

CBRNF – A new addition (F=Financial)?

CBRNE Newsletter Terrorism

Volume 48, 2013

Editor's Corner

*The Few
and
The Brave!*

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CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – April 2013**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – 2013©**

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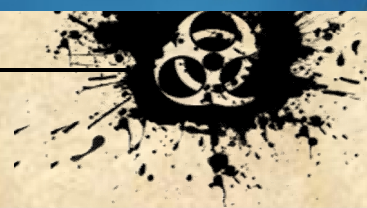
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CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter is:

- Read by First Responders in more than **80** countries around the globe;
- Distributed to more than **700** institutions, organizations, state agencies, think tanks, defense companies, institutions and universities.

Current Country Totals From 14 Jul 2011 to 5 Mar 2013

	United States (US)	1,325
	Greece (GR)	800
	United Kingdom (GB)	662
	Italy (IT)	239
	Netherlands (NL)	202
	Canada (CA)	192
	Germany (DE)	131
	India (IN)	110
	France (FR)	81
	Australia (AU)	71
	Switzerland (CH)	71
	China (CN)	68
	Spain (ES)	65



Editor's Corner



Editorial

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

Editor-in-Chief
CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

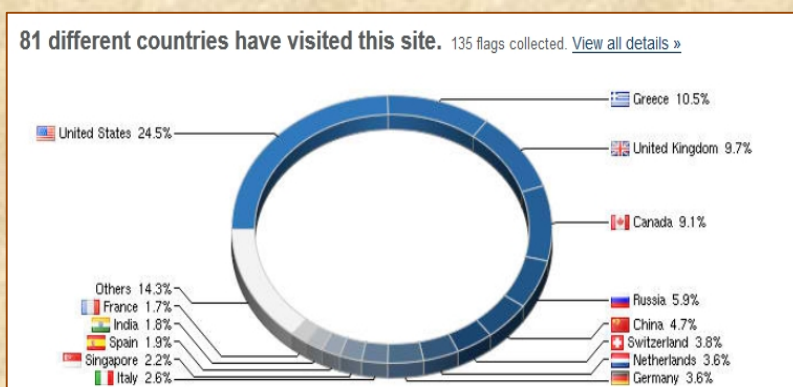
First months of 2013 were quite disturbing so far and might lead to an explosive future. Canada was "surprised" with the involvement of Muslim converts to the bloody oil factory in Algeria. An Orthodox Greek (Xristos Katsiroubas - dead) and a Catholic Korean (Aaron Yoon - survived) were among those involved in this attack that resulted into shed of blood in the Algerian dessert. But why surprise? Just another proof that it might happen to us! Elementary Mr. Watson! Elementary!

Then we have the Korean nuclear game that is deteriorating day after day. It will surely not end peacefully. A young inexperienced leader, a zombie populace, castrated generals in a neighborhood of aggressive opponents composes a game with only a few alternatives for a good outcome available.

On top of these, there is the alike deteriorating situation in Syria and surrounding neighborhood that will also end one way or the other – both bloody ways. I believe that only a few people can decode the situation there since there are no distinct lines between friends and enemies, terrorists and freedom fighters – in general: who is fighting whom! (and why!).

In Greece the situation is gradually deteriorating and the light at the end of the tunnel is so far away that is becoming steadily invisible (copy and paste comment from previous issue of the Newsletter). The financial anarchy was recently expanded to Cyprus that is currently experiencing the new face of terrorism – financial terrorism. This makes me wonder if it is time to add a new letter to the weapons of mass destruction abbreviation (CBRNE) – that is to become CBRNEF – "F" for "financial"! Who needs sarin, anthrax or caesium when can have massive casualties with "toxic funds" and banking reformation? We must keep in mind that "terrorism is not about killing many people. It is about showing to many people that they are next"! And the respectable people in our global society seem to know how to play the game...

CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter is doing well and shows a rising trend. Mainly because



passion is unaffected by financial circumstances and our belief in what we are doing is stronger than our personal suffering and strive for survival – by survival we do not mean that we do not have bread to eat; people need a peaceful and challenging

environment that will trigger their minds for excellence and innovative production for the benefit of local and global societies. This is what we are fighting against – and we will prevail because the human factor is the most asymmetric factor of them all!



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Newsletter is currently read by CBRNE-CT First Responders in more than 80 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. We continue to collaborate as media partners with other organizations and this proved to be a good strategy that gain new readers and generate new proposals and challenges.

Personally I continue to look into the abyss and try to apply my crisis management skills to avoid been swallowed. It seems that my complex background is a barrier for a new career abroad. Medical people are not very comfortable with my CBRN background and defense/security people are not comfortable with my medical background. It seems that I have to start hiding parts of my life in order to find a solution. But both parts do represent my professional life and I cannot betray one over the other. Still believe in miracles and still confident that there are many areas that I could be useful if somebody could read behind the lines and use his imagination to reveal how closely these two entities are connected to each other.

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



A new area for First Responders!

Source: <http://jacksonvillewineguide.com/2013/03/winebulance-the-sequel/>



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*First Responders
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SPECIAL OFFER – ending with April 2013 issue!

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)!

If interested please contact the hotel by using the e-mail provided and include the following code of identification:

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Hezbollah's Next Move

Source: <http://econwarfare.org/viewarticle.cfm?id=5838>

The escalating war between Assad's and the rebels' forces in Syria have dramatically increased the number of Iranian Revolutionary Guard and Hezbollah martyrs. Dismayed, the Party of God's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, expressing his sorrow last week over the killing of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' Quds Force's senior representative in Lebanon, Gen. Hassan Shateri. Nasrallah noted that Shateri was not the first Iranian to be killed in Syria while on a mission with Hezbollah. Their fighting along Assad's forces was noted last December, in the U.N. report on human rights violations committed by the groups fighting in Syria. Even the New Yorker magazine reported last week: "Hezbollah's direct involvement [in Syria] has led to new martyrs, who are buried privately and quickly." However, the scope and the exact number of Hezbollah casualties in Syria is unknown to outsiders.

While assisting Assad, Hezbollah is actively encouraging Syrian Alawite officers to defect, promising them protection from prosecution as war criminals, if Assad is defeated. Hezbollah offers them and their families expensive housing in Beirut, Lebanon, salaries and expenses. Hezbollah expressed special interest "in officers who are highly experienced in the use of Russian-made weapons systems such as long-range rockets and surface-to-air missiles." In return, the defecting officers are expected to advise "Hizbullah units in the areas of engineering, ground warfare, missiles, and

aerial defense." Hezbollah's asylum offer "has been coordinated with the Quds Force, which is responsible for the training of Hizbullah's forces in Lebanon and Iran."

Hezbollah's terrorist activities in Europe have targeted mainly Israelis and sometimes Americans. Our friends the Europeans have thus far refused to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization despite mountains of evidence about their fundraising, recruitment and planning of terrorist attacks. The Europeans claim (as does Hezbollah) that the perpetrators are renegades who belong to the "military wing" of the Party of God. Designating the whole organization as terrorist, goes the argument, would only invite attacks on European targets.

Moreover, the Europeans are hedging their bets. If Assad, supported by Iran and Russia, manages to survive, Hezbollah will be in a key position to negotiate a settlement with the Syrian dictator.

What will Hezbollah do and where will it move if the Sunnis with Saudi, Gulf and U.S. help can force Assad out? Would Hezbollah, with heavy Iranian financial and strategic support in arms and advisors attack Israel, or would it move its center of operations elsewhere?

One possibility is the Balkans, where Iranian and Hezbollah activities have been going on for many years. Are the Balkans lawless enough to become Hezbollah's base of



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operations? And how much longer can the European Union continue to humor Hezbollah that has already increased inside the widely open gates of Vienna?

If the Balkans don't work out, there's always Latin America. It served Iran and Hezbollah's attacks on Jewish targets in Argentina and elsewhere. Hezbollah's involvement with drug cartels from Colombia to Mexico have been noted by international law enforcement agencies. Iran has made large investments in Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia and elsewhere in South America. It supports anti-American regimes and movements, as well as Hezbollah's illegal activities throughout the region.

Venezuela may be a very real option, with or without Chavez. Argentina's recent move to get closer to Iran may also suggest that Hezbollah might gain even more power than it already has to operate in the tri-border region and beyond, to expand their drug trafficking,

counter-band manufacturing and there many complex smuggling operations. Recent reports reveal new Hezbollah bases training bases in northern Nicaragua and Belize. Not an encouraging news for the region or the U.S.

Another possibility is Africa where Iran has long been active. They have been involved in the Sudan, Nigeria, East Africa, and even in the Sahel, spying and supplying arms and ammunition. Surely the continent has more than enough room for Hezbollah, which of course has been using the African continent for decades, to transfer South American cocaine out of West Africa and across the Sahara into Europe..

Other suggested scenarios depend on what actually does happen vis-à-vis Syria. But, rest assured, Hezbollah will remain a player in the Levant and everywhere else it operates. Will the West do anything about it? There aren't many signs of hope.

Iran in the Balkans – a History and a Forecast

By Gordon N. Bardos

Source:http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/article/iran-balkans-history-and-forecast?utm_source=World+Affairs+Newsletter&utm_campaign=22eb45bf3a-WAJ_Bardos_2_12_2013&utm_medium=email

As the possibility of an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities continues to loom over the strategic



horizon, despite continued claims by the US that sanctions are weakening the mullahs' regime, there is increased speculation among security analysts about collateral damage from such an action. One scenario in particular that has caused concern involves a counterstrike by Iran or its allies such as Hezbollah against targets outside the Middle East. In this regard, when a suspected Hezbollah suicide bomber

killed six Israeli tourists in Burgas, Bulgaria, in July, it confirmed that the Balkans were a potential front for terrorism in any future conflict.

A recent flurry of diplomatic activity confirms the extent of Western government concern over the possibility that pro-Iranian Islamist factions in southeastern Europe could cause serious problems for Western interests if Israel or the US attacks Tehran. In August, the American and British ambassadors to Sarajevo reportedly warned Bosnian officials to cut their ties to Iran, and a former international high representative in Bosnia publicly lectured the Bosnians about how their future lay with the EU, not with Tehran. The motive for such actions became clear in September when the Sarajevo newspaper Dnevni Avaz claimed that pro-Iranian factions in the Bosnian government were re-activating para-intelligence cells tied to the Islamist regime of the late Bosnian leader Alija Izetbegovic. And in October, the news magazine Slobodna Bosna



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revealed that two hundred Iranian "businessmen" had been granted visas to enter Bosnia in the first six months of 2012 alone, along with an unnamed Iranian diplomat whom Israeli intelligence officials have tracked in Thailand, Georgia, and India—all places in which Israeli citizens have been attacked in the last year.

The threat Iran and its proxies pose to Western interests in the Balkans is multiplied by the growth of Wahhabi movements in Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, and the mountainous Sandzak region straddling the border between Montenegro and Serbia. In remote, isolated villages throughout the Western Balkans, Wahhabi groups have developed a network of extra-territorial, sharia-run enclaves that over the past two decades have become safe havens and recruiting grounds for jihadis from around the world. Under the guise of running "youth camps," Islamist extremists in recent years have systematically transported young people into national parks or local hills and forests where they are given military training by former mujahedin. The camps are intentionally transitory, re-established in different places and under different auspices each year, to make it more difficult for security officials to track them, but despite their ad hoc nature they have been effective in fostering the relationships needed for creating extremist networks.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard has eaten up much of the country's political and economic power. It might soon go after the rest.

Take your pick of the major terrorist attacks against the US and other Western countries over the past fifteen years—9/11, the June 1996 Khobar Towers bombing, the August 1998 attacks on the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, the October 2000 attack on the USS Cole, the March 2004 Madrid train bombings, the February 2002 murder and decapitation of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl—they all have Balkan connections in terms of personnel, training, and other background elements. That the Balkan Islamists involved in these and other attacks remain violent threats is clear from the attack on the US Embassy in Sarajevo in October 2011 by a Sandzak Wahhabi, the murder of five Macedonian citizens by suspected Islamist extremists outside of Skopje in April 2012, and the July 2012 Burgas bombing as well. A Western conflict with Iran would in all likelihood motivate Islamists in the Balkans to even more violence.

Iran's emergence as a significant destabilizing factor in the Balkan security equation, and the overall rise of Islamist extremist movements in southeastern Europe, is intimately tied to the life and work of Alija Izetbegovic, the late Islamist president of Bosnia. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, Izetbegovic and a circle of like-minded devout Islamists formed a group called the Mladi Muslimani ("Young Muslims"), inspired by the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. In Izetbegovic's own words, the goal of the Mladi Muslimani was the creation of "one great Muslim state," or, as a Bosnian historian has described the group's aims, the creation of an "Islamistan" throughout the Balkans, northern Africa, and the Middle East.

In 1946, Josip Broz Tito's Communist regime arrested a large number of the Mladi Muslimani, including Izetbegovic himself. Imprisonment, however, did not deter Izetbegovic from the Islamist cause, and in his most famous political manifesto, the Islamic Declaration of 1970, he declared that there could be "no peace or co-existence between Islamic faith and non-Islamic social and political institutions," anticipating of course the concept of perpetual jihad on behalf of the triumph of an international Islamic caliphate that would be promoted by Osama bin Laden and other jihadis two decades later. Moreover, Izetbegovic made clear in the Islamic Declaration his distinct preference for more radical Islamic states such as Pakistan, while reserving his criticism for moderate, secular Islamic states such as Turkey. As the scholar Vjekoslav Perica noted in his 2002 book *Balkan Idols*, "The Pakistan parallel also revealed Izetbegovic's vision of Yugoslavia's fate as analogous to that of India after 1948." Izetbegovic and his colleagues were galvanized by the Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic Revolution in Iran, which made them feel part of an international movement. Several of Izetbegovic's closest collaborators at the time secretly went to Iran in January 1982 to attend anniversary celebrations marking the establishment of the Islamic Republic, and to attend a congress aimed at the reunification of Sunni and Shia Islam. These activities, together with the views promoted in the Islamic Declaration, earned Izetbegovic a second prison term in 1983, along with a dozen other Islamist activists in Bosnia.



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In 1990, those same activists would form the core of Izetbegovic's political party, the Stranka Demokratske Akcije (Party of Democratic Action, or SDA). One of those tried with Izetbegovic in 1983, Omer Behmen, was in 1992 entrusted with the job of becoming the Izetbegovic regime's first ambassador to Tehran. Another one of the 1983 trial indictees, Hasan Cengic, would in the 1990s be widely seen as the leading Iranian agent in Bosnia. Iranian influence in the former Yugoslavia was also spread at this time by educational exchanges in which several hundred Yugoslav Muslim students were sent to study in Iranian institutions.

The breakup of Yugoslavia in 1991-92 and the eruption of war in Bosnia intensified the relationship with the mullahs. Iran was one of the first Islamic countries to try to provide support to the Izetbegovic regime, although its efforts were at the start stymied by a UN Security Council arms embargo imposed on the belligerents in Bosnia, and the fact that Croatia, the main conduit for arms transfers to the Bosnian Muslims, was not eager to see Izetbegovic's army grow too strong. Despite the arms embargo, but with tacit approval from the Clinton administration, the Iranians provided Izetbegovic's war effort with considerable military, intelligence, and logistical support. Throughout this period, the Iranians developed an extensive intelligence network throughout the territory and in the various institutions controlled by Izetbegovic's forces. During the war and after the Dayton Agreement ended the fighting in 1995, Iran continued to run a well-developed ring of "charities" throughout territory controlled by Izetbegovic's forces, in cities such as Sarajevo, Mostar, Zenica, Bihac, and Visoko.

The Izetbegovic regime had no doubts about the superiority of Iran as a model over other possible alternatives. According to the scholar Cees Wiebes, during the war "Turkey and Saudi Arabia were very willing to deliver weapons and to lure Izetbegovic away from Iran, but the orientation of the Bosnian government was far more towards Iran." American intelligence operatives in Bosnia came to the same conclusion. Robert Baer, a CIA agent stationed in Sarajevo during the war, later claimed that "In Sarajevo, the Bosnian Muslim government is a client of the Iranians...If it's a choice between the CIA and the Iranians, they'll take the Iranians any day."

By war's end, public opinion polls showed some eighty-six percent of the Bosnian Muslim population expressed a positive attitude toward Iran.

This was also the conventional wisdom within the US State Department. Allowing Croats and Serbs to secede from Bosnia, according to one former American diplomat, would only result in "a non-viable rump Islamic state that would be a platform for Iranian terrorism." Indeed, Washington would soon have dangerous evidence of the degree to which the Izetbegovic regime had become Iranian clients. When a new CIA station chief was sent to Sarajevo in 1995, he was immediately betrayed by his local Bosnian colleagues to Iranian agents who quickly began planning his assassination in a plot that was ultimately foiled.

