

International Council For Industrial Security & Safety Management

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Traditionally intelligence agencies undertake collection of Worldwide Data on Terrorist Activities! This exercise might help the students, researchers and historians but not the security professionals on ground. Data collected of the terrorists' active in faraway countries has not and will not help the local security personnel to tackle their local security threats!

Firstly terrorists with global reach and global aspirations are far and few and secondly, even if they are, their operatives are mostly local with their remote controls outside the country. Therefore the resources – material and manpower are mostly indigenous and modus-operandi is also local!



A terrorist indoctrinated and ready to strike is almost impossible to be detected since wickedness is in mind and security personnel have no technology to mind-scan them! There are hardly any physical manifestations of heinous plots being planned in a terrorists' mind/ Also there is but very short shelf life of a terrorist and his direct repeat terror actions are almost next to impossible – unless and until security and intelligence agencies are rank incompetent!

Therefore collection of Worldwide Data on Terrorist Activities and terrorists is futile exercise. The data collection, analysis and projections mean nothing when lone-wolf with Fedayeen intention is preparing for his strike totally in isolations! Data analysis and projections don't work in such cases.

Human body charged with wickedness in brain is the most lethal primary weapon. All others are merely tools of terrorism.

More effective alternative is psychological profiling of all the stake holders i.e. employees, service providers and visitors. This will give tell-tale signs! Well qualified and experienced security and intelligence personnel will catch the warning signs faster and better than any other technology. Experienced security professionals armed with the scanning and detection systems will have higher chance of success in identifying the potential threats.

We need to have "Local Approach to Global Problem.

Capt S B Tyagi
For ICISS

Oil & Gas Sector's Security Concerns

Capt SB Tyagi, COAS' CC*



According to the Global Terrorism Database, terrorist attacks targeting businesses have almost increased tenfold in the last decade (195 attacks in 2000 vs. 1113 in 2015). Attacks against utilities, telecommunication and transportation have all registered similar rates' increases. We need to understand why the Critical Infrastructures are so important as targets for terrorist actions?

According to the Global Terrorism Database, attacks directly related to oil and energy companies have increased from 41 in 2000 to 339 in 2015. In 2004, an Arab satellite channel aired an audiotape message by Osama bin Laden in which he called on his cohort to take their holy war on the oil industry, in order to disrupt supplies to the US from the Persia Gulf.

Osama was no fool! He had family background having interest in oil and gas sector. He himself had keen interest in energy sector and was reported to have investment in energy, particularly oil as gas sector. With his family background and his life before entering to the world of terrorism, he was well aware of the criticalities and vulnerabilities this sector has.

Any self-respecting terrorist would know that all rich and powerful countries' underbellies are their burgeoning energy requirements! Energy security is the key word for constant growth and development. Infrastructures which are backbones of any developed or developing countries are totally dependent on energy sector. Energy deficient countries cannot even dream of industrial development.

It is with this knowledge that terrorists' most favoured targets are invariably in energy sector. Any serious damage to energy sector cripples countries' economy and defence preparedness and without much violence terrorists are likely to achieve their objectives i.e. drawing global attention, getting the local support without harming them and putting local authorities under tremendous pressure.

Energy Terrorism:

Unlike other types of terrorism, energy terrorism could not attract a significant level of attention. In this context, one is compelled to recall the basic theme of Hollywood movie – Diehard 4. The villain is the man who saw the vulnerabilities of country's infrastructures which all had one thing

common – they all ran on SCADA software: Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Software. He warned every possible authority but none listened. He finally began to do same thing which he apprehended criminals will do just so that authorities realize their mistakes and understand point he was making!

It is not that infrastructures have not been targeted and it is not that sufficient losses have already not been incurred; it is the establishment's efforts to downplay the perceived threats as there are fears of general scare, chaos and anarchy which might develop once common people are shown the big picture! What is the big picture – denial of life sustaining services and facilities to all in case of attacks on Critical Infrastructures!

Lack of Information Exchange between the Public And Private Sectors

Given the virtual absence of literature on the subject, competition and knowledge spill-over could be considered a crucial aspect in the lack of information exchange between the public and private sectors? There could be a solution to this issue. Public engagement has not been witnessed anywhere so far as awareness is concerned. Given the criticality and impact on national economy and defence preparedness, the threats and vulnerabilities are hardly ever brought in public domain. Understandably this is not done as public has limited role in threat mitigation and post event recovery and reconstruction of critical infrastructure. Even the private business entities have limited roles as sovereign authority and power is needed to counter and neutralize the threats. The catastrophic aftermath of oil and gas installation's destruction is required to be handled by the government with multi-tier, multi-agency response. Similarly aviation disaster will have to be handled by government agencies only.

