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Transportation
Security
Administration

TSA Office of Intelligence

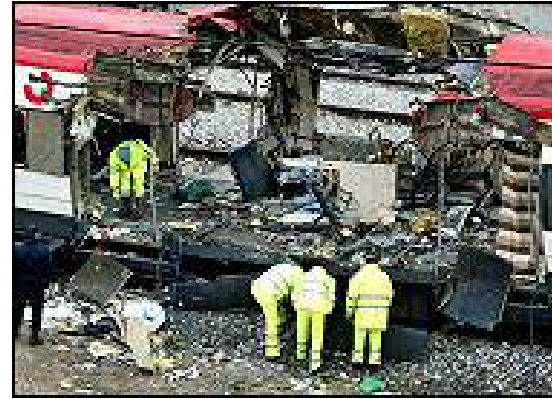
Air Cargo Threat Overview

June 2008

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Terrorist Threat to Transportation

- History shows, and current intelligence reporting confirms, that the most threatened infrastructure sector is TRANSPORTATION



- Transportation attacks help terrorists achieve their main goals:
 - Mass casualties
 - Visually dramatic destruction
 - Significant economic aftershocks
 - Fear among the population



Terrorist Threat to Transportation

Air Cargo: TSA-OI assesses that terrorists will continue to seek out unexploited vulnerabilities and develop new techniques and weapons, regardless of aircraft and airport security enhancements

- Similar methods (hijackings, IEDs) may be used against cargo and passenger aircraft
- Insiders are an ongoing concern
- MANPAD Attacks



Terrorist Threat to Air Cargo

Terrorists will likely continue exploiting security measures for mail and cargo shipped on passenger aircraft

- 1995: Ramzi Yousef developed a plan to plant an explosive device aboard a United Airlines flight from Hong Kong to the United States by hiding it in a package to be shipped as air cargo

Vulnerabilities in cargo security are exhibited by the many instances of successfully smuggled people and illicit materials.

- Most incidents are criminal in nature, but demonstrate the accessibility of cargo, which could be exploited by terrorists



Terrorist Threat to Air Cargo

Hijacking/commandeering: Getting control of the aircraft

- Unique vulnerabilities exist for all cargo aircraft
- Potential to access cockpit by hiding in the cargo hold
- Lack of hardened cockpit doors between the aircrew and the cargo
- Most pilots are unarmed and would have difficulty fending off an armed hijacker



Insiders



Insiders - individuals with authorized access to sensitive areas, equipment, or information

- Represents one of the greatest threats to aviation because of unique ability to negate countermeasures established to detect and deter hostile action against a facility or aircraft
- Although insider access has usually been used for smuggling illicit goods (i.e., drugs, weapons and people), terrorist have exploited insider access in a number of attack plots against transportation, including aviation



Insiders

Mar 2007: U.S. Restricted Area Incident

- Two Airline workers arrested for using restricted area badges to bypass screening and move a duffel bag containing 14 firearms and marijuana aboard a plane



Feb 2008: Dutch journalist had a colleague secure a temporary position at Schiphol Airport

- The two smuggled drugs onto aircraft; journalist used colleague's clothes & credentials to access restricted areas & place a fake bomb in aircraft's cargo hold



Insiders

- 2006 Samina Malik - London Heathrow
 - Malik worked as a sales assistant at a Heathrow Airport shop – she was passing would-be terrorist Sohail Qureshi information on airport security measures
- Admiral Mike McConnell, Director of National Intelligence:
 - “attacks by “homegrown” extremists...will remain a threat to the United States....”
(2008)



Insider: Stowaways

- February 2008: Ethiopian nationals stowaway on Dulles-bound Ethiopian Airlines aircraft
 - Individuals were contract fleet services attendants (cleaners)
 - Used insider knowledge of aircraft to hide in overhead compartment forward of coach-class galley



Insider: Stowaways

- June 2008: Nepalese youth, who worked at airport, probably locked himself inside aircraft cargo hold
 - Individual used his insider knowledge – knew aircraft was transporting pets and oxygen was flowing into the cargo hold.
- Survived journey from Kathmandu to Doha



Air Cargo & Hoax Threats

- Hoax Anthrax Threats – High Volume of Incidents
 - Open source: At least 94 hoax anthrax incidents in 2005, more than 100 similar incidents in 2006
 - Hoaxes targeted courts, universities, health clinics, businesses, government officials, and other targets
 - Ease of implementation may result in high number of incidents (requirements: an envelope, a stamp, and any type of powder)
 - 2003: Clayton Lee Wagner convicted for mailing more than 280 hoax anthrax letters



MANPADS Attacks

- Difficult to detect and counter
- Scores of attacks in Iraq/Afghanistan provide practical firing experience
 - No history of MANPADS attacks in the United States
- Thousands of MANPADS available on black market



