

THE CENTER FOR NATIONAL POLICY

“THE FUTURE OF COUNTERTERRORISM: THE VIEW FROM NEW YORK”

MODERATOR:

DR. STEPHEN FLYNN, PRESIDENT CNP

FEATURED SPEAKER:

**RAYMOND KELLY, POLICE COMMISSIONER OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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MR. STEPHEN FLYNN: Well, good afternoon everyone. We're just delighted to have here, today, at the Center for National Policy the commissioner for the New York Police Department, Commissioner Ray Kelly. And we thank all of you for being here today. Just a brief word of introduction about the Center for National Policy.

I'm Stephen Flynn, the president of the Center. I took over here in January. The Center itself has been around for almost 30 years. And this is precisely the kind of event that we're very keen to support, bringing expertise that Washington very much needs to hear, which almost always is outside of Washington, and try to get into informing the policy process.

I couldn't be more delighted that Commissioner Kelly accepted our invitation today to come down and to speak to us about where we are going and where the terrorism issue is at from his perspective, and the kind of approach we as a nation need to take, given how al Qaeda is evolving and the broader threat that he's having to manage in what is – everybody recognizes – the number one target in the U.S. – the city of New York.

A word of introduction for Commissioner Kelly – it's such an extraordinary biography. It's like everything that you would want everyone accomplish in life, to be a Renaissance man or something else that's happened in the course of our distinguished guest's career. He was first a military officer and spent 30 years – and he's a Marine in the Marine Reserves, but served in Vietnam. He dabbled in the academic world quite a lot as well, a graduate of Manhattan College, a J.D. from the St. John's University, an LL.M. from NYU, M.P.A. from the Kennedy School and then some folks have been throwing honorary degrees at him ever since.

He, in addition, has some experience on the federal government side of things, as the former commissioner of Customs, also served as undersecretary of Treasury back in the '90s and as no other person has done in New York's history, he served in his second round as a commissioner of police for the New York City, appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

He's experienced as well in the private sector, having served as a senior managing director of global corporate security for Bear Stearns before taking back the job of being a police commissioner. And he comes at it from truly the bottom up. He spent 31 years as a – in the police force, holding 25 commands during that time.

There is nobody in this nation who is more capable at doing the job that he has been asked to do by the good citizens of New York and we and the rest of the country are benefiting from his good work as well. And I'm thrilled to have him here today at the Center to talk about this very important issue. Commissioner.

(Applause.)

MR. RAYMOND KELLY: Thank you very much, Steve, for that kind introduction. I am a big fan of Stephen Flynn. I read his books and we've had a lot of contact through the years. Let me make some prepared remarks and then obviously I'll be available to answer any questions that you might have.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of New York unsealed new indictments against members of the al Qaeda plot to bomb the New York City subway system. The attack referred to by the plotters in code language as, quote, "the marriage," was to take place last September.

But it began 11 months earlier, when three men, all legal residents of the United States, all educated here, in Flushing High School, in New York City to be precise, traveled to Pakistan to join the Taliban and fight U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Instead, as the Justice Department Indictment revealed, they were recruited by one of the highest ranking members of al Qaeda to carry out the attack in New York City, that person being Adnan Shukrijumah. At least one of them, Najibullah Zazi, was given training in explosives and sent back to the United States armed with the knowledge how to build a bomb. Zazi relocated when he came back to the United States to Aurora, Colorado, and began acquiring the ingredients.

Two days before the eight anniversary of 9/11, he set out by car to meet his co-conspirators in New York. He had with him jugs of chemicals and a nine-page recipe for the explosive TATP, so fully capable of carrying out the mission. As a result of an electronic intercept by a national agency, Zazi was in the sights of local and federal law enforcement.

He was arrested and pled guilty to all the charges against him. His accomplices were also arrested. One pleaded guilty. The other pleaded not guilty after leading police on a car chase, in which he deliberately crashed into another vehicle on a highway in New York City, attempting to kill the driver and fulfill his pledge to – (inaudible) – himself.

