I9   Behavioral Analysis vs. Profiling: Assessing 9/11 and Preventing Future Attacks

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The attendee should understand the techniques of behavioral analysis and profiling, and their applications to counter-terrorism investigations upon completion of this presentation.

Following 9/11, law enforcement and behavioral science experts proposed several methods of analyzing the World Trade Center/Pentagon attacks. Their goal was to understand how this attack was planned and carried out in order to prevent future attacks. Two methodologies previously used in the violent crime and threat assessment fields were applied terrorist attacks: profiling and behavioral analysis. Profiling has traditionally been used in violent crimes in which the subject's identity is unknown. Its purpose has been to assist investigators with narrowing down a pool of suspects in order to identify who is most likely the perpetrator. Behavioral analysis has been used in cases of targeted violence as a method for assessing the subject's patterns of behavior prior to carrying out the attack. By analyzing the subject's behavioral patterns, one can assess where the subject is on an "idea to action" continuum, and thus assess how close he/she is to carrying out the attack. This paper will discuss the applications of profiling and behavioral analysis in assessing terrorist attacks. The presenters will discuss their analysis of Al-Qaeda's methodology and the utility of using behavioral analysis rather than profiling in counter-terrorism investigations. A behavioral analysis of the 9/11 attack will be presented, with specific regard to the attackers' acquisition of skills, collection of materials, travel history, target identification, surveillance, weapons acquisition, and final attack preparations.

Behavioral Analysis, Profiling, Counter-Terrorism Investigations