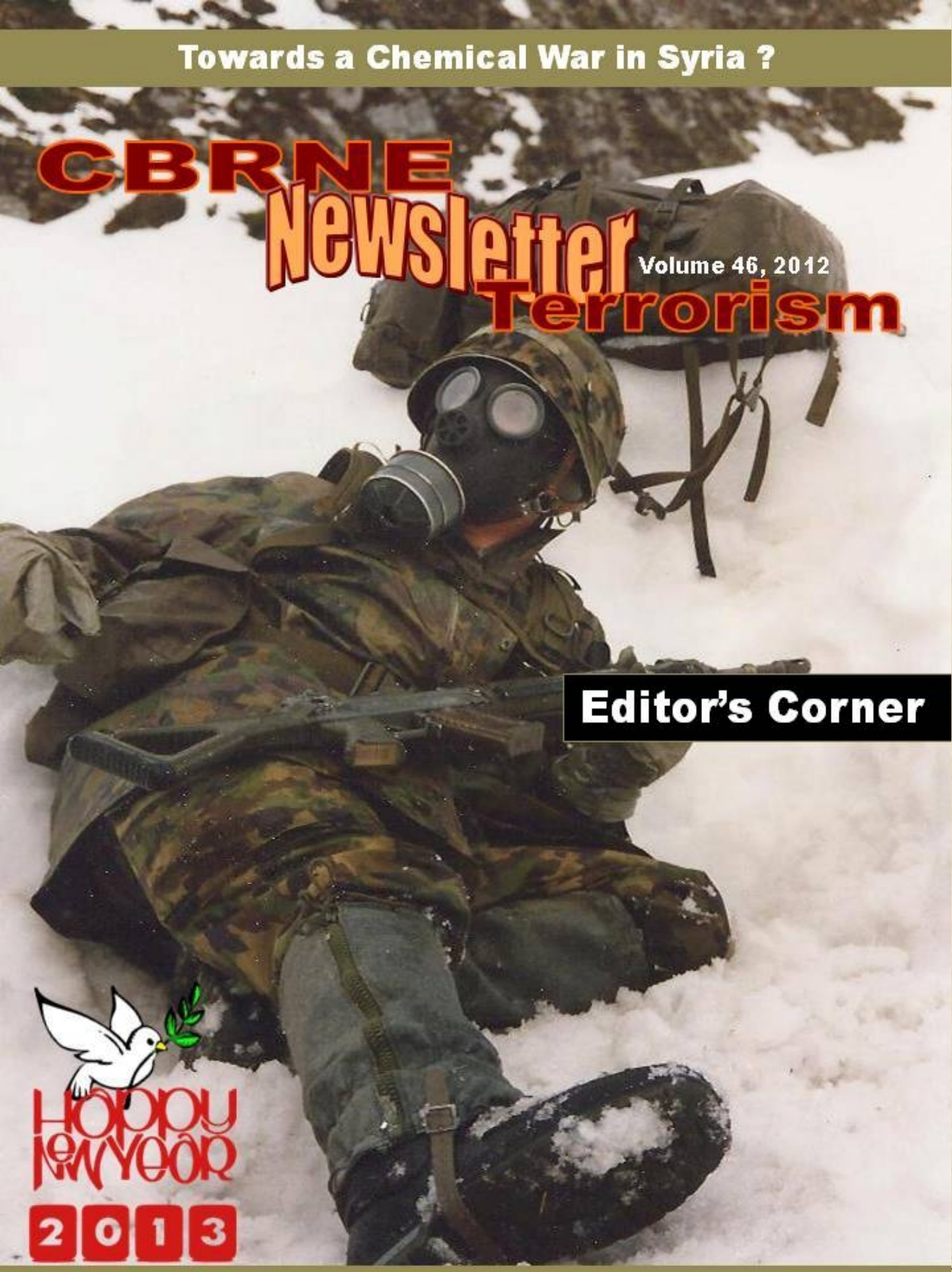
Towards a Chemical War in Syria ?

CBRNE Newsletter Terrorism

Volume 46, 2012



Editor's Corner

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2013

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Editor-in-Chief
BG (ret) Ioannis Galatas MD, MA, MC
PhD candidate
Consultant in Allergy & Clinical Immunology
Medical/Hospital CBRNE Planner
Senior Asymmetric Threats Analyst
CBRN Scientific Coordinator @ RIEAS
Athens, **Greece**

➲ **Contact e-mail:** igalatas@yahoo.com

Assistant Editor
Panagiotis Stavrakakis MEng, MBA, MSc
Hellenic Navy Capt (ret)
PhD candidate
Athens, **Greece**

Co-Editors/Text Supervisors
Steve Photiou, MD, MSc
Dr. Sarafis Pavlos, Captain RN(ret'd), PhD, MSc
Kiourktso glou George, BSc, Dipl, MSc, MBA, PhD (candidate)

Website: www.cbrne-terrorism-newsletter.com

PUBLISHER
Mendor Editions S.A.
3 Selinountos Street
14231 Nea Ionia
Athens, Greece
Tel: +30 210 2723094/-5
Fax: +30 210 2723698

Contact e-mail: Valia Kalantzi info@mendor.gr

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COVER: Old Chemical defense photo from Switzerland – Protective mask model 1974, raincoat and "crispy" gloves (three finger type) – Thank you Christopher Fokas for sharing this with us!

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- Read by First Responders in more than 60 countries around the globe;
- Distributed to more than 700 institutions, organizations, state agencies, think tanks, defense companies, institutions and universities.

Editor's Corner

Editorial

BG (ret'd) Ioannis Galatas, MD, MA, MC

Editor-in-Chief
CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

There is only one day between us and 2013 that we sincerely hope to be better and more prosperous than the number it is bearing with it!

2012 was difficult year for the world, for Greece, for me personally. But we, as first Responders, know the way to deal with crisis and unexpected difficulties. World turmoil is evident and makes you wonder about the intelligence of human race! We deserve better but we luck of leaders that will manage our future in a different way. We miss leaders who will understand the anthropocentric nature of governance and act accordingly. Instead we witness unrest, dark backgrounds, blood streams, chemical weapons' threats, nuclear bombs' threats and alike. It is as if we are going to live for 300 years and still have time to correct things to the best. Man is not the centre of the world anymore! It has been replaced with power, profit and unsaid ambitions of the few against the majority of the global populace. Let us pray that 2013 will signify a change in our mind function leading to a more equalized life where hard work, new ideas, innovative thinking will cover both gaps and wounds caused by humans to other human beings.

2012 was a difficult year on personal basis and in conjunction with current financial/moral turmoil in Greece. And although at the end of the year a solution came from the Emirates, it will take a lot of time for Greece to return to stability and hope for a better tomorrow. I only hope that this will happen through peaceful changes and not in the form of a civil confrontation. Europe should realize that no country is strong enough by itself and that support and cooperation is mandatory for achieving prosperity and long run for all member states.

2012 was a good year for the Newsletter that is currently read by CBRNE-CT First Responders in more than 60 countries around the globe! The Editorial Team would like to thank you all for your enthusiastic comments and beneficial suggestions that will surely be taken under consideration for further improvement. New members have been added to the Editorial Team and this will bring a fresh look both in looks and in content. We also signed quite a few MOUs with congress organizers (i.e.CBRNe Asia 2013 and Counter Terror Expo2013) and CBRN-CT related organizations that will further promote the Newsletter. We even had our first joint international conference with OSDIFE in Rome under the auspices of the UK Embassy in Italy. We strongly believe that we are in the right track and that in 2013 we will make our presence more noticeable.

Enjoy the "CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter" and if you really like it, please feel free to pass it over to colleagues in your networks! Your support is our strength! And in order to pay you back please read our special offer for a fantastic weekend in the Island of Corfu that we are sure you are going to love it!

The Editor

Anti-Tank Mines Stolen From Freight Train

Source: http://news.sky.com/story/1003564/anti-tank-mines-stolen-from-freight-train (28 October 2012)

Anti-terror police are searching for a Ministry of Defence shipment of munitions stolen from a goods train in Warrington.

Sky sources understand they are powerful anti-tank mines.

Ten packages, each containing four separate plastic cases, were taken from the train as it travelled between Cumbria and Oxfordshire.

They were reported missing to British Transport Police at around 7.30am on Thursday when the train arrived at Didcot, Oxfordshire.

Seven of the packages were later discovered near a railway line in the Folley Lane area of Warrington, Cheshire.

The remaining three, which were made up of a total of 12 plastic cases, are still missing.

The munitions were on the train when it left Longtown in Cumbria at 11.30am on Wednesday.

Police understand the munitions were taken off the train while it was temporarily stationary in Warrington, and seven of the packages were discarded nearby.

They are described as being rectangular plastic tubes, approximately 4ft (1.2 metres) in length.

The North West Counter Terrorism Unit (NWCTU) is leading a joint investigation, which includes the Metropolitan Police, **British Transport Police** and MoD.

Assistant Chief Constable Terry Sweeney, from NWCTU, said: "A number of enquiries are now being made by police officers into this theft, and our main priority is to safely recover the missing items.

"At this stage there is nothing to suggest the theft is terrorist-related, but due to the potential complexity of the investigation, our enquiries are being led by counter-terrorism officers.

"We would like to appeal to any members of the public who may know the whereabouts of these items, or any persons involved in the theft of these items to contact the police immediately.

"I want to make it clear that, in their normal condition, these munitions are stable and do not pose a risk to the public.

"However, the materials could be hazardous if they were to be tampered with and we therefore ask that anyone who sees them or knows where they are to call the police as soon as possible."

SPECIAL OFFER
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Thank you First Responders for supporting the Newsletter!

The Editorial Group of the "CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter" would to thank all our readers around the globe and offer them the possibility to enjoy a very refreshing weekend in the beautiful Island of Corfu in Northern Greece with competitive prices kindly offered by the management of the Corfu Palace Hotel (5 stars)!

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Resilient Thinking: Protecting Organisations in the 21st Century

Source: http://www.itgovernanceusa.com/product/2602.aspx

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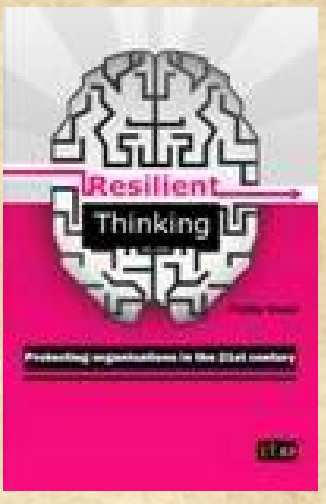

Or will it? There are no guarantees. Disasters happen. Can you be sure they won't happen to your organisation? And are you prepared if they do?

No two businesses are the same. They all have different objectives, different values and different ways of working. Crucially, no two people are the same either, and that can be significant. External factors always have an effect – good or bad – and the impact is different for every company. In times of crisis, the effectiveness of 'one-size-fits-all' plans and checklists is, therefore, limited.

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About the author

Phillip Wood MBE *has extensive knowledge and experience in a wide range of security and resilience disciplines. He has delivered security, resilience and business continuity education and consultancy in a number of different countries and to numerous organisations. He is currently Head of the Department of Security and Resilience at Buckinghamshire New University.*

Militant or Terrorist?

By Judah Grunstein

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/02/opinion/US-consulate-attack-in-benghazi-was-not-an-act-of-terror.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

The controversy over the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, and the Obama administration's response to it are being dumbed down and overblown. Dumbed down because the focus is on word choice rather than substantive criticism of the administration's handling of the incident; overblown because the administration's critics are trying to make an argument that the facts don't support.

That this is happening is not surprising, given the nature of U.S. politics, especially during a presidential election campaign. But it has the unfortunate consequence of obscuring the actual significance of the attack.

In the weeks since the attack, the president's critics have focused their attention on his choice of words to characterize the incident, in particular whether or not he called it an act of terror. There is a valid substantive basis for questioning whether the president and his administration intentionally avoided characterizing the attack as a terrorist act.

After all, the administration has invested a great amount of political capital in the electoral value of having "won" the war on terror. If its reluctance to explicitly acknowledge the premeditated nature of the attack on the Benghazi consulate was intentional and meant to preserve this campaign plank, it amounts to willful dishonesty, a punishable offense for any government official. If it was unintentional, then there are some other valid questions to be asked about the administration's crisis response and risk preparedness procedures.

But those targeting the president for his choice of words do so with a larger objective in mind: To implicitly call into question his administration's record on countering global terrorist networks. Here, they are pursuing a red herring.

Obama has been ruthless — some would say too ruthless — in pursuing an "invisible war" against Al Qaeda and its affiliates. As a result of a withering campaign of U.S. drone strikes, Al Qaeda central is largely a shell of its former self in Afghanistan-Pakistan, and its local affiliate in Yemen is suffering. In Somalia, Al Shabab is on the run — the first good news to come out of that troubled state in decades.

What has emerged in the past two years, however, is a troubling new vector of Islamist radicalism in Libya and the Sahel, where Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and Islamist Tuareg militants have taken advantage of the region's large expanses of under-governed territory to establish themselves.

First, it is important to emphasize that while all of the factors feeding this growing threat have been exacerbated by the Arab Spring and the NATO intervention in Libya, none of them were created by either event.

The Obama administration is not responsible either for Islamist militancy in eastern Libya, which was already a major source of foreign fighters in U.S.-occupied Iraq, nor in northern Mali, where Tuareg nationalism had already been the cause of numerous armed uprisings.

It bears noting that many of the groups active in the region are

also engaged in lucrative transnational criminal activities such as kidnapping and smuggling. Their extremist rhetoric is at times opportunistic, and must be understood in the context of their business interests.

Second, the insistence on calling the attack on Benghazi an act of terror might be counterproductive, in the sense that it could obscure a turning point in the long war the United States has been waging in the region for the past decade.

In particular, it is necessary to distinguish between militancy and terrorism — something Americans have no problem doing in regard to Colombian paramilitary groups, for example, but seem to find more difficult when it comes to radical Islamists.

Not every guy with a gun and a grievance is a terrorist. Those responsible for the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi were operating locally, for largely local objectives, and they threaten neither Americans nor America. So while Americans should feel outraged by the attack, it would be absurd for them to feel terrorized by it.

Indeed, if anyone in eastern Libya should be feeling terrorized these days it is those responsible for the attack. Judging from this administration's record elsewhere, their days are numbered.

More broadly, the attack illustrates the way in which the metastasizing of global terrorism has not resulted in a broader globalization of strategic objectives, as was long feared. Instead, it has resulted in the creation of transnational links through which tactical expertise and "brand legitimacy" is shared, with the objectives remaining local.

Most importantly, though American interests are targeted and threatened by these atomized local affiliates, the American homeland remains beyond their reach.

Though this does not signal the end of the long war, it does mean that it is time to begin reexamining the adversaries that we are facing, in particular by "deterrorizing" them.

Again, the comparison with Colombia is useful. Americans do not feel terrorized by the paramilitary groups that operate there, despite the outrageous violence these groups engage in. There is no more reason to feel terrorized by Islamist paramilitary groups now operating in eastern Libya and the Sahel.

In fact, the shift offers some reason for optimism. Both terrorist networks and ideologically driven paramilitary groups are extremely difficult to defeat decisively. But terrorism is an amorphous and invisible threat, whereas paramilitary groups are discrete and visible, making them easier to counter.

This explains why the natural progression for armed militancy is from paramilitary insurgency to terrorism. Seen in this light, Islamist militancy is currently in the process of undergoing a genetic mutation, but a regressive one that makes it a more manageable problem.

In the aftermath of the Benghazi attack, the administration would have done well to make this point clear. Instead, its response and the politically motivated controversy it generated have obscured the larger significance of the tragic events in Libya.

Judah Grunstein *is editor in chief of World Politics Review, an online journal of global politics and geostrategic analysis.*

Approaches to international consequence management for CBRNE incidents

Source:http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20121030-approaches-to-international-consequence-management-for-cbrne-incidents

The National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences, through a grant sponsored by NIST's Office of Law Enforcement Standards (OLES), is organizing an effort to understand the metrics and measures that are needed to develop standards of response that will support the basic capabilities of a country or region to respond to a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive (CBRNE) incident. A workshop will be held in the Washington, D.C. area in early 2013, and it will be open to all interested parties, including from other nations. NIST says that the project seeks to accomplish the following:

- Identify approaches to understanding baseline conditions of response to international CBRNE events
- Exchange ideas about how to document metrics or measures of response to international CBRNE events
- Discuss existing and new paths or platforms to share best practices, current research, seminal documents and relevant approaches to increase interoperability across the USG for response to international CBRNE events
- Establish a forum for multiple agencies of the U.S. government to exchange information on issues related to international CBRNE response

This effort is a first step toward a common approach to developing standards of response and strengthening interoperability between the United States and partner nations responding to major CBRNE incidents.

New Putin-mobile

Source: http://indrus.in/articles/2012/10/31/new_putin_limo_unveiled_18757.html

A ZIL-4112P prototype, with a 7.7 litre engine and six-speed automatic transmission. Source: Press Photo

The myth of preparedness

By Claudia Aradau

Source: http://www.radicalphilosophy.com/commentary/the-myth-of-preparedness

Look at this place! It's buzzing… [Bomb explosion. People screaming. Chaos] Were you caught off-guard? That's the problem. Can you imagine life without the places where we congregate? These are convenient places, places where we want to go, are free to go. In airports and stadiums you can monitor access, they are contained. Public spaces are not contained. You have a part to play to ensure that freedom doesn't make you vulnerable. When people are freely collected together, it presents an opportunity to those who want to cause mayhem. You not only have the skill and knowledge to cope with a terrorist attack, but help prevent it. Maybe

you don't realize it yet. Until then we're back to anxiety, confusion, fear: just what they wanted'.**1**

Thus starts one of the DVDs shown as part of preparedness exercises across the UK. In a shopping centre, an urban square, a nightclub or a hotel, a bomb explodes. All preparedness exercises start from the moment of the unexpected event: the screen goes blank, the sound takes over and the action reverts to the 'real' participants in the exercises. These are not fragments of disaster movies which effectively modulate an excitable public, but the very opposite of mediatic representations: they are modalities of expert knowledge mobilized anew as part of extensive emergency preparedness plans in the UK. Rather than faded memories of the Cold War civil defence drills or the much derided 'duck and cover' rituals, preparedness exercises have remained at the centre of emergency management knowledge and practice. More recently, they have been reinvented and have increasingly proliferated, their practice required by law and their knowledge taught in dedicated institutions for emergency planners: the UK Civil Contingencies Act requires emergency responders to hold regular exercises to prepare for future potential emergencies, while the government's Emergency Planning College provides expert knowledge for the growing profession of emergency planners. Every local police force, every local council, every NHS body, every fire service, electricity supplier, gas supplier, train, airport, railways operator and so on is required to hold regular exercises to test emergency preparedness.

