

Officer Safety Issues



What You Need to Know
When Confronting Possible
Terrorist Suspects



Officer Safety Issues Topics

- Know your adversary
- Domestic terrorist/extremist crimes
- Domestic terrorist/extremist encounters
- al Qaeda training video
- Officer safety issues and techniques

Know Your Adversary

- Law enforcement is dealing with a new enemy
- This ideologically driven criminal does not
 - Act like a typical criminal
 - Behave like a typical criminal
 - Respond like a typical criminal
- This type criminal cannot be approached or treated like a typical criminal

Know Your Adversary (continued)

- It is important that officers understand this is a new enemy, and to be effective and safe when addressing this threat, it is necessary to better understand this new enemy, how the enemy operates, and how you need to respond

Know Your Adversary (continued)

- “If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the results of a hundred battles. If you know yourself and not the enemy, for every victory gained, you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither yourself or the enemy, you will succumb in every battle.”

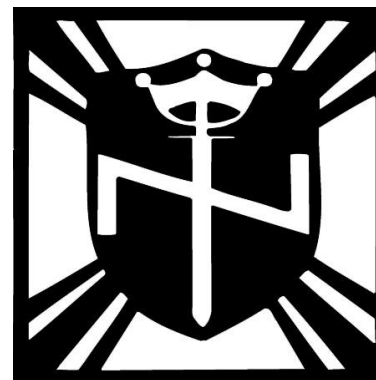
Sun Tzu - The Art of War

Know Your Adversary (continued)

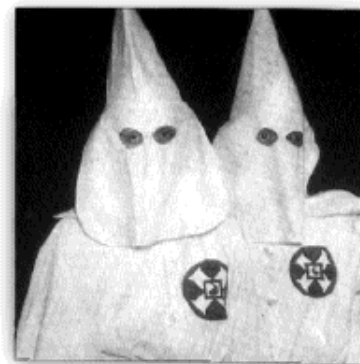
- **Typical Criminal**
 - Opportunistic
 - Uncommitted
 - Self-centered
 - Undisciplined
 - Untrained
 - Escape-oriented
- **Terrorist/Extremist**
 - Focused
 - Committed
 - Team-oriented
 - Disciplined
 - Trained
 - Attack-oriented

Terrorism Training

for Law Enforcement



Domestic Criminal Extremists



Domestic Terrorist/Extremist “True Believers”

- “True Believers” have a different reality
 - Reject validity of established government
 - Have disdain for government authority
 - Cannot be weaned away from “the cause” by an appeal to logic or reason

Domestic Terrorist/Extremist Crimes

- Ambush, assault, murder
 - Most dangerous, least predictable
 - Be cautious and alert
- Bombings
 - Watch for secondary devices, booby traps, and diversionary detonations
- Robbery
 - Watch for diversionary incidents, bombs, and booby traps

Domestic Terrorist/Extremist Crimes

(continued)

- Kidnapping
 - Think about potential targets and motivations
- Chemical and biological incidents
 - If you suspect an incident
 - Assess and control scene
 - Establish perimeter
 - Call for a hazardous materials (HazMat) team
 - Initiate evacuation as necessary

Domestic Terrorist/Extremist Encounters

- Assess the situation
- Conduct a visual frisk
- Slow the action down
- Defuse the situation while preserving dignity and self-esteem

Domestic Terrorist/Extremist Encounters (continued)

- Traffic stops
- Warrant and summons service
- Harassment and intimidation



Domestic Traffic Stops

- Be alert for warning signs on the vehicle
- Be alert for associate “crash” vehicles
- Be alert for driver behavior warning signs
- Officer response
 - Avoid verbal/physical confrontation if possible
 - Make sure action taken is necessary, risk-effective, and acceptable



Domestic Warrant and Summons Service

- If serving at a residence, be alert for
 - Signs and vehicles on property
 - Booby traps and other physical security
- Warning signs after contacting subject
 - Most of the same signs as for traffic stop
 - Other signs



Domestic Harassment and Intimidation

- Many antigovernment extremists will attempt to harass or intimidate officers
 - Motivations
 - Revenge and/or intimidation
 - Types
 - Verbal threats, surveillance, liens, lawsuits



International Terrorists/Extremists



International Terrorists/Extremists

(continued)

- To date, the best officer safety information regarding international groups has been derived from seized al Qaeda training videos

al Qaeda Training Video Analysis

- Recently captured video from Afghanistan demonstrates that this breed of terrorists is well-trained and deadly



The bad guys are not going away easily

al Qaeda Training Video Analysis

(continued)

- Apparently produced for al Qaeda internal use and did not appear to be an external propaganda production
- Revealed al Qaeda operatives engaging in intensive training exercises, including small-arms firing ranges, live-fire room entry, and numerous mixed live-fire/role-player-type scenarios

al Qaeda Training Video Analysis

(continued)

- Scenarios included
 - Assassinations, kidnappings, bombings, and small-unit raids on various types of targets
 - Detailed planning, diagramming, and walk-throughs, followed by live-fire exercises



al Qaeda Training Video Analysis

(continued)

- Extensive use of role playing, scenario-type interactions
- Role players made aggressive moves simulating resistance at various points throughout the scenarios
- All such resistance was met with immediate and brutal countermeasures by the terrorists
- There was no presumed compliance on the part of the victims

Points Repeated Routinely Throughout Training Exercises

- Use of standard military small-unit tactics with multiple elements
 - Assault, security, and support elements
- Coordination with sub-elements via hand-held FM radios



Points Repeated Routinely Throughout Training Exercises (continued)