After the signing of the Dayton Agreement in 1995, one of the main goals of US policy in Bosnia became reducing the influence of Iran and the various mujahedin forces there. This proved a difficult task because pro-Iranian factions had by this time become deeply embedded in numerous institutions. According to a CIA report leaked to American journalist James Risen, Izetbegovic himself was "literally on the [Iranian] payroll," receiving on just one occasion \$500,000 in cash from Iranian agents. Tellingly, the Iranian ambassador to Bosnia was the only foreign diplomat accompanying Izetbegovic on his electoral campaign in 1996. By 1997, it was estimated that Iran had approximately two hundred agents in various Bosnian institutions. One of their targets was the American-sponsored "arm and train" program for the Muslim-Croat Federation Army. Thanks to the support of key allies within the Izetbegovic regime, Iranian intelligence services were able to infiltrate drivers, translators, and clerical personnel into the program, all of whom had been picked by the pro-Iranian faction in Izetbegovic's security service. For instance, the chief liaison with the US Defense Department for coordinating the "arm and train" program, General Dzemat Merdan, was also Izetbegovic's officer in charge of relations with the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, and one of the founders of the "7th Muslim Brigade," which had incorporated the mujahedin forces in Bosnia.

Iran also extended its influence throughout Bosnia by infiltrating



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agents into various charities, news agencies, and even a hamburger chain in Sarajevo. During this period, the Bosnian government was also sending military personnel to Iran for training.

The most concerted US effort to purge pro-Iranian officials from positions of influence in Bosnia was the removal of Hasan Cengic, one of Izetbegovic's closest collaborators, who as noted earlier had gone to prison with the future leader in the 1980s and during the war was the SDA's primary fundraiser abroad, using this position to establish strong contacts in many Islamic countries. In the summer of 1996, under strong American pressure (including a threat to halt the "arm and train" program), Izetbegovic was finally forced to dismiss Cengic as deputy defense minister in the federation, along with Bakir Alispahic, the first director of Izetbegovic's secret intelligence service, the Agencija za istrazivanje i dokumentaciju ("Agency for Research and Documentation," or AID.)

Despite American objections, however, both Cengic and Alispahic continued to play very important roles within the SDA. Cengic himself was reputedly one of the wealthiest people in Bosnia, and the leader of the pro-Iranian wing of the SDA. Alispahic used his ties with Iran and his connections within the Bosnian Muslim intelligence community to amass a small fortune of his own, largely thanks to drug trafficking. According to the World Geopolitics of Drugs report for 1995 and 1996, Alispahic controlled an Iranian-funded Muslim drug-smuggling network stretching to Europe and North America.

Both during and after the war, Iran's intelligence service, VEVAK, took particular interest in operating what US military personnel determined were essentially terrorist training camps. On February 14, 1996, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher travelled to Sarajevo, where, in a meeting with Izetbegovic, he insisted that such camps be closed. The Bosnian president personally assured Christopher that no such terrorist facilities existed in his country, but less than twenty-four hours later, NATO forces raided just such a camp, near the Bosnian town of Pogorelici, run by Iranian and Bosnian intelligence agents. Among the objects found at the camp were plans to NATO installations in Bosnia, essays on how to assassinate regime opponents, and booby-trapped children's toys. The

commandant of the facility was Bakir Alispahic, head of AID, who even today is the head of the security committee of Izetbegovic's SDA party-despite being on the US black list of individuals prohibited from visiting the US because of terrorist ties.

The Iranian factor remains an important variable in the current Bosnian security calculus. To take but one example-Alija Izetbegovic's son, Bakir Izetbegovic, currently a member of the three-man Bosnian presidency, is widely seen as the leader of the pro-Iranian faction in Bosnian Muslim political circles. Sarajevo is now home to the largest Iranian embassy in Europe and several hundred Iranians are active in Bosnia, whether as diplomats, attached to the Iranian Cultural Center in Sarajevo, as journalists or "charitable workers," or in other roles. There is also a pro-Iranian, pro-Shiite faction within the Bosnian Muslim religious establishment (despite the fact that Bosnian Islam itself is Sunni). Since the end of the war, Iran has invested considerable sums and energy into promoting academic and cultural ties with elite circles in Bosnia. One example of such efforts was the establishment of a Persian-Bosnian College outside Sarajevo, which offers graduating students trips to Iran.

But despite the considerable money and energy invested in it, the concerted Iranian effort to establish a Balkan or Bosnian beachhead in Europe has had only partial success. An example of the limits to Iranian influence in Bosnia was the latter's vote in June 2010 in favor of tightening sanctions against Iran in the UN Security Council, suggesting that when push comes to shove, Bosnian elites realize that Iran has little to offer the country in comparison to the economic and security benefits they have to gain from Euro-Atlantic integration. Iran's room to maneuver in Bosnia is also limited by the substantial autonomy of Bosnia's Croat-populated cantons, or the Serb entity in Bosnia, the Republika Srpska, which has no sympathy for the Iranians. Moreover, a three-way struggle is taking place now within the Bosnian Muslim political and religious establishment, which pits Iranian sympathizers against one group that is in favor of closer ties with Saudi Arabia, and another group that now sees Turkey as the logical model for Bosnia.

Albania has been another Balkan country Iran has targeted in its attempt to create what Reza



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Shafa has called "a foothold in the European continent." As in Bosnia, the attempted Iranian infiltration of Albania followed the pattern of setting up "charities" and "cultural organizations" that serve as front organizations for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Ministry of Intelligence. Despite such efforts, however, Iran draws little sympathy in either elite circles or amongst the general population. President Sali Berisha, for instance, has been an outspoken critic of the Ahmadinejad regime; in August, for instance, Berisha claimed that "Ahmadinejad proves that he and his ideology are a growing threat to peace and stability in the Middle East...Ahmadinejad's Nazi declarations should be a wake-up call that Iran's nuclear program should be stopped by any means, as the greatest threat to peace and stability in the world."

Given such limitations, there is no threat of Iranian-style Islamic republics being

established in Bosnia (or anywhere else in the Balkans for that matter). What is a very clear and present danger, however, is that Iranian cells, or pro-Iranian factions in Bosnia or elsewhere in the region, could become activated in a crisis in the Middle East, especially as a logistical infrastructure for an Iranian counterstrike in the Balkans, should Israel or the US strike Tehran's nuclear installations. While militant Islamism holds little appeal for the vast majority of Muslims in Bosnia and throughout the Balkans, the existence of small extremist groups provides ample reason for concern and vigilance. The 9/11 attacks showed what a handful of individuals was capable of, and the revelation two years ago by the Bosnian security minister that there were three thousand potential terrorists in Bosnia shows the extent to which southeastern Europe should remain a region of vital security concern to the US and other Western nations.

Gordon N. Bardos is a Balkan politics and security specialist based in New York.

To Nasrallah, Without Love

By Lawrence J. Haas

Source: <http://econwarfare.org/viewarticle.cfm?id=5838>

To the Honorable Hassan Nasrallah: Please forgive me if that's not the correct salutation for the leader of a terrorist group like Hezbollah, for I live half a world away as an American and a Jew (both of which I'll return to in a moment). You're suffering from cancer, the media reports, and you've left your hideout in Beirut to get some treatment in Iran. I even read somewhere that Iran's president sent a private plane to pick you up.

I'm not surprised by the star treatment. After all, if Tehran can send you \$100 million a year as its most important terrorist client, empowering you to threaten Israel with your powerful missiles to its north and even hunt Jews far beyond the region, then it certainly can ensure that you travel in comfort.

But, if Tehran wishes you well, I hope you'll forgive my shortcomings as a person when I acknowledge that I can't do the same. The fault lies with me, for I have a long memory and, alas, a tendency to carry grudges. As an American, I recall that it was barely a year after September 11 when you declared on Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV: "Let the entire world

hear me. Our hostility to the Great Satan [a.k.a., the United States] is absolute... Regardless of how the world has changed after September 11, Death to America will remain our reverberating and powerful slogan: Death to America."

Though you didn't take command of Hezbollah until 1992, you were a member of the group in 1983 when it set off a truck bomb that killed 63 people, including 17 Americans, at our embassy in Beirut and then another one that killed 241 U.S. servicemen at our Marine barracks in that city.

A year later, your group set off a truck bomb outside our Embassy annex in Beirut that killed more than 20 people and bombed a restaurant in Torrejon, Spain that killed 18 U.S. servicemen and injured 83 others. I also remember vividly when, in 1985, your group hijacked TWA flight 847, held passengers hostage for two weeks, killed U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem, and dumped his body on the tarmac.

Then, at your command in 1996, Hezbollah set off a truck bomb at



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the Khobar Towers complex in Saudi Arabia, which killed 19 U.S. servicemen, wounding nearly 500 other people.

All told, as I'm sure you like to boast, Hezbollah killed more Americans than any terrorist organization before September 11.

As a Jew, I have even more problems overcoming my grudges and offering you any compassion. You helped found Hezbollah after Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, and you often say that your gripe is with the Jewish state that you'd like to eliminate - not the Jews who live there or anywhere else.

But, while your plan for Israel, which you call a "cancerous entity" of "ultimate evil," is disgusting enough, your genocidal agenda for the Jewish people extends far beyond it.

After all, it was after you took command that the group targeted both Israelis and other Jews in Buenos Aires. In 1992, you bombed the Israeli embassy there, killing 29 and injuring more than 100. Two years later, you bombed a Jewish community center in that city, this time killing 86 and injuring another 200.

Besides, you have let your hair down (figuratively speaking, of course) from time to

time to reveal your Jew-hating. It was you, after all, who said of the Jews in late 2002: "If they all gather in Israel, it will save us the trouble of going after them worldwide."

It was you who also said around the same time: "If we searched the entire world for a person more cowardly, despicable, weak and feeble in psyche, mind, ideology and religion, we would not find anyone like the Jew. Notice, I do not say the Israeli."

It was you, in 2006, who described Jews as the "grandsons of apes and pigs" and called them "Allah's most cowardly and greedy creatures."

You once explained your confidence in defeating the Jews by comparing your followers with them.

"[O]ur nation's willingness to sacrifice their blood, souls, children, fathers, and families," you said, provides a tangible advantage over Jews "who guard their lives."

You're right. As a Jew, I favor life over death - both for myself and for humanity in general.

Nevertheless, I do hope you'll understand if I can't quite bring myself to wish you a speedy recovery.

EDITOR'S QUESTION: 3D printed guns and terrorism – a new era?



Violence



Hybrid Targeted Violence:

Fire, Firearms & Complex Threats

By Tracy L. Frazzano, with G. Matthew Snyder, Law Enforcement

Improving Officer Safety

Through Preparation & Practice

By Monica Giovachino, Law Enforcement

Enhancing Zones to

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Gas Refinery Attack in Algeria: The Lessons Learned

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Missing in Action:

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Police Training for Hazardous Threats

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By **Scott Stewart** (Stratfor – *Vice President of Analysis*)

Source: http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/fire-overlooked-threat?utm_source=freelist-f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20130228&utm_term=sweekly&utm_content=readmore&elq=8c87f65570ef4a3c89fd517e5dda2901

People sometimes obsess over the potential threat posed by terrorist attacks that use things such as chemical weapons, electromagnetic pulses or dirty bombs. Yet they tend to discount the less exciting but very real threat posed by fire, even though fire kills thousands of people every year. The World Health Organization estimates that 195,000 people die each year from fire, while according to the Global Terrorism Database an average of 7,258 people die annually from terrorism, and that includes deaths in conflict zones such as Afghanistan and Iraq.

There are also instances in which fire is used as a weapon in a terrorist attack. U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens and embassy communications officer Sean Smith, the two diplomats killed in the attack on the U.S. office in Benghazi on Sept. 11, 2012, did not die from gunfire or even rocket-propelled grenade strikes but from smoke inhalation. This fact was not lost on the U.S. Department of State Accountability Review Board that investigated the Benghazi attack. In an interview published by Reuters on Feb. 24, former Ambassador Thomas Pickering, the head of the Accountability Review Board, said more attention should be paid to the threat fire poses to diplomatic posts.

Fire can be deadly and destructive. But whether a fire is intentionally set, as in the Benghazi example above, or is the result of an accident or negligence, there are some practical steps individuals can take to protect themselves.

Fire as a Weapon

The use of fire as a weapon, especially against diplomatic facilities, is not new. It was seen in the November 1979 sacking and burning of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, and in the April 1988 mob and arson attack against the U.S. Embassy annex in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. In February 2008, the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia, was heavily damaged when a mob lit its lobby on fire. More recently, on Sept. 14, 2012, three days after the Benghazi attack, millions of dollars' worth of damage was done at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, Tunisia, after a mob set outbuildings and

vehicles ablaze. Fires set by demonstrators also caused extensive damage to the adjacent American school.

Fire has been used to attack non-diplomatic facilities as well. During the November 2008 Mumbai attacks, the group of attackers holed up in the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel started fires in various parts of the hotel. Anarchists and radical environmental and animal rights activists have also conducted arson attacks against a variety of targets, including banks, department stores, the homes and vehicles of research scientists and even a ski resort.

Fire has also been a weapon frequently mentioned by al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula in its longstanding efforts to encourage Muslims living in the West to conduct simple attacks. In an interview featured in the first edition of Inspire magazine, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula leader Nasir al-Wahayshi encouraged would-be jihadists to burn down forests and buildings as a way to strike terror into the hearts of their adversaries. This theme was expanded upon in Inspire magazine's ninth edition, which actually contained a photo tutorial on how to construct timed incendiary devices as well as a fatwa noting that it was religiously permissible to light forest fires as an act of war. It is suspected that Palestinian groups have also been responsible for a number of fires in Israel and the West Bank.

But fire is not a weapon to be used against only buildings and forests -- it can also be used to attack transportation targets. In March 2008, a Uighur separatist attempted to light a fire in the restroom of a China Southern Airlines flight from Urumqi to Beijing using two soft drink cans filled with gasoline that she had smuggled onto the flight. Fire is extremely dangerous aboard aircraft because of the oxygen-rich environment, the sensitive



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nature of avionic controls, the presence of thousands of gallons of jet fuel and the toxic smoke that results from burning plastics and other materials that make up a plane. Examples of deadly fires aboard aircraft include the September 1998 incident involving Swissair Flight 111, in which all 229 people aboard were killed after the crew was overcome by smoke, and the May 1996 ValuJet crash in the Florida Everglades. In a case similar to the one at hand, a June 1983 fire that started in the restroom of Air Canada Flight 797 resulted in the deaths of 23 of the 46 passengers on board. Autopsies showed that most of them died as a result of smoke inhalation.

Trains have also been targeted for arson. In August 2006, an attack against two German trains failed when the timed incendiary devices placed onboard failed to ignite. A February 2007 attack against a train in India proved far more deadly (photo). Two timed incendiary



devices placed aboard the Samjhauta Express killed 68 people and injured another 50. Two additional unignited devices were later found in other cars aboard the train. Had they functioned properly, the death toll would have been much higher.

Incendiary devices are not only quite deadly if properly employed, they also have an advantage over explosive devices in that they can be constructed from readily available materials such as gasoline and kerosene. Even the aluminum powder and iron oxide required to manufacture a more advanced incendiary compound such as thermite can be easily obtained or even produced at home.

Another consideration is that quite often other forms of attacks, such as those using explosive devices, rocket-propelled grenades or even tracer ammunition, can spark fires. Many of the victims of the July 7, 2005, London subway bombings were affected not by the bombs'

blast effect but by the smoke from the resultant fires.

Precautions

In addition to the threat of fire as a weapon or resulting from another form of attack, many deadly fires result each year from accidents or negligence. Such fires are deadly enough in the United States and Europe, where there are strict fire codes, but their impact is often magnified in less-developed countries, where fire codes are nonexistent or poorly enforced. For example, while sprinkler systems are mandatory for hotels in the United States, in many parts of the world they are not required.

When I was working on protective details overseas, I learned that it is not uncommon to find items stored in emergency stairwells, leaving them obstructed or sometimes impassable. It is also not unusual to find fire doors that have been chained shut due to the criminal threat.

One thing that can be done to mitigate the threat from fire is to check emergency exits to ensure that they are passable. This applies not only to hotels but also to apartment and even office buildings. In the August 2011 Casino Royale attack in Monterrey, Mexico, (below) the attackers ordered



the occupants out of the building before dousing it with gasoline and lighting it on fire, but 52 people died in the incident because they were trapped inside a building by a fire exit that had been chained and locked shut.



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While we recommend that travelers staying at hotels overseas should attempt to stay above

safety equipment and should be part of everyone's personal safety plan. Smoke hoods



the second floor for security reasons, we also recommend that they not stay above the sixth floor so that they will be within range of most fire department rescue ladders. We also recommend checking that functional and tested fire extinguishers and fire hoses are present.

In fires, smoke inhalation is a huge problem. According to studies, it is the primary cause of fire deaths and accounts for some 50-80 percent of all deaths from indoor fires. While this is somewhat obvious in confined spaces such as an aircraft fuselage or a subway tunnel, it also applies to buildings. Even buildings that are constructed of concrete or cinderblock and would therefore seem to be resistant to the effects of fire can serve to confine smoke to deadly levels. The U.S. office in Benghazi is a very good recent example. Video of the building after the attack showed that the fire had not badly damaged the building's structure itself; what killed Stevens and Smith was the smoke.

As Stratfor has noted for many years now, smoke hoods are a very important piece of

can be carried in a purse or briefcase and can provide the wearer with 15-30 minutes of safe air to breathe. This period of time can make a world of difference to a person caught in a burning building, subway tunnel or aircraft and attempting to escape to fresh air.

Due to past fire incidents on aircraft, the Federal Aviation Administration mandates that airlines furnish a smoke hood for each crew member on commercial flights. They do not provide smoke hoods for each passenger, although high-end executive aircraft normally do. Commercial passengers who would like access to a smoke hood in the case of a fire need to carry their own. Another useful tool in such situations is a small, high-intensity flashlight that can help you find your way through the smoke or dark once you have donned your smoke hood.

