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Dissuading Young Potential Terrorists

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Dissuading Young Potential Terrorists

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Research Summary

Question:

- Can mentorship of at-risk youth inoculate adolescents from joining gangs or terrorist groups? If so, what are the best practices?

Hypothesis:

- At-risk youth that are exposed to mentorship programs throughout the world where they develop sincere and lasting relationships with their mentors will be less vulnerable to being drawn into a gang or terrorist group.

Methods:

- Joseph Campbell's *Hero with a Thousand Faces*, and the hero's journey serves as the framework of analysis for the mentor programs around the world, and specifically how a mentor inserts themselves into the life of an at-risk youth.

Impact Statement:

- Potentially decrease the number of terrorists on the battlefield by reaching adolescents who may be susceptible to joining these organizations.



Big Brothers Big Sisters

Anticipated Application of Research

Participants:

- Target Audience: Policy Makers who may be interested in funding such programs, Military personnel who interact with Civilian organizations that run mentorship programs
- Researcher: LT Jay Mann

Key Deliverables:

- Best Practices for Mentorship of at-risk youth

Findings

The examined mentor programs and relationships revealed some positive effects; however, the results are unclear because the programs have only been recently implemented—more time is required to understand lasting results. Not all at-risk youth will benefit from mentorship; however, the programs' efforts enable some misguided youth the opportunity to live a life free of crime.