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DCSINT Handbook No. 1.05

A Military Primer to Terrorism in the Contemporary Operational Environment

US Army Training and Doctrine Command

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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.

…our most solemn obligation: to protect the security of the American people."

President George W. Bush

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Preface

This unclassified reference guide on terrorism is published under the direction of US Army TRADOC ADCSINT-Threats. The handbook supports institutional training, professional education, and operational missions. For US military forces in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), **three primary considerations are: deployed forces, in transit forces, and supporting forces at installations or institutions.** This handbook overview comprises foreign and domestic terrorism against the USA in a contemporary operational environment.

Compiled from open sources, this **"threats"** perspective presents an expected enemy situational understanding of US strategies, principles, and practices in combating terrorism. Published mainly for US military forces, probable enemy knowledge and insight apply also to inter-departmental, interagency, intergovernmental, non-governmental, and other private civilian organizations.

Proponent Statement

Headquarters, US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) is the proponent for this publication. Periodic updates will service user requirements on terrorism.

This terrorism handbook is designed to specifically provide an **unclassified "hip-pocket" general reference.** Bibliographical data is available in Army TRADOC DCSINT Handbook No. 1.

Send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 directly to US Army TRADOC DCSINT Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence-Threats, ATTN: ATIN-T (Bldg 53), 700 Scott Avenue, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-1323.

Introduction

The purpose of this primer is to describe foreign and domestic terrorist threats in the contemporary operational environment (COE) and the **likely impacts on conduct of US military operations** in the US Homeland and other US Combatant Command areas of responsibility (AOR).

The intent of this primer is to **improve situational awareness and operational understanding** of current terrorism capabilities and limitations, and complement the deliberate processes of military risk management, protection of friendly forces, mission orders conduct, and leader decisionmaking.

Actions, not words, will determine the outcome of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Terrorism ranges from individual acts of wanton damage and destruction to property or person, to highly sophisticated operations supported by transnational networks in the contemporary operational environment (COE). The most significant threats to US security are terrorist organizations and groups with global reach capabilities seeking to acquire and use materiel for weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

This war confronts terrorism in interrelated political, military, economic, social, information and infrastructure systems. The Army uses PMESII, physical environment, and time to plan and execute ground operations. Mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support, and civil considerations complement mission context.

PMESII and Other Variables

- Political
- Military
- Economic
- Social
- Information
- Infrastructure
- Physical Environment
- Time

Operational Environment is a composite of the conditions, circumstances, and influences that affect employment of military forces and bear on the decisions of the unit commander.

This contemporary period can be assessed as "...the most dangerous times of our lifetime …not so much because we know precisely what somebody's going to do, when and where, or how they're going to do it; but that we know their intent and we know what the possibilities are and we know what the vulnerabilities are…So terrorism is part of the tactic. In other ways it's [terror] an 'ism', much like communism and the others, only so much as it's embodied in whatever movements and for whatever reasons."

General Peter Schoomaker

How to Use This Handbook –

This handbook is a ready to use reference for

- **Professional Self-Development**
- **Joint Training and Education**
- **Operational Mission Focus**

Information is arranged for “hip-pocket” primer of basic definitions, concepts, and actions in terrorism. The table of contents presents the grouping of terrorism topics, however, each handbook area can be used for “opportunity based training” or form the basis for additional research and reflection. See the other US Army TRADOC DCSINT terrorism handbooks in the bibliography.

Know the Enemy!

Nature of Terrorism

The enemy is terrorism – premeditated, politically motivated violence that aims at subverting the rule of law and replacing it with rule by fear.

The war on terrorism is asymmetric in nature. A proactive strategy by the United States will remain direct and continuous, and use every instrument of national power – diplomatic, economic, law enforcement, financial, information, intelligence, and military – to degrade, disrupt, and destroy terrorist organizations.

The intent of our national strategy for combating terrorism is to stop terrorist attacks against the US, its citizens, its interests, and US friends and allies around the world. Ultimately, we are fighting to preserve and promote fundamental democratic values and a way of life.

What is Terrorism?

Terrorism is a violent act outside the normal bounds of civil law or conventional military conduct.

Understanding terror spans foreign and domestic threats of nation states, states of concern with international or transnational links demonstration, or an extremist actor with unlawful motivations, goals and objectives. Duration of the GWOT is long term and uncertain, and will be measured not in terms of weeks and months, but in years and decades. The aim of the terrorist, whether terrorism is viewed as a strategy, campaign, or tactic, is an attack on resolve.

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

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.

Definitions vary. The Department of State defines:

Terrorism is the premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetuated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents.
Terrorist Group is any group practicing, or which has significant subgroups which practice, international terrorism.
International Terrorism is terrorism involving citizens or the territory of more than one country.

Other related terms of reference exist in this struggle of proactive-reactive and offensive-defensive action. These actions can be a symmetric or more conventional confrontation between or among adversaries, or can be complex and asymmetric conflict.

"The war on terror…struggle against ideological extremists who do not believe in free societies…terror as a weapon to try to shake the conscience of the free world."

President George W. Bush

Terrorism Definitions

Terrorist: (JP 1-02)
An individual who uses violence, terror, and intimidation to achieve a result.
Counter-terrorism: (JP 1-02)
Offensive measures taken to prevent, deter, and respond to terrorism.
Anti-terrorism: (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.

Climate of Terrorism

Elements that frame terrorism include psychological and physical action. Ways of acting can be considered through a terrorist mindset. What available means can I apply to achieve my desired outcome? Violence, coercion, and damage-destruction can be used to produce an effect. Acts are rarely random. More often, terrorist acts are planned and conducted deliberately at a specific time and place against a particular target.

Media Mass Marketing

Media exploitation is a critical component in an act of terrorism. Sympathetic or balanced media outlets will be manipulated to gain and maintain notoriety and public attention of grievances or perceived injustices that incite the terrorism.

Terrorism in Insurgency

An insurgency is an organized movement with an intended political outcome to overthrow a constituted government. A protracted politico-military struggle intends to weaken government control and legitimacy while increasing insurgent control.

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 para-military operations conducted in enemy-held or hostile territory by irregular, predominantly indigenous forces.

Tactics and techniques may vary. Guerrilla warfare is a method an insurgency can use depending on capability to dominate territory, seek popular support, recruit, or develop capabilities to further improve its operations. Identifying the difference between an insurgent, a

guerrilla and a terrorist may be problematic. Also, an insurgency may actually be multiple insurgencies with factions using guerrilla warfare, terrorism, or a combination of both in threats and actions.

Insurgent-Guerrilla-Terrorist?

Terrorism is not necessarily a tactic or technique of an insurgency or guerrilla warfare. Terrorism relies on psychological impact to cause anxiety, damage resolve, and coerce decisions of an opposing force.

There is no one common definition of terrorism. The United Nations attempts to build cooperation toward international peace and security, to prevent entities from organizing, financing, encouraging, training, or harboring of groups that conduct terrorism, and to counter terrorism in accordance with international law.

Terror and Nation-States

Nations and states may use terror to influence or coerce their own populations, or they may support terrorist operations to advance agendas against their adversaries. An enemy of the US could use terrorism to expand a conflict beyond a particular region, or attempt to consume finite US military capabilities.

State terror demonstrates state policies to repress and control their own population. Official institutions such as courts, police, military, or other governmental agencies conduct actions to terrorize. Examples include Hitler's policies and concentration camps during the Nazi regime, Stalin's purges and gulags during his Soviets regime, or Amin's policies of mayhem and murder in Uganda.

