

# 21st Century Terrorism:

A Primer For The Professional

## I. Introduction

- Discuss the specter of the new face of global terrorism.

Sun Tzu, The Art of War

*“Thus it is said that one who knows the enemy and knows himself will not be endangered in a hundred engagements”*

### Topics of Discussion

- A Brief History from Collins to bin Laden.
- Extremist Islam.
- 1993 – The New Face of Terror in America.
- Recent events from 9/11/01 to present.
- What Next: the impact of US Intervention and the ‘War on Terror’?
- Preparation, Prevention and Deterrence in the Private Sector.
- Questions.

## II. Recent History

### A. The Beginning:

#### 1. 1916 – The Easter Uprising

- Initial defeat by British Forces.
- Beginning of the use of terrorist tactics by IRA.
- 1922 signing of the Accord.
- Collins Assassinated by IRA radicals.

### B. The IRA

- Evolved as the Direct Action arm of Sinn Fein
- Specialized in bombings of “soft” targets and targeted assassinations of opposition ‘soldiers’ and leaders
- Perpetrated ambushes of British patrols and checkpoints

### C. 1948 – The Birth of Israel

- 1918 – 1948: British rule: Roots of the Arab Israeli Conflict.
- The 1948 War – Defeat of the Arab Legion.
- The Palestine Liberation Organization - 1954.
- The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).
- Advent of European Terrorist Groups.
  - Baeder-Meinhoff (Red Army Faction).

- Red Brigades (Italy).
- ETA (Basque Separatists).

#### D. The PLO – Improving the Model

- Yasser Arafat – the organizer.
- Centralized in exile.
- Fatah and other groups used as Direct Action elements.

#### E. Global Terrorism (70's & 80's)

- Centralized Training
- Logistical Support
- International Cooperation in Terrorist Operations

#### F. Major Incidents

- 1972 Munich Olympics
- Opec Oil Ministers
- Entebbe
- Mogadishu
- London Consulate of Iran

##### 1972 Munich Olympics

##### 1973 – OPEC Oil Ministers' Kidnapping

- Assault on the Swiss meeting hall for the OPEC oil ministers.
- Three security officers killed.
- Standoff.
- Allowed to fly to Algeria with the ministers held hostage.
- Thought to have been contracted by Libya and/or the PFLP

##### Operation Thunderbolt:

##### The Israeli Raid on Entebbe

##### GSG 9 Raid on Mogadishu

- 1977 – Lufthansa flight hijacked by suspected Palestinian terrorists.
- Flown to Mogadishu, Somalia.
- Assault planned by GSG 9 with assistance from 22<sup>nd</sup> SAS
- Plane assaulted, three terrorists killed, one survived.
- All passengers accounted for.

##### Iranian Consulate - London

- May 30, 1980 – 5 Iranian separatists attack and hold the London consulate of Iran.
- After 5 days of negotiation, the terrorists kill a hostage.

- 22<sup>nd</sup> SAS specialists assault the consulate.
- 4 terrorists killed, one survived and arrested.

### III. Extremist Islam

The Shahada – A Statement of Faith

“There is no god but God and Muhammed is His Messenger”

#### The Muslim World Some Basic Statistics

- Muslim Population World-wide:  
1.5 to 2 Billion
- Muslim Population U.S.:  
4 – 6 Million
- Percentage Extremist:  
.05% (Estimate)

#### The Five Pillars Of the Faith

- ◆ Faith
- ◆ Salaat (Prayers)
- ◆ Fasting
- ◆ Zakaat (Obligatory Charity)
- ◆ Hajj

#### Islam

- From the Arabic verb “to submit” or “be peaceful”
- It is what one does to submit to the will of God.  
Islam is NOT just a religion!  
It is an entire way of life!!!  
Islam is social, cultural, religious and political.

Islam **IS** the State,  
The State **IS** Islam

A Muslim is one who Submits to the will of God

#### Qur’an

The Holy Book

- “Recite”
- Revealed to Muhammad over a 22 year period.
- Put onto paper 50 years after Muhammad’s death.
- Islam discourages translation of the Qur’an
- Direct word of God
- Not chronological but by size of chapters.

## Jihad

Jihad is NOT Holy War!

- Based on the Arabic verb “to struggle”
  - Three forms:
    - Personal Jihad
    - Offensive Jihad
    - Defensive Jihad

Defensive Jihad is used to draw extremists to the Cause!

