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EDITOR'S CORNER

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COVER: UK Ambulance HART Team in action!

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► **COVER PHOTO:** The real Hurt Locker: Moment a brave Afghan soldier defused suicide vest while hog-tied terrorist was still wearing it! – Jalalabad, Pakistan (July 1, 2013)

Reading Audience

Current Country Totals
From 14 Jul 2011 to 23 Jul 2013

United States (US)	1,806
Greece (GR)	1,015
United Kingdom (GB)	876
Italy (IT)	285
Canada (CA)	239
Netherlands (NL)	234
France (FR)	208
Germany (DE)	189
India (IN)	141
Switzerland (CH)	94
China (CN)	93
Spain (ES)	89
Belgium (BE)	86
Australia (AU)	84
Russian Federation (RU)	82
Austria (AT)	66
Sweden (SE)	60
United Arab Emirates (AE)	55
Israel (IL)	55
Brazil (BR)	52

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.

Editor's Corner

Editorial

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

Editor-in-Chief
CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

June, July and August characterised by two major ongoing unrests: Syria's and Egypt's crises. In Syria alleged chemical weapons usage is the hot potato of today while situation in Egypt seems to neutralize the initial enthusiasm of the Arab Spring. To be honest I was always wondering about two things: (1) is the – so called – "international community" a reality? and (2) what is the death toll over which people and nations decide to take action? It seems to me that those (directly and indirectly) involved have no decided yet… Bottom-line? Again: madness is here to stay…

In Greece, the situation is stable – mainly due to summer vacations! It is the annual national opportunity given to people in order to proceed into inner exploitation and decision making. Clear skies, transparent seas and forest left-over scenic environments regenerate Greek mind and soul and I am sure that fellow countrymen will decide wisely in the following dilemma: die on the couch or do something about the present and future of our homeland. In a less philosophical approach governance is absent – in continuous meetings and reformation proposals the moment the social web is rapidly collapsing and unfortunate thoughts accompany current national clinical depression.

In the middle of all these, the personal psychotherapeutic tool of the Editor – the CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – is doing quite well. Many media partnerships in important CBRNE events around the globe, introduction to new countries, good comments (and one bad – why?) from fellow First Responders along with a personal lime passion for what we are doing keep it rolling. Mainly because passion is unaffected by financial/idiotic circumstances and our belief in what we are doing is stronger than our personal suffering and strive for survival. But we will prevail because the human factor is the most asymmetric factor ever!

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.

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!

The Editor

Unemployed and Older, and Facing a Jobless Future

Source:http://finance.yahoo.com/news/unemployed-older-facing-jobless-future-182514522.html?goback=.gde_5083527_member_261300720

I was recently talking to a friend at a party whose husband — in his 60s — has been unemployed for more than two years. While there are many challenges, she said, one of the hardest things is trying to balance hope with reality.

She wonders how to support him in his continued quest to find a job in his field of marketing and financial services while at the same time encouraging him to think about what his life would be like if he never worked in that field or had a full-time job again.

"I wanted to move to what I thought was a healthier place. I wanted to turn the page," said my friend, who asked to be identified by her middle name, Shelley, since she didn't want to publicize her family's situation. "He saw it as vote of no confidence."

For those over 50 and unemployed, the statistics are grim. While unemployment rates for Americans nearing retirement are lower than for young people who are recently out of school, once out of a job, older workers have a much harder time finding work. Over the last year, according to the Labor Department, the average duration of unemployment for older people was 53 weeks, compared with 19 weeks for teenagers.

There are numerous reasons — older workers have been hit both by the recession and globalization. They're more likely to have been laid off from industries that are downsizing, and since their salaries tend to be higher than those of younger workers, they're attractive targets if layoffs are needed.

Even as they do all the things they're told to do — network, improve those computer skills, find a new passion and turn it into a job — many struggle with the question of whether their working life as they once knew it is essentially over.

This is something professionals who work with and research the older unemployed say needs to be addressed better than it is now. Helping people figure out how to cope with a future that may not include work, while at the same time encouraging them in their job searches, is a difficult balance, said Nadya Fouad, a professor of educational psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Psychologists and others who counsel this cohort need to help them face the grief of losing a job, and also to understand that jobs and job-hunting are far different now from how they used to be.

"The contract used to be, 'I am a loyal employee and you are a loyal employer. I promise to work for you my entire career and you train, promote, give benefits and a pension when I retire.' Now you can't count on any of that," she said. "The onus is all on the employee to have a portfolio of skills that can be transferable."

People in their 20s and 30s know that they need to market themselves and always be on the lookout for better opportunities, she said, something that may seem foreign to those in their 50s and 60s.

If a counselor or psychologist "doesn't understand how the world of work has changed, they're not helping at all," she said. "You can't just talk about how it feels."

In response to this concern, Professor Fouad and her colleagues have drawn up guidelines for the American Psychological Association to help psychotherapists better assist their clients with workplace issues and unemployment. It is wending its way through the association's committees.

Of course, not everyone who is unemployed and over 50 is equal. For some, the reality is that they need to find another job — any job — to survive. Others have resources that can allow them to spend more time looking for a job that might have the salary or status of their former position.

In the first case, Professor Fouad said, "You need to decide what is the minimum amount of money you can make and how to go about finding it." In the second case, she said, it's necessary to examine what work means to you and how that may have to change.

Is it the high social status? The identity? The relationship with co-workers? It is important to examine

these areas, perhaps with the help of a professional counselor, Professor Fouad said, to discover how to find such meaning or relationships in other areas of life.
Sometimes simply changing the way you look at your situation can help. My friend Shelley's husband, Neal, who also asked that I use his middle name, said the best advice he received from a friend was "don't tell people you're unemployed. Tell them you're semiretired. It changed my self-identity. I still look for jobs, but I feel better about myself."
He also has friends facing the same issues, who understand his situation. Such support groups, whether formal or informal, are very helpful, said Jane Goodman, past president of the American Counseling Association and professor emerita of counseling at Oakland University in Rochester, Mich.
"Legitimizing the fact that this stinks also helps," she said. "I find that when I say this, clients are so relieved. They thought I was going to say, 'buck up.' "
And even more, "they should know the problem is not with them but with a system that has treated them like a commodity that can be discarded," said David L. Blustein, a professor of counseling, developmental and educational psychology at the Lynch School of Education at Boston College, who works with the older unemployed in suburb of Boston. "I try to help clients get in touch with their anger about that. They shouldn't blame themselves."
Which, of course, is easy to say and hard to do.
"I know not to take it personally," Neal said, "but sure, I wonder at times, what's wrong with me? Is there something I should be doing differently?"
It is too easy to sink into endless rumination, to wonder if he is somehow standing in his own way, like a cancer patient who is told that her attitude is her problem, he said.
Susan Sipprelle, producer of the Web site overfiftyandoutofwork.com and the documentary "Set for Life" about the older jobless, said she stopped posting articles like "Five Easy Steps to get a New Job."
"People are so frustrated," she said. "They don't want to hear, 'Get a new wardrobe, get on LinkedIn.' "
As one commenter on the Facebook page for Over Fifty and Out of Work said, "I've been told to redo my résumé twice now. The first 'expert' tells me to do it one way, the next 'expert' tells me to put it back the way I had it."
Some do land a coveted position in their old fields or turn a hobby into a business. Neal, although he believes he'll never make as much money as in the past, recently has reason to be optimistic about some consulting jobs.
But the reality is that the problem of the older unemployed "was acute during the Great Recession, and is now chronic," Ms. Sipprelle said. "People's lives have been upended by the great forces of history in a way that's never happened before, and there's no other example for older workers to look at. Some can't recoup, though not through their own fault. They're the wrong age at the wrong time. It's cold comfort, but better than suggesting that if you just dye your hair, you'll get that job."

EDITOR'S COMMENT: I really enjoyed this article! But I did not laugh at all! Mainly because it is a poor interpretation of human souls' crisis management! All the suggestions made by psychologists mentioned are just easy suggestions most probably from professionals that are still working. It would be really interesting to read the same study made by unemployed psychologists over 50. I am sure that the results would be totally different… What is important from this article is that it reveals the stupidity of global governance to take advantage of the most important characteristic of people retired from their work or lose their jobs due to downsizing or bankruptcy. I am talking about "experience" – a characteristic that is gained after numerous years of work in a specific field of expertise and it is not taught in universities or postgraduate curricula. Of course not all employees are equally good into what they were doing. But a vast percentage can continue to be a precious backup to existing enterprises, ministries, gov services, public sector etc. Life teaches the grey areas between black and white and this experience is usually more valuable than usual by the book solutions of

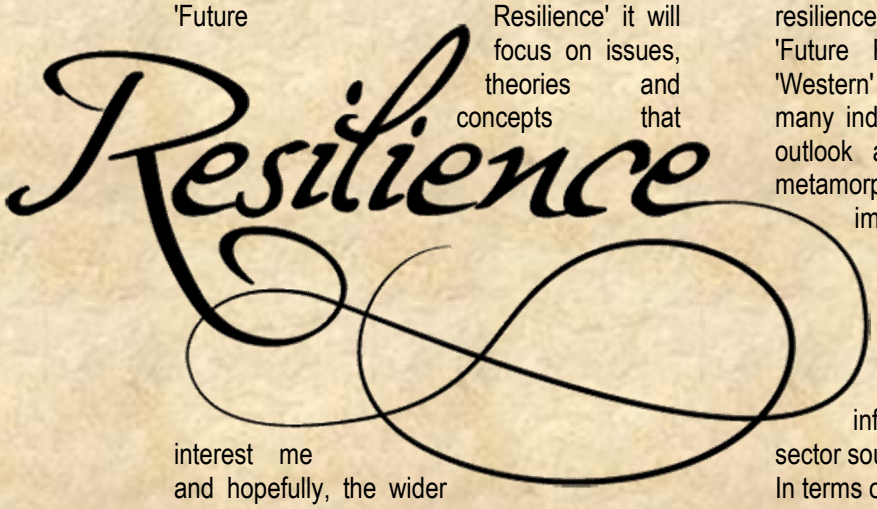
those in the beginning of their careers. One might say that coming generations are more adapted to modern requirements such as technology, Internet, computers, networks etc. This is totally wrong! The right professional will surely follow progress made in his field of expertise and social environment. If he denies cell phones, Internet, tablets, CT scans, LinkedIn or FB then he can still do the job but other can do it better. Denial combines well with lack of succession – a phenomenon commonly observed in very specialized individuals that one day retire from industry and there is nobody to succeed them in service. Is it better or cost effective to start all over again with a younger colleague that need to start from zero and gain similar knowledge and expertise after many copious years without guidance from a more experienced senior colleague? I strongly do not think so! In certain areas like state defense industry senior experience in many fields of expertise can play the role of a significant advisor that will continue to carry several responsibilities that will ease the load of work from younger colleagues that have so many things to deal with. Of course certain activities like those of First Responders need physical fitness that seniors do not have anymore. This is quite logic, normal and matches with our march in life. But what about planning for example? What about choosing the right equipment? What about crisis management in case of terrorist attacks in urban environment? In these instances, experience counts more than physical strength and stamina. In Greece there is a common saying "to retire and rest!" This is something that really pisses me on! To retire from what? From the joy and satisfaction of productivity? From the feeling that you are still an active member of the society? From the feeling that you still help, assist, provide ideas and solutions for the overall prosperity of your people, family, homeland? And why is rest so important? Why going fishing or gardening is so important? And if it so important why choose to be in the military, police, medicine, constructions, law or similar professions instead of being a fisherman or farmer from the very beginning? Working is a way of life – kind of religion! Not working is a slow death! A kind of death that also kills the valuable expertise that could help society to do things better and in a more efficient way. During our short lives it is impossible to do everything simultaneously. But seniors working less after their retirement can allowed to have some extra time to do things that they were not capable of during their active duty time. But they have to continue working and keep their mind and soul occupied. Depression is the most devious worm in people being and when it is clinically obvious it is rather too late to counter. Senior unemployed experts face this particular problem in a very intense form. Clever governance should take advantage of them and use them in filling the gaps in national infrastructure. It is not all about quantity (young age)! Quality counts more and it is difficult to find because it takes decades to develop. And when it is available it is denied in the most inhuman way! Older, unemployed, jobless!

* **R.E.D.** = **R**etired but still **E**xtremely **D**angerous!

FUTURE BOOK on RECILIENCE

By Phil Wood

As we move into the summer and begin to look forward to the rest of the year, I am now beginning work on my next book. This one will be a more academically focused work than my last one and much larger. Provisionally entitled 'Future Resilience' it will focus on issues, theories and concepts that interest me and hopefully, the wider resilience community.



The book is aimed at providing an academically rigorous and credible source for use both in educational programmes and as a guide for managers within organisational resilience roles who require further background understanding of their area of expertise. 'Future Resilience' will consider in its opening chapters the potential future landscape for threats and risks which may face organizations, individuals and society. It will base this opening segment not on forecasting or horizon scanning, but on an examination of the understanding of threat and risk triggers and the ability or necessity to put in place protection or impact reduction measures. It will aim to encompass and challenge some of the more recent theories and thinking such as that of Taleb and Valikangas, and to attempt to reorientate and redraw some lines of thoughts concerning how we assess what may be coming next.

It will then move on to a detailed analysis and discussion of the various developments, interactions and compatibilities of the organizational resilience components that are currently in place and proposals for redrawn systems. The challenge and thought leadership component of this will develop and propose new and innovative ways to deal with resilience issues.

'Future Resilience' will not simply reflect 'Western' conceits. Working globally and with many industries and sectors, I have a global outlook and will consider the growth and metamorphosis or regional threats and impacts, alongside the genesis and development of new types of risks with which the wider international audience may not yet be fully engaged. It will be applicable to all business and industry sectors – the informing research will draw on multiple sector sources.

In terms of aims, this book will be unique in that it will consider the widest possible range of triggers and trends for risk, threat and impact development. It will be based on academically rigorous research that will provide outputs for development into underpinning theories for new approaches to resilience. It will challenge and reinvent rather than recycle more emotive and unfounded concepts. It will be innovative in that it will apply detailed and balanced subjective and broad coverage of contributing trends, behaviours, processes and factors. 'Future Resilience' will neither speculate nor sensationalize, but will take a serious and readable approach to the increasingly complicated discussion of the effectiveness or otherwise of resilience. My aim is to produce a defining book that readers will learn from and, hopefully apply. I aim to publish the book by the end of 2014, or earlier.

If you would like to know about 'Future Resilience' in more detail, or would like to be part of my research into the future shape of resilience and what it encompasses, please get in touch here: pwood01@bucks.ac.uk

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Phil Wood *is Head of the Department of Security and Resilience at Buckinghamshire New University and author of "Resilient Thinking: Protecting Organisations in the 21st Century" (2012)*

Pakistan violence: Gunmen storm Quetta hospital

Source: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-22920542

Gunmen have attacked a hospital in the western Pakistani city of Quetta, hours after an explosion on a bus killed 14 female university students.

Officials say four gunmen were killed during a siege of part of the hospital where the wounded are being treated.

Nurses, hospital security personnel and a senior city official were among the 10 others killed in the stand-off.

An extremist Sunni militant group, Laskar-e-Jhangvi, told the BBC it carried out both attacks.

A man calling himself spokesman for the group said they were a revenge for an earlier raid by security forces against the group in which a woman and children were killed.