Fire is a potentially deadly weapon, one that should not be forgotten, but steps can be taken to mitigate the danger it poses.

INSPIRE MAGAZINE

Issue 9

<http://info.publicintelligence.net/InspireFall2011.pdf>

Issue 10

<http://info.publicintelligence.net/InspireMay2012.pdf>

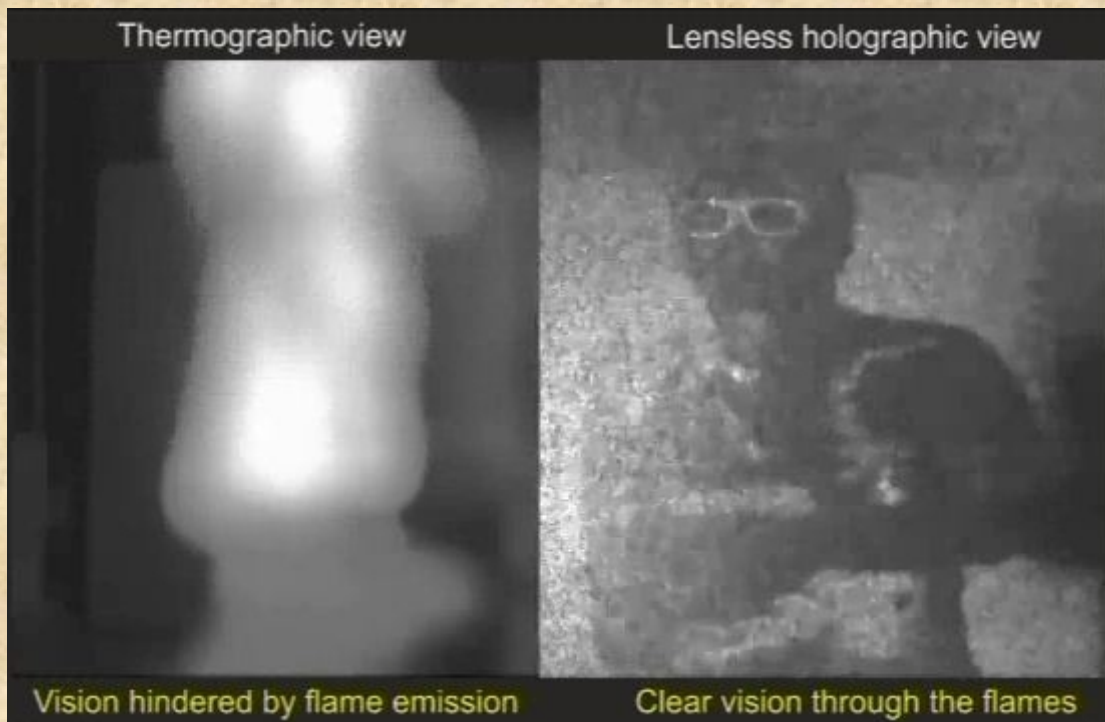




**THAILAND
Police officer & dog**

Infrared Digital Holography Allows Firefighters to See Through Flames, Image Moving People

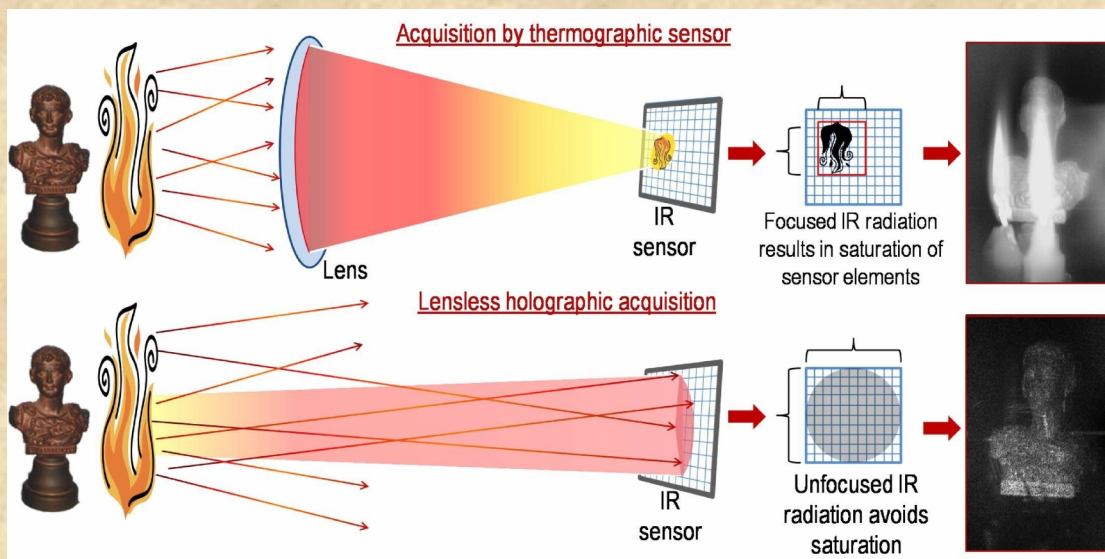
Source: http://www.osa.org/en-us/about_osa/newsroom/newsreleases/2013/infrared_digital_holography_allows_firefighters_to/



VIDEO: A side-by-side comparison of a traditional imaging system, in which the view of a man is obstructed by flames, and the new technique, in which the viewer can see the man standing and waving his hand. Credit: *Optics Express*.

Firefighters put their lives on the line in some of the most dangerous conditions on Earth. One

imaging technique that uses infrared (IR) digital holography to peer through chaotic



of their greatest challenges, however, is seeing through thick veils of smoke and walls of flame to find people in need of rescue. A team of Italian researchers has developed a new

conflagrations and capture potentially lifesaving and otherwise hidden details. The team describes its breakthrough results

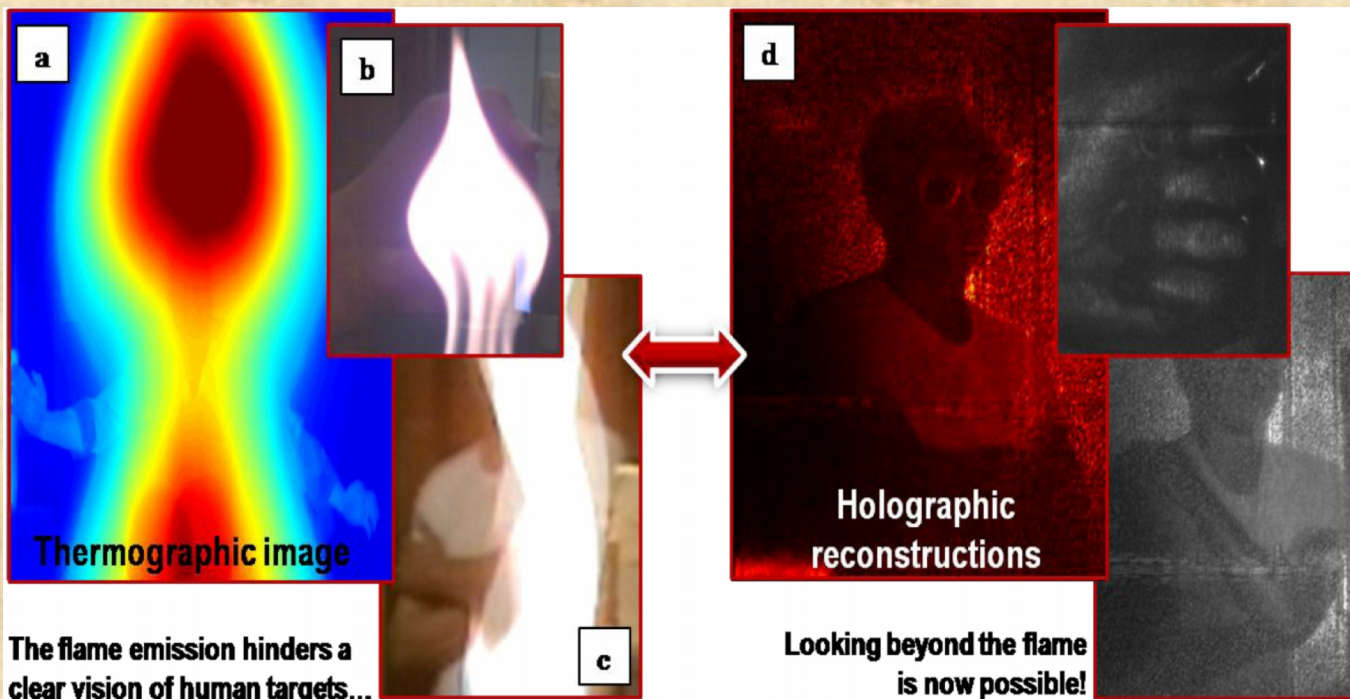


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and their applications in a paper published today in the Optical Society's (OSA) open-access journal *Optics Express*.

Firefighters can see through smoke using current IR camera technology. However, such instruments are blinded by the intense infrared

radiation emitted by flames, which overwhelm the sensitive detectors and limit their use in the field. By employing a specialized lens-free technique, the researchers have created a system that is able to cope with the flood of radiation from an environment filled with flames as well as smoke.



radiation emitted by flames, which overwhelm the sensitive detectors and limit their use in the field. By employing a specialized lens-free technique, the researchers have created a system that is able to cope with the flood of radiation from an environment filled with flames as well as smoke.

"IR cameras cannot 'see' objects or humans behind flames because of the need for a zoom lens that concentrates the rays on the sensor to form the image," says Pietro Ferraro of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) Istituto Nazionale di Ottica in Italy. By eliminating the need for the zoom lens, the new technique avoids this drawback.

"It became clear to us that we had in our hands a technology that could be exploited by emergency responders and firefighters at a fire scene to see through smoke without being blinded by flames, a limitation of existing technology," Ferraro says. "Perhaps most importantly, we demonstrated for the first time that a holographic recording of a live person can be achieved even while the body is moving."

Holography is a means of producing a 3-D image of an object. To create a hologram, such

pattern that encodes the 3-D image.

In the researchers' new imaging system, a beam of infrared laser light is widely dispersed throughout a room. Unlike visible light, which cannot penetrate thick smoke and flames, the IR rays pass through largely unhindered. The IR light does, however, reflect off of any objects or people in the room, and the information carried by this reflected light is recorded by a holographic imager. It is then decoded to reveal the objects beyond the smoke and flames. The result is a live, 3-D movie of the room and its contents.

The next step in moving this technology to the field is to develop a portable tripod-based system that houses both the laser source and the IR camera. The systems may also be suitable for fixed installation inside buildings or tunnels. In addition, the team is exploring other applications, most notably in the biomedical field for non-destructive testing of large aerospace composite structures.

"Besides life-saving applications in fire and rescue, the potential to record dynamic scenes of a human body could have a variety of other biomedical uses including



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studying or monitoring breathing, cardiac beat detection and analysis, or measurement of body deformation due to various stresses during exercise,” Ferraro says. “We are excited

to further develop this technology and realize its application for saving and improving human life.”

Paper: “Imaging live humans through smoke and flames using far-infrared digital holography,” M. Locatelli et al., Optics Express, Vol. 21, Issue 5, pp. 5379-5390 (2013).

The Struggle Against Somali Piracy: A NATO Success?

Source: http://atlantic-council.ca/portfolio/the-struggle-against-somali-piracy-a-nato-success/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=the-struggle-against-somali-piracy-a-nato-success

Aaron Willschick argues that despite Operation Ocean Shield’s perceived success in combating Somali maritime piracy, the reduction in pirate attacks may have less to do with NATO action and more to do with private security firms.

As NATO has redefined its role as a security alliance over the last two decades, it has increasingly elevated the importance of maritime security as part of its overall organizational goals. A major component of this greater focus has been Operation Ocean Shield (OOS), NATO’s primary contribution to combating piracy. Since 2009, NATO ships have been patrolling waters off of the Horn of Africa as part of OOS. Their mission is to contribute to international efforts to counter maritime piracy, a major long-term security concern in the region for many years. OOS works closely with European Union and United States naval forces and national actors operating against piracy in the region. The operation is specifically targeted at the waters surrounding Somalia, perhaps the most prevalent area for piracy in the world. NATO forces conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions to verify the activity of shipping off the coast of Somalia, separating out legitimate maritime traffic from suspected pirate vessels.

As a result of the fact that NATO has largely regarded OOS as a success that has reduced instances of maritime piracy, the North Atlantic Council last year extended the operation to 2014. In analyzing the success of the OOS in preventing pirate attacks, a simple look at the figures indicates that the Operation has been successful in its primary endeavour. Globally, pirate attacks reached a five year low in 2012 with 297 ships attacked compared to 439 in 2011. The number of people taken hostage onboard also fell drastically, from 802 in 2011 to 585 last year. Much of the reason for this

drop can be attributed to a massive reduction in Somali piracy. In Somalia and the Gulf of Aden, just 75 ships reported attacks in 2012 compared with 237 in 2011 accounting for 25 percent of instances worldwide. The number of Somali hijackings was halved from 28 in 2011 to 14 in 2012.

On the surface, the OOS seems like a very successful NATO-led operation. The number of pirate attacks has descended by a huge margin and it has only taken one year to observe considerable results. However, a closer examination of the issue uncovers many potential difficulties with tackling Somali piracy. There is still much indecision over the best way to deal with the problem and the long-term effectiveness of the current methods.

This year’s decline in attacks has largely been attributed to the increased use of private security firms on board ships. Despite the success of this tactic, concerns have been raised about its long-term effectiveness. The use of private security guards has only recently won the approval of European governments and many ship owners remain uncomfortable with the prospect of an armed and unregulated presence on board their ships. There have been accusations of armed guards indiscriminately firing at fishermen off the coast of Yemen and industry bodies such as the International Chamber of Commerce International Maritime Bureau do not see the use of these guards as a long-term solution. Demands for naval personnel to be privately contracted out to commercial companies which would



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essentially see naval officers being used as private security guards has created great concerns for both military personnel and lobby groups.

If these claims are true then the reduction in pirate attacks may have very little to do with NATO counter-piracy action and Operation Ocean Shield after all. It may merely be a coincidence that NATO has launched OOS and Somali piracy has become less prevalent. It is not a simple task to determine what the primary reason is, but what can be said is that NATO action is likely only a part of it. What is more important in this instance is that there is a lack

of agreement on how best to confront Somali piracy and piracy in general. There is a general consensus that the most effective long-term counter-piracy method would be to pull Somalia out of poverty which is at this point only an ambitious goal that is at best far in the future. At this point in time, Operation Ocean Shield has yielded some positive results, but the issue of Somali piracy is still very much prevalent and any success in dealing with this massive problem is likely due to a number of different factors that have little to do with NATO action.

Aaron Willschick is a recent graduate from the MA program in European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs. He also holds an MA degree in political science from York University and a BaH from York University's Glendon College. His research interests include the European Union, European security and defense policy, NATO enlargement to Eastern Europe and democratization. He has extensive experience in policy and research, having worked as a trade assistant at the U.S. Consulate in Toronto and a research assistant to well-known Canadian author Anna Porter and York University political science professor Heather MacRae.

Pirate Horizons in the Gulf of Guinea

By James Marcus Bridger

Source: <http://atlantic-council.ca/portfolio/pirate-horizons-in-the-gulf-of-guinea/>

It was proclaimed in 2012, that the Somali pirate business model had been broken by a combination of coordinated naval patrols, heightened vessel security and the ubiquitous presence of armed guards aboard valuable ships. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) attributed only 71 attacks to Somali pirates in the first 11 months of 2012, down from 237 the previous year. However, attacks are on the rise across the continent in the Gulf of Guinea, with 51 incidents recorded for the same period.

While several commentators, particularly within the shipping industry, have raised the alarm that the Gulf of Guinea will overtake the Horn of Africa as the world's piracy hotspot, very distinct geopolitical conditions prevent the Somali business model from being easily transported to West Africa. To begin with, it is the abject failure of onshore authority in Somalia's pirate-prone regions that allows the hijackers to keep their prey anchored for months at a time while they conduct ransom negotiations. By contrast, the states bordering the Gulf of Guinea are weak and corrupt, but not failed.

West African pirates may not yet be able to secure multi-million dollar ransoms, but they have begun to emulate many of the successful tactics of their Somali counterparts. An analysis of recent trends demonstrates that the region's highly organized pirate gangs have altered their tactics, targets and hunting grounds in order to counteract efforts against them.

Geographic Displacement

A 2009 government amnesty offered to militants in the Niger Delta credit for temporarily reducing Nigerian piracy, as the number of incidents reported fell from a high of 42 in 2007 to a low of 10 in 2011. These figures masked the full extent of the piracy problem, however, as it is estimated that 50-80% of pirate attacks go unreported in West Africa. While the IMB reported 40 incidents of piracy in Nigerian waters in 2008, an author's interviews with corporate security managers working in the region found there to be 173 confirmed attacks that year.

While Nigerian waters were relatively calm in 2011, neighboring Benin, which had



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only reported one act of piracy in the previous five years—has been suddenly struck with a spree of at least 20 attacks. The Nigeria-based criminal syndicates, pressured by heightened security in their own waters, had moved westward to find easier targets. Highlighting the vulnerability of vessels operating in the thought-to-be-safe waters of Benin, eight of the 20 vessels attacked were successfully hijacked and had large quantities of equipment, fuel or cargo stolen.