Early this month, the public learned that top al Qaeda commanders, Shukrijumah, were directing this attack and that the same leaders were preparing another cell to carry an attack a few months later in Manchester, England, and also in Norway. Ultimately, these revelations reinforced what we know. That is that the threat we face is extremely complex, that it is both homegrown and international. It involves informal networks of aspiring radicals, as well as organized entities with funds, with training camps, and with media savvy. Defeating it will require cooperation at every level of government in the United States, internationally and of course with the private sector.

Since September 11th, the New York City Police Department has attempted to build the kind of program that will counter this multifaceted threat. Working with our federal partners, we have been able to help stop 11 terrorist plots in eight and a half years.

At the same time, the NYPD has not given up an inch in this fight against crime. Since 2001, we've driven crime rates down each and every year and by 36 percent overall.

Because of budget cuts after 9/11 and the latest global financial crisis, we've been operating with 6,000 fewer offices than we had in 2001. We're fighting both crime and terrorism at a time when our resources are fewer than they've been in a very long time.

With this reality in mind, I want to tell you about how we built our counterterrorism program and where we see the threat today. In January, 2002, we became the first police department in the country to develop our own counterterrorism bureau. To head it, we had a series of outstanding leaders. We had Marine Corps, Lieutenant General Frank Libutti. He recently retired as the head of all marines in the Pacific theater. We had Michael Sheehan, who was the ambassador-at-large for counterterrorism under President Bill Clinton. And we had Dr. Richard Falkenrath, one of the architects of the Department of Homeland Security under President George W. Bush.

Next month, our newest deputy commissioner for counterterrorism will be sworn in. He is Richard Daddario, who served most recently and is serving right now as the Department of Justice attaché in Moscow. He's been an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York since 1996, prosecuting and supervising cases of domestic and international terrorism, terrorist financing, and organized crime.

To head our restructured intelligence division, we recruited David Cohen, David, a 35-year veteran of the CIA, who led both the operational and analytical branches of the agency. He has done truly a remarkable job.

Now, over the years, the caliber of the people that we've been able to attract has played a major role in helping us keep New York City safe. In addition to the leaders I just mentioned, we hired a team of civilian analysts, experts in military intelligence and foreign affairs. They follow trends in terrorist tactics, regions of the world that we're concerned about and emerging methods of attack.

We recruited from within our ranks fluent speakers of languages such as Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, Pashtu, Punjabi, and reassigned them to counterterrorism duties. We now have more than 700 – (inaudible) – certified speakers of some 45 sensitive languages. We put senior police officers on the ground in 11 international cities. They are Abu Dhabi, Oman, Jordan; Lyon, France – this is where Interpol is located, in Madrid, in Paris, Tel Aviv, London, Montreal, Toronto, Singapore, and the Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo. These officers work closely with local police agencies and can respond immediately if a terrorist occurs in that country or a nearby country.

Now, we also cast a wide net for collaboration. Starting in 2002, we expanded our partnerships to include the private sector and a range of local, regional, national, and international police and intelligence agencies. On September 11th, we had 17 detectives

serving on the Joint Terrorism Task Force with the FBI. Today, we have over 120. Now, this is an invaluable partnership that has made the people of New York City far safer.

In just the last 10 months that partnership has stopped Najibullah Zazi and his co-conspirators from blowing up three Manhattan subway lines. It captured Faisal Shahzad after he tried to detonate a car bomb in Times Square. And we prevented two New Jersey residents from flying to Somalia to join a terrorist group Al-Shabab.

These cases highlight two trends that we've been tracking closely and two that certainly we're concerned about. First, of course, the homegrown terrorist threat. Since the start of 2009, at least 25 American citizens have been arrested on federal charges related to Islamic extremism. In May, the White House announced that for the first time combating homegrown terrorism will now be a part of the national security strategy. It's been a part of the New York City Police Department strategy since 2004, when two of our intelligence analysts, Mitchell Silber and Arvin Bhatt undertook a groundbreaking study of the process of which individuals in the West become radicalized. In keeping with the findings of that report, the participants in the plot I just named are all legal residents of the United States who became radicalized while living here.

Anyone who's interested in that report and see it, it's a 90-page report. It's on our website. For all of them an important part of the radicalization process – and this is the second trend I want to mention – was their connection to terrorist groups overseas. We see more and more young men, who become radicalized, travel to battlefronts in Afghanistan, in Pakistan, in Somalia, in Iraq, some taking part in combat operations against U.S. troops. Others, like Zazi are redirected home to gather intelligence and to carry out attacks.

