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## Training Support Package

159-T-0001

15 March 2008

### Understand

## ◆ Terrorism of the Foreseeable Future

### Learning Activity 7 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:

- ◆ **Terrorism in the Foreseeable Future**
- ◆ **Future Trends in Terrorism**
  - ◆ **Intensified Ideological Extremism**
  - ◆ **Enhanced Operational Capabilities**
  - ◆ **Flexible Organizational Networks**
  - ◆ **Expanded Transnational Associations**
  - ◆ **Emergent Independent Actors**
  - ◆ **Increased Weapon System Lethality**
  - ◆ **Intended Mass Casualties and Mayhem**
  - ◆ **Targeted Economic Disruption**
  - ◆ **Exploited Mass Media Marketing**
- ◆ **Enablers to Terror**
- ◆ **Ideological Zones of Conflict**

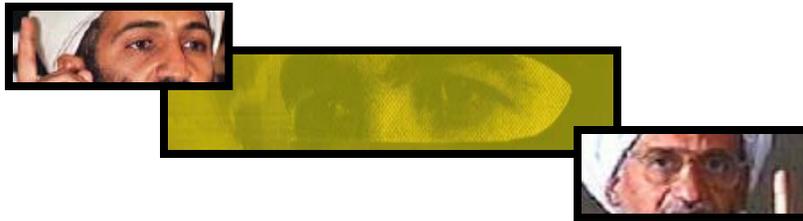


# Learning Activity

## Terrorism in the Foreseeable Future

◆ ***“Today’s extreme Islamist groups such as al-Qaida do not merely seek political revolution in their own countries. They aspire to dominate all countries. Their goal is a totalitarian, theocratic empire to be achieved by waging perpetual war on soldiers and civilians alike.”***

Honorable Michael Chertoff  
US Secretary of Homeland Security



◆ **“There is every indication that the number and magnitude of attacks on the United States, its interest and its allies will likely increase.”**

and

◆ **“The most significant terrorist threat to the homeland today stems from a global movement, underpinned by a jihadist/Salafist ideology.”**

DHS Homeland Security Advisory Council

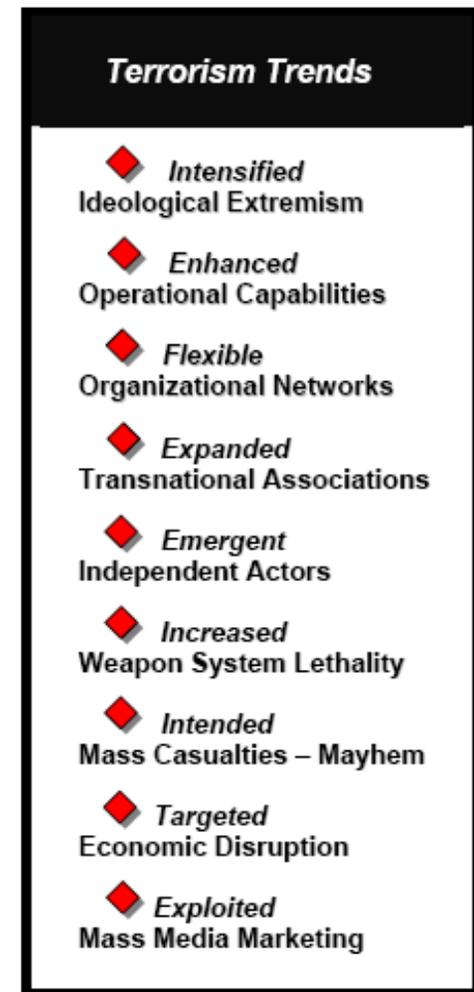
*Report of the Future of Terrorism Task Force, January 2007*



# Learning Activity

## Future Trends in Terrorism

- ◆ Adaptive terrorist behavior is an overarching norm of recent years. Fueled by extremist beliefs and organizational spokespersons that glorify wanton acts and homicide or suicide, networks provide flexible and resilient ways of conducting terror.
- ◆ Psychological impact and sensational media marketing are critical to terrorism. Using a classic metaphor – *“Terrorism is theater!”*.
- ◆ As regions advance in technological areas, expand mobility opportunities of people, and exploit Internet and other media, extremists fuel grievances and alienate segments of populations to foster support for extremist agendas.





