

FINAL REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON COMBATING TERRORIST AND FOREIGN FIGHTER TRAVEL

The Threat

- We are witnessing the largest global convergence of jihadists in history. Nearly 30,000 people from 100+ countries have travelled to the conflict zone in Syria and Iraq since 2011, including 4,500+ Westerners and 250+ Americans who have joined or attempted to join jihadist groups.
- Foreign fighters pose a triple threat: they strengthen terrorist groups, incite others back home to conduct attacks, and can return themselves to launch acts of terror.
- These jihadists are armed with combat experience and extremist connections and many are only a plane-flight away from our shores.
- Even if they do not return home to plot attacks, foreign fighters have taken the lead in recruiting a new generation of terrorists and are seeking to radicalize Westerners online to spread terror back home.



Task Force by the Numbers

To confront the threat, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Homeland Security Committee created the Task Force on Combating Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel.

6 month bipartisan Congressional review

8 Members of Congress

32 Key Findings

50+ Recommendations

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Key Findings and Recommendations

The Task Force makes **32 Key Findings** and **50+ Critical Recommendations** to improve America's security posture—and to ensure foreign countries are doing the same.

The Task Force found that:

We are losing the struggle to stop Americans from traveling overseas to join jihadists, despite concerted efforts to stem the flow.

We need to overhaul the U.S. strategy for combating terrorist travel.

To catch foreign fighters, intelligence needs to be exchanged quickly, but at home and abroad we still face barriers to information sharing.

Since 9/11, America has gotten better at keeping terrorists out of the country, but we are doing far too little to keep Americans from leaving to train in terrorist safe havens.

Gaping security weaknesses overseas—especially in Europe—are putting the U.S. homeland in danger.

Ultimately, tackling the foreign fighter threat depends on eliminating the problem at the source in Syria and Iraq and, in the long run, preventing the emergence of additional terrorist sanctuaries.