

**STRATEGY
RESEARCH
PROJECT**

The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Defense or any of its agencies. This document may not be released for open publication until it has been cleared by the appropriate military service or government agency.

FREEDOM'S GREATEST THREAT, THE METATERRORIST

BY

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL GARY M. JONES
United States Army**

**DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A:
Approved for public release.
Distribution is unlimited.**

19970623 252

DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 4



**USAWC CLASS OF 1997
U.S. ARMY WAR COLLEGE, CARLISLE BARRACKS, PA 17013-5050**

USAWC STRATEGY RESEARCH PROJECT

The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Defense or any of its agencies. This document may not be released for open publication until it has been cleared by the appropriate military service or government agency.

FREEDOM'S GREATEST THREAT, THE METATERRORIST

by

Lieutenant Colonel Gary M. Jones
United States Army

Colonel (Chaplain) John W. Brinsfield
Project Advisor

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release. Distribution is unlimited.

U.S. Army War College
Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania 17013

ABSTRACT

AUTHOR: Gary M. Jones

TITLE: FREEDOMS GREATEST THREAT, THE METATERRORIST

FORMAT: Strategic Research Project.

DATE: 15 April 1997 **PAGES:** 28 **CLASSIFICATION:** Unclassified

The end of the Cold War ushered on to the world scene a new hybrid of terrorist. This new breed of criminal is called the metaterrorist, because his art of instilling terror goes beyond anything we have ever seen in the past. As the only remaining super power in the world, the United States is in the vanguard of freedom and must be prepared to deal with this new emerging threat. This study examines this new phenomena, discusses the potential effects of the metaterrorist and provides recommendations to combat this new threat to freedom. It provides a think piece in the form of a metaterrorist scenario, which effects America's center of gravity and, if not examined, may portend this nation's 21st century Pearl Harbor.

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.	WHAT IS TERRORISM.....	2
3.	THE METATERRORIST.....	3
4.	COLD WAR TERRORISTS.....	5
5.	IDEOLOGY.....	7
6.	MOTIVATION OF THE EMERGING METATERRORIST.....	9
7.	TECHNOLOGY AND THE METATERRORIST.....	9
8.	TOOLS TO COMBAT TERRORISM.....	12
9.	METATERRORIST CONNECTIVITY.....	13
10.	SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY.....	14
11.	THE FUTURE METATERRORIST ATTACK SCENARIO.....	15
12.	NATIONAL STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES.....	20
13.	FIGHTING TERRORISM.....	20
14.	CONCLUSION.....	21
15.	RECOMMENDATION.....	22
15.	ENDNOTES.....	25
16.	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	27

With the culmination of the Cold War, terrorists have undergone significant changes in their associations and methodologies for operations. Due to technological, intelligence and economic dominance, the United States and its allies were able to contain the Cold War era terrorists. Unfortunately, this world dominance over terrorism by the United States and its allies may just be the calm before the storm. In some cases, technological arrogance has led the United States dangerously close to security complacency. Lurking in the shadows of this new world order is a new breed of terrorist. This new hybrid, the metaterrorist, is more dangerous than terrorists of the past. The purpose of my paper is to show that a new type of terrorist has emerged, to discuss the potential effects of this metaterrorist, and to recommend solutions for improving our security posture during this new threat era.

In 1991, the future was uncertain. Being citizens of United States, the world's only superpower, placed demands on Americans which they were not willing to accept. Many countries after the end of the Cold War looked to the United States to be the leader of the world and expected the United States to remedy a lot of the world's woes. However, new terrorists were emerging who had different views of how they perceived this world evolving; and to be an American was to be a second rate citizen in their eyes. Talk had been circulating that numerous terrorist groups throughout the world had established international linkages and had acquired materials to produce chemical or nuclear weapons. Although there was a lot of discussion, no concrete information was available to determine exactly who the terrorists were.

Speculation was that these groups were predominately from the Middle East and

had extremist Islamic beliefs. Political Islamic groups were popping up in many areas where communism had since disappeared. These groups were purported to have associations and sponsorship from states such as Iran and Iraq, but many believed such reports to be just rumor. Americans began to display isolationist tendencies in world relations because of their own internal economic ills and their efforts turned inward. Meanwhile the metaterrorist was operating worldwide and his intentions were best summarized by the words of Saddam Hussein, "Our missiles cannot reach Washington. But if they could, we would hit them as necessary. However, we can still strike at Washington in other ways, at other United States targets in the world."¹

WHAT IS TERRORISM?

To understand what terrorism is, we must realize that not all nations agree on the definition of terrorism. To potential adversary nation states such as Iran, the term terrorism refers to an oppressed freedom fighter's struggle when perpetrated against an adversary. However, in the legal constructs of the United States, terrorism is defined under Title 22 of the United States Code, Section 2656f(d), as follows:

"The term terrorism means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience."²

"The term international terrorism means terrorism involving citizens or the territory of more than one country."³

The term terrorist group means any group practicing, or that has significant subgroups that practice, international terrorism."⁴

Therefore, a terrorist under United States' law is a person or group of persons, involved in the perpetration of the aforementioned acts.