# Learning Activity

## Intensified Ideological Extremism

◆ Fanatical viewpoint, whatever its origin, may compel action to satisfy a psychological need. A more rational model may compare and contrast the relative costs and benefits in order to decide on action and achieve an objective.

◆ Theology extremism and misinterpretation of religious covenants underlie much of contemporary terrorism.



New York City  
and  
al-Qaida



Bali and Jemaah Islamiya

◆ Motivation to embrace terrorism, whether foreign or domestic, may emerge from individual utopian goals and elitism, charismatic leaders and group-think membership, or disenfranchised social and political participation.



# Learning Activity

## Enhanced Operational Capabilities

◆ Terrorist groups are learning organizations that use collective experiences and the Internet to improve training, techniques, and actions to counter actions intended to deny or dissuade them from conducting terror.

◆ Terrorists and criminal organizations are becoming more closely related as terrorists use criminal networks to operate and influence political agendas.



Hizballah



◆ Terrorist basing and operations in urban environments will increase. Rural regions without effective governance may invite terrorist safehavens.

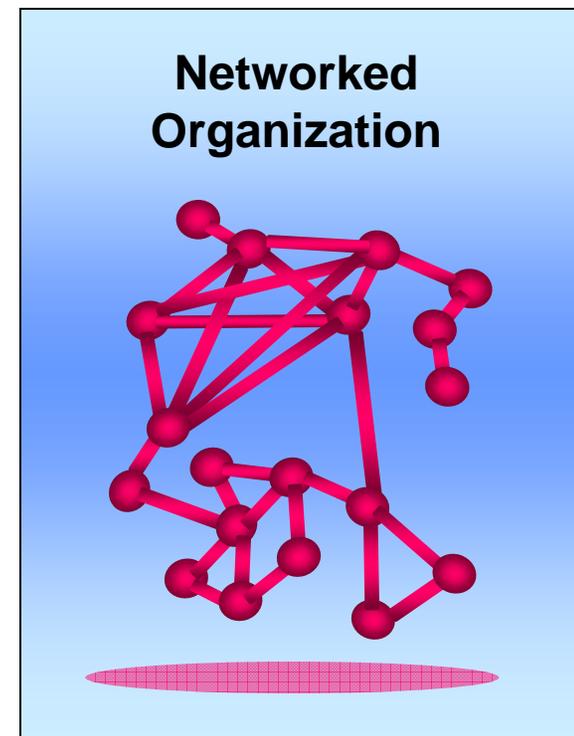
◆ State sponsor support, direct or indirect, improves the ability for terrorist groups to plan and act. Some terrorist groups have developed significant self-financing operations.



# Learning Activity

## Flexible Organizational Networks

- ◆ Terrorist organizations realize the value of networked structures that distribute capabilities in adaptable confederations.
- ◆ This cellular type of action from multiple sites improves the ability to reorganize and reconstitute when individual cells are precluded or prevented from conducting terror.
- ◆ The aggressive use of modern technology for information management, communication and intelligence has increased the efficiency and effectiveness of distributed activities. Cyber attack is a constantly expanding threat.
- ◆ Networks can also use simple means to operate such as couriers or coded signals.





# Learning Activity

## Expanded Transnational Associations

◆ Terrorists are becoming more integrated with other sub-state entities such as criminal organizations and legitimately chartered corporations, and are gradually assuming various levels of control and identity with national governments.

◆ Well publicized activities such as drug trafficking and smuggling expand into other areas for revenue and terrorism support. These include tax evasion and fraud, counterfeiting currency, money laundering, extortion, or other extra-legal funding operations.



HAMAS

◆ Terrorism can approach global reach through international or transnational affiliations that openly announce their plans or consciously retain a low profile.

◆ These larger networks provide potential access to dangerous capabilities such as material and technology to produce WMD.



# Learning Activity

## Emergent Independent Actors

◆ Independent actors can span a full range of citizens indoctrinated with an ideology, gradually attracted to a distorted sense of purpose and justification as a group, or a lone person acting on his perception of righteousness, rebellion, or retaliation.