As a response to the shared threat they face,

include Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, the latter marking the furthest point west that the Nigeria-based criminals have expanded.

Despite an increase in naval patrols, attacks have also increased once again in Nigerian waters. The fight against piracy in the region was recently likened to sitting on a balloon—“Push down on one side and it pops up at the other; push on the other side and it pops up somewhere else.”

Source: International Maritime Bureau



the maritime forces of Nigeria and Benin began engaging in joint naval patrols in late 2011. Predictably, incidences of piracy declined in Beninois waters but were soon to reemerge elsewhere.

Though it has only 34 miles of coastline, West Africa's 2012 piracy hotspot was Togo. The IMB recorded 15 pirate attacks in Togolese waters last year, more incidents than in the past five years combined. Other regional states that have seen a sharp increase in piracy

According to maritime risk consultant Michael Frodl, the pirates are moving further out to sea not just to avoid coastal patrols, “But also to take advantage of ships letting down their guard in waters assumed to be safer.” The majority of ships attacked off Benin and Togo in recent years have been at anchor



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or drifting, meaning that evasive maneuvers cannot be taken.

The limited range of the pirates' small skiffs once acted as a check on their offshore expansion. Following the Somali model however, West African pirates have overcome this limitation by using motherships—converted fishing trawlers that allow supplies and multiple skiffs to be transported further afield for more extended piracy ventures. Attacks have now been launched against vessels that are over 120nm from the coast.

A Change in Tactics and Targets

Though Niger Delta-based insurgents were able to launch a number of concerted attacks against offshore oil infrastructure in the mid to late 2000s, the majority of maritime crime in the region has been a low-tech and opportunistic affair. This appears to have changed in the last two years, however, as a number of notable attacks reveal a high level of sophistication and operational capacity on the part of the criminal gangs.

The pirates that hijacked the *Abu Dhabi Star* off the coast of Lagos in September demonstrated military-like organization, as they swarmed the vessel with four high-powered speed boats, boarded with a dozen heavily armed men in full combat dress, and immediately disabled the captured ship's communications equipment. Signifying advanced logistical capabilities, the MT *Orfeas* was recently hijacked from anchorage off Côte d'Ivoire and then sailed 600nm back to the waters of Nigeria where its captors pilfered 3,000 tons of gasoline. The kidnapping of crew members from the tug *Bourbon Liberty* appears to exhibit a heightened level of operational intelligence, as the ship was attacked at the precise moment when its escort vessel had returned to shore to resupply.

These attacks are by no means atypical, as a 2011 UN assessment mission concluded that the region's pirates were "Resorting to sophisticated modes of operations and utilizing heavy weapons."

Diversifying the Business Model

Though cargo theft remains the primary *modus operandi* of the Gulf of Guinea's pirates, there has been a sharp rise in incidents of hostage taking during oil bunkering. Early 2012, witnessed a doubling in the number of attacks on oil tankers, with periods of captivity often

lasting days as vessels are directed to another pirate-controlled ship where the fuel is transferred and then taken elsewhere for sale. While these extended duration robberies were once rare events in the region, there have been almost 20 such hijackings recorded in the last two years.

Bunkering has become part of a larger international web as Lebanese and Eastern European criminal interests reportedly arrange the black market sale of stolen crude and refined cargos. Shipping industry guidelines have also recognized that recent attacks appear to be the result of "Intelligence-led planning," where ships transporting valuable products such as gasoline are, "Targeted in very well coordinated and executed operations." In this sense, Nigerian gangs are better connected to global criminal networks than their Somali counterparts, as first hand research has largely dismissed earlier reports that Somalia's pirates were being financed and fed vessel intelligence by international cartels.

The increase in large scale bunkering has coincided with a brazen string of kidnappings for ransom in the Nigerian littoral. Though whole ships cannot be held for Somali-style ransom, West African gangs have proven apt at kidnapping foreign personnel as a source of additional income. When the *Bourbon Liberty* was hijacked off Nigeria in October seven European sailors were taken hostage while the Nigerian crew members and the ship itself were left to drift. The vessel's French owners secured their employees release two weeks later through an alleged ransom payment.

Shipping and oil companies attempt to keep ransom negotiations confidential so as not to encourage further kidnappings, but the crime continues to be a lucrative venture. December witnessed three separate maritime kidnappings off the Nigerian coast in which a total of 12 expatriate personnel were specifically targeted and taken hostage. Examined together, rising incidences of both extended duration bunkerings and kidnap for ransom indicate that the myriad criminal syndicates operating in the Gulf of Guinea have developed diversified business models.

Constant Vigilance

Maritime crime is now a transnational emergency in the Gulf of Guinea. Already spreading from Nigeria to Benin, Togo and



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Côte d'Ivoire, it is likely that Liberia, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea will come under increased stress from pirates and oil thieves this year. Though the crisis is regional, the inter-governmental response has been limited to joint patrols between Nigeria and Benin and a series of security meetings that include other states.

A central problem is lack of maritime security capacity in the region. Nigeria is the only state that possesses a frigate, corvette or aerial surveillance capabilities, but it has thus far found it difficult to bring these assets to bear in a coordinated manner for a sustained length of

time. Private security providers are similarly hampered by the fact that national law prevents them from deploying armed guards aboard ships operating in the territorial waters of regional states.

It is imperative that regional states, the international community and private actors adopt a more proactive and coordinated approach to combating maritime crime in the Gulf of Guinea. So long as maritime security provision remains piecemeal and nationally orientated, the robbers will remain one step ahead of the cops.

James Marcus Bridger previously served as a Content Editor and Senior Research Analyst with the Atlantic Council of Canada as part of the Department of National Defence's Security and Defence Forum Program. He is now a Maritime Security Consultant with Delex Systems Inc. in Washington, DC.

Women in foxholes

By Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady

Source: <http://www.wnd.com/2013/02/women-in-foxholes/#7OTwI88YvtZtWujX.99>

For many Americans, it is hard to believe that Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta could top his statement in defense of the administration's tragic bungling of the terrorists' massacre in Benghazi: "(The) basic principle is that you don't deploy forces into harm's way without

the attitude of the commander in chief, disastrously over his head in the international arena, a "leader" unable to make tough decision who is fearful of risk and does not know the difference between a corps and a corpse. He is more comfortable around

homosexuals and feminists than warriors. Panetta's statement extolling the readiness multiplier of women leading bayonet charges is beyond the pale.

Neither Obama nor Panetta has ever served in combat, nor has most of Congress. But worse, none of the current military leadership has had any serious combat (in the trenches) experience, and it is beginning to show.

World War II was won by combat veterans from World War I. In Korea we had the veterans of World War II, and in Vietnam the combat veterans of both World War II and Korea. The Vietnam veteran won Desert Storm. All those warriors and their leadership are gone, and we see a military with dismal leadership resulting in unprecedented rates of suicide, PTSD and security breaches. We



knowing what's going on; without having some real-time information about what's taking place (The Obama Panetta Doctrine)." But he did top it.

In justification of the administration's policy to put women in foxholes, he claimed that women in (direct) combat strengthen our military. His statement is a contradiction of every war we have fought and the ethos of every warrior who ever fought in those wars. But it does reflect



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had one high-ranking officer lament that the terrorist's massacre at Fort Hood would damage his diversity efforts! Leadership relieved the judge in the trial of the Fort Hood terrorist for enforcing military shaving rules on the terrorist – and after over three years, he is not tried! And they are calling that obvious terrorist massacre “workplace violence,” deliberately depriving those killed and their families of deserved benefits.

Unimaginable in our past, we have leaders who consider awarding medals for not shooting, and now a medal for risking carpal tunnel syndrome that outranks the time-honored Bronze Star for valor. This gaggle actually lost graves of our warriors at Arlington Cemetery and are attacking the benefits of America's nobility – our veterans. I don't know where the term girlie men came from, but it perfectly describes many in this administration and their military leaders.

After commanding an all-men medical unit in combat, I commanded a medical battalion, including many women, in peacetime. These units are not direct-combat units but do spend a lot of time on the battlefield and are exposed to enemy fire and casualties. But it is nothing like the exposure of the grunts in the mud and grime for days and weeks at a time.

My rule in the battalion was standards, not gender-governed, except where they were already assigned, i.e., medics and mechanics. This was during the '70s, a tough time for drugs and discipline in the military. Here is what I found. As a result of competition, my driver and our color guard, highly contested duty, were women. The women had less disciplinary problems than the men. In administrative jobs, they were at least equal to men. But most could not carry their load physically – loading litters in choppers, carrying wounded to safety, even lifting tool chests. As a result the men covered for them, often causing us to use two people when one should have done the job – all of which effected readiness. They were not good in the field and became less functional when issues of hygiene, and feminine hygiene, literally knocked them out and we had to jerry-rig showers, wasting valuable time.

And they got pregnant, which took out key jobs at critical times. Other sexual distractions, favoritisms, fraternization and assault are also readiness disruptions and follow women throughout the military, even in our military academies. I had serious problems with wives

whose husbands shared standby shacks with women overnight. This would go on for weeks in direct combat units; think tank crews. Male bonding, immeasurable to success in combat, would be damaged. All in all, the women pose an insane burden on readiness.

My conclusion, which I passed to my division commander at his request, was that I would not want females with me working the battlefield let alone in direct combat. I told him I would not want my daughters in a unit of half women going bayonet to bayonet with an enemy unit 100 percent men. Those comments almost cost me my career because my immediate superior disagreed, which may explain some of the obsequiousness and cowering of military leaders today on this issue and a quad-sexual military.

The move to teach our daughters and mothers to kill is defended using the same criteria I used in my battalion: standards, not sex-govern. It does not work. Most men will not treat women as they do other men – thankfully. And there is no intention to do so despite what we hear. Listen to our top military leader, Gen. Martin Dempsey: “If we decide that a particular standard is so high that a woman couldn't make it, the burden is now on the service to come back and explain to the secretary, why is it that high? Does it really have to be that high?” Those standards have been set over hundreds of years of combat! We should change them to satisfy the crazes of the president's feminist supporters? Imagine how Gen. George Patton and all the leaders who founded and secured this country would react to those comments.

I have said, and many men agree with me, that Adam's rib was the greatest investment in human history. Why? Because God then gave man woman, a different creature, who complemented him. God did it on purpose, and we are privileged to live with the differences. Feminists et al., get over it. It is not discrimination to accommodate God's design; it is acknowledging His will – it is wisdom.

Despite “Kill Bill” and other Hollywood visuals of females pummeling men, women for the most part are not designed to kill. And they will not be good at it. God designed them to produce life and nurture it, not destroy it. They don't belong in the trenches of the NFL or in the octagon in Ultimate Fighting; combat is the ultimate Ultimate



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Fighting – and they don't belong there, either. It is difficult to teach some men to kill, but they have no choice. Imagine a draft and a nation forcing our women into killing units. Visualize what will happen to women POWs, not to mention homosexuals, captured by our most likely enemies. We have heard of the man who sent his wife downstairs to check on a possible burglar (I actually knew such a man). We are becoming a nation like that man, a girlie nation. There will always be burglars, (international thugs), most of whom are male, and they should be confronted by males.

Why these ridiculous changes? No serious person could believe that women in foxholes will do anything but reduce readiness. Just as devastating is the formation of a quad-sexual military, which introduces sodomy not only to foxholes but military communities – and with it serious health and deployment issues. Pregnant females cannot deploy, and some will get pregnant to avoid it. Homosexuals cannot give blood and may not be deployable. Every warrior is a walking blood bank – who would want his son or daughter to receive a blood transfusion from a homosexual? The NBA stops a basketball game for a drop of blood because of the threat of infection, the Magic

Johnson rule; Johnson had AIDS. The battlefield is full of blood. Do we think less of our soldiers than the NBA does of its players? What will be the reaction when a warrior sees his commanding officer dancing and romancing another man – or if he is hit on by a homosexual? Yet we are told these changes will improve readiness.

Sequestration, designed by President Obama, will, if allowed to kick in, emasculate what is left of our military. Aside from the cruel impact these budget cuts will have on military careers and families, they are perfectly suited to Obama's isolationist goals. He is a rhetorical celebrity dedicated to social issues, i.e. same-sex marriage, gun control and government running just about everything. He is also a man intimidated by crises and the decisions they require. He is a voting-present leader, and we are learning he was not even present to lead during the massacre at Benghazi. He apparently hid out during the entire event and tried to blame it on a video. What would he do during a major 9/11-type crisis? An insignificant military takes us off the world stage and requires only voting present in future crises, which perfectly suits our present leadership. We can only pray there will be no such crises.

Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, retired from the U.S. Army, is a recipient of the United States military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor. He is the author of "Dead Men Flying: Victory in Viet Nam The Legend of Dust Off: America's Battlefield Angels."

Loyal, playful working dog remembered

Source:<http://www.nwguardian.com/2013/03/07/14945/loyal-playful-working-dog-remembered.html>

Service members gather to remember Tim, a 9-year-old Belgian Malinois with the 627th Security Forces Military Working Dog section, during a memorial service Tuesday at Chapel No. 1 on McChord Field. "He was my little couch buddy," his handler said.

Tim had the strongest nose of the 627th Security Forces Military Working Dog section on JBLM McChord Field. The canine served thousands of hours in security and explosives detection, often in outside-the-wire missions during his four deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

But when Tim wasn't working as a patrol explosive detector dog, he was outside playing with his favorite ball or attacking the water hose at every opportunity. And he was nearly always

near his recent handler, Staff Sgt. Travis Nottage.

"He was my little couch buddy," Nottage said. "Everywhere I sat, he was there trying to get a rub."

Nottage and those who knew Tim paid their respects to the military working dog in a memorial service in Tim's honor at Chapel No. 1 on McChord Field Tuesday. After seven-and-a-half years of dedicated service to the country and the U.S. Air Force, Tim was humanely euthanized Feb. 26 because of ongoing medical issues and uncontrollable pain. Nottage, who was Tim's handler for the last year, was with him until the end.

Tim was Nottage's first assigned dog after his handler's course.

Known as "Tiny Tim," "Tim T-



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bow,” “Big Tim Timmy Jim” and “Little Man.” Nottage said his favorite nickname was “Master Splinter,” after the character from the “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.”

Scott Hansen/Northwest Guardian

“He was the most methodical dog I had ever seen; therefore, you could be confident that if Tim swept an area and didn’t respond, you knew it was safe,” said Staff Sgt. Mary Boyer, kennel master for the 627th SFS. JBLM Deputy Commander and Commander of



“He was one of those dogs if you asked him to do something he did it instantly,” Nottage said. “He was loyal. If I was walking down the street and I didn’t see something, he would swing back around to make sure I saw it.”

Tim was procured by the 341st Training Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base Sept. 6, 2005, and arrived at JBLM March 20, 2006. During his time at JBLM, Tim conducted more than 20,000 hours of security and explosive detection for the installation and forward deployed. While deployed, he conducted more than 3,000 hours of outside-the-wire missions attached to Army units. Tim also served with Customs and Border Patrol, the United States Coast Guard, the Department of State, and the U.S. Secret Service, providing explosive detection and ensuring the safety of the president and other foreign leaders.

the 627th Air Base Group, Col. Valerie L. Hasberry presented the Meritorious Service Medal to Nottage on behalf of Tim.

Tim’s empty kennel stood at the memorial to represent the life he gave to protect others. His leather leash and chain hung from the kennel to represent the bond between dog and handler, and his inverted bowl symbolized he is no longer there for his needs of food and water to be fulfilled.

“There are many moments I will remember with Tim, but the one that will always stand apart from the rest is, rain or shine we were always together, even at the very end,” Nottage said. “He was my best friend and a loyal partner. You will be missed greatly.”

Tim was one of approximately 2,300 military working dogs in the program across all military services, according to the American Forces Press Service.



CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – April 2013**Military Working Dogs in action!**

A flight medic with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, is hoisted into a medical helicopter with Luca, a Military Working Dog with 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, during a training exercise at Forward Operating Base Spin Boldak, Afghanistan. The training prepared the flight medics for medical evacuation of working dogs. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Michael Needham)

Somebody I met once and respect for life!

By The Editor (see also at the end of this chapter)

Frank Gardner is an English journalist, author and currently the BBC's Security Correspondent. He was appointed an OBE in 2005 for his services to journalism. He is a bright example of courage and inspiration. His adventurous life and achievements are vividly described through his two books:

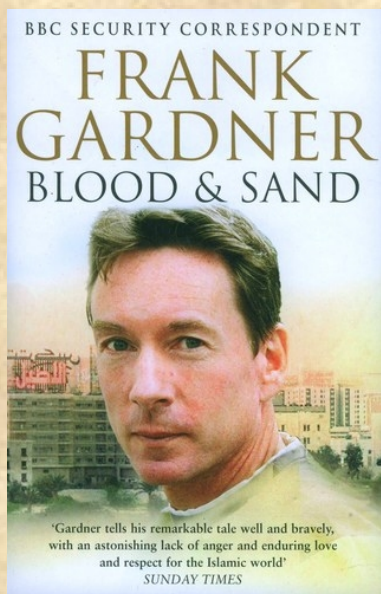
Blood & Sand

On 6 June 2004, Frank Gardner and cameraman Simon Cumbers were in a suburb of Riyadh, filming a report on Al-Qaeda when they were confronted by Islamist gunmen. Simon was killed outright. Frank was brought down by shots in the shoulder and leg. As he lay bleeding in the street, a figure stood over him and pumped four more bullets into him at point blank range...



