EXTENDING THE REACH OF US COUNTER-TERRORISM POLICY THROUGH SPORT MEGA-EVENTS

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THEORETICAL DISCUSSION & DATA; INCLUDING SOURCES:

- US security policy documents, commissioned studies, and reports
- US government press releases
- Legal documents
- Private contractor sources
- US Congressional Research documents
- LexisNexis search: Print and online media reports 2000-2010 “sport security”, “football security,” ...
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE: 32 FRANCHISES, 31 PRIVATELY OWNED
SUPER BOWL: 2014 NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY
THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS...

TO THE BIGGEST, BOLDEST AND COLDEST EVENT IN TELEVISION HISTORY.

SUPER BOWL XLVIII
COMING 2.2.14
ANNUAL MAJOR SPORT EVENT

Super Bowl Locations: 1966-2011
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE & US MILITARY: 40 YEARS OF TRADITION
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE & US MILITARY: 40 YEARS OF TRADITION
POST-9/11: MILITARY REPRESENTATION AT SUPER BOWL HAS TAKEN ON NEW DIMENSIONS
Stadium developments, as ever, symbolizing a city’s urban status a late-capitalist regeneration “success,” are now positioned as “terrorist targets.”
The expanding powers of the US government, combined with ever-increasing partnerships between the NFL, military forces, law enforcement, and private security entrepreneurs creates increasingly militarized domestic urban terrains.
New stadiums are developed based on NFL owners’ demands for profit and control and the NFL’s increasing security requirements for hosting a Super Bowl.

These requirements include the physical structure and extend into the urban communities and spaces in which they are located.
SUPER BOWL IS AN EXTRAORDINARY INCURSION INTO URBAN LIFE.....
SUPER BOWL ROAD CLOSURES

- Poydras Exit: 243B to Remain Open
- Claiborne Exit to Remain Open
- Loyola Exit to Remain Open
- Superdome Exit Closed
- Dave Dixon Dr., Magnolia, W Stadium, Howard and Sugar Bowl Dr. Closed
SUPER BOWL CLEAN ZONE
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 28TH - FEBRUARY 5TH

NEW ORLEANS PREPARES TO ENFORCE TEMPORARY RULES INSIDE A “CLEAN ZONE”
SUPERBOWL FANS TO FACE MANDATORY TSA PATDOWNs
The extra security demands of hosting a Super Bowl have been leveraged by all levels of government and police to forage linkages across various agencies and expand capabilities of tracking and surveillance.

Local police gain access to Pentagon-level security contractors and have the opportunity to obtain specialized tactical equipment, training, and other tangible resources at a reduced cost.
SUPER BOWL 2001: FACETRAK™ TECHNOLOGY
2002: SUPER BOWL BECOMES NATIONAL SPECIAL SECURITY EVENT (NSSE) LEVEL 1
2003: "OPERATION GAME DAY" DRAGNET
2004: PRIVATE SECURITY SCREENING

Crowd management

SUPER BOWL

FEBRUARY 1, 2004
HOUSTON
2005: VPN CAMERA INSTALLATION THROUGHOUT THE CITY
2007: BEHAVIOR PATTERN RECOGNITION TRAINING
2008: NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND

Not everyone at the Super Bowl is watching the game

You watch the game, we’ll watch the skies!
2009: MICROSOFT - E*SPONDER™
2010: MIAMI – PRINTRACK™
MOBILE ID TECHNOLOGY
2010: NFL TECHNOLOGY WILL BE USED ON US BATTLEFIELDS
2011: “IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING” CAMPAIGN
POST 9/11 LAWSUITS

v. airports, airplane manufactures, security companies, government agencies.....

Federal judge ruled the cases could proceed because the use of an airplane as a suicide weapon was “potentially foreseeable”.
LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Support for Anti-terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies (or SAFETY) Act of 2002.

Insure that threat of liability does not stifle the development of new anti-terrorism technologies.
“QUALIFIED ANTI-TERRORISM TECHNOLOGY” (QATT)

“Certified QATT” - Technologies that pass the Department of Homeland Security highest level of review.

This effectively eliminates the seller’s liability against victim’s claims arising from acts of terrorism.
Boyle v United Technologies Corp 1988
(US marine’s estate v helicopter mfg)

A US soldier or soldiers’ family cannot sue the Pentagon’s suppliers for death or injury the soldier incurs while on duty, even if caused by defective equipment.
B2 SPIRIT BOMBER
“NFL BEST PRACTICES FOR STADIUM SECURITY”
If a terrorist action occurs at an NFL event, victims cannot sue the League to compensate for death or injury, even if the NFL’s security practices are shown to be faulty.

The NFL is legally viewed the same as a Pentagon supplier, and we, the citizens, are the soldiers at war.
SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

The NFL enjoys a unique position in US sports.

Its relationship with the US government and the various forces that keep it safe is intentional, is intensifying, and is mutually supportive.
A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP

The security strategies of the US government protects the NFL’s profitability...

...and the NFL helps create support for the US government’s “war on terror.”
FOOTBALL FANS’ SAFETY

Welcome! The NFL is enhancing its public safety policy this year to include the type of bag you can bring into the stadium. This will also speed entry on game day. Here is everything you need to know for a safer, more convenient day at the stadium.

APPROVED BAGS

12” X 6” X 12” CLEAR PLASTIC BAG

1-GALLON PLASTIC FREEZER BAG

CLUTCH WITH SHOULDER STRAP

CLUTCH WITH WRIST STRAP

(NO LARGER THAN 4.5” X 6.5”)

For more information visit NFL.com/ALLCLEAR and Be Clear on Game Day Safety.
PROTECTING FOOTBALL FANS?

There are 20 NCAA college football stadiums that each hold over 90,000 spectators.
PROTECTING INVESTMENTS!

(Profitable) urban spaces are protected by measures that solidify the relationships with capital, making them safe for capital investment.
It is not football fans that are protected, it is the National Football League.
Thank you for your kind attention.

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International Sociology of Sport Association