State directed terror may come from a terrorist group operating as a direct agent of the government. Operations may include activities against other nations, its own population, or selected groups or individuals viewed as dangerous to the State. Although these actions may be approved by the State, no official recognition is normally acknowledged. Examples include Iranian assassination campaigns against dissidents to their theocracy who were living abroad, or Libyan support for operatives that bombed an airplane on an international flight that crashed and killed all on board.

Flight 103 Bombing
(*Source:* newsfeed.tcm.ie/ images/ people/lockerbie.jpg)

State supported terror occurs from a terrorist group that operates independently but receives support from one or more governments. Support can include training, funds, or other forms of materiel such as safe haven, physical basing, financing, intelligence, information

technology, or fabrication of documents and identities. Syria's support to HAMAS and Hizballah in Lebanon, or Iranian support for terrorism in Iraq are contemporary examples of state supported terrorism.

HAMAS
(*Source:* www.political-news.org/ images/…)

Political parties may be elected into State government, and exhibit clear associations to terrorism. Emergent contemporary situations such as HAMAS in the Mideast may blur the distinctions between state-directed and state-supported terrorism.

Sarin Attack Tokyo 1995

Non-State supported terror notes a terrorist group that operates autonomously and receives no significant support from any government. The Aum Shinrikyo cult in Japan is an example of non-state supported terror.

Terrorism and Global Reach

Terrorism, in some instances, has developed a global reach capability that attempts to use modern communication, commerce, and travel to advance its plans and actions. Terrorist organizations with **global reach** operate among several regions of the world and can have **transnational or global ambitions**. As the United States acts to diminish the scope and capabilities of such terrorist organizations, success will be realized in a long-term war to isolate terrorists from organizational support and safehaven, defeat terrorists through relentless offensive and defensive operations, and ultimately – destroy terrorist organizations that threaten the US and its friends and allies.

> "…inseparable priorities – fighting and wining the war on terror and promoting freedom as an alternative to tyranny and despair – have now guided American policy…"
>
> *National Security Strategy 2006*

Terrorism and WMD

The greater the threat, the greater the risk of inaction – and the more compelling the case for anticipatory action to defend ourselves, even if uncertainty remains as to the time and place of the enemy's attack. There are few greater threats than a terrorist attack with WMD.

President George W. Bush

The Federal interagency has developed fifteen National Planning Scenarios that could affect US domestic and foreign locations and people. The specter of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) has existed since the term arose in the mid-twentieth century. Devastating weapons have existed for centuries in the case of biological agents, and more recently, the chemical weapons of World War I. The acronym "NBC" emerged in post-World War II to catalog nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.

More recently, other means of mass destruction or mass disruption effects entered the vocabulary. Radiological weapons, often called radiological dispersion devices, add to a grouping of weapon capabilities as chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological (CBRN). Recognition of explosives with high yield effects adds a category to a contemporary acronym of CBRNE.

Sarin Attack at Tokyo Subway
(*Source:* http://www.cbirf.usmc.mil/background.htm)

Some terrorists profess that acquisition and use of WMD is a [extremist] religious duty and threaten to use WMD against the USA. Today, some terrorist groups see WMD as weapons of choice. **Chemical** agent sarin used in the 1995 attack by terrorists on citizens in the Tokyo subway

system intended to kill and maim thousands of people. Toxic industrial chemicals can be released with disastrous results. Although not a terrorist act, in 1984 a disgruntled pesticide plant employee in Bhopal, India is believed to have released 40 metric tons of a chemical into the air. Resulting casualties were 2000 local residents killed and 100,000 injured people.

Anthrax Letters *circa* 2001
(*Source:* www.fbi.gov/publications/ terror/page16.jpg)

Biological agents can be used to incapacitate or kill people and animals, and damage or destroy food supplies and materiel. Production and delivery of these weapons are easy to transport in many cases, and often the evidence of an attack may not occur until days after the weapon

release. The anthrax attacks in the US shortly after the 911 attacks resulted fortunately in few casualties, but caused significant disruption to economic systems and spawned psychological stress and vulnerability.

Radiological contamination, and fear of health issues due to radiation is a practical threat from a “dirty bomb.” Explosives could disperse radiological material over a wide area and cause long-term evacuation of affected areas.

Nuclear scenarios could include sabotage at nuclear facilities, suicide attack into a nuclear facility, or terrorist acquisition of nuclear weapons or nuclear material.

High Yield Explosives have been used by foreign and domestic terrorists with horrific results. Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia or the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City demonstrate the blast effects of simple improvised explosives.

Murrah Building in Oklahoma City
(*Source:* http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/pubs...)

As noted in the *National Security Strategy*, the contemporary environment confronting the US is radically different from previous threats and decades.

Yet, the first duty of the United States Government is to protect the American people and interests.

Ideology and Behavior

Ideological Influences

Terrorists may feel they have been alienated by their society or may have a grievance that in their own minds compel them to seek revenge or a perceived justice. Examples of political, religious, or social and special interest ideologies are:

Political. Categories vary in political ideologies. Several of the more prominent ideologies are:

Separatist groups seek conditions such as independence, political autonomy, or other concessions.

Beslan-Russia Hostage Murder Crisis
(Source: www.vrtniews.net/…/ N_051227_Beslan2_b.jpg)

Nationalistic groups promote a cultural or nationalistic theme to identity purpose and splitting from a controlling government.

Revolutionary groups seek to overthrow an established order and replace it with a new form of social, economic, or political structure.

Anarchists are anti-authority or anti-government and strongly support individual liberty or voluntary association of cooperative groups.

Right Wing groups are sometimes described as reactionaries. Fascism or neo-Nazi associations are extreme examples.

Aryan Nation
Hate Group Leader
(*Source:* ADL www.adl.org)

Left Wing groups are sometimes referred to as radicals. Extreme examples are socialist or variants of communism such as a Maoist or a Marxist-Leninist political tradition.

Religious. The world's major religions have examples of extremists and extremism. Some people use violence and terror as actions quite different, if not counter, to the essential doctrine of their religion. Cults exist too, and can distort what means are acceptable in furthering their quasi-religious or unorthodox viewpoints. The Tokyo sarin attacks spotlight cult following and intention for catastrophic terrorism.

Shining Path and Terror
(*Source:* http://128.103.142.209/issues/...)

Shoko Asahara
and
Aum Shinrikyo

Social and Special Interests.

Ethnocentric groups may use race as a defining issue to build a sense of unity or superiority, and use fear to advance their agendas.

Extremism in ***Animal Rights*** or ***Environmental Rights*** has become one of the most significant US domestic terrorism threats. As autonomous cells or individuals, the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) conducts economic sabotage and property destruction against entities thought to be damaging the natural environment. Timber harvesting, animal research, or urban sprawl could be recurring targets.

Animal Liberation Front (ALF)

ELF Domestic Eco-Terror
(Source: www.tkb.org/.../GR41_ ELF...)

Another example is ***Abortion Rights*** and the terrorism some people demonstrate in supporting parenthood options or the right of life to a human embryo and fetus.

The US has experienced other ***Domestic Hate Groups*** and their use of terrorism such as the Ku Klux Klan or Aryan Nation. Groups with other agendas, such as the Weather Underground, have used forms of terror to gain attention for political viewpoints.

MS13 Gang Member
(*Source:* http://srrtraining.com/images/ms13.jpg)

Domestic militia groups, criminal gangs, and an **increasing appearance of international gangs** and activities in US communities, prisons, and across international borders demonstrate the ability of groups to use terror in advancing their influence and coercion. One example is Mara Salvartrucha (MS13) that has its origin in El Salvador criminal activity.

Individual Characteristics

Terrorists are often unremarkable in their characteristics. No singular personality defines a terrorist.

