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## Training Support Package

159-T-0001

15 March 2008

## Understand Terrorist ◆ Attack Threats to US Army Forces

## Learning Activity 6 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:

- ◆ **Forms of Terrorism**
  - ◆ Threat or Hoax
  - ◆ Arson
  - ◆ Sabotage
  - ◆ Bombing
  - ◆ Kidnapping
  - ◆ Hostage Taking
  - ◆ Hijack-Seizure
  - ◆ Raid or Ambush
  - ◆ Assassination
  - ◆ Weapons of Mass Destruction
  
- ◆ **Aircraft and MANPADS Threats**
  
- ◆ **Maritime Threats**
  
- ◆ **Suicide Tactics**



# Learning Activity

## Forms of Terrorism

- ◆ The terrorist uses a wide array of tactics and techniques in conducting terror. This learning activity is not an exhaustive presentation of methods or approaches.
- ◆ Terrorists continue to improve techniques as field experience demonstrate degrees of adaptability and effectiveness in situations around the world.



### Forms of Terrorism

- ◆ Threat-Hoax
- ◆ Arson
- ◆ Sabotage
- ◆ Bombing
- ◆ Kidnapping
- ◆ Hostage Taking
- ◆ Hijack-Seizure
- ◆ Raid or Ambush
- ◆ Assassination
- ◆ WMD



# Learning Activity

## Threat or Hoax

- ◆ A terrorist cell can use threats to coerce or preclude actions by a targeted individual or population.
- ◆ Threats and hoaxes can dull the effectiveness of preventive or countermeasures when a targeted individual or population loses situational awareness of an actual terrorist target or disperses finite assets against many possible threats.
- ◆ Such activities can gain information about the target's response to a potential attack, or can also be combined with an actual attack to circumvent an array of security measures.
- ◆ Extortion is an example of a threat that obtains money, materiel, information, or support by force or intimidation.



Ruse and Deception



# Learning Activity

## Arson

- ◆ Arson uses fire to damage, sabotage, or destroy property.
- ◆ Since arson is primarily used against property, it is not normally planned as a casualty producer. However, arson can result in injuries and deaths.
- ◆ Arson is most often used for symbolic attacks and economic effects. Single-issue groups, such as the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), particularly favor arson for these purposes.
- ◆ As an example of US domestic terror and claiming it was targeting rampant urban development, members of ELF started a fire that caused an estimated \$50 million worth of damage in San Diego's fast-growing northern edge suburbs.



Arson Terror



# Learning Activity

## Sabotage

- ◆ Sabotage is the planned destruction of the enemy's equipment or infrastructure. The purpose of sabotage is to inflict both psychological and physical damage.
- ◆ A terrorist group normally aims its sabotage actions at elements of infrastructure in order to reinforce the perception that nothing is safe. Oil pipelines, water purification plants, sewage treatment facilities, air traffic control hubs, and medical treatment or research facilities are examples of potential targets.
- ◆ Examples of sabotage have been evident in Iraq since the end of major combat operations where attacks have been conducted against power generation facilities, oil pipelines, and other civil infrastructure.



Sabotaged Oil Facility



# Learning Activity

## Bombing

- ◆ Bombs are a favored weapon for terrorists.
- ◆ Interaction between terrorist cells using the Internet and common training sites and materiel facilitate proliferation of effective bomb devices and tactics.
- ◆ Numerous methods exist for emplacing and detonating bombs. Terrorists continue to adapt use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Terrorists employ roadside explosives to attack individuals, motorcades, or convoys.
- ◆ Car bombs, commonly referred to as vehicle borne improvised explosive devices (VBIED), are used regularly by terrorists.
- ◆ Suicide bombers have used vest-IED to conduct terrorist attacks and homicide.



Artillery Shells as VBIED



# Learning Activity

## Kidnapping

- ◆ Kidnapping can be an action taken against a prominent individual for a specific reason, or a random individual or group of people. The most common reasons for kidnapping include ransom, release of a fellow terrorist, or the desire to publicize a demand or an issue.
- ◆ Some kidnapping operations are actually assassinations with killing the victim as an intended outcome.
- ◆ The kidnapping of Brigadier General James Dozier, senior American official at a NATO headquarters in Verona, Italy, occurred in 1981 by Red Brigade terrorists.
- ◆ Terrorists conducted surveillance of General Dozier's residence and conducted a detailed operation in his kidnapping. After being held for 42 days, he was rescued by Italian police.



Dozier Kidnapping



# Learning Activity

## Hostage Taking

- ◆ Hostage taking is typically a seizure of a person or people to gain publicity for a cause, gain political concessions, political asylum, release of prisoners, or ransom.
- ◆ Many times the terrorists take hostages with the intent to kill them after they believe they have fully exploited media coverage.



**Beslan Crisis**

- ◆ In 2004, an extremist regional group of over 30 men and at least two women seized a middle school and over 1000 people in Beslan, Russia. Many hostages were wounded or murdered.
- ◆ A three day crisis ended in mayhem when an explosion in the school caused an assault on school facilities. Over 300 children, men, and women died during the rescue attempt.



# Learning Activity

## Hijack-Seizure

- ◆ Hijacking involves the forceful commandeering of a conveyance. Although normally associated with planes, it can also include ships, trains, or other means of transportation.
- ◆ Purposes for hijacking include hostage taking activities, obtaining a means of escape, or providing a means of suicide and homicide.



TWA 847 Hijackers

- ◆ The hijacking of TWA Flight 847 in 1985 held 153 hostages for 17 days demanding the release of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners. The hostages were released after Israel freed 435 prisoners. Terrorists murdered a US Navy sailor.

- ◆ Seizure can be a critical physical infrastructure or a cyber node that disrupts or precludes selected functions, or endangers public safety.



