.74
Right P	95.0%
Dif. X	13.490
Dif. P	90.0%



Year 1 Pilot

In order to demonstrate the potential utility of the tool, a **pilot application** was conducted on an illustrative sample of terrorist actors and emerging technologies.

Primary objectives of the pilot were:

- To verify that the tool operates as envisioned and is capable of providing differential
 assessments across a variety of actors and technologies.
- To assess the usage requirements and overall functionality of the tool.



Year 1 Pilot Actors

Final List of Actors:

- ✓ The Oathkeepers as a formal, albeit diffuse, organization.
- ✓ An operational cell of the Lebanese Hizballah.
- ✓ An ISIS-inspired autonomous cell of HVEs (with no operational connection to the main ISIS group or any of its affiliates).
- ✓ A lone actor motivated by the far-right ideas of Accelerationism
- ✓ A lone actor motivated by grievances associated with the Incel movement



Year 1 Pilot Technologies

Final List of Technologies:

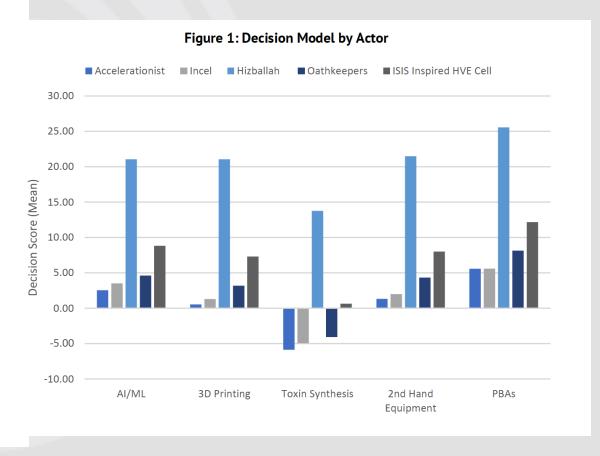
- ✓ Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning used to provide new pathways for chemical weapons production.
- ✓ 3D Printing utilized to produce sprayers capable of disseminating biological weapons.
- ✓ Pharmaceutical-Based Agents (primarily fentanyl and its analogs).
- ✓ **Toxin Synthesis,** i.e., the ability to synthesize a new or rare toxin from scratch.
- ✓ Second Hand Chemical Production Equipment



YEAR 1 Pilot – Adoption Decision

Table 1: T-TAM Decision Output Scores for Pilot Run

Actor Type	Lone A	Actor Group			Cell			
Actor	Accelerationist	Incel	Hizballah Oathkeepers		ISIS Inspired HVE Cell			
		AI/I	ML					
Mean	2.55	3.50	21.05	4.61	8.83			
StdDev	3.72	3.99	3.50	3.42	4.03			
		3D Pri	nting					
Mean	0.54	1.31	21.05	3.18	7.30			
StdDev	3.30	3.40	3.42	3.02	3.74			
		Toxin Sy	nthesis					
Mean	-5.86	-4.92	13.76	-4.06	0.65			
StdDev	4.32	5.04	3.65	3.87	4.56			
		2nd Hand E	quipment					
Mean	1.32	1.99	21.50	4.33	8.01			
StdDev	3.88	4.21	3.48	3.43	4.09			
	PBAs							
Mean	5.58	5.61	25.57	8.13	12.18			
StdDev	3.51	3.67	3.29	3.10	3.79			

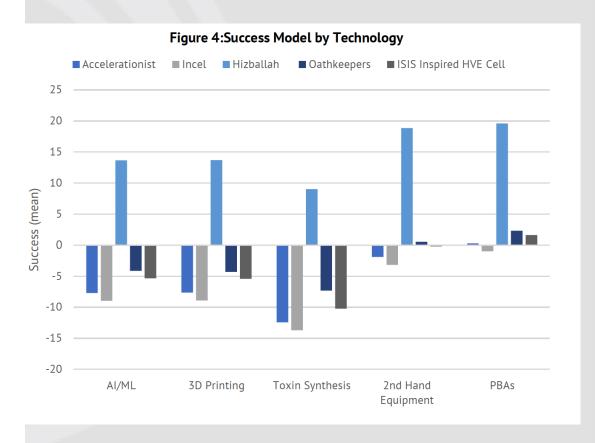




YEAR 1 Pilot – Adoption Decision

Table 2: T-TAM Success Output Scores for Pilot Run

Actor Type	Lone A	ctor	Gro	Cell				
Actor	Accelerationist Incel		Hizballah	Oathkeepers	ISIS Inspired HVE Cell			
		Al	/ML					
Mean	-7.70	-8.95	13.67	-4.14	-5.33			
StdDev	2.40	2.13	2.94	2.42	2.54			
		3D P	rinting					
Mean	-7.63	-8.89	13.68	-4.30	-5.43			
StdDev	StdDev 2.88 2.61		2.92	2.66	2.82			
		Toxin S	Synthesis					
Mean	-12.44	-13.69	9.01	-7.32	-10.21			
StdDev	3.07	2.85	2.79	2.64	3.08			
	2nd Hand Equipment							
Mean	-1.91	-3.16	18.84	0.54	-0.19			
StdDev	3.45	3.26	3.25	2.86	3.27			
	PBAs							
Mean	0.29	-0.99	19.58	2.32	1.62			
StdDev	2.66	2.46	3.07	2.55	2.91			



Applications



Mitigates both over- and under-reaction to emerging technology threat

TTAM / (D)

Tool



Moves from assessing theoretical potential of emerging technologies to "real world" terrorist threat against the Homeland.



Eventual tool will be easily updated and re-run with new data, technologies, adversaries => "building libraries"



Provides HSE stakeholders with a *sustainable* capability.



Year 2 Tool Development

- Current tool is "lab-use" only and not designed for usability or HSE workflows
- We are developing user-friendly interfaces and operational processes that maximize usage by HSE analysis and stakeholders
- Need input from DHS end-users: In Spring 2024, worked with I&A analysts on a series of usability surveys.
- Fully functioning prototype by Fall 2024.



Contact Us:

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