

Tactics and Force Multipliers

Chapter 5

Tactics of Terrorism and Multiplying Force

- Terrorists change tactics continuously
- Jenkins reports **six tactics of terrorism**:
 - 1) Bombing
 - 2) Hijacking
 - 3) Arson
 - 4) Assault
 - 5) Kidnapping
 - 6) Hostage taking

Tactics of Terrorism and Multiplying Force (cont.)

- Force multipliers:
 - Things that increase striking power without increasing the strength of a unit
- Force multipliers that give terrorists more striking power include:
 - 1) Technology
 - 2) Media coverage and interpretation of terrorist events
 - 3) Transnational support
 - 4) Religious fanaticism

Tactics of Terrorism and Multiplying Force (cont.)

- Most common weapon of terrorism has been and still is the bomb
- Anarchists in 1848 – **philosophy of the bomb**
 - Only way to communicate with the social order was to destroy it
- Irish Republican Army found the bomb to be the most important weapon after 1969
- Groups throughout the world found bombs could be delivered by suicide attackers
 - Suicide bombings and road side bombs – weapons of choice against U.S. military in Iraq



Tactics of Terrorism and Multiplying Force (cont.)

- Terrorists tend to increase their effectiveness in bombing by applying explosive technology to their weapons
 - Just as conventional military forces constantly improve the killing power of their weapons
 - Mini-nuke
 - Thermobaric bomb

Tactics of Terrorism and Multiplying Force (cont.)

- Force multipliers enhance destructive power while innovation is used to achieve shock and surprise
- Purpose of a terrorist attack--send a message of chaos and destruction to a larger audience
 - Victims are not the target, they are killed to send a message
- This is what differentiates terrorism from war

Technology: Cyberterrorism

- Cyberterrorism refers to use of computers to attack technological targets or physical attacks on computer networks
- Targets for cyberterrorism
 - Computers
 - Computer networks
 - Information storage and retrieval systems



Technology: Cyberterrorism

- The most common tactic to date has been the defacement of Web sites



- Terrorists are different than hackers
 - Terrorists launch systematic attacks for political purposes
- There has been a sharp rise in such attacks, with the Internet providing the vehicle for launching most of the strikes

Technology: Cyberterrorism (cont.)

- Reasons why terrorists find computer technology attractive
 - Allow terrorists groups to remain connected covertly and anonymously
 - Computer networks are less expensive and work intensive than infrastructures necessary to maintain terrorist groups
 - Low-risk

Technology: Cyberterrorism (cont.)

- Cyberterrorism is a threat due to the nature of society
 - Western society needs information and the flow of information to function
 - Cyberterrorism threatens to interrupt or confuse that flow
- Documented cyber-attacks
 - NSA
 - CIA
 - DoD

WMD: Biological Agents

- Biological Agents:
 - Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) produced from natural substances or living organisms
 - Microbes are often “weaponized” to increase their ability to kill
- Have been used for centuries
 - Siege of Caffa, 1346
- Difficult to control but relatively easy to produce



WMD: Biological Agents (cont.)

- Types of biological agents:
 - Natural poisons or toxins
 - Viruses
 - Small living particles that can infect cells and change how they function
 - Bacteria
 - Bacterium: A very small, single-celled organism
 - Plagues
 - Infectious diseases caused by bacteria



WMD: Biological Agents (cont.)

- Most threatening agents according to CDC are:
 - Smallpox
 - Anthrax
 - Plague
 - Botulism
 - Tularemia
 - Hemorrhagic fever

Biological Agents: Attacks in the US

- Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon - 1984
 - A religious group, the Rajneeshees, infected the town's water supply and at least ten local restaurant salad bars with the *Salmonella typhimurium*
 - 751 people became ill
 - Purpose of the attack was to reduce voter turnout in local elections in order to elect religious followers to local office



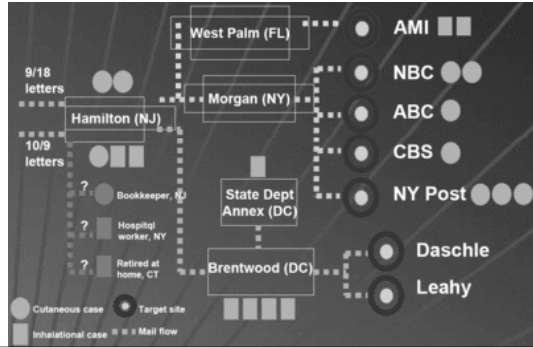
Bhagwan Shree

Biological Agents: Attacks in the US (cont.)

- Anthrax mailings, 5 letters - Sept 18, 2001
 - FL - AMI
 - NY - NBC, ABC, CBS, NY Post
- Anthrax mailings, 2 letters - Oct 12, 2001
 - Senate offices of Senate Majority Leader Thomas Daschle and Senate Judiciary Committee head, Patrick Leahy



Biological Agents: Attacks in the US



Biological Agents: Attacks in the US (cont.)