Quetta is the capital of Balochistan province, which has seen a surge in militant violence in recent months.

The latest violence began when a bomb exploded on a bus carrying female students at a university.

"It was an improvised explosive device placed in the women university bus," police chief Zubair Mahmood said.

Later explosions rocked the medical centre where the students were being treated.

Militants armed with grenades were positioned there and exchanged fire with members of the security forces who rushed to the scene.

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said a subsequent siege ended after security forces stormed the building.

Mr Ali Khan said security forces freed 35 people trapped inside the building, killed four of the attackers and arrested another.

Quetta Police Chief Mir Zubair told the BBC that suicide bombers were involved in the attack, with one blowing himself up during the stand-off with security forces.

Mr Zubair said the hospital was a big medical complex and had suggested it could take a few hours to totally clear the area.
Pakistani officials say a senior Quetta official, Abdul Mansoor Khan, who had gone to the hospital to visit the wounded students, was killed in the stand-off.
The violence came hours after militants carried out a rocket attack against a historic home in the Ziarat area of Balochistan, which was used by Pakistan's founding father Muhammad Ali Jinnah.
The house is said to have been severely damaged.
Quetta is the capital of Balochistan province, which has seen a surge in militant violence in recent months.
Some attacks are carried out by separatists and others by Islamists who oppose women's education.
Last month the Taliban killed at least 11 people in an attack on security forces in Quetta.

At least 11 people have been killed by a bomb that exploded on a bus at a university in the western Pakistani city of Quetta.

China's first maritime CBRN emergency rescue team debuts

Source: http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/789046.shtml #.UcH Rr9i 9bPo

China's first maritime CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear) emergency rescue team under a submarine base of the North China Sea Fleet of the Navy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLAN) recently conducted the drill on such subjects as real-time monitoring, delineation of contaminated areas, sample collection and analysis, and decontamination of contaminated equipment, personnel and ground with new-type equipment in a sea area.

Chinamil.com.cn/ Yu Hang and Yu Haitao)

Christendom's Greatest Cathedral to Become a Mosque

By Raymond Ibrahim

Source: http://www.meforum.org/3536/hagia-sophia-mosque

While unrest in Turkey continues to capture attention, more subtle and more telling events concerning the Islamification of Turkey — and not just at the hands of Prime Minister Erdogan but majorities of Turks — are quietly transpiring. These include the fact that Turkey's Hagia Sophia museum is on its way to becoming a mosque.

Why does the fate of an old building matter?

Because Hagia Sophia — Greek for "Holy Wisdom" — was for some thousand years Christianity's greatest cathedral. Built in 537 A.D. in Constantinople, the heart of the Christian empire, it was also a stalwart symbol of defiance against an ever encroaching Islam from the east.

After parrying centuries of jihadi thrusts, Constantinople was finally sacked by Ottoman Turks in 1453. Its crosses desecrated and icons defaced, Hagia Sophia — as well as thousands of other churches — was immediately converted into a mosque, the tall minarets of Islam surrounding it in triumph.

Then, after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, as part of several reforms, secularist Ataturk transformed Hagia Sophia into a "neutral" museum in 1934 — a gesture of goodwill to a then-triumphant West from a then-crestfallen Turkey.

Thus the fate of this ancient building is full of portents. And according to *Hurriyet Daily News*, "A parliamentary commission is considering an application by citizens to turn the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul into a mosque.... A survey conducted with 401 people was attached to the application, in which more than 97 percent of interviewees requested the

transformation of the ancient building into a mosque and afterwards for it to be reopened for Muslim worship."

Even lesser known is the fact that other historic churches are currently being transformed into mosques, such as a 13thcentury church building — also named Hagia Sophia — in Trabzon. After the Islamic conquest, it was turned into a mosque. But because of its "great historical and cultural significance" for Christians, it too, during Turkey's secular age, was turned into a museum and its frescoes restored. Yet local authorities recently decreed that its Christian frescoes would again be covered and the church/museum turned into a mosque.

Similarly, the 5th century Studios Monastery, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is set to become an active mosque. And the existence of the oldest functioning Christian monastery in the world, 5th century Mor Gabriel Monastery, is at risk. Inhabited today by only a few dozen Christians dedicated to learning the monastery's teachings, the ancient Aramaic language spoken by Jesus, and the Orthodox Syriac tradition, neighboring Muslims filed a lawsuit accusing the monks of practicing "anti-Turkish activities" and of illegally occupying land which belongs to Muslim villagers. The highest appeals court in Ankara ruled in favor of the Muslim villagers, saying the land that had been part of the monastery for 1,600 years is not its property, absurdly claiming that the monastery was built over the ruins of a mosque — even though Muhammad was born 170 years *after* the monastery was built.

Turkey's Christian minority, including the Orthodox Patriarch, are naturally protesting this renewed Islamic onslaught against what remains of their cultural heritage — to deaf ears.

The Muslim populace's role in transforming once Christian sites into mosques is a reminder of all those *other* Turks *not*protesting the Islamization of Turkey, and who if anything consider Erdogan's government too "secular."

Their numbers are telling. In May 2012, Reuters reported that:

Thousands of devout Muslims prayed outside Turkey's historic Hagia Sophia museum on Saturday [May 23] to protest a 1934 law that bars religious services at the former church and mosque. Worshippers shouted, "Break the chains, let Hagia Sophia Mosque open," and "God is great" [the notorious "Allahu Akbar"] before kneeling in prayer as tourists looked on. Turkey's secular laws prevent Muslims and Christians from formal worship within the 6th-century monument, the world's greatest cathedral for almost a millennium before invading Ottomans converted it into a mosque in the 15th century.

The desire to turn Hagia Sophia into a mosque is not about Muslims wanting a place to pray — as of 2010, there were 3,000 active mosques in Istanbul alone. Rather, it's about their reveling, and trying to revivify, the glory days of Islamic jihad and conquest: Reuters added that Muslims "staged the prayers ahead of celebrations next week marking the 559th anniversary of the Ottoman Sultan Mehmet's conquest of Byzantine Constantinople." According to Salih Turhan, a spokesman quoted by Reuters, "As the grandchildren of Mehmet the Conqueror, seeking the re-opening Hagia Sophia as a mosque is our legitimate right."

Sultan Mehmet was the scourge of European Christendom, whose Islamic hordes seized and ravished Constantinople, forcibly turning it Islamic. Openly idolizing him, as many Turks do, is tantamount to their saying, "We are proud of our ancestors who killed and stole the lands of European Christians." And yet, despite such militant overtones, Turhan, whose position is echoed by many Turks, still manages to blame the West: "Keeping Hagia Sophia Mosque closed is an insult to our mostly Muslim population of 75 million. It symbolizes our ill-treatment by the West."

So keeping a historically Christian/Western building — that was stolen by Islamic jihad — as a neutral museum is seen as "ill-treatment by the West," even as Turks continue destroying the nation's original Christian heritage.

And the historical revisions continue. Last May 29th, when Turks celebrate the Fall of Constantinople, Erdogan himself declared that the jihadi invasion — which saw countless Christians enslaved, raped, or slaughtered — was the true "time of enlightenment." After showing how Erdogan got it upside down, Ralph Sidway, an Orthodox Christian author, wrote:

Erdogan and Turkey celebrate the Fall of Constantinople, and the West congratulates them. "We are continuing to write history today," says Erdogan, and write it – or re-write it – they do, under the somnambulant gaze of craven Western leaders too ignorant, or too fearful, to challenge Islam's claim to moral superiority, historical righteousness and eventual world domination. By their policies, posture and pronouncements, Western European nations, and the United States, are conceding the future to a rapidly re-Islamicizing Turkey, and are aiding in Islam's stated goal of a new, global caliphate determined to conquer us, just as it conquered Constantinople 560 years ago. Every Turkish celebration of 29 May 1453 is a gauntlet flung down in challenge to the West. Each such event which goes unanswered and unchallenged by the West is another nail in the coffin of Christian culture, human rights, and free people everywhere.

Indeed, at a time when Turkey is openly reclaiming its jihadi heritage, Europeans are actively erasing their Christian heritage which for centuries kept the Islamic jihad at bay. Among other capitulations, Europeans are currently betraying church buildings to Muslims to convert to mosques and scrubbing references of the historic Turkish jihads on Europe from classroom textbooks, lest Muslim students be offended.

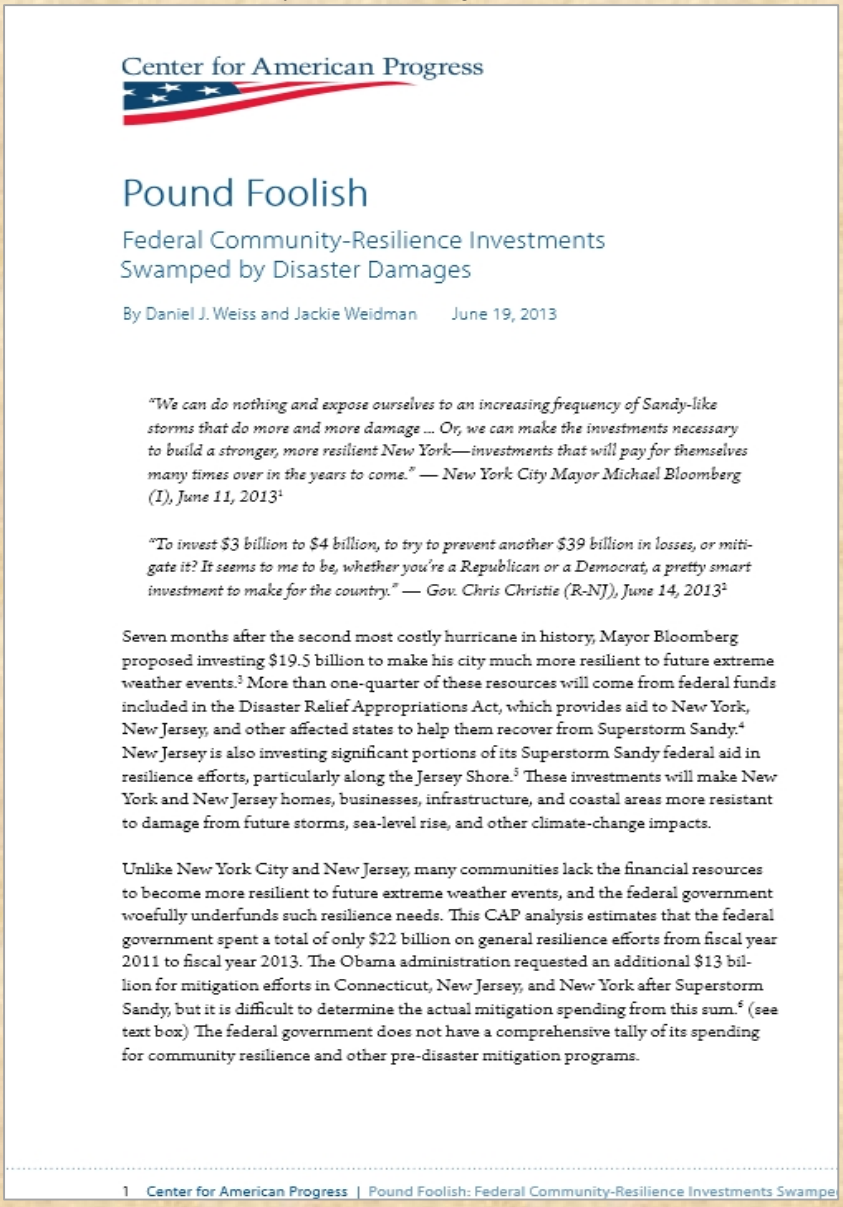
Meanwhile, here are neighboring Turkey's Muslims openly praising the same jihadi warlords who brutally conquered a portion of Europe centuries ago, converting thousands of churches into mosques, even as they openly prepare to finish the job — which may not even require force, as Europe actively sells its own soul.

Raymond Ibrahim *is author of the new book* Crucified Again: Exposing Islam's New War on Christians *(Regnery Publishing in cooperation with Gatestone Institute, 2013). A Middle East and Islam specialist, he is a Shillman Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center and an associate fellow at the Middle East Forum.*

Bolstering pre-disaster resilience significantly reduces post-disaster recovery cost

Source: http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130620-bolstering-predisaster-resilience-significantly-reduces-postdisaster-recovery-cost

A new study finds that the federal government spends six times more on post-disaster disaster recovery than on helping communities become more resilient to extreme weather which is predicted to become more intense and frequent in a warming world.



Center for American Progress

Pound Foolish

Federal Community-Resilience Investments Swamped by Disaster Damages

By Daniel J. Weiss and Jackie Weidman June 19, 2013

"We can do nothing and expose ourselves to an increasing frequency of Sandy-like storms that do more and more damage ... Or, we can make the investments necessary to build a stronger, more resilient New York—investments that will pay for themselves many times over in the years to come." — New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg (I), June 11, 2013[1]

"To invest $3 billion to $4 billion, to try to prevent another $39 billion in losses, or mitigate it? It seems to me to be, whether you're a Republican or a Democrat, a pretty smart investment to make for the country." — Gov. Chris Christie (R-NJ), June 14, 2013[2]

Seven months after the second most costly hurricane in history, Mayor Bloomberg proposed investing $19.5 billion to make his city much more resilient to future extreme weather events.[3] More than one-quarter of these resources will come from federal funds included in the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, which provides aid to New York, New Jersey, and other affected states to help them recover from Superstorm Sandy.[4] New Jersey is also investing significant portions of its Superstorm Sandy federal aid in resilience efforts, particularly along the Jersey Shore.[5] These investments will make New York and New Jersey homes, businesses, infrastructure, and coastal areas more resistant to damage from future storms, sea-level rise, and other climate-change impacts.

Unlike New York City and New Jersey, many communities lack the financial resources to become more resilient to future extreme weather events, and the federal government woefully underfunds such resilience needs. This CAP analysis estimates that the federal government spent a total of only $22 billion on general resilience efforts from fiscal year 2011 to fiscal year 2013. The Obama administration requested an additional $13 billion for mitigation efforts in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York after Superstorm Sandy, but it is difficult to determine the actual mitigation spending from this sum.[6] (see text box) The federal government does not have a comprehensive tally of its spending for community resilience and other pre-disaster mitigation programs.

1 Center for American Progress | Pound Foolish: Federal Community-Resilience Investments Swampe

The study comes from the liberal-leaning Center for American Progress (CAP), which says that since the federal government "woefully underfunds" such efforts, the solution would be to create a fund for "community resilience" which will be supported by higher levies on fossil fuel production.

"We must help communities enhance their ability to withstand the high winds, flood waters, scorching heat, searing wild fires, and parched earth from extreme weather," says the CAP analysis, which was released Wednesday.

The *Hill* reports that CAP, citing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimates, calculates that for every $1 invested in "pre-disaster" mitigation, the cost of damage from extreme weather is reduced by $4.

The report notes that between fiscal 2011 and 2013, the federal government spent $22 billion on resilience efforts compared to $136 billion on disaster relief during the same period.

"Revenue that should be targeted to resilience is too often diverted to disaster recovery or falls victim to shortsighted austerity measures such as the budget sequester. The federal government could save additional lives and money by increasing assistance to communities to help them address their resilience needs," the report says.

"To that end, we recommend the creation of a dedicated fund for community resilience with annual revenue equal to one-third of the total federal disaster relief and recovery spending from the previous three years," it adds.