# Learning Activity

## Raid or Ambush

- ◆ A terrorist raid is similar in concept to a conventional operation but is usually conducted with smaller forces against targets marked for destruction, hijacking, kidnapping, or hostage operations.
- ◆ An example of raid is the 2003 attack on western housing compounds in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. A sedan pulled up to the gate, followed by another vehicle. Terrorists dismounted, shot the guard, and drove to the center of the compound, shooting into buildings and eventually detonated a VBIED.
- ◆ An ambush is a surprise attack characterized by violent execution and speed of action. The intended objective may be to cause mass casualties, assassinate an individual, or disrupt hostile security operations.



**Housing Compound  
Riyadh Attack 2003**



# Learning Activity

## Assassination

- ◆ An assassination is a deliberate action to kill specific key leaders such as politicians, notable citizens, or other prominent leaders in a community.
- ◆ Many targets of assassination are symbolic and are intended to cause great psychological impact on an enemy. Assassinating an enemy government official, a successful businessperson, or a prominent cleric can demonstrate the enemy's inability to protect its own people.



**Kroesen Sedan After Attack**

- ◆ In 1981, Red Army Faction terrorists attempted to kill General Frederick Kroesen near his headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany. The assassination attempt used rocket propelled grenades and small arms gunfire when his sedan halted for a city stoplight. Kroesen was slightly injured.



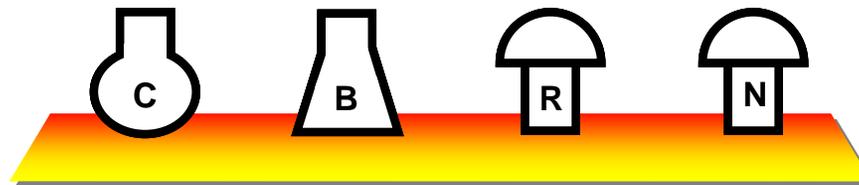
# Learning Feedback

## Weapons of Mass Destruction

◆ ***“The gravest danger our Nation faces lie at the crossroads of radicalism and technology. Our enemies have openly declared that they are seeking weapons of mass destruction, and evidence indicates that they are doing so with determination...”***

President George W. Bush

◆ **The devastating impacts of WMD include chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and enhanced high explosive weapons.**



Chemical    Biological    Radiological    Nuclear

◆ **The means of attack can span from a highly sophisticated weapon system such as a nuclear bomb to a rudimentary improvised radiological device. The specter of chemical and radiological contamination or biological infection amplifies WMD concerns.**



# Learning Feedback

## Aircraft and MANPADS Threats

- ◆ A man portable air defense system (MANPADS) is a significant threat in the hands of terrorists. There are a number of surface-to-air weapons that terrorists can use to attack aircraft.
- ◆ Weapons can be as simple as a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) normally used in surface-to-surface combat or as sophisticated as a Stinger or similar Igla air defense missile.
- ◆ Most experts consider aircraft departures and landings as the times when aircraft are most vulnerable to these weapons.
- ◆ In 2004, a civilian cargo airplane was hit by a shoulder-fired missile while departing Baghdad International Airport in Iraq. The missile hit damaged the left wing of the plane. The crew was able to make an emergency landing with no loss of life but the airplane was a total loss.



Missile Hit in Iraq



# Learning Feedback

## Maritime Threats

- ◆ Terrorist attacks against maritime targets could have catastrophic results. Threats include suicide attacks on commercial and military vessels, or hijacking for conducting a subsequent suicide attack on a ship or port, seeking ransom, or criminal acts of piracy.
- ◆ The Abu Sayyaf Group based in the Philippines, various Palestinian terrorist groups, al-Qaida, and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka have conducted maritime terrorism.



Targeting LNG

- ◆ Liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers and other ships carrying volatile cargo could be hijacked and used as weapons of mass destruction. By some estimates, a large ship loaded with LNG would cause an explosion with catastrophic blast effects to area infrastructure damage, as well as significant injuries and deaths.



# Learning Feedback

## Suicide Tactics

- ◆ The prevalent suicide tactics used today involve an individual wearing or carrying an explosive device to a target and then detonating the bomb, or driving an explosive laden vehicle to a target and then detonating the bomb.
- ◆ Psychological impact increases on a target audience when confronted by a person who plans to commit suicide as well as kill other people. Men, women, teenagers, and even children have been used by terrorist groups to conduct suicide.
- ◆ Terrorist groups with an extremist ideology such as Al-Qaida, as well as secular issue groups such as the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka, employ suicide tactics.
- ◆ Mass casualties are usually an intended outcome of suicide attacks.



Foreign-Domestic Terror



# Learning Feedback

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◆ *What are at least seven forms of terrorism?*

- ◆ Threat or Hoax
- ◆ Arson
- ◆ Sabotage
- ◆ Bombing
- ◆ Kidnapping
- ◆ Hostage Taking
- ◆ Hijack-Seizure
- ◆ Raid or Ambush
- ◆ Assassination
- ◆ Weapons of Mass Destruction

◆ *What are some effects of sabotage?*

**Sabotage destroys infrastructure and inflicts both psychological and physical damage to reinforce a perception that nothing is safe.**



# Learning Summary

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- ◆ ***“The gravest danger our Nation faces lie at the crossroads of radicalism and technology. Our enemies have openly declared that they are seeking weapons of mass destruction, and evidence indicates that they are doing so with determination...”***

**President George W. Bush**

- ◆ **Psychological impact increases on a target audience when confronted by a person who plans to commit suicide as well as kill other people.**
- ◆ **Targets of assassination are symbolic and are intended to have great psychological impact on an adversary. Assassinating a high profile government official, a successful businessperson, or a prominent cleric can demonstrate the adversary’s inability to protect its own people.**