- 23 people are infected
 - 5 deaths
- Dr. Steven Hatfill originally an FBI "person of interest"
- Dr. Bruce Ivins later became the focus of the investigation
 - Ivins committed suicide 1 Aug 08, while the matter was still before a federal grand jury



WMD: Chemical and Radiological Weapons

- Chemicals:
 - Generally easier to deliver than biological weapons
 - Faster acting
- Radiological devices:
 - Slower than most chemicals
 - Longer lasting
 - Can be spread like chemicals

WMD: Four types of chemical agents

- 1) Nerve agents
 - Attack the nervous system by interfering with the proper functioning of neurotransmitters
 - Tabun (GA), Sarin (GB), VX
 - Ingestion, respiration, or contact
 - Believed to have been used by Saddam Hussein on 16 MAR 1988 against the Kurdish village of Halabja
 - Over 5,000 villagers killed, mostly women and children



WMD: Four types of chemical agents

- 2) Blood agents or cyanogen agent
 - Chemical compounds carried by the blood for distribution through the body
 - Toxic effect at the cellular level
 - Zyklon B (hydrogen cyanide)
 - Absorbed through the respiratory system
 - Used by the Nazis during the Holocaust



WMD: Four types of chemical agents

- 3) Choking (or pulmonary) agents
 - Designed to impede breathing
 - Chlorine gas, phosgene
 - Absorbed through the respiratory system
 - Used by:
 - British during the Crimean War
 - Union during the US Civil War
 - Germans, French, and British during WWI



WMD: Four types of chemical agents

- Blistering agents (aka vesicants)
 - Chemical compounds that causes severe skin, eye, and mucosal pain and irritation
 - Burn skin and internal tissue areas upon contact
 - Sulfur mustards, Nitrogen mustards, Lewisite
 - Used in:
 - WWI
 - WWII
 - Iran-Iraq War (83-88)



WMD: Chemical and Radiological Weapons (cont.)

- Chemicals are attractive to terrorists
 - Easier to control
 - Users can avoid area they attack
- *However*, chemical weapons are problematic
 - Requires a delivery mechanism
 - Requires large quantities of chemicals
 - Chemicals can be neutralized by weather patterns, air, and water

WMD: Chemical and Radiological Weapons (cont.)

- Nuclear weapons
 - Possibility of obtaining stolen or illegally sold weapons
 - Instructions for building a nuclear device can be found online
 - Obtaining and detonating nuclear weapons is difficult
 - Dirty bombs made from nuclear waste a more likely scenario



WMD: Chemical and Radiological Weapons (cont.)

- Dirty Bomb:
 - A conventional weapon used to spread a chemical or radioactive agent around a large area
- Drawback of the dirty bomb
 - The heat produced by the explosion may destroy the chemical attached to the bomb

WMD: Chemical and Radiological Weapons (cont.)

- It is much easier for terrorists to use a conventional weapon to spread either chemicals or nuclear materials than for them to build a nuclear weapon
- Congress has designated a site in Nevada as a repository for all the radioactive waste used in America's nuclear power plants
 - All this material must be shipped across the country
 - What would happen if terrorists seized some of this material?

The Media as Force Multipliers

- Constant reporting amplifies the aura of small groups
- When attacks are shown over and over again, the striking power of the group is magnified
- Both governments and terrorists benefit from media portrayal of terrorist activity
- Everyone involved in a terrorist conflict tries to manipulate images of terrorist activities
 - Goal is to use the media as force multipliers

The Media as Force Multipliers (cont.)

- Brigitte Nacos:
 - Most terrorist groups have objectives beyond publicity
 - Groups want recognition of:
 - Causes
 - Grievances
 - Demands
 - New forms of communication intensify the spread of information
 - Terrorist groups will attempt to portray respectability in all forms of media
 - Projection of this image is crucial

The Media as Force Multipliers (cont.)

- Gadit Wolfson:
 - Media victories are crucial for terrorism
 - How battles are reported as important as battlefield combat
 - Neither side wants to be portrayed as aggressor
 - The media are the primary tool for demonizing the enemy
 - One side presents its own casualties in compassionate and horrific terms
 - Wounded and killed on other side are described as statistics
 - Drama lessens when peace efforts are reported by news agencies
 - Most reports are about talk breakdowns

The Media as Force Multipliers (cont.)

- All forms of media can be used to multiply force
- The Internet is one of the most important force multipliers easily available to terrorists
 - Thus it is gaining attention of security forces
- Online communication brings measure of freedom when other media is heavily controlled
 - Emerging as a major source of information
- Natalya Krasnoboka
 - The Internet does not have an overwhelming impact in democratic countries
 - However, it is a powerful tool for opposition forces in authoritarian regimes

The Media as Force Multipliers (cont.)