The report estimates that applying that formula to fiscal 2013 would yield $7 billion for the resilience fund.

The report also urges an "annual and complete accounting of federal funds spent on every disaster-recovery program in the previous fiscal year."

"Such an accounting would enable public officials and everyday citizens to better understand the

true cost to taxpayers of unchecked extreme weather," the report states.

The report says that one way to use post-disaster recovery funds more effectively would be to "ensure that future rebuilding paid for with federal recovery funds increases community resilience to future extreme weather, even if the new structures are more costly."

— Read more in Daniel J. Weiss and Jackie Weidman, Pound Foolish: Federal Community-Resilience Investments Swamped by Disaster Damages (Center for American Progress, 19 June 2013)

► **Read the report at:** http://thehill.com/images/stories/news/2013/06_june/19/resilience-spending.pdf

How Qatar came to host the Taliban?

Source:http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2013/06/how-qatar-came-to-host-taliban.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+terrorismwatch%2FJTvK+%28Terrorism+Watch%29&utm_content=Yahoo!+Mail

The Taliban chose Qatar for the office because they saw it as a neutral location

After nearly 12 years of bloodshed in Afghanistan, long-awaited peace talks with the Taliban are set to begin. But why and how have these negotiations ended up taking place in the Gulf emirate of Qatar? The BBC World Service's Dawood Azami has this assessment from Doha.

Taliban representatives secretly arrived in Qatar about three years ago to talk to Western officials. They knew that the Americans in particular were eager to secure a peace deal that would allow Nato a dignified exit from Afghanistan and leave the country more stable and peaceful.

In March 2012, the Taliban suspended initial talks with the US focused on prisoner exchanges.

They wanted the release of five Taliban figures held at Guantanamo Bay in exchange for the freedom of US soldier Sgt Bowe Bergdahl, believed to have been held by the Taliban since 2009.

But the number of Taliban representatives and their activities in Qatar have gradually increased. There are now more than 20 relatively high-ranking Taliban members who live here with their families.

Over the past two years, they have sent representatives from Qatar to conferences on Afghanistan in Japan, France and Germany - most recently sending a delegation to Iran.

Those in Qatar represent only the Taliban in Afghanistan, the main insurgent group led by Mullah Mohammed Omar. There are no

representatives of the Pakistani Taliban.

Shopping encounter

Nearly all members of the Taliban office are said to have come to Qatar through Pakistan. A few have reportedly commuted between Qatar and Pakistan over the past two years.

While in Doha, the Taliban have in general been careful about their activities and appearances.

But it is not a big city and there are about 6,000 Afghan labourers and businessmen who live here. Several told me that they had occasionally seen Taliban representatives driving, walking the streets, or inside shopping centres and mosques.

A diplomat from the Afghan embassy in Doha shared the story of an encounter he had had with a Taliban representative in a Doha shopping centre.

"I approached a couple of children when I heard them speaking in Pashto," he said.

"I recognised the man with the children, but when he avoided disclosing information about himself. I asked him: "Are you from the other side?' He blushed and simply left."

The diplomat also said that like other Afghans, some Taliban visit the Afghan embassy to register the birth of a child or renew documents.

"They live in Doha in comfortable homes all paid by the Qataris, who are generally nice people," Doha-based Afghan businessman Zadran Darwesh said.

"A Taliban member once told me that he had seen war and fighting for 30 years but now wanted to live in a peaceful environment."

For years, the Afghan government and its Western backers have been trying to contact the Taliban, but they did not have a known address.

As a confidence-building measure, providing protection to those Taliban leaders participating in peace talks and finding them a permanent address became a priority for the US and the Afghan High Peace Council.

The council was established after a 2010 Jirga - a council of tribal delegates - in Kabul, which was tasked with contacting the Taliban and convincing them to join the peace process.

The Afghan government was keen on opening an office for the Taliban in Turkey or Saud Arabia, because it thought those countries were more influential and had a closer working relationship with Kabul.

'Cordial relations'

But the Taliban's preferred venue was Qatar because they considered it a neutral location. They see Qatar as a country that has balanced relations with all sides and has a prestigious status in the Islamic world.

The US was also happy with this option.

Afghan officials say that President Hamid Karzai finally gave the green light to the office after receiving guarantees that it would maintain a low profile and work only as a venue for peace talks.

The president did not want it to be used for other activities, such as the expansion of Taliban ties with the rest of the world, recruitment or fundraising.

All the sides have their reasons to support talks in Qatar:

- the US wants Sgt Bergdahl to be released as part of some sort of deal with the Taliban
- the Taliban want the release of their members from the US military-run prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, to reduce their dependence on Pakistan, and raise their profile internationally
- the Afghan government wants to create distance between the Taliban and Pakistan, and for Taliban members to be able to participate in talks without risking arrest by Pakistan

- the Pakistani government wants to show that it does not control the Taliban and that they are based in Qatar rather than Pakistan
- the Qatari government, for its part, insists that it wants to help, seeking to project itself as the main mediator in a prolonged conflict

Qatar was not one of the three countries - Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates - which recognised the Taliban regime in Afghanistan between 1996 and 2001. But according to a former Taliban foreign ministry official, it did have "cordial" relations with the militants.

After the Taliban regime was toppled, its leaders did not have a place of refuge.

A few high-ranking figures sought asylum in Qatar, but their requests were quietly declined or ignored for a number of reasons, including because their names were on the UN/US sanction list, or they were wanted by the US.

'Arab Kissinger'

However, some lower-ranking Taliban managed to travel to Qatar and other Gulf states, such as UAE and Saudi Arabia, as ordinary Afghan labourers and businessmen.

They were neither high-ranking and nor well known, and could mix easily with the Afghan diaspora in the Gulf.

About two years ago, the former Guantanamo prisoner and Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, Mullah Abdual Salam Zaif, also moved from Kabul to Qatar with his family after his name was removed from the international sanctions list.

Qatar, the tiny but wealthy Sunni Muslim Gulf state, has become famous for punching above its weight. It became a household name when it started the famous al-Jazeera television network.

It also got involved in a number of international crises as a mediator - including the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region and the rift between the Palestinian factions, Fatah and Hamas.

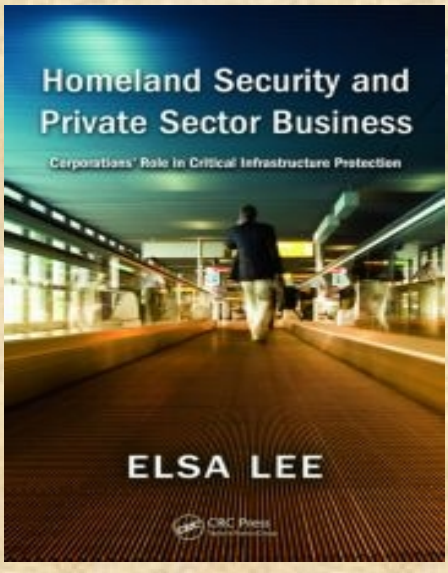
And it has been involved actively in the Arab Spring uprisings, supporting the armed rebellions in Libya and Syria.

Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Qatar's ambitious 61-year-old emir, is reported to be preparing to hand control of the wealthy Gulf state to his son, Crown Prince Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. He is well known for his diplomatic activism, with various media outlets calling him the "Arab Henry Kissinger".

So the opening of the Taliban office has brought Qatar the international limelight it craves. The challenge is how to make this new hub for peace talks become a true success story.

BOOK: Homeland Security and Private Sector Business: Corporations' Role in Critical Infrastructure Protection

Published: October 22, 2008 by Auerbach Publications - 264 Pages
Author: Elsa Lee, Advantages SCI, El Segundo, California, USA
Source: http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781420070781



Features

- Demonstrates why businesses need to conduct themselves differently in an age of global terrorism
- Provides an overview of the latest Homeland Security legislative mandates imposed on the private sector and explains how they affect industry and business operations
- Instructs organizations on assembling high-risk response teams for continuity and operation management before, during, and after crisis events
- Provides insight into why certain businesses, both domestic and international, are selected and targeted by terrorist organizations
- Offers specific guidelines for corporate training programs on preparedness and action in the face of crisis

Summary
The challenge in combating terrorism is not that any of us could die tomorrow in an attack, but that we cannot seem to perform the basic functions of diagnosing and treating the problem so that it is manageable. Given this, and because public and private sector partnerships are critical to the success of this management, **Homeland Security and Private Sector Business: Corporations' Role in Critical Infrastructure Protection** identifies the role the private sector plays in securing our homeland and offers strategies to aid in the fight against national and international threats.
Organized to take into consideration differing leadership and management styles, organizational cultural change barriers, and team dynamics, the information is structured to appeal to most adult learning styles, ensuring effective communication of critical messages. Using helpful case studies and exercises, the author presents invaluable instruction on how to establish, implement, and reinforce terrorism awareness and regulatory compliance with national critical infrastructure interests. Comprehensive in scope, the book reviews threat factors, risk mitigation, readiness plans, prevention approaches, human factors, and training methods. It concludes with insights into the limitations businesses must respect as they adjust to this new paradigm.
A recognized expert in terrorism deterrence and counterintelligence methods, Elsa Lee brings her 28 years of experience in counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and counterespionage investigations to inform the discussion. Organizations which integrate her recommendations into their internal corporate strategies will not only contribute to Homeland Security efforts, but will also ultimately improve business continuity, resiliency, and operational and financial security for the corporation.

Across the Middle East, hatred between Sunnis, Shiites becoming more virulent

By Lee Keath, The Associated Press
Source:http://www.montrealgazette.com/life/Across+Middle+East+hatreds+between+Sunnis+Shiites+becoming/8567493/story.html#ixzz2X6oVHhjt

CAIRO - It's not hard to find stereotypes, caricatures and outright bigotry when talk in the Middle East turns to the tensions between Islam's two main sects.
Shiites are described as devious, power-hungry corruptors of Islam. Sunnis are called extremist, intolerant oppressors.
Hatreds between the two are now more virulent than ever in the Arab world because of Syria's civil war. On Sunday, officials said four Shiites in a village west of Cairo were beaten to death by Sunnis in a sectarian clash unusual for Egypt.
Hard-line clerics and politicians on both sides in the region have added fuel, depicting the fight as essentially a war of survival for their sect.
But among the public, views are complex. Some sincerely see the other side as wrong — whether on matters of faith or politics. Others see the divisions as purely political, created for cynical aims. Even some who view the other sect negatively fear sectarian flames are burning dangerously out of control. There are those who wish for a return to the days, only a decade or two ago, when the differences did not seem so important and the sects got along better, even intermarried.
And some are simply frustrated that there is so much turmoil over a dispute that dates back to the death of the Prophet Muhammad in the 7th century.
"Fourteen centuries after the death of the prophet, in a region full of destruction, killing, occupation, ignorance and disease, you are telling me about Sunnis and Shiites?" scoffs Ismail al-Hamami, a 67-year-old Sunni Palestinian refugee in Gaza. "We are all Muslims. ... You can't ignore the fact that (Shiites) are Muslims."
Associated Press correspondents spoke to Shiites and Sunnis across the region. Amid the variety of viewpoints, they found a public struggling with anger that is increasingly curdling into hatred.

BACKGROUND
The Sunni-Shiite split is rooted in the question of who should succeed Muhammad in leading

Muslims after his death in 632. Shiites say the prophet's cousin and son-in-law Ali was his rightful successor but was cheated when authority went to those the Sunnis call the four "Rightfully Guided Caliphs" — Abu Bakr, Omar and Othman and, finally, Ali.

Sunnis are the majority across the Islamic world. In the Middle East, Shiites have strong

majorities in Iran, Iraq and Bahrain, with significant communities in Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other parts of the Gulf.

Both consider the Qur'an the word of God. But there are distinctions in theology and religious practice between the two sects.

Some are minor: Shiites pray with their hands by their sides, Sunnis with their hands crossed at their chest or stomach.

Others are significant. Shiites, for example, believe Ali and a string of his descendants, the Imams, had not only rightful political authority after Muhammad but also held a special religious wisdom. Most Shiites believe there were 12 Imams — many of them "martyred" by Sunnis — and the 12th vanished, to one day return and restore justice. Sunnis accuse the Shiites of elevating Ali to the level of Muhammad himself — incorrectly, since Shiites agree that Muhammad was the last of the prophets, a central tenet of Islam.

The bitter disputes of early Islam still resonate. Even secular-minded Shiite parents would never name their child after the resented Abu Bakr, Omar or Othman — or Aisha, a wife of Muhammad, who helped raise a revolt against Ali during his Caliphate. When outgoing Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad visited Egypt earlier this year, the sheik of Al-Azhar, the bastion of Sunni theology, told him sharply that if the sects are to get along, Shiites must stop "insulting" the "companions of the prophet."

But only the most hard-core would say those differences are reason enough to hate each other. For that, politics is needed.

IRAQ

If Syria's war has raised the region's sectarian hatreds, the war in Iraq played a big role in unleashing them. After the U.S.-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003, the long-oppressed Shiite majority there saw a chance to take power. Sunnis feared the repression would flip onto them. The result was vicious sectarian fighting that lasted until 2008: Sunni extremists pulled Shiite pilgrims from buses and gunned them down; Shiite militiamen kidnapped Sunnis, dumping their tortured bodies later.

ABDUL-SATTAR ABDUL-JABAR, 56, is a Sunni cleric who occasionally preaches at the prominent Abu Hanifa mosque in the Sunni-dominated Azamiyah neighbourhood of Baghdad. Two of his sons were killed by Shiite militiamen. He blames the United States and Iran for Iraq's strife.

"Right from the beginning, the Americans were trying to create sectarian rifts," he said. "Iran is a country of regional ambitions. It isn't a Shiite country. It's a country with specific schemes and agendas."

Now he fears the strife is returning, and he blames the Shiite-dominated government.

"We feel the government does not consider us part of the Iraqi nation," he said. "There is no magical solution for this. If the Shiites are convinced to change their politicians, that would be a big help."

AHMED SALEH AHMED, 40, a Sunni, runs a construction company in Baghdad mainly employing Shiites. He is married to a Shiite woman. They live in the Azamiyah neighbourhood and raise their two daughters and son as Sunnis.

Still, his wife prays with the small clay stone that Shiites — but not Sunnis — set in front of their prayer rugs. She often visits a Shiite shrine in another Baghdad district. Ahmed sometimes helps his wife's family prepare food for Shiite pilgrims during religious ceremonies. But he admits that there sometimes is tension between the families.

"We were able to contain it and solve it in a civilized way," Ahmed said.

Iraqis like to talk politics, he said, and "when things get heated, we tend to change the subject."

When their children ask about sectarian differences, "we do our best to make these ideas as clear as we can for them so they don't get confused," he said. "We try to avoid discussing sectarian issues in front of the children."

Ahmed believes sectarian tensions have been strained because people have abused the democratic ideas emerging from the Arab Spring.

Democracy "needs open-mindedness, forgiveness and an ability to understand the other," he said. "No human being is born believing in democracy. It's like going to school — you have to study first. Democracy should be for people who want to do good things, not for those who are out for revenge."

HUSSEIN AL-RUBAIE, 46, a Shiite, was jailed for two years under Saddam. His Shiite-majority Sadriya district in Baghdad saw considerable bloodshed during the worst of the strife, and he fears it's returning.

"The whole region is in flames and we are all about to be burnt," he said. "We have a lot of people who are ignorant and easily driven by sectarian feelings."