From floods and other weather disasters to the 'next terrorist attack' as a potential CBRN emergency, preparedness exercises create worst-case scenarios as '[t]his helps the emergency services and all those who respond to incidents of this nature to prepare for similar events of smaller scale, which are more likely to occur, as well as for worst case scenario.'**2** As potential disasters appear now as indeterminate, unpredictable and unexpected, preparedness exercises are placed at the heart of a new *ratio* which challenges or replaces statistical calculability. In this sense, the future of unexpected events cannot be known or predicted; it can only be enacted. Uncertainty becomes an opportunity to 'speculate not just about "the future", but about a *range of possible futures* that might arise from the uncertain course of the forces of change'.**3** This is what futurists have concerned themselves with since Herman Kahn's work on 'thinking the unthinkable' at the RAND Corporation, through the Schell scenarios in the 1960s and 1970s, to the more recent governmental scenarios by the National Intelligence Council in the USA or horizon-scanning projects in the UK. Preparedness proposes a mode of ordering the future that embraces uncertainty and 'imagines the unimaginable' rather than 'taming' dangerous irruptions through statistical probabilities. The archival knowledge of the past is replaced by the enactment-knowledge of continual rehearsal of the performance to come.**4**

Project Argus, a series of counterterrorist exercises organized by the National Counter-Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) is 'exploring ways to aid you in preventing, handling and recovering from a terrorist attack'.**5** Exercise Osiris aimed to test the operational response to a chemical attack on the tube. Atlantis considered London's response to a scenario where four areas of London were flooded at a result of a river breach. Exercises simulate an emergency situation and aim to prepare organizations to withstand disruptive challenges. Yet these exercises do much more (or much less, in a sense). Despite their claims of embracing radical uncertainty and openness, exercises do not prepare subjects to imagine the unimaginable or even a more limited range of different futures. Preparedness exercises do not imagine an overturning of the present social order. They also don't exactly engage in performative enactments of neoliberal speculation or in fostering entrepreneurial subjects willing to bet on the future. The *ratio* they act out has more in common with myth.

Exercises like Argus, Griffin, Osiris, Kali, Demeter, Atlantis, Agni or Enki have resurrected the ancient names of deities and other mythological or legendary beings. 'Enki – the Sumerian God of Fresh Water and Wisdom. Associated with the intellect and medicine, creation and fertility' notes the Major Incident Exercise Report from Barking and Dagenham. 'Agni is a Hindu deity. The word Agni is Sanskrit for "fire"' explains another exercise. Argus, the hundred-eyed giant of Greek mythology appears to be the aleatory result of acronymed

'Area Reinforcement Gained Using Scenarios'. Although many exercises have more mundane names (such as Domino, Herald, Avon Express or Willow), the mythical references are symptomatic of the return to myth in the confrontation with the unexpected, the incalculable and the unpredictable. As Adorno and Horkheimer have formulated the mythical tendencies underpinning Enlightenment rationality, both myth and rationality are responses to the fear of the unknown and attempts to devise strategies of 'mere self-preservation' and resisting radical change.**6** Rather than shattering scientific certainty, the unexpected and the catastrophe return the ratio of preparedness to the mythical process of rite in which the possible consequences of unexpected events are suppressed. The futurity of unexpected events cannot be sustained and subjects–players inhabit the future as a mythical space of inevitable fate, inconsequential activity and mimetism.

Mythic inevitability

After 9/11, organizations, bureaucracies and intelligence services are required to expect the unexpected and replace the improbable with the mere possible and imaginable.**7** Preparedness entails modes of organization not based on the past or the present but in relation to a radically uncertain future. Yet the limits of scientific calculability do not break the mould of enlightenment knowledge but revert back to ritual enactments of factuality. With the *ratio* of preparedness, as with Enlightenment, there is a return to mythology as '[f]actuality wins the day: cognition is restricted to its repetition; and thought becomes mere tautology.'**8** While exercises appear to set out an unexpected event in the future, this unknown possibility is not new but harks back to an inevitable necessity. 'The next terrorist attack is a question of when, not if' repeat the counterterrorism security advisers at the beginning of Argus exercises. Or 'What happens abroad is replicated domestically', so there will be a next terrorist attack as in Bali, Mumbai or Kandahar! The principle of fatal necessity rules preparedness as it had ruled rationalistic science and the destiny of mythical heroes.

Preparedness exercises do not create something new, they do not organize subjects with a view to radical change, but rehearse in a ritual play that which has already been set out as inevitable: the 'next terrorist attack' which will differ from previous ones only in the intensity and/or extensivity of destruction. Mythic time replaces the temporal indeterminacy of the unexpected future event. Exercises function in the modality of the future anterior, not as a wager made in the present for changing the future, but as the continuity of a pregiven future back into the present: the next terrorist attack will have been. The future anterior of preparedness allows exercises to function in a time of certainty, of tautology and of a 'foregone conclusion' in which the unexpected is always expected as it will already have been.**9**

The anterior futurity of preparedness suspends argument and debate about truth and falsity, meaning and representation. What matters are not distinctions between true and false but those of credible and incredible, between plausible and implausible. Project Argus depicts a scenario, through audiovisual media, which takes place in real time, and asks players to make decisions in the event of a terrorist attack. It combines a series of video and audio materials to develop a credible terrorist attack scenario to which participants are expected to respond. Credibility is the result of artifice: realistic but inconsequential details need to be included as part of scenario planning and delivery. Thus, exercises start with clear indications of time, space and weather, incorporate maps and other visual representations of urban spaces, flows of people, traffic and materials which create a 'false clarity' of the event. The future event will have been at '16:15 hours, Wednesday 16th February 2005. It's a cold and dry afternoon, with a temperature of 7°C. There's a light east, south-easterly breeze of about 5mph.'**10**

Exercises establish a sensorial regime of inhabiting the future in which indeterminacy and uncertainty revert to mythical inevitability. Historical time is withdrawn from detailed spatial representations and replaced with the cyclical time of weather patterns or the linearity of clock time. Inevitable is not only the disruptive event but also the response to a disaster. Response unfolds according to predetermined clock time: each time interval requires predetermined actions and processes. The first 5 minutes are about communicating with those around, 15 minutes about 'taking control', 40 minutes about

reassuring those around, 2 hours about working together with the emergency services; longer times are about business continuity and return to normality. Clock time unfolds to allow the planning to reach the conclusion that the exercise authors wanted and 'tames' the unexpected event under the linearity of response. The exercise ultimately 'imprisons human beings in the cycle objectified in the laws of nature, to which they believe they owe their security as free subjects'.**11**

Deactivation

As *The Odyssey* combined myth and rational labour giving expression to the dialectic of Enlightenment, preparedness responds to the mythical inevitability of fate not by avoiding it but through cunning and artifice. Preparedness does not try to find a rational way to avoid the 'next terrorist attack' or to confront it with superior knowledge, but to use artifice to avoid its consequences and ensure the self-preservation of atomistic individuals, the entrepreneurs who have taken precautionary measures. Artifice allows exercise players, like Odysseus, to lose themselves in order to save themselves.

According to manuals for emergency planning, the goal of exercises is to test plans, train staff and validate existing emergency procedures. The injunction to act entails not a series of goal-oriented actions, but a state of activation in which one 'expects the unexpected', is alert, ready for action, vigilant. It means to be able to read signs and interpret omens: detect the potential terrorist behind the ordinary neighbour, the bomb in the anonymous bag, the explosive in the white van, the chemical device in the innocuous garbage bin. It is to be ready for 'pseudo-activity' as the spurious and meaningless activity reflecting the impossibility to change social relations.**12** Activated subjects both recognize artifice and use it for self-preservation.

What matters is not the content of action, but the ways in which one makes use of artifice and cunning to present one's actions visibly as something different. Exercise players accomplish standard gestures and fulfil a ritual that is subsequently reflected in the media coverage of the event. As with all rituals, activity is a 'determined process' which can be influenced by magic (i.e. expert knowledge). The subject of exercises takes on automaton-like qualities. Following expected procedures, performing the right gestures, the subject withdraws from historical action and relinquishes political responsibility. 'Who is to blame? Architects who designed the buildings' notes a post-emergency imaginary BBC broadcast shown as part of an Argus Professional exercise. Argus exercises reduce blame to mediatic shaming and legal procedures. Not to be blamed can only be therefore to be *seen* as acting responsibly, visibly following emergency protocols, enacting the artifice of contractual responsibility. Responsibility is artifice, appearance rather than substance, and the response to an unexpected event is ordered at the level of appearance. Setting up connectivities, finding alternative means of communication, is the answer out of the emergency situations; causes and pre-evental circumstances are immaterial.

The artifice of activation is not without dangers: activated subjects can become unpredictable, disruptive and unruly. To activate is to create potential exposure to excitable reactions. Therefore exercises need to channel activation through pastoral care. Pastoral care is the form that leadership takes rather than a goal for action; it is directed at irrational, emotional and suggestible crowds whose activated alertness needs to be channelled and managed. What is needed in emergency times, exercise wisdom teaches, is a 'strong leader' who can assuage panic and fear among the crowds. From a concert stadium to a demonstration or a shopping place, there is no difference, as fickle crowds and their unstable affects need to be channelled by a leader. The economic subjects who congregate in shopping centres and other public spaces can dangerously morph into potentially destructive crowds that could disrupt the socio-economic system. Nominating key individuals as leaders can help tame the potential violence of crowds and de-collectivize their power.

The collective subject of unexpected events is individualized, reduced to lists of business employees whose names are to be called out in the event of a disruption. Activating subjects to anticipate the future through preparedness exercises is not to inhabit a future where failings of the present would be overcome. Activating subjects is also not to train them to become more alert or imaginative – but to accustom them to artifice as the

essence of what they have always been. 'You already have the knowledge and skill to cope with a terrorist attack' repeat all the Argus DVDs. Exercises return subject to the myth of the atomized individual, deprived of collective power and its potentially destructive capacity. Activation becomes a form of political disactivation and disarray, as innocently noted by an exercise on emergency evacuation after an aircraft accident:

Passengers in the forward end of the cabin were uncertain what to do when the 'accident' started, many staying in their seats for some time without attempting to evacuate. The 'dead' status of the two cabin staff was not clear to the passengers; *this was confusing because they were waiting for a lead from them*.**13**

Mimetism

While experts never tire of emphasizing the unpredictability and indeterminacy of disruptive events, their possible activation at any moment and catastrophic effects, preparedness exercises ultimately rely on mimetism. The mimetic faculty, as described by Benjamin, is 'the compulsion to become or behave like something else'.**14** It entails both the cognitive capacity to see resemblances, correlations, patterns and the expressive capacity of imitation. In that sense, preparedness exercises are both semblance and play. The semblance or correlative function of mimesis re-emerges in preparedness exercises as a replacement to the function of probabilistic calculation. At the same time, similarly to children's mimetic play, exercise players enact themselves as others, from the safety manager to the business manager.

The players' perception of correlations and similarities is structured by the sensuous images replayed on the DVD. The white van, the garbage bin, the suspect rucksack, these are all instant triggers of possible correlations that spell 'danger'. Yet sensuousness can be deceiving and emergency planners need to create habits of decoding nonsensuous similarities. The mimetism of exercises is reinforced through mnemonics: each stage of the response has its easy-to-remember constructs. During the first 15 minutes, security managers are required to take control of the situation by simple action words such as 'survey', 'assess', 'disseminate'. When contacting the emergency services, the mnemonic CHALET contains all the indications for information needed: C (casualties), H (hazards in the areas), A (access to the location), L (location of the incident), E (emergency services required), T (Type of explosion. In the event of a Mumbai-type shooting, four Cs encapsulate the exemplary behaviours: C (cover), C (confirm), C (contact) and C (control).**15** By privileging semblance, exercises replace genuine cognition and thinking with automaton-like stimuli and correlations.

As the worst-case scenario is taken as the object of mimetic adaptation, any disaster becomes equivalent to any other and universal interchangeability is made possible. Exercises activate habits of preparedness to a whole array of events, from terrorist attacks to climatic disasters, as set out by the 2004 Civil Contingencies Act, which lists together under emergency events serious industrial strikes, disruptive political protests, terrorist outrages, disasters arising from storms or epidemics, and incursions on national infrastructures such as computer networks. No protest or mobilization can be safely outside the list of emergencies. By repressing the conditions of the emergence of catastrophe, preparedness exercises become exemplar for any disruption businesses can be confronted with and where the mythical gestures of survival and continuity are at stake.

Through the compulsion of mimetic similitude, players can simultaneously be self and other, leader and led, worker and managed, disciplined and flexible. Thus, players simultaneously establish rituals of command and leadership while undertaking an adaptation to nature understood as complex, adaptive, non-hierarchical. Players are required to make themselves similar to the threat environment through affinity and adaptation: 'The whole community has a part to play in devising and implementing measures that are dynamic, flexible, agile and adaptive.'**16** As threats are virtualities which can be activated at any moment, they need to be tackled in a similar modality of activation which allows mimetic adaptation to external changes. Preparedness aims at modelling the social world on ecological systems analysis and its theories of resilience and complex adaptive systems. As ecological knowledge is increasingly concerned with the persistence of ecosystems in the face of abrupt change,

preparedness replicates this rationality and attempts to sustain a desired state in the face of any possible and unexpected disruption. Through adaptation, systems do not remain exactly unchanged, but, as definitions of resilience suggest, they absorb disturbances and reorganize so as to retain essentially the same main functions.

Stabilizing identity and retaining the system's main functions is at the heart of ecological knowledge about adaptive systems. Disruptions can be absorbed through increased adaptability: by creating diversification of tasks, redundancy, co-management, communication channels, 'social memory'. Yet, the non-sensuous similarity assumed by the ratio of preparedness is constantly subverted by the sensuous similitude between social world and hierarchical systems. If the adaptive capacity to withstand disruption and absorb it is to work on the model of ecological systems, order, hierarchy and leadership are needed. Unlike ecologically adaptive complex systems which can also reorganize in a new state, social systems cannot be allowed to morph into a new identity. At the same time, in line with ecological systems knowledge, preparedness exercises do not enact unchanged recovery (it is not physical survival that is the main aim of preparedness), but the continuity of a commodified environment of business survival and continuity. 'Nearly 1 in 5 businesses suffer a major disruption every year. Yours could be next. With no recovery plan, you have less chance of survival' ominously warns a preparedness document offered as supplementary reading with the Argus exercises.

A stark rendition of the goal of preparedness inadvertently appeared in a scenario by the National Intelligence Council in the USA. The 'Caliphate' scenario uses a fictional letter written by a fictional grandson of bin Laden to a fictional relative in 2020 about Islam's struggle to wrest control from traditional regimes. 'Oh, what confusion did we sow with the Crusaders', exults the fictional character. 'An almost forgotten word reentered the Western lexicon and histories of early Caliphs suddenly rose to be bestsellers on Amazon.com.'**17** This final sentence is revealing for what is implied in the new preparedness myths: every disruption, however catastrophic, is ultimately absorbed by a system which preserves its identity as a capitalist system above anything else. While the CIA conjures images of a spiritual caliphate, we will still have Amazon.com.

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Claudia Aradau *is Senior Lecturer in International Relations and member of the Centre for the Study of Political Community. She joined the department in 2011, after having been a lecturer at the Open University. She had also previously been a research associate in the department, working on the European FP7 project Challenge ('The Changing Landscape of Security and Liberty in Europe'). Her research interrogates contemporary developments in the international sphere – from the governance of mobility and the prevention of human trafficking to practices of counter-terrorism – in order to explore their political effects for democracy and justice globally. She is an Associate Editor of the journal Security Dialogue and member of the editorial collective of Radical Philosophy. Her most recent book,Politics of Catastrophe: Genealogies of the Unknown, co-authored with Rens van Munster is now available in paperback.*

War Game: The Hours following an Attack on Iran's Nuclear Infrastructures

Source: http://www.inss.org.il/research.php?cat=45&incat=&read=10461

The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) held a war game (simulation) focusing on the first 48 hours after an Israeli aerial attack on Iran's nuclear infrastructures.

The Scenario

After midnight on November 9, al-Jazeera reports that Israeli airplanes have attacked

Iran's nuclear facilities in three waves of attack. As reports multiply, Israel officially announces it has attacked Iran's nuclear sites because it had no other choice. According to the scenario, Israel did not coordinate the attack with the United States in advance, and only informed the US once the planes were already en route to the Iranian targets. Initial assessments estimate that the Iranian nuclear program has been set back by nearly three years.

Following the successful attack, Iran decides to react with maximal force, launching missiles from within its borders and urging its proxies – Hizbollah, Hamas, and other radical elements – to attack Israel. Nonetheless, it is careful to avoid attacking American targets. Israel attempts to contain the attacks and works to attain a state of calm as rapidly as possible. The international community is paralyzed, largely because Russia tries to exploit the situation for its own strategic objectives. At the end of the first 48 hours, Iran continues to attack Israel, as do their proxies, albeit to a lesser extent. At this point in the simulation, the crisis does not seem to be close to a resolution.

Main Policies of the Various Actors

Israel: After achieving its operational goals, Israel showed restraint in the face of provocations and reactions by the radical players spurred by Iran. In parallel, Israel conducted an additional aerial attack to complete destruction of one of the major targets in Iran. Israel's strategic objective focused on preventing regional escalation and achieving as fast as possible a level of events that was controllable and of low intensity.

The United States: Although not informed before the event, the United States clearly stood by Israel's side and did not expose its differences of opinion with

Israel, in order to present a united front against any possible regional escalation. The United States demonstrated willingness to return to the negotiating table and even relax the sanctions, provided Iran showed restraint and in exchange for an Iranian declaration it was ending its military nuclear program. The United States decided it would take military action against Iran only if Iran were to close to the Strait of Hormuz or attack American allies and assets in the Gulf. Similarly, the United States activated economic measures to control the rise in oil prices.

Iran: In light of the outcome of the Israeli attack, Iran felt it had no choice but to react strongly and militarily against Israel, launching some 100 Shehab missiles right away (and another 100 in round two) at Tel Aviv, the Negev Nuclear Research Center in Dimona, and various cities. Iran also pressured its proxies to act against Israel and launch rocket and missiles at Israeli targets, as well as engage in multi-front acts of terrorism. At the same time, Iran appealed to the international community to grant legitimacy to its enrichment program and revoke the sanctions against it. At first, Iran chose not to attack American targets and assets to keep the United States from joining the fight against it. But the more Iran felt it was cornered and its freedom of action was curtailed, it realized that its strongest card lay in acting against America's allies in the Gulf and closing the Strait of Hormuz.

Russia chose to promote its objectives in the Caucasus and Europe. Russia also viewed the attack as an opportunity to position itself as the leading actor in the international community because of its ability to communicate with all the actors involved. However, the gap between the US and the Russian positions led to a paralysis of the international community's ability to act. In turn, and in the absence of American leadership, China, with access to all the relevant actors, became a key player on the international field.

Syria preferred to focus on its domestic upheaval, maintain a low profile, and not be dragged into combat against Israel.

Hizbollah found itself in a quandary. On the one hand, Hizbollah came under heavy Iranian pressure to begin a massive launch of missiles and rockets at Israel, this being the "day of reckoning" for which Iran had furnished Hizbollah with 50,000 missiles and rockets. On the other hand, Hizbollah was wary about causing heavy damage in Lebanon yet again. It therefore chose to respond to Iran's demands selectively by launching rockets at Israeli military targets, especially airfields and active anti-missile defense systems. Israel's restrained response intensified Hizbollah's dilemma and supported its decision to attack to a relatively limited degree and focus on military targets.

Hamas chose to walk a fine line by demonstrating some commitment towards Iran, while making sure not to provide Israel with an excuse for a large scale attack in the Gaza Strip. Hamas' limited ability to control rogue and radical elements in Gaza was evident, and Hamas was forced to ask the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt for help in restraining the rogue elements it lacked the power to control.

The other actors – Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, Turkey, and the international community: Each chose to operate on the basis of its own particular interests, distance itself from the events, and prevent widespread regional escalation.

