

Lisa Monaco

Former United States Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Advisor; CNN Senior National Security Analyst

Exponential Times, Exponential Threats. When Lisa Monaco attended President Barack Obama’s daily briefings, the question he usually asked of her was “*What are you worried about today?*” Monaco says the answer was almost always cyber security. As Monaco explains, while the Internet has given the world better ways to work, play, and share ideas across borders, it has also rapidly expanded the so-called “attack surface” of the United States—a fact that nation states, terrorist actors, hackers and thieves have been eager to seize upon.

With this talk, Monaco draws on her time at the forefront of combating national security and homeland security threats. Sharing stories from her time in the Oval Office and the Situation Room, she lays out the current state of the cyber threat in clear terms and explains why it is more sophisticated than ever before, touching on things like:

- The diverse nature of the cyber threat from nation states to “hacktivists”—and why, for example, ISIS is recruiting terrorists *and* hackers
- The implications of the Internet of Things on businesses and individuals
- Ransomware and the new trend of “bet-the-company”-style attacks on corporations (Target, SONY)
- Aggressive actors testing the boundaries of cyber warfare
- The new spies and the rise of WikiLeaks

Finally, Monaco lays out the three things organizations need to know now to protect themselves. She suggests an actionable framework for corporations seeking to embrace the Internet as the greatest tool of the last 20 years, while steeling themselves against vulnerabilities.

Terrorism & Other Transnational Threats In The Trump Era. Transitions of power have always made national and homeland security experts nervous. But today’s threats are constantly mutating to create hybrid dangers that require an ever-evolving American response. With this candid briefing drawing on her time in the West Wing and the Situation Room, Lisa Monaco looks at the issues and players keeping the intelligence community up at night, breaking down the latest in the threat landscape and what this should mean for the American and international response.

Public Health—The New Security Challenge. With this talk, Lisa Monaco describes the challenges and biotechnology threats—from Ebola to Zika—that our nation faces, and how we should be prepared to address them. In a world in which global commerce and rapid worldwide transportation is a reality, all industries face new challenges in dealing with this new security threat. Monaco lays out the key considerations in developing a rapid response plan in a public health crisis and discusses the nation’s response to epidemics as well as the lessons any organization should take away from these events, including crisis management, the importance of clear communication, and getting the facts out early and often.

Strong Leadership In Times of Crisis. Lisa Monaco has served at the highest levels in government from the FBI, as a top terrorism prosecutor, to the White House, where for the last four years she served as the President’s Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Advisor. In each of these roles, she was often the only woman in the room. With this talk, Monaco describes the critical moments in managing a crisis, citing incredible examples from her role managing the government’s response to events including the Boston Marathon Bombings, the campaign against ISIS, and coordinating terrorism operations and hostage crises. She outlines key attributes for any leader and manager, and talks about what it was like to be a woman leading crisis response with military, intelligence, and law enforcement operators in the Situation Room.