The ease of their travel within the United States and beyond makes interagency cooperation a must. If terrorists aren't limited by borders, certainly we can't be either.

With this in mind, through a program called "Operation Sentry," the department works with 95 law enforcement agencies throughout the northeast and mid-Atlantic states.

When it comes to the private sector, we partner with over 7,500 members of the region's private security industry, sharing information and training through a program that we call NYPD SHIELD. Ideally, through strong partnership, good intelligence, and expert analysis, we'll identify plots in their earliest stages. We probably also need to be able to disrupt late stage operational planning.

With Faisal Shahzad, who attempted to detonate a car bomb in Times Square, we got lucky. He was not on anyone's radar screen. And as the reports in the media show today, if that bomb had been put together correctly, it would have been certainly catastrophic. We certainly don't want to rely on luck in the future. Shahzad's vehicle was captured on surveillance cameras, both on the night of the attempted bombing and

the week before, when he conducted the dry run. Certainly, the footage threatened the case against him, but of course he's pled guilty.

But increasingly the police department is going to use surveillance video, not just to find perpetrators after they commit crimes, but to identify crimes in progress. And that is the idea that's a concept behind our Lower Manhattan Security Initiative and our Midtown Manhattan Security Initiative. Through these programs, we partner with private companies, with private industry stakeholders, as we call them, who give us access to the feeds from their surveillance cameras. Combined with our own network of cameras, we'll have detailed coverage of Manhattan south of Canal Street and from 30th Street to 60th Street. We know that both areas are coveted by terrorists.

All of the cameras will operate on a single centralized network, so that from our coordination center, which is located in Lower Manhattan, we will be able to capture the view from any camera instantly.

We can also scan all the footage for a particular feature. If we're looking for a person in a red jacket, we can call up all the red jackets film in the last 30 days. We'll also begin to use software that analyses behavior. We're using this software now. For example, we can program the system so that if a package is left unattended an alert will be sent to the coordination center. We can then dispatch a New York patrol officer to investigate or clear the area. Ultimately, this system will also be linked to our chemical, biological, and radiological detection equipment.

Now, in an unprecedented initiative supported and funded by the Department of Homeland Security, we're looking to post radiation detection equipment throughout neighboring jurisdictions and at every point of entry into the city, so that the city in effect is linked with an alarm system as far as radiological material is concerned. This program called "Securing the Cities" includes dozens of nearby cities and towns.

We also place particular emphasis, of course, on our subway system. Five million New Yorkers use the subway every day. Protecting the system is one of our top priorities and certainly one of our greatest challenges. That's because the entire system is designed to be open, designed to be accessible. Its very strength as a mass transit system leaves it vulnerable to attack.

After the bombing of the London transit system in 2005, we began searching the bags and backpacks of subway passengers – some subway passengers. We also inspect all 14 underwater subway tunnels daily. We've heightened uniform patrols underground and we conduct regular security sweeps of subway cars.

Now, last month, we graduated a small Police Academy class of 103 officers. Their hiring was made possible by a federal transit security grant. If not for that money, we have not would have been able to afford to hire anyone. These newly graduated officers are all assigned to patrol our subway system on the look out for crime and terrorism. Among the items they carry on their gun belt is a radiation pager. One of

2,100 events radiation detection devices we've distributed among our police officers. For these are some of the tools that we're using to keep pace with the evolving threat of terrorism.

The philosophy behind them is simple. We have to develop the best intelligence available, expand our partnerships, and take proactive measures to defeat whatever our enemies might be planning next.

We know we can't be everywhere at once. We face a powerful ideological movement that is constantly shifting. Those who would attack us are resilient at building new alliances and finding new recruits at an alarming rate.

Faisal Shahzad's statement when he pleaded guilty is a chilling statement to what we're up against. That is homegrown terrorists who make no apologies for trying to kill as many people as possible to avenge what they perceive is American responsibility for Muslim deaths abroad. He said he picked a Saturday night to leave a car bomb in Times Square in order to kill and injure as many people as possible.