Insights from the War Game

a. The war game staged the first 48 hours after the attack. The intention was not to predict developments, rather to examine the significance and implications of one possible scenario. The players acted very rationally, demonstrating preventive policies and motivated by crucial interests alone, and ignored domestic and external constraints.
b. The Israeli actor assessed that the Israeli public possesses the stamina and fortitude to absorb the blows because it was convinced that for Israel, this was a war of no choice that had achieved is operational goals. The policy of restraint was based primarily on this assumption.
c. Iran has only limited tools and a limited ability to hit Israel directly, and therefore must operate its proxies against it. Iran has tools that are more relevant in the Persian Gulf sector, capable of hurting American interests and causing global oil prices to spike. Nonetheless, Iran clearly understood the cost it would have to pay should it ignite the Persian Gulf, especially the United States joining the fighting. This would only incur greater damage to its nuclear infrastructures and greater

destruction to a wide array of quality targets in Iran.

d. A successful Israeli attack with clear cut results and the meeting of the operational objectives would lead to two contradictory trends: on the one hand, Iran would be obligated to respond militarily and via its proxies; on the other hand its dependence on proxies would allow deterrence of the relevant actors and insertion of a wedge between Iran and its regional allies, thereby preventing regional escalation and encouraging containment.
e. Two other important elements likely to help contain the events are America's clear resolve to stand with Israel and a restrained policy on Israel's part, especially if the strategic objectives of the attack were met in the initial attack.
f. The simulation again raised the disadvantage of having no access to Iran's Supreme Leader and the limited levers of influence. In general, it became clear that there are no reliable lines of communication with the Iranian leadership. While Russia cannot serve as a credible channel for dialogue, it emerged that China may be capable of serving as a mediator.
g. In planning the exit strategy and a mechanism to contain and mitigate negative developments, Israel cannot rely on the international community. It is highly probable that the deepening of the divide between the United States and Russia would paralyze the international community. Some of the players on the international arena would like to see Israel "bleed" in order to pay for attacking Iran, regardless of the interests of others, and to restrain its actions in the future. If the crisis were prolonged, it could generate unintended consequences with the risk of regional escalation. Efforts by regional and international elements to end the event may involve a cost to Israel in the area of arms control.

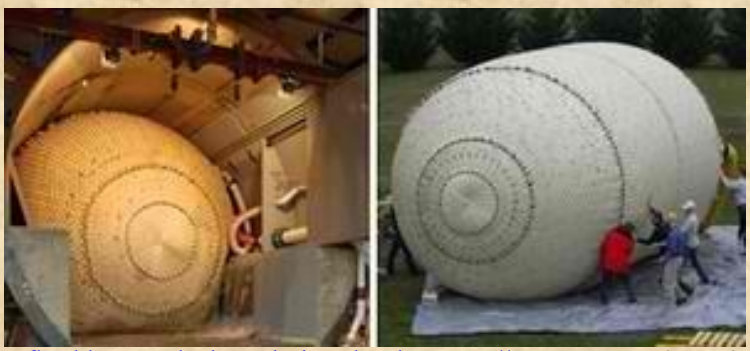
Conclusion

When the simulation was planned, it appeared that the fall of 2012 would be a critical period, and therefore it was decided to examine the possible developments subsequent to an Israeli attack. This sense of an imminent decision has since abated somewhat, but after the US and Israeli elections, the question of an attack will undoubtedly resurface. It is therefore critical to continue to examine the potential ramifications of an attack.

The scenario of an Israeli attack immediately after the US elections does not reflect the position of the Institute for National Security Studies. The possibility of an Israeli attack at any time is complex and has been analyzed in many INSS publications. Overall, there are two opposing assessments of the implications of an Israeli attack. One anticipates the outbreak of World War III, while the other envisions containment and restraint, and presumes that in practice, Iran's capabilities to ignite the Middle East are limited. The war game that took place developed in the direction of containment and restraint, with the actors motivated mainly by rational considerations and critical interests.

Inflatable giant plugs could have saved NYC subway system

Source: http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20121107-inflatable-giant-plugs-could-have-saved-nyc-subway-system



Inflatable tunnel plugs during development // Source: ukopia.com

Inflatable plugs being developed with funding from DHS, could have saved some of New York's subway and highway tunnels from flooding during Hurricane Sandy, according to the developers of the plugs.

CNN reports that DHS successfully tested a plug earlier this year, using a 16-foot diameter

prototype to hold back pressurized water at a test tunnel in Morgantown, West Virginia. The idea was originally intended to protect tunnels from terrorist attacks.

Project managers have said that only one plug has been manufactured, and they are still two years away from marketing the plug to transit authorities around the country.

"If we would have had these things installed in the right places (in New York), they could have made a terrific difference," Greg Halter of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory told *CNN*. "The problem is we don't have a stock of things that we could put in place. It's not like we have a bunch of these sitting in a warehouse. It's a little frustrating really that we weren't at a better stage at this thing."

The idea was developed by Ever Barbero, a West Virginia University professor. He said of thought of the plug when he saw a news report that New York City would be closing the Holland Tunnel in preparation of the storm.

When he heard reports that tunnels had flooded, Barbero told *CNN*, "The first thing that came to us is maybe we have work cut out for the next 20 years. I think now everybody will say, 'I should have plugged this tunnel.'"

DHS project manager John Fortune is excited about the project but knows there is still work to be done.

"This is an experimental prototype. This is something that is probably two years away or so from real-world applications," Fortune told*CNN*. "It would be like asking Apple, 'Why can't I have an iPhone 6 now?' Because it's somewhere in the lab now. It's not ready to go."

A scaled-down plug, built with only a single layer, worked at preventing smoke or gas penetration, but when the team decided to use a stronger single-layer plug during an inflation test, the fabric failed.

The current design consists of three layers, with the outer layer consisting of thick webbing made of Vectran.

The plug inflates like a balloon and can reduce flooding and leakage to small amounts. Those involved with the project said that plugs could have prevented flooding in some tunnels in the East River, but that they would not have kept water from getting into underground subway stations and other infrastructure.

DHS started the Resilient Tunnel Project, which the aim of protecting transit tunnels from the threat of a terrorist gas attack and fire; developers of the plug say they always knew the project could also serve as a method for protecting tunnels from floods during hurricanes and severe rainstorms.

The plugs can be inflated in less than five minutes, can be pressurized with air or water, and must be made to fit individual tunnels.

"When you look at these things, you get the idea of a kid's balloon," Halter told *CNN*, but "they are not at all stretchable. They are specifically made to fit a tunnel of a specific dimension. They are tailor made. Their ability to expand or contract is less than 1 percent."

Team members say the plugs are cheaper than flood gates. The developers spent $400,000 on the prototype, but the price tag could go down if the plugs are manufactured in large quantities.

Developers of the plug say that the disaster Hurricane Sandy created in New York will boost the interest in the plug. "While we don't want to ride the back of a disaster, it's certainly our hope that people will look at this technology," Holter told *CNN*. "This may be the worst storm ever recorded in the last 100 years, but that's no reason that we won't have another storm that will cause as much damage."

35,000 Gallons of Prevention: Containing a Tunnel Flood with an Inflatable Stopper

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/35000-gallons-prevention

Twenty years ago in Chicago, a small leak in an unused freight tunnel expanded beneath the Windy City and started a flood which eventually gushed through the entire tunnel system. A quarter-million people were evacuated from the buildings above, nearly $2 billion in damages accrued, and it took 6 weeks to pump the tunnels dry. How much more costly – in lives and infrastructure – would a flood in a heavily used, underwater subway tunnel be today?

In January 2012 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) successfully tested an unprecedented technology for containing flooding or dangerous

gases in mass transit tunnels: a giant plug. S&T's Resilient Tunnel Project (RTP) has developed an enormous inflatable cylinder, tunnel-shaped with rounded capsule-like ends, that can be filled with water or air in minutes to

seal off a section of tunnel before flooding gets out of control.

For years mass transit experts have pondered ways to block off a section of a tunnel to quickly contain the spread of water. Ideally, the tunnel could be plugged, much as a drain is plugged by a rubber stopper. But is it actually possible to isolate part of a tunnel at a moment's notice? Retrofitting a transit system with retractable, watertight doors might seem an obvious solution, but doing so could be cost-prohibitive and incredibly disruptive.

S&T's new tunnel plug provides an affordable, easily installed, quickly deployable solution to protect vital mass transit systems. Developed in partnership with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, West Virginia University (WVU) and ILC Dover - longtime maker of NASA space suits - the plug inflates (with water or air) to dimensions of roughly 32-feet-long and by 16-feet-wide, and holds 35,000 gallons, about the same capacity as a medium-sized backyard swimming pool. When not in use, the plug packs down to a small storage space in the tunnel, ready for remote, immediate inflation in an emergency from the tunnel system's command center.

Designing, building, and testing this giant capsule proved quite complicated. "No one's ever done this before," says S&T Project Manager Dr. John Fortune. "It's a completely novel technology," adding that although he's proud to be first, a major challenge of the project has been the lack of a precedent or prior model.

Although the plug's cylindrical shape is an obvious choice for sealing off a tunnel, those tunnel walls are far from smooth. Pipes, vents, lights, and subway tracks line transit tunnels, and most include a raised service walkway on at least one side. How to block off such an irregular cross-section presented the RTP team a thorny problem. To ensure a tight seal, engineers designed the plug's full circumference to be sufficiently larger than the tunnel itself. The additional material allows the plug to envelop the irregularities and conform to the existing space. But even this design feature was a balancing act to get right: too much extra material could create wrinkles and allow high-pressure flood waters to course around the plug.

In addition to making the plug the perfect size for the tunnel, the team needed to make it strong enough when inflated to restrain a full tunnel's worth of water, yet pliable enough to be compressed into a small space when not in use. Fortune and his team tested different fabrics and shapes on the way to the present design. Initial tests on a single-layer inflatable plug were promising; however, the design proved unsuccessful when a full scale

prototype failed during pressurized testing. S&T's project team aggressively pursued new designs, ultimately settling on the present one: three separate layers.

On the outside, the plug hardly looks inflatable: thick webbing made of Vectran ®, a liquid-crystal polymer fiber, calls to mind

a thickly woven cargo net more than a balloon but provides strength and shape to the plug. Two additional layers, one of non-webbed Vectran and one of polyurethane, seal the air or water used as the inflation medium inside.

"We used the same design and manufacturing techniques we use in space suits and inflatable space habitats," explained Dave Cadogan, Director of Engineering at ILC Dover. "The webbings and underlying layers form a tough barrier that is strong and resilient to damage."

"We're utilizing the strongest fabrics in the world," explains Fortune. "Textile engineering is cost-prohibitive, so we sought to obtain fabrics available on the market." Using a commercially available fabric reduced development costs and will make plugs more affordable for mass transit operators.

January's tunnel plug test was conducted in a specially-built test tunnel in Morgantown, WV. "Our testing facility is configured like a tunnel in a major metropolitan city," said Eduardo Sosa, research assistant professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering at WVU. "It is the next best thing to actually doing the test in a tunnel."

During the test, the project team first inflated the plug with low pressure air to allow full inflation and conformity to the shape of the tunnel. (In actual operation, this low-pressure air inflation might suffice for the need to restrain explosive or otherwise deadly gases.) Water was then added to the plug to replace the air and achieve the design pressure. Finally, they closed the end of the test tunnel and "flooded" it with enough water to mimic the intense pressure of a real-life tunnel flood well below sea-level.

The result? Despite the high pressure, the seal held; the plug was a success.

With a simple appearance that belies the innovation behind it, the tunnel plug is just one of many DHS S&T projects that provide resilience - the ability to recover quickly and with minimal damage from an emergency - to the nation's transportation systems, electrical grids, and cyber networks. When lives and livelihoods depend on these critical infrastructures, "an ounce of prevention" - or in this case, thousands of gallons - is an investment worth far more than its weight in water.

Vectran

Vectran is a manufactured fiber, spun from a liquid crystal polymer created by Celanese Acetate LLC and now manufactured by Kuraray Co., Ltd. Chemically it is an aromatic polyester produced by the polycondensation of 4-hydroxybenzoic acid and 6-hydroxynaphthalene-2-carboxylic acid. These fibers are noted for thermal stability at high temperatures, high strength and modulus, low creep, and good chemical stability. They are moisture resistant and are generally stable in hostile environments. They have gold color. They are often used in combination with some polyester as a coating around Vectran core; polyurethane coating can improve abrasion resistance and act as a water barrier. Vectran has melting point of 330 °C, with progressive strength loss from 220 °C. As it has high resistance to ultraviolet radiation, it can be used outside for long term, if inspected regularly.

CSS ETH Zurich
Strategic Trends Analysis
ETH Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

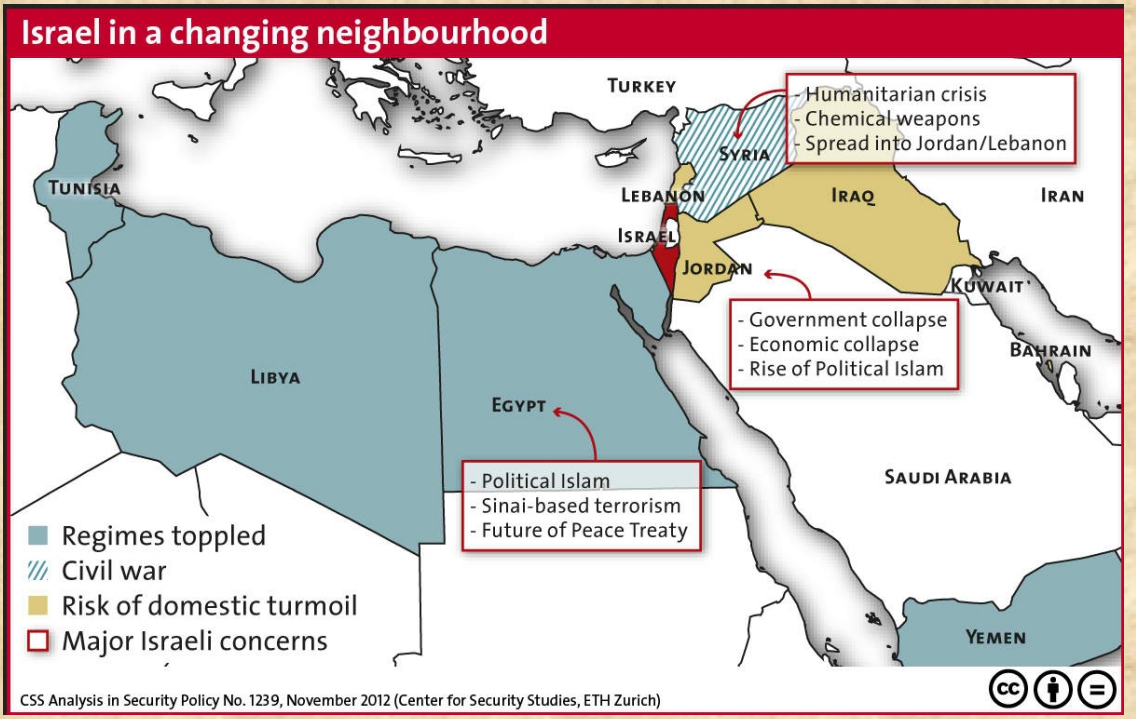
Israeli Perspectives on the Arab Uprisings

Author: Tova C. Norlén

Source: http://www.sta.ethz.ch/CSS-Analysis-in-Security-Policy/No.-123-Israeli-Perspectives-on-the-Arab-Uprisings-November-2012

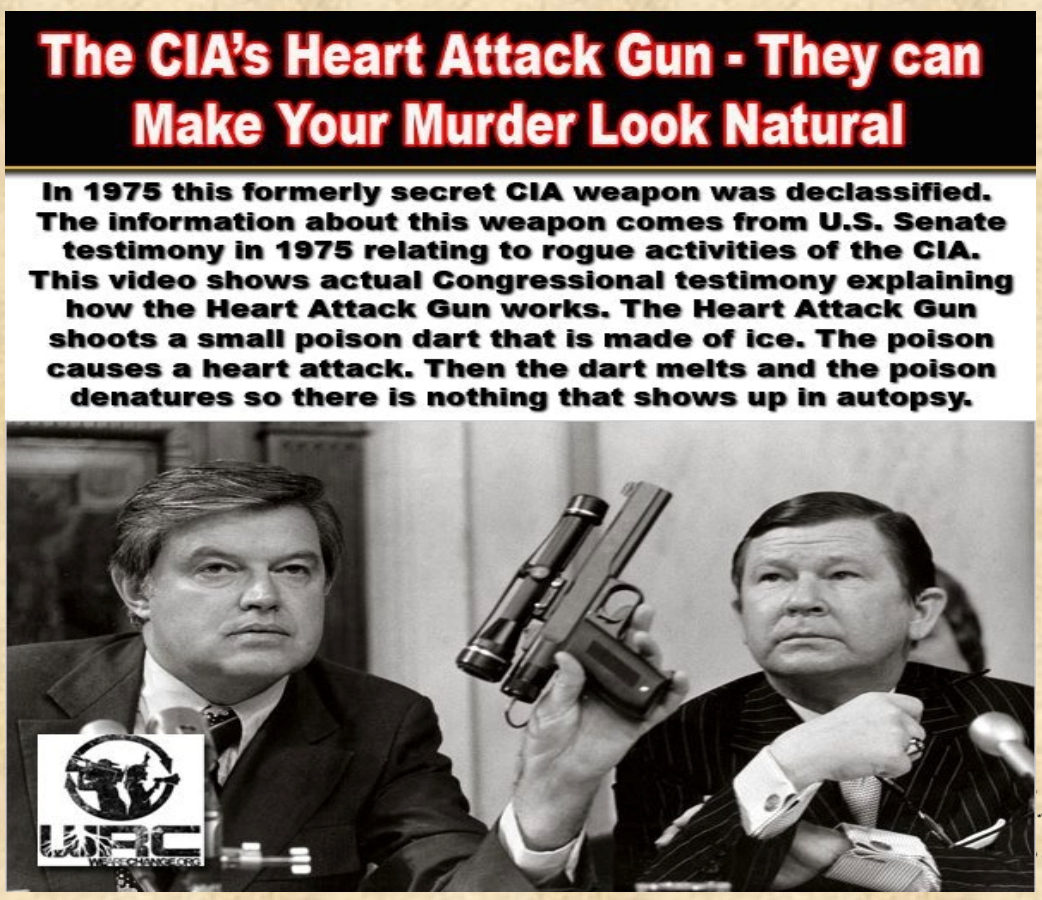
The reaction to the Arab revolts that began in 2011 was more skeptical in Israel than in other countries. This is because most Jewish Israelis agree that the net effect of the fundamental changes in the Arab world will be negative for Israel's security. What Israelis do not agree about, however, is how the country should best respond to these changes. While there are those who argue that Israel should engage with its neighborhood in order

to lessen its toxic image in the Arab world, many Israelis take the more hawkish view that the country should retreat and focus on enhancing its military capacity to counter future threats.



Fact or fiction?

Source: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_EAURrVh8U



Destroy the Sphynx and the pyramids

Source:http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/iv-drip/destroy-the-sphynx-and-the-pyramids-says-egyptian-jihadist-8306477.html

An Egyptian Islamist leader with ties to the Taliban has called for the "destruction of the Sphinx and Giza pyramids", suggesting these "idols" contravene the laws of Islam, reports Al Arabiya.

Murgan Salem al-Gohary, who served two jail sentences under former President Hosni Mubarak for inciting violence, called on Muslims to remove the ancient Egyptian relics in an interview broadcast Saturday.

"All Muslims are charged with applying the teachings of Islam to remove such idols, as we did in Afghanistan when we destroyed the Buddha statues", he said, speaking on a popular Egyptian private television channel.

“God ordered Prophet Mohammed to destroy idols,” he added. “When I was with the Taliban we destroyed the statue of Buddha, something the government failed to do."

Al-Gohary's incendiary comments come one day after a Salafist rally in Tahrir square that called for the introduction of Sharia law.

In the wake of Egypt's revolutions, the ultraconservative Salafist party has risen to become the second most influential force in parliament, behind the Muslim Brotherhood.

According to Egyptian author Ahmed Osman, the Salafis sympathise with Al-Gohary's view, and have demanded that Pharaonic statues be covered.