THE METATERRORIST

The metaterrorist is an anomaly which transcends past understandings of Cold War terrorists. The metaterrorist is global in association, educated, sophisticated in clandestine organizational structure, technologically astute and well financed. In comparison, the Cold War terrorist of the past sought publicity, was ideological, calculative in the tactical sense, emotional and operated with limited resources and effectiveness. The metaterrorist, however, uses surrogates, does not seek immediate recognition for actions, and will strike anywhere in the world using emergent technologies with cataclysmic effect and leave little trace or signature.

The metaterrorist's net is large and has more than likely penetrated the heartland of the United States and other allied nations. Metaterrorists will use unconventional warfare techniques to establish relationships of necessity. These relationships could be with indigenous populations sympathetic to their cause or with other extremist type organizations as needed. The Islamic metaterrorists mask their intent in extremist Islamic views, but they are no more than mercenaries for hire, motivated by money, rage and vengeance. They are perpetrating acts of warfare, which carry the political intent and design of the represented client, whether nation state or non-nation state. The metaterrorist which has been developing over the years, on battlegrounds throughout the world, is prepared and will emerge in the near future.

Sabri Banna(Abu Nidal Organization or ANO), Ramadan Abullah Shalah (Jihad) and Mohammed Dief(Hamas), Hizballah, Islamic Group or Organization of Islamic Revolution(IG), Aum Shinrykio of Japan and Timothy McVeigh are men and organizations which best describe the future wave of metaterrorism. Most counter-terrorist analysts suspect that the 1972 Olympic massacre of eleven Israeli athletes in Germany was masterminded by the Black September organization and Abu Nidal.⁵ ANO terrorists carried out the 1985 massacres at the Rome and Vienna airports.⁶ ANO terrorists are also linked to the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland. Jihad claims responsibility for the 1996 suicide bus bombings in Jerusalem.⁷ Hamas has conducted many attacks against Israeli civilian and military targets, suspected Palestinian collaborators, and rivals.⁸ "In February 1995, Pakistan arrested and extradited to the United States Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, suspected of masterminding the World Trade Center Bombing in 1993 and a plot against US Airlines in East Asia in 1995."⁹ The IG maintained links with the Umar Abd al-Rahman who was convicted in October 1995 for his involvement in the bombing of the New York Trade Center by Ramzi Ahmed Yousef. IG is also responsible for the attempt in June 1995, to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia.¹⁰ The most recent attack by IG was a car bombing of the Croatian police headquarters in Zagreb, for the detention of IG spokesman, Tala'at Fuad Kassem.¹¹

These current terrorist organizations and men are the emergent metaterrorists of the future. These organizations are in the transition stage to metaterrorism. They currently still claim credit for their actions, but this will soon be a vanishing anomaly.

These organizations are cellular with well established chains of command where the leaders are known, but they do not take part in the operations. They have been in existence for some time and have established ties with nation states which provide sponsorship. These organizations have developed into trained surrogate armies which exploit the populations in which they live by giving them hope through violence. In the case of Hizballah's movement in Lebanon young men are drawn to Hizballah because they are experiencing a low standard of living and these types of organizations provide moral guidelines although sometimes skewed, in times of tumultuous change.¹² The cellular structure is basically at the lower level allowing true disassociation with the senior leadership. However, as these organizations move to monetary based action, violence will become more brutal and profound.

Presently, unclassified sources reveal the existence of at least 12 international terrorist training camps which form the breeding ground for the futurewave metaterrorist. These camps are located in Afghanistan and Iran. The most prominent of these camps is the Imam Ali camp, which is located northeast of Tehran and it is designed to look like small villages, with houses, shops and mosques.¹³ Two organizations known as the IG and Hizballah are said to have received bomb training at the Imam Ali camp.¹⁴ It is believed that 5,000 men and women have been trained in the camps from the countries of Algeria, Egypt, Gaza, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, and Turkey with the main goal of annihilation Israel and the United States.¹⁵

COLD WAR TERRORISTS

As noted earlier, the cold war terrorists of the past sought publicity, were

ideological, calculative in the tactical sense, emotional and operated with limited resources and effectiveness. These terrorists were an outgrowth of the 1960's student movements seen throughout the world. During the cold war period many terrorist organizations arose that perpetrated numerous acts of violence against the citizens of the world. These organizations were to name a few; the Baader-Meinhoff Gang, Red Brigade, Black September, Action Directe(France), Communist Combatant Cells(CCC, Belgian), Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Senduro Luminoso(Peru) and the Weathermen(United States).