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MANPADS Attacks

- All but one attack in areas of insurgency, unrest, civil war, etc.
 - 11/28/02 attack in Mombasa, Kenya first by terrorists against a commercial aircraft
- 30 of the 37 attacks were against propeller aircraft: majority catastrophic
- 5 of 7 jet aircraft survived with minor or no damage
 - 2003: DHL Airbus first commercial aircraft to survive with significant damage



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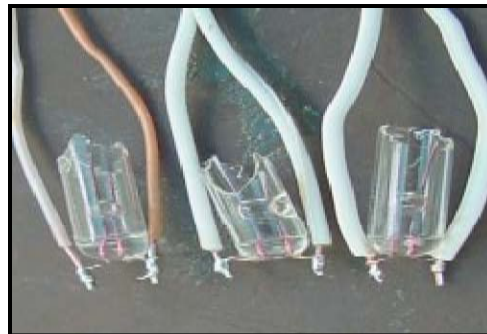
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August 2006 Planned Attack Against Aviation

- At least 9 international air carriers from UK to U.S. and Canada
 - Plan: Circumvent screening using sports drink bottles
 - Concentrated hydrogen peroxide liquid
 - Improvised peroxide detonator--disguised within battery casing, initiated by adapted low voltage bulb



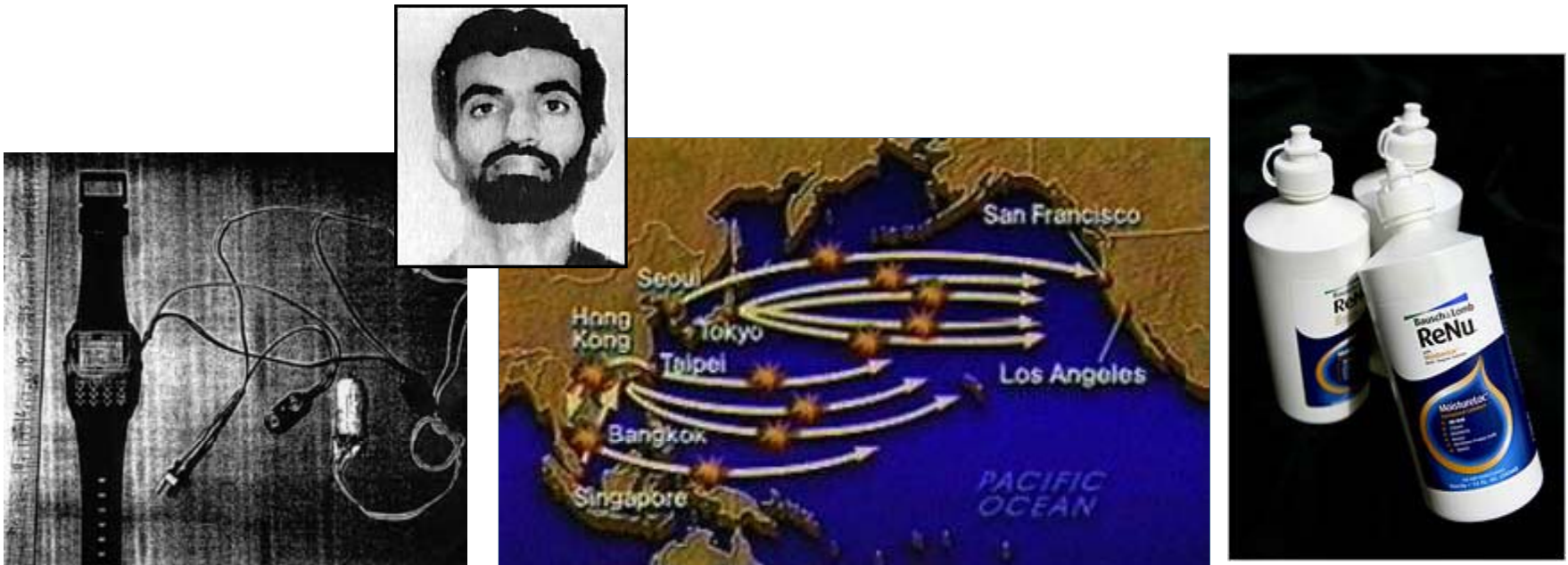
Miniature bulbs with exposed filaments designed to initiate the HMTD and detonate the liquid bombs



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1995: Bojinka

- Targeted up to 12 U.S. commercial aircraft flying from Far East
- Liquid nitroglycerin bomb — initiator made from light bulb filament
- Test run killed one passenger on Philippine Airlines flight



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Conclusion

- Transportation is being targeted - “when” vice “if”
- The enemy is intelligent, agile and committed to their cause
 - Unlimited Time
 - Extremely resourceful
 - Adaptable and Obscure
- Terrorist are developing new tactics and techniques everyday to circumvent current security procedures
- Aviation is a **high priority** target