He sees it among his friends, who include Sunnis. "My friends only whisper about sectarian things because they think it is a shame to talk about such matters," al-Rubaie said, "but I am afraid that the day

might come when this soft talking would turn to fighting in the street."

LEBANON

Among some of Lebanon's Shiites, it's fashionable to wear a necklace with a medallion in the shape of the fabled double-bladed sword of Ali. It's a mark of community pride at a time when the Shiite group Hezbollah says the sect is endangered by Sunni extremists in the Syrian uprising.

During Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, the main fight was between Christians and Muslims. But in the past decade, the most dangerous divide has been between Shiites and Sunnis.

For much of Lebanon's existence, Shiites, who make up about a third of the population, were an impoverished underclass beneath the Christians and Sunnis, each roughly a third also. The Shiite resentment helped the rise of the guerrilla force Hezbollah, on whose might the community won greater power. Now, many Sunnis resent Hezbollah's political domination of the government. The 2005 assassination of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, a Sunni, increased Sunni anger after Hezbollah members were blamed. Since then, both sides have clashed in the streets.

Syria's civil war has fueled those tensions. Lebanon's Sunnis largely back the mainly Sunni rebellion, while Shiites support President Bashar Assad's regime, which is dominated by his Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiism. Hezbollah sent fighters to help Assad fight the rebels, enraging Sunnis region-wide.

RANIA, 51, is a Shiite Lebanese banking executive, married to a Sunni and living in Ras Beirut, one of the capital's few mixed neighbourhoods.

When she married, at age 22, "I didn't even know what the difference between Sunnis and Shiites is."

Now she's inclined to support Hezbollah. While not a fan of the hard-line group, she believes that Hezbollah and Syria are targeted because of their stances against Israel. She said her husband is anti-Hezbollah and supports Syria's rebels.

Rania, who gave only her first name because she doesn't want to be stigmatized about her social, religious or marital status, said she doesn't talk politics with her husband to avoid arguments.

"I support one (political) side and he supports the other, but we've found a way to live with it," added Rania, who has a 22-year-old daughter.

She said education plays a big role. "I find that the people who make comments about it are the people who are just ignorant, and ignorance feeds hatred and stereotyping," she added.

KHALED CHALLAH is a 28-year-old Syrian Sunni businessman who has lived for years in Lebanon. He comes from a conservative, religious family but only occasionally goes to mosque. He said the only way he would be able to tell the difference between a Sunni mosque and a Shiite one would be if the cleric talked about Syria in the sermon.

"A Shiite imam would speak against the rebels, and call to resist them, and a Sunni sheik would talk against the government in Syria," he said.

He said he still doesn't understand the Shiites' emotional fervour over the battle of Karbala, in which Ali's son, Hussein, was killed by the armies of the Sunni Ummayad dynasty in the 7th century. Hussein's martyrdom is a defining trauma of their faith, deepening their feeling of oppression. Every year, Shiites around the world mark the battle with processions that turn into festivals of mourning, with men lashing or cutting themselves.

"It means much more to Shiites, this battle's memory, than to Sunnis," Challah said.

He said Sunnis "behave sometimes like they are the only Muslims."

Challah called this "very silly. Sunnis and Shiites come from the same root, they worship the same God."

IRAN

The Shiite powerhouse of the Middle East is home to a government led by Shiite clerics with oil wealth and a powerful Revolutionary Guard. Tehran has extended its influence in the Arab world, mainly through its alliance with Syria, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Palestinian territories. Iran has presented that alliance not as sectarian but as the centre of "resistance" against Israel.

Sunni Saudi Arabia and other Gulf allies have been trying to stem Iran's influence, in part by warning of the spread of Shiism.

Saudi Arabia's hard-line Wahhabi interpretation of Sunni Islam views Shiism as heresy.

REZA TAJABADI, a Shiite cleric in Tehran, blames the Wahhabis — and the related ultra-conservative Salafi movement in Sunni Islam — for stoking sectarian hatred.

"If Wahabis withdrew from creating differences, then Shiites and Sunnis will be able to put aside their minor differences, which are not considerable."

ABOLFATAH DAVATI, another Shiite cleric, points to the historical difference between the two sects. Since Sunnis have been dominant through history, Sunni clerics became subordinate to the rulers. The Shiite clergy, he said, has been independent of power.

"Sunni clerics backed rulers and justified their policies, like the killing of Imam Hussein. Even now, they put their rulers' decision at the top of their agenda," he said.

"In contrast, Shiites have not depended on government, so Sunnis cannot tolerate this and issue religious edicts against them. This increases rifts."

EGYPT

In a country where the Muslim population is overwhelmingly Sunni, many Egyptians know little about Shiites. The Shiite population is tiny and largely hidden — so secretive that its numbers are not really known. But ultraconservative Salafis, many of whom view Shiites as infidels, have become more politically powerful and more vocal since the 2011 fall of autocrat Hosni Mubarak. They often preach against Shiism, warning it will spread to Egypt.

MONA MOHAMMED FOUAD is a rarity in Egypt: Her mother is an Iranian Shiite, her father an Egyptian Sunni. She considers herself Sunni.

"People are always surprised and shocked" when they find out her mother is Shiite, said Fouad, 23, who works for a digital marketing company. "But usually as soon as they know, they are very interested and they ask me many questions."

Fouad said her sister has heard work colleagues criticizing Shiites. In her fiance's office they distributed leaflets "telling people to beware of Shiite indoctrination," she added.

"People should read about Shiism. We make fun of foreigners who believe all Muslims are terrorists and we say they are ignorant, but we do the same thing to ourselves," Fouad said. "There is a difference in interpretation, a difference in opinion, but at the end of the day, we believe in the same things."

She told her Sunni fiance from the start that her mother is Shiite. "I told him to tell his family, so if they have any problem with that, we end it immediately."

ANAS AQEEL, a 23-year-old Salafi, spent the first 18 years of his life in Saudi Arabia, where he would sometimes encounter Shiites. "We didn't ever argue over faith. But they alienated me," he said.

"I once saw a Shiite in Saudi Arabia speaking ill of one of the companions of the prophet near his tomb. That one I had to clash with and expel him from the place," Aqeel said.

He worries about Shiites spreading their faith. While he said not all Shiites are alike, he added that "some of them deviate in the Qur'an and speak badly of the prophet's companions. If someone is wrong and ... he insists on his wrong concept, then we cannot call him a Muslim."

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Palestinian Muslims are also almost all Sunnis. Their main connection to the Shiite world has Hamas' alliance with Iran. But those ties were strained when Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, broke its connections with Syria because of the civil war.

AHMED MESLEH, a 28-year-old blogger from the West Bank town of Ramallah, says he met Shiites on a trip to Lebanon and encounters them via Facebook. But some have de-friended him because of his online comments.

"If we take Shiites from a religious point of view, then we can describe Shiites as a sect that has gone astray from the true doctrine of Islam. I consider them a bigger threat to Muslims and Islam than Jews and Israel," Mesleh said.

He cited the Shiites' processions mourning Hussein's death, saying: "The way they whip themselves, it's irrational."

The Middle East conflict "is in its core a religious conflict. The Shiites want to destroy Islam. In Lebanon, they are the ones controlling the situation, and the ones who are causing the sectarian conflict."

ISMAIL AL-HAMAMI, a 67-year-old Palestinian refugee in Gaza's Shati camp, said politics not religion is driving sectarian tensions.

"In Gaza, Iran used to support the resistance with weapons. Now

they support Assad. ... In Iraq, they (Shiites) executed Saddam Hussein, who was a Sunni, and they took over the country with the help of the Americans. Now they are working against America in Iran and Syria."
"So is that related to religion? It's all about politics."

The beneficiaries of sectarianism, he said, are "those who want to sell arms to both sides ... those who want to keep Arab and Muslim countries living in the dark. The beneficiaries are the occupation (Israel) and the people who sell us religious slogans."
"God knows who is right or wrong."

AP correspondents Adam Schreck and Qassim Abdul-Zahra in Baghdad, Barbara Surk and Zeina Karam in Beirut, Dalia Nammari in Ramallah and Ibrahim Barzak in Gaza City, Tony G. Gabriel and Mariam Rizk in Cairo and Nasser Karimi in Tehran contributed to this report.

Frost & Sullivan: Interoperability and Technology Needs Spur Advances in First Responder C3i and Emergency Response Systems

Source: http://www.sacbee.com/2013/06/24/5519001/frost-sullivan-interoperability.html

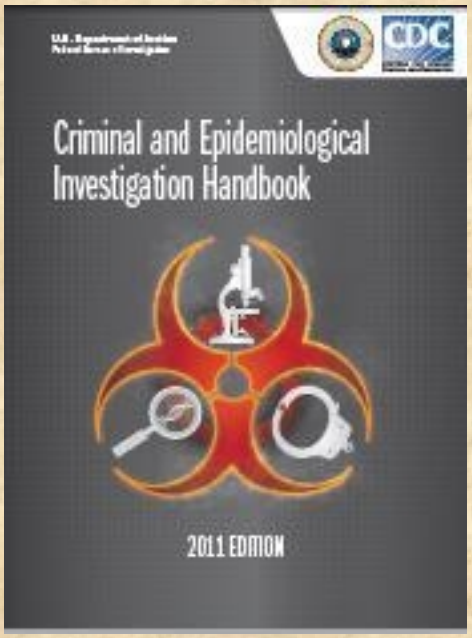
The need for interoperable communication systems that can provide real-time situational awareness to first responders has paved the way for the development of advanced technologies in the global first responder command, control, communications and intelligence (C3i) and emergency response market. Weather monitoring sensors, emergency mass notification systems, unmanned aerial vehicles, and intelligent transportation systems will emerge as next-generation emergency response systems.
New analysis from Frost & Sullivan (http://www.defense.frost.com), **Assessment of Global First Responder C3i and Emergency Response Market**, finds that the market earned revenues of $50.41 billion in 2012 and estimates this to reach $131.62 million in 2019. North America accounts for the largest share of the market, followed by Asia-Pacific. The market in South America will overtake Europe in the long term.
"Mega events such as the Olympics and World Cup are prime targets for attacks, heightening the need for law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services to be equipped with technologies to ensure public safety," said Frost & Sullivan Aerospace and Defence Industry Analyst Anshul Sharma. "The vulnerability of critical infrastructure such as transportation networks or oil and gas facilities to terrorist attacks or operational failure further necessitates sophisticated first responder C3i and emergency response systems globally."

The rising frequency of such incidents has propelled the growth of the public safety communications segment, particularly after the deployment of LTE networks in various countries. The adoption of command and control solutions is gaining pace with the emergence of safe city projects. Public safety software solutions will be another key area of growth.
However, the unavailability of sufficient funding for the acquisition and maintenance of these technologies limits market scope. The lack of standardisation in various communication equipments has further curbed uptake. To offset this challenge, manufacturers must build open architecture solutions that can integrate with any communication device.
Additionally, vendors need to educate the first responder community on the use of these emerging technologies, especially in developing regions like Asia-Pacific, where market potential is huge.
"More importantly, collaboration among manufacturers and respective law enforcement as well as emergency response agencies in various countries will help ensure that technology requirements are addressed," opined Sharma. "In fact, the success of such ventures has been proved in institutions like the Raytheon public safety technology centre in the United States, which reached out to the first responders and is offering development and training for new technology solutions according to their needs."

Criminal and Epidemiological Investigation Handbook

Source: https://www.rkb.us/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=293955

Criminal and Epidemiological Investigation Handbook, 2011 Edition



Publisher: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Edition: 2011
Sponsoring Agency: FBI and CDC
Pages: 57

Description

This handbook has been developed to facilitate the use of resources and to maximize communication and interaction among law enforcement and public health officials in an effort to minimize potential barriers to communication and information sharing during a bioterrorism incident. The purpose of this handbook is to:

- Provide an overview of criminal and epidemiological investigational procedures and methodologies for a response to a bioterrorism incident,
- Enhance the appreciation and understanding of each discipline's expertise by all parties, and
- Identify challenges to sharing information and provide potential solutions that may be adapted to meet the needs of the various agencies and jurisdictions throughout the United States.

► **Read the handbook at:**
http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/terrorism/wmd/criminal-and-epidemiological-investigation-handbook

Remote-controlled cockroaches to help in search-and-rescue missions

Source: http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130627-remotecontrolled-cockroaches-to-help-in-searchandrescue-missions

North Carolina State University researchers are using video game technology to remotely control cockroaches on autopilot, with a computer steering the cockroach through a controlled environment. The researchers are using the technology to track how roaches respond to the remote control, with the goal of developing ways that roaches on autopilot can be used to map dynamic environments — such as collapsed buildings.

A North Carolina State release reports that the researchers have incorporated Microsoft's motion-sensing Kinect system into an electronic interface developed at NC State that can remotely control cockroaches.

The researchers plug in a digitally plotted path for the roach, and use Kinect to identify and track the insect's progress. The

program then uses the Kinect tracking data to automatically steer the roach along the desired path.

The program also uses Kinect to collect data on how the roaches respond to the electrical impulses from the remote-control interface. This data will help the researchers fine-tune the steering parameters needed to control the roaches more precisely.

"Our goal is to be able to guide these roaches as efficiently as possible, and our work with Kinect is helping us do that," says Dr. Alper Bozkurt, an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at NC State and co-author of a paper on the work.

"We want to build on this program, incorporating mapping and radio frequency techniques that will allow us to use a small group of cockroaches to explore and map disaster sites," Bozkurt says. "The autopilot program would control the roaches, sending them on the most efficient routes to provide rescuers with a comprehensive view of the situation."

The roaches would also be equipped with sensors, such as microphones, to detect survivors in collapsed buildings or other disaster areas. "We may even be able to attach small speakers, which would allow rescuers to communicate with anyone who is trapped," Bozkurt says.

Bozkurt's team had previously developed the technology that would allow users to steer cockroaches remotely, but the use of Kinect to develop an autopilot program and track the precise response of roaches to electrical impulses is new.

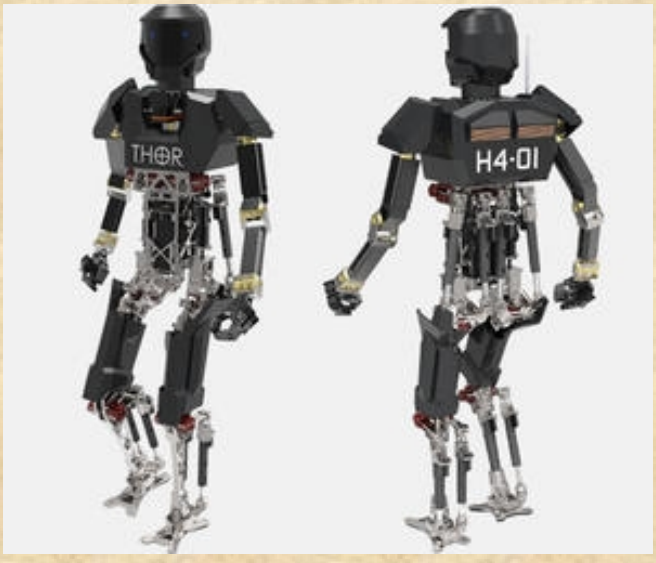
The interface that controls the roach is wired to the roach's antennae and cerci. The cerci are sensory organs on the roach's abdomen, which are normally used to detect movement in the air that could indicate a predator is approaching — causing the roach to scurry away. But the researchers use the wires attached to the cerci to spur the roach into motion. The wires attached to the antennae send small charges that trick the roach into thinking the antennae are in contact with a barrier and steering them in the opposite direction.

