Terrorism Response Operations: Update on Current and Emerging Threats
Introduction

- A rapid, safe and successful response to these situations requires planning, training and preparation.

- The likelihood of a terrorism or mass violence incident is low, BUT public safety officials must prepare for these situations.

- Continuing terrorist and criminal attack threats and incidents CONUS and OCONUS have demonstrated the need to prepare and plan for and respond to these crisis events.

- 4 Hours/8 Hours
The purpose of this session is:

- Familiarize responders about trends in terrorism events.
- Understand the nature of **current** and **emerging** threats.
- Suggest resources, plans and training that will minimize the loss of life in these events.

Not meant as the complete training in and of itself. There are many good organizations and instructors that can provide such training and exercises.

Not really trying to tell you **how** to train and plan, but rather **what** to plan and train for.
TYPES OF ADVERSARIES

- International Terrorists Groups
- Domestic Terrorists
- Criminal Elements
- Gangs (Transnational)
- Domestic Militia Groups
- Extremists Groups
- Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVE)
- Lone Wolf
- Insider Threats
Basic Terrorist Groups 101

- **International Terrorism**
  - State Sponsors
  - Formalized Terrorist Groups
  - Loosely Affiliated International Radicals

- **Domestic Terrorism**
  - Right-Wing
  - Left-Wing
  - Special Interest

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Emerging Threats

- Assortment of actors and groups
- Criminal elements
- Networked organizations
- Information Technology
- Social Media
- Transnational organized criminals and gangs
- Religious Nexus
- Rogue States
- Non-State Organizations
- WMD Proliferation
- Domestic/Homegrown
- Asymmetric Warfare

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Emerging Threats: Narco-Insurgency IEDs
DOMESTIC GROUPS
Left-Wing Extremist

- Pro-Communist
- Pro-Socialist
- Seeks equality with no social classes
- Weak or no central government
- Transitioning into anti-globalization
- Protests/civil unrest with “direct action”
- Some “Occupy” events had serious security issues
- Lone Wolf, Insider Threat, Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVE)

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An anarchist group was arrested by the FBI for a plot to blow up a bridge in Cleveland using C-4.

Group also plotted setting off a car bomb outside the Federal Reserve bank. Not tied to any international terrorist groups.
DOMESTIC GROUPS
Right-Wing Extremists

- White-Supremacy
- Gun Control
- New World Order
- Anti-Government
- Anti-Taxation
- Anti-Abortion
- Militias
- Patriot Movements
- Sovereign Citizens (White and Black)

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DOMESTIC GROUPS

Right-Wing

- Groups oppose U.S. government
- Some believe U.S. has been taken over
- Some believe they are the government
- Some driven by religious beliefs
- Some seeking a strong Nazi/Fascist government
- Some have great national pride
- Lone Wolf, Insider Threat, Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVE)
DOMESTIC GROUPS
Special – Interest/Single Issue

- Animal Rights (ALF)
- Environmental Issues (ELF)
- Genetics Research
- Abortion Rights
- Anti-Abortion
- Guns
- IRS
- Banks
- Corporate
- Pick your topic!

MEAT IS MURDER

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THREATS

• Terrorism incidents can be quite sophisticated in the degree of planning and execution that goes into them. Many of these suspects have trained, prepared, armed themselves and have a detailed plan in place.

• However, they can easily be carried out by an individual or individuals with minimal planning, few resources, limited funding and limited training.

• They will most often utilize readily-available weapons such as pistols, shotguns, rifles and homemade explosives (HME)/improvised explosive devices (IED). Lone Wolf, Insider Threat, Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVE).
Pre-Incident Planning

- Preparation is the key to a terrorism and mass violence incidents and that includes a clear idea of your actions before the incident occurs.

- The first step in your preparation is a review of your agencies guidelines and procedures when responding to bombings, terrorism attacks, mass shootings or threats of violence.

- As with any multi-hazard assessment and planning process it is a great idea to do a multi-agency exercise (tabletop or functional) to bring all the key agencies together and rehearse the plan once it has been completed.
Mid Point Questions???
Death by ICS
Terrorism: ICS/Unified Command

Unified Command

Fire Incident Commander
Law Enforcement Incident Commander
EMS Incident Commander

Public Information Officer (PIO) (EMS)
PIO Assistant Officer (Law Enforcement)
PIO Assistant Officer (Fire)

Safety Officer (Fire & EMS)
Liaison Officer (Emergency Management)
Agency Representatives

Speaking With One Voice!