He could not have put it more plainly when he said, "it's a war." He repeated this point in a video that surfaced last week and referred to the attack he was planning as an attack on America. To individuals like Faisal Shahzad New York is America. If the NYPD intelligence program has taught us anything, it's that there are others living among us who share his beliefs and his aspirations. We have no choice but to match them step for step to collaborate widely and with the best minds in the field, including those in this room in order to prevail. And I'm confident that we can and we will.

I want to thank the Center for inviting me today. And I'll be happy to answer any of your questions. Thank you. (Applause.)

MR. FLYNN: Okay, maybe you begin the questioning for us this evening, commissioner. Thank you so much for those remarks and again for the extraordinary leadership you've been providing, not just for New York, but my certainly experience has been that a lot of folks have been looking over your shoulder to try to figure how they can emulate on the efforts you've made. But I could may be talk a little bit – almost take it through a few of the levels of your effort, beginning with the overseas piece. You mentioned that you have police liaisons in 11 cities around the world. Perhaps you're going to share venue out of the 7/7, 2005, attack and how that relationship supports your daily mission.

MR. KELLY: Interestingly enough, when those attacks happened, the liaison officer that we had, was on the metro, was on the subway system heading to New Scotland Yard. He got there, got to their operation center, gave us a call on the phone, told us what he knew from the operation center. Now, this was of course – they were five hours ahead of us, so we were concerned about our own rush hour with the five million people that I spoke to you about. So we wanted to increase our coverage, our uniform coverage in the subway system. It enabled us to do that.

We held all of the officers working – who've been night tour. We're able to bring some additional officers in and I think it increased the comfort level. It was mentioned in the media that day that they saw increased a presence of the police.

So just a – it's a small thing, but again, we didn't know if this was part of an international chain of events that was going to strike New York as well. So we were able again to put additional coverage.

Then, the next attempt, which was two weeks later, if you'll recall, that's when we decided to put in our bag search regiment, which roughly mirrors the DWI checkpoints that we have of course in America. And it was challenged in court by the Civil Liberties Union and they lost and then appealed and then they lost again.

So we have a program in place where we move – we 468 stations in the transit system. We move a bag search team – several teams. And they use to a great extent the technology that's used at airports. We moved them on an unannounced fashion. Ultimately, we do cover all 468 stations. Obviously we cover certain stations more than others. Now, we have some TSA agents that help us as well. I'm very appreciative of that. I met with them and they really are enthusiastic about that job.

So – anyway, it emanates from the 7/7 attempt in London or successful bombing and then the attempt two weeks later.

MR. FLYNN: Great, so literally the morning attack in London was able to translate into your getting information –

MR. KELLY: I was speaking to our officer there just – actually before our rush.

MR. FLYNN: – before your rush hour and been able to mobilize. So – and that maybe rose to my second sort of level, which is dealing with the federal government. Historically having folks overseas has been a federal responsibility. There a lot of federal agencies that are obviously in the row. How do you walk the line of being the protector of the New York City in dealing with the enormous federal equities that are involved with your mission?

MR. KELLY: I think it initially may have disturbed some people in federal agencies, but they've gotten used to it. Bob Mueller supports it. And again, the relationship is totally different. What we have is a cop-to-cop relationship. Police officers embedded with other police officers. These are not legal attachés that are working in our embassies in these countries. It is a totally different relationship. I would say anything that we get that is providing significance we share with our federal partners.

So I think it's gone well. We're also able because of our size and our diversity – I believe we're the most diverse police force in the country in the most diverse city – we have people that are uniquely suited. We have a couple, a married couple in Abu Dhabi

who are – speak Arabic and are Egyptian and fit extremely well. The officer that we have in Spain was born in Spain. The officers we have in France were born in France. So we have that capacity yet because of our size and diversity sort of matchup – not always – not exactly, but as much as we can we try to do that.