The research was supported by the National Science Foundation.

— Read more in Eric Whitmire et al., "Kinect-based System for Automated Control of Terrestrial Insect Biobots" (paper to be presented at the 35th Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, Osaka, Japan, 4 July 2013)

Robots to assist humans in mitigating, recovering from future natural and man-made disasters

Source: http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130627-robots-to-assist-humans-in-mitigating-recovering-from-future-natural-and-manmade-disasters



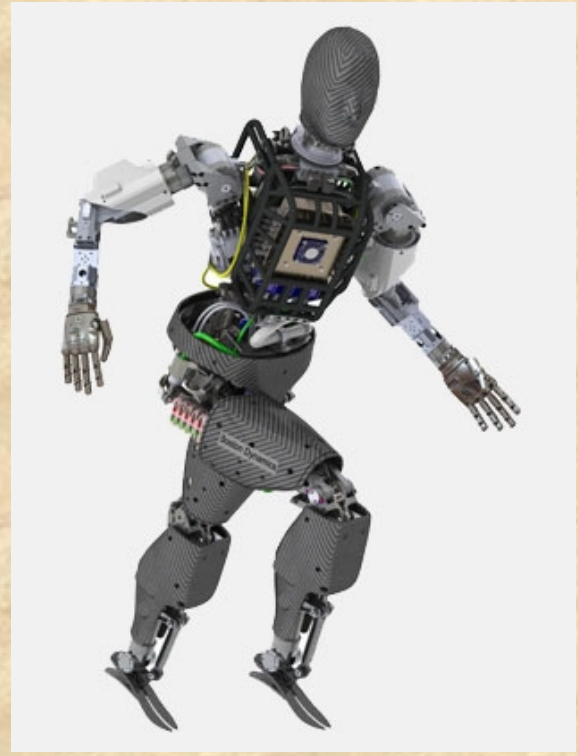
The goal of DARPA Robotics Challenge (DRC) is spur development of advanced robots that can assist humans in mitigating and recovering from future natural and man-made disasters. Seven teams will receive DARPA support to compete with an ATLAS Robot in 2013.

The DARPA Robotics Challenge (DRC) was created with a clear vision: spur development of advanced robots that can assist humans in mitigating and recovering from future natural and man-made disasters.

Disasters evoke powerful, physical images of destruction, yet the first event of the DRC was a

software competition carried out in a virtual environment that looked like an obstacle course set in a suburban area. That setting was the first proving ground for testing software that might control successful disaster response robots, and it was the world's first view into the DARPA Robotics Challenge Simulator, an open-source platform that could revolutionize robotics development.

A DARPA release reports that disaster response robots require multiple layers of



software to explore and interact with their environments, use tools, maintain balance, and communicate with human operators. In the Virtual Robotics Challenge (VRC), competing teams applied software of their own design to a simulated robot in an attempt to complete a series of tasks that are prerequisites for more complex activities.

Twenty-six teams from eight countries qualified to compete in the VRC, which ran from 17-21 June 2013. DARPA had allocated resources for the six teams that did best, but in an interesting twist, good sportsmanship and generosity will allow members of the top nine teams, listed below, to move forward:

1. Team IHMC, Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Pensacola, Fla. (52 points)
2. WPI Robotics Engineering C Squad (WRECS), Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Mass. (39 points)
3. MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. (34 points)
4. Team TRACLabs, TRACLabs, Inc., Webster, Texas (30 points)
5. JPL / UCSB / Caltech, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif. (29 points)
6. TORC, TORC / TU Darmstadt / Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va. (27 points)
7. Team K, Japan (25 points)
8. TROOPER, Lockheed Martin, Cherry Hill, N.J.(24 points)
9. Case Western University, Cleveland, Ohio (23 points)

The top six teams earned funding and an ATLAS robots from DARPA to compete in the DRC Trials in December 2013 (DARPA is also funding several other "Track A" teams to construct their own robot and compete in the Trials). The Trials are the second of three DRC events, and the first physical competition.

The release notes that in a demonstration of good sportsmanship, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which also has a DARPA-funded Track A effort with its own robot, decided to merge its two efforts and offer the bulk of the resources it earned in the VRC to other teams. DARPA split the freed resources between the next two teams:

- The robot associated with the JPL win and some funding now goes to TROOPER (Lockheed Martin).
- Additional funds are being allocated to a newly formed team of Team K and Case Western. That team, now known as HKU, will use an ATLAS robot generously donated to it by Hong Kong University to participate in the DRC Trials in December.

Thus, in total, seven teams with ATLAS robots and DARPA support will be going to the DRC Trials, where they will compete with other teams with their own robots.

VRC teams were evaluated based on task completion and effective operator control of the robots in five simulated runs for each of three tasks (15 total timed runs) that addressed robot perception, manipulation and locomotion. The tasks included: entering, driving and exiting a utility vehicle; walking across muddy, uneven and rubble-strewn terrain; and attaching a hose connector to a spigot, then turning a nearby valve. To simulate communications limitations in a disaster zone, the VRC imposed a round trip latency of 500 milliseconds on data

transmission, and varied the total number of communications bits available in each run, from a high of 900 megabits down to sixty megabits.

To conduct the VRC, DARPA funded the Open Source Robotics Foundation to develop a cloud-based simulator that calculates and displays the physical and sensory behaviors of robots in a three-dimensional virtual space, in real time. The simulator allowed teams to send commands and receive data over the Internet to and from a simulated ATLAS robot — information very similar to what would be sent between a physical robot and its operator in the real world.

"The VRC and the DARPA Simulator allowed us to open the field for the DARPA Robotics Challenge beyond hardware to include experts in robotic software. Integrating both skill sets is vital to the long-term feasibility of robots for disaster response," said Gill Pratt, DRC program manager. "The Virtual Robotics Challenge itself was also a great technical accomplishment, as we have now tested and provided an open-source simulation platform that has the potential to catalyze the robotics and electro-mechanical systems industries by lowering costs to create low-volume, highly complex systems."

New firefighter breathing equipment test goes into effect 1 September

Source: http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130627-new-firefighter-breathing-equipment-test-goes-into-effect-1-september

As of 1 September 2013, standard firefighter breathing equipment cannot be certified to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards unless the facepiece lenses pass a new rigorous test developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

The NIST-developed test is designed to reduce the degradation and possible failure of the facepiece lens in self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) under high-heat firefighting conditions. NFPA incorporated the NIST test into the 2013 update of its standard for SCBA units (see NFPA 1981: Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services).

A NIST release reports that the 2013 version of NFPA's 1981 standard, published in January, 2013, contains a new "Elevated Temperature Heat and Flame Resistance Test" that exposes the SCBA to 500 °F (260 °C) for five minutes in an oven. This test is followed by ten seconds of direct flame contact.

In addition, the new version contains a new "Lens Radiant Heat Test" that subjects the SCBA facepieces to a radiant heat flux of 15 kilowatts per square meter (kW/m2) for five minutes. As part of this test, the facepiece is required to maintain an air supply (positive pressure) inside the mask for a total of twenty-four minutes.

Typical fire-fighter breathing apparatus damaged in NIST tests shows facepiece warping under high heats.

In controlled experiments (see NIST Study of Hazard to Firefighters Leads to Safety Alert; and Thermal Performance of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Facepiece Lenses Exposed to Radiant Heat Flux [NIST Technical Note 1785, February 2013]), NIST researchers determined that an incident radiant heat flux of 15 kW/m2

would be a representative test criterion for determining the performance of SCBA facepiece lenses. It is representative of the flux experienced by firefighters approaching the onset of the deadly phenomenon known as flashover, a state of total surface involvement in a fire of combustible material within an enclosure. Also, the researchers found that measuring internal facepiece pressure was indicative of when holes formed and the effect of holes on firefighter air-supply duration and breathing protection.

The new test and test conditions are important advances in improving the performance of what has been, perhaps, the most vulnerable component of a firefighter's protective gear in high-heat conditions.

Failure of a lens can expose a firefighter to toxic gases and can result in burns to the respiratory tract as well as asphyxiation. Documented problems include holes and extensive crazing as well as bubbling and deforming of lenses.

In several SCBA-related deaths, degraded masks were found affixed to the faces of victims who suffered thermal burns to their airways.

The release notes that in the United States, SCBA makers submit their products for certification testing before they are sold. Until 31 August 2013, compliance to NFPA standards only requires passing a less severe "heat and flame test," specified in the 2007 version of NFPA 1981 and retained, with the new NIST test, in the recent update.

NIST experiments conducted during development of the new facepiece-lens test were supported, in part, by the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and the United States Fire Administration. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Fire Fighter Fatality and Injury Prevention Program played a critical role in identifying the lens degradation issue.

— Read more in NFPA 1981: Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services; NIST Study of Hazard to Firefighters Leads to Safety Alert; and Thermal Performance of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Facepiece Lenses Exposed to Radiant Heat Flux (NIST Technical Note 1785, February 2013)

Moulage Concepts: "Bridging the Gap" in Simulated Training Exercises

By Bobbie Merica

How good are you at pretending, at engaging and play acting? If you were instructed to care for a simulated victim with a patient profile card that read "hemorrhaging gunshot wound" or "open pneumothorax" could you see in your mind? Would your pulse instinctively quicken at the thought of congealed blood pooling around the victim or bloody froth at the chest wound entry

point, bubbling with each exhalation? Working instinctively, would you begin putting pressure on imaginary wounds and shouting out orders,

adrenaline building, propelling you into what you have been trained to do-save a life. If you had never experienced these two medical emergencies and I asked you to pretend in your scenario that your victim had them, could you do it?

Moulage-What is it? French for casting or molding, moulage is the art of applying life-like injuries to assist in providing realism, training techniques and shock desensitization to first responders, military, medical staff, veterinarians and youth education groups alike. Moulage may be as simple as applying pre-made rubber or latex molds or as complex as using advanced three-dimensional interactive wounds, makeup and theatre techniques to provide elements of authenticity to the training scenario-incorporating wounds such as impaled objects, crush injuries, 4th degree burns and blisters that rupture when improperly handled. The addition of moulage supports the sensory perception in a training exercise; assisting the responder in confirming the physical signs that support the diagnosis, enabling discovery of data pertinent to assess patient status, and teaches responders how to gather information relevant to the correct treatment —all of which increases knowledge and performance in response time, evaluation clues, critical thinking, realism and sensory engagement.

Medical Moulage -How to Make Your Simulations Come Alive, 2011

The addition of Moulage creates realistic field training exercises that mimic responder and victim situational responses that are specialized to training outcomes including:

- Pediatric specific field triage
- Elderly & immune-compromised
- Pathologic patient conditions
- Veterinarians
- Wound identification and closure

Moulage, when integrated into the simulated exercise creates a powerful training modality that enhances live actor and human patient simulator events. The use of interactive, odorous, three-dimensional wounds such as hemorrhages, wound debridement, suturing capabilities, decontamination and realistic triage heightens the field experience by providing enhanced assessment, injury recognition, supportive decision making, realism, retention and stress inoculation.

Success does not consist in never making mistakes but in never making the same one a second time.

George Bernard Shaw

Another reason to add moulage the training sceanrio: Current research estimates anywhere from 50-90% of all communication is non-verbal, thus proper assessment, triage, acuity and training is often dependant on accurate use of 4 of the 5 senses; that which can be seen, felt, heard and even smelled. The addition of moulage highlights areas for growth by assisting the team in identifying shortfalls in current patient coding, acuity levels and wound staging based on individual and team assessment. Additionally, skilled use of primary and accessory moulage can illuminate areas for risk reduction through quality advancement identifiers such as highlighting strengths and weaknesses involving wound recognition, stabilization, standardization and triage management on both an individual and team building events. The use of moulage to the training paradigm can provide life-saving exposure of system vulnerabilities creating a segue between multiple responders, systems and triage points.

An expert is a man who has made all the mistakes which can be made, in a narrow field.

Niels Bohr

The use of interactive moulage will provide training opportunities that highlight field hazards to both patient and responder including prevention and management of secondary and transport related injuries such as:

- eviscerations, dislodged impaled objects and compromised burn care from ruptured blisters during transport
- scene safety including primary and collateral injuries related to chemical, hazard and biological events
- initial, cross-contamination and exposure related injuries
- primary and tributary environmental related injuries including smoke/gas inhalation, equipment failure and system breakdowns
- enhances injury recognition and accurate categorization of wound severity, staging, associated risks and complications due to progression and patient deterioration while in the field

To Moulage or not to Moulage, there is no question.

Lance Bailey- HealthySimulation

Moulage-Are you ready to take your training to the next level?

I hope after reading this article you agree that the use of moulage techniques has the power to authenticate the field experience, taking your simulated training exercise to the next level. While you can read about injury processes in books and study symptoms in theory, you cannot fully understand that which you do not already know or experience..... It is the interpretation of what is seen, felt, heard, and smelled that allows the responder to pull together critical data and integrate this knowledge into their assessment, response and care plan, but more importantly, the interactive experience sears this knowledge into the brain enabling responders, teams and systems to recall and utilize this data to expand on future training experiences.

So let's work together to "Bridge the Gap" and create powerful training modalities that engage all the senses and provide realistic scenario storylines.

Moulage Concepts – Creating training scenarios that look, feel, sound and smell like the real thing.

Bobbie Merica, Author/Business Owner
Simulation Coordinator/Consultant
www.moulageconcepts.com

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Dubai Police is rapidly becoming a techno-force

Source: http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/crime/dubai-police-is-rapidly-becoming-a-techno-force-1.1203150

Police and military officers or new cadets can use virtual law enforcement training as an excellent resource for simulating real-world situations where quick thinking and precise actions are required.

The officers are playing "serious games" that digitally rebuild real crime and accident scenes from the city onto a computer screen. It could be a celebrity murder, jewellery shop robbery or a massive car crash, the police force's virtual training and crime scene reconstruction sections put cadets in the middle of the action. The games use actual case details like photographs, security camera footage, documents — plus three-dimensional scans of rooms or streets — to create life-like virtual worlds where cadets can "walk around" and uncover evidence.

Crime scene

"You cannot always place trainees at the scene because of safety issues, environmental concerns or security reasons so we are making police force learn how to deal with potential crime scene situations with virtual technology testing officers in the virtual world helps them overcome routine mistakes," said Lieutenant Colonel Dr Ahmad Bin Subaih, head of the Virtual Application Development Centre at The General Department of Human Resources at Dubai Police. "These games help trainees to make the transition to real-life situations," he said.

Gaming also lets them make mistakes which can otherwise be costly in the real world, he added. Besides their own instincts, players can use many tools. They can use measuring tape to size up car skid marks; snap pictures of impact points; collect samples like glass pieces for lab tests; use flash lights and even call a police operations room. "Their performance is tracked. We can play back [the episode] and view it in 3D, zoom in or enter the game at any point," he said.

He added: "We create digital facial reconstructions based on remains of skulls," said Dr Bin Subaih. He added that more importantly, the progress of individual cadets can be tracked from initial intake to graduation, meaning cadets who fall short in one area can brush up on their policing skills before they receive their first real-world call.

Virtual tracking also helps the police department zero in on officers with particular skill sets, easing the difficulty of

specialisation. By looking at cadets who consistently score at the top of their class in certain virtual world programs and comparing those results to real-world testing, departments could easily develop a promising cadet into a specialist.