Intellect and Education. Poverty and despair are not the sole laboratories for creating terrorists. Although being socially disenfranchised and having minimal social mobility allows discontent and can fester into terrorism, many terrorists come from middle class society. Some terrorists are well educated or emerged from upper class families.

Gender, Age, and Appearance. Traditionally, terrorism has been seen as primarily a male role; however, women are an increasingly dangerous

presence in acts of terror. Adolescents are often receptive to recruiting, and even children have been convinced to conduct acts of terror.

Ethnic diversity within some terrorist groups can complicate any supposed norms of appearance.

Countering ideological support for terrorism (CIST) is significant in combating terrorism. US global strategy is to eliminate state and private support for terrorism, make it politically unsustainable for any country to support or condone terrorism, and support moderation in the Muslim world – build stronger security ties with Muslim countries, help change Muslim misperceptions of the US and the West, and reinforce the message that the **GWOT is not against Islam, but is an outgrowth of a conflict between extremists and those who oppose them.**

Organizational Behavior

Terrorist organizations have collective behavior that is often very coercive on the individual actions of their members. Secrecy and devotion to the group can be compelled through fear and acts of retribution to members who attempt to depart the group. Other techniques may include oaths of loyalty and expectation of unquestioned obedience. At times, charismatic leadership may persuade allegiance and dependability.

IRA on City Street
(*Source:* www.m15.gov.uk/files/...)

Groups may fracture or divide to reform as splinter groups with differing aims and agendas. Militant cells may conduct terror not in accordance with political goals of the same organization.

Structure and Organization

Organizational Intent

Structure, membership, and resources indicate the degree of capability, resolve, and operational reach of a terrorist organization. Terrorist groups appear to gravitate to acts of terror with increased destruction and notoriety.

Munich Olympics

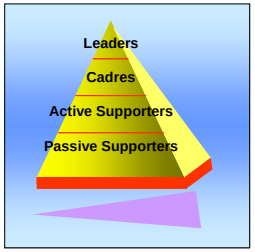
Components of organization can be assessed in general groupings. Categories may include **affiliations, functions, motivations, or what ideology feeds an individual or group vision** of goals and objectives. A growing concern is the expanding abilities and mutual support of foreign and domestic terrorist organizations with international and transnational terrorist networks.

Operational Intent

The global presence of the United States as a superpower makes an attractive target for terrorist groups. Terrorism can challenge the US by concentrating on perceived weaknesses. Techniques can **threaten, demonstrate, feint, or attack.** Terrorist perceptions may include the USA as extremely casualty adverse and a nation that cannot sustain long term conflicts. Terrorists know that the economy can be fragile and if attacked at or along critical nodes, can be easily disrupted. Terrorists attempt to influence public opinion and thereby influence US policy.

Terrorist action will continue to attempt events that cause mass casualties, damage economies, fracture US alliances, coalitions, and partnerships, and break public resolve.

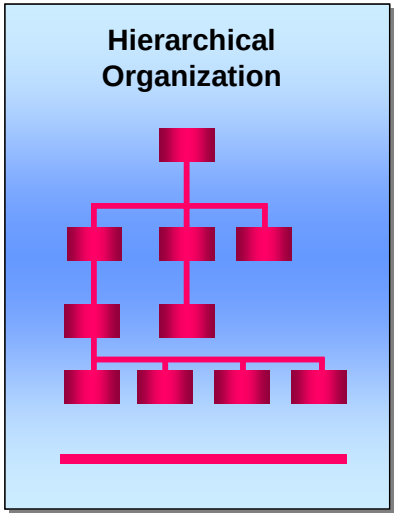
Levels of Participation



As a generalized concept, terrorist organizations may display four levels of participation. The image of a pyramid creates an appreciation of how many people may operate at each of these four levels.

Leaders provide direction and policy. ***Cadres*** are active members who plan and conduct operations, and manage functional aspects such as resources, finances, logistics, media, training, and operations. ***Active supporters*** assist knowingly in functional elements of the group such as surveillance, safehaven, logistics, communications, or other practical contributions. ***Passive supporters*** may be sympathetic or coerced, but do not actively participate in operations.

Hierarchical Structure

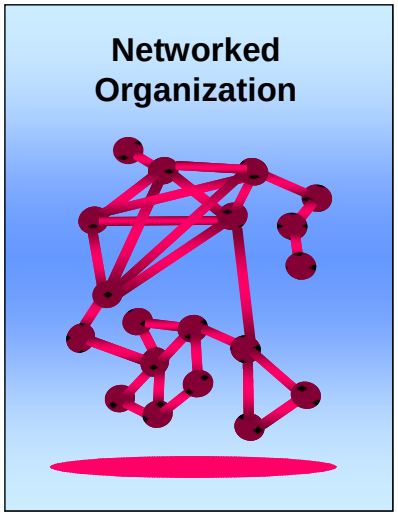


Hierarchical structures have a well-defined command and control system. Coordination flows along vertical and horizontal links. Specialized functions may be intelligence, support and services, training, operations, fiscal revenue, civil affairs, and media relations.

Aspects to consider for strengths and weaknesses include:

- Unified command structure
- Functional support systems
- Linear communications systems

Network Structure



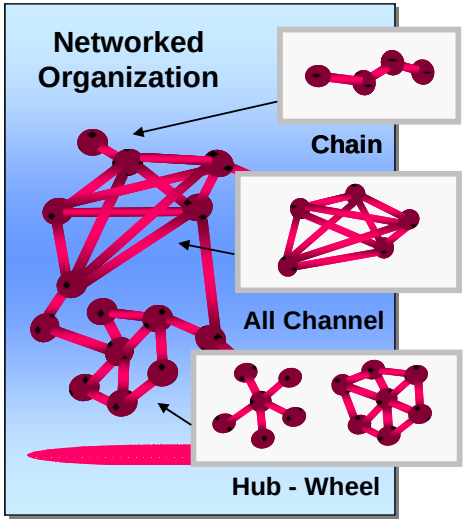
Networked structures distribute responsibility for operations and provide redundancy for key functions and leadership.

Cells are the basic element of a network. A cell can be an individual, group, or small type-organization.

Aspects to consider for strengths and weaknesses include:

- Distributed planning-operations
- Compartmented intelligence
- Adaptive functional systems

Types of Network Structure



Three types of networked structure are: chain, hub, and all-channel.

Chain networks link to the next node in sequence and operate in a linear manner. ***All-channel*** networks provide for hybrids among all nodes and distributed means of command and control. ***Hub*** networks, and variations, operate with one central node as a director or decisionmaker.

US Domestic or Indigenous Grouping

Domestic terrorism is terrorism caused by the citizen of a country against fellow countrymen. These acts of terror by citizens to the attacked country are sometimes called “home grown” terrorism.

“Eco-Terrorism” and Property Damage

Although a significant US domestic terrorism threat is animal-environmental rights movements, other categories of concern are politically motivated left-wing, right-wing, or special interest groups. The devastation caused in Oklahoma City by a US citizen, or the potential of al Qaeda, or proxies operating within the US, is a real and constant danger.

International Grouping

International terrorism is terrorism involving citizens or the territory of more than one country. These terrorist groups may operate in multiple countries but usually keep a geographic regional focus.

Hizballah is an example of a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) that conducts international terrorism operations the Mideast, has cells in other regions such as North America, and has conducted anti-US attacks in the Mideast.

Groups such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC) include terrorism in their insurgency with murder, kidnapping, bombings, extortion, and drug trafficking.

FARC Leader Extradited to US
(Source: AP Photo/Javier Galeano, File)

Transnational Grouping

The primary transnational terrorist threat to the United States remains al Qaeda.