### The Great Prophets

- Mohammed – The Last of the Prophets.
- Jesus (Issa) – The Second & Greatest of the Prophets.
- Moses – The first Prophet of Islam

Abraham is the Nexus between the 3 great religions  
Islamic “Sects” (Denominations)

- Sunni – Followers of elected Caliphs.
  - Wahabi – Most conservative, a sub-set of Sunni Islam.
- Shia – More Conservative, followers of Mohammed’s descendents.
  - “Twelvers”
  - Ismailis
- Sufi – Study of mystical aspects of Islam

### **The Great Books of Islam**

The Qur’an – Muslim Holy Book

The Hadith – The ‘sayings’ and traditions of the Prophet Muhammad

The Sharia – Civil and Criminal laws of Islam

A True Identity Crisis

Past

**Vs.**

Present

### **The Golden Age of Islam**

7<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries

Mathematics

Literature

Medicine

Architecture

Calligraphy

Art

Military Advancements

Reality of the Present

- Third World
- Petro-Dollars
- Mainly Poor

- No Central Authority
- Sectarian Division
- Ascendance of Radicalism
- 7<sup>th</sup> Century thinking

### Types of Believers

Minimalists                      Approx 6%  
 Moderates                        Up to 85%  
 Fundamentalists                Approx 8%  
 Extremists                        .5 to 1 %

But as in any belief system...

There are those who will pervert or radicalize the system for their own agenda.

#### The Minimalists

- “Christmas Christians”
- Living their day-to-day lives
- Making a living
- Providing for their families
- Just like many Americans

#### The Moderates

- The Majority of Muslims
- Live their faith according to their understanding of the rules
- Tolerant
- Trying to maintain a faithful life and provide for their families

#### The Fundamentalists

- Very Conservative Believers
- Maintain hard ties to old traditions and beliefs
- Rather intolerant of others
- Base for recruitment into the extremist ranks

#### The Extremists

- Most conservative of the believers
- Look back to the Golden Age
- Blame the West (Christianity?) for their problems
- Willing to use violence to achieve their goals

Extremist Goals: Local vs Global

- Most Islamic Extremists are Local
  - Trying to displace local governments perceived to be overly corrupt and install Sharia.
- Several seek to establish a world-wide Islamic revolution and re-establish the Old Islamic Empire & Caliphate.

#### Rise of Extremist Elements

- 1948 Israeli War
- 1956 Israeli War
- 1967 Israeli War
- 1973 Israeli War
- PLO as a Regional Political Influence

- 1990's - Advance of Muslim Extremists

Film:

*"Suicide Bombers"*

## IV. The Extremist Movement (Al Qaeda)

### Ultimate Goal:

The Establishment of a Modern Islamic Empire and the Restoration of the Caliphate

Major Shift in the Scope of Terror  
The Rules Have Changed

- Coalition of Muslim Terror Groups.
- No warnings.
- No claim of credit.
- Focused on Islam vs. the Western World.
- A new Mahdi?

### Global Organization

- No infrastructure existed in the 70's within the United States
- Thirty years to correct the problem
- International Financing
  - Businesses
  - Charities
  - Contributions

### The Network

- The World Front for War Against Jews and Crusaders
  - Coalition of a dozen or more Muslim terror organizations
- Legitimate Business Fronts/private contributions, criminal activities to support operations
- Support Cells
- Direct Action Teams

### Structure of Al Qaeda

- Executive Command Element
- Facilitator
- Logistical Cells/direct Action Cells

### Structure (Cont'd)

- Executive Command develops Plan
- Facilitator alerts logistical cells and tasks each (Cells do NOT know of each other)
- Direct action team trains and deploys to target area for rehearsals and preparation

### Cell Composition

- Males \*
- 3 to 5 per cell
- Possibly mixed nationalities

Islam Is a Male Dominated Society, but Women Have Had a Place in Terror.  
Mogadishu – The Sole, Surviving Terrorist Was a WOMAN and CHRISTIAN!  
Recent events have demonstrated a major effort to recruit female suicide bombers.

### **The 72 Virgins** – What is that all about?

- Originated around the 9<sup>th</sup> Century C.E. with the Hashisheen (Assassins)
- Extremist (Terrorist) Sect
- Murder for Hire
- Recruitment Incentive
- Heavenly Garden

But what about the female killers?

For The Ladies...