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Form IMS 201 - Incident Briefing

(Electronic or Written)
- Scene Map/Sketch
- Situation Summary
- Current/Planned Objectives
- Current/Planned Actions, Strategies & Tactics
- Current Org Chart
- Resources Summary

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Why Bombs?

- Easy and **low** cost to build
  - Plans all over the Internet and books
  - Parts, materials and chemicals easy to obtain
- High impact (more bang for your buck)
- Many delivery options
- Don't need large groups
- Difficult to identify perpetrators and facilitators
- Difficult forensic examination

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Threats

- A large majority of terrorist attacks around the globe utilize explosives.

- Majority of U.S. troops injured and killed in Iraq/Afghanistan have been killed or injured by explosives.

- Explosive devices can consist of anything from home made explosives (HME) to sophisticated military ordinance.

- Responders will typically encounter home made explosives (HME) and improvised explosive devices (IED).
The FBI and DHS have sent several warnings to state and local partners to be on the alert for explosive threats.

The Bulletins state that there is no specific or credible intelligence indicating that terrorist organizations intend to use IEDs against U.S. homeland targets.

However, the growing use and continuing frequency of lethal IED incidents overseas is cause for continuing concern.
HOMEMADE EXPLOSIVES (HME)

Peroxide Based Explosives

- Triacetone Triperoxide (TATP)
- Hexamethylene Triperoxide Diamine (HMTD)
- Improvised explosive materials of choice
- Made from over the counter household products
- Inexpensive Materials
- HME placed into IED
Secondary Devices

- If a device is found or an explosive device has detonated, there is a high likelihood that there could be a secondary device.

- Secondary devices are bombs placed at the scene of an ongoing emergency response that are intended to cause death and injury among responders.
Responder Safety

- Reminder that responders can be targeted!
- Maintain Situational Awareness.
- Check immediate area for secondary devices and threats.
- Establish command!
- Check command post (CP), staging and triage areas for secondary devices.
- All responders should wear appropriate level of PPE (personal protective equipment).
Explosives

- The most common explosives used are black powder, smokeless powder and fireworks powders. The most common explosive device encountered in the USA is the pipe bomb.
Recognize: Explosive Incident Response

- **Pre-blast incident** — Will most likely be reported to dispatch and the first responder will be sent to the scene.

- **Post-blast response** — Decisions will be based on the destruction caused by the blast, which is caused by the size of the explosion.

- **Continuing response incident** — One of the most difficult types of explosive incidents (Columbine, Beslan, Mumbai, etc.)

- **Secondary devices** — Always anticipate a secondary device.
Explosives Incident Safety

- **Time** — Minimize the time spent in the affected area.
- **Distance** — Maximize the distance from the explosive materials.
- **Shielding** — Use shielding/cover wherever it is necessary to reduce or eliminate exposure.

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The response to a Post Blast Scene is similar to a hazardous materials response. Use your “zones of control”:

- **Hot Zone** – Where the blast took place and damage/injury will occur.

- **Warm Zone** – Where the large perimeter area will be established and area cleared.

- **Cold Zone** – Location of a unified command post, staff, resources, triage and staging.
FIRST RESPONDERS SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO MOVE, HANDLE, APPROACH OR DISARM A CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED IED OR HME; THIS IS A JOB FOR SPECIALLY TRAINED PERSONNEL.
Prevention

- ID of precursor materials (HME/IED)
- Awareness on “routine calls”
- Garages/Workshops/Basements
- Networking/Partners
- Do not “post” your plans
- Target hazards
- Information sharing
- People doing weird things/surveillance...
- If something does not look right...
Stopping Terrorism Threats

- Your chances of detecting or learning about a terrorist attack or mass violence incident once they are on their way to their target, and successfully stopping them, are extremely slim.

- Intelligence/information gathering and sharing—using every possible method—is the only real key to preventing most terrorist and mass violence incidents.
SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST 5TH, CHARLOTTE, NC  AUGUST 6TH, DURHAM, NC

JOINT AGENCY
MASS VIOLENCE PLANNING
& RESPONSE SYMPOSIUM

- Mass Violence Planning and Response Considerations
- Medical Operations for Mass Violence Incidents
- Response to the Active Shooter Overview

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