- The cinema presents another venue for examination
 - Movies can assist terrorism and distort issues
- Movies are responsible for strong emotional projections
 - They can be completely grounded in fiction



Economic Targeting and Transnational Attacks

- As the world moves closer to a global economy, terrorists have found that striking transnational or international economic targets increases the effectiveness of terrorist operations
- Three types of transnational attacks can be used to illustrate this issue:
 - 1) Tourism
 - 2) Energy
 - 3) Shipping

Economic Targeting and Transnational Attacks - Tourism

- Bali Indonesia, 12 OCT 2002
 - Suicide bomber detonates a device inside Paddy's Pub
 - A second suicide bomber detonates a powerful VBIED outside the Sari Club across the street
 - 202 fatalities, 209 injured (mostly Westerners)
 - Carried out by Jemaah Islamiyah, a violent Islamist group



Economic Targeting and Transnational Attacks - Tourism

- There is a relationship between terrorism and tourism, but it is not simple
 - Terrorism against tourists has a negative economic impact
 - Does not appear to impact domestic travel
 - Most frequently affects international travelers
 - Widespread media attention
 - Tourism may drop from selected areas

Economic Targeting and Transnational Attacks - Energy

- Terrorist have vested interest in disrupting oil and gas production due to the clearer economic relationship between energy and terrorism
- Fossil fuels present tempting targets for two reasons
 - 1) They represent power and strengths of industrialized world
 - 2) Strikes against oil refineries or transfer facilities have economic impact on the West



Economic Targeting and Transnational Attacks – Energy (cont.)

- Iraq, JUN 2003-FEB 2006:
 - 298 attacks against oil-production facilities
 - 26% reduction in oil production
- Saudi Arabia
 - Al Qaeda states that attacks were designed to destroy the Saudi economy and create an energy crisis in the West
- Pakistan
 - According to Taliban, most effective way to destroy central government of Pakistan is to cripple gas production

Economic Targeting and Transnational Attacks (cont.)

■ Endemic terrorism

- Form of violence occurring in Africa where arbitrary national boundaries have been drawn without regard to ethnic and tribal divisions
- These areas breed all forms of tribal and ethnic conflicts, including terrorism

Economic Targeting and Transnational Attacks (cont.)

■ The Niger Delta

- Oil plays crucial role
 - Used to fund endemic terrorism and corrupt governments
 - Becomes target for those who cannot control production
 - Oil companies investing in the area have greater incentive to focus on security than poverty engulfing the region



Economic Targeting and Transnational Attacks (cont.)

- Terrorism in the Niger Delta represents a different form of economic attack
 - It simultaneously funds terrorists and other violent groups while serving as a target for terrorism



Economic Targeting and Transnational Attacks (cont.)

- If poverty, endemic terrorism, and criminalized politics are not addressed by the industrialized world, areas like the Niger Delta will evolve in two directions
 - Become base for emergence of new international terrorist groups while providing excellent resources for training and eluding detection
 - At the same time, energy resources of the Delta provide a target-rich environment for developing terrorists

Economic Targeting and Transnational Attacks - Transportation

- Present tempting economic targets as they produce mass casualties with minimal effort
- The costs of protecting transportation are staggering
 - Major concern of homeland security
 - Critics of homeland security policies argue that ports remain unsecured due to costs of increased protection
- Attacks on aviation, shipping and transportation facilities increase cost of security

Suicide Attacks and Religion

- Diego Gambetta's three types of suicide attacks:
 - 1) Suicide in warfare
 - 2) Suicide for a principle without killing others
 - 3) Suicidal terrorism



Suicide Attacks and Religion (cont.)

- The social and psychological appeal is not suicide
- Common link:
 - Suicide terrorists believe they are sacrificing their lives for a greater good (**altruistic suicide**)

Suicide Attacks and Religion (cont.)

- Robert Pape:
 - Attackers are so diverse, it may not be possible to find a single profile
 - Suicide terrorism should be considered a strategic tool
 - Suicide terrorism gives small groups the power to coerce large governments
 - Suicide terrorists tend to be more lethal than other types of attacks
 - They strike greater fear in the target audience
 - Each attack hints at future horrific attacks
 - It is a strategy designed to multiply expectations of political victory

Suicide Attacks and Religion (cont.)

- B. Raman:
 - Suicide attacks are favored because they are intimidating
 - Suicide attacks generate high casualties as well as publicity for the attacking group
 - The nature of the attack strikes fear into the enemy
 - The attacks are effective against superior forces and weapons
 - Suicide bombers give terrorist groups maximum control over the attack

Theory of Suicide Terrorism - Pape

- Three factors must be in place prior to a suicide terror campaign
 - 1) A nationalistic or ethnic group must be resisting the occupation of a foreign power
 - 2) The foreign power must represent a democratic government whose voters will not allow indiscriminate slaughter and total repression of the people in occupied area
 - 3) There must be a difference in religions of the occupying power and the people living under occupation

Theory of Suicide Terrorism – Pape (cont.)

- Suicide terrorism is not caused by a single religion, it is caused by differences in religion
 - **Differences in religion are important in suicide terrorism**
- These are rules, but based on trends
- Not all suicide operations are grounded in Islamic extremism
 - Lebanon
 - Sri Lanka
 - Chechnya
 - Turkey/Kurdistan

Models for Suicide Bombing

- Rohan Gunaratna:
 - All suicide bombing attacks have three things in common
 - 1) Secrecy
 - 2) Reconnaissance
 - 3) Rehearsal
 - Better the rehearsal the greater chance of success
- Other researchers believe there is no single model for suicide bombing