- The lucky candidate will...
  - Go to heaven
  - Her whole family will go to heaven
  - See the face of God
  - Be reunited with her lost loved one

AND

Get to BE one of the 72 virgins

(Source: HAMAS news conference, 2006)

### The “Cult” of Extremism

A Cult is defined by several characteristics:

- A Charismatic leader demanding total authority.
- The use of “controlling” techniques
- Social and Physical isolation
- Extreme or fanatical behavior
- Secrecy and deception

The “Cult” Of Extremism (cont’d)

- Identify likely candidates for recruitment:
  - Young
  - Disaffected
  - Easily manipulated
  - Yearning for spirituality
  - Trainable

### OPSEC for Terrorists

- Indoctrination into the Cause (Cult?)
- Train as a Team
- Live as a Team
- Work as a Team
- Play as a Team
- Travel as a Team

## ■ DO EVERYTHING AS A TEAM

The Weak Link : Ahmed Ressam

- Disaffected
- Recruited
- Trained by Al Qaeda
- Assigned to a Direct Action Cell
- Moved into position
- **VIOLATED OPSEC**
- **GOT CAUGHT!**

### What This Means

- We have a **SERIOUS** problem if the extremist Muslim movement gains support. [Possible consequence of the Iraq War]
- Unilateral and Multi-lateral efforts to combat this threat must be developed and implemented
- Special Forces, law enforcement agencies and intelligence agencies must work in concert

### Support of Muslim Extremists

- Global shift of disenfranchised Muslims to extremist groups
- Greater frequency of terrorist actions
- Continued degradation between religions
- A new Mahdi?

### The Mahderia

- Mahdi – The One Who Guides (Prepares) for the second coming of Issa (Jesus).
- The Mahdi will cause Muslims to rise up and rid the world of evil (Infidels?).
- When Issa comes he will make the world a perfect place under Islam.

One Cautionary Note...

- **Muqtada Al Sadr**
- Son of assassinated Iraqi Grand Ayatollah
- Charismatic, but not real bright
- 5000 man Islamic Militia, named...

#### **Jaish al Mahdi**

It Gets Worse...

- Quranic Description:
  - He will be tall
  - A prominent,, hooked nose
  - Complexion problems

## The Islamic Nation

- Repeated references in Arab press.
- Frequent use of the term in speeches by Saddam Hussein and others in the Arab world.
- Sometimes called "The Arab Nation".
- An Extension of the "Pan-Arab" movement of the 1950's and 1960's.
- This Should Not Be Ignored.

## New Efforts to Combat the Growing Threat

- New laws with harsher penalties to deter the "border-line" terrorists and sympathizers.
- New laws and regulations to make it easier for law enforcement to track potential terrorists.
- International law enforcement and intelligence cooperation to track personnel and assets of terrorist groups.
- Greater effort to work within the traditional Islamic framework in the diplomatic and P.R. arenas.

## Use of Non-Arab/Muslim Combatants

- American citizens have fought in:
  - Africa
  - Europe
  - Bosnia
  - Kosovo
  - Israel
  - Afghanistan
  - Vietnam (for the North)

At Some Point, The Use of Non-Islamic Mercenaries Is Possible

- As "Profiling" continues, non-arabs/non-muslims may be recruited.
- Wealth is a powerful motivator.
- Meetings between Extremist Islamic Groups and US White Power groups have been suspected.

## The Enforcers

- Law enforcement agencies must become **PROACTIVE**
- Intelligence agencies must improve their HUMINT capabilities
- Special Forces must cooperate and act internationally

## V. September 11, 2001

### Planning

- Planning and Preparation took at least 2 years
- Infrastructure in place to support Direct Action Teams
- Although 4 aircraft were taken, information indicates that as many as 10 aircraft were targeted
- Total Cost: approximately \$500,000 USC

## Execution

- Direct Action Teams traveled frequently within the US
- Conducted Frequent rehearsals
- Team Hierarchy: Leaders, Pilots and “Muscle”
- Limited number of terrorists knew that this was a suicide mission
- Maintained excellent OPSEC for total success

## Aftermath

- Increased Security
- Improved Investigations
- “War on Terrorism”
- Fear of Flying
- Newfound Patriotism in US
- Learning who our friends are
- Preparing for the next event

## VI. Recent Terrorist Strikes

- Madrid, Spain:
  - 5 trains bombed in succession. 198 dead. Moroccan group affiliated to Al Qaeda
  - Three days prior to Spanish national election
  - Caused socialist government to win election – withdraw from Iraq
  - Bombers in custody
- Russia:
  - Two aircraft downed by female Chechen terrorists
  - 200+ people killed
  - 3 days before Chechen national elections
  - Russia-backed candidate elected in spite of terrorist attack
- Moscow, Russia:
  - Subway station bombed by suspected female Chechen suicide bomber
  - 10 killed, 50 injured
  - Possible response to Chechen national election win by Russia-supported candidate
- Beslan, Ossetia, Russia:
  - School takeover by Chechen Muslim terrorists (30+ attackers, possibly 10 of them from Arab states)
  - 340+ killed (150+ children)
  - 3 suspects (2 men, 1 woman) in custody
  - **Event planned for months**
  - Possible concealment of Weapons & explosives in the school during a renovation. Construction crew may have been infiltrated by Chechan

Extremists.