These terrorists were university students, and in most cases, came from the social elite. Good examples would include; the university students from the University of Ayacucho who formed the Senduro Luminoso, university students who formed the Weathermen and Ilich Ramirez Sanchez (Carlos the Jackal) the son of a wealthy Venezuelan Communist party leader. In almost all of the aforementioned organizations, we find the majority of the violent offensive actions being perpetrated by the principle leaders. In most cases they were ideological in basis, with the expressed need to gain notoriety for their cause. These groups did not necessarily work with the people or elicit their support, but worked in spite of the people.

Initially in these groups, everyone was equal, and there was no well-defined chain of command. In most cases the most dominate person became the leader of the moment. In turn as organizations have problems, these organizations being basically consensus driven had their own inherent difficulties. Although it was believed for many years that these earlier terrorist organizations had unlimited backing, the backing they did

receive was limited to the realm of basic explosives, weapons and sanctuary for training. Carlos, the most notorious terrorist during this period, was believed to have worked for Mohamar Qaddafi of Libya, Saddam Hussein of Iraq, President Assad of Syria, Fidel Castro of Cuba, George Habash and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine(PFLP), the Italian Red Brigade, Columbia's M-19 Movement, the Baader-Meinolf Gang, and any number of other "Communist and Socialist" employers.¹⁶ However, Carlos was a freelancer and worked for anyone, never establishing any permanent reciprocal nation state loyalties.

IDEOLOGY

During the Cold War, America possessed a better understanding of the terrorist because of his ideological beliefs. Most Cold War terrorist organizations followed Marxism or Maoism. However, all the young intellectuals and idealists that pursued the communist manifesto found that, after many years of being deceived by a Godless ideology, that they were wrong. Marxism or Maoism as we knew it, is now nothing more than an evil aberration, which has left a large part of the world 30 years in arrears. However, some groups during the cold war era followed their own ideological bent of extremist Islam.

Many of the Islamic oriented groups have now acquired theological (sometimes state-sponsored) leadership, which they did not have in the past. This theological leadership is currently taking the Islamic Qur'an law out of context and using it to further extremist goals. However, the Muslim clerics that pursue extremist Islam are victims of a brutal action of the past, perpetrated by the West on the East. The root of this hatred is

simple, yet mindboggling, and it starts 900 years ago when Pope Urban II called on Christians to save their souls by recapturing Jerusalem, which they did in 1099. The dichotomy of Christianity in the eyes of the Muslims is highlighted by the massacre of all of the inhabitants (Muslims and Jews) of Jerusalem when captured in 1099. Christian intolerance in this instance, beget Muslim intolerance and it fuels the radical clerics beliefs today. An adjunct to this is the hatred that exists for the modern Western sexual culture which is considered destructive to Islam by the clerics.

Unfortunately, this type of theology does nothing to solve the problems of the Arab peoples and does nothing more than prey on the less fortunate, by exploiting their weakness of hope. The term used for modern day Islamic Crusades against the West is "Jihad." Jihad simply means "ultimate striving", especially in the environment of a war sanctioned by God and proclaimed as a Holy War. In a most recent Public Broadcasting System documentary, a renowned expert stated, " So-called "jihad" terrorist campaigns are not supported by mainstream Islamic theology or communities. Such extremist groups are totalitarian political organizations, and are extremely threatening to the secular authorities of predominantly Muslim states such as Egypt."¹⁷

When life is filled with despair, metaterrorism is sometimes a step up and provides a way of life that has more meaning. Throughout the world where Communism existed there is a void, and Muslim political organizations are beginning to emerge. People are searching for meaning, moral stability and order. However, in some parts of the world, such as Russia, it is causing strife and conflict. Patriarch Alexy II, head of the Russian Orthodox Church stated, "Such involvement of the religious factor with the

political struggle will inevitable prompt the Orthodox public to respond. This can bring confrontation in Orthodox-Muslim relations and generate another division in society.”¹⁸

MOTIVATION OF THE EMERGING METATERRORIST

As the new metaterrorist emerges, violence is perpetrated either for money to improve living standards, or out of rage to achieve revenge. Both motivations are used by metaterrorism leaders to achieve strategic political objectives specified by their sponsors. Metaterrorists rationalize their vicious attacks as just war supported by higher moral law. The basic low level metaterrorist of a group or organization is directed by his leadership. From the lower echelon terrorists perspective the acts are motivated by desperation for conditions and from fear of control by governments. This manifested fear of governments is because the metaterrorist feels the government is either denying them their rights or plans to do so in the future. In both cases the metaterrorist is religiously motivated, extremely independent and self-centered, with no regard for the common good of his people and nation .

