

A key question in counterterrorism analysis is, “How are members of a terrorist group communicating with each other?” Analysts using the Inside-Out approach to answering the question constantly review incoming reporting to determine what techniques are being used and whether new methods have been adopted. One problem with this approach is that it might take months or even years before such tip-offs appear in official reporting. The use of Outside-In Thinking can help analysts overcome this obstacle. We recommend that analysts use both techniques.

Inside-Out Approach

- Monitor all-source reporting to detect any tip-offs, lead information, or evidence of new systems or techniques being used by the terrorist group under study.
- Review historical records for examples of techniques used by other terrorist groups.

Outside-In Approach

- Brainstorm what new technologies are emerging that could be used by terrorists (e.g., I-Pods, Voice over Internet Protocols, Second Life, social networking sites).
- Explore how each technology might be used, by whom, and in what circumstances.
- Once capabilities and vulnerabilities are determined, task intelligence collectors to check for evidence of any actual use of such techniques.