MR. FLYNN: Sure. Maybe at the other end of the spectrum, you've of course talked about the Times Square incident, the Shahzad attack, the key person to turn out for the warning we received was the vendor, a T-shirt vendor on scene. To what extent is engaging the public a key part of your approach and walking that line between giving people information perhaps they need to be assistant without spreading the sense that you're generating fear, or how do you manage that issue and what are some of the things that other cities –

MR. KELLY: We are the birth place of the see something, say something movement, those signs. So we've been trying to engage the public for quite a while. We have lots of signs. We have outreach. We have teams that go out to community meetings and give them some general internal information. But the public, of course, is key. And I think in New York because of the two successful attacks that we've had, because of the 11 plots that we've had against us, many people are a little more aware, a little more sensitive perhaps to – we get a lot of calls, obviously. The vast majority of them are unsubstantiated or are unfounded, but we need the public, no question about it. Vendors were terrific. They notified the mounted police officer. There were other police officers in the area. And another amazing thing about that event is Times Square was cleared very quickly. There was no panic. People were not trampling each other or whatever, but it was done very, very quickly and efficiently.

So we need the public and we need them to be on guard, to be vigilant. We have a system in New York mayor put – Mayor Bloomberg put in a 311 system, so rather than remembering a series of telephone numbers, you can call 311 and be connected to the appropriate hotline. We have people. We have investigators standing by, as they say, seven days a week, 24 hours a day, ready to respond to trends or information that they think is significant.

MR. FLYNN: You maybe talk a little bit also about your outreach is run in communities. Again, in this case, we had somebody who – (inaudible) – from Bridgeport, Connecticut, a state adjoining New York, of course, driving in to Times Square, as many commuters do. How do you deal with the challenge of different capacities in terms of policing in your neighboring communities?

MR. KELLY: We're very much aware of that issue. The 1993 bombing in the World Trade Center, that bomb was put together in New Jersey. Of course we had the Leeds case, the – 7/7 bombing in London where Leeds was the town where the bomb was constructed, 180 miles away from London. You have the Shahzad case in Connecticut. One of the ways we do that is – I mentioned in my prepared remarks – we have created Operation Sentry, in which we communicate on a regular basis with 95 law enforcement agencies in the northeast and mid-Atlantic areas of our country. We do training for them.

We bring them into New York. We try to do it every six months. But we're – yes, we're communicating on email. And we know that it's more likely than not that anyone who wants to do us harm is going to create a device, the device, outside of and away from New York City. And Shahzad was not on anybody's list, as you know. But I must say that ultimately the information that proved critical here was gathered by Customs and Border Protection.

When Shahzad comes back into the country – he's out for several months. Again, he's a U.S. citizen. He's a naturalized citizen, April of 2009. He comes back into the country from Pakistan, having been out, I believe for four months. A telephone – he's asked about his contacts there. A telephone number that he gives in Pakistan was used by – call by the telephone that he used to do the car purchase deal. I don't know if am I getting too much in the weeds here, but that resulted from a secondary examination done by Customs and Border Protection of Shahzad coming in. They recorded the information. That number proved critical in linking the car sale to Shahzad. That's how his name was determined.

MR. FLYNN: You mentioned as well the resource challenges that you have that – the superb record you had on finding crime and foiling many terrorist attacks has been coming why you were losing police officers. Both your sense of where New York is going, but also speaking these communities that are around you, obviously virtually every urban area in the state is facing similar economic stress. How much local capacity are we going to have to deal with this rising domestic homeland security threat as under – (inaudible) – seem to be on and some ideas about how to fix it.

MR. KELLY: Well, we devote over 1,000 police officers or full time equivalents every day to our counterterrorism efforts. That's a heavy lift for us, but we think we have no alternative. So as our head count comes down, we've kept that number relatively constant because we ourselves as being the number one authority, but it definitely has put a strain onto us. Now, obviously the city is in very difficult economic streets, as many cities are, but the mayor has seen fit to enable us to hire 1,200 police officers a week and a half ago.

Now, that sounds like a lot, but in New York everything is bigger. We're still down over 5,000 officers from where we were in 2001. But that's going to be a help. And we have to continue to make every effort to suppress crime. And we have through some innovative patrol strategies that seemed to have worked for us with the use of technology. We're going to continue to do that.

Yes, surrounding areas are impacted as well.

(Cross talk.)

MR. FLYNN: – people as much as ever before? You're saying that the decline and perhaps that your engagement with those communities – is there the wherewithal for them to participate in those programs?