This might be one of the reasons for lack of information exchange between the public and private sectors. However when critical infrastructures' security threats involve threats to lives of citizens, the least needs to be done is informing common people the consequences of threats to public lives and properties. The Government and also the leaderships of the critical infrastructures in that context need to have constant contacts with public and train and rehearse the Disaster Management Plans.

Security Programs in Oil & Gas Sector:

The majority of oil and energy companies have formalised programs designed to reduce the probability of a terrorist attack. Not only the oil and energy companies but all the agencies working in Critical Infrastructure Sector have formalised programs designed to reduce the probabilities of terrorists' attacks. Call it Crisis Management Scheme, Disaster Management Plan or Business Recovery Plan, one of the top most probability is terrorists' actions. Accordingly the policies and plans are finalized towards effective forecasting, prevention, mitigation and business recovery / continuity schemes. Such plans need to be doable / achievable and recorded in simple language easy to understand and remember. The best plan should not be more than one paper of A4 size. Anything beyond is hard to understand and difficult to remember specially in time of crisis.

There is major difference in the attitude of oil and energy companies toward terrorist threats, if compared to generic businesses. Yes, indeed there is major difference in the attitude of oil and energy companies toward terrorist threats, if compared to generic businesses. Anyone who understands the basic tenets of Security Threats and Risk Analysis will consider the factors of criticality, vulnerability and probability. It is not difficult to understand that the basic nature of operations in hydro-carbon industries is making it vulnerable towards accidents, sabotage and terrorist actions. Also the probability of such acts are very high as these are very visible high value targets which are equally susceptible to natural as well as man-made disasters.

Any harm to oil and gas installation will have catastrophic consequences resulting in to irreparable and irreplaceable loss to properties and persons. This criticality rates are also very high for oil and gas installations.

In any other conventional business all above mentioned factors do not score very high ratings and the required security measure therefore need not be of very high level. We need to understand that security costs freedom and liberties besides costing money. Good security costs good money. High security means less freedom and liberties resulting due to attendant checks and restrictions. The conventional business may suffer due to disproportionate high security measures. A business involving high level of public interactions and having high business visitors' traffic to its premises may suffer badly due to excessive security checking and surveillance as it may discourage people coming to it!

Security Threats: Real or Imaginary:

In a 1992 paper on corporate responses to terrorist threats, Michael Harvey stated that a high number of MNEs did not have formalised programs that addressed terrorism threats because either they believed to be too small to be targets or companies thought that terrorism was a passing trend. The attitude toward this issue has changed in the last decade? The most blasphemous statement in the field of industrial security today would be calling terrorism a passing trend! The Security Paradox is that those businesses need it most which can ill afford it! The low budget low profit business can hardly afford good security and 76% of them fail within three years of their operations, the major reasons being their inability to breach their security gaps.



While all the progress is being made in the business / industrial world, the essential point emerges out: When does the need for a formal security program arise? At what point during a company's development from a small business to a large one, or even a major industry, is it necessary to consider professional protective mechanisms? The nature of the particular business will make this decision a different one for each company. Ultimately, however, a point will be reached when management begins to notice a rising increase of losses or other incidents which indicate a need to establish certain measures designed to eliminate, or at least to minimize, those incidents.

Inventories may develop stock shortages. Tools may be vanishing from production areas. Several industrial accidents may occur. A couple of break-ins at the plant will indicate a need for more adequate perimeter control. A gasoline-spill fire near the assembly line may spread and cause considerable damage when an untrained employee uses the only extinguisher available and unnecessarily spreads the fire by using water flow. Such are the indicators pointing to the need of well-planned security program. In this entire milieu, terrorism is most potent and practical threat.

Like an all well planned business operations, the terrorism also works on opportunity windows! When one business entity plugs its vulnerability at one area; the threats move to other areas and search other vulnerabilities. If one business entity plugs all its vulnerabilities than threats search vulnerabilities of other neighbouring business entities! At the end, it is all about searching vulnerabilities and capitalizing on opportunities. It is therefore small organizations, establishments or companies which will come under sharp-focus of cross-hairs of terrorism.

No guarantee that if it has not happen before means that it will not happen ever!

The Use of NBC Weapons by Islamic Terrorists

Colonel Anil A Athale (Retd)



'The use of nuclear/biological/chemical weapons by Islamic terrorists is just a matter of time.' It must be clearly understood what the world faces is a global level insurgency against the world order.

'Terrorism is merely a tactic and Islamic State its most brutal face!

My 25 years of study of insurgency and terrorism in diverse countries/locations like Northern Ireland, Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Punjab and South Africa (during the apartheid regime) has yielded some interesting insights into the phenomenon.