Membership has a diverse social, national, and ethnic attraction. Whether trained in terrorist camps operated by al Qaeda in distant regions of the world or recruited locally through identity with an extreme misinterpretation of religious beliefs, terrorism conducted in attacks such as Beslan or Madrid were committed by local groups at least inspired by al Qaeda.

Ramzi Yousef
WTC Bombing 1993
(Source: www.fas.org/irp/ threat/ fbi_terror95/yousef.jpg)

The al Qaeda remains intent on attacking the US Homeland and US interests abroad.

Know the Adversary

Understand terrorist group organization and capability. Objectives can be evaluated for stated or **likely target and activity selection** that include specific people, sites, or functions.

HAMAS

Appreciating terrorist support factors can be political-diplomatic goals, financial support, popular sympathy and sanction, training, and operational capabilities. Legally elected political parties exist linked directly to terrorists. HAMAS is a recognized governmental entity in Lebanon, but is a direct sponsor of terrorism as integral to their regional aims. Operational presence demonstrates the terrorist degree of training, weapons and equipment, operations, social acceptance, overt or covert infrastructure, and information media systems in use.

Capabilities and Intentions

Goals

Terrorist goals vary. However, US military forces or individual members of the Armed Forces may often be a terrorist target within a campaign. Reasons include

- Demonstrate terrorist capability in a geographic area.
- Influence US regional and domestic policy.
- Influence US relationships with regional allies and partners.
- Reduce US military capabilities.

Al Qaeda has identified **US military forces** as one of its priority targets. Other terrorist groups have specifically targeted US military forces and facilities also.

Plan and Action Cycle

Terrorist Planning Cycle

- Broad Target Selection
- Intelligence and Surveillance
- Specific Target Selection
- Pre-Attack Surveillance and Planning
- Attack Rehearsals
- Actions on the Objective
- Escape and Exploitation

Terrorist attacks follow basic planning and operating principles that key on the psychological impact on a target population. Although steps in terrorist operations may differ, seven phases can be used as a common template for **understanding and awareness**.

Cycles may take years from an initial concept to conduct of an attack, but innovation and shorter timelines often exist. Demonstrating attack success against a target is an overarching criterion in plans, operations, and media exploitation.

Broad Target Selection

New York City

This initial phase is collection of information on **potential targets.** Open sources and other general information, operative recommendations, and terrorist group leader decisionmaking scopes the list of potential targets for refined collection.

Terrorist group objectives guide the value placed on a possible target and projected results will be assessed in a larger context of operational goals and organizational intent, and factors of economic impacts and **psychological effects on a population.**

Port of Los Angeles

Intelligence Gathering and Surveillance

Potential vulnerabilities cause additional information gathering and collation of data into intelligence estimates. **Ongoing surveillance** collects on target patterns and trends. Observers and researchers catalog routines in work habit, procedures, or recurring procedures. Surveys look for vulnerabilities in physical layout of facilities, offices, or residences. Regular routes of travel and transportation add to the assessment.

Attack in Jeddah 2004

Security measures consider physical security barriers and sensors, guard forces, access procedures, and estimates of time and distance from particular location to location. Observing reaction time of security response units is of particular importance.

Specific Target Selection

Deciding on a specific target considers a continuous flow of information and intelligence collection and analysis.

The Pentagon

Issues for decisionmaking include; immediate media value, physical target relationship to the target audience, consistency with terrorist aims, **ability to demonstrate attack success** and cost in organizational resources in relation to the psychological impact on the target audience.

Pentagon 911 Damage

Target selections for 911 were a deliberate process by al Qaeda. Similarly, a domestic terrorist deliberately chose Oklahoma City.

Pre-Attack Surveillance and Planning

In this phase, operational terrorist cells appear that will be directly involved in the attack. **Detailed surveillance** confirms previous data collection and estimates, and maintains current situational awareness of the target.

Specialized operatives may be recruited and trained in this phase. Bases of operations such as bombmaking sites or safehouses and caches will be activated.

Port of Aden and Naval Ships

Planning weapon delivery will be refined. If part of the operation, escape routes will be designed.

Attack Rehearsals

Rehearsal is the practice of each aspect in the terrorist attack plan. Evaluating each step will **confirm planning assumptions** to the degree possible, determine the readiness of cell members and systems, and **consider contingencies** of opportunities or setbacks that may occur during the operation.

Observing security force reaction to a ruse or demonstration provides valuable information on their state of alert, size and capability of response force, probable routes to the attack site, and any expectation of security force reinforcements. Adjustments to the plan are finalized and approval is given by the leader to conduct the attack.

Actions on the Objective

Given the secrecy of plans and preparations leading to the conduct of an attack, this phase has the initiative in its **surprise** and violent execution.

Actions on the objective may be a single focused attack or an operation with several linked activities. More complex attacks may have terrorist elements responsible for local security and support tasks.

Recording the attack with video-audio or camera coverage can be used for terrorist **lessons learned** and training, and can be an effective marketing technique for mass informational impact.

Escape and Exploitation

Escape tasks are a significant phase of an attack mission. Suicide-homicide operations should not minimize the expectation that many terrorist groups seek to expand their capabilities in terror with recurring attacks by **experienced group members.** Suicide-homicide missions often have support members, observers, or handlers who require escape and exfiltration from the attack site.

Exploitation uses the damage and destruction of the attack to **incite anxiety and fear** in the target audience. Unsuccessful attacks may be disavowed when possible by the terrorist group.

al Qaeda Objectives

Military forces can be a symbolic target of US power in a region. Terrorist groups know they cannot compete successfully against the US in conventional military operations, but realize the advantages of intimidation, anxiety, and promoting extreme violence with a distorted belief of religious sanction. For example, primary al Qaeda objectives in the Mideast are:

- Remove US military presence from Iraq and Arabian Peninsula.
- Remove secular governments in the region and replace them with theocracies.
- Eliminate the state of Israel and purge the Arab Peninsula of Jewish and Christian influence.
- Expand their extremist ideology of Islam to create a totalitarian state seeking world domination.

Targeting US Military Forces

The terrorist threat is ever-present as US military forces conduct their duties in the US Homeland and throughout the world.

Terrorist action can occur **during operational missions, at force projection installations, and in other institutional locations** in support of the Armed Forces at home and abroad.

Deployed Forces

US military forces remain a regular presence in many areas of the world. As such, these **organizations, activities, and individuals** offer a prime target to terrorists.

Mosul Dining Facility Bombing
(*Source:* www.marinetimes.com/.../ edit...)

Base camps or other semi-fixed locations and routes among them can provide a lucrative target. Urban terrain is a popular haven and operating area for terrorists.

Hiding and observing within a native population provides a degree of security; actions prior to an attack can be masked to preclude detection. Sites that concentrate military members near forward operating locations, or deployment and redeployment points can be targets too.

In-Transit Forces

Movements as part of deployment and redeployment operations can be susceptible to terrorist attack. Whether **intra-theater or inter-theater** in scope, methods of transportation have critical points to embark, trans-load, refuel, refit, assemble, and debark.

USS *Cole* Attack 2000

Sustaining US military forces may also have single points of failure in equipment, system capabilities, or technical skills. These types of **critical nodes**, if attacked, may delay or disrupt the in-transit flow and power projection capability of US military forces.

Institutional-Installation Forces

Naval Complex

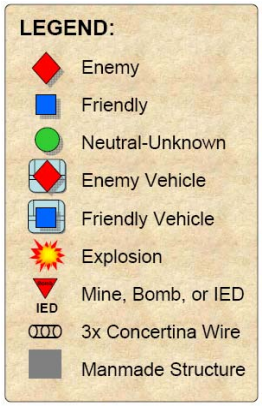
US military forces require a **sustaining base**. This support system can be a localized permanent US station, base, or post, as well as a forward deployed installation for specific missions of uncertain duration.