MR. KELLY: Yes. And not only the wherewith all, there is a very strong desire. Another program that I didn't mention is our Amtrak security initiative. In 2004, there were some plots against the Amtrak line from Washington to New York. So we came together with Amtrak, which – unfortunately a very small police organization – and virtually all obviously law enforcement jurisdictions from Washington, including Washington, D.C., police, all the way up to the city. And we get together still on a quarterly basis. And each agency does what it can do without any federal money other than Amtrak being funded. But where we share information and where police officers will ride the train through their jurisdiction. Georgia transit has been very helpful, Pennsylvania State police, Philadelphia State police, Maryland State police. We've all participated. And you do what you can, recognizing the fact that all these agencies are contracted somewhat. But they understand the necessity of doing their part. And it's heartening to see that.

MR. FLYNN: Is Washington doing enough to support local police department in this work?

MR. KELLY: Well, you know, we always need more. That's just the nature of government. We understand that. I think – we'd like money for personnel, and that is just not something that the federal government does. Sometimes you get money for overtime and that sort of thing. And that's where we need the most help. But they have been very helpful. I mentioned the Lower Manhattan Security Initiative. That is going to be largely, not exclusively, but largely funded by the federal government. The Securing the Cities program, that's wholly funded by Homeland Security.

So the mantra is we want more. We get about 30 percent of the money. Obviously, if you look at the threat information, we get a lot more than 30 percent of the threats. But I really can't complain too loudly. I think given the financial constraints, given the huge federal deficit, the reality is that we're not going to get much more and probably not going – given the political realities, not going to be shifted any significant degree to New York – greater than what we're getting now.

MR. FLYNN: Great. Let me now open it up to the audience here if I can. Please make sure you introduce yourself, your name, maybe your affiliation, and a question for the commissioner. I'll start right up here.

Q: Yes, thank you, Steve very much. Commissioner, thanks very much. Good afternoon to you. Thanks for those informative and interesting comments you made in your presentation. I'm Tom Trimble with Science Applications International Corporation here in Washington, D.C. And I was interested to hear the reliance you place – seem to place on your counterterrorism center, even though you have people embedded with the FBI and overseas. Do you think that model is a necessary one for Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas, and Washington, D.C., to have their own counterterrorism center, or can they rely upon federally fed intel sources?

MR. KELLY: I really can't say. I can really only speak for New York. To a certain extent, you have to take the pulse of the community. You have to get a sense of how concerned local community is. All resources are tight. We live in a city that's been attacked twice, where we had almost 3,000 people killed, where we had these plots against the city. So there of course should be and is a heightened concern in New York City. For other agencies to try to replicate what we do, I think number one is very difficult. And our size alone, we are by far the biggest police department in the country. We have – still with our reduced resources, we have 50,000 employees. We have 15,000 civilian employees and about 35,000 uniform police officers. It's very hard for other agencies to do that. And it probably is not going to be that effective of that helpful. There're certain things that we think we have to do to better protect the city. I don't know – and I can't really advise what a city like Chicago or Los Angeles or big cities should do.

We know the reality is that there was a big threat in New York City.

Q: Thank you.

MR. FLYNN: Way in the back if I can. Okay. Yes.

Q: I'm Al Millikin (sp) with AM Media. Are there any special considerations or precautions you're taking at this point with the proposed Islamic mosque and community center that's to be built on Ground Zero?

MR. KELLY: Any restrictions?

Q: Well, any considerations, precautions, any things that –

MR. KELLY: It's still obviously under consideration of the community board. There's a vote that's upcoming. But in the preliminary vote, there was 21 to one in support of the going forward of the construction of the mosque. That's the nature of government, where we will abide by what the community determines should happen. And Mayor Bloomberg has been very strong and supporting the mosque going forward, obviously if that's what the people in the area decide to do. So there's no reason for us to be involved at this juncture.

Q: Adrienne Arsht, a board member of the CNP. And a sort of twofold, one to say that I think the article about you in Lifestyles, I think everybody should read it. It really defines who you are and both your marine –

MR. KELLY: Well, thank you.

Q: – philosophy and explains a lot of how you spoke today. I'm from Miami, which is John Timoney territory. And I wondered of all the cities you said where you have these outposts, you mentioned the last one of countries was the Dominican Republic.

MR. KELLY: Yes.

Q: Why there?