In all the above mentioned struggles 'terrorism' was used as a tactic some time or the other. These studies are extremely relevant today as the Nice, France, killings on July 14 shows the ever evolving methods being used by Islamic terrorists to kill randomly and cause destabilization in the world. Unless the world unites and tackles this menace head on, there is a danger of the world reverting to tribalism and ghettos (that is what Brexit was all about) and bring economic ruin to vast swathe of mankind.

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Terrorism is merely a tactic and Islamic State its most brutal face.

In every insurgency/terrorism there are three elements: Leadership, organisation and cause/ideology. These three elements are not static and their relationship/importance is constantly changing in both time and space. For instance in the current phase of Islamic insurgency, the period before 9/11 saw a prominent role being played by Osama bin Laden's leadership. In the subsequent phase it was the Al Qaeda organisation that gained prominence. As the leadership got decimated and the organisation was disrupted by American military action, lone wolf attackers emerged on the scene

There is yet another complicating factor; the three facets themselves also undergo changes. For instance, while jihad may have begun as a quest for domination in Afghanistan and the defeat of 'Godless' Communism, it later transformed into an anti-West ideological struggle. The organisation has undergone a drastic change as well.

From a well knit group like Al Qaeda, terrorism has now evolved into a 'franchise' model with posts in cyberspace as the main motivator. This is not merely the shifting of goal posts, but a total game changer. The changes in leadership are a function of time/counter terror operations. There is often a power struggle based on personalities or approach or ideology. Thus, there are hardliners and moderates or pro-peace or pro-violence leaders in virtually every organisation (the good Taliban and bad Taliban, for instance).

The problem this poses to counter terrorists is that if the relative importance of the three facets is not correctly assessed, then one ends up on the losing side by living in the past. It is common wisdom that counter terrorism must adopt a multi-pronged approach. This is true at the policy level in the sense that the war has to be fought on five fronts, namely economic, social, political, psychological and military.

But at the strategy level as well, the approach has to be three-pronged, to aim at the cause, leadership and organisation. Weakening of only one or even two facets does not result in peace.

The counter-terror operations for the last 15 years or so have achieved some success in killing the leaders and disrupting organisations. However, due to the 'politically correct' approach to religion, the ideology of the terrorists has never been seriously questioned.

All this while the cause of converting the whole world to a (mythical Islamic State) Dar al Islam (from its current Dar al Harb) has continued unchallenged. The idea of geographical divisions along religious lines -- the dar -- is not mentioned in the Quran or Hadith. The only 'dar' the Quran speaks of is 'the abode of the Hereafter (heaven) and the earthly life,' with the heaven described as clearly superior to life on earth. This makes it obvious that what is claimed as sanctioned by religion is actually a 'political' tool that is being used by some elements/nations.

At the level of ideology, the false concept of dividing humanity into us versus them must be opposed and challenged. India and Indonesia, who together hold more than 2/3rds of the world's Muslims and have predominantly moderate Muslims, are ideally placed to play this role.

The most important agenda point is regarding the human rights of the terrorists. For too long, this has been a one-way street. While the terrorists do not treat their victims as human beings, the counter terrorists are expected to follow humane tactics and procedures.

This gives the terrorists an unfair advantage when it comes to a confrontation. Any soldier/policeman will tell you that in such a situation, with one hand tied behind one's back, it becomes impossible to effectively deal with terrorists.

With the terrorists increasingly using sophisticated arms, it is the more unscrupulous that stands to win. At the ground level this is in any case already happening.

It is time the World Human Rights Organisation deliberates on the issue and decides to deprive terrorists of their human rights. If the terrorists do not believe in humanity and act in an inhuman manner, why should they be treated as human beings?

Terrorists have used airplanes, trucks, guns and bombs in the past. In a natural progression what stops them from using bacteria, chemicals and finally atoms in their next attack?

Pokémon Go & Security Concerns



In the course of a few weeks, Pokémon Go has gone from a mega hit, to a broken game even its most ardent fans cannot defend. This shift in the community is due to mostly one thing: an addict user is very susceptible to injuries and accidents. The grown-ups, mostly in security profession are concerned of its security implications. **Pokémon Go** is not a laughing issue; it is a serious threat - not only to the individual who is playing that but also to the security system of our Country.

These kids are using the camera of their cell phones and picturing the surrounding landmarks. All these data is gathered in a gigantic server in Singapore and there are about 1800 people per shift monitoring that data round the clock. Thus they can see the land, roads, buildings, offices, residences, transport facilities, shops, malls (and many other things) without incurring any risk. In short, by playing this game, you are sending the sensitive data to your enemy. Looking and managing this data, the enemy can easily formulate the mode and style of terrorist attack and device the escape routes too.