Traditional organizational celebrations and special days with **high densities of people** could be selected for attack. Single points of failure in equipment, system support, or technical skills, once identified, could become prime targets. **Critical operational or institutional infrastructure**, on or near an installation, could be a key target. Domestic terrorists or proxies of foreign terrorists could seek to acquire specialized military equipment or weapons for their own use.

Terrorism Vignettes

Title	Example
Threat-Hoax	TANGO BRAVO 1
IED: Single Bomb	TANGO BRAVO 2
IED Bomb: Decoy and Primary	TANGO BRAVO 3
IED Bomb: Multiple Bomb	TANGO BRAVO 4
IED Bomb: Letter-Package	TANGO BRAVO 5
IED Suicide Bomber: Dismount	TANGO BRAVO 6
IED Bomb: Aerial Dispersal	TANGO BRAVO 7
VBIED: Single Stationary	TANGO BRAVO 8
VBIED Bomb: Park and Go	TANGO BRAVO 9
VBIED Bomb: Single Ram	TANGO BRAVO 10
VBIED Bomb: Stop and Ram	TANGO BRAVO 11
VBIED Bomb: Breach and Ram	TANGO BRAVO 12
VBIED Bomb: Swarm/Multi-Ram	TANGO BRAVO 13

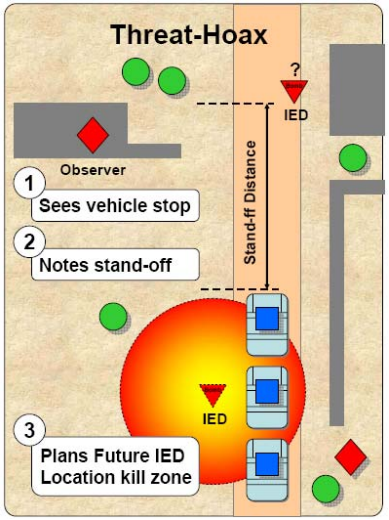
Raid-Ambush	**TANGO ALPHA**
Kidnap	**TANGO KILO**
Snipe	**TANGO SIERRA**
Assassinate	**TANGO XRAY**
IED Bomb: Surface Water	**TANGO WHISKEY**
MANPADS: Single Missile	**TANGO FOXTROT**
Hostage	**TANGO HOTEL 1**
Hijack-Seizure	**TANGO HOTEL 2**
Sabotage	**TANGO ZULU**



Most Dangerous Threat Options

Terrorist Focused Planning Scenarios

Threat-Hoax *Example TANGO BRAVO 1*



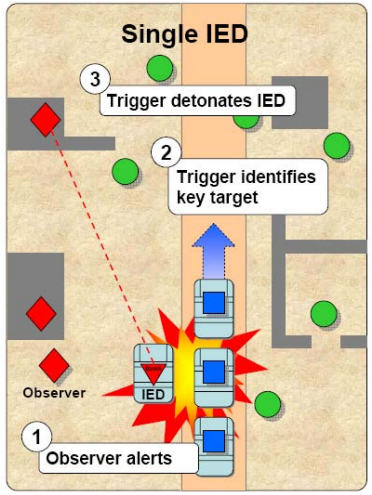
A terrorist group can use threats or a hoax to **coerce**, or preclude actions by a targeted person or population.

Recurring threats can annoy and erode capability of security forces and agitate a population. Extortion can gain resources to support terrorist operations. Hoaxes can **observe reaction** to threats and identify weaknesses in security measures.

Security Point with Bradley and Soldiers

NOTES

IED: Single Bomb *Example TANGO BRAVO 2*



Bombing is a favored means of terrorism. Bomb delivery can be in many different forms and easily disguised. Various detonation techniques exist such as remote or command detonation.

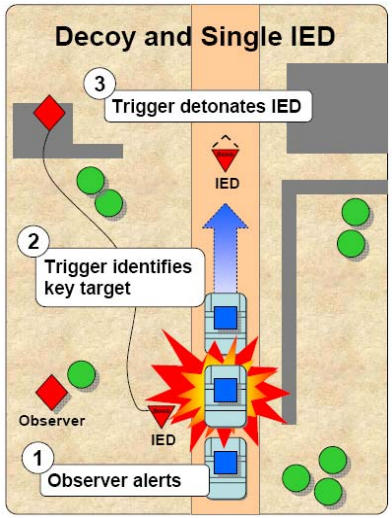
Simple manufacturing technologies, available explosives, and low cost make this attractive.

Roadside Bombing

Improvised explosive devices (IED) are a common terrorist weapon of choice.

NOTES

IED Bomb: Decoy and Primary *Example TANGO BRAVO 3*

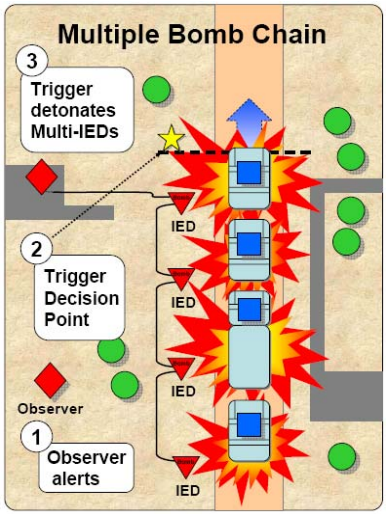


Improvised explosive devices (IED) are often set with a decoy bomb to focus attention, while an active bomb is located for blast effects against expected congregation areas or other targets in a nearby kill zone.

An observer often works as part of a cell to alert another terrorist to trigger the IED. Other techniques include use of range stakes or selected marker point of when to detonate the IED. Triggers can be **remote or command controlled** for IED detonation.

NOTES

IED Bomb: Multiple Bomb *Example TANGO BRAVO 4*

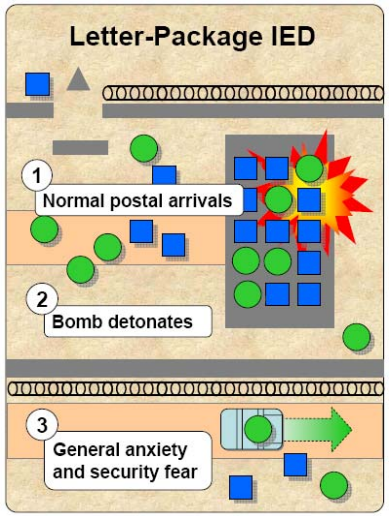


Improvised explosive devices (IED) can be emplaced as a group or series of IEDs to cause **simultaneous or nearly simultaneous** blasts to achieve the most effective damage against an intended target area.

Linear or area IEDs can be detonated at the same time or in a sequence to improve blast effects. Observers can assess damage and reactions to improve subsequent attacks. Videotaping an attack can provide **lessons learned** for future attacks too.

NOTES

IED Bomb: Letter-Package *Example TANGO BRAVO 5*



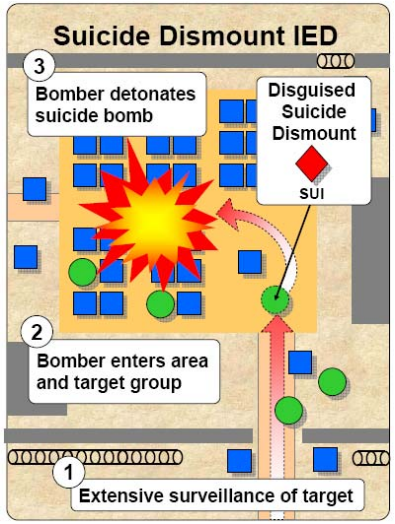
Letter or package bombs can be very disruptive to normal commerce, civil administration, or official and personal mail handling.