"We are mating learning context to on-the-job performance," said Dr Bin Subaih.

"The idea of virtual training started on how to train traffic police on traffic accident investigation and then the idea developed and now we have training from Dubai Police, Ministry of Interior, Armed Forces and even from law enforcements in other countries," he said.

He said all and every thing about virtual training is done at our laboratories at the VADC.

"We use real crimes that happened one day and we reconstruct the crime scene to train police on it," he said. He said also school children and universities visit the centre for leaning and training.

"We have every day training sessions attended by more than 20 to 50 trainees," he said. He said this centre is the first of its kind in the region in developing games for purpose of training with in-house game development studio.

The centre is specialised in developing games and animated videos for training police and armed forces and also for raining public's awareness.

The VADC established in 2008 as a small section before it is turned to be a department in 2010.

"The centre has great responsibility in applying not only the latest technological trends and the highest standards of development quality in order to face the security challenges in this region and in the world but also to develop games to help create a technological infrastructure for providing training and awareness. It aspires to do that through the use of virtual environment in order to provide a safe and practical environment to support the currently used approaches, such as the theoretical and practical approach to bridge the gap between theory and practice," he said.

Device Using Low-Power Wi-Fi Signal Offers 'X-Ray Vision' With Potential Applications In Disaster Recovery, Personal Safety, Gaming

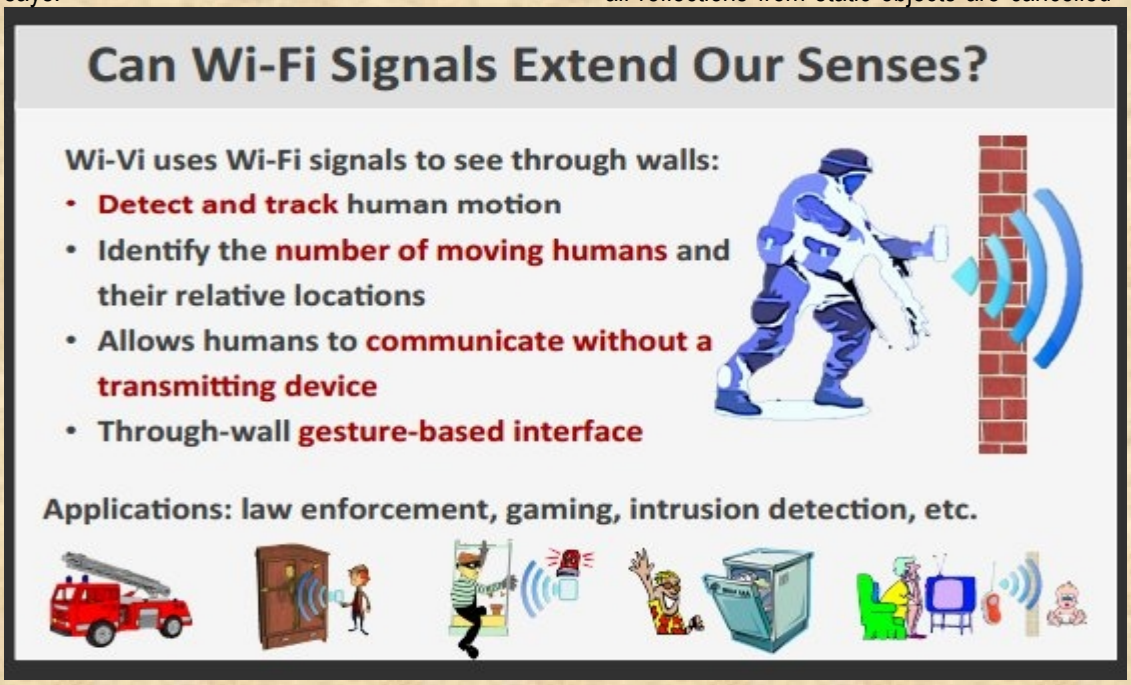
Source: http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/262703.php

The comic-book hero Superman uses his X-ray vision to spot bad guys lurking behind walls and other objects. Now we could all have X-ray vision, thanks to researchers at MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

Researchers have long attempted to build a device capable of seeing people through walls. However, previous efforts to develop such a system have involved the use of expensive and bulky radar technology that uses a part of the electromagnetic spectrum only available to the military.

Now a system being developed by Dina Katabi, a professor in MIT's Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and her graduate student Fadel Adib, could give all of us the ability to spot people in different rooms using low-cost Wi-

Fi technology. "We wanted to create a device that is low-power, portable and simple enough for anyone to use, to give people the ability to see through walls and closed doors," Katabi says.



The system, called **"Wi-Vi,"** is based on a concept similar to radar and sonar imaging. But in contrast to radar and sonar, it transmits a low-power Wi-Fi signal and uses its reflections to track moving humans. It can do so even if the humans are in closed rooms or hiding behind a wall.

As a Wi-Fi signal is transmitted at a wall, a portion of the signal penetrates through it, reflecting off any humans on the other side. However, only a tiny fraction of the signal makes it through to the other room, with the rest being reflected by the wall, or by other objects. "So we had to come up with a technology that could cancel out all these other reflections, and keep only those from the moving human body," Katabi says.

Motion detector

To do this, the system uses two transmit antennas and a single receiver. The two antennas transmit almost identical signals, except that the signal from the second receiver is the inverse of the first. As a result, the two signals interfere with each other in such a way as to cancel each other out. Since any static objects that the signals hit - including the wall - create identical reflections, they too are cancelled out by this nulling effect.

In this way, only those reflections that change between the two signals, such as those from a moving object, arrive back at the receiver, Adib says. "So, if the person moves behind the wall, all reflections from static objects are cancelled out, and the only thing registered by the device is the moving human."

Once the system has cancelled out all of the reflections from static objects, it can then concentrate on tracking the person as he or she moves around the room. Most previous attempts to track moving targets through walls have done so using an array of spaced antennas, which each capture the signal reflected off a person moving through the environment. But this would be too expensive and bulky for use in a handheld device.

So instead Wi-Vi uses just one receiver. As the person moves through the room, his or her distance from the receiver changes, meaning the time it takes for the reflected signal to make its way back to the receiver changes too. The system then uses this information to calculate where the person is at any one time.

Possible uses in disaster recovery, personal safety, gaming

Wi-Vi, being presented at the Sigcomm conference in Hong Kong in August, could be used to help search-and-rescue teams to find survivors trapped in rubble after an earthquake, say, or to allow police officers to identify the number and movement of

criminals within a building to avoid walking into an ambush.

It could also be used as a personal safety device, Katabi says: "If you are walking at night and you have the feeling that someone is following you, then you could use it to check if there is someone behind the fence or behind a corner."

The device can also detect gestures or movements by a person standing behind a wall, such as a wave of the arm, Katabi says. This would allow it to be used as a gesture-based interface for controlling lighting or appliances within the home, such as turning off the lights in another room with a wave of the arm.

Unlike today's interactive gaming devices, where users must stay in front of the console and its camera at all times, users could still interact with the system while in another room, for example. This could open up the possibility of more complex and interesting games, Katabi says.

Hardline Islamists ban booze and music

STREET PATROL: Muslim convert Jamaal Uddin puts up Sharia stickers in East London

SHARIAH CONTROLLED ZONE

SHARIA LAW HITS THE UK

HARDCORE Islamists have vowed to ban booze and mixing between the sexes in new Sharia law enforcement zones across the UK.

The move will see specific areas flooded with thousands of stickers saying "no gambling", "no music or concerts", "no porn or prostitution" and "no drugs or smoking".

The posters declare: "You are entering a Sharia controlled zone – Islamic rules enforced."

The radicals will kick off their controlled zones in the London borough of Waltham Forest later this month.

They also claim their hardline rules will be policed by thousands of "Sharia cops" on the streets.

Preacher Anjem Choudary has called the scheme an alternative to government attempts to combat violent extremism under the Prevent strategy.

Last night the former al-Muhajiroun and Islam4UK leader warned: "The Prevent strategy introduced by Theresa May is going to be countered in the next couple of weeks beginning in Waltham Forest where there will be a Sharia-controlled zone sticker campaign.

"This will mean this is an area where the Muslim community will not tolerate drugs, alcohol, pornography, gambling, usury, free mixing between the sexes – the fruits if you like of Western civilisation.

"This will be a very heavy leafleting campaign aimed at both the Muslim and non-Muslim community in terms of what the Sharia means economically, socially and politically.

"Waltham Forest, including Walthamstow and Leyton, will also be targeted with a march.

"We want to run the area as a Sharia-controlled zone and really to put the seeds down for an Islamic Emirate in the long term.

"We want to create an area where Muslims can live together, make transactions with each other, and interact between themselves rather than with the wider community."

The ex-lawyer added: "There are 25 areas around the country which the Government has earmarked as areas where violent extremism is a problem.

"We are going to go to all these same areas and implement our own Sharia-controlled zones.

"This is the best way for dealing with drunkenness and loutishness, prostitution and the sort of thug life attitude you get in British cities.

"We live among the non-Muslims but we have to distinguish ourselves from them."

In May we told how Choudary had announced plans to set up teams of Islamic "Guardian Angels" to help implement Sharia law across the UK. He reckoned the "Sharia cops" would do a better job of policing Muslim areas than traditional officers.

Choudary said: "We now have hundreds if not thousands of people up and down the country willing to go out and patrol the streets for us and a print run of between 10,000 and 50,000 stickers ready for distribution."

Last night Jamaal Uddin, 17, was pictured putting up Sharia controlled zone stickers in Walthamstow.

The Muslims Against Crusades member, who said he "embraced Islam" 11 months ago said: "Allah has told us alcohol, drugs, pornography, music and concerts are all forbidden under Islam.

"That is why it is our duty to go out and spread his word among Muslims and the wider community."

by DOMINIK LEMANSKI
dominik.lemanski@dailystar.co.uk

Pictures: DAVID NEW

Providing Security for High-Speed Rail

By William Rooney

Source:http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/Infrastructure/Transportation/Providing_Security_for_High-Speed_Rail/

Although undoubtedly confusing to those persons trying to learn English as a second language, one often hears the expression that, "There is an elephant in the room that no one is talking about" – i.e., a topic or issue so obvious that it cries out to be addressed but is often ignored for one reason or another. The "elephant in the room" in most if not all current discussions about high-speed rail (HSR) projects in the United States is "security."

Until now, in fact, most discussions about HSR projects have centered on such political and/or financial/economic questions as the following: What is or should be the role of the U.S. government in facilitating the building of the first HSR system in the United States? What is or should be the role of the private sector? What will be the "hand-off costs" to U.S. taxpayers to maintain the HSR system? What will be the real economic benefit to travelers?

Similar discussion points about affordability, spending priorities, and the long-range impact on modernizing the national transportation system infrastructure also have been raised. Regrettably, most of these discussions seem to be increasingly politicized as debates continue to focus primarily on the growing U.S. deficit, the spending priorities at all levels of government, calls for additional tax revenues and/or spending cuts, and – last but not least – the need to modernize the overall U.S. transportation system.

The Question Not Asked: What About Security?

It is of critical importance that security be included in the earliest stages of HSR planning and design. Ignoring security as an essential ingredient in mission planning could lead to fatal flaws in future HSR prospects throughout the United States. Nonetheless, current ongoing HSR discussions – in California, Texas, and Illinois – seem to focus primarily, and predictably, on such questions as the following: Who benefits? Who pays? Is this a budget necessity? Do taxes go up? Who builds the system? Is it a spending boondoggle? Is it affordable? And where does it fit in the overall list of spending priorities? Considering the fact that there are significant disagreements in all three of those states on what are or should be the answers to these and other questions, it is not surprising that security discussions have been put on the back burner.

As was true in the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers and on the Pentagon – well-known iconic symbols – a new HSR system established anywhere in the country would, if only for propaganda reasons, certainly become another prime target for terrorists. For one thing, a successful attack on such an important transportation icon would send a worldwide message about the possible vulnerability of the nation as a whole.

U.S. decision makers, planners, engineers, and project architects should never overlook the fact that a unique new U.S. transportation system of the type contemplated would almost certainly be high on the targeting screen of would-be terrorists. And it would be different in many respects from many other potential targets, including the fact that the primary purpose in

building it would be to provide much faster transportation.

With time being of the essence, delays of any kind would not only be counterproductive and self-defeating, but also would have to be avoided whenever possible; after all, most HSR passengers would be in a hurry and scheduling would be tight. For both of those reasons, there probably would be minimal time-delaying security procedures and/or passenger screenings aimed at spotting persons who might be in the early stages of "casing" a target by looking for various vulnerabilities and design weaknesses.

Even so, with boarding protocols at a minimum, the HSR train itself could be the terrorists' highest value target; one that, if attacked while moving at high speed, would assure a great number of deaths, graphic publicity, and a psychological shockwave throughout the nation and around the world. Such a disaster could have a tsunami-scale ripple effect – opening a floodgate of liability claims, as well as congressional inquiries on security lapses, and planning failures. In short, just one deadly setback might conceivably bring the entire system to a screeching halt.

Discussion Points & System Vulnerabilities

Clearly, planning and maintaining security for any HSR project involves significant risks with no guarantee of success. Nonetheless, the U.S. security business, considered as a whole, is preparing and planning to reduce those risks, protect the public, detect and deter criminal activity, and avoid corporate catastrophe.

To actually do all that, however, the security business must be in on the ground floor of discussions about mission design, engineering, and corporate planning. Among the more obvious security issues that could be discussed in these first stages of planning and design are the following:

- The installation and use of camera systems both in train stations and on the trains themselves;
- The protection of "designated" right of ways;
- The installation and use of intrusion-detection alarm systems, specifically including systems monitoring the detection of various chemicals;
- The plans and procedures needed to train and use bomb-sniffing dogs;
- The emergency planning required to ensure a quick and effective response from first responders;
- The law enforcement protocols required: (a) to detect and deter terrorist activities; and (b) to legally authorize requests for personal identification and/or the inspection of backpacks,

attaché cases, and other carry-on packages; and

- The assignment of management responsibility for such high-level tasks as the development and use of emergency-alert procedures, evacuation planning, crisis management, and public affairs strategy.

Learning From Others to Create a Global Showcase

Wherever and whenever the first U.S. HSR system is established, it will be a "showcase" project that would be viewed by at least some terrorist groups as another opportunity to send a message to U.S. citizens, government, and allies throughout the world. Fortunately, there is much more that still can be done during the preliminary discussions and decision-making processes to fit security into the design and development stages of HSR planning.

A number of U.S. allies – Japan, Taiwan, Spain, Germany, Italy, South Korea, China, and the United Kingdom, for example – are already running successful HSR systems, and have been doing so for years. Many lessons can be learned by inviting representatives from those nations to attend a summit-level U.S. HSR security conference and to share, behind closed doors, the security methods and systems that have worked successfully in the past. There is much that the United States would gain by comparing notes and hosting such a high-level dialogue.

Similar efforts at previous passenger rail international conferences have proved to be highly valuable. Learning what is working in other systems would help the United States to adapt and adopt accordingly, thus saving money, improving defenses, protecting U.S. citizens (and visitors from other nations), and anchoring the current project designs.

