



National Coordinator
for Counterterrorism

The National Coordinator for Counterterrorism (NCTb)



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The National Coordinator for Counterterrorism

Since the attacks in the United States on 11 September 2001, it is clear that Western society has become a target of terrorist activity. The attacks of 11 March 2004 in Madrid and of 7 July 2005 in London made the terrorist threat to Western Europe visible. The Netherlands, too, experienced a terrorist attack when Dutch filmmaker and writer Theo van Gogh was murdered on 2 November 2004. Combating terrorism is therefore a prominent theme in national and international security policy. The Netherlands runs an especially high risk of attacks because it participates in military operations abroad, maintains close ties with the United States and has groups within its borders that are susceptible to radicalisation.

Central government has made counterterrorism in the Netherlands a major priority. Large investments have been made to increase the capacity of the intelligence and security services and improve the exchange of information between them. The surveillance and protection system has been revamped and new legislation drafted to facilitate counterterrorism efforts and make it easier to prosecute perpetrators. In all, nearly twenty organisations are involved in combating terrorism in the Netherlands. In 2005, the Office of the National Coordinator for Counterterrorism (*NCTb*) was established to improve cooperation between them.

The Office of the *NCTb* and its staff fall under the Minister of Justice (the coordinating minister for counterterrorism) and the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. This position allows the National Coordinator for Counterterrorism to ensure that all efforts to prevent and deter terrorism are coordinated centrally and that the result of those efforts is greater than the sum of the parts. More specifically, the *NCTb* is responsible for policy development, analysis of intelligence and other information and coordination of anti-terrorism security measures. Combining these tasks increases effectiveness.

What does the *NCTb* do?

Mission

“The task of the National Coordinator for Counterterrorism (*NCTb*) is to minimise the risk of terrorist attacks in the Netherlands and to take prior measures to limit the potential impact of terrorist acts. The *NCTb* is responsible for the central coordination of counterterrorism efforts and ensures that cooperation between the parties involved is and remains of a high standard.”

Tasks

The *NCTb*'s core tasks are described below.

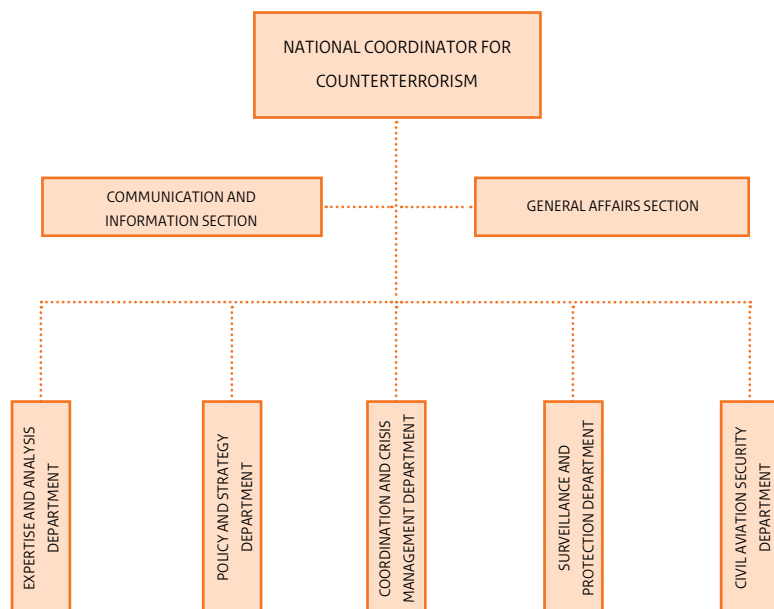
- The *NCTb* collates, analyses and integrates the information provided by intelligence services, the scientific community, government and other sources so that integrated analyses, threat assessments and other knowledge products pertaining to terrorism and radicalisation can be generated and used as resources for developing policy.
- The *NCTb* develops clear, cohesive and unambiguous counterterrorism policy, including and strategic and international policy.
- The *NCTb* coordinates the collaborative efforts of the organisations involved in counterterrorism. This applies to both systematic and incidental cooperation.
- The *NCTb* is responsible for managing the communication strategy, which includes providing information about terrorism to the public and the media.
- The *NCTb* is responsible for maintaining, implementing and modernising the national surveillance and protection system.
- The *NCTb* is responsible for and monitors civil aviation security.

Civil aviation security and the surveillance and protection system are not concerned exclusively with terrorist threats but also with other sources of danger such as violent demonstrators and confused individuals.

About the organisation

The National Coordinator for Counterterrorism works for the Minister of Justice and the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and reports to them directly.

In terms of organisation and management, the office of the NCTb falls under the Ministry of Justice, and operates like a directorate-general. The organisation has a staff of about one hundred and, in addition to the national coordinator, has five departments and two support units.



