



**United States Senate**  
**Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs**  
Chairman Joseph I. Lieberman, ID-Conn.

**Homegrown Terrorism: The Threat to Military Communities Inside the United States**  
**Joint Hearing Between Senate and House Homeland Security Committees**  
Chairman Joe Lieberman  
December 7, 2011

Good morning. I too want to welcome everyone to this historic, first ever joint hearing between the House and Senate Homeland Security Committees. My thanks to my friend Chairman Peter King for proposing this hearing and to Ranking Members Susan Collins and Bennie Thompson for supporting this idea. There is no subject that should unite us more across both ends of the US Capitol and across partisan or ideological lines than the threat that Islamist extremists pose to our homeland and to our people. This joint hearing is a demonstration of exactly that kind of unity and I hope it's not the last occasion on which our two committees come together for this purpose.

Today we focus on the threat of violent Islamist extremism to members of the military at home. The men and women who have sworn to defend our country, our security, our freedom expect a respite from wartime conditions when they are home. But the record shows that that the United States military has become a direct target of violent Islamist extremism here in the United States, and that means America's troops and perhaps their families are potentially vulnerable at work and at rest, in a military setting or a civilian one, on a base or off a base, at a recruiting station or even at a military hospital.

I want to go to two facts that are probably most surprising to most Americans. The first one is this: the only Americans who have lost their lives in our homeland to terrorists since 9/11 and the follow-on anthrax attacks have been killed at U.S. military facilities.

Private William Long – who was killed at a Little Rock recruiting station in June 2009, and whose father we will be honored to hear testify today – was the first. He was killed only because he was wearing the uniform of the United States military. Thirteen more Americans were murdered on November 5, 2009 during the Fort Hood attack. In addition, two soldiers were killed at camp Pennsylvania in Kuwait in 2003 by a fellow American service member.

Here's the second fact, which will perhaps surprise people to learn that, since 2001, law enforcement has thwarted and prosecuted more than 30 plots or attacks against military targets within the United States. According to the Congressional Research Service (CRS), that represents more than half of the 54 homegrown jihadist plots and attacks that have occurred between 9/11 and today.

The stark reality, therefore, is that American service members and their families are increasingly in the terrorists' scope and not just overseas in traditional war setting. The premise of this joint hearing is not theoretical, it is based in fact. I look forward to asking our Defense Department witnesses what our country is doing to protect our military facilities here at home and in a broader sense what the future of military homeland security should look like.

Our government's counterterrorism capabilities are critical to uncovering plots against military installations and personnel so that they can be prevented. And this means the FBI – which has primary responsibility for domestic extremism and terrorism -- and the Defense Department have to open their lines of communication with each other and work more closely together than they ever would have before.

Law enforcement agencies in communities across the country have been and must also continue to reach out to Muslim American communities so they can help our government meet this threat that comes from a small but deadly number of individuals who are radicalizing or to violent Islamist extremism.

Finally, I want to say our government has to recognize who the enemy is and call it by its exact name. The enemy is not a vague catchall of violent extremism, but a specific violent Islamist extremism, an exploitation and corruption of the religion of Islam. It is adherents to that extremism who attacked us on 9/11/01 and who have tried to attack, or have attacked, those 30 American military installations here at home since 9/11/01. I repeat--that's a fact, not a theory or rhetoric.

One of the unfortunate conclusions of the past decade is that violent Islamist extremism--notwithstanding the extraordinary progress our military, counterintelligence and law enforcement have made against it--will undoubtedly threaten us for years to come both at around the world and here at home, and its targets will be both civilians and military personnel, both around the world and here at home. We have weakened our enemies but they are not vanquished. Protecting Americans, in general, and our service members in particular, will require continuing preventive, offensive, and defensive action. That is particularly true for American military facilities and the patriotic Americans who serve from and in them.