- Use of pickup trucks by the assault element to conduct raids/assassinations
 - Shooters concealed in truck bed
- Use of motorcycles by the security element as a shooting platform for assassinations

Points Repeated Routinely Throughout Training Exercises (continued)

- Use of explosives upon withdrawal from the objective
- Use of vehicle horn to signal withdrawal and initiation of explosives
- Detailed planning and rehearsal of all actions



Points Repeated Routinely Throughout Training Exercises (continued)

- Exercise of aggressive prisoner handling procedures
 - From initial contact, to search and control, to execution of prisoners
- Multiple-man room entries
 - Typically, one or two two-man teams that assumed a back-to-back position near the center of the room

Points Repeated Routinely Throughout Training Exercises *(continued)*

- Distraction devices used prior to room entry (flash-bangs)
- Multiple breach points into structures and individual rooms
- All scenarios were practiced live-fire, including those that involved role players

al Qaeda Training Video Analysis

- Weapons handling was NOT haphazard
 - All terrorist operatives carried and fired their weapons using the same techniques



al Qaeda Training Video Analysis

(continued)

- Specific weapons handling idiosyncrasies
 - Handguns carried in high ready
 - Long guns (AK variants) carried and fired, rotated 90 degrees (ejection port up)



Specific Scenarios Targeting Law Enforcement

- Ambushes and assassinations
- Faked disabled vehicle with shooters concealed in trunk of car or truck bed
 - Officer stops his vehicle behind “disabled vehicle”; assault is initiated by driver blowing horn
 - Target first engaged with rifle fire from the vehicle, terrorists then close in to administer “*coup de grâce*” at close range
 - Explosive device thrown into law enforcement vehicle on exfiltration

Specific Scenarios Targeting Law Enforcement (continued)

- Residential assassination
 - Innocuous-looking person (weapon concealed) knocks on door of residence
 - Stands in view of peephole and answers question from resident through closed door
 - When targeted officer opens door, terrorist draws and fires, emptying weapon into victim

Specific Scenarios Targeting Law Enforcement (continued)

- Assassination on golf course
 - Target was on the green (at the pin/flag)
 - A rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) was fired at a vehicle adjacent to the green (VIP security element?) to initiate the hit
 - Target was then engaged with rifle fire

Specific Scenarios—Other Targets

- Two- and four-man live-fire room entry (two-man back-to-back technique) with target discrimination (shoot/no-shoot targets)
- Raid on compound—kidnapping
 - One person taken
 - Initiated with RPG



Specific Scenarios—Other Targets

(continued)

- Drive-up kidnapping of target walking down the street
- Use of tunnels/sewers/storm drains for infiltration and exfiltration during raids
- Rappelling from roof of building to enter upper floors was shown on more than one occasion

Specific Scenarios—Other Targets

(continued)

- Motorcycle drive-by target practice
 - Shooter stands up on rear pegs and extends arms over driver
 - Excellent muzzle awareness and control
- Grenades thrown into second-story windows by motorcycle drive-bys

Specific Scenarios—Other Targets

(continued)

- Raids on buildings with a large number of occupants—schools or offices
- Raids followed a standard pattern
 - Covert/surreptitious entry into building and movement to initial points
 - Rifles hidden on persons and in bags/cases carried into building

Specific Scenarios—Other Targets

(continued)

- Raids followed a standard pattern (continued)
 - Initiation with extreme violence of action
 - Any resisters are shot
 - Immediate positive control and search of prisoners
 - Any resisters (or others they do not like the look of) are shot

Specific Scenarios—Other Targets

(continued)

- Raids followed a standard pattern (continued)
 - Segregation of prisoners into manageable groups
 - Explosives were displayed to gain psychological dominance over prisoners
 - Movement of selected prisoners in small groups to the roof where terrorists posture and make statements for the press/cameras

Specific Scenarios—Other Targets

(continued)

- Raids followed a standard pattern (continued)
 - Prisoners executed one-by-one in front of the press/cameras
 - All scenarios involving prisoners ended in execution of the prisoners, and none included a plan for exfiltration of the terrorists
 - They plan to kill the prisoners and to die there

Officer Safety Issues

- If you find yourself in the middle of one of these attacks, there will not be time for SWAT to intervene on your behalf
- Compliance will only buy you very little time
- If you are identified as a potential problem to the terrorists, you will be shot!

Officer Safety Issues (continued)

- They are trained to spot law enforcement, security, and corrections officers
- If, by feigned compliance, you make it through the first cut, you can expect to be physically restrained and then controlled with threats to the rest of your group and other groups

Officer Safety Issues (continued)

- Your ultimate fate, if you do not resist, is to be ritually executed in front of the television cameras
- Best time to act is most likely at the initiation of the attack



Officer Safety Issues (continued)

- Plan on providing effective resistance at the first opportunity
 - Shoot, move, and communicate
 - Seek cover, use your weapon as required
 - Attempt to acquire a better weapon system at the first opportunity (Do you know how to operate an AK?)

Officer Safety Issues (continued)

- Remember, we are dealing with a new enemy—one that fights from the shadows
- An enemy that may possess deep beliefs that their cause is just, and you are the enemy



Officer Safety Issues (continued)

- As law enforcement officers, you are the enemy in a shadow war with terrorists
- Tactics you encounter may be unlike any you have seen in the past
- Follow your sixth sense—observe and call for back-up



Aamir Qureshi / AFP

Officer Safety Issues Recap

- Know your adversary
- Domestic terrorist/extremist crimes
- Domestic terrorist/extremist encounters
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Terrorism Training

for Law Enforcement



Questions