



## NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER

# TERRORIST IDENTITIES DATAMART ENVIRONMENT (TIDE)

### **What is TIDE?**

The Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment (TIDE) is the U.S. Government's (USG) central repository of information on international terrorist identities. TIDE supports the USG's various terrorist screening systems or "watchlists" and the US Intelligence Community's overall counterterrorism mission.

The TIDE database includes, to the extent permitted by law, all information the USG possesses related to the identities of individuals known or appropriately suspected to be or to have been involved in activities constituting, in preparation for, in aid of, or related to terrorism (with the exception of purely domestic terrorism information). This information is available to counterterrorism professionals throughout the Intelligence Community, including the Department of Defense, via the web-based, read-only "TIDE Online."

### **What types of conduct warrant inclusion in TIDE?**

A non-exclusive list of types of conduct that will warrant both entry into TIDE and terrorist screening nomination includes persons who:

- Commit international terrorist activity;
- Prepare or plan international terrorist activity;
- Gather information on potential targets for international terrorist activity;
- Solicit funds or other things of value for international terrorist activity or a terrorist organization;
- Solicit membership in an international terrorist organization;
- Provide material support, e.g., safe house, transportation, communications, funds, transfer of funds or other material
- financial benefit, false documentation or identification, weapons, explosives, or training; or
- Are members of or represent a foreign terrorist organization.

Federal agencies nominate individuals for inclusion in TIDE based on evaluations of intelligence and law enforcement terrorism information.

**How is information from TIDE used for watchlists?**

Each day analysts create and enhance TIDE records based on their review of nominations received. NCTC exports a sensitive but unclassified subset of the data containing the terrorist identifiers to the Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) on a transactional basis for use in the USG's consolidated watchlist. This consolidated watchlist, which is a critical tool for homeland security, supports screening processes to detect and interdict known and suspected terrorists at home and abroad – for example, the Transportation Security Administration's "No Fly" list and the Department of State's visa database, among others. For more information visit: [www.fbi.gov/about-us/nsb/tsc/tsc\\_faqs](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/nsb/tsc/tsc_faqs).

**How many names are in TIDE?**

As of December 2012, TIDE contained over 875,000 persons, most containing multiple minor spelling variations of their names. U.S. Persons (including both citizens and legal permanent residents) make up less than one percent of the listings.

**Why are people without terrorist ties sometimes delayed when traveling?**

Currently, both TIDE and many of the end user screening systems are name based, which means that people with names similar to those in the database may be stopped for additional screening by TSA or at a port of entry. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (DHS Trip) was launched in February 2007. Travelers can use this program to request resolution of possible watchlist misidentification issues with any of the department's component agencies at: <http://www.dhs.gov/trip>.

**Are names ever removed from TIDE?**

Yes. Over the course of 2012, over 14,000 records were deleted from TIDE or terrorist watchlisting after they were determined to no longer meet the criteria for inclusion.