But the vice president of Tunisia's Islamist Ennahda party, Sheikh Abdel Fattah Moro, called the live programme on which Al-Gohary was a guest to challenge his interpretation of Islam. "The Prophet destroyed the idols because people worshipped them", he said. "But the Sphinx and the Pyramids are not worshiped.”

Earn your Trident every day…

Source: http://scottoncapecod.wordpress.com/2012/10/25/navy-seals-always/#more-2146

About the two Navy SEAL’s killed in Libya:

Quite an astounding tribute to the courage and bravery of the two former Navy SEAL’s that went to the aid of Ambassador Stevens and Embassy staff. Courageous!

Recently I was teaching a class in my church on the biblical character, Joshua. You

remember him – he's the one who took over for Moses to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. God made several promises to Joshua in the opening verses of this book of the Bible named after him. Three times God instructs Joshua to "be strong and courageous." In fact, one of those times God instructed him to be "very courageous." The road ahead was a tough one and Joshua would need to be up to the task.

The news has been full of the attacks on our embassies throughout the Muslim world, and in particular, the deaths of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three others in Benghazi , Libya . However, apart from the shameful amount of disinformation willingly distributed by the Main Stream Media and the current administration, there's a little known story of incredible bravery, heroics, and courage that should be the top story of every news agency across the fruited plain.

So what actually happened at the U.S. embassy in Libya ? We are learning more about this every day. Ambassador Stevens and Foreign Service officer Sean Smith, along with administrative staff, were working out of temporary quarters due to the fact that in the spring of 2011 during the so-called Arab Spring, the United States cut ties with then president Moammar Gadhafi. Our embassy was looted and ransacked, causing it to be unusable. It is still in a state of disrepair. Security for embassies and their personnel is to be provided by the host nation. Since Libya has gone through a civil war of sorts in the past 18 months, the current government is very unstable, and therefore, unreliable

A well-organized attack by radical Muslims was planned specifically targeting the temporary U.S. embassy building. The Libyan security force that was in place to protect our people deserted their post, or joined the attacking force. Either way, our people were in a real fix. And it should be noted that Ambassador Stevens had mentioned on more than one occasion to Secretary of State, "Hillary Clinton", that he was quite concerned for his personal safety and the welfare of his people. It is thought that Ambassador Stevens was on a "hit list."

A short distance from the American compound, two Americans were sleeping. They were in Libya as independent contractors working an assignment totally unrelated to our embassy. They also happened to be former Navy SEALs. When they heard the noise coming from the attack on our embassy, as you would expect from highly trained warriors, they ran to the fight. Apparently, they had no weapons, but seeing the Libyan guards dropping their guns in their haste in fleeing the scene, Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty snatched up several of these discarded weapons and prepared to defend the American compound.

Not knowing exactly what was taking place, the two SEALs set up a defensive perimeter. Unfortunately Ambassador Stevens was already gravely injured, and Foreign Service officer, Sean Smith, was dead. However, due to their quick action and suppressive fire, twenty administrative personnel in the embassy were able to escape to safety. Eventually, these two courageous men were overwhelmed by the sheer

numbers brought against them, an enemy force numbering between 100 to 200 attackers which came in two waves. But the stunning part of the story is that Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty killed 60 of the attacking force. Once the compound was overrun, the attackers were incensed to discover that just two men had inflicted so much death and destruction.

As it became apparent to these selfless heroes, they were definitely going to lose their lives unless some reinforcements showed up in a hurry. As we know now, that was not to be. I'm fairly certain they knew they were going to die in this gun fight, but not before they took a whole lot of bad guys with them!

Consider these tenets of the Navy SEAL Code: 1) Loyalty to Country, Team and Teammate, 2) Serve with Honor and Integrity On and Off the Battlefield, 3) Ready to Lead, Ready to Follow, Never Quit, 4) Take responsibility for your actions and the actions of your teammates, 5) Excel as Warriors through Discipline and Innovation, 6) Train for War, Fight to Win, Defeat our Nation's Enemies, and 7) Earn your Trident every day

Thank you, Tyrone and Glen. To the very last breath, you both lived up to the SEAL Code. You served all of us well. You were courageous in the face of certain death.

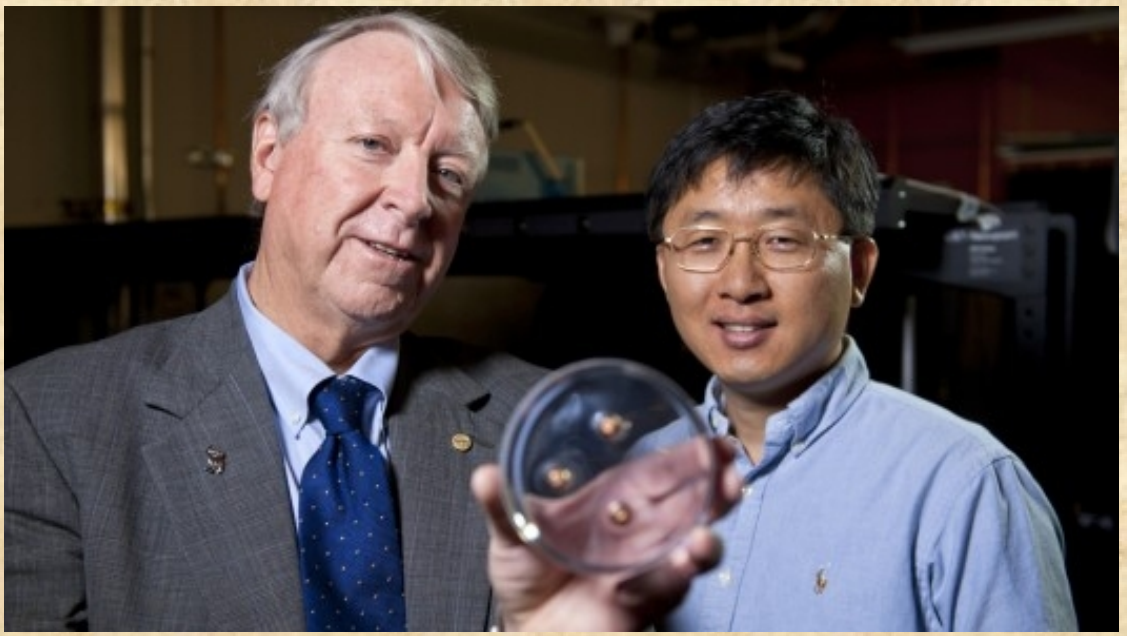
And Tyrone, even though you never got to hold your newborn son, he will grow up knowing the character and quality of his father, a man among men who sacrificed himself defending others. God bless America !

Dr. Charles R. Roots Senior Pastor Former Staff Sergeant, USMC Captain, U. S. Navy Chaplain Corps (Ret)

This should be passed on and on and on.

MIT breakthrough could lead to paper-thin bullet-proof armor

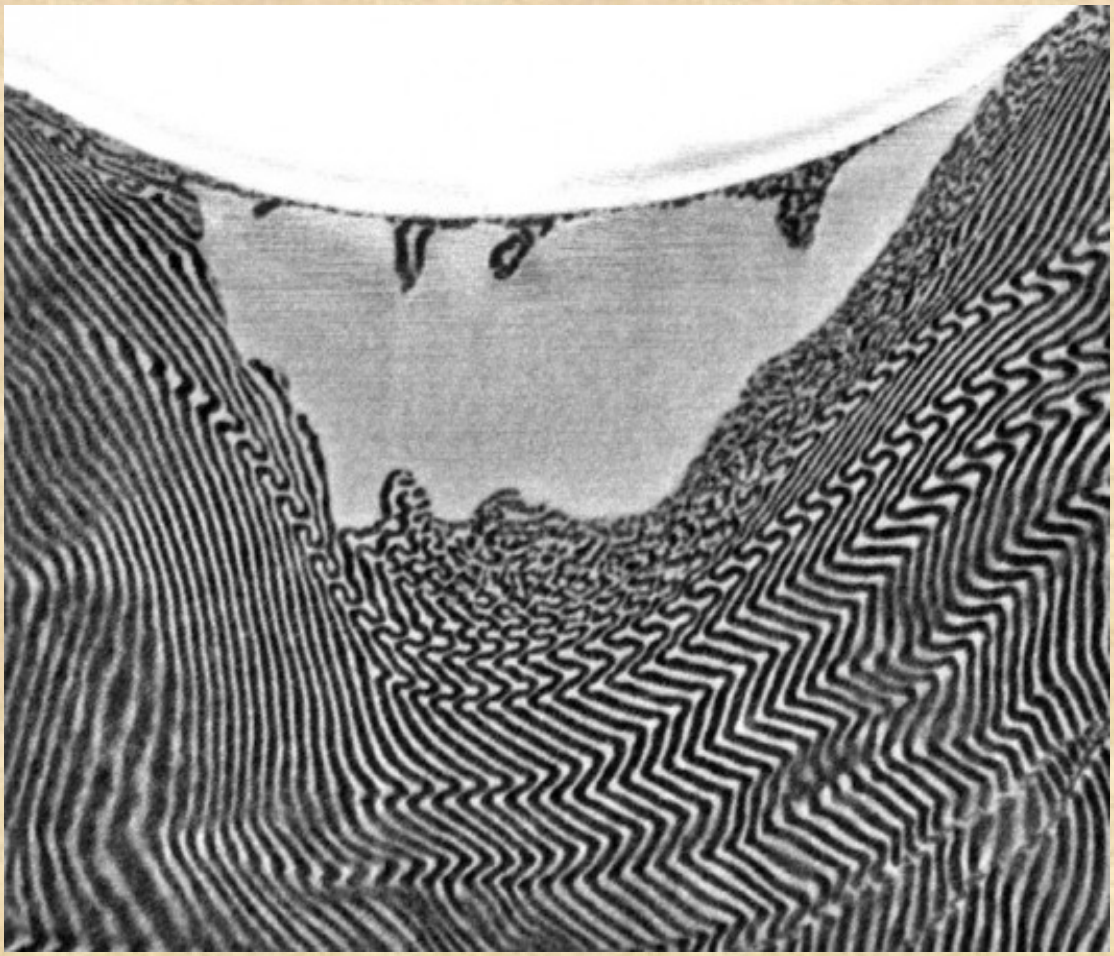
Source: http://www.gizmag.com/mit-breakthrough-paper-thin-bullet-proof-armor/24971/



Edwin Thomas, left, and Jae-Hwang Lee holding a polymer material containing three bullets (Photo: Tommy LaVergne, Rice University)

Scientists have theorized that paper-thin composite nanomaterials could stop bullets just as effectively as heavy weight body armor, but progress has been hampered by their inability to reliably test such materials against projectile impacts. Researchers at MIT and Rice University have developed a breakthrough stress-test that fires microscopic glass beads at impact-absorbing material. Although the projectiles are much smaller than a bullet, the experimental results could be scaled up to predict how the material would stand up to larger impacts.

The glass beads, described as "millionths of a meter in diameter," are propelled using a laser pulse technique developed by MIT's Keith Nelson over several years. His technique was modified with the help of scientists from Rice University in experiments conducted at MIT's Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies. Their work, reported in the journal *Nature Communications*, was supported by the U.S. Army Research Office, which is keen to reduce the burden on soldiers who currently wear armor that contains cumbersome plating an inch thick.



An electron-microscope image shows a cross-section of a layered polymer and the crater left by a glass bead in an edge-on impact (Photo: Thomas Lab, Rice University)

The team's self-assembling polymer is made by alternating flexible and rigid material layers just a nanometer thick, which can be seen clearly in cross-section with an electron microscope. This allows them to see precisely how the material has deformed after an impact. By studying multiple impacts, the team found that their material was 30 percent more resilient to head-on (rather than edge-on) collisions, a discovery which could change how current protective materials are made.

"It's a novel and useful approach that will provide needed understanding of the mechanisms governing how a projectile penetrates protective vests and helmets," said Donald Shockey, director of the Center for Fracture Physics at SRI International (unaffiliated with the project), as quoted by David Chandler of the MIT News Office.

The researchers still need to develop a way to record these impacts in real time in order to best understand them, but their tests could accelerate the development of paper-thin military body armor or shielding for satellites, space suits, and shuttles, and more.

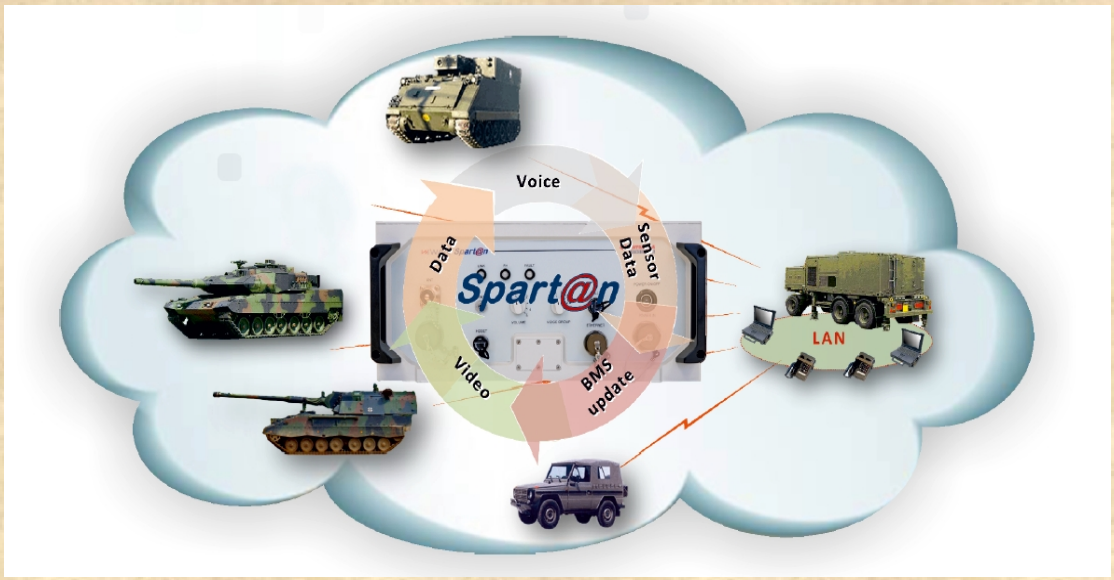
Greece - Spart@n

Source: http://www.intracomdefense.com/post/340

Spart@n is a Software Defined, IP Broadband Radio for secure information transfer at the tactical level. It operates in the 225-400 MHz band and it has been designed to fulfill requirements for fast data exchange between Battle Management Systems on-the-move.

Spart@n is destined to overcome the performance barriers induced by the use of VHF Radios, and to enable high data capacity and data exchange in real time.

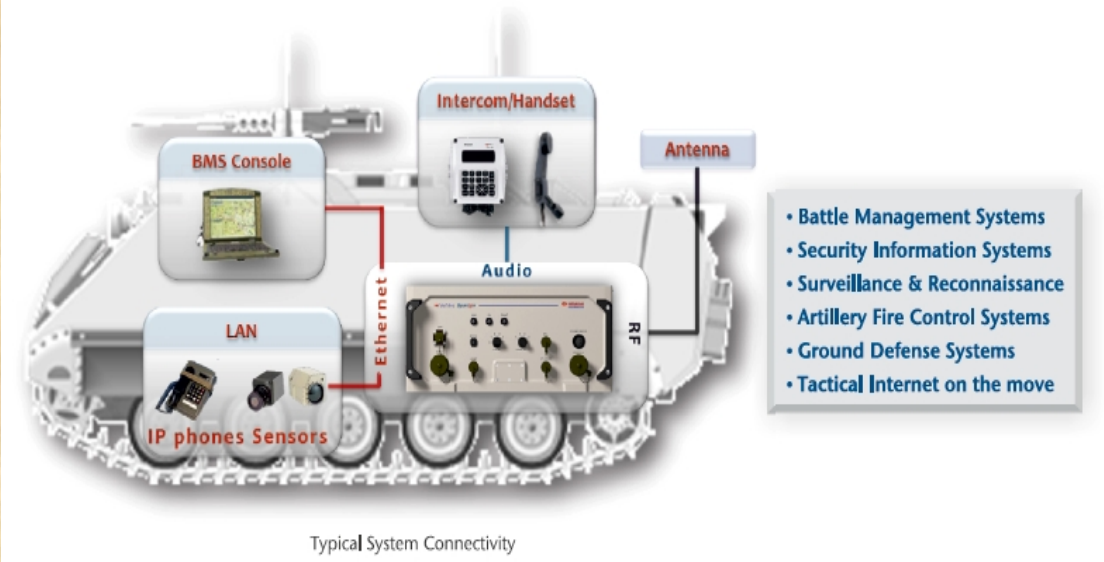
Spart@n can be interfaced seamlessly with any IP based software application, sensors and peripherals, in order to accommodate for the needs of real time transmission of Reconnaissance, Intelligence, Surveillance and Digital Battlefield Information, including real time video.



Transmission and Data Security are maintained at high standards with the use of advanced

TRANSEC and COMSEC mechanisms.
The system offers high flexibility and ease of use, while managed by a user friendly SNMP GUI.
The data rate transfer is continuously maximized utilizing Adaptive Modulation Control, Adaptive Power Control, whilst system efficiency is kept high with embedded Quality of Service and Multilevel Service Priority Plan.

Spart@n is fully ruggedized military equipment, utilizing a wideband waveform, specifically designed for defense operations, clearly leaving behind the suitability and use of WiMAX only for commercial applications.
Spart@n is an ideal solution for Tracked or Wheeled Vehicles, providing an agile, efficient and robust network-centric communications infrastructure.



Typical System Connectivity

The power of the pudenda: Hamas' subliminal message

By Nancy Hartevelt Kobrin
Source: http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/the-power-of-the-pudenda-hamas-subliminal-message/

A couple of months ago I wrote a piece called "The Mosque as Mother." A senior psychoanalyst and author of "Genocide and Jihad," Professor Richard L. Rubinstein, wrote to me saying that my analysis was brilliant. Of course that was ego-pleasing feedback. Yet many people's eyes glaze over in boredom when psychoanalysts talk about unconscious behavior as it is potently uncomfortable, yet potentially helpful knowledge. Then at Jihad Watch, I discovered that my "Mosque as Mother" was being circulated and read in the Arab world as it focused on the Iranian rapper Shahin Najafi. He had become the new Salman Rushdie, being placed under a death threat on account of his lyrics for Naki and his album cover depicting the dome of the mosque of the 8th Shia Imam as a female breast. He further argued that sexuality in Islam is transparent. I quote from my "Mosque as Mother" piece:
What exactly did he [Najafi] mean by "transparent"? I take him to mean that a perverse sexuality lurks below the surface of Mahdist culture, which hates the female. The dome of the mosque is an unconscious representation of the female breast of the nursing mother. This is the essence of a shame honor culture signifying that there is maternal deprivation and paranoia. They go hand in hand. The little girls and women are abused. With shame, comes blaming the other but hardly ever the mother because the mother is the object to be protected by the little humiliated, shamed boy who witnesses his mother being abused. The little boy feels his mother to be an extension of himself. To see her hit, is for him to feel her pain. He must protect her at all costs. Picture a frightened little boy clinging hysterically to his mother's skirt. This same little boy harbors an erotized rage that in many instances exceeds murder itself. It is not just enough to murder; it must in order to redeem honor

through blood violence. The hatred and violence is an erotized hatred — the intense hatred of the female that is not satiated by merely murdering.

This got me to thinking about another repeated imagery inflicted upon us by Hamas's missiles — images of poked out apartments in buildings.

Terrorism is a communication. Many experts look at the strategic dimension of the communication. While this is obviously and extremely important for battle, I also ponder the unconscious psychological communication that Hamas communicates to us while they desperately try to ensnare us in their own *projected* terrors. They are not only projecting missiles; they are projecting their rage and *how they feel about themselves and their mothers*! They are terrified of the mother's body because she presents a paradox to them — how such a devalued female can be so powerful as to give birth to a baby, which is something that they can't do. How could they as macho men be born from a female body? It is a contamination.