TECHNOLOGY AND THE METATERRORIST

In the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 we saw emerge a new threat which terrified the world. This was the ingenuity of the emerging futurewave metaterrorist. The terrorists which carried out the attack against Pan Am Flight 103 used semtex plastic explosives concealed in the body of a boom box player smuggled onto the aircraft in the luggage of an unwitting passenger. The components of the bomb where state of the art

and the concealment technique was devious. The luggage made it through one of the most security conscious airports in the world, Heathrow International.

This crime was so heinous that the terrorist did not seek recognition for committing the crime which is one of the characteristics of the new metaterrorist. This gives the perpetrator time to escape and provides him anonymity thereby reducing the chances of retaliation. The forensic evidence in this case, did not provide the identity of the perpetrators of the act because the signature was masked. The only way the case was solved was through good detailed investigative work which lead to personal identification of the assassin, not forensics. With lessons learned from this activity, metaterrorists will be more deadly, developing more refined skills to cover their tracks prior to the attack and eliminating identification of the actor through conventional investigative techniques.

The general knowledge base, as well as technology, is increasing faster than anytime in the history of mankind. But, along with this increase of technology comes more catastrophic weapons, which make the apocalypse of mankind seem closer. Some examples, which should be of immediate concern as it relates to the metaterrorist, are as follows: (1) The use of sarin gas in a deadly attack on Tokyo's subway system on 20 March 1995, by Aum Shinrykio, is an example of the metaterrorist's new arsenal of high-tech weapons, in which twelve people were killed and thousands were injured.¹⁹ (2) The use of an aerosol anthrax, when released from a private commuter airplane or from the observation platform of the Empire State building would be devastating. At the present time the Army vaccine against anthrax may be less than effective against inhaled anthrax. "Unfortunately, when anthrax is used as a biological weapon, it is likely to be aerosolized

and thus inhaled.”²⁰ It has been confirmed that Iraq possess the capability to conduct this type of operation against the U.S. now. The U.S. non-profit organization, American Type Culture Collection, made 70 government approved shipments of anthrax and other pathogens to Iraq between 1985 and 1989.²¹ (3) Countries which sponsor terrorism such as Iraq, could provide its surrogates with the lethal nerve agent VX. “Unlike some nerve agents that dissipate quickly, such as Sarin gas used in the Tokyo subway attack last year, VX is oily and remains lethal for several weeks or longer after an attack, likely forcing the temporary abandonment of any contaminated facility.”²² (4) According to Russian estimates, there are several hundred former Soviet Union experts capable of designing a nuclear weapon and 10,000 individuals with related weapons skills.²³ (5) According to Manhattan Project physicist Luis Alvarez, “With modern weapons-grade uranium, the background neutron rate is so low that terrorists, if they had such material, would have a good chance of setting off a high-yield explosion simply by dropping one half of the material onto the other half...Even a high school kid could make a bomb in short order.”²⁴ (6) Waste plutonium from a commercial grade nuclear power plant affixed to a bomb like one used in the New York Trade Center or Oklahoma Federal Building. (7) Cyber-terrorism a subset of the metaterrorist methodologies for operations focuses on attacking computer systems used by the governments of the world to facilitate their day to day operations.

The noted emerging weapons are weapons that could be used by metaterrorists to accomplish their goals and objectives. Although, the systems have been around for sometime, they are just now becoming available to the metaterrorist because of

worldwide proliferation, not just in the nuclear black-market but in the chemical and biological black-market. This should awaken Americas awareness because state-sponsored metaterrorists are planning now for tomorrow's missions of death.

TOOLS TO COMBAT TERRORISM

With the crash of TWA Flight 800, the New York Trade Center and the Oklahoma City bombings many technological innovations are being fielded to assist in combating the futurewave of metaterrorism. Post blast taggants, one method are microscopic color-coded particles which can assist in tracking down the source of explosives during investigation.²⁵ In many places throughout the world cooperative governments are starting to follow suit with the taggants system. Another effort ongoing is the desensitizing of ammonium nitrate, which when mixed with oil or paraffin and combined with an explosive acts as an accelerator; thereby, increasing the lethality threefold commensurate with the explosive.²⁶

Along with the two aforementioned countermeasures is the need to detect explosives and presently the CTX 5000, a new detector, produces X-Ray and computed tomographic images for detection.²⁷ The most advance system in development in the world to thwart the metaterrorist is the nuclear quadrupole resonance(NQR) technology used to search bags with magnetic resonance.²⁸ Two additional systems which will complement the NQR, are the pulse neutron analysis system and the Egis vapor detector.²⁹ Although our technology is superior, it has failed us in the past when terrorist become more innovative in developing metaterrorist counter-countermeasures for these systems.

METATERRORIST CONNECTIVITY

As the metaterrorist develops his capabilities against the United States he will come to realize that to defeat America, he needs to network more effectively. This is another unique aspect of the metaterrorist, his worldwide connectivity. Metaterrorist nets are extending worldwide to attack American vulnerabilities by creating training camps in supporting nation states, such as the Iman Ali camp in Iran. Another example of training camps are those in Afghanistan, which train surrogate mercenaries. Yousef, when captured in Pakistan, was garnering support from camps in Afghanistan. The IG has been directly tied to Yousef and Shiek Rashman in the New York Trade Center Bombing. The IG has also been linked to the bombing of the Croatian Police Station in Bosnia.