At the end of these and other efforts, HSR security planning may still have the outward appearance of a relatively "small footprint," but behind the scenes will actually represent a highly sophisticated and effective strategic plan. Whatever else happens, security must ultimately be a strong and sturdy "pillar" in the design foundation for *any* HSR project. In short, it is not too early to start talking about security. In fact, given the size of this rather large and sometimes clumsy elephant in an already crowded room, it is becoming increasingly difficult, and now probably impossible, to ignore it.

William Rooney *retired from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) after a 35-year career as a senior executive and field operations officer, which included assignment to various key posts in the CIA's Directorate of Operations. Most recently, he served as the chief of the Military and Special Programs Division, and as chief of the Latin American Division. He also received a number of awards, including a Distinguished Career Medal and the Donovan Award. After retiring from the CIA, he worked for a number of years at Amtrak, where his last position was Vice President for Security. He is the author of a fictional novel, entitled "Repeat: Whiskey Tango Foxtrot."*

Abbotsford police take in military missile during weapons amnesty

Source:http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Abbotsford+police+take+military+missile+during+weapons+amnesty/8613182/story.html

Abbotsford Police were called out to deal with a weapon of mass destruction during the gun amnesty campaign last month.

A resident called up police and asked officers to come by and retrieve a five-foot long missile located at their home.

The APD, along with police departments across the province, were collecting unauthorized or unwanted guns or weapons in June to reduce the number of firearms within communities and the danger they might find their way into the criminal market.

While all sorts of weapons are turned in, a missile is little out of the ordinary, said Const. Ian MacDonald.

The military rocket was jet black with a red nose tip.

"I'm not sure what type it is or how it was launched," he said.

"I don't know if it is supposed to be shot from an airplane or what."
The resident came into possession of the military souvenir about a decade ago from a relative who was a former member of the military.
"That family member acquired the missile while deployed overseas," said MacDonald.
"Although you have to wonder how he got that home."
Officers were called out to verify the object was indeed a missile, and to take custody of weapon, he said.

The APD contacted the Canadian Forces, which sent personnel out to retrieve and transport the weapon safely.
The missile isn't the only military armament taken in by the APD.
In 2011, a family turned over a rocket launcher and cache of guns to the APD.
The family had also inherited the functional 1970s-era combat weapon after the death of a relative who collected firearms and military artifacts
"The rocket launcher was a surprise but a missile is even bigger," said MacDonald.
Along with the rocket, during the amnesty APD also gathered seven pistols, six shotguns, 27 rifles as well as a quantity of ammunition, knives and various martial arts weapons.

New issue of Defense and Security ALERT (India)

Source: http://www.dsalert.org/assertive-china-and-crpf-for-internal-security

Main articles:

The Anatomy of an Intrusion

Author: Lt Gen Gautam Banerjee PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd)

The Chinese Intrusion in Ladakh hit the international headlines and generated national outrage. Speculations are afloat as to what made China do what she did. These aspects must cover the military significance of the time and place of the intrusion, the extent to which the PLA is likely to have prepared before moving the platoon to occupy a spot across the LAC and how might the situation have unfolded, had the Chinese not relented.

Sino-Indian Relations: Shifting Sands or an Enduring Mirage?

Author: Lt Gen Sudhir Sharma PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VSM (Retd)

While USA woos us and seeks us as a

reliable strategic partner, we should be wary of being used to counterbalance an assertive China. It is not in our national interest to treat or perceive China as our enemy nor is it advisable to let our guard down.

Central Reserve Police Force: Staunch Sentinels

Author: Pankaj Kumar Singh IPS

With a strength of 230 battalions the CRPF is the largest Central Armed Police Force in India. It was raised in the year 1931 and has now been designated as the main counter-insurgency force for the country. The force has a deployment of almost 60 Bns in Jammu and Kashmir, 35 Bns in NE and almost 75 Bns in the LWE-affected areas

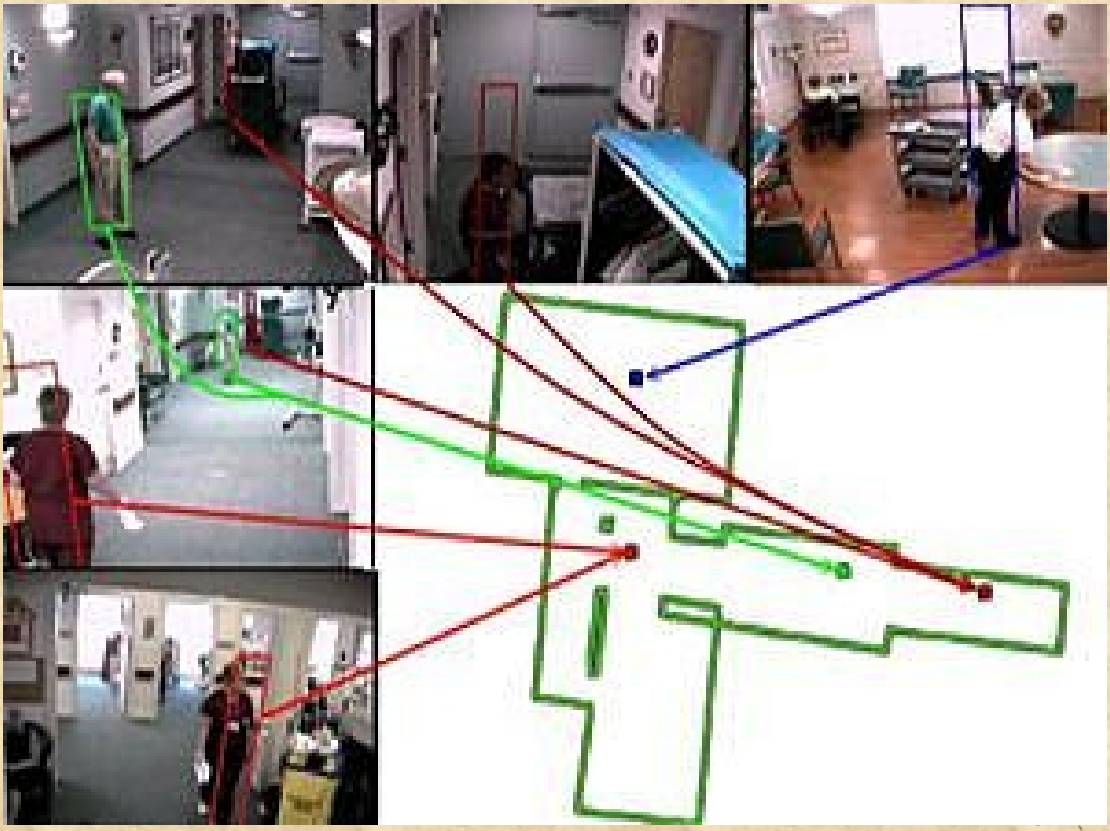
India's Submarine Fleet: A Dwindling Force

Author: Cmde S Govind (Retd)

Submarines, with their second strike capability as well as the ability to operate in unfriendly waters covertly, form a vital component in any nation's arsenal. Since the mid-1990s, the PRC has emphasised the submarine force as one of the primary thrusts of its military modernisation efforts. It is estimated that due to this focused approach, the Chinese have been producing and commissioning more than 2 submarines on an average per year.

Optical tracking of people in indoor areas developed by Carnegie Mellon

Source:http://i-hls.com/2013/07/optical-tracking-of-people-in-indoor-areas-developed-by-carnegie-mellon/?utm_source=activetrail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=English%20Newsletter%2010/7/2013



Tracking method developed by CMU researchers automatically follows the movements of people within a nursing home (pictured above) using cues such as apparel color, person detection, trajectory and facial recognition.

Researchers at Carnegie Mellon University have developed a method for tracking the locations of multiple individuals in complex, indoor settings using a network of video cameras. Multi-camera, multi-object tracking has been an active field of research for a decade, but automated techniques have only focused on well-controlled lab environments. The Carnegie Mellon team, by contrast, proved their technique with actual residents and employees in a nursing facility — with camera views compromised by long hallways, doorways, people mingling in the hallways, variations in lighting and too few cameras to provide comprehensive, overlapping views.

According to Science Daily, the performance of the Carnegie Mellon algorithm significantly improved on two of the leading algorithms in multi-camera, multi-object tracking. It located individuals within one meter of their actual position 88 percent of the time, compared with 35 percent and 56 percent for the other algorithms.

The researchers — Alexander Hauptmann, principal systems scientist in the Computer Science Department (CSD); Shoou-I Yu, a Ph.D. student in the Language Technologies Institute; and Yi Yang, a CSD post-doctoral researcher — will present their findings June 27 at the Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Conference in Portland, Ore.

Face detection helps immensely in re-identifying individuals on different cameras. But Yang noted that faces can be recognized in less than 10 percent of the video frames. So the researchers developed mathematical models that enabled them to combine information, such as appearance, facial recognition and motion trajectories.

Using all of the information is key to the tracking process, but Yu said facial recognition proved to be the greatest help. When the researchers removed facial recognition information from the mix, their on-track performance in the nursing home data dropped from 88 percent to 58 percent, not much better than one of the existing tracking algorithms.

The nursing home video analyzed by the researchers was recorded in 2005 using 15 cameras; the recordings are just over six minutes long.

Further work will be necessary to extend the technique during longer periods of time and enable real-time monitoring. The researchers also are looking at additional ways to use video to monitor resident activity while preserving privacy, such as by only recording the outlines of people together with distance information from depth cameras similar to the Microsoft Kinect.

CIA copied, employed "Q"-developed 007 outlandish gadgets

Source: http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130716-cia-copied-employed-q-developed-007-outlandish-gadgets

The real-life CIA copied outlandish gadgets from *Goldfinger* and *From Russia with Love*, according to a University of Warwick analysis of declassified letters and interviews revealing the bond between Ian Fleming and Allen Dulles.

The relationship between the former CIA director and the spy thriller writer, however, went far deeper than raiding the novels for technological inspiration.

Through Dulles, the agency actively leaned on the British author to paint it in more positive light at a time when U.S. film-makers, authors, and journalists were silent about the activities of the CIA, fearful to even mention it by name.

A University of Warwick release reports that Dr. Christopher Moran from the University of Warwick has trawled through declassified letters and media reports from the 1950 and 1960s for the study, "Ian Fleming and

the Public Profile of the CIA," published in the *Journal of Cold War Studies*.

He said: "There was a surprising two-way influence between the CIA and the James Bond novels during the Cold War, stemming from the mutual admiration between Allen Dulles and Ian Fleming.

"This ranged from the copying of devices, such as the poison-tipped dagger shoe in *From Russia with Love*, to the agency using the 007

novels to improve its public profile.

"It's even more striking that this was going on at time when mentioning the CIA was strictly off-limits for the US media and cultural establishment, whereas Fleming, as a British author, could say what he liked.

"For a long time, the James Bond books had a monopoly on the CIA's public image and the agency used this to its advantage."

Declassified letters between Allen Dulles and Ian Fleming reveal the former CIA boss's strong affection for the Bond novels — he even persuaded the author not to pension off 007 in 1963.

In a rediscovered 1964 edition of *Life Magazine*, Dulles describes his meeting with the "brilliant and witty" Fleming in London in 1959 where the author told him that the CIA was not doing enough in the area of "special devices."

On his return to the United States, Dulles urged CIA technical staff to replicate as many of Bond's devices as they could.

The article details how the CIA successfully copied Rosa Klebb's infamous spring-loaded poison knife shoe from the film *From Russia with Love*.

It had less luck, however, with the homing beacon device used in *Goldfinger* to track the villain's car — the CIA version had "too many bugs in it," Dulles said, and stopped working when the enemy entered a crowded city.

The release notes that the letters between Dulles and Fleming also show how the CIA tapped into James Bond for public relations support, with the author agreeing to include a number of glowing references to the CIA in his later novels. He did this out of respect for Dulles, a close friend, but the effect was to promote the image of the CIA. In return, Dulles rhapsodized about Fleming in the American press, even saying on one occasion that his organization "could do with a few James Bonds."

Moran said: "The early 007 novels, written in the 1950s, introduce millions of readers to the CIA for the first time through the character of its agent Felix Leiter.

"Although Fleming's portrayal of the CIA is largely favorable, readers are left in no doubt that the British intelligence services are the superior outfit.

"In *Live and Let Die*, for example, Leiter comes across as a bit of a bungler, unable to blend in with the locals and forced to rely on paid informants.

"But in the later books, as the friendship between Dulles and Fleming deepens, a far rosier picture of the CIA emerges.

"For example, in *Thunderball*, Bond's boss "M" dispenses with his characteristic economy of words to speak enthusiastically about the way the CIA is selflessly putting itself in the service of freedom.

"And Allen Dulles is even the subject of several honorable mentions in the later books.

"It really does come across as a bit of a mutual appreciation society."

— Read more in Christopher Moran, "Ian Fleming and the Public Profile of the CIA," Journal of Cold War Studies *15, no. 1 (29 April 2013): 119-46*

Double your money! UK private security as terrorism vector

By Tony Gosling

Source: http://rt.com/op-edge/uk-security-terrorism-finance-256/

A Serco flag is seen flying alongside a Union flag outside Doncaster Prison in northern England (Reuters/Darren Staples)

The widening of the spiral of fear and increasing demand for 'protection' creates an international protection racket cartel, indistinguishable only in that they call themselves 'legal', from organized criminal gangs.

UK security firms Serco and G4S, are described as *'indispensable'* to Britain's criminal justice system, have been overcharging the government by *'tens of millions of pounds'* for criminals who had long finished their sentences or been dead for years.

How many kicks in the teeth, or near misses, can this British Government endure before it sees 21st Century 'terrorism' for what it is? An organized assault on our collective peace and safety with the purpose of spawning real terrorist cells.

Profit led policing

On Thursday 11th July 2013 Conservative Justice Secretary Chris Grayling delivered a progress report to the House of Commons on the privatization of UK Criminal Justice. His voice was trembling as though he himself could neither believe nor bear the consequences of what he was reading.

Two firms, he explained, Serco and G4S, have been overcharging the government by *'tens of millions of pounds'* for electronic tagging of offenders, continuing to charge the taxpayer for criminals who had long finished their sentences and some who had been dead for years.

The same week a London inquest jury delivered its verdict that Angolan deportee Jimmy Mubenga was unlawfully killed while being restrained by G4S guards. His plane was waiting to take off at London's Heathrow airport when he died and a series of racist SMS texts were also found on the G4S guards' phones.

Founded in 2004 G4S employs over 600,000 people in 125 countries with revenue of £7.5bn, making it the world's largest security company. Despite its size G4S appears to have little regard for international law, taking on private prison work in Palestine/Israel which is alleged to contravene Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Transporting prisoners from the occupied territory into the country of the occupier.

Serco and G4S are now so deep into Britain's criminal justice system the Guardian recently described them as *'indispensable'*. Serco manage six prisons including Oakwood 'super-jail' and two immigration removal centres. G4S manage police custody cells, a 999 emergency response service, county control room, police station and court facilities.

Britain's criminal justice system is indeed becoming utterly entangled in the G4S web. The initiative is shifting with immense pressure being put on Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners to sign up to G4S privatization deals which promise to slash budgets. In times of 'austerity' private security firms are getting the whip hand.

Although the *'savings'* may look good, privatizing the criminal justice system moves society closer to the abyss. As the profit motive creeps in and accountability leaves by the side door we may as well dispense with the word *'justice'* entirely. US Judge Mark Ciavarella Jr, for example, was sentenced to 28 years in jail in May 2013's *'kids for cash'* scandal where over 4000 children were given maximum jail terms in exchange for over $2m in bribes from the private firm that ran the jails.