Murrah Federal Building

◆ Actors can be recruited from susceptible foreign and domestic populations. Individuals can be motivated by political, social, and special issue agendas can include supremacist, separatist, animal rights, environmental rights, anti-abortion rights, ethnic union, or forms of extremist religious ideology.

◆ The devastation caused in Oklahoma City by a US citizen, or the potential of al-Qaida inspired “home grown – would be” terrorists operating in the US Homeland or abroad is a real and constant danger.



# Learning Activity

## Increased Weapon System Lethality

◆ ***“Transnational and domestic terrorists and state sponsors of terrorism continue to demonstrate an interest in acquiring and using chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons.”***

Honorable Robert S. Mueller, III

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

◆ **The Defense Intelligence Agency states terrorist interest in ricin, *botulinum* toxin, and anthrax, industrial chemicals, and weaponized chemicals such as sarin.**

◆ **al-Qaida and other terrorist groups seek radiological weapons. *“...option was to destroy the United States by means of decisive strategic operations with weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons if [we] are able to obtain them in cooperation with those who possess them, purchase them – or manufacture and use primitive atomic bombs or so called dirty bombs. ...”***



Mustafa  
Setmariam Nasar



# Learning Activity

## Intended Mass Casualties and Mayhem

- ◆ Incidents with greater casualties appear to be the goal for many terrorist groups not just as a function of efficiency and developing skills, but a tendency to view ever-larger casualty lists as a measure of notoriety, influence, and power.
- ◆ The specter of WMD amplifies the dangers of a catastrophic terrorist act. Yet, conventional improvised explosives were used by a US citizen in the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.
- ◆ In August 2006, an al-Qaida cell was disrupted that planned to bomb nearly a dozen airplanes while in flight enroute to the US.
- ◆ The anthrax attack in 2001 via the US postal mail system was notable in things that did *not* occur. The attack could have been much worse.



Anthrax Letters 2001



# Learning Activity

## Targeted Economic Disruption

◆ Modern, high-technology societies are susceptible to a concept of complex terrorism. Dependence on electronic networks, sometimes with minimal redundancy, and concentrating critical assets in small geographic locales can present lucrative targets for the terrorist.

◆ In the United States, the electric grid may be one of the prime terrorist targets. Factors not linked to terrorism contributed the August 2003 blackout that left 50 million people around the Great Lakes Region without power and cost the nation's economy an estimated \$1 billion.



Electrical Grid Blackout 2003

◆ Single points of failure in infrastructure or denying critical services for a period of time might cripple many of the world's economies. For example, one Saudi oil production facility at Abqaiq handles about two-thirds of the Saudi crude oil daily output.



# Learning Activity

## Exploited Mass Media Marketing

- ◆ Effectiveness of information operations will be measured by the ability of propaganda to cause a dramatic impact of fear and uncertainty in a target population.
- ◆ Terrorists plan and operate with today's near-instantaneous media coverage as key to the psychological stress on the target audience. Supporting events and interviews may announce an ultimatum or explanation. Near real-time videotape will publicize horrific acts or damage and destruction.



Media Interview

- ◆ Mass media marketing displays increased sophistication in use of information technology, video production, message encryption, steganography, website phishing-collection, and general manipulation of the Internet.



Terrorist Propaganda



# Learning Feedback

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## Enablers to Terror

- ◆ **Terrorism is an ongoing condition of contemporary times.**
- ◆ **Globalization and interdependence of societies increase information exchange in near real-time. Sensationalism is a momentary attraction. Modern communications provides the means for contact.**
- ◆ **Media, the public, and governmental leaders are sometimes coopted by casual use of terrorist vocabulary. Using a term appears to accept its meaning and can tacitly support extremist ideologies. Susceptible audiences may begin to believe terrorist propaganda.**
- ◆ **Dual use technologies, as in the bio-science fields, allow industrial enterprise but can also be the vector of acquiring a weapon of terror.**
- ◆ **Some State and Non-State actors can aid terrorist aims in the development of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).**





# Learning Feedback

## Ideological Zones of Conflict

- ◆ States may differ significantly in political ideology. State sponsors of terror such as North Korea and Syria are destabilizing influences to regions of the world.
- ◆ Culture may cause conflict due to emerging ethnic rivalries or regional histories.
- ◆ Economics and globalization may prompt violent competition for resources, technical-industrial advantage, or access to markets.