MR. KELLY: We have about 600,000 people of Dominican extraction in New York City. So we have a lot of interaction with that community. And the country has been supported. Obviously we need a hospitable climate and they've asked us to have someone there. And we do some training. And there also is sort of a vantage point for us to look out across the Caribbean. We still – we have some concerns about the whole Caribbean basin. I know other agencies use Miami sort of to cover the Caribbean, but –

Q: That's South American country closest to the United States.

MR. KELLY: – yes, right, yes. But – so it's sort of twofold for us. We have people who, in the past, have committed crimes and gone to the Dominican Republic. Well, the joke's on them recently because our officers waiting for them will get information about getting on the plane – (laughter) – guess who's waiting for them as they get off. So it works well for us, but it's not strictly a counterterrorism effort that we're making there.

MR. FLYNN: Yes, right here.

Q: Commissioner Kelly, I'm Davis Buckley. I'm the architect and designer of National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial museum.

MR. KELLY: Very good, nicely done.

Q: And I'm interested in this how do you coordinate counterterrorism with the Port Authority Police, particularly –

MR. KELLY: Port Authority Police?

Q: – yes. Particularly for those high-rise structures that they will have jurisdiction on.

MR. KELLY: I just had lunch with the superintendent last week. (Laughter.) But we have – they're part of the Joint Terrorism Task Force. And that is where a lot of agencies get there. New York is a city started Joint Terrorism Task Force in 1980. And I think we've learned a lot through the years. It has 40 something agencies in that task force. Plus we have just a lot of day-to-day contact. We have – when we have – let's say the president is coming to town; we will activate our command center. Port Authority will be represented there. Any major event, we have a command center. And we – thanks to the government, we're building a new one in our headquarters. So we'll have a more efficient operation center.

We have an awful lot of coordination, a lot of communication that goes on. There is this, I think, fallacy in some quarters that there's lack of communication or lack of coordination going on. Coordination is better today than it has ever been. And I've been around a long time. One of the reasons for it is nobody wants to be caught holding the back. If something happens, I don't want to be the only one holding on to that information. So there's a lot more coordination and communication than it ever happened in the past. But we have a strong working relationship with the Port Authority Police. And I would venture to say that at some level, we're talking to them every day.

MR. FLYNN: Yes, here in the front.

Q: George – (inaudible) – with International Media Ventures. You talked about the integration of different video feeds in New York City. I know down in Tampa, the USSOCOM and the CENTCOM, years ago in Ybor City, there was a great hue and cry about the infringement upon individual liberties of having video surveillance in Ybor City. You alluded to some of the challenges by the ACLU. Do you see a backing off of that now?

MR. KELLY: Well, I think there're a couple of things there. The public has come to accept the video in public areas. If you're walking into a department store, you're picture is taken 20 times. Your names are also into databases. Now, one thing that we did to get it ahead of the curve, we made a decision that in all of the – the cameras – certainly Lower Manhattan security cameras we will only hold pictures for 30 days, unless they're part of an investigation.

Secondly, we have what I believe to be a cutting edge privacy policy that's enumerated – it's on our website. It was put together by a young woman who worked for us, primarily – others, too, but she's a lawyer, Jessica Tisch. She is a Harvard law graduate. And she worked to a certain extent with the privacy advocacy community, if that's the right term, to put this together.

So I think that issue is pretty much dormant. In New York, though, it could always surface. (Laughter.) They love to sue in New York. It's how hearty they are. (Cross talk.)

Q: (Inaudible) – New York Daily News. You mentioned, commissioner, that you got some TSA helping with subway –

MR. KELLY: Right.

Q: – where that starts. How many of them down there, are they actually down there on the subway platforms with handholds? What's going on? (Laughter.)

MR. KELLY: When did it start? We actually started talking about this maybe a year ago. When there was – because of the economic downturn it was a fall of an air transport business, I think we had some discussion with TSA about people being

available. And so we sort of mutually agreed that we would do it. Then there was a bit of a pause, I'm not certain why, but we started doing this about – I want to say about four months ago. And they moved – they have their own supervisor, but they work with the NYPD people. They're not out on their own. They're together as a team.

All information I have is that it's working well. They bring their own equipment and they bring a vehicle. They usually come with a vehicle. And I've met with several of the teams and they seem to like it. It's a bit of a break for them from what they know and we do.