Col SM Bhardwaj is of the opinion that the day we start using Apps on our smart phone, this had already happened. The moment we accept WhatsApp, Facebook knows about your contacts, geo-location etc. And even before that Google through Android is already tracking all this. Pokémon is only using it as a game. He cautioned, "Waking up was required long back. We need to be smart to reverse engineer Android and Google and use them to track our adversary. I am sure we are doing it. Pokémon Go does not pose any additional risk that we did not know. These devices (smartphones) are already tracking and recording each and everything, especially the big brother US. China knew this and Govt banned Android and Google. They use their own OS and search engine, Baidu..."

Do you remember - when Mumbai was attacked on 26/11, Indian media was transmitting the live coverage of our commandos who were planning the attack and the bloody Pak attackers were getting the info about our soldiers and their planning.

I've spent 34 years in this field and I can sense danger just like 🐉 snap of a finger.

It would worry you if I tell you the name of the company in SG and the nationalities of the people working there. So please be careful!

Where Turkey is headed to?

As a matter of routine after any coup, the victor usually purges all those suspected of being his opponents. It is happening with Turkey. Turkish leader Erdogan after his crushing of army revolt, is now going after his opponent Gulen, an exile in US, 87 year old and his followers everywhere in the world. Apparently Gulen's Hizmet movement, whatever it is, have hundreds of schools in Pakistan. Erdogan's Turkey would like them to be closed which will affect thousands of students and teachers.



It is a by-word in politics when it came to intrigues to term them as "Byzantine". Now the Byzantines are long gone, its place is taken by Turkish Moslems. For a while especially in the aftermath of I world war, it appeared with Ata Turk in command, there may be stability and progress in Turkey. It took time but sure enough Islamism claimed Turkey also. If what Erdogan regime says about Gulen is right, and if what is published about Gulen is accurate, then what is happening in Turkey is a struggle between two Islamists much like in Soviet Union with one General Secretary replacing another both of same Communist party.

Even if this assumption is wrong, it was army uprising, still given the time since Ata Turk that went by, it is hard to consider the struggle as secular vs Islamic one. True at one time Turkish army was custodian of reforms brought on by Ata Turk and assiduously maintained secular credentials. But it is rather long time since Ata Turk, a whole new generation of army recruits are in the force and all the time Islamic influence was growing. So bitten by Islamist bug the insurrection by certain section of the army could as well be a case of Islamist vs Islamist much like in Pakistan - Army vs Taliban both ardent Islamists!

So when it comes to political intrigues, Byzantines do not hold record any more but is taken over by Islamists. After all those who are familiar with India's history, ought to be familiar with this phenomenon unless they are eminent historians whose job was to sing panegyrics of every Sultan or Mughal for their giant contributions. It is hard to find in the history of Islamic reign in India succession taking place peacefully. One time when treasury went empty, the Subedars (chieftains) demanding money dragged down Mughal emperor right in the court and threw him on floor and sat on his chest plunging their swords into the fellow. This was after couple of Mughals who followed Aurangzeb. Decline of Mughal empire began towards the end of Aurangzeb who never returned to Delhi alive after he started his campaign against Rajaram in Jinji fort in Karnataka.

Now that Islamist intrigue appears to have replaced Byzantine one in Turkey, and with ongoing insurrections by Kurds on one hand and troubles with another Sunni Islamic outfit the Caliphate, as the Chines proverb goes, Turkey is coming to live in 'interesting times'. **G V Chelvapilla**

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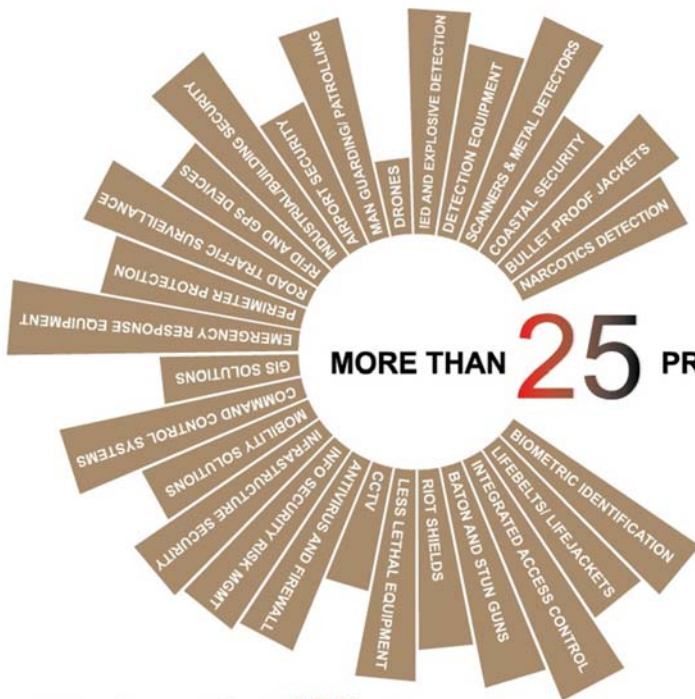


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