General Density of Sunni and Shia Muslims

- ◆ Theology, distorted by extremist interpretation, encourages Islamic domination of major areas of the world currently occupied by Muslims. Eventually, this theocratic radicalism seeks secular expansion to other regions of the world.



# Learning Feedback

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## ◆ *What are several future trends of terrorism?*

- ◆ Intensified Ideological Extremism
- ◆ Enhanced Operational Capabilities
- ◆ Flexible Organizational Networks
- ◆ Expanded Transnational Associations
- ◆ Emergent Independent Actors
- ◆ Increased Weapon System Lethality
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- ◆ Targeted Economic Disruption
- ◆ Exploited Mass Media Marketing

## ◆ *What techniques can be used in mass media terrorist propaganda?*

Mass media techniques and propaganda techniques include video production, message encryption, steganography, website phishing-collection, near instantaneous global communication or real-time event coverage on the Internet.



# Learning Summary

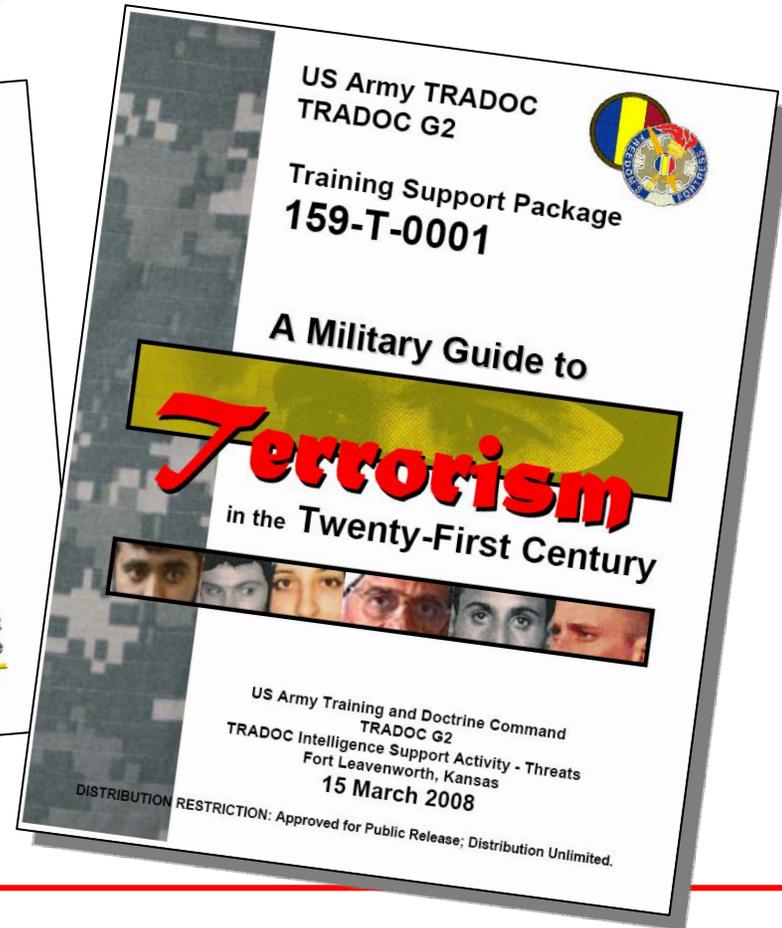
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- ◆ **Catastrophic attacks and sensational media marketing are critical to the psychological impact terrorism.**
- ◆ **Many terrorist groups are learning organizations that use collective experiences and the Internet to improve training, techniques, and actions to counter actions intended to deny or dissuade them from conducting terror.**
- ◆ **Independent terrorist actors can span a full range of citizens indoctrinated with an ideology, attracted to a distorted sense of purpose and justification as a group, or a lone person acting on his perception of righteousness, rebellion, or retaliation.**
- ◆ **Modern, high-technology societies are susceptible to a concept of complex terrorism. Single points of failure in infrastructure or denying critical services for a period of time might temporarily cripple many of the world's economies.**