This one identified linkage demonstrates the worldwide reach of the new evolving metaterrorist. Yousef while operating in the United States with the assistance of Shiek Rashman gained indigenous support in accomplishing their offensive action within the United States. In addition to IG's operations in the United States, additional terrorist support structures operating in the United States have been identified. Hamas, which is widening its sphere of influence, also has United States financial support from American sympathizers. During the cold war, East German Stasi(Intelligence) operatives were active in the United States. "The East German Stasi was recognized as one of the most effective intelligence services in the world, with strong ties to terrorist groups, including the PLO and France's Action Directe."³⁰

SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY

According to an article published by Steven Emerson, in the New York Times Magazine, in 1990, notes that, “ there are at least 500 persons dispatched by the Stasi whose identities are unknown and who may sign up with new masters.”³¹ These operatives could possibly be working in the United States but are acting as sleepers. Sleepers are agents from another country that come to America and assimilate into the community and live for years, until they become accepted as American citizens. After a period of considerable time they are activated by the sponsor nation to conduct offensive action. Many of these operatives whether past Stasi or other nation state operatives, are awaiting an agreeable offer to activate. They no longer have any allegiance to their past nation states and are now potential metaterrorist support agents.

If these sleepers have infiltrated American communities where extremist organizations operate they can unwittingly use the existing organizations infrastructure to provide logistic cover and support for action. These sleepers if effective, can convince extremist group members that planned metaterrorist objectives, are in fact their own extremist objectives. By using their own extremist arguments that are anti-U.S. federal government, sleepers convince the extremist to support international terrorist political goals. These goals are the destruction of the United States and its government. They may even carry out the act with supplies provided by the sleeper, which in turn were provided by the international metaterrorist organization.

THE FUTURE METATERRORIST ATTACK SCENARIO

As in the past, Americans are usually slow to react to a potential threat until it actually manifests itself. The following scenario was developed to highlight a future threat and how it might unfold. After the Oklahoma City bombing, the bombing of the American Barracks in Dhahran and the downing of TWA flight 800, Americans were beginning to worry about the threat of terrorism. However, as the 90s unfolded, Americans began to feel the pressures of a changing world. The oppressive economic situation in the United States and the increasing deficit was beginning to turn the country inward. As a collective body, the country started to concentrate on the economic problems of America and their view of the world became more myopically focused, concentrating strictly on America's economic ills. The President understanding the desires of the people focused squarely on the problems of the economy but still attempted to stay tacitly involved in international affairs.

In evaluating the economic problems the President elected to make considerable cuts to the Defense budget to reduce the deficit. The interest on the national debt was equal to the DOD budget, and it became a target that was unjustifiable to the civilian leaders. The services began to experience many unexpected problems: sexual harassment charges were widespread, suicides among senior leaders became prolific, and the lack of a credible threat upon which to base the force structure was nonexistent. Public concerns over the economy began to dominate the national political scene and the DOD became the target of budget cuts. The DOD took a 10% cut in budget and was limited to a national defense force with limited projection capability. With international

agreements from allied nations such as Germany and Japan to expand their military arm to fill the void of American support, the U.S. populace felt secure.

During this period the complexion of the Congress changed, not as it relates to party affiliation, but to Congressional experience. Many of the Congressmen and women that had past military experience were no longer in the Congress. A much younger Congress took shape and they had limited national service experience. Their collective understanding for the need of a modernized strong military took a back seat to the large economic problems that beset the country. In addition to the DOD budget, aid to Israel and Egypt was also cut 75% causing significant instability in the Middle East. The military, having gone through significant changes, was reeling from the new adjustments. The Pentagon was disestablished, and the only remnant of a military representation in Washington existed in a small Joint Chiefs of Staff(JCS).

The Services were disestablished and were reorganized into functional arms of defense, Ground Forces, Sea Forces and Air Forces. These forces were centralized into joint battlegroups which were on continual alert to respond to the needs of two Commanders in Chiefs(CINCs). One CINC Continental United States(CINCCONUS) and CINC Outside the Continental United States(CINCOCONUS). Although these forces trained together all the time and were extremely effective against a medium heavy force, they could only be used for limited duration missions. When CINCOCONUS was alerted and employed there were only reserve forces left to provide for the security of the U.S.

