



MANHATTAN INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

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Counterterrorism Academy Graduates First Class of Cops

Los Angeles: Today LAPD Chief William Bratton hosted the graduation ceremony for the inaugural class of the National Counter-Terrorism Academy (NCTA). The academy, a partnership between the LAPD and the Center for Policing Terrorism at the Manhattan Institute, is a unique program that gives state and local cops the training they need to be a vital force in the War on Terror. The NCTA opened as a pilot program on March 10, 2008, and brought counterterrorism training to nearly 60 students from 25 public agencies throughout California and Nevada, as well as private security professionals. The LAPD plans to expand the academy to include students from across the country and around the world.

The Manhattan Institute is committed to finding solutions to difficult public policy issues, including policing. In the 1980s, Manhattan Institute scholar George Kelling developed the famed "Broken Windows" theory, which argues that combating minor quality of life crimes—such as public urination—leads to a drop in major crimes. As New York's Police Commissioner, William Bratton implemented "Broken Windows" style policing citywide and introduced the COMPSTAT system to analyze criminal patterns and hold individual police commanders accountable for their crime fighting strategies. The results of these policing tactics so impressed Bratton, he instituted them when he became Chief of the LAPD.

Now these same ideas which empower cops to prevent, rather than simply respond to crime are being applied to fight terrorism. The NCTA taps into the potential of this "first preventers" style of policing by training street level officers to recognize signs of terror-related activity and to properly share and analyze intelligence with the cooperation of federal authorities. The NCTA is the first facility where officers receive basic homeland security education based on a standardized curriculum.

"Today's graduation ceremony represents the culmination of over three months of intensive study of global terrorism and practical application. We are proud to deliver this instruction to the nearly 60 students representing almost 30 agencies and the private sector. We look forward to working with LAPD to continue to develop this academy," said Tim Connors, director of the Manhattan Institute's Center for Policing Terrorism.

The Manhattan Institute, a 501(c)(3), is a think tank whose mission is to develop and disseminate new ideas that foster greater economic choice and individual responsibility.

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