# Lesson Conclusion

## Know The "Threats"





# Have You Achieved the TLO ?

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- ◆ **TASK:** Recognize **foreign and domestic terrorism Threats** to US Army forces in the contemporary operational environment (**COE**).
- ◆ **CONDITIONS:** Given small group instruction training or self-paced individual study as US Army awareness training; **current and predicted terrorism Threats in the US Homeland and other Combatant Command (COCOM) areas of responsibility**; patterns and trends of US Army vulnerability to terrorism effects in Army operational and institutional missions; the unclassified US Army TRADOC G2 Handbook No. 1, *A Military Guide to Terrorism in the Twenty-First Century* (Version 5.0), dated 15 August 2007 and, training support material provided with Training Support Package (TSP) 159-T-0001.
- ◆ **STANDARD:** Determine **terrorism capabilities and limitations** in terms of terrorist motivations and behavior, organizational models, and targeting of US military forces in the contemporary operational environment (**COE**).



# Learning Purpose and Intent

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◆ **PURPOSE:** Army TRADOC G2 Terrorism Handbook Series --

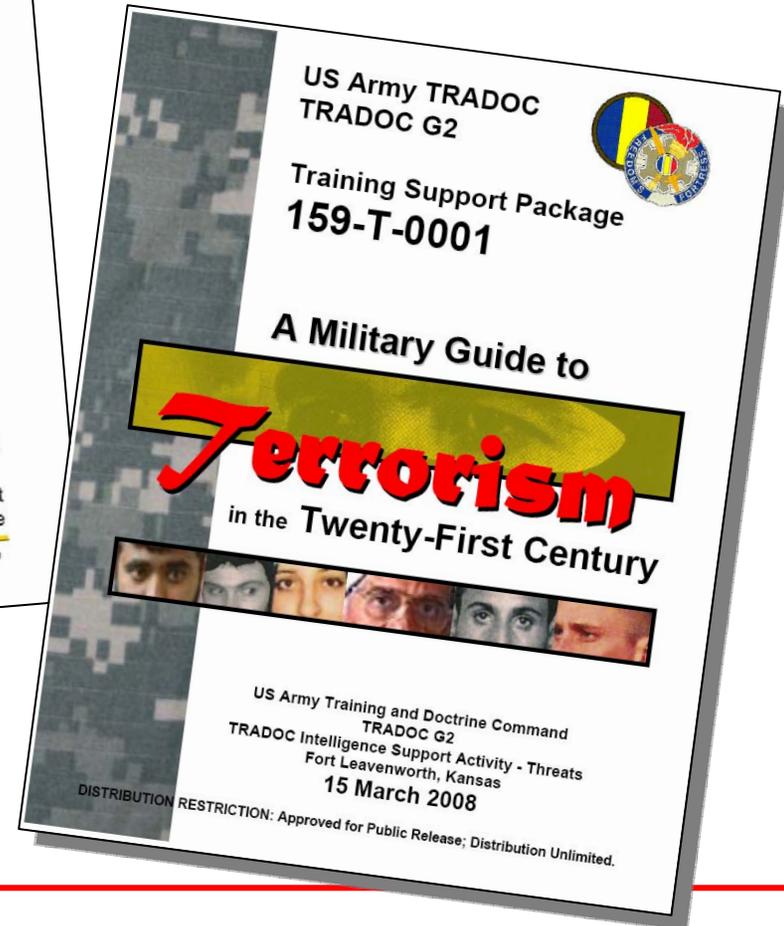
To describe the **foreign and domestic terrorist threats** in the contemporary operational environment (COE) and the probable and possible impacts on conduct of US military operations in the US Homeland and other US Combatant Command AORs.

◆ **INTENT:** Improve situational awareness and operational understanding of current **terrorism capabilities and limitations** with an unclassified capstone terrorism handbook and supplemental handbooks to complement Army doctrine, deliberate processes of military risk management, protection of friendly forces, mission orders conduct, and leader decisionmaking.

◆ **Operational Missions – Institutional Training – Joint Professional Education** ◆



# Learning Objective



*Know The Enemy!*