So let's take a moment to consider the difference in imagery between, for example, the classic Al Qaeda truck bombing signature of the East African Embassy bombings or the earlier truck bombings by the Iranians in Lebanon in the early 1980s. There the facade of the building is completely sheared off. If we interpolate this gruesome image into what I call the code of the mother, we can make more systematic sense out of their tumultuous psychotic chaos. All behavior is potentially meaningful. Terrorist behavior seeks to disorganize and terrorize through an extreme unconscious annihilating anxiety that causes others to dissociate and to be in denial. It is as if these terrorists completely mutilate and destroy the face of their mother.

But why? The mutilation of the mother's face and also body is the attempt to make the mother *powerless*. In both Arab Muslim and Iranian culture, this is because the male feels emasculated by his dominating mother from whom he is not permitted to separate according to cultural norms. The male must externalize and project his rage outward, not at the mother. The Other is a substitute for the mother. Their own females are also terrified and are caught up in this web of paranoia, rage and hatred of the Other.

The hatred of the Jew/Israel has been collapsed into this early hatred of the female. Simply put, Jew = female. The jihadi rage must engage in mutilation as do serial killers.

The female has merely internalized Hamas rage of the female as self-hatred. Last night we saw this when Ilana Dayan on Channel 2 interviewed a young woman in Gaza who blogs against Hamas. Yet this young woman stunningly collapsed into identifying with the murderous rage of Hamas, causing her to blame the Israelis and to identify with the real aggressor in classic Stockholm Syndrome fashion.

I speculate here that this young, articulate woman is so dissociated and terrified, that even she cannot see the forest from the trees, and assumes out of weakness the fallback position of supporting Hamas on Israeli airways. Why? Because Hamas will kill her. They hate the female and she knows it.

Yet, as the old adage goes with regard to blaming, any five-fingered person pointing the finger of blame has three fingers and a thumb pointing right back at him or herself.

To return to my model T Ford reading of Hamas's missile imagery, unlike Al Qaeda, the imagery is different at least for the moment. Hamas has yet to shear off the facade of buildings; rather it is as if Hamas pokes out the eyes of the shaming mother or seeks to destroy her ranting mouth. The pictures are of Israeli apartment buildings with missiles, poking gaping holes in the facades.

The more specific unconscious communication that Hamas sends to us, and of which they are completely unaware, is that they are very, very unhappy campers, so filled with hatred because once upon a time they were used by their abused mothers as narcissistic objects.

Of course, as male babies, they did not understand this. Yet inevitably the entire maternal attachment for the most formative years of building the brain of the male child, from birth to age 2 when the brain quadruples in size, was placed at risk. The upshot was the creation of a cognitive deficit, leaving them lacking the capacity to perceive reality in a balanced manner and the inability to assume responsibility for their own behavior. They never developed empathy for the female and all Others.

I continue to speculate but as infants they were not able to attach calmly with their mothers. From the imagery that they paint across the canvas of their destruction is a picture of disrupted attachment, which leads to, at the very minimum, a kind of pathological attachment, tipping the scales toward becoming violent. See for example Dr. Kathy Seifert's "How Children Become Violent." Hamas does not air drop leaflets warning Gaza civilians like Israelis do.

This is not rocket science. No pun intended, but even Hamas's rockets have been described by military experts as primitive. The concrete description is apt, articulating unconscious "primitive" infantile behavior. The rockets attach by hitting a building, like a baby crying, screaming in pain. Yet their end objective, unconsciously, subliminally, is to make the mother powerless, to destroy the power of her pudenda, (the external female genitals in Latin which mean "shame") called the *'ird* in Arabic, meaning pelvis, the locus of female honor also linked to shame.

I leave you, the reader, with one last image. Hamas claims that it has suicide bombers waiting in waves on its borders to attack. This fits with early Islamic warfare where the females would line up, raise their skirts and expose their pudenda on the battle field. The suicide bomber is the contemporary female counterpart in Hamas's arsenal. Not too dissimilar from the Iranian children sent to the battlefield with tacky plastic keys to paradise hung around their necks, as their very own adults slaughter these innocents. The child is always identified with the mother. This, then, is really nothing more than extreme hatred of the female masquerading as crude pseudo-honor.

Hamas is a shame-honor terrorist organization embedded in an Arab/Palestinian shame-honor culture, compounding shame at least twofold. This subliminal shame must be understood by those who attempt to negotiate peace. Otherwise we, Israel, will remain forever confused as unwilling substitutes in their paranoid mind's eye for their terrifying omnipotent-yet-hated mother. Their own thumb points back at whom is really to blame.

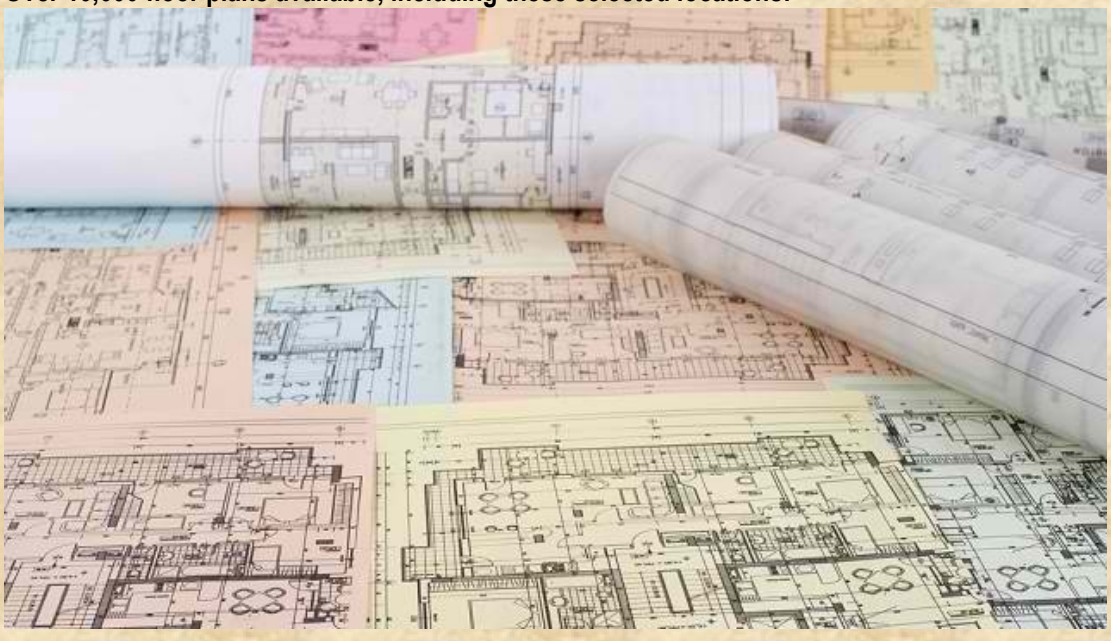
Dr Nancy Hartevelt Kobrin *is an olah hadasha and a psychoanalyst with a PhD in Aljamía (Old Spanish in Arabic script). She is an expert on the Minnesota Somali diaspora and a graduate of the Human Terrain System program in Leavenworth, Kansas. She is author of 'The Banality of Suicide Terrorism,' with a Hebrew edition in the works.*

Indoor Maps availability

Source: http://support.google.com/gmm/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=1685827

Indoor maps are currently available in selected locations in Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Japan, the United Kingdom, the U.S., Sweden, and Switzerland. Check back as more locations are added, or upload a floor plan.

Over 10,000 floor plans available, including these selected locations:



Belgium

- BOZAR
- The Centre for Fine Arts
- Brussels Airport (BRU)
- Arts Center Vooruit
- Koekelberg - National Basilica of the Sacred Heart
- Site Oud Sint Jan
- Rail Stations (SNCB)*
    - Aalst
    - Antwerpen-Berchem
    - Antwerpen Central
    - Arlon
    - Ath
    - Braine Lalleud
    - Brugge
    - Brussel-Central
    - Brussel-Luxembourg
    - Brussel-North
    - Brussel-South
    - Charleroi-South
    - Denderleeuw
    - Dendermonde
    - Etterbeek
    - Gent-Dampoort
    - Gent-Sint-Pieters
    - Hasselt
    - Kortrijk

  - Leuven
  - Libramont
  - Liége-Guillemins
  - Mechelen
  - Mons
  - Namur
  - Nivelles
  - Oostende
  - Ottignies
  - Sint-Niklaas
  - Tournai
  - Vilvoorde
  - Zottegem
- Museums
  - AUTOWORLD Brussels
  - CINEMATEK
  - Coudenberg Palace
  - Historium
  - The MOT - Museum for Old Techniques
- Retailers*
  - Decathlon
  - MediaMarkt
  - Saturn Wilrijk
  - Colruyt
- Shopping centers
  - Basilix Shopping Center
  - Galerie Toison d'Or
  - Galeries Saint-Lambert
  - Julianus Shopping Center
  - K in Kortrijk
  - Les Grand Pres
  - Pieter van Aelst
  - Warande Beveren
  - Wijnegem Shopping Center
  - Winkelcentrum Promenade
- Universities*
  - Gent University, Het Pand Building
  - Universite Catholique de Louvain (UCL)
  - Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

**selected stores and buildings*

Canada

- West Edmonton Mall

Denmark

- Copenhagen Airport (CPH)
- Danish National Library
- National Gallery of Denmark
- The National Museum of Denmark
- Rail Stations
  - Aarhus Central Station
  - Copenhagen Central Station
  - Odense Central Station
- Retailers*:
  - IKEA

- Bilka
- Elgiganten
- Føtex
- Kvickly
- Matas

- Shopping Centers
  - Bruuns Galleri
  - Bryggen
  - City Vest
  - Field's
  - Friis
  - Glostrup ShoppingCenter
  - Helsingør Bycenter
  - Hvidovre Stationscenter
  - Ishøj Bycenter
  - Kolding Storcenter
  - Lyngby Storcenter
  - Nørrebro Bycenter
  - Randers Storcenter
  - Slotsarkaderne Hillerød
  - Vestsjællandscentret

**selected stores*

France

- Airports
  - Paris - Charles de Gaulle
  - Lyon - Saint Exupéry
  - Paris- Orly
- Retailers*
  - Alinéa
  - Carrefour
  - Casino
  - E.Leclerc
  - Fnac
  - Galeries Lafayette
  - Kiabi
  - Lapeyre
  - Leroy Merlin
  - Monoprix
  - Orange
- Shopping Centers
  - BAB 2
  - Bay 2
  - Carré Sénart
  - Carrousel du Louvre
  - Cité Europe
  - Confluence
  - Docks 76
  - Docks Vauban
  - Euralille
  - Forum des Halles
  - Gaité Montparnasse
  - L'Usine Côte d'Opale
  - La Toison d'or
  - Labège 2

- Les Quatre Temps
- Lyon Part-Dieu
- Mériadeck/Les Passages
- Nice Etoile
- Palais des Congrès
- Parly 2
- Place d'arc
- Rennes Alma
- Rivetoile
- Rosny 2
- Saint Sever
- Ulis 2
- Usine Mode et Maison/VUC
- Usine Roubaix
- Vélizy 2
- Villeneuve 2

- Museums
  - Cité de la Musique
  - Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie
  - La Géode
  - Le Palais de la Découverte

**selected stores*

Japan

- Airports
  - Chubu Centrair International Airport
  - Haneda Airport, Domestic Terminal
  - Haneda Airport, International Terminal
  - Izumo Airport
  - Kagoshima Airport
  - Kansai International Airport
  - Narita International Airport
  - New Chitose Airport
  - Osaka International Airport
- 109 MEN'S
- Daimaru Umeda
- Daimaru
- DECKS TOKYO BEACH
- Hankyu Department Store Kawanishi
- Hankyu Department Store Nishinomiya
- Hankyu Department Store Sanda
- Hankyu Department Store Senri
- Hankyu Department Store Takarazuka
- Hankyu Department Store Umeda
- Hanshin Department Store Amagasaki
- Hanshin Department Store Mikage
- Hanshin Department Store Nishinomiya
- Hanshin Department Store Umeda
- Hanshin Mikage Station
- Hanshin Umeda Station
- Isetan
- JR East in Tokyo and Chiba (main stations)
- JR Kyoto Isetan
- JR Osaka Mitsukoshi Isetan
- Keio

- LaLa port TOYOSU
- Lalaport Tokyo Bay
- Marui Kobe
- Marui Namba
- Marui
- Marunouchi BRICK SQUARE
- Marunouchi Building
- Marunouchi OAZO
- Matsuya
- Matsuzakaya
- Mitsukoshi
- Odakyu
- Parco Ikebukuro
- Parco Shibuya
- Printems Ginza
- remy gotanda
- Roppongi Hills
- Seibu
- Shibuya 109
- Shin-Marunouchi Building
- Sunshine City Ikebukuro
- Takashimaya Kyoto
- Takashimaya Osaka
- Takashimaya
- Tenjin Chikagai
- The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan)
- Tobu
- TOKIA Tokyo Building
- Tokyo Midtown
- Tokyu Corporation (main stations)
- Tokyu Hands Ikebukuro
- Tokyu Hands Shibuya
- Tokyu Kichijoji
- Tokyu Department store
- Venus Fort
- Yamada-Denki Akihabara
- Yamada-Denki Ikebukuro Mobile Dream
- Yamada-Denki Ikebukuro Mobile Dream
- Yamada-Denki Shibuya
- Yamada-Denki Shinbashi Seikatsu

United Kingdom

- Airports
    - London City Airport
    - London Stansted Airport
    - London Luton Airport
    - Manchester
    - Edinburgh
    - Glasgow
    - Birmingham
- Barbican
- BFI Southbank
- British Museum
- Cabot Circus Shopping Centre
- Cannon Street Station

- Charing Cross Station
- Courtauld Gallery
- Debenhams*
- Euston Station
- Fenchurch Street Station
- Harrods
- House of Fraser*
- John Lewis*
- Kings Cross Station
- Liverpool Street Station
- London Bridge Station
- Museum of London
- National Maritime Museum
- National Theater
- Natural History Museum
- National Portrait Gallery
- O2 Arena
- One New Change Shopping Center
- Paddington Station
- Peter Jones - Sloan Sq.
- Ricoh Arena
- Selfridges*
- Somerset House
- St Pancras International Station
- Victoria and Albert Museum
- Victoria Station
- Waterloo Station
- Wembley Stadium

United States

- Airports
  - Akron-Canton Airport (CAK)
  - Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (ATL)
  - Boise International Airport (BOI)
  - Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT)
  - Chicago Midway International Airport (MDW)
  - Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD)
  - Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL)
  - General Mitchell International Airport (MKE)
  - George Bush Houston International Airport (IAH)
  - Honolulu International Airport (HNL)
  - Indianapolis International Airport (IND)
  - Kansas City International Airport (MCI)
  - Lambert-St. Louis International Airport (STL)
  - Las Vegas McCarran International Airport (LAS)
  - Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY)
  - Miami International Airport (MIA)
  - Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP)
  - Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC)
  - Portland International Airport (PDX)
  - San Francisco International Airport (SFO)
  - Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA)
  - Tampa International Airport (TPA)
  - William P. Hobby Airport (HOU)

- Shopping Malls
  - Arrowhead Towne Center
  - Biltmore Fashion Park
  - Boynton Beach Mall
  - Brixmor Property Group including Eagle Rock Plaza in Los Angeles, CA
  - Burlington Mall
  - Burnsville Center
  - Capitola Mall
  - Carmel Plaza
  - Carousel Mall
  - Chandler Fashion Center
  - Chestnut Hill Mall
  - Cool Spring Galleria
  - Danbury Fair Mall
  - Dayton Mall
  - DDR Corp. shopping centers in Puerto Rico, including Plaza del Atlántico in Arecibo, Plaza del Sol in Bayamon, Plaza Rio Hondo in Bayamon, Plaza del Norte in Hatillo, Plaza Palma Real in Humacao and Senorial Plaza in Rio Piedras
  - Fashion Centre at Pentagon City Mall
  - Fashion Show Mall
  - Flagstaff Mall
  - Flatiron Crossing Shopping Center
  - Galleria Dallas
  - Harford Mall
  - Hilldale Shopping Center
  - International Plaza and Bay Street
  - King of Prussia Mall - The Pavilion
  - Mall of America
  - Mall at Stonecrest
  - Midland Mall
  - Northgate Mall
  - Northwoods Mall
  - Pearlridge Uptown
  - Penn Square Mall
  - Regency Mall
  - Rushmore Mall
  - Santa Monica Place
  - Sawgrass Mills
  - Southland Mall
  - Southwest Plaza
  - The Natick Mall
  - The Promenade at Casa Grande
  - The Shops at Montebello
  - The Village at Corte Madera
  - Valley Mall
  - Valley View Mall
  - Victoria Gardens
  - Washington Square
  - West Ridge Mall
  - Westmoreland
  - Westside Pavilion
  - Woodland Mall
  - Vallco Shopping Mall
- Retail
  - Best Buy*

- Bloomingdale's*
- Home Depot*
- Ikea*
- Macy's*
- Petsmart*
- Sears - Schaumburg, IL
- Sports Authority*
- Toys R Us*
- Wal-Mart Supercenter - Pineville, MO

- Museums
  - American Museum of Natural History
  - Anacostia Community Museum
  - Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
  - Boston Children's Museum
  - Chabot Space and Science Center
  - Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose
  - Cincinnati Museum Center
  - Computer History Museum
  - Donald W Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture
  - Freer Gallery of Art
  - Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
  - Indianapolis Museum of Art
  - Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL
  - Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame
  - National Air and Space Museum, National Mall Building
  - National Air and Space Museum, Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center
  - National Museum of African Art
  - National Museum of American History
  - National Museum of the American Indian
  - National Museum of the American Indian, George Gustav Heye Center
  - National Museum of Natural History
  - National Portrait Gallery
  - National Postal Museum
  - National Zoological Park
  - Philadelphia Museum of Art
  - Renwick Gallery
  - S. Dillon Ripley Center
  - Smithsonian American Art Museum
  - Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum
  - Smithsonian Institution Building (“The Castle”)
  - Smithsonian Quadrangle
  - The Art Institute of Chicago
  - The deYoung Museum
- Casinos
  - Caesars Entertainment - Bally's Las Vegas
  - Caesars Entertainment - Caesars Palace
  - Caesars Entertainment - Flamingo Las Vegas
  - Caesars Entertainment - Harrah's Las Vegas
  - Caesars Entertainment - Imperial Palace
  - Caesars Entertainment - Paris Las Vegas
  - Caesars Entertainment - Planet Hollywood
  - Caesars Entertainment - Rio Las Vegas
  - Las Vegas Sands - The Venetian
  - MGM Resorts - Aria Hotel & Casino
  - MGM Resorts - Bellagio

