



Training Support Package

159-T-0001

15 March 2008

◆ Understand Terrorism in the Contemporary Operational Environment (COE)

Learning Activity 2 Awareness Training



US Army
Training and Doctrine Command
TRADOC Intelligence Support Activity (TRISA)-Threats

Contemporary Operational Environment
and Threats Integration Directorate



This learning activity is an orientation on:

- ◆ **Face of Terrorism**
- ◆ **Defining Terrorism**
- ◆ **Vectors of Action**
- ◆ **Objective**
- ◆ **Insurgency and Guerrilla Warfare**
- ◆ **State Sponsors of Terror**
- ◆ **Other Forms of Terror**



Learning Activity

Face of Terrorism

“America is at War...the grave challenge we face – the rise of terrorism fueled by an aggressive ideology of hatred and murder, fully revealed to the American people on September 11, 2001.”

National Security Strategy March 2006



- ◆ **Foreign or Domestic -- International or Transnational**
- ◆ **Strategy - Campaign - Tactic...The fundamental aim of terrorism is its psychological effect on people and the decisions that result.**
- ◆ **Impact on national, regional, and global populations.**



Learning Activity

Defining Terrorism

◆ DoD Definition of *Terrorism*:

The calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological.



- ◆ Terrorism is a violent act outside the normal bounds of civil law or conventional military conduct.
- ◆ The enemy is terrorism – premeditated, politically motivated violence that aims at subverting the rule of law and replacing it with rule by fear.



Learning Activity

Vectors of Action

- ◆ A way to frame terrorism in the context of a contemporary operational environment is to consider vectors of political, psychological, violent, and deliberate actions.
- ◆ Political - *“The ultimate goals of terrorism are political...”*
- ◆ Psychological - Terrorist acts intend to cause a negative psychological effect on a target. Acts may be aimed at a target audience other than the actual victims of the terrorism.
- ◆ Violent - Violence intends to produce a desired physical effect and can contribute to a psychological effect of fear or anxiety.
- ◆ Deliberate - Victim or target selection can appear random or unprovoked, but analysis usually identifies that attacking a target was premeditated in conjunction with a terrorist objective.



Learning Activity

Objective

- ◆ A standard military definition of *objective* is – “The clearly defined, decisive, and attainable aims which every military operation should be directed towards.”
- ◆ Terrorist networks may apply tactical and operational outcomes to enhance strategic terrorism aims.
- ◆ US military forces will always have some degree of vulnerability to terrorist operations. Terrorism is a pervasive risk.



On Patrol

“The dispersion all over the world, after 1992, of the jihadist-salafists formerly concentrated in Kabul [Afghanistan] and Peshawar [Pakistan], more than anything else, explains the sudden, lightning expansion of radical Islamism in Muslim countries and the West.”

Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam



Learning Activity

Insurgency and Guerrilla Warfare

- ◆ Terrorism is often linked to an insurgency or guerrilla warfare, but is not necessarily a tactic or technique required of an insurgency or guerrilla campaign.
- ◆ The deliberate choice to use terrorism considers its effectiveness in inspiring further resistance, destroying government efficiency, and mobilizing support.
- ◆ Terrorism relies on public impact, and will often avoid connotation of terrorism, but will promote an image of just cause and action.

Insurgency:

(JP 1-02) (NATO)

An organized movement aimed at the overthrow of a constituted government through the use of subversion and armed conflict.

Guerrilla Warfare:

(JP1-02) (NATO)

Military and paramilitary operations conducted in enemy-held or hostile territory by irregular, predominantly indigenous forces.



Learning Activity

Related Terrorism Issues

- ◆ Terrorists may not usually attempt to challenge government military forces directly, but act to create public perceptions of an unjust, ineffective or illegitimate government.
- ◆ Insurgency and guerrilla warfare may actively target noncombatants.
- ◆ Some insurgencies and guerrilla campaigns consider police and security personnel, in addition to military forces, as combatants rather than civilians.

Related Definitions

Terrorist: (JP 1-02)

An individual who uses violence, terror, and intimidation to achieve a result.

Counterterrorism: (JP 1-02)

Offensive measures taken to prevent, deter, and respond to terrorism.

Antiterrorism: (JP 1-02)

Defensive measures used to reduce the vulnerability of individuals and property to terrorist acts, to include limited response and containment by local military forces.



Learning Activity

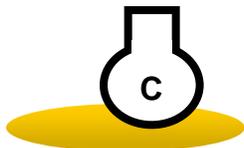
State Terror

◆ State terror is sometimes referred to as “terror from above” where a government terrorizes its own population to control and repress them. These actions are acknowledged policy of the government and apply official institutions such as the judiciary, police, military, and other government agencies.

◆ Examples include Stalin’s purges of the 1930s that terrorized an entire Soviets population for decades, and



◆ Nazi Germany during the 1930s-1940s that aimed at the deliberate destruction of political dissonant groups, intimidation of nations and regional states, and genocide.



◆ A more recent example is Saddam Hussein’s use of chemical weapons on his own Kurdish population in Iraq.



Learning Activity

State Sponsors of Terror

State directed terror may come from a terrorist group operating as a direct agent of the government.

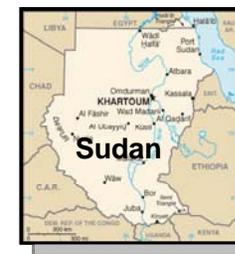
The US Department of State declares that:

- ◆ Iran is the most active state sponsor of terrorism with extensive funding, training, and weapons.
- ◆ Syria and Iran routinely provide safe haven, resources, and guidance to terrorist organizations.



Other state sponsors of terrorism are:

- ◆ North Korea
- ◆ Sudan
- ◆ and Cuba.





Learning Activity

Other Forms of Terror

- ◆ **Non-State supported terror describes a terrorist group that operates autonomously and receives no support from any government.**
- ◆ **Terrorism threats range non-state transnational networks with global reach capability such as al-Qaida, terrorist cells affiliated with regional or international aims, or individual self-radicalized and unaffiliated terrorists with single issue agendas.**
- ◆ **The Aum Shinrikyo cult in Japan is an example of non-state supported terrorist organization.**



Tokyo Sarin Attack



Oklahoma City Attack

- ◆ **Timothy McVeigh is an example of a terrorist with no organizational affiliation.**



Learning Feedback

- ◆ *What is the US Department of Defense definition of “terrorism”?*

The calculated use of unlawful or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological.

- ◆ *What is a fundamental aim of terrorism?*

The fundamental aim of terrorism is its psychological effect on people and the decisions that result.



Learning Summary

- ◆ **The five state sponsors of terror, according to the US Department of State are:**

Iran, Syria, North Korea, Sudan, and Cuba.

- ◆ **Three levels of non-state terrorist organizations are:**
 - ◆ **Transnational networks with global reach,**
and
 - ◆ **Regional or international networks,**
and
 - ◆ **Lone individuals or unaffiliated terrorists.**