Weapons can range from explosive material to the distribution of lethal biological agent. The post-911 anthrax terror in the USA and other anthrax alerts are examples.

Anthrax Scare
(*Source:* newsimg.bbc.co.uk/ media/ images/39207000/jpg/_..

NOTES

IED Suicide Bomber: Dismount Example TANGO BRAVO 6



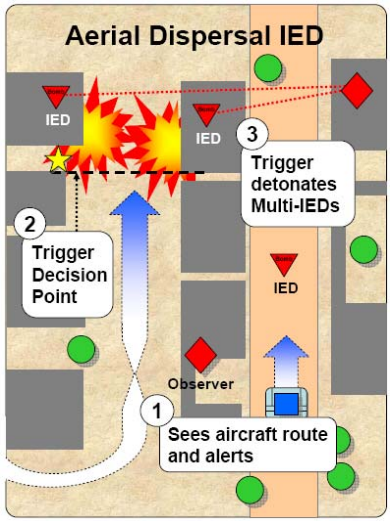
An individual terrorist can counter normal security procedures and enter an area of people concentration to commit suicide-homicide.

One example is the suicide bombing at a dining facility in Mosul, Iraq in 2004.

Mosul Dining Facility Bombing
(*Source:* image.guardian.co.uk/.../mosul192.jpg)

NOTES

IED Bomb: Aerial Dispersal *Example TANGO BRAVO 7*

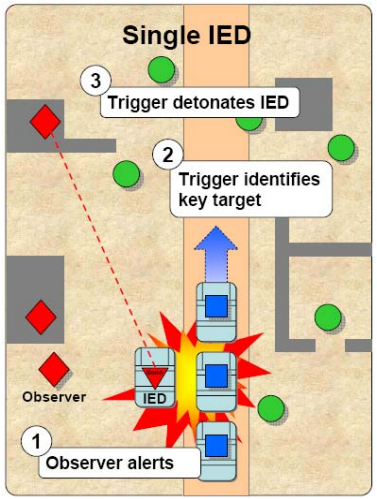


Improvised explosive devices (IED) can be positioned to counter expected routes of low flying aircraft. **Canalized urban areas or other natural terrain** features along restricted air routes could shape a kill zone.

A variation could place IEDs above probable motor routes and trigger detonation as people or vehicles travel under the kill zone. Examples are IEDs under highway overpasses or mounted in a directional manner above the ground surface along routes or choke points.

NOTES

VBIED Bomb: Single Stationary Example TANGO BRAVO 8



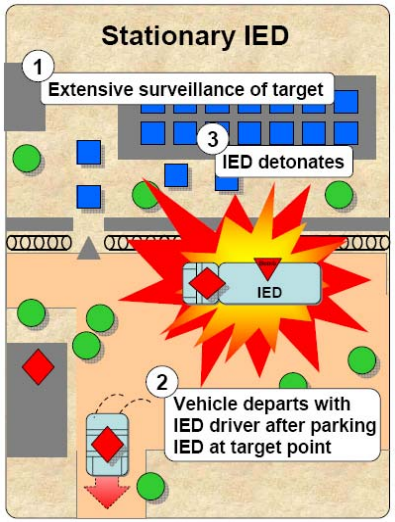
A **vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED)** can be positioned in a kill zone to attack people or passing vehicles.

Previous terrorist ruses identify norms in adversary reactions to a possible IED. The normal **stand-off distance area** can be the actual target kill zone for an IED.

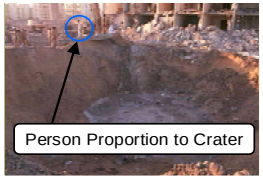
Techniques include abandoned vehicles on a roadway or a vehicle that appears to be inoperative with passengers attempting repairs.

NOTES

VBIED Bomb: Park and Go *Example TANGO BRAVO 9*



A **vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED)** can be parked in a kill zone to attack a concentration of people or damage military facilities.

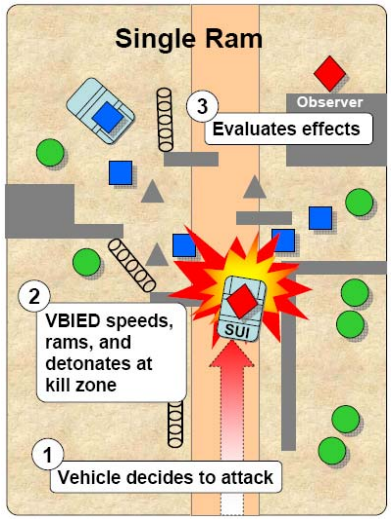


Khobar Towers Crater and Facilities Damage

In 1996, Saudi Hizballah bombed the Khobar Towers military compound that killed or wounded military members and other people, and severely damaged facilities.

NOTES

VBIED Bomb: Single Ram *Example TANGO BRAVO 10*



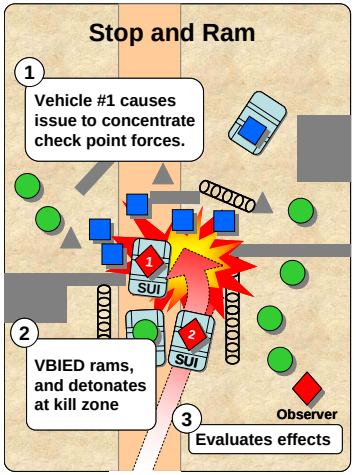
A vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) can be used against a **fixed or moving target.** The VBIED may attempt to blend into the local traffic pattern, and then make a sudden acceleration to ram its target and **explode.**

Variation may include casual approach of vehicle to the target and detonating IED within the intended kill zone.

VBIED Destroyed at Security Point

NOTES

VBIED Bomb: Stop and Ram Example TANGO BRAVO 11



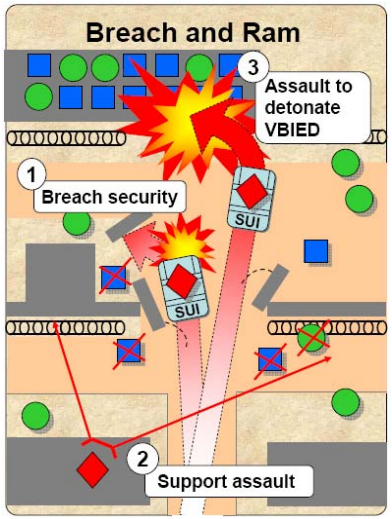
A vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) can be used against a fixed or moving target. Two or more vehicles may position themselves in the local traffic pattern to allow one vehicle to occupy the attention of a group of people.

Lead vehicle **diverts attention** in immediate area. Second VBIED accelerates rapidly and attempts to **ram and explode.**

VBIED Explodes in front of Check Point

NOTES

VBIED Bomb: Breach and Ram Example TANGO BRAVO 12

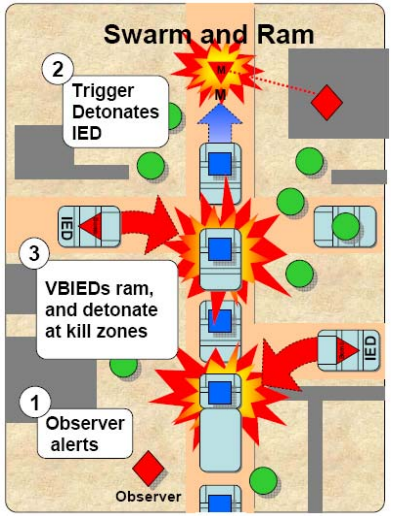


A vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) can be used against a fixed or moving target. Two or more vehicles may position themselves to **assault** and **breach** physical security and allow passage of follow-on VBIEDs to attack a target.