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Against all the odds, Frank Gardner survived and this is his remarkable account of the agonizing journey he has taken - from being shot and left for dead to where he is today, partly paralysed but alive. It is a journey that really began 25 years earlier when a chance meeting with explorer Wilfred Thesiger inspired what would become a lifelong passion for the Arab world. This would take him throughout the Middle East and eventually lead to his becoming a BBC journalist. And, in the wake of the events of 9/11, this passion sent him on the journey that came to dominate - and nearly end - his life: his coverage of Al-Qaeda.



Honest, moving and inspiring, his story - now updated for this paperback edition - reveals a deep understanding of the Islamic world and offers a compelling analysis of the on-going 'War on Terror' and what it means in these uncertain times.

What press wrote about his book:

'Gardner tells his remarkable tale well and bravely, with an astonishing lack of anger and enduring love and respect for the Islamic world.' **SUNDAY TIMES**

'A witty, self-deprecating, inspiring testament.' **DAILY TELEGRAPH**

'What makes Gardner's moving, often humorous, deeply personal story so important is the fact that he has woven into it a brilliantly dispassionate, clear-eyed account of the Islamic world.' **THE SCOTSMAN** magazine

'A superb reporter...his terrible experience only makes his analysis all the more telling.' **EVENING STANDARD**

'Gardner is a tremendous model for what relations between East and West can be...a fine introduction both to journalism and to the culture of the Middle East.' **INDEPENDENT**

'Near-death experiences do not come any more real than Frank Gardner's chilling, graphic and admirably unsentimental account.' **GUARDIAN**

'Witty and moving, capturing without self-pity the horror of learning his legs don't work.' **OBSERVER**

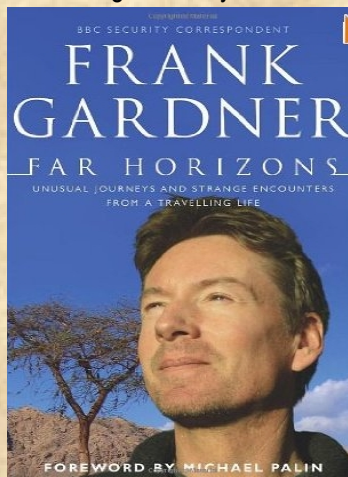
'A remarkable book from a remarkable man.' **YORKSHIRE EVENING POST**

'Frank's honest account of his life-changing experiences offers a message of hope in a dangerous and divided world.' **THE GOOD BOOK GUIDE**

'His story, mixing the personal and the political, is both moving and insightful – a testament to one individual's will to overcome a terrible experience, and a powerful piece of reportage.' **BOOKS QUARTERLY**

'A compelling autobiography.' **WOMAN'S WEEKLY**

'Written with honesty, integrity and humour, this is a powerful, haunting account of survival, of overcoming adversity and a determination to carry on – a moving and inspiring personal story.' **IN DUBLIN**



Far Horizons

Lost on a remote Sumatran volcano...pursued through a Tokyo backstreet by a Japanese gangster...picnicking with the French Foreign Legion in the Horn of Africa: Frank Gardner's idea of a holiday is not everyone's. But ever since his student days, the BBC security correspondent has done some epicly hard travelling in a remarkable number of countries. Drawing on the diaries, sketches and photos he kept during his travels, his immaculately observed accounts of these often strange, sometimes daring, adventures form the backbone of his new book.

In June 2004, while on what should have been a routine



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routine assignment in Riyadh, his life - never mind his ability to travel the world - was nearly brought to a violent end by Islamist gunmen. Frank survived against all the odds and through force of will, has found himself looking towards far horizons once more. He's not only been skiing in the Alps, scuba diving in the Red Sea and explored the jungles of Cambodia, he is also reporting once more from far-flung destinations like Afghanistan and Colombia - and this is a man who no longer has the use of his legs...

This is Frank Gardner's compelling, personal account of the myriad adventures that made him the man he was on that fateful day - and of the journeys he's made since, and how they've helped him to become the remarkable and inspiring individual he is today.

What press wrote about his book:

'Frank Gardner doesn't see himself as any kind of hero, but he does see himself as someone who was blessed with physical skills and an insatiable curiosity about the world out there, and nearly being gunned to death is not for him the beginning of the end, but the end of the beginning. The fact that his reassuring presence and balanced, well-informed reports are still on our screens in these difficult times is a sign of an unquenchable spirit. It's the spirit that courses through the pages of this book and the spirit that, whether he might like to think so or not, is a huge inspiration to many like him. And like me.'

MICHAEL PALIN, from his Foreword to *Far Horizons*

'Gardner is a good storyteller...Always revealing, often riotous and sometimes very moving' **TIME OUT**

'His adventures fly off the page...entertaining and charmingly self-deprecating'

NEWS OF THE WORLD

'A bold, life-affirming read' **GQ magazine**



Will, dedication, excellence!

Using jokes as an encryption method

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130313-using-jokes-as-an-encryption-method>

It is possible to hide secret messages in simple jokes, according to research published in the latest issue of the *International Journal of Security and Networks*.

Encrypting a message with a strong code is the only safe way to keep your communications secret, but it will be obvious to anyone seeing such a message that the sender is hiding something, regardless of whether they are

encrypting their e-mails for legitimate or illicit purposes. Steganography, on the other hand, can hide a secret message in plain sight. Often a message is secreted within the binary strings of 0s and 1s in a compressed image or music file format. Prying eyes see only the original image or hear the song, whereas the recipient, knowing that a message is within



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uses software to extract it. Nevertheless, a putative interception might still take place; this kind of disguise also has the problem of requiring large file sizes.

An Inderscience Publishers release reports that an alternative to such steganography would be to hide a message in plain sight within a plain text document.

Unfortunately, despite the much smaller file sizes that would be possible, secreting a message within normal text usually disrupts the grammar and syntax or the spelling and so immediately looks suspicious. Now, an approach which is far less obvious and which is tolerant of poor grammar has been developed by computer scientist Abdelrahman Desoky of the University of Maryland in Baltimore County. It is described in the latest issue of the *International Journal of Security and Networks*. Desoky suggests that instead of using a humdrum text document and modifying it in a codified way to embed a secret message, correspondents could use a joke to hide their true meaning. As such, he has developed an Automatic Joke Generation Based Steganography Methodology (Jokestega) which takes advantage of recent software that can automatically write pun-type jokes using large dictionary databases. Among the automatic joke generators available are: the MIT Project, Chuck Norris Joke Generator,

Jokes2000, the Joke Generator dot Com, and the Online Joke Generator System (pickuplinegen).

A simple example might be to hide the code word “shaking” in the following auto-joke. The original question and answer joke is “Where do milk shakes come from?” and the correct answer would be “From nervous cows.” So far, so funny. The system, however, can substitute the word “shaking” for “nervous” and still retain the humor so that the answer becomes “From shaking cows.” It loses some of its wit, but still makes sense and we are not all Bob Hopes, after all.

Other examples where substitutions are possible might include the equally funny: What do you get when you cross a car with a sandwich? A traffic jam, which might use a well-known sandwich bar brand, “Subway” as an alternative answer. Similarly, Where is Dracula’s American office? The answer being the Vampire State Building. The question could be substituted as Where is Dracula’s American home? With the same answer. There are endless puns, any one of which might be used in a similar setting. A collection of such jokes sent in a message with the non-obvious answer substituted for the wittier version could conceal a message using Jokestega. Desoky suggests that 8 bits of data might be hidden in a simple joke of the type discussed.

— Read more in Abdelrahman Desoky, “Jokestega: automatic joke generation-based steganography methodology,” *International Journal of Security and Networks* 7, no.3 (2012): 148-60

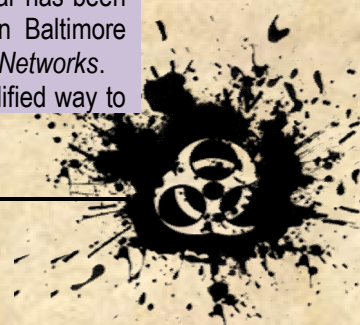


Steganography is no laughing matter

Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2013-03/ip-sin031213.php

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Safer Schools Through Advance Planning

Source:http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/Commentary/Viewpoint/Safer_Schools_Through_Advance_Planning/

In response to the 14 December 2012 school shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, President Barack Obama has offered a wide range of executive orders and proposals – including several specifically intended to make schools safer. One major component of his safe-schools proposal is to ensure that *all* of the nation's schools have effective and comprehensive emergency management plans in place. As part of that proposal, he charged the federal-government's Departments of Education, Justice, Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services with developing a model set of emergency management plans.

These model plans will presumably supplement earlier guidelines published in 2006 by the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center of the U.S. Department of Education. The previous guidelines provide what seems to be a reasonably broad framework for such plans, but a recent review by CNA of emergency management plans for school districts in the greater Washington, D.C., area found them lacking the specific details needed to make them operationally effective.

To begin with, each school in the nation has unique security considerations. However,

because security plans are often developed at the district level, they are usually not customized enough for each and every location in the district. For example, response time is a critical factor in emergency planning. Schools built at a greater distance from hospitals or police stations have needs, therefore, that might be considerably different from those of schools located closer to such emergency facilities. Moreover, sprawling one-story schools with many exits may well have security needs considerably different from those of other schools – two or more stories high, perhaps, and with only a few exits. District-level plans often do not recognize or account for such differences.

Deterrence First, Plus Improved Communications

A truly comprehensive plan also would include sections not only on response and recovery but also – to deter or avoid incidents – on prevention, protection, and mitigation. That same more detailed plan would probably also include the establishment of a clear chain of communications to report threatening statements, suspicious behavior, and/or any



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other evidence suggesting a possible intent to commit mass violence on school grounds.

Also included in the more comprehensive plan would be designation of the school officials specifically responsible for screening – and, if necessary, relaying – information to law enforcement and healthcare agencies; also, in a worst-case scenario, to the families of students and members of the school's staff. Armed with such information, first responders and local officials would then be able to work effectively with school staffs to develop the detailed guidance needed for reporting and responding to potentially dangerous incidents. Some current plans do not cover scenarios specific to mass shootings, which should at least provide: (a) the information that should be relayed in 911 calls (e.g., location of shooter, the type of weapon used); (b) the varying factors that must be considered when deciding whether to shelter in place, lock down, or evacuate; and/or (c) a list of the school officials authorized to make such decisions. Moreover, some plans do not even spell out in detail the communications and coordination also required – between school officials and first responders – to cope with such incidents.

Drills & Exercises: What, When & How Often?

Many plans now in place also lack even a modest list of training and exercise requirements. More effective plans would specify not only who should participate in such training but also how, and how often, the entire school should conduct a drill or exercise. Of particular importance in this area would be the need to conduct joint exercises with first-

responder agencies. Schools that carry out emergency response drills following the same scenario each and every time miss the opportunity to identify gaps and shortfalls in the response to different types of emergencies because repetition of the same drills becomes mechanical in execution. The use of varying scenarios would allow officials to review the results and modify the plans as needed.

The federal government will likely post the model plans online. But those plans would not, by themselves, make schools safer unless school officials, working in conjunction with first responders, tailor the model plans to local circumstances. In his comments to the nation following the Newtown shootings, President Obama acknowledged that the vast majority of the nation's schools already have emergency management plans on paper, but barely half of the schools had exercised those plans in recent years. That responsibility falls on local school officials and first responders.

By reexamining existing emergency management plans, local officials can help to ensure that the plans being revised, promulgated, and implemented provide enough detail and flexibility to support decision-making in rapidly unfolding events. Planning to cope with mass shootings is a particularly difficult challenge because such shootings tend to be extremely rare events. In a year or two, as new issues arise, vigilance may fade, but local officials must overcome the complacency of quietude. If they do not, U.S. schools will continue to be vulnerable, and the nation may face the terrifying prospect of another Newtown tragedy in the not-too-distant future.

Donald J. Cymrot is a vice president at CNA, a not-for-profit research and analysis organization. He directs both the quality management system in one of CNA's operating units and the education practice. He leads CNA Education in conducting research and providing technical assistance on a variety of topics from pre-kindergarten to post-secondary and workforce issues. Among his recent efforts is an initiative to improve emergency planning within schools. Previously, he directed CNA's manpower and training research team for which he was awarded a Superior Public Service Medal by the Department of the Navy. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Brown University.

Significant contributions to this article were made by Stephen E. Rickman, who is the director of Justice Programs at CNA. Previously, he was the director of the D.C. Emergency Management Agency and director of readiness for the White House Office of Homeland Security.



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Medical staff 'held back disaster planning'

Source: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/8427836/Medical-staff-held-back-disaster-planning>

Reluctant doctors and nurses stood in the way of effective disaster planning in New Zealand hospitals before the Canterbury earthquakes, a new study says.

Research published in the New Zealand Medical Journal today looked at how prepared New Zealand's health system was for the disaster, by conducting interviews with emergency planners in all district health boards in early 2010 - before the September quake that year, which was followed by the devastating February 2011 quake.

Though the head researcher, Sultan Al-Shaqsi, said Christchurch Hospital's response to the quakes was "adequate", one problem was frontline staff were disengaged in preparedness activities beforehand.

"Participants felt that the majority of healthcare providers view the emergency planning process as being 'someone else's job' rather than part of their clinical duty," he said.

"Interviewees reported a silo attitude among healthcare providers who resist participating in clinical emergency planning activities run by EPs (emergency planners), who - in most cases - have no clinical background."

Two emergency managers said there were issues with getting clinical staff involved in planning for disasters.

One said: "We don't really have much buy-in from clinicians and they have a lot of resistance to what we do simply because we are not viewed as part of a clinical team and they are not interested, have too much to do, or can't be bothered to play silly games".

The other said: "I think, traditionally, doctors have ruled the roost, and they find it hard to let

go. And in a crisis, thinking an administrator might have to be the incident controller is a bit foreign to them. That is not demeaning them at all; I think it is a fact of life you know. So what we are trying to do here is effectively initiate a bit of culture change."

Communication on a national scale was considered reliable and robust by those interviewed, but health board disaster training workshops suffered because of a lack of "buy in".

Mr Al-Shaqsi said clinical staff had to be involved in disaster preparedness so they knew how to respond and how to execute emergency plans.

Otago University's Mike Ardagh, who commented on the study in the journal, said despite findings showing lack of clinical staff buy-in, the health system fared well in the earthquakes.

"The Canterbury health system was part of it, with its people affected and its facilities damaged. Despite this, relatively few people died. While the quality of the buildings had a lot to do with this, I like to think the initial and ongoing response from the health system contributed."

David Tolley, the president of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, was at the hospital just after the February 22, 2011, quake struck because his wife had been injured. He said there was "ordered calm" in the hospital while there was chaos outside, Mr Ardagh reported.

While that did not fully answer the question of preparedness, it did show a firsthand account of a "reluctant but grateful, secret shopper".

EDITOR'S COMMENT: You doubt the findings of this study? You think that the medical community is well prepared to deal with all-hazard disasters? Then experiment! Ask your Minister of Health to visit a big state hospital and inform the EMS Chief Officer that "*within the next 30 minutes, 20 mustard-contaminated casualties will arrive at his/her hospital*". Observe and conclude! Because this is what is expected to happen in real life! Exercises and drills organized 6 months in advance and executed on a specific date and time, offer nothing more than good mass media attraction and a few nice photos for official desk use...



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Ambulance Design Standards Improve Safety during Emergency Response

Source: <http://www.firstresponder.gov/Pages/FRPDFArticles.aspx?Article=135>

When designing tools to be used by emergency responders, defined standards are necessary to ensure that the products are consistently safe, efficient, and effective—all characteristics that are critical when every second counts.

Take, for example, ambulances: emergency medical services (EMS) workers must be able to care for patients while protecting themselves during what is often a fast and dangerous ride to the nearest hospital. For many, this can be

Patient Compartment Design Standards currently being drafted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) seeks to answer this question. These human performance design requirements will be submitted to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Version 1917: Standard for Automotive Ambulances in June 2013 for review and inclusion in the next draft, which is scheduled for release in 2015.



Until now, there have been no standards describing how an ambulance patient compartment must be configured and, more importantly, how the equipment inside should be arranged. The current ambulance design is based on a truck frame with a cabin attachment in the rear. Updated seat, cabinet, and restraint standards were deemed necessary in 2010, as a result of several studies by NIOSH.

a challenge because patient compartments in most ambulances rarely allow them to have easy access to the necessary patient and medical equipment while also wearing safety restraints. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) estimates that EMS workers in the United States have a fatality rate of more than three times the national average of occupation-related deaths due to riding unrestrained, the shifting of unsecured equipment, unpadding or intrusive head impact hazards, and potential structural deficiencies.

It was because of statistics and situations like these that the need for new ambulance standards arose. In fact, the call to action came out of the EMS stakeholder community itself.

They asked, “How can the ambulances we use be better designed so Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) can do their job without undue risk or injury?” A new set of Ambulance

S&T, in partnership with NIOSH, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and BMT Designers & Planners, a company tasked with integrating cognitive factors into the ambulance design standards, spent late 2010 and most of 2011 gathering data through ride-alongs, observational and conversational studies, surveys, and demonstrations. Using this information, the Ambulance Patient Compartment Design Standards will be based on the daily activity of actual EMS practitioners and will be dedicated to the safety of the workers and the patients they transport.