  - MGM Resorts - Circus Circus Hotel & Casino
  - MGM Resorts - Crystals Retail
  - MGM Resorts - Excalibur Hotel & Casino
  - MGM Resorts - The Hotel at Mandalay Bay
  - MGM Resorts - Luxor Hotel & Casino
  - MGM Resorts - Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino
  - MGM Resorts - Mandalay Bay - Four Seasons
  - MGM Resorts - Mandarin Oriental
  - MGM Resorts - MGM Grand Hotel & Casino
  - MGM Resorts - The Mirage Resort & Casino
  - MGM Resorts - Monte Carlo Resort & Casino
  - MGM Resorts - New York, New York Hotel & Casino
  - MGM Resorts - Signature
  - MGM Resorts - Vdara Hotel
- Convention Centers
  - Boston Convention & Exhibition Center
  - Colorado Convention Center
  - Las Vegas Convention Center
  - McCormick Place
  - Moscone Center
  - Orlando Convention Center
- Hospitals
  - Georgetown Memorial Hospital
  - Mayo Clinic - Scottsdale
  - University of Kansas Medical Center
- Hotels
  - Hilton Atlanta
  - Hilton Santa Clara
  - The Fairmont San Francisco
  - W San Francisco
- Landmarks
  - Boston City Hall
  - EAA AirVenture Oshkosh
  - Fort Mason Center Herbst Pavillion
- Libraries
  - Athol Public Library
  - Champaign Public Library
  - City of Commerce Public Library
  - CSUMB Library
  - Cumberland Public Libary
  - Des Moines Public Library - Central
  - Founders Memorial Library - Northern Illinois University
  - IUPUI University Library
  - Los Angeles Public Library
  - San Diego Public Central Library
  - Santa Clara University Library
  - St. Johns County Public Library System Main Library
  - The New York Society Library
  - Tisch Library, Tufts University
  - Twin Falls Public Library
  - UC San Diego - Geisel Library
  - University of Pittsburgh - Hillman Library
  - Wellesley
- Religious Centers
  - Bellaire United Methodist Church

  - First Baptist Church of Centerville
  - Seattle Church of Christ
- Restaurants
  - Chili's Restaurants
- Sports Venues
  - Black Box Cabaret
  - Covey Center For The Arts
  - KFC Yum! Center
  - Red Bull Arena New York
  - Stanford Stadium
  - The Cleveland Play House
- Transit Stations
  - Boston Transit
  - Chicago Union Station
- Universities
  - Central Michigan University
  - Cerritos Community College
  - Chabot College
  - City College of San Francisco
  - Duke Fuqua School of Business
  - Kelley School of Business
  - Mission Community College
  - Rocky Mountain University
  - San Jose City College
  - Santa Clara University
  - Santa Monica College
  - Stanford Maples Pavilion
  - Univeristy of Idaho
  - University of Charleston
  - University of Colorado, Boulder
  - University of Hawaii, Kapiolani
  - University of Iowa (School of Dentistry)
  - University of Memphis
  - University of Pennsylvania - Student Memorial Center

**Various locations*

Sweden

- Kulturhuset
- Malmo Art Museum and Castle
- Stockholm City Museum
- Rail Stations
  - Gothenburg
  - Hässleholm
  - Jönköping
  - Linköping
  - Malmö
  - Norrköping
  - Stockholm
  - Uppsala
  - Västerås
- Retailers
  - Åhléns
  - Elgiganten
  - Gekås
  - IKEA

- NetOnNet
- Shopping Centers
  - Allum
  - Etage Shopping
  - Familia
  - Nacka Forum
  - Kupolen
  - Marieberg Galleria
  - Mirum Galleria
  - MittiCity
  - Nova Lund
  - Sollentuna Centrum
  - Solna Centrum
  - Torp Köpcentrum Shopping

Switzerland

- La Praille (Geneva)
- Shopping Arena (St Gallen)
- Sihlcity (Zurich)
- St Jakob's Sporthalle
- St Jakobs Park Shopping (Basel)
- Verkehrshaus
- Westside (Bern)

**some locations*

EDITOR'S COMMENT? Is this a good idea/service? All the busy/crowded places in major Western countries and Japan! Why is it so important for consumers to know the details of such buildings? What if the other side of the moon got a gift that could not had access to – so easily?

'Poison' pen mightier than sword for would-be North Korean assassin

Source: http://edition.cnn.com/2012/11/25/world/asia/north-korea-assassination-weapons/index.html

All you might feel is someone brush by you and a slight pin prick. But very quickly you would be suffering muscle paralysis followed by suffocation. You would be dead within a very short period of time.

This is the deadly effect of just one of the weapons found on a failed North Korean assassin last year on the busy streets of Seoul, now shown exclusively to CNN.

Disguised to look like a Parker ballpoint pen, it contains a poison needle and is practically impossible to identify as a weapon. The second pen shoots a poison-filled bullet which penetrates the skin and releases the toxin and the third weapon is a flashlight, loaded with up to three bullets. They all look completely innocuous but all three will kill.

An individual willing to be identified only as an "investigation official" showed CNN the weapons, pointing out the flashlight as the most significant find. "This flashlight is new," the man familiar with North Korean assassination devices said.

"I've never seen this weapon. If you look at the front, there are three holes, there was a bullet in each hole and here is the trigger. This is currently loaded and dangerous, two bullets remain."

The third bullet had been fired by investigation authorities to test the weapon. It was accurate and deadly. The would-be assassin who was carrying these devices was arrested on his way to kill his target.

That target was anti-North Korea activist, Park Sang-hak, who has since been given round-the-clock police protection by South Korean authorities. We showed Park the footage of the weapons intended for him. He was shocked.

"You'd notice a gun, but these weapons are so innocuous, you can easily kill someone, I'd be dead immediately."

Park says he will continue to send anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets across the border in balloons, a practice which has angered the regime, sparking threats of military retaliation. He was aware he was at the top of North Korea's hit list.

Park had been in contact with the would-be assassin, named only as Ahn, as Ahn had expressed interest in funding his activism. He was on his way to meet him when the National Intelligence Service intervened and stopped him. It was at that meeting Ahn was believed to have planned to kill Park, according to South Korean authorities. Ahn was convicted in April and sentenced to four years in prison.

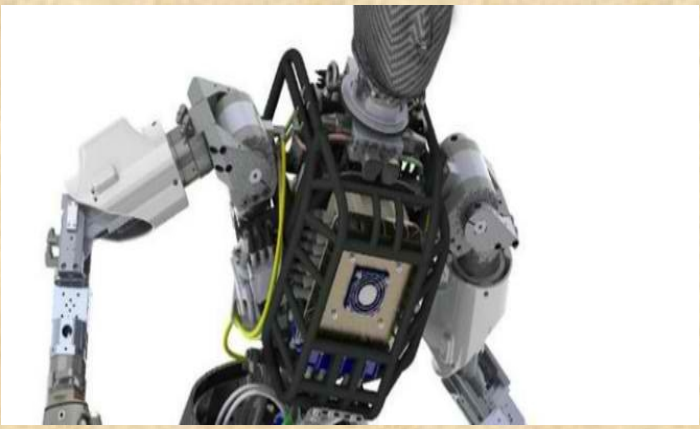
"I didn't believe they'd try and kill me on the crowded streets of Seoul, I thought the NIS was over-reacting," Park said.

He now knows they saved his life but is also convinced that it will not be the last attempt on his life.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Recalling the murder investigation of Georgi Markov, we see that Mr. Markov was apparently assassinated with an "umbrella gun". The umbrella gun fired a small sugar-coated pellet that was found to have traces of ricin. Ricin is easily extracted from castor beans and, in any case, ingestion of both is known to be fatal**.** This leads us to speculate that the poison-pellet pen in the Seoul attempt may contain ricin - though unverified. Hence the posting of the image of the crystallographic structure of ricin from the NCBI. Ricin is not the only preferred assassin's poison, apparently. Polonium 210 is in the news once again as Palestine has exhumed (and since re-interred) the remains of Yasir Arafat. The possibility of his death by poisoning and that of Alexander Litvinenko – not to mention the possibility of Turkish ex Prime minister Turgut Ozal (DDT/DDE poisoning) – remain controversial with the blame put on assassination by polonium 210. But it seems likely that the flashlight gun was just that and the poison pens *may have contained ricin* in the Seoul assassination gadgets.

A robot that can save the world

Source:http://israel21c.org/health/a-robot-that-can-save-the-world/?utm_source=Newsletter+11%2F28%2F2012&utm_campaign=Nov%2C+28%2C+2012&utm_medium=email



The winning robot will have to be smart enough to use commonly available tools and equipment.

When disaster hits, Israeli aid missions are known to be among the first to respond. But even the world's best search-and-rescue teams can't always access a battered site such as the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear catastrophe, Deepwater Horizon oil

spill or Chilean Copiapó mine collapse.
That's why the American Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) set up a **Robotics Challenge** for engineers and

industry specialists to build substitutes for human rescuers in dangerous and difficult disaster zones. The prize pot is $2 million.
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) was picked to lead the only foreign team among 18 chosen to receive development stipends from DARPA. The squad's 20 professionals and 40 graduate students include robotics industry leaders from Israel Aircraft Industries and Cogniteam, and academics from BGU, Bar-Ilan University and Technion-Israeli Institute of Technology.
"Israel's participation in this contest is a major recognition of our capabilities," team leader Prof. Hugo Guterman of BGU's department of electrical and computer engineering tells ISRAEL21c.
"Israel is a very special country because there are a lot of initiatives. In Israel today about 85 to 90 percent of engineers are in R&D. Compare that to Germany, a much bigger country, where the rate is only 3-5%, or in the US, where it's 5-7%. It's amazing."

More capable, more affordable robots

The Israelis got $375,000 to face off against 10 other funded teams designing control software for the robot: Lockheed Martin's Advanced Technology Laboratories, RE2, University of Kansas, Carnegie Mellon University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, TRAC Labs, University of Washington, Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory and TORC Robotics.

Teams taking part in the DARPA Robotics Challenge will present their solutions on a simulator.

The remaining seven funded teams are also designing hardware, and the contest allows other teams to join without any financial backing.
Competitors are expected to focus on robots that can use standard tools and equipment commonly available in human environments, ranging from hand tools to vehicles, with an emphasis on adaptability.
The Israeli team will develop software for a modified version of the Boston Dynamics-designed Atlas robot, and present it in a cloud-based computerized simulator that provides a common space to train, design, test and collaborate on ideas without the need for expensive hardware and prototyping.
"One of DARPA's goals for the Challenge is to catalyze robotics development across all fields so that we as a community end up with more capable, more affordable robots that are easier to operate," Gill Pratt, DRC program manager, said in a statement.

Universal mission

The "Fukushima 50" – the employees who stayed on at the crippled Japanese nuclear plant to avoid a complete meltdown – were the main trigger for the DARPA contest. Instead of future disasters pitting one individual's life against another's, robots could take over the rescue tasks.
"[W]e believe that this is very inspirational for participants

because it's a universally understood and appreciated mission," said Pratt.

But whereas today's robots rely on human-machine interaction, the new robots must be self-directed.

"The robot must be autonomous," Guterman tells ISRAEL21c. "It must be an intelligent robot. The people are not controlling what he's doing but rather telling him what he needs to do and he can perform it."

In the final challenge the robots will have to drive a utility vehicle, travel on rough terrain, remove debris, open a door and enter a building, climb a ladder or stairs, use a tool to break through concrete, locate and close a valve and replace a component.

"DARPA made the challenge at a very high level to push the engineers into making great technology," says Guterman. "One of the nice things about this challenge is that everything can change."

The contest is scheduled to run for approximately 27 months with events in June 2013, December 2013 and December 2014.

Lockheed Martin demonstrates ground-based laser system against short-range threats

Source: http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20121129-lockheed-martin-demonstrates-groundbased-laser-system-against-shortrange-threats

Lockheed Martin the other day announced that it has successfully demonstrated a portable, ground-based military laser system in a series of tests against representative airborne targets.

Lockheed Martin developed the Area Defense Anti-Munitions (ADAM) system to provide a defense against short-range threats, such as rockets and unmanned aerial systems.

Since August, the ADAM system has successfully engaged an unmanned aerial system target in flight at a range of approximately 1.5 kilometers (0.9 miles) and has destroyed four small-caliber rocket targets in simulated flight at a range of approximately two kilometers (1.2 miles).

"Lockheed Martin has invested in the development of the ADAM system because of the enormous potential effectiveness of high-energy lasers," said Doug Graham, Lockheed Martin's vice president of advanced programs for Strategic and Missile Defense Systems. "We are committed to supporting the transition of directed energy's revolutionary capability to the war fighter."

Designed for short-range defense of high-value areas including forward operating bases, the ADAM system's 10-kilowatt fiber laser is engineered to destroy targets up to two kilometers (1.2 miles) away. The system precisely tracks targets in cluttered optical environments and has a tracking range of more than five kilometers (3.1 miles). The system has been designed to be flexible enough to operate against rockets as a standalone system and to engage unmanned aerial systems with an external radar cue. The ADAM system's modular architecture combines commercial hardware components with the company's proprietary software in an integrated and easy-to-operate system.

"Lockheed Martin has applied its expertise as a laser weapon system integrator to provide a practical and affordable defense against serious threats to military forces and installations," said Paul Shattuck, Lockheed Martin's director of directed energy systems for Strategic and Missile Defense Systems. "In developing the ADAM system, we combined our proven laser beam control architecture with commercial

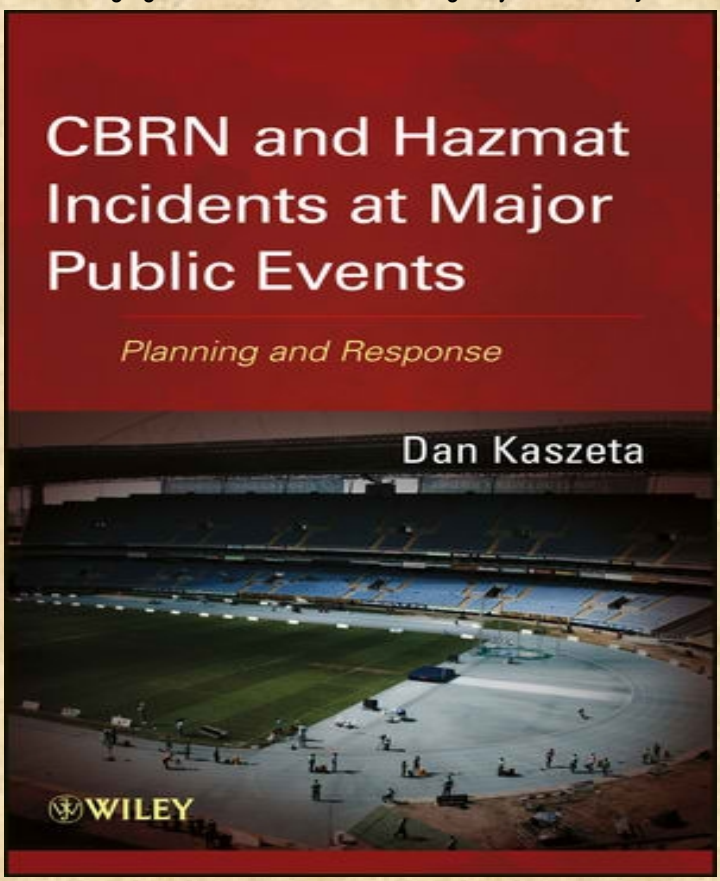
hardware to create a capable, integrated laser weapon system."
Lockheed Martin describes itself as having been a pioneer in the development and demonstration of high-energy laser capabilities for more than thirty years and has made key advances in areas such as precision pointing and control, line-of-sight stabilization and adaptive optics.

NEW BOOK – CBRN and Hazmat Incidents at Major Public Events: Planning and Response

Author: Dan Kaszeta
Source: http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-111828819X.html

Sets forth what to do and what not to do to keep people and property safe

Based on the author's more than two decades of managing core facets of emergency planning and response, this book enables readers to minimize the possibility of a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) disaster or a hazardous material (hazmat) incident at public events. Moreover, it sets forth the tools needed to quickly respond to an incident in order to avoid or minimize casualties and damages. With its comprehensive approach, the book equips readers to plan for and manage a multi-disciplinary safety and emergency response team, including police, security, medical, military, and fire and civil protection personnel.



CBRN and Hazmat Incidents at Major Public Events examines all aspects of security planning and emergency response, including:

- General planning and preparedness procedures such as initial considerations, response network development, and training and exercise
- Planning and preparedness for security and emergency response providers, including medical, fire, police, military, and VIP protection personnel
- Incident response, including initial response, detection and identification, and law enforcement

Lastly, the author provides fourteen specific public event scenarios, explaining what to do and what not to do for effective emergency planning and response to CBRN and hazmat incidents. These scenarios also set the foundation for preparedness training and exercises.
Throughout the book, sidebars summarize the author's extensive operational and managerial experience, helping readers focus on the core tested and proven strategies and techniques needed to prevent or mitigate the impact of a CBRN or hazmat incident. With its unique focus on CBRN and hazmats, this book is essential reading for all personnel charged with protecting lives and property at large public events.

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Dan Kaszeta *is Senior Research Fellow at the International Institute for Non-Proliferation Studies and Managing Director at Strongpoint Security Ltd. He is also a Correspondent for CBRNe World. Mr. Kaszeta's more than twenty-year career has spanned a broad range of core activities in emergency planning and response. A former captain in the U.S. Army Chemical Corps, Mr. Kaszeta worked for the White House for twelve years as Disaster Preparedness Adviser for the White House Military Office and as Physical Security Specialist for the U.S. Secret Service.*

Increase in negative messages about Muslims in the media

Source: http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20121130-increase-in-negative-messages-about-muslims-in-the-media-study

Organizations using fear and anger to spread negative messages about Muslims have moved from the fringes of public discourse into the mainstream media since the 9/ 11 attacks, according to new research by a University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill sociologist.

Titled, "The Fringe Effect: Civil Society Organizations and the Evolution of Media Discourse about Islam since the September 11th Attacks," the study appears in the December issue of the *American Sociological Review*.

An American Sociological Association release reports that Christopher Bail, an assistant professor of sociology in UNC's College of Arts and Sciences, used textual detection software to track the influence of 1,084 press releases about Muslims from 120 organizations on more than 50,000 television transcripts and newspaper articles produced from 2001 to 2008.

"I found that organizations with negative messages about Muslims captivated the mass media after the Sept. 11 attacks, even though the vast majority of civil society organizations depict Muslims as peaceful, contributing members of American society," said Bail, who also is a Robert Wood Johnson Scholar at the University of Michigan. "As a result, public condemnations of terrorism by Muslims have received little media attention, but organizations spreading negative messages continue to stoke public fears that Muslims are secretly plotting to overthrow the U.S. government."

Bail said the mass media has not only contributed to the spread of negative messages about Islam, but also given fringe organizations the opportunity to raise funds and build social networks within elite conservative circles.

"They are now so much a part of the mainstream that they have been able to recast genuinely mainstream Muslim organizations as radicals," he said.

Most importantly, Bail added, "The rising tide of anti-Muslim sentiment in the American media not only tests foundational principles about religious tolerance, but may also validate foreign extremists who argue that the United States is at war with Islam, since American media messages routinely travel to the Middle East."

Bail is working on a book that expands on this study. The book

will explain how fringe groups not only create cultural change in the mass media, but also public policy and public opinion more broadly.

— Read more in Christopher A. Bail, "The Fringe Effect: Civil Society Organizations and the Evolution of Media Discourse about Islam," American Sociological Review 77, no. 7 (December 2012)

Sudan captures vulture with Israeli spying device, Sudanese media say

Source: http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2012/12/07/276631/sudan-captures-israeli-spy-vulture/

Sudan has captured a vulture with Israeli spying equipment attached to it in the western Darfur region, Sudanese media say.

The media reported on Thursday that Darfur authorities found an Israeli Park Services GPS chip attached to the bird.

The vulture was on an espionage mission for the Tel Aviv regime, the media stated, adding that the bird had a leg band with labels that read in Hebrew, "Israel Nature Service" and "Hebrew University, Jerusalem."

The equipment fastened to the vulture was capable of taking photos and sending them back to Israel.

However, Israel's National Parks Service has denied the reports and said that both the GPS chip and the device were used by ecologists to track migration.

On October 24, Sudanese Minister of Information Ahmed Bilal Osman said four Israeli warplanes had attacked a weapons production factory in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, killing at least two people.

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir said on October 26 that the "reckless behavior is a manifestation of Israel's concerns and nervousness about the political and social upheavals in the region and about the progress in Sudan."