On Thanksgiving Day, 2001 Iranian and Iraqi forces attacked into Kuwait, and CINCOCONUS deployed his forces to Saudi Arabia to meet the onslaught of the Unified Islamic Freedom Force of Allah(UIFFA). The DOD was stressed to the limit to meet the needs of the small but effective force. As the UIFFA postured for a strike into Saudi Arabia, Turkey feeling threatened attacked into the northern flank of the UIFFA and the situation escalated. The U.S. requested assistance from the new Euroforce which had replaced NATO and they responded to Turkey's material needs only. The U. S. focusing on this external threat and burdened by the economic woes of the time had done little to improve the domestic human intelligence (humint) capability. However, numerous things had been done to improve airport security, new electronic surveillance systems were installed, NQR and Egis systems were being used in all airports, but our boarders were extremely vulnerable.

While the U.S. had its eye on the middle-east, metaterrorists from Iran and Iraq crossed the southern border of the U.S. and made contact with activated sleepers which had infiltrated extremist groups in the early 80's. These sleepers had convinced the extremist groups which were located in Arizona, Montana and Michigan that it was time to strike the federal government when it was most vulnerable. These American based groups had in the past attacked confidence targets(railroad tracks and fire bombings in the U.S.)without detection. Most Americans which had heard of these acts in the past considered them strictly criminal acts committed by disgruntled, and disturbed citizens.

With a plan that had been in the works for over two years, metaterrorists smuggled into the United States two weapons to effect their mission of destruction. One

was waste plutonium which was to be combined with plastic explosives and the other was aerosol anthrax. Both were smuggled into the United States through a narcotics kingpins underground tunnel in Texas. The waste plutonium was stored in the root cellar of one of the Michigan militias farms, while Arizona and Montana militia-men stored aerosol anthrax vials in there grain silos. The transportation to support such items was aided by insurgents linked with narcotrafficers in Mexico. All precursors for the attack came across the Mexican border.

On New Years night, as the UIFFA was poised for attack into Saudi Arabia, American extremists aided by metaterrorists moved to strategic locations in three major cities. They positioned themselves hours earlier to place their delivery systems in Seattle, Washington, at the needle tower, the Trans-American Tower, in San Francisco and downtown Manhattan, New York. At the strike of midnight in New York, aerosol anthrax was released in Seattle and San Francisco, while a Gasoline truck filled with 10,000 lbs. of plastic explosives and low yield waste plutonium was detonated. Simultaneous with this attack the UIFFA attacked Saudi Arabia.

The deaths and destruction were like nothing the country had ever witnessed. In both Seattle and San Francisco, the death toll was in excess of 2 million and in New York City the death toll was estimated at 80,000 from plutonium contamination. The effect on New York City was the most devastating because of the contaminating effects of the plutonium. The New York Stock Exchange closed and the entire Manhattan Island was contaminated. The real estate loss alone was estimated at 1 trillion dollars. The total loss exceeded anyone's imagination and no one claimed responsibility for the act.

Along with the problems which existed in the United States, there was the war in the Gulf, however this war was not like the Desert Storm victory in the early 90s. With the aid of the British, Italians, French and Egyptians the UIFFA was stopped but not after they completely destroyed Riyadh. The casualties on both sides were horrendous because technological weapons did not perform to the level anticipated, but the fighting spirit of the western alliance held.

Meanwhile back in the U.S. habeus corpus was suspended for the first time since the Civil War. Due to this act, extremist groups and right wing militias started arming their members and moving them to staging areas in rural America. Their message was that these acts of violence which occurred were perpetrated by the government to garner support for creating a world government. While the extremists and militias armed for war, investigators began to uncover clues which suggested the crimes were committed by Americans and that it involved three heavily armed groups. The President upon confirmation from the Directors of the Federal Bureau of Investigation(FBI), the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms(ATF), the Drug Enforcement Administration(DEA) and the Central Intelligence Agency(CIA), that the crimes were committed by Americans, directed that the DOD conduct offensive action against the groups involved.

The President selected CINCCONUS to use his remaining forces to conduct offensive action against the perpetrators of the crimes, because all local and state agencies were being used to deal with the destruction which had already occurred. The President was not sure he could trust the State national guards, because information revealed that some of the perpetrators of the New York attack were state guardsmen. At this point in

the scenario, the metaterrorist had created a catalyst which caused the government to turn on its people and its people to turn against the government. The metaterrorist had effectively used his unwitting surrogates to strike at Americans center of gravity, the relationship between it people and the government.