NCTb Organisation Chart

Expertise and Analysis Department (DKA)



The Expertise and Analysis Department is responsible for collating, integrating and analysing information about radicalisation and terrorism and using the results to advise its clients.

The department serves as a national counterterrorism information centre, acting as a clearing house for infor-

mation from government, the research community and various services that supply intelligence (e.g. the General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD), the Military Intelligence and Security Service (MIVD), the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) and the police). The information that flows in from these sources is analysed and underlying patterns and implications are identified. This provides a broad up-to-date picture of terrorism and counterterrorism and generates the insights needed to develop substantive and cohesive counterterrorism policy at national and international level. One of DKA's products is its quarterly National Terrorist Threat Assessment.

DKA is the expertise centre of the NCTb. It is a knowledge and analysis centre that third parties consult frequently for intervention strategies and interpretation of phenomena in the area of terrorism. Its products include trend reports and studies on specific topics.

DKA also issues advisory reports interpreting the information supplied by the intelligence providers and containing proposals for pending policy issues, proposals for measures to be taken by NCTb or third parties and assessments of threat levels for sectors taking part in the Counterterrorism Alert System.

In addition to performing an advisory role, the department identifies overlaps, blind spots and new trends for the services that provide intelligence.

Policy and Strategy Department (DBS)



The staff of the Policy and Strategy Department are active in the following domains:

- **National policy**

In the Netherlands, counterterrorism policy and strategy are developed by various ministries and agencies, under the coordination of the Policy and

Strategy Department of the NCTb. To that end, the department develops the strategic framework for new measures, which is also based on research results and lessons drawn from evaluations, for example. In addition, the department uses the analyses and advisory reports produced by the Expertise and Analysis Department to draft concrete policy.

- **Relations with Parliament**

The Policy and Strategy Department prepares documents, such as letters and answers to questions from members of parliament, for use in meetings with the House of Representatives and the Senate. These documents clarify and justify policies developed nationally and internationally.

- **International policy and contact**

Many counterterrorism measures are taken bilaterally with other governments or within international organisations such as the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and NATO. In consultation with its partners, the Policy and Strategy Department carries out the preparations for developing international policy. It promotes the Netherlands' counterterrorism interests in international forums and liaises with relevant international organisations.

- **Promoting counterterrorism**

The staff of the department participate in interministerial processes and projects and underline the importance of counterterrorism in a range of policy fields.

Coordination and Crisis Management Department (DR)



The Coordination and Crisis Management Department coordinates and fosters cooperation between parties involved in counterterrorism in order to promote an integrated and harmonised approach, on both an incidental and a systematic basis. The department also promotes the exchange of information and expertise.

Programme-based approach

The Coordination and Crisis Management Department coordinates the systematic cooperation between parties in specific counterterrorism activities. It focuses on topical, priority matters, most of which form part of the NCTb's multi-year programmes. For example, the *Internet and Counterterrorism* Programme deals with terrorist messages transmitted via the internet and on satellite channels. In this programme, public-private partnerships are encouraged and new techniques are developed to combat the spread of terrorism and radicalisation on the internet. The *Security Awareness and Performance* Programme is aimed at improving the security level of high-risk organisations, by increasing their resistance and raising awareness of security issues. The *CBRN/E* Programme focuses on minimising terrorists' access to and use of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons and (home made) explosive devices. The Programme for *Security Improvement through Information Awareness* focuses on improving the way intelligence and investigative agencies use information. The Programme for *Camera surveillance in public transport* provides an impulse to camera surveillance for the purpose of the security of the public transport sector which is vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

Coordination during a crisis

In the event of a terrorist threat or attack, the Coordination and Crisis Management Department coordinates and facilitates the activities of the NCTb and the Netherlands' crisis management infrastructure for example by ensuring that decision-making mechanisms are in place and adequate to the task. To this end, the department develops and maintains manuals and drilling and training policy geared specifically to terrorist threats.

Surveillance and Protection Department (EBB)



The Surveillance and Protection Coordinator (*CBB*) and his department are responsible for national coordination of the surveillance and protection system and bear a special responsibility for certain objects, services and persons, including members of the Royal House, the prime minister and other members of the government, leaders of political

parties, as well as ambassadors, embassies and specific international military and civil organisations. The national interest requires that these persons and organisations be able to function safely and without interruption. In addition, the CBB provides solicited and unsolicited advice to local authorities and regional police on the surveillance and protection of other persons, objects and services.