Lead vehicle breaches. Other terrorists provide **support** by fire and local security to assist follow-on assault primary target. The second vehicle detonates in the collected group of people, equipment, or target area.

NOTES

VBIED Bomb: Swarm/Multi-Ram Example TANGO BRAVO 13

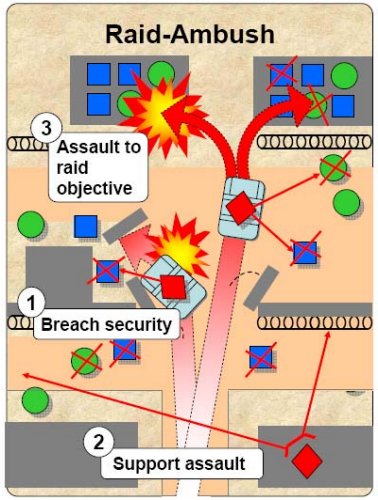


A vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) can be used against a fixed or moving target. Multiple vehicles may attack various locations to **overwhelm local physical security** measures, and allow follow-on VBIEDs to attack a target.

Support by fire elements and local security can assist the attack elements in the kill zone or may dismount to raid objectives. **Individual terrorists will exfiltrate from the target area along planned routes.**

NOTES

Raid-Ambush *Example TANGO ALPHA*



Armed attacks on facilities or locations may intend to gain access to a specified capability at the site, **kill** or take **hostage** people, **damage or destroy** key assets or infrastructure, **demonstrate** ability, or **acquire resources** known to be at the site.

The attack on the housing compound in Riyadh aimed to discredit the capabilities of the Saudi government.

Housing Compound
Riyadh Attack 2003

NOTES

Kidnap *Example TANGO KILO*

Kidnapping is usually a **covert seizure** of a person or persons. Intentions may range from general notoriety, spotlighting a particular terrorist issue, or demand for ransom.

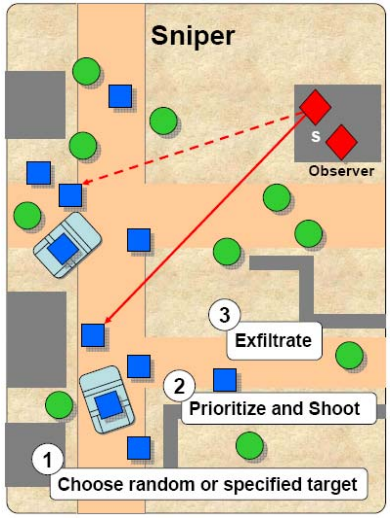
Some kidnappings are actually assassinations since the terrorists intend to kill the individual or individuals as part of the operation. The kidnapping of Brigadier General Dozier by left-wing Red Brigade terrorists in 1982 involved 42 days of captivity before being rescued in Padua, Italy. Previous Red Brigade kidnappings and murders included a former Italian Prime Minister.

Brigadier General Dozier
Above, Left (*Source:* http://newsimg.bbc.co.uk/media/images/_40754…)

NOTES

Snipe

Example TANGO SIERRA



The act of sniping is the **deliberate shooting of an individual** from a hidden position. The sniper uses stealth to observe, select, and shoot the target. Selection of a target can be an identified leader, specialist, or random member of an organization.

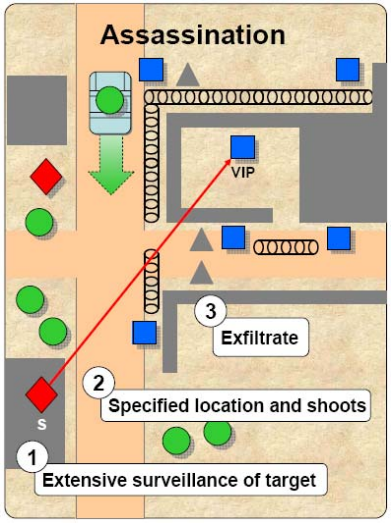
In 1981, Red Army Faction (RAF) used RPGs and gunfire to attack General Kroesen in his car.

Attempt on General Kroesen by RAF in Germany 1981
(Source: texte ruprecht de/bild php?id=186)

NOTES

Assassinate

Example TANGO XRAY



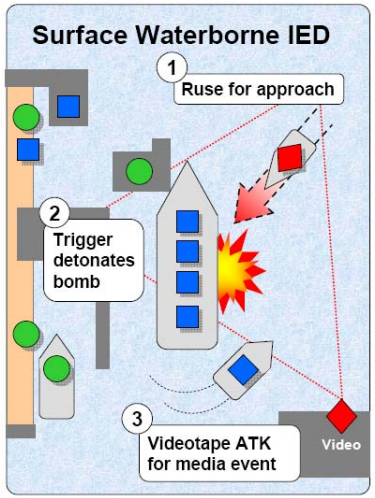
Assassination is normally associated with **killing a prominent person.** Targets may be symbolic or they may provide critical leadership. Extensive target surveillance precedes an assassination attempt.

General Haig

Weapons and technique vary. In 1979, Red Army Faction terrorists in Belgium attempted to assassinate General Haig with a road bomb as his car traveled a regular route.

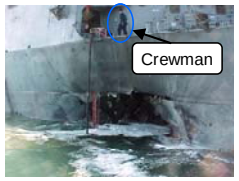
NOTES

IED Bomb: Surface Water *Example TANGO WHISKEY*



Improvised explosive devices (IED) can be used part of a mobile attack such as a high-speed boat filled with explosives, or can be used in waterways as subsurface or anchored weapons. Remote or command detonation can focus on a particular target.

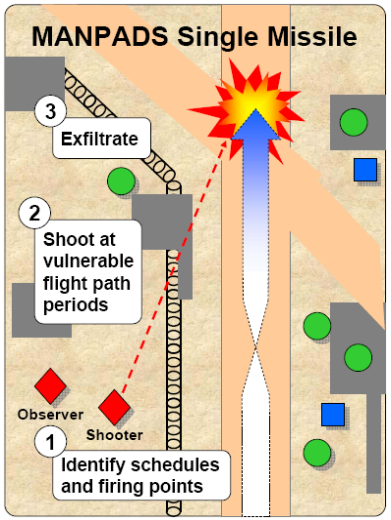
Suicide bombers have used **small boats** to conduct waterborne attacks on other vessels or coastline sites.



USS *Cole* Damage from Boat Bomb

NOTES

MANPADS: Single Missile *Example TANGO FOXTROT*



Man portable air defense systems (MANPADS) can be used to shoot down aircraft. **Shoulder fired, surface to air missiles** with infra-red sensors have proven very effective against helicopters and airplanes.

Individual or volley missile fire can be conducted at firing points preselected by terrorists based on known or probable flight avenues.

After the attack, **terrorists will exfiltrate** from the immediate area.

NOTES

Hostage *Example TANGO HOTEL 1*

Hostage taking is usually an **overt seizure** of one or more individuals. The terrorist intention is to gain notoriety, gain concessions based on demands, or ransom.

TWA 847 Terrorist Hijackers and Media
(*Source:* http://avpv.tripod.com/twa-847-shiite-hijackers.JPG)

Hostage taking involves significant risk for the terrorist due to the known location of the crisis situation and bid for wide **publicity**.

Hostages can be normal citizens or members of the Armed Forces. The 1985 hostage taking and hijacking of TWA Flight 847 resulted in the murder of a US military member.