The design standards development process has evolved through two of the three phases. First, the team worked with the EMS community to develop requirements and gather ambulance operational data through a survey administered by NIST. The survey asked first responders to identify ambulance areas requiring improvement and any



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occupational competencies that were lacking such as the ability to care for a patient from a seated position and the ability to reach certain utensils easily. S&T and its partners then studied various tasks in order to evaluate how ambulance crews actually function and to determine critical needs vs. EMT desires.

The next phase consisted of designing concepts and criteria for the layout of patient compartments. BMT evaluated the cognitive factors that contribute to an intense ambulance triage situation and found that streamlined placement of occupational tools increased muscle memory and decreased cognitive overload—a key threat to functionality during intense situations, especially those related to emergency response. If EMTs have necessary equipment, such as blood pressure monitors, gloves, and protective masks, within arm's reach, the likelihood of them reaching for and accessing them easily is much greater, thus improving their overall safety.

Next, NIST conducted modeling and simulation research. Using simulated people and ambulances in a 3-D design computer software, the team constructed a scenario where typical EMS situations were tested for efficacy. NIOSH then tested current ambulance standards through live crash demonstrations, using cause and effect methodology to predict the safest and most functional ambulance designs when hit from different directions. NIOSH will begin designing an ambulance prototype in late 2013 taking into account this research and the soon-to-be-released design standards.

"We didn't want to completely reinvent the wheel," said S&T Program Manager Bonnie Novak. "We wanted to take what already exists and see how manufacturers could make the current ambulance design a more standardized, safer version." Novak explained that since medical service organizations buy ambulances often, the team wanted to design a vehicle that can be adapted to fit existing models, making them safer and more functional with minimal additional cost.

The Ambulance Patient Compartment Design Standards Project Team attends conferences and expositions regularly to introduce new technologies and standards developed at S&T, and the team communicates with hundreds of

first responders every year. "We have had lots of buy-in from the EMS community," Novak said.

Mike Plato, Executive Director of Alberta Health Services in Alberta, Canada reached out to Novak after meeting a team member at a first responder event in January 2013 to ask about acquiring preliminary versions of the ambulance standards. At the time, Alberta Health Services had approximately 350 ambulances in their fleet and 2,800 employees. Alberta, Canada had implemented safety-focused ambulance design standards in 2010. "Ambulance compartments are designed on subjective feedback, practitioner preferences, and historical practices – not evidence," Plato said. "In addition to an evidence-based approach to achieving a safe environment for patients and practitioners, one that is clinically effective and functional, there needs to be consistency for all of the manufacturing industry and EMS professionals." For this reason, Plato finds S&T's research and evidence-based standards most effective. "I believe the standards being developed are an important component of practitioner and patient safety, and more work needs to be done."

Plato believes that implementing the Ambulance Patient Compartment Design Standards will make a difference in the way EMS professionals do their job. "The conceptual designs significantly differ from the traditional side-facing squad bench. Our experience showed that practitioners frequently used this as a work space, and by eliminating the bench seating and their work space, work patterns will be altered." Ultimately, Plato and other EMTs hope that the Ambulance Patient Compartment Design Standards will alter those work patterns for the better and "increase practitioner safety."

Now in the third and final phase prior to the design of the prototype, S&T is leading the effort to finalize content for inclusion in new standards and best practices to guide ambulance manufacturers and EMS workers in the specification, design, and manufacture of patient compartments. All recommended design guidance will be based on proven, research-based information that has been tested in laboratories, ensuring applicability and usefulness.

► Read also:

<http://www.jems.com/article/vehicle-ops/design-requirements-ambulance-patient-co>



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S&T Successfully Transitions Multi-Band Radios to First Responders

Source: <https://216.109.77.115/FRBlog/Post.aspx?ID=95>

The DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) marked the successful conclusion of the multi-band radio (MBR) pilot project and

With the development and successful transition of the MBR technology, first responders no longer have to deal with those challenges.



transitioned more than 100 new radios to local and state emergency response agencies who partnered in the pilot phases. The MBR technology allows police officers, firefighters, and other emergency management and response personnel to communicate with partner agencies regardless of radio band. Fifteen emergency response agencies across the country participated in S&T's MBR pilots. The announcement was made today (August 21, 2012) at the 78th Annual Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Conference & Expo, held in Minneapolis, MN.

S&T's MBR initiative has helped solve long-standing issues in first responder communications and interoperability. During an emergency incident, first responders rely heavily on communications equipment to share critical information. However, with typical hand-held emergency response radios that operate on only one band, first responders could not communicate across agencies and jurisdictions. This meant they often had to carry multiple radios, swap or share them, use a patching system, relay messages through dispatchers, or use runners to hand-carry messages.

MBRs can operate on multiple, noncontiguous bands. First responders can use an MBR in bands between 136 and 870 Megahertz (MHz), including the primary public safety very high frequency and ultra high frequency bands and the 700 MHz and 800 MHz bands. When authorized, it also operates in the Department of Defense bands and two Federal bands.

S&T's MBR program sparked industry involvement and development of the technologies and now MBRs are commercially available from three manufacturers, and more companies are soon to be getting involved in this new market. One manufacturer has already reported sales of more than 20,000 radios. The Department of Interior has also purchased \$90,000 worth of MBRs, while the United States Marine Corps is expected to buy \$49 million worth of MBRs.

S&T plans to release an MBR Procurement Guide, which will be available early next year. The guide will provide all lessons learned from the project and pilots and provide emergency response personnel with direction on how to identify which radio model will best fit their needs.





2013 K-9 Veterans' Day Ceremony



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DOD Releases Strategy for Homeland Defense and Defense Support for Civil Authorities

Source: <http://www.defense.gov/Releases/Release.aspx?ReleaseID=15878>

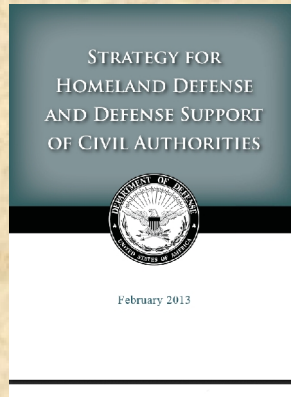
The Department of Defense announced today the release of the Strategy for Homeland Defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities.

This policy establishes DoD's priorities in the areas of homeland defense and defense support of civil authorities through 2020, consistent with the president's National Security Strategy and the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance. It links with other DoD and national strategic documents related to missile defense, space, cyberspace, counterterrorism, and the Western Hemisphere. The strategy identifies two priority missions for the department in the homeland: defend U.S. territory from direct attack by state and non-state actors; and provide assistance to domestic civil authorities in the event of natural or manmade disasters, potentially in response to a very significant or catastrophic event.

The strategy emphasizes cost-effective policy mechanisms and innovative approaches to defend the homeland against direct attacks and to provide timely responses to routine and catastrophic events on U.S. territory. It stresses the continuation of DoD capabilities to defend against conventional and emerging threats in the air and maritime domains, while

expanding cooperation with federal, state, and local partners to defeat asymmetric threats – including, for example, homegrown violent extremists who may seek to use improvised explosive devices. Additionally, it addresses DoD preparations for responding to man-made and natural disasters.

"The Department of Defense's contributions to the defense of our nation have evolved over the past decade and account for new threats and challenges. Lessons learned from events like Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy and collaboration with our interagency partners and State Governors have framed our current approach to DoD civil support activities," said Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs Todd Rosenblum. "This strategy emphasizes strengthening our partnerships with federal agencies like the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice, with state and local governments, with the private sector, and with our Canadian and Mexican neighbors – not only for more comprehensive approaches to complex security challenges in the homeland, but also to create efficiencies through collaboration and joint action."



► **Read the full strategy at:** <http://www.defense.gov/news/Homelanddefensestrategy.pdf>

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-Frances Hutchinson, *The Ecologist*



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Not easy to detect a tunnel

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2013/03/not-easy-to-detect-a-tunnel/>

The surface of the earth has been mapped and mastered, with lidar, photography, infrared and other now-familiar systems, on satellites, manned aircraft and drones. Thermal imagers can even penetrate thin layers of soil. But go just a bit deeper, and you reach one of the last frontiers of ISR. How do you see into solid ground, below the roads, the rocks and the desert sand?

Israel is following very closely the American efforts to develop techniques to detect tunnels. It's a hot topic in U.S. government research. Tunnels have bedeviled prisons, security

Corps of Engineers. But the name may be a bit optimistic.

It's an array of geophones — microphones that can detect noise in the earth — connected to

advanced processors.

Though it is still a research and development project, it has been tested and even deployed in the U.S., in Customs and Border Protection's San Diego sector, according to congressional testimony. But the system is really just detecting noises from the ground: drills, chisels, people pushing carts full of drugs. The idea is a vast refinement to holding one's ear to the ground, and it doesn't help find the tunnels that are there. And on the southeast border with



forces and border agents for years. Last summer, authorities discovered a 240-yard drug tunnel, fitted with electricity and lights and a ventilation system, under Arizona's border with Mexico. The year before, there was embarrassing news from Kandahar: Almost 500 prisoners, including Taliban fighters, escaped from an Afghan prison via a 1,000-foot tunnel.

According to Defense News one of the focal points for research is the Rapid Reaction Tunnel Detection, a joint effort between the U.S. Defense Department's Northern Command and the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate. Along with prime contractor The Mitre Corp., program officials may be closing in on a possible solution.

There is actually one borefinder system already deployed. Called Border Tunneling Activity Detection System, it was developed by Raytheon BBN under contract with the Army

Mexico, where geology is complex, there is a lot of clutter to confuse the sensors.

You might think that the technology used to find oil and mineral deposits for decades could solve the problem. After all, geologists can find salt domes on top of oil deposits, or seams of coal.

Senior program adviser David Masters oversees the effort at DHS, and he said that in some ways the miner's tools have proved almost useless in the search for tunnels.

"The miner is looking for gold, the oilman's looking for oil, and the rescuer is looking for trapped miners," Masters said. "So what they end up doing is excluding everything else except the specific thing they are interested in. And that particular thing does not have anything to do with a tunnel."

The way border agents find tunnels now is basically luck.

"They find tunnels through intelligence or by accident,"



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Masters said. "A dog goes and sniffs an area and everyone goes there and they find a tunnel. Or a truck full of equipment or water is driving across the desert and all of a sudden it sinks. Or they are paying snitches."

A former executive at Hughes Aircraft, where he worked on electro-optical programs, Masters is today employed to examine the technology that might work to actively search for tunnels underground — to find the hollow spaces.

"Nobody's done it before," he said. "The physics of it is absolutely fascinating."

Finding what's under the surface of the earth is like trying to use an MRI or ultrasound to learn what's under the skin. In theory, it should be pretty simple: Shoot mechanical or electromagnetic waves and the distortions to the return and the waves' propagation could help find things like a tunnel. But in an underground world, teaming with unknown boulders, water tables and cracks, it doesn't work that way.

"If you don't understand the geophysics associated with the different type of sensor you are using and the earth you are actually standing on," Masters said, "then you won't be able to discriminate between targets and clutter."

He said the solution is to first build computer simulations of the actual geology one wants to probe. Then you build models of how various sensors, seismic or ground-penetrating radar perform there.

During an interview in his office, Masters demonstrated a computer simulation of a section of ground. The simulated chunk of earth is colored blue, and a red translucent tunnel is modeled through it. In slow motion, the simulation of the wave return of "ground-penetrating radar" surges through the image screen.

"If you have a uniform geology," Masters said, "and a single tunnel, you get a beautiful return. Looks great. And everyone says: 'Look, there's a tunnel!'"

But then he showed off another computer model, and this one, of an actual piece of terrain at the border, has rocks and boulders spread throughout on the screen.

He showed off a simulated seismic "thump" running through it. The returns and the wave returns were scattered and unpredictable.

Still, there has been success, at least on the computer. In small areas, where the actual geology has been adequately mapped, the simulations, theoretically, show that a tunnel can be found.

He said so far the chief interest in the U.S. government comes from Customs and Border Protection, the Army and "some agencies that prefer to be unnamed."

That's a long way to go before technology can be deployed in the real world, chiefly because there is little room for error. "We can't go check if every rock or boulder is a tunnel," Masters said.



Strategic Trends 2013

Key Developments in Global Affairs

Source: <http://www.isn.ethz.ch/isn/Dossiers/Detail/?lng=en&id=161455>



This edition of Strategic Trends contains articles on the "de-westernisation" of globalisation and on the issue of maritime insecurity in East Asia. In addition it discusses the shifting parameters of Military Crisis Management and analyzes the "glocalisation" of Al Qaedaism.

► **NOTE:** You can download the paper from the source URL



How U.K. can better prepare for emergencies

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130326-how-u-k-can-better-prepare-for-emergencies>

Well designed and planned exercises are essential to ensure that the United Kingdom can respond effectively to emergencies of all kinds, according to research funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

The emergencies may take the form of a terrorist attack, flooding, pandemic flu, rail or air disaster — or any major disruptive event requiring an emergency response.

The number of such exercises taking place across the United Kingdom each year within what the researchers call the “resilience community” — including emergency services, local authorities, central government departments and agencies, and many large commercial organizations — is probably in the thousands, according to Dr. Ben Anderson from Durham University and Dr. Peter Adey of Royal Holloway. Each exercise varies in scale, duration, and complexity depending on its design and purpose.

An ESRC release reports that the aim of the research was to generate new knowledge about how exercises are planned, designed, and undertaken, particularly following the 2004 Civil Contingencies Act, and to learn from practitioners about how the planning and design of exercises might be improved.

Researchers interviewed emergency services nationwide and observed exercises directly and have subsequently created white papers and user guides indicating good practice in exercise design. These underline the importance of pre-exercise briefing to communicate the purpose, activities, roles and responsibilities of an exercise. They explain the value of focusing on the role of the key responders and those in leading positions in a multi-agency scenario.

They also highlight how thought cards, task cards and aide memoirs for key individuals will instill confidence and knowledge. Equally, the research suggests the effectiveness of the surprise element by introducing a ‘no notice’ exercise to test capabilities and they stress the use of realism, plausibility and building up a sense of excitement.

The research demonstrates that exercises have a number of valuable functions. They

develop, test, and validate plans, protocols, and procedures, such as those involved when an emergency situation moves from the immediate response to the recovery phase. They test organizational forms and systematic routines, such as how to set up strategic coordinating groups providing leadership. They check the workability of communications networks and practices. Not least, they develop staff competences to have the ability to use a tactical plan and to make judgments under pressure.

Says Anderson: “The learning and capabilities deriving from all forms of exercise make a massive but largely hidden contribution to the ability of the UK to respond to emergencies and ensure public wellbeing.”

The researchers have also emphasized the value of exercises in achieving familiarization with other organizations. This demands multi-agency collaboration and co-ordination, enabling staff and participants to build new relationships and trust with different working cultures. Anderson comments: “Organizations involved in emergency planning and responses have different working styles, hierarchies and structures so that exercises will be challenging in different ways to all involved.”

Anderson says: “The informal interaction between individuals and groups afforded by exercises is also central to their value. In our white papers and user guides we indicate how and why maximum learning can be gained and retained from the design, planning and prosecution of exercises. Improved exercising will help local authorities and other organizations be better prepared for the range of emergencies they face”

The research project was funded by the ESRC and carried out by researchers from Durham University, Royal Holloway, and Newcastle University. The project involved a major dissemination event attended by forty practitioners including members of local authorities, police, Red Cross, Ministry of Defense, the Home Office, the Government Decontamination Service and numerous Local Resilience Forums.



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ESRC says that the project approach was threefold: firstly, analysis of major documentation surrounding the 2004 Civil Contingencies Act. Secondly, in-depth interviews with emergency planners primarily from local authorities throughout the United Kingdom. The interviews focused on how exercises were designed, planned, and undertaken and learnt from in the light of a range of threats and hazards facing the United Kingdom. Thirdly, observation of exercises and occasions of planning for exercises by the project team. This included focus on how multi-agency collaborations occur at various stages of an exercise, how exercises could be staged in a realistic way and the role of umpires, players and directors — plus the specific ways

in which response in time-pressured complex situations is rehearsed.

The research is accredited to the RCUK Global Uncertainties program. Global Uncertainties is examining the causes of insecurity and how security risks and threats can be predicted, prevented and managed. The program is one of six RCUK priority themes and brings together the activities of all seven U.K. Research Councils to better integrate current research investments as well as support new multi-disciplinary research in security.

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is the U.K.'s largest organization for funding research on economic and social issues.

— *Read more in Staging and Performing Emergencies: The Role of Exercises in U.K. Preparedness*

alright on the night” attitude. As a generalisation, the British have a “muddle through” attitude that is almost revered in some parts – abjuring the painful, precise processes you would see in a German or Czech exercise for a “we’ll sort it out when it happens” approach. Too much of the exercise, in my opinion, was taken for granted, and too much was lax – perhaps informed by a sober threat assessment. Yet if you cannot do it in exercises and get it right, there is little chance it can be done “on the day”.

“B-”, London. Good effort, but must try harder.



EDITOR'S COMMENT

In June 2010, *CBRNE World* Editor Gwyn Winfield visited Exercise Milo (29 June 2010; East London; Planned by HPA) to look at London's preparation for the Paralympic decontamination. **His comment reflects the essence of exercising!**

Risk analysis and crisis management ... Make sure your organisation is prepared!