- Egypt
  - Attack on Hilton Hotel
  - No Claim of Responsibility that can be confirmed
  - Suicide Car Bomber

## VII. The Impact of the War On Terror

Afghanistan

- Immediate reaction to “9-11” (Fell within tenets of Islamic Law of Retribution)
- Coalition with the Northern Alliance
- Goals:
  - Break-up Al Qaeda training bases
  - Overthrow the Taliban regime
  - Democratize Afghanistan

Afghanistan (cont'd)

- Success in the field
  - Overwhelming force
  - Modern technology
  - Different methodology
  - Destroyed training bases
  - Ousted Taliban regime
  - Installed “democratic” government
  - Cooperation from Pakistan
  - Arrest of senior Al Qaeda leaders
  - On-going military Ops

Operation Iraqi Freedom – Positive Aspects

- Deposing a tyrant
- Repairing infrastructure
- Normalize lives of individuals
- Establish a democratic form of government
- Improve the economy

Operation Iraqi Freedom – Negative Aspects

- Rise of factionalism
- Increase of influence of fundamental Muslim clerics
- Insurgent terrorism
- Concentration of foreign Jihadists
- Alliance of insurgent groups: Baathists, Islamic Extremists

Operation Iraqi Freedom – The Double Edged Sword

- The influx of Jihadists has decreased the potential for attack within the US.
- The presence of radical Shia clerics increases the peril for our troops

The Iraqi Insurgency is a **“Must Win”** Situation

- A face-off between the autocracy of Islam and the decadent West
- The Iranian Connection

- Sunni vs. Shia?
- If they lose...
- Recently captured documents indicate that Al Qaeda In Iraq feels that US is winning.

## VIII. Preparation, Prevention and Deterrence

### The Right Stuff

- Redefine your concepts about Security
- Establish new and realistic policies and procedures in a changed world
- Conduct a Threat and Vulnerability Analysis of your targets
- Obtain realistic, relevant training
- Spend the money

### Change Your Concepts!

- Realities of an unsafe world
- Anyone or anything could be a target
- Personal freedoms could be impacted
- Personal awareness/proactivity must improve

### Your Biggest Problems

- This **is** going to cost money
- The government isn't going to pay for it all
- Terrorism is NOT going to go away
- COMPLACENCY

### Proactivity

- Law enforcement is, by design, REACTIVE in nature
- Realize that terrorists ALWAYS prepare for an event
- During the intelligence collection phase of preparation, they are IN THE PUBLIC EYE!
- **Look for Pre-Incident Indicators**

### Conduct Threat and Vulnerability Analysis

- Identify all potential threats against your facility and personnel (What are they afraid of and what do they want to protect?)
- Based on the assessment, locate your potential vulnerabilities to attack, sabotage, K & R and assassination

### Establish New Policies

- **Based on the Threat Analysis:**
  - Human Resources
  - Crisis Management
  - Security Liaisons
- **Based on the Vulnerability Assessment:**
  - Physical Security

- Personal Security
- Technical Security
- IS Security

OK, I've Done All That...

- Implement your new policies and procedures
- Review policies and procedures ***at least annually*** to ensure that they are doing the job
- Seek comments and suggestions from employees and consultants
- Spend the money

When Will the Terrorism End?  
Not Anytime Soon.

So, What's Next?

- Anticipate new events – this is a war, remember?
- Use of Chemical and Biological weapons as well as guns and bombs
- Targets will vary as facilities “harden”

US Intervention and the War on Terror

- Iraq War has escalated hatred towards America by Muslims
- The “Axis of Evil” concept portends future US Intervention against sovereign states
- Could further erode US prestige in Muslim countries
- Will require additional societal changes within the US.

The Targets

- Key economic centers
- Symbolic facilities
- Assassination of key business or political leaders
- Water and power plants (Infrastructure Targets)
- Sporting events
- Bridges

Do They Have Nukes?

What Kind of Nukes?

- Al Qaeda is known to have attempted purchase of nuclear material (TAC NUC – MADM or waste).
- Sovereign states supporting terrorism have access to nuclear weapons or materials.
- Not all nuclear material is accounted for.

Protection Against Weapons of Mass Destruction: ***Nuclear***

- If you are close, there isn't any.
- If there is warning:
  - Compel the government to install equipment to detect radioactive materials. Or...
  - Be somewhere else.

Protection Against Weapons of Mass Destruction: ***Chemical***

- If exposed, there isn't any.

- If there is warning, masks and chemical suits can help.
- Government use of appropriate technology may detect chemical weapons.  
Protection Against Weapons of Mass Destruction: ***Biological***
- Vaccines are available for some Biological agents.
- Additional research is being done to develop new vaccines for a variety of bio-agents.
- Receive specialized training from qualified immunological specialists to further understand this threat.

## IX. Questions?