NATIONAL STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES

In determining the importance of terrorism to us as a nation we must start with our National Security Strategy(NSS). Our NSS states as follows: "Our policy in countering international terrorists is to make no concessions to terrorists, continue to pressure state sponsors of terrorism, fully exploit all available legal mechanisms to punish international terrorists and help other governments improve their capabilities to combat terrorism."³² The President of the United States has clearly amplified his concern for terrorism in the following statement, "There are times when America and only America can make a difference between war and peace.... Nowhere is that responsibility more clear or more urgent than in the struggle against terrorism.... This will be a long, hard struggle.... There will be setbacks along the way. But just as no enemy could drive us from the fight to meet our challenges and protect our values in World War II and the Cold War, we will not be driven from the fight against terrorism today.... Terrorism is the enemy of our generation, and we must prevail."³³ The Presidents NSS also states, "From time to time, we might also find it necessary to strike terrorists at their bases, abroad or to attack assets valued by the governments that support them."³⁴

FIGHTING TERRORISM

The FBI has been designated as the lead federal agency with the authority to

investigate acts of terrorism in the U.S.”³⁵ However, abroad it is the responsibility of the nation in which the incident occurred. If a hostage crisis occurs within the United States, the local municipality has responsibility for the situation if federal law has not been violated. The local municipality may however, request the assistance of the FBI if they feel the situation warrants FBI expertise. The local or state municipality must relinquish control to the FBI of the situation before the FBI can act. The FBI has the authority to intervene and assume control of any terrorist situation when a federal crime has been committed in the perpetration of the act. The Department of Defense(DOD) has responsibility at the direction of the National Command Authority (NCA) to conduct operations against terrorist entities or organizations outside of the U.S. and its territories. In turn the National Military Strategy states, “We will also act both unilaterally and in concert with security partners to fight international terrorism.”³⁶

CONCLUSION

This scenario though fictitious, is a likely occurrence in the future, if we do not take the necessary steps now to increase our security awareness concerning this new metaterrorist. If Americans, however, continue to wait until it comes to a neighborhood near them, then it might be too late. The unfortunate fact is that Americans are slow to react and when they do, they normally react well to the threat after it occurs and when it is not one of their own. If this occurs, it will change forever, our way of life in the United States as we know it. However, if a more proactive stance is taken now, then the chances of our citizens being victims of such acts will be minimized. This does not mean it will not occur, it simply means the success of the metaterrorist will be limited.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The way Americans view this new threat needs to change, and the emerging metaterrorist needs to be considered a primary threat to the existence and the safety of the United States. If the United States government could do more to educate Americans about this new threat, then the threat would lessen. Further recommendations might include:

Changing the view of terrorism and classifying any terrorist act as an act of war against the United States. This would place the proper emphasis on this threat.

The President establishing a standing interagency task force to wage war against this threat.

Increased exercise of the emergency management and preparedness plans for such scenarios, exercised in computer models with the appropriate players to insure they can respond to the described metaterrorist actions.

An increase in humint capability in the United States as well as abroad. This should be coupled with infiltration's of extremist organizations as a matter of priority.

Plans for preemptive offensive action be taken against terrorist camps that have trained terrorist known to be involved in preparation for such described actions.

A study within DOD to look at anti-terrorist systems used by the British in Northern Ireland to better protect soldiers in the United States and abroad.

An offensive cyber-attack group imbedded in Special Operations Forces.

The metaterrorist is the greatest threat in existence to America today; and, as the President amply stated, also constitutes the greatest threat to the continuity of our generation.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Anthony H. Cordesman, Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East. (London: Brassey's, 1991), 176.
- ² Department of State, "Patterns of Global Terrorism 1995", April 1996, Definition, Introduction p. vi.
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ Ibid.
- ⁵ Clark Staten, "Carlos Captured; Revolutionary Terrorist," 10 October 1994, <<http://www.emergency.com/carlow-j.htm>>., 01 November 1996.
- ⁶ Ammar Abd Rabbo, "He just keeps on ticking," U.S. News & World Reports (21 February 1994): 55.
- ⁷ Emergency Response & Research Institute, " Hamas/Islamic Holy War Leaders," <<http://www.emergency.com/Terr-Ldr.htm>>, 01 November 1996.
- ⁸ Department of State, 47.
- ⁹ Ibid., 5.
- ¹⁰ Ibid., 45.
- ¹¹ Ibid., 9.
- ¹² Judith Palmer Harik, " Between Islam and the System: Sources and implications of Popular Support for Lebanon's Hizballah," The Journal of Conflict Resolution Vol. 40 No. 1, (March 1996): 46.
- ¹³ Steve Macko, "Organized Terrorism; Movement for Islamic Change," 3 August 1996, <<http://www.emergency.com/thrt0896.htm>>, 01 November 1996.
- ¹⁴ Ibid.
- ¹⁵ Ibid.
- ¹⁶ Clark Staten, "Japan-People no longer feel totally safe," August 1996, <<http://www.emergency.com/wter0896.htm>>., 01 November 1996.
- ¹⁷ Paul Fanning, "Terrorism: Past, Present, and Future," 05 August 1995, <<http://www.acsp.uic.edu/oicj/pubs/cja/080501.htm>>, 01 November 1996.
- ¹⁸ "Alexy warns of Muslim political activity," Christian Century (1 November 1995): 1010.
- ¹⁹ Clark Staten, Op. cit., p. 3.
- ²⁰ Dave Parks, "Military tries to plug chem defense gaps," Birmingham (AL) News, 13 October 1996, p. 1.
- ²¹ "Leader of gulf study linked to anthrax supply," Fayetteville(NC) Observer Times, 28 November 1996, p. 11A.
- ²² Ibid., 4.
- ²³ General Accounting Office Report, Weapons of Mass Destruction, Reducing the Threat from the Former Soviet Union, (Washington, D.C., 1994), 11.