Sudan is not the only state reporting the capture of a bird with Israeli spying equipment attached to it.

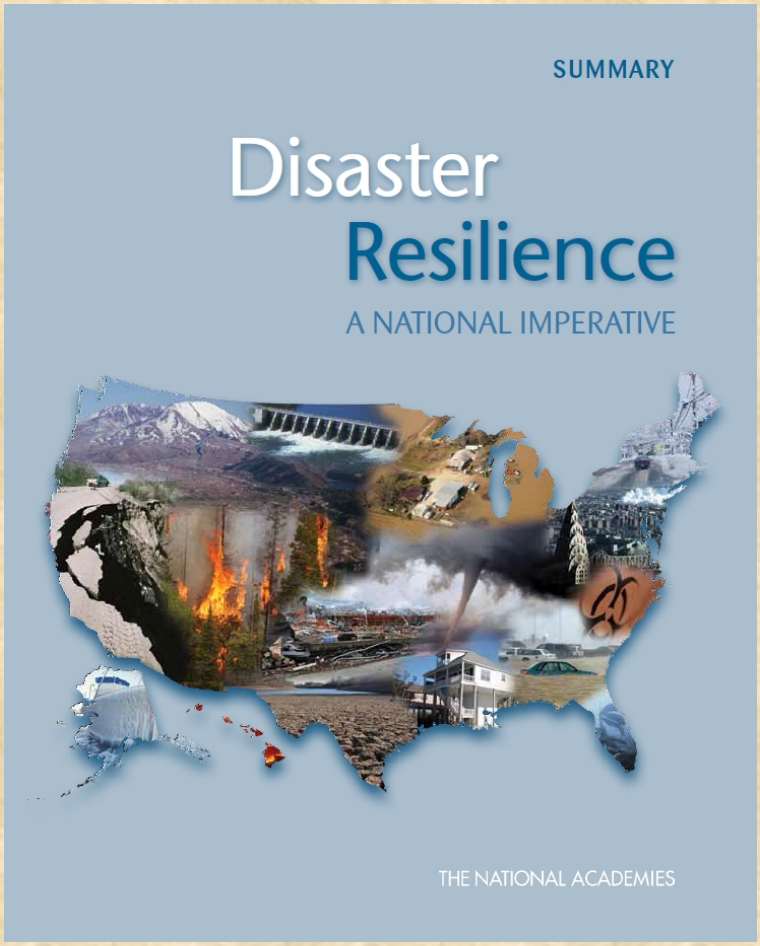
In 2011, Saudi media reported that authorities had captured a griffon vulture with Israeli spying equipment attached to one of its

legs, and a “Tel Aviv University” label.

NEW BOOK – Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative

Source: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13457#toc

No person or place is immune from disasters or disaster-related losses. Infectious disease outbreaks, acts of terrorism, social unrest, or financial disasters in addition to natural hazards can all lead to large-scale consequences for the nation and its communities. Communities and the nation thus face difficult fiscal, social, cultural, and environmental choices about the best ways to ensure basic security and quality of life against hazards, deliberate attacks, and disasters. Beyond the unquantifiable costs of injury and loss of life from disasters, statistics for 2011 alone indicate economic damages from natural disasters in the United States exceeded $55 billion, with 14 events costing more than a billion dollars in damages each.



One way to reduce the impacts of disasters on the nation and its communities is to invest in enhancing resilience--the ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from and more successfully adapt to adverse events. *Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative* addresses the broad issue of increasing the nation's resilience to disasters. This book defines "national resilience", describes the state of knowledge about resilience to hazards and disasters, and frames the main issues related to increasing resilience in the United States. It also provide goals, baseline conditions, or performance metrics for national resilience and outlines additional information, data, gaps, and/or obstacles that need to be addressed to increase the nation's resilience to disasters. Additionally, the book's authoring committee makes recommendations about the necessary approaches to elevate national resilience to disasters in the United States.

Enhanced resilience allows better anticipation of disasters and better planning to reduce disaster losses-rather than waiting for an event to occur and paying for it afterward. *Disaster Resilience* confronts the topic of how to increase the nation's resilience to disasters through a vision of the characteristics of a resilient nation in the year 2030. Increasing disaster resilience is an imperative that requires the collective will of the nation and its communities. Although disasters will continue to occur, actions that move the nation from reactive approaches to disasters to a proactive stance where communities actively engage in enhancing resilience will reduce many of the broad societal and economic burdens that disasters can cause.

► **Read extensive summary at:**
http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=13457&page=1

Global Trends 2030 – Alternative Views

Source: http://www.dni.gov/

The U.S. Intelligence Community is a coalition of 17 agencies and organizations, including the ODNI, within the Executive Branch that work both independently and collaboratively to gather and analyze the intelligence necessary to conduct foreign relations and national security activities. Hover over each component for a brief description or for more detail visit:

- Air Force Intelligence;
- Department of the Treasury;
- Army Intelligence;
- Drug Enforcement Administration;
- Central Intelligence Agency;
- Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- Coast Guard Intelligence;
- Marine Corps Intelligence;
- Defense Intelligence Agency;
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency;
- Department of Energy;
- National Reconnaissance Office;
- Department of Homeland Security;
- National Security Agency;
- Department of State;
- Navy Intelligence;

The National Intelligence Council's (NIC) Global Trends Report engages expertise from outside government on factors of such as globalization, demography and the environment, producing a forward-looking document to aid policymakers in their long term planning on key issues of worldwide importance.

Since the first report was released in 1997, the audience for each Global Trends report has expanded, generating more interest and reaching a broader audience that the one that preceded it. A new Global Trends report is published every four years following the U.S. presidential election.

Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds

Global Trends 2030 is intended to stimulate thinking about the rapid and vast geopolitical changes characterizing the world today and possible global trajectories over the next 15 years. As with the NIC's previous Global Trends reports, we do not seek to predict the future—which would be an impossible feat—but instead provide a framework for thinking about possible futures and their implications.

In-depth research, detailed modeling and a variety of analytical tools drawn from public, private and academic sources were employed in the production of Global Trends 2030. NIC leadership engaged with experts in nearly 20 countries—from think tanks, banks, government offices and business groups—to solicit

GLOBAL TRENDS 2030: AN OVERVIEW	
MEGATRENDS	
Individual Empowerment	Individual empowerment will accelerate owing to poverty reduction, growth of the global middle class, greater educational attainment, widespread use of new communications and manufacturing technologies, and health-care advances.
Diffusion of Power	There will not be any hegemonic power. Power will shift to networks and coalitions in a multipolar world.
Demographic Patterns	The demographic arc of instability will narrow. Economic growth might decline in "aging" countries. Sixty percent of the world's population will live in urbanized areas; migration will increase.
Food, Water, Energy Nexus	Demand for these resources will grow substantially owing to an increase in the global population. Tackling problems pertaining to one commodity will be linked to supply and demand for the others.

reviews of the report.

The report details the challenges facing the species in the coming decades; the council says that many positive developments in health, education, and governance will propel human civilization, but that the threat of conflict could emerge as supplies of food and water become more scarce. The world's balance of power is also expected to shift, as Asia is projected to surpass North America and Europe in GDP, population size, military spending, and technological investment. Head to the source link to read the rest of the US government's detailed predictions for the years ahead.

GAME-CHANGERS	
Crisis-Prone Global Economy	Will global volatility and imbalances among players with different economic interests result in collapse? Or will greater multipolarity lead to increased resiliency in the global economic order?
Governance Gap	Will governments and institutions be able to adapt fast enough to harness change instead of being overwhelmed by it?
Potential for Increased Conflict	Will rapid changes and shifts in power lead to more intrastate and interstate conflicts?
Wider Scope of Regional Instability	Will regional instability, especially in the Middle East and South Asia, spill over and create global insecurity?
Impact of New Technologies	Will technological breakthroughs be developed in time to boost economic productivity and solve the problems caused by a growing world population, rapid urbanization, and climate change?
Role of the United States	Will the US be able to work with new partners to reinvent the international system?
POTENTIAL WORLDS	
Stalled Engines	In the most plausible worst-case scenario, the risks of interstate conflict increase. The US draws inward and globalization stalls.
Fusion	In the most plausible best-case outcome, China and the US collaborate on a range of issues, leading to broader global cooperation.
Gini-Out-of-the-Bottle	Inequalities explode as some countries become big winners and others fail. Inequalities within countries increase social tensions. Without completely disengaging, the US is no longer the "global policeman."
Nonstate World	Driven by new technologies, nonstate actors take the lead in confronting global challenges.

► **NOTE:** Read full report at Newsletter's website – "CBRN-CT Papers" section

Three Emerging Technologies That Will Impact Emergency Management

By Elaine Pittman

Source:http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/3-Emerging-Technologies-Emergency-Management.html

Albert Einstein once said: "The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination." Who can argue with that, especially when it comes to technology? Imagining how technology can fill a void is necessary when it comes to conceiving a new device or system. Perhaps nowhere is there an example of the importance of emerging technology as there is in emergency management. Thousands of people can be impacted by a man-made or natural disaster within seconds, and the availability of tools that can help not only before but also during the response to the devastation can save lives and time.

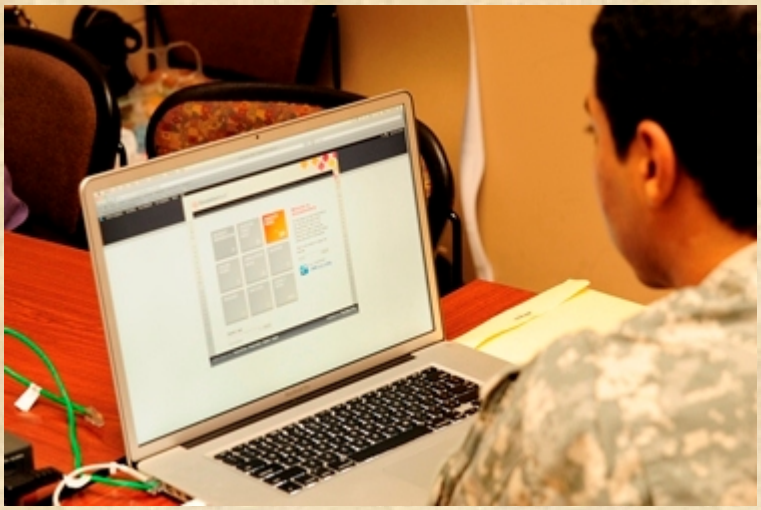
Emergency Management sought out emerging technologies that will positively

impact the field and possibly change how people think tech fits into preparedness, response and recovery.

1. SimulationDeck

Within the last couple of years, social media has become go-to communication tools that the public uses to obtain information. But one of the issues for emergency managers is how an agency can test how it would use social media in an emergency. Tweeting and issuing updates on Facebook — even when preceded and followed by the words "test" or "drill" — would likely confuse people and possibly start rumors, which can be impossible to stop once the incorrect information starts to spread. But emergency management consulting firm Nusura Inc. is seeking to provide a way for agencies to test their social media and public outreach practices through the use of its training tool SimulationDeck.

The secure Web portal replicates online communication tools, including popular social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter, as well as agency websites and blogs. Nusura President Jim Chesnutt is using his experiences from being a public information officer — including with FEMA as a deputy public affairs officer for Region VIII — to help people train on disseminating timely, accurate and coordinated public information during



emergencies.

Photo courtesy of Nusura

After participating in numerous exercises, Chesnutt observed a pattern: "In the after-action reports for almost every major exercise I worked on, they said that the public information function was not being tested in a realistic way. And it's true." The pressure created by mock media and those tasked with testing the public information element didn't compare to the reality of handling even a small emergency, he added.

Nusura — which is composed of former public information officers from all levels of government — created SimulationDeck to mimic what happens online and in the media during an emergency. The Web portal has nine websites: SimulationBook includes Facebook's core features; Bleater simulates Twitter; blogging platform Frogger; YouTube lookalike EweTube; agency news; incident information; Exercise Times Daily, a Web-based newspaper that features live reader comments; SimDeck News, a Web-based TV station; and KEXN Radio.

SimulationDeck doesn't require special software, so it can work on any platform or Internet-connected device. Chesnutt said one person working in the simulation cell during an exercise could act as 10 people. For example, he or she could file a newspaper article, then post on the agency's website and then act at the governor's press secretary and announce a surprise press conference. "Things happen instantly, and any simulation player can generate an enormous number of injects, as fast as they can type and hit enter," he said.

Although the tool hasn't been on the market for very long, it was used during Vibrant Response 13, a U.S. Army North national-level field training exercise that had about 9,000 service members and civilians from the military, as well as federal and state agencies. Don Manuszewski, chief of public affairs for U.S. Army North, said it's important to practice all forms of communication and that includes social media as it becomes increasingly popular. "Social media is becoming kind of a way that a large section of the population gets and sends out information, so if we're not training to understand how it affects us and where it's going, then we're doing a disservice to those we're trying to help," he said. "We need to make sure we understand the entire information environment from the

traditional media to the media that people are using now like social media."

U.S. Army North incorporated social media into previous exercises to varying levels of success. For example, U.S. Army North used milBook, a professional networking site similar to Facebook that was developed by the U.S. Defense Department, during training but it didn't quite work because the organization was trying to adapt it to meet its needs, instead of vice versa.

Using SimulationDeck during Vibrant Response 13 felt more real than previous attempts at incorporating social media during an exercise, Manuszewski said. "It met our needs much better than anything that we have used in the past." After the exercise, they worked with Nusura on some features that could improve it. For example, Manuszewski said people on the microblogging site couldn't track a trending topic. The workaround was to create a page and name it with the topic that staff wanted to track in place of being able to utilize a search feature.

Nusura's Chesnutt said updates have been made based on user feedback and SimulationDeck also evolves to reflect real-world changes. "It is organic and ever changing just like the Internet," he said.

2. Intellistreets

What if lampposts could detect rising floodwaters and even display the evacuation route to help citizens and visitors safely leave an area? That is what Ron Harwood is trying to do with Intellistreets, an emerging technology that outfits streetlight poles with wireless technology to provide emergency alerting, homeland security and public safety functions as well as energy conservation.

"The system was invented as a response to the chaos created at street level during 9/11," said Harwood, president of Intellistreets. The company can retrofit existing streetlights if a community isn't ready to purchase brand-new, high-tech poles, and while the features vary depending on an area's needs, they can include: emergency alerts, digital signage, hazardous environment alerts, two-way audio, vehicle impact detection and a pedestrian counter.

Image courtesy of Intellistreets

At its heart, the technology consists of a dual radio mesh wireless system that has embedded microprocessors, which Harwood said allow for information gathering, such as analysis of what a streetlight is hearing, seeing, smelling, etc., a method known as edge processing. "The advantage is that first responders get real information interpreted into English or graphics that comes right from the site instead of analytics that happen through backhaul technology and processors," he said.

Accessed via a Web-based system, operators and first responders can receive an alert when an environmental factor triggers the system. Because the technology is built into each streetlight, the government representative can take action from a remote location to make pedestrians aware of a situation. Harwood gave the example of outfitting streetlight poles with water sensors. In an area that has flooding or water main issues, a streetlight with the built-in intelligence would activate a warning light when water reaches a certain depth like being detected above the curb. Other streetlights in the area that have the technology would begin to flash, warning traffic to slow down.

Intellistreets' audio features also increase public safety in a two-way fashion. Emergency blue light buttons allow people to signal for help, and speakers provide a way

for government officials to make announcements or issue emergency alerts. Digital signs can display standard information, such as civic announcements, and then be updated with crucial information like an evacuation route when necessary. The system features built-in signage and announcements for standard situations that allow a public safety representative to click a button on the Web-based system to start audio alerts or change what's being featured on the digital signs.

Harwood's goal is to have an iPad in each patrol vehicle so officers can easily update the messaging when needed.

The technology is not widespread yet, but is being used at Sony Pictures in Culver City, Calif., where the digital signs provide departure routes during the movie lot's weekly evacuation exercise.

Additionally, a demonstration of Intellistreets was installed in Farmington Hills, Mich., last year. Although the local government isn't using the system's high-tech tools, its officials think the features would be beneficial. "I think the potential for them is huge," said City Manager Steve Brock. "We haven't used much of the technology that I think is available with regard to messaging, signage and things like that. But when we went through the demonstration of them, when they sort of christened them, if you will, I was very impressed with their capabilities and what it could mean in all sorts of environments."

3. iDAWG

During a worst-case emergency scenario, communication between responders is both necessary and difficult. Much research and effort has gone into interoperable communications, including at Syracuse University's School of Information Studies where a device is being developed that will maintain communication between different devices without relying on cell towers or Internet networks.

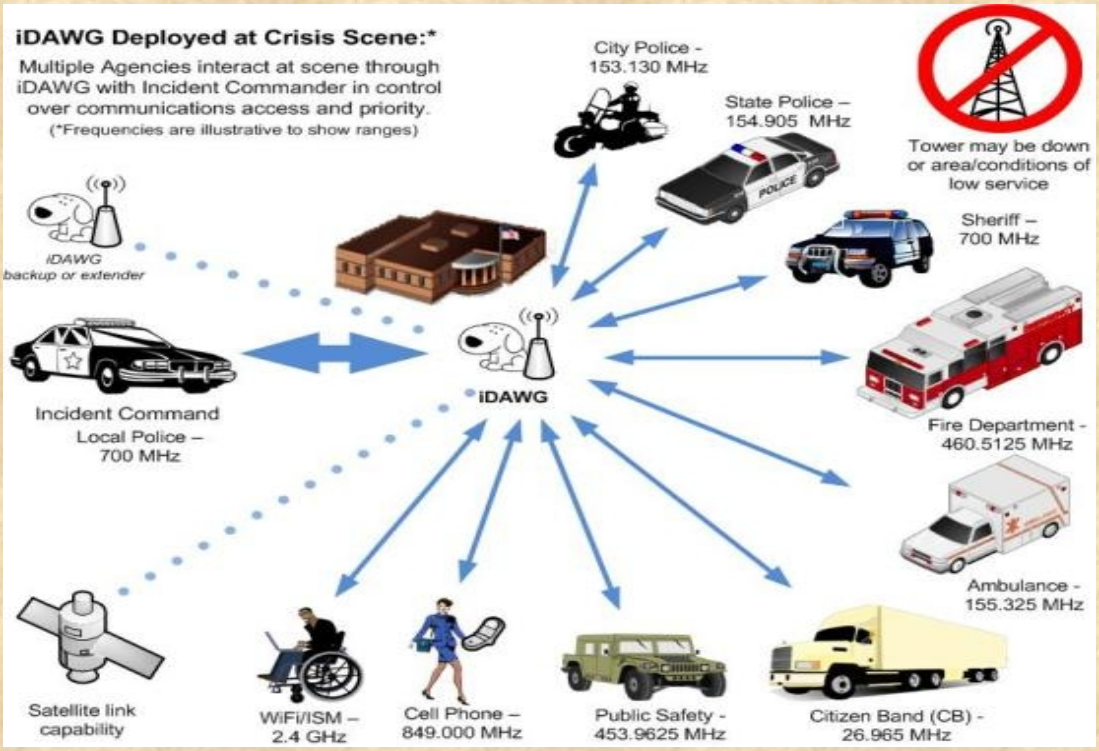


Image courtesy of Syracuse University's School of Information Studies.

The iDAWG — Intelligent Deployable Augmented Wireless Gateway — works with a new class of software, called edgeware, that connects devices and information and helps with machine-to-machine communication. Professor Lee McKnight said the process is similar to ad-hoc networking in which a local network is built spontaneously as devices connect to one another. McKnight explained that when a user connects to a wireless network during everyday life, he or she doesn't connect computer to computer because of increased security risks. Following a disaster, however, it could be one way of communicating and connecting

with others. According to a university paper, iDAWG is an "infrastructureless wireless network based on a cognitive radio-based field deployable unit with information sharing/communication capabilities."