NOTES

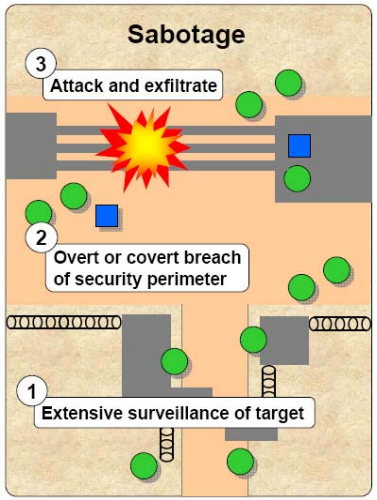
Hijack-Seizure *Example TANGO HOTEL 2*

Hijacking involves the **forceful commandeering** of a conveyance and people that may be in the immediate vicinity. Airplanes have often been the scene of hijacking, but other means of travel such a ships, trains, or buses can be targets too. **Intentions** for hijacking vary based on the terrorist group, but can have catastrophic results as experienced on 911.

911 Attack on WTC, Crash Site of Flight 93, and Pentagon
(*Source: Left,* www.veteranstoday.com/ spaw/images/WTC-911_1.jpg
Center, www.september11news.com/ Flight93CraterReuters.jpg
Right, US Army Photographer Paul Disney)

NOTES

Sabotage *Example TANGO ZULU*



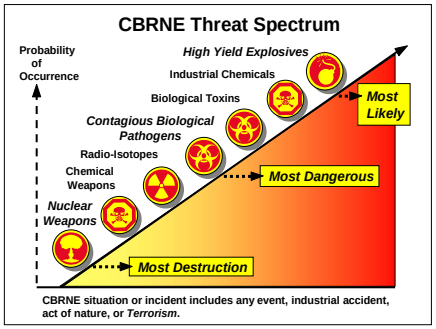
The terrorist intention to **destroy or damage infrastructure** of an adversary indicates the inability of the opponent to protect its people, facilities, and security.

Sabotage creates **psychological and physical impact** on the target audience.

Arson, the act of setting fire to property, is one of several types of criminal act and sabotage.

NOTES

Most Dangerous Threat Options



Scenarios that cause greatest concern are terrorist operations with multiple attacks, conducted nearly simultaneously, and geographically dispersed from each other.

Weapons of mass destruction and effect further complicate immediate response, recovery, and reestablishment of order and services to the communities and areas. Contamination and area exclusion create additional issues for short, mid, and long term physical and mental health and economic productivity. The possibility of additional attacks, delayed intentionally, may occur too.

Terrorist Focused Planning Scenarios

Examples of Possible Terrorism Scenarios

Selected Vignettes and National Planning Scenarios

Scenario 1: Nuclear Detonation: Improvised Nuclear Device
Scenario 2: Biological Attack: Aerosol Anthrax
Scenario 3: Biological Disease: Pandemic Influenza (Natural)
Scenario 4: Biological Attack: Plague
Scenario 5: Chemical Attack: Blister Agent
Scenario 6: Chemical Attack: Toxic Industrial Chemicals
Scenario 7: Chemical Attack: Nerve Agent
Scenario 8: Chemical Attack: Chlorine Tank Explosion
Scenario 9: Natural Disaster: Major Earthquake (Natural)
Scenario 10: Natural Disaster: Major Hurricane (Natural)
Scenario 11: Radiological Attack: Dispersal Device
Scenario 12: Explosive Attack: Multiple Suicide-Homicide IEDs
Scenario 13: Biological Attack: Agricultural/Food Contamination
Scenario 14: Biological Attack: Livestock/Animal Contamination
Scenario 15: Cyber Attack

US National Planning Scenarios represent hazards or threats of national significance. These scenarios are security or response capabilities oriented.

Terrorist operations could occur with multi-attacks, conducted at or near the same time, and grouped together or dispersed widely among several geographic locations.

Trends and the Future

Indications and Symptoms

Trends of Future Terrorism

- Intense Motivational Extremism
- Flexible Organizational Structures
- Improved Operational Capabilities
- Expanded Transnational Associations
- Exploited Mass Media Marketing
- Increased Weapon System Lethality

Adaptive terrorist behavior is an overarching norm of recent years. Fueled by extremist beliefs and organizational spokespersons that glorify wanton acts, homicide or suicide, networks provide flexible yet resilient ways of conducting terror.

Psychological impact and sensational media marketing are critical. Using a classic metaphor –

"Terrorism is theater!"

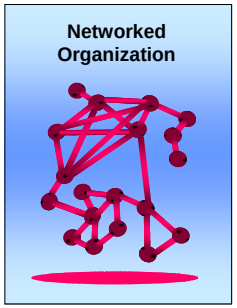
Intense Motivational Extremism

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.

Moments before suicide bomber [lower left] assassinates Ghandi

Extreme misinterpretation of religious covenants incites much of contemporary terrorism; however, motivation to embrace terrorism may emerge from individual utopian goals and elitism, charismatic leaders and group-think membership, or disenfranchised social and political participation.

Flexible Organizational Structure



Terrorist organizations realize the value of networked structures that **distribute capabilities in adaptable confederations.** Unifying principles remain a source of purpose, planning, and action, while encouraging more initiative within general goals and dogma.

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. Hierarchical structures may serve useful functions, on occasion, but the defined chains of control and responsibility are more easily interdicted, dissuaded from operating, defeated, or destroyed.

Improved Operational Capabilities

Terrorist groups are learning organizations and use collective experiences and the Internet to improve their own training, study emerging techniques and procedures, and actions to quickly counter actions intended to deny or dissuade them from operating.

Support from State sponsors, whether direct or indirect, improves the ability for terrorist groups to plan and act. However, some terrorist groups have become more self-sufficient in resourcing their operations. They have greater independence in their decisions and actions than when external sponsors provided them the primary means to conduct terror.

Hizballah Recruitment
(*Source:* www.segag.org/...photo_03.jpg)

They learn-adapt- improve capabilities.

Expanded Transnational Associations

Terrorists groups and other illegal sub-state organizations are rapidly becoming indistinguishable from each other. Terrorism can **approach global reach** through international or transnational affiliations that openly announce their plans or consciously retain a low profile.

HAMAS and Terrorism?

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 contributions.

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

Increased Weapon System Lethality

Terrorists recognize that **sensational events** normally achieve the most attention. Choice of weapon will consider the disruption or destruction that occurs at a point location such as a critical oil transfer facility, or an area damaged and contaminated with CBRNE effects.

A complement to lethality is the degree of capability degradation an attack can cause. For example, cyber-war is a zone of action that ranges denial of services, hijacking, breach of confidentiality, corruption of databases, or physical destruction of systems. Weapons can be simple, yet as effective, as an improvised fuel oil fertilizer bomb or a jet airliner or a biological agent spread to cause blight or disease. **Weapons of mass destruction continue to be a most significant threat of effects.**

Exploited Mass Media Marketing

Terrorists plan and operate with today's **near-instantaneous** media coverage as key to the psychological outcome on the target audience.

Supporting events and interviews will announce an ultimatum or explanation. Near real-time videotape will publicize horrific acts or damage and destruction. **Disinformation** can accent apparent vulnerabilities such as inability to prevent attacks on critical infrastructure or assets.

Global Media Exposure

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

US National Security and the War on Terror

"…we must maintain and expand our national strength so we can deal with threats and challenges before they can damage our people or our interests. We must maintain a military power without peer – yet our strength is not founded on force of arms alone. It also rests on economic prosperity and a vibrant democracy. And it rests on strong alliances, friendships, and international institutions, which enable us to promote freedom, prosperity, and peace in common purpose with others."

President George W. Bush March 2006

Members of our Armed Forces and other uniformed services, forward deployed or in the Homeland, remain a tempting target for terrorists.

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