Source: <http://www.itgovernance.eu/p-937-resilient-thinking-protecting-organisations-in-the-21st-century.aspx>

It'll never happen to us ...

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.



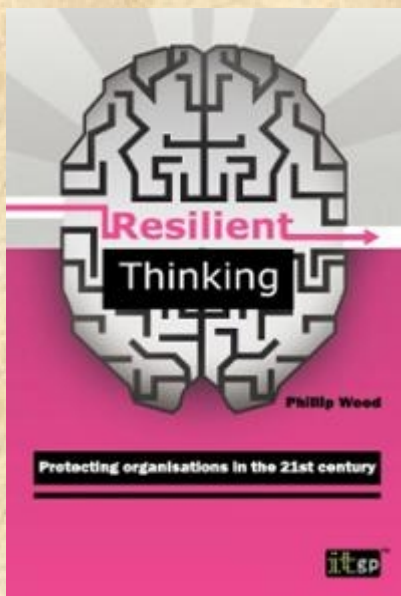
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Change your thinking on resilience management

In *Resilient Thinking*, Phillip Wood discusses the importance of thinking laterally about potential impacts on your organisation and examines a ‘thinking’ approach to resilience management. As you read this book, you will learn how to:

- optimise profitability by thinking about how to make the right decisions for your organisation in the current business climate
- recognise potential risks and threats to your organisation and minimise impact, should the worst happen
- understand the drawbacks of ‘silo’ operations and obtain the buy-in of all employees and departments to your resilience planning
- improve your efficiency and profitability, as you critically assess your organisation's strengths and weaknesses
- put plans in place which are cost-effective, relevant, workable and reality-based, and which will enable a return to ‘business as usual’ as quickly as possible after an incident
- protect your organisation's assets and key stakeholder relationships
- maintain your competitive edge, as you draw on knowledge gained through your experience and that of your competitors.

Phillip Wood does not much like what he calls the ‘checklisters’. He makes the shrewd point that the internet and all the information that could set us free, has in fact allowed the ‘checklist culture’ to thrive.



The curse of cut and paste – even easier electronically than in the days of real scissors and glue – has tempted us to lift other people’s plans, cut corners and be lazy. Not that Phillip Wood is necessarily championing people with experience rather than tick-boxes. Experience is a good thing, but it can be downright dangerous if the ‘experience-mongers’ assume they have the answers. The author is also against silo-thinking: “Think in stovepipes and your organisation may well go up in smoke; go beyond frameworks and mental constraints and you may have a chance of coming out the other side in one piece ...”

He argues that business continuity, security, health and safety, emergency planning, disaster recovery, and so on, ‘are all different elements of resilience’. As a head of department at Bucks New University, offering courses with some of those elements, he practices what he preaches. This slim book does not have case studies, quotes from experts, or reading lists – deliberately so; instead, it ends with ‘starter questions’, then it urges the reader to put the book down, ‘and go and make it happen’. In style and content, this slim book is for the practitioner to think – about impacts, preparing and planning, and ‘breaking free from conventional thought’. My only query would be who the book is

aimed at: someone already in the field of resilience who needs inspiring, or a newcomer to the field who needs encouraging to think for themselves, rather than be trapped by checklists and conventions. Either can profit from it. In style and content, Phil Wood has pulled off an exhilarating and original read that deserves the widest readership among security managers and beyond.

Revolutionise your approach and minimise impact

Resilient Thinking will revolutionise your approach to risk analysis and crisis management. Even if the worst does happen, you will be fully equipped to handle it.

Be equipped. Be prepared. Be ready ... Buy this vital guide to organisational survival today!

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.



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QUIZ

Can you identify the “light blue” area in the map below?



(read the answer at the end of this chapter)

FAS Symposium Provides Recommendations to Next Administration on Catastrophic Threats

By Meggaen Neely

Source: <http://www.fas.org/blogs/pir/2013/03/fas-symposium-provides-recommendations-to-next-administration-on-catastrophic-threats/>



On November 9, 2012, FAS hosted the Symposium on Preventing Catastrophic Threats at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. The symposium consisted of three panels that explored catastrophic threats to national and international security, including those posed by nuclear and radiological weapons; biological, chemical, cyber, and advanced conventional weapons; and threats to energy supply and infrastructure.

Distinguished panelists at the symposium offered recommendations to the Obama administration on dealing with these challenges. The following summary offers a glimpse of the issues raised and points made throughout the day. A more detailed account that includes each speaker's memo to the president is also available in FAS's symposium report, *Recommendations to Prevent Catastrophic Threats*.

Nukes, Nukes, and More Nukes

The first panel of the symposium addressed a complex set of problems regarding nuclear weapons. Mr. David Hoffman of the *Washington Post* served as moderator of the panel.

Dr. Sidney Drell, Deputy Director Emeritus of SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, began by arguing for a reduction in the nuclear stockpiles leftover from the Cold War, renewed talks for data exchange, and increased transparency. Drell proposed



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reducing nuclear weapons to 1,000 or fewer. Also, he recommended that the United States and Russia create a Joint Data Exchange Center, which would foster cooperation between the two nuclear powers and provide added protection against conflict resulting from misinterpreted data. In the end, he questioned if the United States could escape the “nuclear deterrence trap.”

Dr. Richard L. Garwin, IBM Fellow Emeritus of the Thomas J. Watson Research Center, commented that nuclear weapons are a threat more than a tool, since just one nuclear explosion would cause massive destruction and death. Among the known concerns of bloated stockpiles and Pakistan’s nuclear program, Garwin addressed the possibility of improvised nuclear explosives of a “yield comparable with that of the Hiroshima or Nagasaki bombs.” He said the administration should discuss several topics together, including the role of nuclear weaponry in U.S. military forces and the managing the risks and rewards of technology built around nuclear fission. Garwin recommended that the United States remove B-61 bombs from Europe and spoke against the tendency to focus on only those issues deemed to have the highest priority, arguing the United States had enough resources to work on all of these issues at once.

Mr. Charles P. Blair, Senior Fellow on State and Non-State Threats at FAS, described a new paradigm for countering the threat of radiological and nuclear terrorism. He cautioned against presupposing that all violent non-state actor groups represent a potential nuclear threat. The counter-nuclear terrorism paradigm predicated on this assumption is costly, inefficient, and, ultimately, cannot be sustained. Blair explained that ideology indicates whether a terrorist organization would seek out and use nuclear weapons. Some terrorists might be more likely to seek a nuclear weapon given their unlimited objectives and belief in divine orders. Others will have different aims. He recommended more robust efforts to understand terrorist ideology and also their behavior *after* acquiring a nuclear weapon, including their likely command and control structure.

Dr. Robert S. Norris, Senior Fellow for Nuclear Policy at FAS, recommended that the Obama administration eliminate all but one mission for nuclear weapons: deterrence,

narrowly defined as preserving the means for retaliation if anyone uses nuclear weapons against the United States or certain allies. Norris questioned whether the changes to U.S. nuclear policy were real or illusory, and noted the ability of bureaucracies to maintain the status quo. However, changes are necessary, Norris argued, especially with U.S. nuclear war planning – only this will allow for reductions of nuclear stockpiles.

Mr. Hans Kristensen, Director of the Nuclear Information Project at FAS, concluded the panel by analyzing the current world nuclear force structure. He argued that Russia has already moved below the New START upper limits, and they will go lower. A similar response by the U.S. would indicate our cooperation. Obama said that the U.S. needed to move away from “Cold War thinking.” Kristensen recommended reductions in the nuclear arsenal and delivery systems. One recommendation included reducing the ICBM force from 450 to 300 missiles.

The panelists addressed the nuances of nuclear weapons. All called for greater comprehension of the complexity of the problem by Obama’s administration rather than restrictive labels that indicate maintaining the status quo.

Biological, Chemical, Conventional and Cyber Threats

The second panel at the symposium discussed the threats posed by biological, chemical, conventional, and cyber weapons. Ms. Siobhan Gorman, Intelligence Reporter at the *Wall Street Journal*, moderated the discussion.

Mr. Matt Schroeder, Director of the Arms Sales Monitoring Project at FAS, began by describing the complexity of conventional threats, choosing to focus on the subcategory of small arms and light weapons (SALW). He explained that SALW posed the “most immediate, multi-faceted threat to U.S. interests abroad.” Mr. Schroeder argued that the United States needed to include parts, accessories, and ammunition in its definition of SALW when discussing arms control. “Without ammunition,” he said, “small arms and light weapons are useless.” Mr. Schroeder explained how SALW pose a threat because they are the “weapons of choice” for transnational forces. In particular, transnational forces favor



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MANPADs (man-portable air-defense systems); they are easily transportable and can do significant damage to aircraft. He recommended that the United States expand the stockpile security and destruction aid programs, targeting surplus arsenals of MANPADs that can easily be sold on the black market.

Dr. Kennette Benedict, Executive Director of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, followed by reiterating the Obama administration's principles for cyber security, emphasizing the need for adequate defenses for the private sector. She said that the administration currently does not outline rules for cyber-attacks on other countries' infrastructure. Dr. Benedict pointed out that current U.S. policy views cyber-attacks by another government as an act of war, allowing the United States to respond with military means. However, if a non-state actor employs a cyber-attack, then it is a criminal act. Dr. Benedict noted the difficulty in finding the origin of a cyber-attack; in fact, an individual can assume the identity of a state for a cyber-attack. She recommended that a "good defense is a good offense," yet it could have unintended effects. Moreover, she stressed the importance of pursuing a deeper level of understanding of the relationship between cybersecurity operations to protect infrastructure and other efforts to ensure the availability and usability of cyberspace for communication, commerce, and free speech.

Ms. Marina Voronova-Abrams, Program Associate at Global Green USA, began the discussion on chemical and biological threats. She reminded the panel that several states are not parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, including Syria and North Korea among others such as Angola, Egypt, Israel, Myanmar, Somalia, and South Sudan. Ms. Abrams called for more inspections, yet calculated the enormous number needed given that there are 4,913 declared dual-use industrial facilities across the globe. She highlighted the importance of the United States completing the destruction of its chemical weapons stockpile and then turned to the issue of biosecurity threats in the former Soviet Union. Though the threat has decreased and there is little possibility of someone using a bioweapon inside the former USSR, Ms. Abrams explained how terrorists could use their contacts in the former Soviet Union to gain access to bioagents.

Dr. David Franz, Senior Advisor to the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs, quoted Dr. Joshua Lederberg who stated that "there is no technical solution to the problem of biological weapons [...] but would an ethical solution appeal to a sociopath?" Excessive regulatory requirements can hinder productivity and creativity in the life sciences, but it is the risk that the United States has been willing to take to address the insider threat. However, looking abroad he emphasized the importance of the human dimension to biosecurity and the personal relationships among scientists, which allow not only for early warning of natural or accidental outbreaks of diseases but also for sustained, collaborative efforts that extend beyond the initial engagement phase of international outreach. Dr. Franz explained how the United States cannot lead with security in these relationships; rather, an emphasis on public health is more appropriate for tackling biosecurity challenges collaboratively. This is especially important for countries whose concern with their existing disease burdens greatly exceeds their concern for what the United States deems "especially dangerous pathogens." Hence, Dr. Franz proposed policies that foster relationships between scientists.

Energy and Infrastructure

The symposium concluded with a panel on the issues surrounding energy and infrastructure. Mr. Miles O'Brien, Science Correspondent at *PBS NewsHour*, moderated the panel.

Dr. John Ahearn, former NRC Commissioner and the 2012 recipient of FAS's Richard L. Garwin Award, began the discussion by analyzing the 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident. He explained how risk analysis recommended a higher wall against tsunamis given events in the area one thousand years ago. Yet, decision makers chose a study using events in Chile in regards to earthquakes to use as the basis of their safety designs. Thus, the plant chose to build a 20-foot wall rather than the 50-foot wall proposed by the former study. He argued that this is not a lesson against nuclear power, but the problem of regulators and operators. Dr. Ahearn advised against the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) assuming the role of global regulator; rather,



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regulation is a national duty. However, he also noted that regulation is not the only solution; states must ensure that operators take on ensuring safety as their duty.

Dr. Steven Koonin, Director of the Center for Urban Science and Progress at New York University, argued that energy policy “success” is achieved mostly through appropriate structures and processes. He called for the establishment of a Quadrennial Energy Review (QER) process to guide energy policy. He also asserted that, ultimately, changes to the energy structure are “in the hands of the private sector.” It requires a mix of business regulations and technology development with attention paid to private sector considerations. Dr. Koonin recommended that energy policy separate stationary from transport sectors, something that is done practically yet not in policy legislation. As a result, he argued that

energy policy focuses too much on stationary research and development given the importance of transportation and oil.

FAS President Dr. Charles D. Ferguson, concluded the panel by discussing international science partnerships and their role in national security. For example, FAS’s pilot project in Yemen, the International Science Partnership, is a science diplomacy initiative that brings scientists and engineers from the United States together with their counterparts from countries of security concern to solve critical water and energy security issues. Dr. Ferguson recommended specifically that the Obama administration should ensure that there are a sufficient number of scientists and engineers in government, especially in agencies such as USAID and the Department of State to facilitate science diplomacy.

Meggaen Neely was an intern communications at the Federation for American Scientists during the Fall 2012 semester, and is currently interning at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. She coordinated authors for the Up for Debate project, worked on the Did You Know Campaign and wrote accounts of events hosted by FAS. Neely is pursuing a Master of Arts in security policy studies at The Elliott School at George Washington University. She comes to Washington, DC with a Masters of Public Policy and Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Baylor University.

Holograms Add New Dimension to Fighting Fire

Source: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/Holograms-New-Dimension-Fighting-Fire.html>

The use of thermal imaging in fighting fires is 25 years old this year — the first documented life saved by the technology goes back to a

well established in firefighting, a direct connection between their use and the preservation of life was clear. And now, a new device being developed by researchers could further augment this live-saving technology.

In Italy, Pietro Ferraro of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche Istituto Nazionale di Ottica (National Research Council - National Institute of Optics), is using hologram technology to create three-dimensional images that would allow firefighters to see through smoke and flames during a rescue.



New York City fire in 1988. Though it took years for thermal imaging technology to become widespread due to cost, once it was

Though thermal imaging can see through smoke, the presence of flames can obscure objects, such as people in need of rescue.



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Instead of using lenses to generate an image, Ferraro's hologram device uses laser beams and something called numerical processing, so the device can see through flames and generate a 3-D image of a room. If somehow combined with thermal imaging, the technology could provide yet another layer of information to firefighters.

"So far, the experiments have been carried out in a laboratory, but simulating 'outdoor conditions,'" Ferraro said via email. "No anti-vibration systems have been used and no dark-rooms have been employed. For these

strongly think that this part can be performed at a fire scene," he said, "maybe by a host connected from a mobile station outside the building."

Ferraro's invention isn't available yet, but Capt. Jon Muir, public information officer of the Orange County Fire Authority in California, said it sounds potentially useful. "Any technology that will assist or aid us in doing what we need to do," Muir said, is something worth looking into. For 15 years, Muir said he's been using thermal imaging, along with others, to make fighting fires safer.

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reasons, we are strongly confident about the possibility to bring this technology out of the lab. We think that in a few years, these systems could be applied for fixed installations, for example in hospitals, schools tunnels or even highways."

The software behind Ferraro's experiments works quickly, he said, and a single frame of imagery can be constructed in less than half a second. The invention can scan for data and process the data in "quasi-real time," he said, generating a rapidly updated 3-D image of a room or area.

Because the software demands a relatively small amount of processing power from a computer, the processing could be performed by a common laptop or mobile device. "We

Thermal imaging has three main uses, Muir said. It can allow firefighters to measure the temperature of a burning building and identify what stage the fire is in. Thermal imaging can also help firefighters understand the layout of a building and spot weak structural elements before they fall. Perhaps most importantly, thermal imaging can be used to find victims amid the flames. In this way, thermal imaging has saved lives.

But sometimes, Muir said, flames can make it difficult to see everything, so if holograms could be combined with thermal imaging to create a more complete picture, it would be a welcome addition.



Racing Toward Armageddon – How a Concurrence of Events May Find a Nexus in Global War

By Ilana Freedman

Source: <http://gerarddirect.com/2013/04/03/8915/>



America stands in the vortex of a developing “perfect storm” that is likely to engulf the world. Failing to act against it, we are, by our own inaction, losing ground as we race toward Armageddon. From Europe to Iran to North Korea to the US, events are moving inexorably toward a violent confrontation of cultures.

A “perfect storm” is defined by the Merriam-Webster dictionary as “a critical or disastrous situation created by a powerful concurrence of factors”. In today’s world, the factors include the economic failure of leading nations, the social upheavals and the rise of Islamist states throughout the Middle East, the continuing development of a powerful nuclear weapons capability by Iran, the collusion between Iran and North Korea in their effort to defeat the West, and finally, America’s inability (or lack of will) to lead the world away from the storm.

The Economic Storm It begins with the failing European economy. Intent on imposing socialist economic theory upon its member states, the policies of the EU have led to a sharp decline in free enterprise and an even sharper rise in taxation to support mandated social programs. National debts have grown astronomically and countries like Greece, Italy, Ireland, and Portugal now owe more than 100% of their GDP. Unemployment rates in Spain and Greece are over 25%, with other countries close behind. Yet rather than cutting back on their regressive, job-killing policies, European countries are now moving towards seizing even more of their citizens’ personal assets to fund insatiable government appetites.