The paper stated that: "The iDAWG is designed to securely capture and share multiple wireless transmission media including police, fire, EMS, municipal, private, cellular and CB bands by acting as a signal repeater to provide or extend service on scene."

Joe Treglia, assistant director of the university's Wireless Grid Innovation Testbed, said technologies for interoperability in data and communications like iDAWG and edgeware are significant for communication between traditional and nontraditional responders during an emergency.

The School of Information Studies' students and professors are working with public safety and emergency management representatives to understand their needs. They observed a multiagency exercise in August and have demonstrated some of iDAWG's capabilities to a local 911 call center and an immigrant relocation group.

"The involvement of university researchers with practitioners and the public is a fairly new collaborative arrangement that brings new broader insights to the issues and creates actual solutions for incorporating this new way of operating and managing crises," Treglia said.

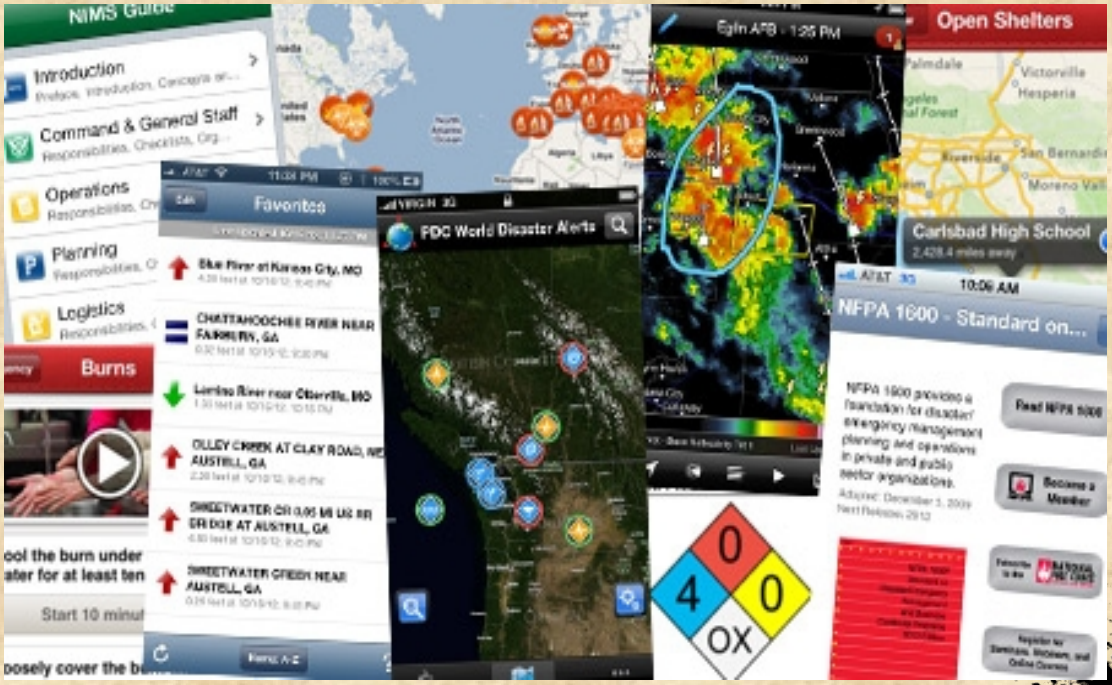
In addition to iDAWG's core components, Syracuse University researchers are working with the Rochester Institute of Technology's low-flying plane that captured imagery of the destruction from real-world events like the magnitude 7.0 earthquake that struck Haiti in January 2010. Developed by the Information Products Lab for Emergency Response, the plane could continue to deliver the images to incident commanders through iDAWG even in the event that cell towers and the Internet are down. "The iDAWG is designed to be capable of receiving and then relaying these kinds of emergency field images," McKnight said.

The iDAWG is also going to be able to work with FEMA's Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System. The research is receiving funding from the National Science Foundation Partnerships for Innovation Program and includes Virginia Tech, Syracuse University and the Rochester Institute of Technology.

***Elaine Pittman** is the associate editor of Emergency Management magazine.*

15 Disaster and Crisis Apps for iPhone and iPad

Source: http://blog.missionmode.com/blog/15-disaster-and-crisis-apps-for-iphone-and-ipad.html?goback = .gde_1471_member_192934190



We've rounded up 15 of the best iPhone and iPad and iPod apps that will interest crisis management and disaster response professionals. Many will also be of interest to the average user.
These are practical apps that you might find useful as you do your job. This list does not include apps that are solely focused on personal preparedness or general weather apps such as AccuWeather.
Most apps are free, and some are available in paid and free versions. The geographic scope of the app—global or USA—is listed next to the name. Most links will take you to the app's page in the iTunes app store.

1. Disaster Alert (Global)

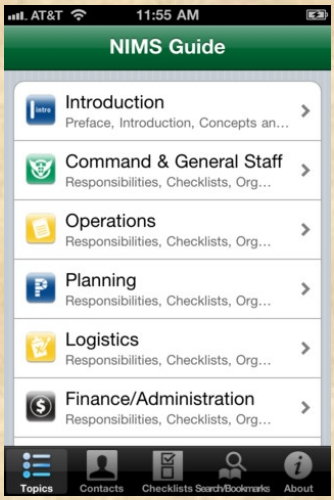
Disaster Alert keeps users aware of hazardous incidents anywhere in the world. With both listings and an interactive real-time map, this app will keep you alerted to all types of natural disasters as well as breaking man-made crises while you're on the go. Free.

2. Disaster Radar (Global)

According to its makers, this is the first and only real-time world-wide natural disaster and emergency monitoring app. Disasters can be viewed on a world map or selected individually to see complete event details including cause and areas affected. Free.

3. NIMS ICS Guide (USA)

This was the first NIMS/ICS pocket reference for first responders, and today it is used by more than 150,000 public safety and health professionals. This app allows users to customize contact lists for individual incidents, provides detailed emergency checklists, and includes resources for both training and in-field action. $14.99.



4. NFPA 2010 (USA)

The NFPA app provides a fully searchable version of what the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has declared as the National Preparedness Standard. The app includes comprehensive information on disaster/emergency management, as well as business continuity planning. $4.99.

5. Hurricane Tracker (USA)

This app was reviewed by CNN as the best Hurricane Tracking app available for the iPhone. This app includes LIVE video briefings on hurricanes, real time condition updates, push alerts, dozens of maps,

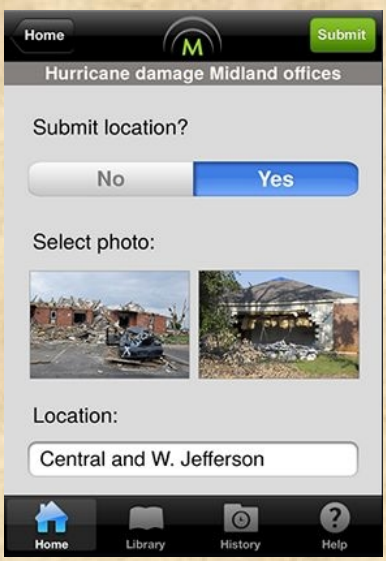
and minute by minute updates. With access to the NOAA weather radio and over 65 animated apps, this map could be the most comprehensive mobile hurricane resource out there. $2.99.

6. Hurricane Express (Global)

Hurricane Express is focused on bringing users data on storms in the Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and the Eastern and Central Pacific. Push alerts, detailed forecasts, video updates, animated satellite maps and storm info straight from the National Hurricane Center keep users safe and alert. 99 cents.

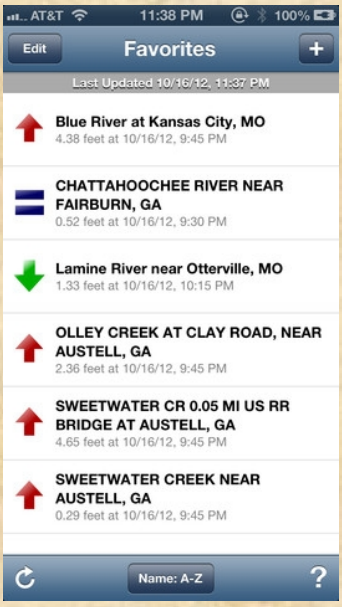
7. EarShot (Global)

The EarShot system combines a unique mobile app, online control center and emergency notification system in one integrated application. The EarShot app sends and receives messages consisting of unlimited text, completed forms, photos and GPS location. It's used for gathering eyewitness reports from the scene of a crisis, submitting field service reports, security check-ins, and much more. Contact company for system pricing.



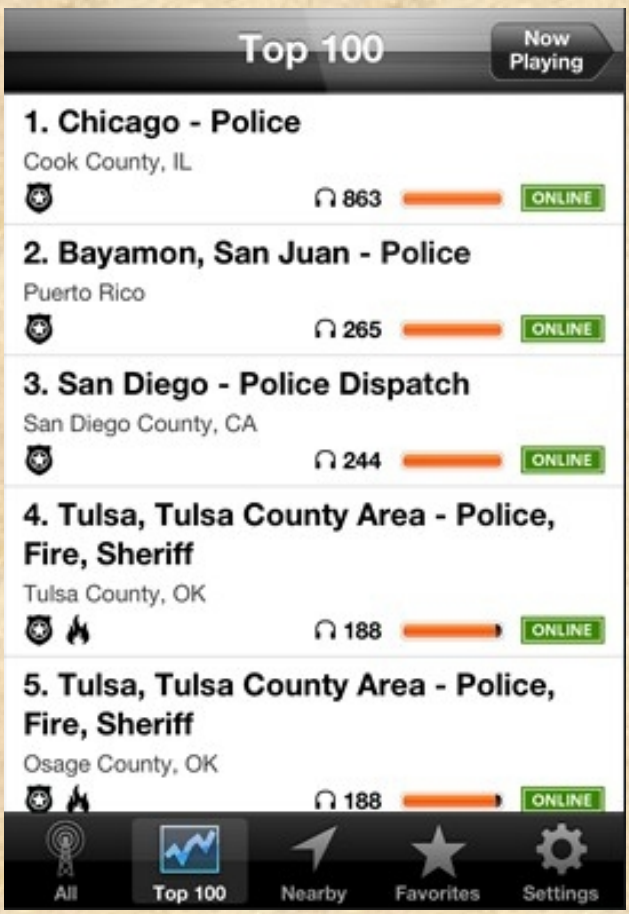
8. FloodWatch (USA)

Using data from the U.S. Geological Survey and National Weather Service, displays both recent and historical river heights, precipitation totals and flood stage info. The app's graphs, maps, and listings will assist users when rivers threaten to overflow their banks. Free.



9. Shelter View (USA)

This app from the Red Cross focuses on getting people in need to shelters when disaster strikes. It draws on the Red Cross' National Shelter System for details on 60,000 potential disaster facilities along with easy access to the Disaster Online Newsroom. Free.

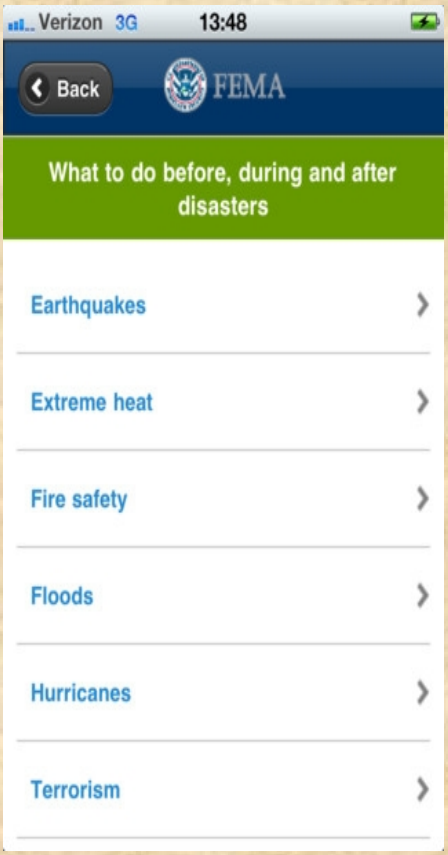


10. Emergency Radio (USA)

This radio scanner app works with thousands of frequencies and has an extensive database of live broadcasts—police, fire, EMS, railroad, air traffic, train, NOAA weather, coast guard, HAM radio, and others. 99 cents.

11. FEMA (USA)

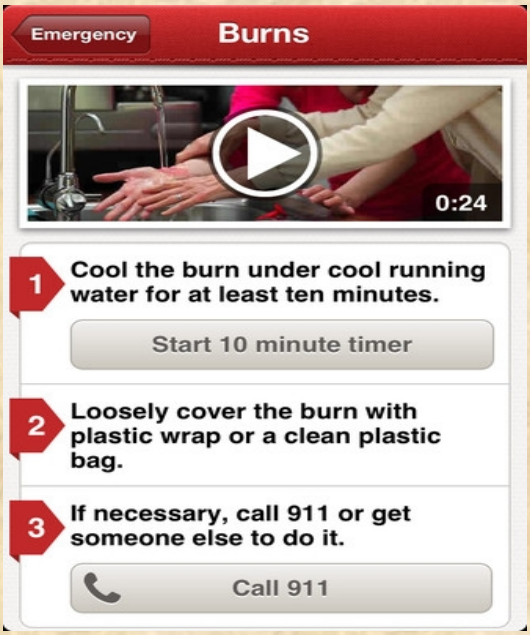
This is the official app of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It contains preparedness information for all types of disasters including emergency kit checklists, details on how to stay safe, maps to assistance, even a section to plan meeting locations. Free.



12. Outbreaks Near Me (USA)

HealthMap's Outbreaks Near Me app tracks real-time disease outbreaks and gives users access to reports, as well as the ability to submit their own. If you spy an outbreak and report it using the app you will be featured as a disease detective on the HealthMap website. Free.

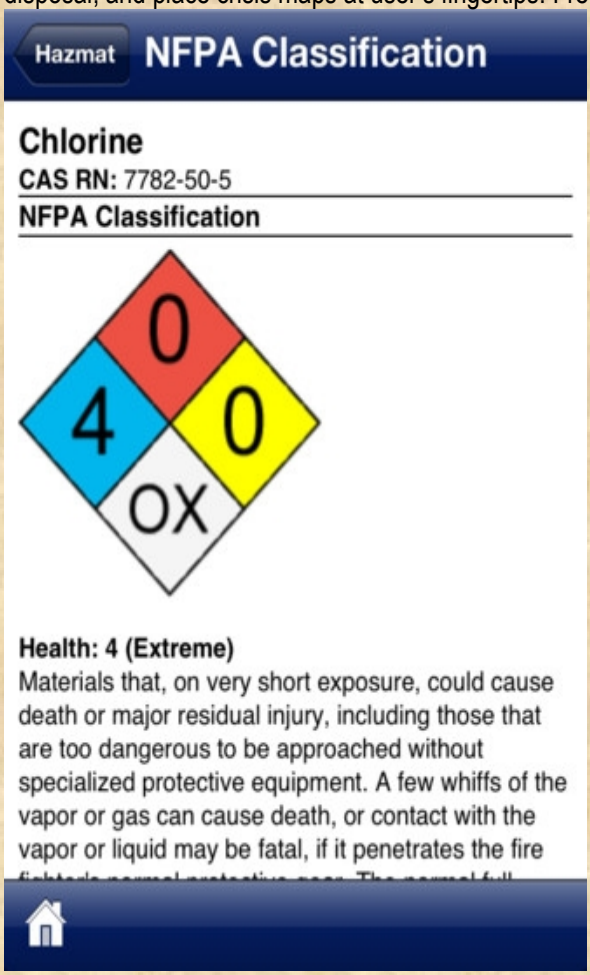
13. First Aid – The Red Cross (Global)

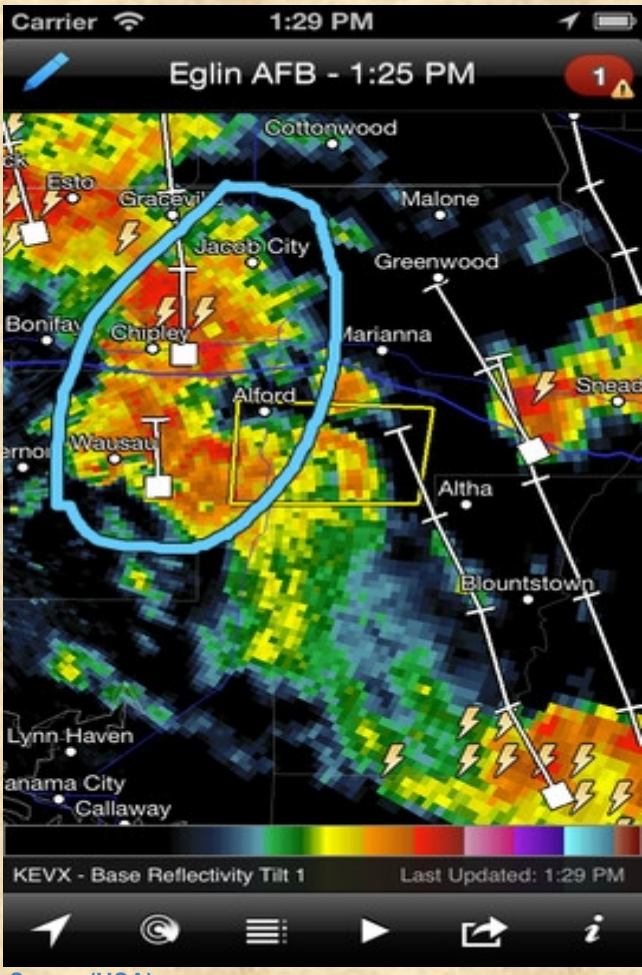


The Red Cross has provided yet another tool that's filled with advice, instructions and videos covering everything from everyday emergencies to major injuries, it's a complete first aid resource on your iDevice. Free.

14. WISER (USA)

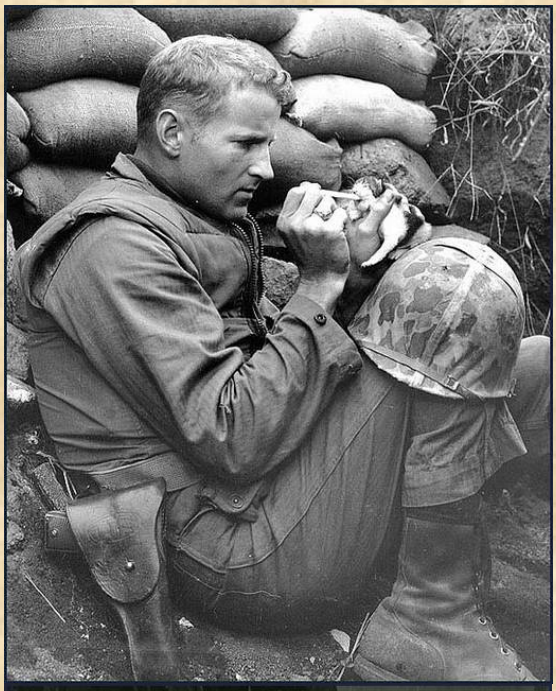
When hazardous substances are involved, delays can place lives in danger. Aimed at first responders and HAZMAT units, , Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders is designed to assist with identification of hazardous substances, provide guidance on removal or disposal, and place crisis maps at user's fingertips. Free.





15. RadarScope (USA)

RadarScope is a real storm hunter's tool. Specialized to display NEXRAD Level 3 and super-high resolution radar data and supplying a host of detailed information including reflectivity, velocity, and more, RadarScope gives you real live data from 155 different radar sites right in your hand. $9.99.



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