Q: So they're down on the platform?

MR. KELLY: They're on the platform now. Usually – you know the subway stations – you come down the stairs, you turn the corner. Some in some areas like that. I'll call the vestibule or something like that, and not on the train platform.

Q: And just random stops people.

MR. KELLY: No, it's not random stop. It is a supervisor goes down and makes a determination based on traffic that we are going – just an example. We are going to stop every fifth person with a substantial bag. And as I say it's akin to the DWI stops. So every fifth person will be stopped and they will use the swap technique for the most part. If it becomes busy or – then the supervisor will say every 10th person with a bag or something along those lines. But it is a predetermined, announced regiment or plan that's used.

MR. FLYNN: Yes, sir.

Q: There's a lot of talk in D.C. this week about –

MR. FLYNN: Can you please introduce –

Q: – I'm sorry. I'm – (inaudible) – with the Wall Street Journal.

There's a lot of talk in the intelligence community this week about stories in Washington Post about overlap, duplication, and just wasted money or wasted effort, let's say, in the intelligence community. I'm curious from what you see being fed to you from the federal side, do you see much overlap? Do you see much duplication?

MR. KELLY: No, but we don't deal – I was surprised to see the number of agencies that were mentioned. And I have it – I didn't read it, but I just saw the headlines – obviously mentioned on television. The agencies that we deal with, certainly the FBI, and the intelligence community, that is the CIA to a certain extent, NSA, DIA, the National Counterterrorism Center, we have good relationships and obviously New York has not been attacked. So I can't tell you if there's duplication, if there's too much or if there's waste. I don't know. I can tell you the results so far so good. And the

relationships that we have with those agencies seem to be effective for us. But I think there was some mention the 1,200 agencies – I didn't know there was 1,200 in the federal government. I think maybe everybody wants to be players in the game and they're claiming it. That's part of a war and a fight – three people doing something. But in terms of overlapping, probably, but I think politically it probably was a wise thing to do.

MR. FLYNN: If I may, commissioner, ask maybe a final question and a little bit of looking out on the threat, which has started with the course of your remarks. I think a number of analysts are looking at what seems to be happened with al Qaeda and its spinoffs essentially is a growing recognition that perhaps less is more attacks might be the way to go. There was a general consensus, certainly around 9/11, and it's out in the media thereafter that the aspiration for the main leadership of al Qaeda was very big, 9/11 scale attacks. But by the recent series of incidents, it would seem that they're willing to operate at a much, essentially, lower level and with less potentially catastrophic outcome, but much more difficult to prevent. Is that the threat? How – do you see that threat evolving that way?

Mr. KELLY: I think that's a reasonable assessment. We know the word was, as you said, in 2002, "spectacular." They wanted a spectacular event that was going to be better – and even some indications that the Mubtakkar attack on the New York subway system was called off because they wanted something more spectacular.

Now, we see, like almost 11,000 followers bloom type approach. Go and do your best. Even if you don't accomplish it, it's a good thing because you've created some fear. You've caused money as far as the government reacting or overreacting. So you're right. You see Faisal Shahzad. You see – well, in our case, you see Najibullah Zazi and his two co-conspirators. These are – they're certainly not good things, but they are not anything close to what 9/11 was like.

So I think we – this is what we're going to see. The people who are radicalized here in this country and who may go to other countries or may not. We know that the internet, of course it's been said by so many, is the – it seems a radicalizing agent, if you will, for so many of these young people. So yes, it is a concern for us. It is difficult to identify and difficult to sort of get in your sights.

Shahzad, I think, in particularly of concern, that type of individual, because he certainly looked that he's striving to be middle-class. He becomes a U.S. citizen. If you look back, he did some radical things, said some very radical things, but nobody was looking at Shahzad. So we sort of have to have a 360 degree defense to look all around. This is not an easy fight by any means. So I think your assessment is on target.

MR. FLYNN: Well, thank you commissioner. I – as you said quite correctly, New York is America for most of the world and for us. And we're so grateful that New Yorkers and America has you as a commissioner. Thank you for being here. (Applause.)

That concludes our program and I thank you again for all of you for coming today.

(END)