America has not learned from the failures of Europe. Instead, the combination of America’s massive \$16.8 trillion debt, its unrestricted spending, and its demand for new revenues from an already overburdened, under-employed population is driving the US toward an economic failure that may soon rival Europe’s.



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The Rising “Arab Spring” Storm The spreading phenomenon of the so-called “Arab Spring” has led to the overthrow of harsh but stable, pro-West leaders. They have been replaced by equally harsh Islamist leaders, who despise the West and impose severe Islamist law on their own people. The resulting social changes have severely marginalized women and put non-Muslims in the deadly cross-hairs of radical extremists. Christians, who used to live unmolested in Syria, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen, are now targeted for harassment and death.

America’s policy of handing out money to these new governments, without apparent concern for the consequences or a demand for any quid pro quo, has turned our former allies into dangerous foes. We are despised for what they perceive: a weak, toothless tiger who can now be conquered. The sense of empowerment that this gives to these newly created, antagonistic governments cannot be overestimated.



The Iran-North Korea Nexus of Evil Kim Jong-Un’s declaration that he intends to restart the nuclear complex in Yongbyon should not have been unexpected. By terminating the truce with South Korea, and threatening to “settle scores” with South Korea and the US, he accomplished far more than even he may have anticipated.

Today, all eyes are on North Korea, while Iran has been inexplicably and dangerously quiet. Although Iran and North Korea have been teaming up for years, their close relationship has been widely ignored. Among their goals was the acceleration of nuclear development for both countries and the creation of a slimmer nuclear warhead to arm the Iranian Shahab-3 missile.

The international scrutiny of Iran’s nuclear ambitions has driven Teheran to use Pyongyang as a proxy for the development, testing, and deployment of nuclear weapons. There is, therefore, good reason to believe that North Korea’s recent nuclear test and three stage rocket launch were closely linked to this Iranian alliance.

The Perfect Storm – Armageddon The chances are high that the new crisis on the Korean peninsula may be a manufactured diversion from Iran’s accelerated nuclear weapons program. If so, that doesn’t make it less dangerous – any small move by a host of new leaders in the region could create an unstoppable crisis in a matter of hours. However, a danger no less menacing may be lurking behind the obvious: that Kim Jong-Un’s dramatic exhibition is intended to distract the world as Iran completes a critical phase in its nuclear arms development program.

This possibility brings into sharp focus the nexus between the growing tensions on the Korean Peninsula, the Middle East, and the US. Incredibly, the release of detailed information last week about previously unknown nuclear sites in Iran, the Quds nuclear enrichment site with 8,000 centrifuges, and



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the Mugnyah site, with 380 missile silos and launchers, has gone largely ignored. although our sources have provided extensive photographic evidence that the pace of construction at the sites has been aggressive.

The seeds of a perfect storm are coming together: global economic failure, a strengthening Islamist power center in the Middle East, Iranian ambitions and the barely hidden collaboration between Iran and North Korea, and the US/European inability to act against them. As the dots are connected, the resulting picture gives credence to the concern that Iran is actively planning to embroil the region in a large, chaotic, nuclear war.

While the events swirling around the Middle East and the Pacific Rim are being given little more than lip service by the US government, the world is on a collision course with catastrophe, racing toward Armageddon – a global confrontation between opposing ideologies. The West's unwillingness to recognize the enormity of the threat puts the world in inestimable danger. American inaction is the most dangerous path we can follow.

Ilana Freedman, Editor of GerardDirect.com, has been a intelligence analyst and journalist for over 25 years.

US Army labels Evangelicals, Catholics religious extremists

Source: <http://www.bizpacreview.com/2013/04/06/us-army-labels-evangelicals-catholics-religious-extremists-59809>

A U.S. Army reserve unit in Pennsylvania lumped **Catholicism and evangelical**



Christianity along with Hamas and al-Qaida

as examples of **religious extremism** during an equal opportunity training brief.

The Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty disagrees.

“We find this offensive to have Evangelical Christians and the Catholic Church to be listed among known terrorist groups,” said the alliance’s executive director, Ron Crews, Fox News reported. “It is dishonorable for any U.S. military entity to allow this type of wrongheaded characterization.”

Oddly, the Army also listed

“Islamophobia” as an example of religious extremism, which, of course, is not a religion, but a fear.

Army spokesman George Wright told Fox News he advised the agency that this was an “isolated incident not condoned by the Dept. of the Army.”

“This slide was not produced by the Army and certainly does not reflect our policy or doctrine,” he said. “It was produced by an individual without anyone in the chain of command’s knowledge or permission.”

The program’s presenter apologized and removed the slide after someone complained.



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“We consider the matter closed,” Wright said. The presentation first came to light by a participant who “considers himself an evangelical Christian and did not appreciate being classified with terrorists,” Crews told Fox News. “There was a pervasive attitude in the presentation that anything associated with religion is an extremist.”

“The Archdiocese for the Military Services was shocked to learn that the Army considered Catholicism to be an example of extremism,” Fox News Radio’s Todd Starnes wrote.

Given that Catholicism is the world’s oldest form of Christianity, I can well imagine.

“The Archdiocese is astounded that Catholics were listed alongside groups that are, by their very mission and nature, violent and extremist,” the archdiocese said in a statement.

It is calling for the Defense Department to “ensure that taxpayer funds are never again

used to present blatantly anti-religious material to the men and women in uniform.”

It took very little digging to discover that the presenter, not an expert in the subject matter, got her information from an Internet search — primarily from the Southern Poverty Law Center.

“Why is there such dependence upon the work of the SPLC to determine hate groups and extremist groups?” Crews said. “It appears that some military entities are using definitions of ‘hate’ and ‘extreme’ from the lists of anti-Christian political organizations. That violates the apolitical stance appropriate for the military.”

We used to refer to the future as “a brave new world,” from the title of an Aldous Huxley novel. There’s nothing “brave” about religious bigotry, and there’s nothing “new” about hate and distrust.

They shot me six times and left me paralysed in a pool of blood - but I had to go back to Al Qaeda country: Courageous pilgrimage by BBC's Frank Gardner

By Frank Gardner (April 6, 2013)

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2305069/They-shot-times-left-paralysed-pool-blood--I-to-Al-Qaeda-country-Courageous-pilgrimage-BBCs-Frank-Gardner.html>

In 2004, the BBC’s Security Correspondent Frank Gardner was shot six times by terrorists in Saudi Arabia and left for dead. His cameraman, Simon Cumbers, was killed. Nine years on, Frank has taken a deep breath and returned to the country where he nearly died. Here he tells The Mail on Sunday what it was like to be back . . .



Glad to be alive: Frank Gardner, pictured with his wife Amanda, tells of his return to Saudi Arabia after being shot there in 2004

It all happened quickly. A screech of tyres, a shout in Arabic, and what sounded like a gunshot. ‘Oh bloody hell,’ I thought, ‘not again.’

The memories of the last time I experienced such a cacophony back in 2004 are still vivid. I heard a loud crack and felt something sting my shoulder.

I didn’t know it then, but that first bullet passed clean through, hitting the shoulder bone on the way.

I ran, trying to put as much distance as possible between me and the gunman.

For a few happy seconds I thought I was actually going to make it.

Then there was another loud bang and I was down on my front on the tarmac, felled by a bullet in the leg.

I realised these men were no casual, have-



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a-go amateurs, but a hardcore Al Qaeda terror cell.

I pleaded with them in Arabic. They responded by opening fire once more.

A gunman stood over me and pumped bullets into my lower back.

I don't remember it hurting at the point of impact, just a deafening noise each time he squeezed the trigger and a sickening jolt as the bullets thudded into me.

The adrenaline wore off and I was in the most excruciating pain. The white shirt I had pulled on an hour before was now saturated in blood.

So, even nine years later, it wasn't going to be easy to return to Saudi Arabia. Particularly after I lost the use of my legs and almost my life to six bullets there, and my cameraman tragically died.

But after staying away for so long I had to admit that this was such an important country, home to the holiest shrines in Islam and the world's largest oil producer and exporter, that as the BBC's Security Correspondent I could ignore it no longer.

So there I was in early spring with my film crew in the remote southern town of Najran, on the edge of the vast sand sea called the Empty Quarter.

Beyond a nearby ridge of mountains lay Yemen, refuge to several hundred Al Qaeda militants and a string of open gun bazaars where anyone can stroll up and buy an AK-47 or even newer, more powerful, machine guns.

We had spent the morning filming in Najran's colourful dagger market, as one does, and had moved on to film in the sheep market.



Cheating death: Picture grabbed from Saudi TV showing British BBC journalist Frank Gardner wounded in an assassination attempt after terrorists shot him and Irish freelance cameraman Simon Cumbers in the south west of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Then nature called, but there was no sign of a toilet anywhere so I excused myself to go behind some trucks in a nearby trailer park.

And that was when I heard the bangs and screeching tyres. I cursed myself for letting my guard down.

Had someone spotted our group of Westerners and got on their mobile phones to some nearby extremists?

Unlike last time, when we had no police protection on the day we were ambushed in the capital, Riyadh, this time the Saudis had provided us with special security.

The Minister of Interior, Saudi Arabia's equivalent of Theresa May, was determined to ensure that no harm came to us, assigning us a pair of uniformed police officers and some discreet close protection in Saudi civilian dress, armed with Glock pistols tucked into their pockets.

They had heard the bangs from the truck park.





© EPA
 Saved: Another grab from Saudi television, this time showing Frank Gardner being rescued and rushed to hospital. Cameraman Simon Cumbers died from his injuries

My mobile buzzed into life. 'Where are you? What is going on?' The police colonel was almost hysterical.

He was imagining the worst, seeing his career going up in flames.

It was a false alarm: the 'shots' turned out to be a shepherd's pick-up truck backfiring, the screech of tyres was him heading off in a hurry for his lunch and the shouts were a hearty farewell to his friends. I breathed again.

'A gunman stood over me and pumped bullets into my lower back. I don't remember it hurting at the point of impact, just a deafening noise each time he squeezed the trigger and a sickening jolt as the bullets thudded into me.'

We had flown in the day before in a military Black Hawk helicopter, coming in fast and low over the rumpled and parched Asir Mountains, where wild baboons scavenge in the gullies and crags.

This has always been prime smuggling country with criminal gangs sending drugs, guns and illegal

immigrants across the unmarked border, often in the dead of night.

But in the wake of the Arab Spring revolutions, the Saudi border guards complained that security on the Yemeni side of the frontier had all but evaporated.

'For us border guards it has become very dangerous,' said Lieutenant Colonel Hamed Al-Ahmari. 'There are a lot of Al Qaeda people staying now in Yemen. Also there are a lot of smugglers who are willing to use weapons against us.'

He was not exaggerating. In the space of just three months, five Saudi border guards have been killed in shoot-outs on this lonely, mountainous border, outgunned and outnumbered by men determined to bring in their lucrative cargos of hashish or illegal qat narcotics.

Yet we saw little of this, experiencing instead the full force of traditional Saudi hospitality, which can be overwhelming.





Honoured: Frank Gardner is pictured receiving his OBE just a year after having been shot

Down in the dagger souk a man with a kindly face came up and insisted I accept a curved dagger in a glittering scabbard.

I had hardly finished thanking him when a younger man approached bearing a magnificent gold-coloured sword in a long felt box.

'Please,' he insisted, after hearing why I was in a wheelchair, 'it is a gift from the people of Najran. We are just happy you have come back.'

In the capital, with its 21st Century skyscrapers and multi-lane highways, I sensed a lighter atmosphere that was different from the oppressive, security-conscious city I had last seen in 2004.

Back then, Saudi Arabia had been in the grip of a full-scale insurgency, with armoured cars outside hotels and checkpoints everywhere. Now it was experiencing a social media revolution.

I met Fahad Al-Butairi, a twentysomething comical satirist whose short videos poke fun at some of the country's more restrictive customs and which go straight on to YouTube, sometimes scoring over 50 million views.

Yes, young Saudis are bored and spend an excessive amount of time watching online videos, but they have also discovered a voice – and a sense of humour.

One of Fahad's sketches has a Saudi student in New York's Times Square meeting Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

'Where is your proof of marriage?' the student demands. 'And why do you let her go out dressed like this in a short skirt. It is shameful!'

The country's ruling princes, who are on average at least half a century older than the national median age of 26, tolerate and even applaud this online openness.

But woe betide anyone who tries to take their protests or criticisms out on to the streets. Public protest is forbidden, as are political parties.

And anyone calling for a constitutional monarchy with an elected parliament has quickly found themselves in trouble.

But my return to Saudi Arabia was not just for journalism. This was a personal mission too. I wanted to revisit the hospital where the doctors had saved my life, though I knew it would bring back painful memories.

The King Faisal Specialist Hospital has a first-class reputation in medical circles but on the night I was taken there, close to death, I'd never heard of it.

In fact I have no recollection of arriving there as I was sedated and bleeding heavily. I was operated on throughout the night by a brilliant South African surgeon, Peter Bautz, while BBC managers broke the news to my wife Amanda in London.

When I left the hospital three weeks later, flat out on a gurney and hooked up to tubes and monitors for the medivac flight back to Britain, I was still groggy and scared.



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Now I was returning fit and well, despite depending on a sports wheelchair to get around. There was not a cloud in the sky as we pulled up at the entrance to be met by a beaming Saudi official.

'Welcome back, Mr Frank, we are so pleased you made it,' said Hamoud, the hospital's head of communications.

We moved down a spotless corridor where my wife and her brother were taken the night she arrived after a flight from London.

'We'll go to the ICU,' said Hamoud, referring to the Intensive Care Unit. 'In fact we even have your old room vacant, here it is . . . No 27.'



© Frank Gardner

Return: Mr Gardner pictured with Swedish surgeon Torbjorn Wetterberg (left) and the CEO of King Faisal Specialist Hospital (right)

I paused outside that grim, darkened room with its artificial breathing apparatus and bewildering bank of gadgets. For 23 days I lay here, hooked up to drips and drains, getting wheeled constantly into the operating room for emergency surgery.

I remember now coming out of sedation, seeing my wife's anxious face and telling her it wasn't safe for her to be in Riyadh, while she told me the terrible, terrible news that Simon, my cameraman, had not survived.

And indeed it wasn't safe back then. A band of criminals had smuggled themselves into another hospital, disguised as women in black abaya cloaks, to finish off a patient they had wounded earlier.

When my wife heard this, she wanted me out of there and home.

'Thank God those days are now behind us,' said a voice behind me.

It was Torbjorn Wetterberg, a Swedish consultant surgeon and one of the trauma team that had worked on me. I remembered his quiet Scandinavian drawl as he and other surgeons hovered over my bed discussing what to do next.

'When we brought you here you were desperately ill,' he told me. 'If I'm honest, we didn't think you would make it.'

'Your body temperature had fallen so far you were this colour' – he rubbed his white medical coat – 'and you had so many bullet holes, 11, that you were bleeding from everywhere. We gave you masses of blood plasma but as fast as we put it in, it was coming out.'

'You mean,' I interrupted him, 'like filling a bath without the plug in?'





© Photograph © Mark Pain

Screening: Frank Gardner's return to Saudi Arabia will be shown on BBC2 on Wednesday

'Precisely. But then we tried this clotting product called AF7, Activated Factor Seven, and it saved you. 'It was a bit of an experiment, because we hadn't used it before on an extreme trauma case like yours, but it worked, the bleeding stopped. It was like turning off the taps.'

I remember from that time having hallucinations about male nurses arguing over who would give me a blood transfusion.

In my befuddled state, pumped full of a powerful sedative, I thought I saw someone struggling in with great buckets of blood they wanted to pour into me.

Now a nurse was pulling up my medical notes on a computer to reveal a photo of me in that same bed, all jaundiced and yellow, with an embarrassingly scrubby moustache that must have sprung up while I was under sedation.

A softly spoken American nurse came up to greet me. 'I remember you,' she said with a smile, and I think I remembered her too, a soothing, calming presence in a world full of fear and confusion that I had suddenly found myself catapulted into.

Then we were posing for photographs, with me standing up with my Zimmer frame. I had deliberately worn my leg calipers under my trousers with this in mind.

With typical Saudi generosity, the hospital seniors presented me with a beautifully made leather briefcase and a crafted glass souvenir of the building. On a large piece of white card, I wrote them an inscription in Arabic.



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'I thank you with all my heart,' it read, 'and on behalf of my wife, my family and the BBC, for saving me. My life was in your hands and you triumphed.'
Outside in the sunlight, I wheeled quickly away to get some private space and rang my wife. It felt good to be alive.

**A taste of Hellas 2013 – We are still alive!****QUIZ ANSWER** (p.48)

The **Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System (NSAS)** is the world's largest known fossil water aquifer system. It is located underground in the Eastern end of the Sahara Desert and spans the political boundaries of four countries in north-eastern Africa. NSAS covers a land area spanning just over two million km², including north-western Sudan, north-eastern Chad, south-eastern Libya, and most of Egypt. Containing an estimated 150,000 km³ of groundwater, the significance of the NSAS as a potential water resource for future development programs in these countries is extraordinary. Recently the Great Man-made River Project (GMMR) in Libya began extracting substantial amounts of water from this aquifer, removing an estimated 2.37 km³ per year. This system is primarily used to supply water in the Kufra oasis. ■





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