

Key Definitions

Terrorism: “. . . attack on the innocent, outside the context of organized armed conflict, with the objective of spreading fear and intimidation . . .” Committee on Science and Technology For Countering Terrorism. 2002. *Making The Nation Safer: The Role of Science and Technology in Countering Terrorism*. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press, p. 26.

Catastrophic terrorism: “. . . terrorist incidents that involve serious consequences measured by both ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ variables. Hard variables quantify large numbers of injuries and deaths and extensive and costly damage to property; soft variables may include widespread disruption of society’s key functions, loss of public confidence in government’s ability to provide protection against assault, pervasive injury to the population’s way of life and overall peace of mind, and erosion of the economic health of the nation.” Committee on Science and Technology For Countering Terrorism. 2002. *Making the Nation Safer: The Role of Science and Technology in Countering Terrorism*. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press, p. 27.

Counterterrorism: actions designed and implemented to prevent acts of terrorism or lessen their impacts. Such actions include “. . . ways to harden society against terrorist attacks, to make critical systems more robust and resilient, and to enhance the ability to recover from such attacks.” Committee on Science and Technology for Countering Terrorism. 2002. *Making the Nation Safer: The Role of Science and Technology in Countering Terrorism*. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press, p. 32.

International terrorism: “. . . violence or threats of violence by groups supported by a foreign government against U.S. residents or foreign nationals in the United States.” Waugh, William L., Jr. 2000. *Terrorism and Emergency Management: Instructor Guide*. Emmitsburg, Maryland: Emergency Management Institute, Federal Emergency Management Agency, p. 4-3.