The basic principle of the surveillance and protection system is that responsibility for safety measures rests with the individual and the organisation he or she belongs to. If the threat is so great that persons and organisations are unable to deal with them on their own, however, they can request government assistance. The local authorities bear primary responsibility for implementing security measures in the event of a threat. National government bears special responsibility for specific persons, objects and services, as described above.

The Surveillance and Protection Department uses information in the form of threat estimates, reports and assessments supplied by intelligence and security agencies to determine the gravity of the threat to a person, object or service. On the basis of that assessment, the department takes decisions and advises on the necessary level of measures. Specialised police agencies, such as the Royalty and Diplomatic Protection Department (*DKDB*), and special units within the regional police forces are responsible for implementing the measures. The operational agencies have a range of measures they can apply depending on the level of threat.

Civil Aviation Security Department (DBB)



The Civil Aviation Security Department is responsible for ensuring the security of civil aviation in the Netherlands, with respect to acts of terrorism such as bombings and other types of attacks on aircraft and civil airports, skyjackings and other forms of sabotage with lethal effects. The Netherlands has civil airports at Schiphol,

Rotterdam, Maastricht, Enschede, Eindhoven and Groningen.

The Minister of Justice establishes the standard for civil aviation security. The industry - airlines, airports etc. - is responsible for implementing the security measures, under the supervision of the Royal Military and Border Police, which acts on behalf of the Minister of Justice.

The Civil Aviation Security Department is responsible for drafting and updating national and international aviation security policy and legislation. The department has the authority to take measures in the event of a threat against civil aviation. If the airports sector as a whole is under threat, an alert will be issued. The department monitors the security level at the airports and guides the Royal Military and Border Police in its oversight tasks and with respect to armed security. It also approves airport and airline security plans and researches new security concepts, processes and equipment.

The priorities are passenger and baggage screening; airport security, including access control and perimeter surveillance; aircraft protection; security personnel training; implementation of security clearances of airport personnel; air cargo screening; and armed security, including deploying air marshals.

Communication and Information Section

The Communication Section of the NCTb plays a key role in keeping the public and businesses in the Netherlands informed about terrorism and counterterrorism. It develops specific communication strategies and plans to this end in cooperation with other parties. Surveys are held regularly to gauge and monitor the public's information needs and the findings are used to plan publicity activities. This support unit is also responsible for media relations and informing the media on terrorism-related topics. Finally, the Section advises the NCTb departments on communication issues in ongoing projects.

General Affairs Section

The General Affairs Section is responsible for supporting the NCTb's primary processes. It serves as the contact point for matters pertaining to personnel, finance, organisation, management and other information, security and accommodation. In addition to these standard support tasks, the section has a number of special duties, namely coordinating parliamentary affairs of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations; contributing to the Ministry of Justice's budgetary cycle; and the functional management of secretarial and reception staff.

The General Affairs Section serves as the front office for the outside world with respect to its own support services. This unit makes maximum use of the expertise and policies of both ministries.

Cooperation



The NCTb operates in an administratively and politically complex environment. Political coordination is primarily the domain of the Cabinet Committee on National Security (RNV), under the direction of the prime minister. The ministers most closely involved in matters relating to counterterrorism and the intelligence and security

services consult in this committee. RNV meetings are prepared by the Joint Counterterrorism Committee (GCT), whose members represent the ministries and government agencies involved in combating terrorism.

After 11 September 2001, EU member states began stepping up their cooperation to combat terrorism and since then the EU has implemented a range of measures to prevent attacks, improve investigation and prosecution and prepare for a possible attack. The European Union has appointed a coordinator whose tasks are to harmonise counterterrorism efforts within the EU and ensure that security and law enforcement agencies and other relevant organisations cooperate and exchange information effectively.

The NCTb and its staff are responsible for ensuring that cooperation between the national and international parties involved is and remains of a high standard. Because the success of the NCTb depends entirely on good relationships and efficient cooperation, it will continue to make the appropriate investments to achieve these aims. This unified approach should lead to a counterterrorism strategy that is more than the sum of its parts.

More information

For general information about counterterrorism, visit the website of the National Coordinator for Counterterrorism <http://english.nctb.nl> and the website www.rijksoverheid.nl/english. These sites feature background information, publications and links relevant to terrorism and counterterrorism.

You can also contact Postbus 51, the government's centre for public information:

- telephone: 0800-8051 (*free of charge, Monday-Friday, 8.00-20.00*)
- internet: www.rijksoverheid.nl/contact

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Colophon

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The NCTb helps to make the Netherland a safer place to live

The task of the National Coordinator for Counterterrorism is to minimise the risk and fear of terrorist attacks in the Netherlands and to take prior measures to limit the potential of terrorist acts. The NCTb is responsible for the central coordination of counterterrorism efforts and ensures that cooperation between all the parties involved is and remains of a high standard.