



Training Support Package

159-T-0001

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Understand Terrorist ◆ Targeting of US Army Forces

Learning Activity 5 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:

- ◆ **Terrorist Targeting**
- ◆ **Dynamics of COE**
- ◆ **US Military Forces and Operational Environments**
- ◆ **Influences on Targeting**
- ◆ **Identify Target Accessibility**
 - ◆ **Choose Symbolic Value**
 - ◆ **Demonstrate Organizational Capability**
 - ◆ **Delay of Prevent Movements**
 - ◆ **Reduce Operational Capability**
 - ◆ **Degrade Social Environment**
 - ◆ **Disrupt Economic Environment**
 - ◆ **Influence US Policy**



Learning Activity

Terrorist Targeting

◆ *“We are locked today in a war against a global extremist network that is fixed on defeating the United States and destroying our way of life...This foe will not go away, nor will he give up easily. And the next decade is likely to be one of persistent conflict. We are engaged in a long war.”*

General George Casey
US Army Chief of Staff

◆ Terrorist targeting of US military forces is a norm of the:

Contemporary
Operational
Environment.



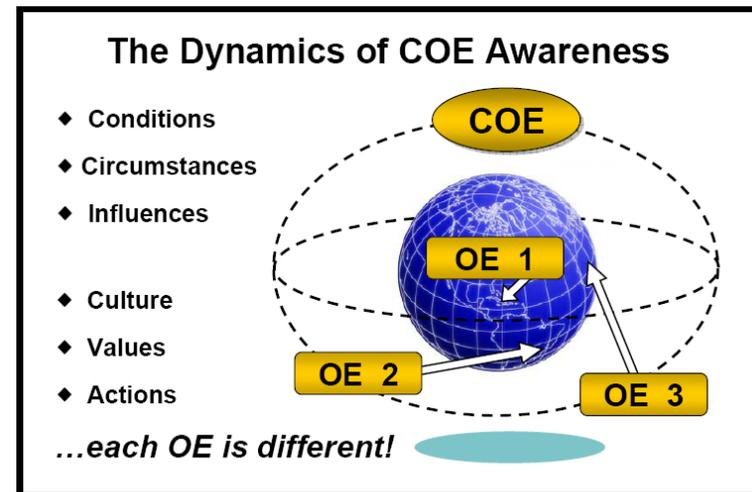


Learning Activity

Dynamics of COE

◆ Defining operational area and contemporary operational environment provides a setting of where and how particular threats may emerge.

◆ The contemporary operational environment (COE) is a combination of all critical variables and actors that affect military operations today and in the near term and mid term.



◆ Operational environment (OE) is a composite of the conditions, circumstances, and influences that affect employment of capabilities and bear on the decisions of the commander. This environment includes physical areas and factors of land, air, maritime and space, as well as the cyber domain of information.



Learning Activity

Operational Environments

- ◆ The US joint community use of a systems perspective on political, military, economic, social, information, and infrastructure (PMESII) components of several operational environments. Two additional domains complement this approach with an appreciation of varied physical environments such as geography-topography-hydrology and time (PMESII+PT).
- ◆ Situational awareness is a holistic analysis of the OE rather than a discrete assessment of a specific issue or action.
- ◆ Any model using PMESII+PT spotlights the complexity and uncertainty of the COE.
- ◆ Operational environments and US military forces can be assessed in three major groupings of: deployed, in-transit, or institutional forces.





Learning Activity

US Military Forces and OE

For this handbook –

- ◆ **Deployed Forces** are US military forces and individuals operating away from their permanent locations on either operational missions or training exercises.
- ◆ **In-Transit Forces** are US military forces and individuals preparing for or in the process of deployment and redeployment phases of an operational mission.
- ◆ **Institutional Forces** are active and reserve component garrisons, training and logistic facilities, and other activities or installations that do not deploy to accomplish their organizational mission.





Learning Activity

Influences on Targeting

- ◆ A principal consideration in terrorist targeting is the psychological impact of an attack on a selected audience.
- ◆ Many factors are considered by a terrorist in target selection, vulnerability analysis, and risk management before attacking a target.
- ◆ With a wide variety of terrorist motivations and goals, reasons to target and attack US military units, soldiers, or family members are equally varied.



The Pentagon



Pentagon 911 Damage

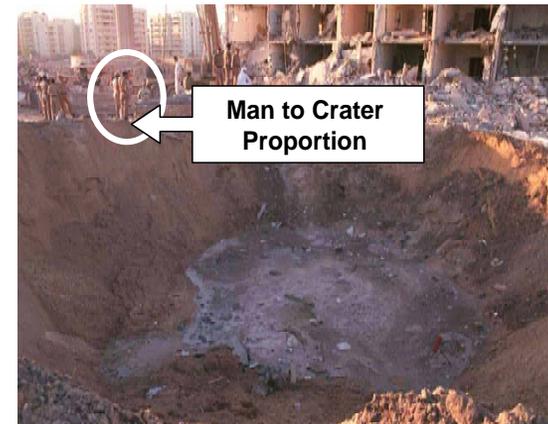
- ◆ Several common targeting rationales are as follow:



Learning Activity

Identify Target Accessibility

- ◆ Presence of military members, units, and activities in large numbers makes an inviting target.
- ◆ Presence of US forces in some regions of the world may offend particular political or religious sensibilities and can be presented as an ideological justification for terrorist attack.
- ◆ An example of terrorism is the Khobar Towers attack in Saudi Arabia. To Islamic fundamentalists, the presence of US military forces in Saudi Arabia is considered particularly offensive. In June 1996, a housing facility for US Air Force and other coalition personnel near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia was attacked with a large truck bomb. Terrorists could claim they caused military forces to relocate from this urban setting.