²⁴ Nuclear Control Institute, "The Bomb-Grade Uranium Threat," <<http://www.nci.org/nci.heu.htm>>. 06 November 1996.

²⁵ Maureen Rouhi, "Government, Industry Efforts Yield Array of Tools to Combat Terrorism," 24 July 1995, <<http://pubs.acs.org/horartcl/cenear/950724/arto2.html>>. 06 November 1996.

²⁶ Ibid., 4.

²⁷ Ibid., 7.

²⁸ Ibid., 8.

²⁹ Ibid., 9-10

³⁰ Richard Allen, "Terrorism: Pragmatic International Deterrence and Cooperation," Institute for East-West Security Studies, Occasional Paper Series, No. 19, (December 1990) 47.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Office of the President of the United States, A National Security Strategy of Engagement and Enlargement, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., February, 1996, p. 15.

³³ Harry Summers, "Declaring War on Terrorism," Army Times, 26 August 1996, p. 54.

³⁴ Office of the President, A National Security Strategy, 15.

³⁵ Bruce Hoffman and Kevin J. Riley, Domestic Terrorism: A National Assessment of State and Local Preparedness. (Santa Monica: Rand Distribution Services., 1995), 16.

³⁶ Joint Chiefs of Staff, National Military Strategy of the United States of America, 1995, (Washington: U. S. Department of Defense, 1995), 9.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

_____. "Alexy warns of Muslim political activity." *Christian Century* (1 November 1995): 1010.

Allen, Richard. "Terrorism Pragmatic International Deterrence and Cooperation,"
Institute for East-West Security Studies, Occasional Paper Series. No. 19, 1990.

Cordesman, Anthony H. Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East. London:
Brassey's, 1991.

Emergency Response & Research Institute. " Hamas/Islamic Holy War Leader."
<<http://www.emergency.com/Terr-Ldr.htm>>. 01 November 1996.

Fanning, Paul. "Terrorism: Past, Present, and Future." 05 August 1995.
<<http://www.acsp.uic.edu/oicj/pubs/cja/080501.htm>>. 01 November 1996.

Harik, Judith Palmer. "Between Islam and the System: Sources and implications of
Popular Support for Lebanon's Hizballah." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*,
Vol. 40, No. 1 (March 1996): 46.

Hoffman, Bruce and Kevin J. Riley. Domestic Terrorism: A National Assessment of
State and Local Preparedness. Santa Monica: Rand Distribution Services., 1995.

Jackson, Bill. "Leader of gulf study linked to anthrax supply." Fayetteville(NC)
Observer Times, 28 November 1996, p. 11A.

Macko, Steve. "Organized Terrorism; Movement for Islamic Change." 3 August 1996.
<<http://www.emergency.com/carlos-j.htm>>. 01 November 1996.

Nuclear Control Institute. "The Bomb-Grade Uranium Threat."
<<http://www.nci.org/nci.heu.htm>>. 06 November 1996.

Parks, Dave. "Military tries to plug chem defense gaps." Birmingham (AL) News, 13
October 1996, p. 1.

Rabbo, Ammar Abd. "He just keeps on ticking." U.S. News & World Reports (21
February 1994): 55.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (Continued)

- Rouhi, Maureen. "Government, Industry Efforts Yield Array of Tools to Combat Terrorism." 24 July 1995. <<http://pubs.acs.org/horartcl/950724/arto2.html>>. 06 November 1996.
- Staten, Clark. "Carlos Captured; Revolutionary Terrorist." 10 October 1994. <<http://www.emergency.com/carlos-j.htm>>. 01 November 1996.
- Staten, Clark. "Japan-People no longer feel totally safe," August 1996, <<http://www.emergency.com/wter0896.htm>>., 01 November 1996.
- Summers, Harry. "Declaring War on Terrorism." Army Times, 26 August 1996.
- U.S. Department of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff. National Military Strategy of the United States of America 1995. Washington: U.S. Department of Defense, 1995.
- U.S. Department of State. "Patterns of Global Terrorism 1995." April 1996. Washington: U.S. Department of State, April 1996.
- U.S. General Accounting Office Report. Weapons of Mass Destruction, Reducing the Threat from the Former Soviet Union. Washington: U.S. General Accounting Office, 1994.
- U.S. Government, Executive Branch, Office of the President of the United States. A National Security Strategy of Engagement and Enlargement. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, February 1996.