As we approach the anniversary of the September 11th attacks, we find ourselves engaged in a two-front war on terrorism. We find that we are acting both abroad and at home—to root out terrorist organizations and to secure and prepare ourselves against future attacks.

Research played a critical role in the Cold War, and the war on terrorism will require an even greater analytical effort. RAND has been in the forefront of terrorism research for 30 years. In the immediate aftermath of September 11th, RAND focused on providing Congress with key pieces of that research through meetings, briefings, and two compendiums.

Over the past year, multidisciplinary RAND teams have continued to conduct research, working on both fronts: the one abroad and the one at home. Our current issue of the RAND REVIEW highlights a number of these studies. The full issue is at http://www.rand.org/publications/randreview. Key insights that have emerged from the past year’s research, along with links to the individual summaries, are provided below.

### Insights About the Battle Abroad

- **Washington’s primary commitment** is to the war on terrorism, which requires maintaining a broad-based international coalition. But dealing with other challenges in the Middle East may fly in the face of that coalition. [More...](#)

- **The war on terrorism will drive the U.S. Army** toward a future of more frequent deployments, more long-term deployments, and a need for more counterterrorism capabilities while maintaining its readiness for regional wars and transforming toward the future. [More...](#)

- **Counterterrorism lessons learned** from other countries’ deployments show the importance of targeting mid-level terrorist leaders, discrediting top leaders, disrupting their support networks, and countering enemy intelligence. [More...](#)

- **Improved health care and public health** can contribute to global security. America has an unprecedented opportunity to have a lasting impact on health status in developing nations and fight terrorism at the same time. [More...](#)

- **Social and economic development programs** around the world can inhibit terrorism, but only when they are adequately funded and properly implemented. [More...](#)

### Insights About the Battle at Home

- **Airport security at home** should be rebuilt from the bottom up, with the federal government coordinating locally designed solutions. [More...](#)

- **The public health system’s response** after the anthrax attacks confirms the need to rebuild its surveillance, detection, diagnosis, response, and recovery functions. [More...](#)

- **Protecting occupants in high-rise buildings** requires local government and the private sector to assume different but complementary responsibilities. [More...](#)

- **Local emergency responders** need equipment that is more durable and training that is more representative of extended response activities. [More...](#)

- **Many hospitals and local public health departments** should conduct terrorism drills more frequently and do better at integrating preparedness plans with those of other local emergency response agencies. [More...](#)

- **Even people far from the source** of a terrorist attack will have trauma-related symptoms from the stress. [More...](#)

### Questions for Continuing Research

While RAND researchers continue to study the issues underlying these insights, there are some research questions still crying out for answers. What are the roots of anti-American violence that cause others to lash out against America? How should victims of terrorism be compensated, since neither private insurance, the tort system, charities, nor government can alone provide a satisfactory solution? And what makes individuals and communities resilient in the face of terrorism?

America needs research in all these areas to help win the war against terrorism. The counterterrorism research of the past year—and of the past 30 years—is just a start.