

PURSUE A MORE AGGRESSIVE STRATEGY AGAINST TERRORISM

Since the 1980s, the United States has based its counterterrorism policy on four pillars:

- Make no concessions to terrorists and strike no deals;
- Bring terrorists to justice for their crimes;
- Isolate and apply pressure on states that sponsor terrorism to force them to change their behavior; and,
- Bolster the counterterrorism capabilities of countries that work with the United States and require assistance.

The government uses multiple tools to pursue this strategy. Diplomacy is an important instrument, both in gaining the assistance of other nations in particular cases and convincing the international community to condemn and outlaw egregious terrorist practices. Law enforcement is often invaluable in the investigation and apprehension of terrorists. Military force and covert action can often preempt or disrupt terrorist attacks. But meeting the changing terrorist threat requires more aggressive use of these tools and the development of new policies and practices.