

# Intelligence Functions: Introduction

Hello. I'm Paul Pillar. I've taught here at Georgetown University in the Security Studies program. Before that, I had a whole career in the U.S intelligence community with the Central Intelligence Agency and with the National Intelligence Council. One of the functions I served when I was in that earlier career was counterterrorism. In fact, I worked on it for most of the 1990s. So I've been, in the past, at the intersection of counterterrorism and intelligence.

In the next couple of lessons, we're going to look at the instruments or tools that governments use to counter terrorism. And we're going to begin in this lesson with the one that probably most people think about when they talk about counterterrorist instruments. And that's intelligence. Think about when we've had some major event, like 9/11, and people ask, what did the government do? Or what could they have done better? What's the first thing that people talk about? Intelligence.

And so we're going to, in this lesson, talk about the purposes intelligence serves in counterterrorism, the particular methods or techniques that intelligence services use for that purpose. We're going to ask ourselves just what should-- or can-- we expect of intelligence services in going after terrorism. And we're going to talk a little bit about the controversies, some of the policy questions that have come up in recent years that have been raised about the use of intelligence in counterterrorism.

But as we do all of this, keep in mind intelligence is just one instrument, one of the tools that government uses. And we'll be talking about the others in the next lesson.