Learning Activity

Choose Symbolic Value

- ◆ Commitment of military forces is a significant indicator of national interest and carries major political consequences.
- ◆ Targeting military forces can often achieve a greater notoriety for terrorists than targeting civilian targets such as diplomats, commercial businessmen, or government officials and facilities.
- ◆ In 2005, rockets were fired at US Navy ships docked at Aqaba, Jordan. One rocket passed near the bow of the *USS Ashland* in the Red Sea port.
 - ◆ Both the *USS Ashland* and its sister ship, the *USS Kearsarge*, left the port in response to the attack.



Twin Towers in NYC



USS Ashland



Learning Activity

Demonstrate Organizational Capability

- ◆ Terrorist action that demonstrates the capability to negate US military operations security and force protection can promote individual terrorist or organizational terrorist agendas when they attack US military forces.
- ◆ Senior military officials are often a target. In 1979, the Red Army Faction (RAF) attempted to assassinate General Alexander Haig, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and NATO, with a remotely controlled bomb placed in along the road he often traveled.
- ◆ Soldiers in their workplace can be a lucrative target. A suicide bomber gained entry to a military dining tent in Mosul, Iraq in 2004 and killed US soldiers, contractors, and Iraqi security members.



Mosul Dining Facility



Learning Activity

Delay or Prevent Movements

◆ Disruption of transportation may take place by sabotage or direct attack upon the unit being transported or its mode of transportation. Air, rail, maritime, or motor transportation means can be targeted from a unit point of origin, in staging areas, or at destinations.



Port of Los Angeles

◆ During the early days of Operation *Desert Shield* and preparation for the liberation of Kuwait, Iraq seized Kuwaiti citizens and hundreds of foreigners resident in Iraq and exploited them in the media as human shields. In one instance, about 350 passengers on a British Airways flight were held captive as the airplane attempted a refueling stop in Kuwait.



UK Child with Saddam Hussein



Learning Activity

Reduce Operational Capability

- ◆ Terrorists may target US military forces to reduce or remove a specific capability or impair effectiveness.
- ◆ Destroying facilities such as docks, airfields, refueling facilities, and cargo terminals at intermediate stops or at a final destination is another way for terrorists to reduce capabilities.
- ◆ The suicide boat bombing of the *USS Cole* in 2000 occurred while the ship was moored at a refueling point in Aden, Yemen.
- ◆ The ship was sailing to be part of a carrier battle group in the Gulf region.
- ◆ Following 14 months of repairs, the *USS Cole* rejoined the US Atlantic Fleet.





Learning Activity

Degrade Social Environment

- ◆ Terrorists prefer an environment that is chaotic. A fluid, poorly policed or uncontrolled situation often permits normally suspicious activities to go unnoticed or unaddressed.



**La Belle Discotheque
Bombing in Europe**

- ◆ Attacks on US military members at social gatherings can occur at clubs on military installations or during unit functions at private homes or commercial establishments away from installations.

- ◆ Attacks at commercial entertainment establishments such as bars, clubs and restaurants could be targeted because of the density of people from particular nations or presence of military personnel.



**Bali Night Club
and Street Bombing**



Learning Activity

Disrupt Economic Environment

- ◆ **Tensions of political, environmental, and economic impacts add to the specific damage or destruction of an incident. The terrorist suicide boat bombing in 2002 of the French tanker ship *Limburg* near Ash Shihr and east of Aden, Yemen spilled 90,000 barrels of oil into the ocean and contaminated 45 miles of coastline.**
- ◆ **One immediate economic impact of this boat attack of the *Limburg* was a maritime insurance increase in rates that tripled in the Yemeni area.**
- ◆ **Oil infrastructure is a significant issue as critical aspects of the oil industry may be vulnerable in the Middle East. Single points of failure in the infrastructure or denying critical services for a period of time could adversely impact on many of the world's economies.**



Refinery Fire



Learning Activity

Influence US Policy

- ◆ Terrorists can attack US military forces and cause a change in US foreign policy.
- ◆ Hizballah and Syrian sponsors were concerned that deployment of international peacekeeping forces into Lebanon in the spring of 1983 would reduce their freedom of action in the ongoing Lebanese Civil War.
- ◆ Suicide truck bomb attacks on the US Marine Corps and French Army barracks in October of 1983 killed 241 US Marines and 60 French soldiers. Combined with an earlier bombing campaign against the embassies of the US and other countries, the US withdrew its military forces from the area.



Bomb Damage in Beirut



Learning Feedback

- ◆ *When has a terrorist attack on US military forces appeared to have changed US foreign policy?*

One example is the bombing of the US Marine Corps billets in Beirut in 1983. Shortly after this bombing, US military presence in Lebanon was significantly reduced.

- ◆ *How can a terrorist identify target value?*
 - ◆ Choose Symbolic Value
 - ◆ Demonstrate Organizational Capability
 - ◆ Delay or Prevent Movements
 - ◆ Reduce Operational Capability
 - ◆ Degrade Social Environment
 - ◆ Disrupt Economic Environment
 - ◆ Influence US Policy



Learning Summary

- ◆ ***“We are locked today in a war against a global extremist network that is fixed on defeating the United States and destroying our way of life...This foe will not go away, nor will he give up easily. And the next decade is likely to be one of persistent conflict. We are engaged in a long war.”***

General George Casey

- ◆ **Commitment of military forces is a significant indicator of national interest and carries major political consequences.**
- ◆ **Terrorist attacks could target commercial entertainment establishments such as**

-- bars, clubs, and restaurants --

because of the density of people or presence of military personnel.