Protection racket cartel

In July 2012 London prepared to host its first Olympics since 1948. But behind the scenes one thing threatened to spoil it for everyone. The main security firm was playing games with the Olympic Committee and the government.

G4S said it was ready, all the risk assessment boxes were ticked and certified. The trouble was they were lying. With only a month to go until the great show got on the road recruitment was nowhere near the numbers required and training was pitiful.

With only three weeks to go the British army saved the day, stepping in with 3,500 soldiers to replace the senior and mid-ranking G4S staff. How that came about is a cautionary tale about private security that was never fully told by the London press.

The world's biggest private security firm G4S had a £300m contract to hire 10,500 staff for the games. They made sure it all looked good for police and Olympic organisers on paper ... but unbeknown to them media savvy G4S trainee Ben Fellows was busy collecting particulars from his G4S classmates about just what a disaster of a *'training operation'* was unfolding around them.

On Friday 22nd June, five weeks before the opening ceremony, Ben sensationally broke cover on my Bristol radio show under the pseudonym *'Lee Hazledean'*. With quotes like *"If a terrorist wants to get into the Olympics all they have to do is queue up"* he detailed the G4S shambles and became an internet sensation, clocking up over 120,000 YouTube views in a little over a week.

But his story presented the London media with a problem: if printed and transmitted tens of thousands of Olympic enthusiasts might stay away. One teenage girl, initially delighted with tickets her parents had bought her, told me after she heard the interview *"I don't want to go the Olympics any more... but I don't know how to tell my mum"*.

Running straight after Fellows' interview Oxford economist & terrorism expert Martin Summers, reminded us lawyer Kurt Haskell spotted the 2009 Underpants bomber being allowed onto the plane without a passport... again by private security.

He also pointed out the alleged 9/11 hijackers boarded the doomed planes in Boston via private security firms. If those attacks are being carried out by a private military company ICTS & G4S could, far from preventing, be the facilitators of terror attacks said Summers.

The next week, on Tuesday 26 June 2012 the Director General of MI5 Jonathan Evans appeared on Channel 4 News. Gone was the "wide open to terror" claim. Security correspondent Simon Israel just repeated Evans' assertion that *"the Olympics Games is not an easy target for terrorists"*.

Except perhaps, Evans said, there may be an Iranian, Syrian or Hezbollah attack. What these countries and factions could hope to gain from bombing the Olympics neither Simon Israel, nor Jonathan Evans, who has since been replaced, attempted to explain.

So Ben Fellows was right because with three weeks to go 3,500 British soldiers were drafted in to take charge and the story of the G4S fiasco dominated national headlines for a week. Now the fix was in the London media were safe.

With less of a fanfare, Israeli President Shimon Peres announced he would no longer be coming to London. He and his staff had been promised special permission to stay in the central athletes only Olympic Village so he wouldn't have to walk far and could observe the Jewish Shabbat. Under the new security regime they would have to stay outside the park like everyone else. You can tell real security, nobody bypasses it.

Security staff hired by multinational firm G4S are briefed a day before the start of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London June 23, 2013. (Reuters/Chris Helgren)

Back in September 2004, private Israeli software firm Verint Systems were granted privileged security access to the London Underground. This was ten months before the 7/7 London bombings.

Verint won a contract to install and operate *'smart'* CCTV. So smart in fact that all the hundreds of expected images of July 2005 alleged bombers getting onto or travelling on the three bombed tube trains were *'lost'*.

So what of this company's bona-fides'? Verint's parent company Comverse Technologies had an embarrassing chairman. Israeli Kobi Alexander fled the US in 2006 and went straight on to the FBI's 'most wanted' list after stealing from his own firm.

Charged on 35 counts he was chased by Wall Street regulators the Security & Exchange Commission (SEC). Finally being run to ground via Germany to Namibia. In 2010 he paid a fine of $53m to avoid going to court and regain his freedom to travel.

A previous incarnation of Verint Systems, Comverse Infosys, were implicated in the US's 2001 AmDocs spying scandal where Israeli phone software, installed on US telecom networks, was being used to warn Israeli mafia drug traffickers to switch phones and identities when the FBI were tapping their phones. 200 or so Israelis were arrested and most deported.

But what about the most recent terror attacks? The April 2013 Boston bombings has some of the most serious problems of FBI and mainstream media credibility to date. Not only does there seem to be little to connect the official suspects to the bombing but a private *'Craft'* security guard at the scene has a black bag that seems to *'disappear'* around the time the bomb went off.

"Hey Bro, Where'd Your Backpack Go" was one set of images from the finish line circulated to tens of thousands when CBS 60 Minutes' Twitter account was hacked. Again it appears to anyone with the time to take a look for themselves that private security should be a prime suspect in that bombing.

Neither does mainstream press seem to question why one of the FBI's two official *'prime suspects'*, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, was filmed under arrest, naked, unharmed and being sat down in the back of a police car but then somehow died of horrific wounds sustained when he was previously 'run over' by his brother Tamerlan.

If even just a small proportion of these allegations are true then *'double your money'* private security firms paid for providing security at an event or location may be abusing that privileged access for *'quid pro quo'* deals. Certainly the mainstream press are simply not asking even the most obvious questions.

Unscrupulous staff, ex mercenaries as some are, can then also be paid for tip-offs, to turn a blind eye, possibly with a nod and a wink from the top. They may even actually plant bombs themselves. A *'false flag'* attack can have a massive political impact and, if the media oblige and look the other way, be blamed on the enemy of the day.

These dangers should make it clear that secretive and profit motivated private security companies must under no circumstances be allowed to replace publicly accountable police or armed forces.

Beginning his working life in the aviation industry and trained by the BBC, ***Tony Gosling*** *is a British land rights activist, historian & investigative radio journalist.*

This is What 160,000 Syrian Refugees Looks Like

Source: http://www.policymic.com/articles/55449/this-is-what-160-000-syrian-refugees-looks-like

This jaw-dropping picture shows another side of the two-year long Syrian civil war: the staggering amount of refugees. The photo was tweeted by CNN International anchor Hala Gorani and shows the Zaatari refugee camp.

The Zaatari refugee camp, about eight miles inside Jordan on the Syria border, is a tent city sprung from the desert. The Zaatri camp is home to roughly 120,000-160,000 refugees fleeing the civil war. It is largely a city of women and children. About 60,000 of the camp's residents are children. It has become Jordan's fifth-largest city.

Secretary of State John Kerry got a first-hand view of the sprawling refugee camp on Thursday. Kerry is on his sixth visit to the region since taking the job earlier this year.

In the back-and-forth diplomatic and political saga regarding the Syrian civil war, the human element has sometimes been left out. The brewing humanitarian crisis in the region is yet another layer in this mass tragedy which has claimed over 100,000 lives (6,000 of which have been children).

Afghanistan after 2014: What's Next?

By Hubertus Hoffmann

Source: http://www.worldsecuritynetwork.com/Afghanistan/hubertus-hoffmann/Afghanistan-after-2014-Whats-Next

What will happen in Afghanistan after the end of the ISAF-Mission in December 2014? A collapse of the Kabul government, a separation into north and south, or peace?

These were some of the questions that the Afghanistan Team of the independent World Security Network Foundation (Prof. Ludger Kühnhardt, Dr. Mario Ohle and Dr. Hubertus Hoffmann) discussed with ISAF representatives, Afghan military and police officers and ordinary people in the streets of Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif on a fact-finding mission in July 2013.

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions and answers from us and several clues as to Afghanistan after 2014: What's Next?

Will Afghanistan become a new, Vietnam-style defeat for the U.S.?

Answer: A clear no. The Pashtun-rooted Taliban have some support from neighboring Pashtun-Pakistan, but not a large army for an invasion in the large country, like the Vietnamese had in the early 1970s. Inside Afghanistan, the Taliban groups are not as strong as the Vietcong insurgents were before the storming of Saigon in 1975. The Taliban are most disliked and weakest in the North; they cannot conquer and rule the cities.

As it has over the last 12 years, Washington will continue to use its global military and intelligence power to contain any new larger terrorist activities in Afghanistan to avoid another 9/11, and will do so indefinitely. The U.S. can kill any new al Qaida or Taliban leader anywhere in the country with drone strikes, as has been demonstrated each week in the tribal areas (FATA), or with special operations, including by the secret Delta Force and with airstrikes that are used now secretly. Therefore, it is impossible for the Taliban to build up any open leadership and governmental structures in any city without the acceptance of the White House at the least. Without it, they cannot rule. They are under pressure to find a modus vivendi with the U.S. and to distance themselves from al Qaida terrorism and started official negotiations with the U.S. in Doha only weeks ago.

The U.S. and its ISAF allies will not totally withdraw from Afghanistan as they did from Vietnam after 1973. The West will not abandon Afghanistan again like it did after 1989 when the Soviets took their troops out, anarchy prevailed and the Taliban emerged. If the Kabul government agrees on a deployment agreement with NATO, there will still be thousands of U.S. and other former ISAF troops for military training, mentoring and intelligence, combined with strong financial support for the larger ANF and massive economic support of more than 4.5 billion USD per year after 2014. Against this, the Taliban is lost.

Did the ISAF and ANF or the Taliban win the war in Afghanistan?

The international troops of the ISAF and Afghan National Forces (AFN) won the new Afghan war. They have pushed the Taliban back and control most of the territories.

It is not the ISAF which fights now or wins now in 2013, but the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police and Afghan Border Police – collectively known as the Afghan Nation Force or ANF – with local police units.

By June 2013, the Afghans had taken over responsibility for security all over the country. The ISAF only supports their planning with reduced and limited military actions and intelligence. The main losses are now those of the Afghan Police, who have to hold territories against insurgents.

As the Western forces will be out at the end of 2014, the Taliban can no longer argue that they are 'liberating the country from the unbelievers and the Americans'. Thus, they will lose this strong argument for recruitment and hate propaganda.

The Afghan National Security Forces will take over responsibility for the security of Afghanistan from the ISAF when its 13-year mission concludes on December 31st, 2014. Until now, there has been no support-agreement for the U.S. and NATO for the mission "Resolute Support". No later than November 2013, the international forces have to know about support after 2014. Germany will leave 600 to 800 soldiers for training missions in the North for two years.
In the regional reconciliation process, more than 6,000 former Taliban fighters laid down their arms.
The Taliban cannot take over central power in Kabul and the North or in larger cities, but could perhaps become stronger in the rural parts of the South and the West. The North and Kabul are quite calm and the insurgents have been pushed out. In the North, the 209th ANA Corps and the police hold large areas they retook from the insurgents. Since 2008, the ANF have been responsible for security in Kabul. They cannot avoid all bomb attacks in such a large city, with a population of 3.3 million, but have done an excellent job over the last five years.
The main weapons of the insurgents are improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The ANF has become much more effective at containing these threats over the last three years and neutralizing two out of every three IEDs. Now, the Taliban strategy is to get world-wide media attention and produce a feeling of needling insecurity through IED explosions against civilians, as in Kabul in the last few weeks. This shows more weakness, as they cannot launch massive military operations to conquer and hold large territories and cities – as the North Vietnamese were able to do in 1973-75.
The ANF is still lacking an air force and effective artillery capabilities, intelligence and C3, which will limit its military strength from 2015 onwards, but it will still be strong enough for defensive capabilities.
The situation is like two scorpions. The ANF will be strong enough to avoid a Vietcong-style Taliban victory in Kabul, major cities and the North. However, the Taliban will control large rural areas in the South and West and threaten the ANF with IED attacks.
The Taliban movement lost the support of the people through its attacks on civilians, which is also a crime under Islamic Jihad rules.
Shadow-player Pakistan has no interest in putting the Taliban in power again, but rather to influence its glacis to the West. The Taliban are a tool employed by some nationalist elements within the ISI to influence the future of Afghanistan and to avoid too much influence by arch-enemy India.

What is the scenario after the end of ISAF, after 2014?

Politically, the country will be fragile for some years to come, threatened by a bad mélange of terrorist attacks, Taliban insurgents, corruption, mismanagement in Kabul, power struggles and drug lords.
But the trend of internal development is upwards.
It will take one more generation to stabilize Afghanistan after 33 years of wars and the stone-age rule of the Taliban.
On April 5th 2014, a new President will be elected. Karsai can not run again, as the Presidency is limited to two terms. There are several different possible candidates and a search is underway for a consensus candidate, as well from the opposition. Democracy is alive, with active debate. More open-minded and conservatives political groups are involved. Nevertheless, the technical and legal basis is unclear and the leadership of the election commission has not been filled – a manipulation by Karsai.
The society has changed radically in the cities over the last 12 years and will continue to change for the better. Afghanistan has opened up to the world in terms of culture and business.
In the North, 90 percent perceive positive development; in the South, 60 percent. The rich governors and generals have an interest in their assets and stability. The economy is growing. Natural resources such as some gas, oil and minerals could be used in the long term. The infrastructure is much better. Eight million children – 40 percent of whom are girls – go to school now. There are several new universities in the country. Basic healthcare provision is up from a mere six percent during the Taliban times to 85 percent. Infant mortality is down 66 percent. Millions of refugees have returned, mainly from Pakistan. There is much free media. Lots of cell phones. Seven percent use the internet.
Many fresh faces and new parties are emerging among young people. The old system of warlords still exists, but is fading out – aggressive Islamists have lost sympathy and attraction. And, most important, the Afghans are great people with spirit and strong will to recover.
The most important issue now is to give the young generation hope and jobs and to stimulate the economy.

Can the al Qaida terrorists return to Afghanistan?

Unfortunately, Afghanistan had been a safe haven for Osama bin Laden for five years from 1996 to September 11th, 2001, only because both U.S. Presidents Clinton and Bush did not authorize decisive military strikes and limited operations by the Delta Force and Navy Seals to their training camps and the killing of Osama bin Laden. This was a critical weakness of the U.S. leadership, which in the end cost several thousand Americans their lives and many more in Afghanistan itself. The White House had no efficient anti-terror strategy for too long. This was the main political mistake in Washington pre-9/11.

Now, a permanent mixture of excellent intelligence, special forces and CIA operations, drone strikes, cuts of financial support and other political actions take away al Qaida's oxygen to breath. Osama bin Laden and his leadership have been killed. His network is destroyed and done. The snake of the Hindu Kush will not be able to recover there again

Smaller groups will still be a threat, but would be better able to operate in countries like Yemen, those of the Sahara or Iraq, where the U.S. is not so active and dangerous to them as in Afghanistan or Pakistan's FATA.

In addition, a smart U.S. double-strategy of power and reconciliation is needed, including promoting The Human Codes of Tolerance and Respect (see www.codesoftolerance.com) and an action plan to enlighten young people in Afghanistan and Pakistan as to the true, peaceful nature of Islam. Here, a vacuum exists at the important political level.

Who are 'the Taliban'?

There is no single "the Taliban", but a mix of groups, now labeled as the "enemies of Afghanistan": some politically-motivated Taliban rooted in the Pashtun tribes, a few al Qaida-insurgents, as well as drug dealers, smugglers and criminals, mixed with tribes who for a while decided to join the enemies out of political opportunity.

What is the core of the conflict?

The Taliban had been inspired by the radical Wahabit religion from Saudi Arabia, supported by hundreds of millions from rich families like the bin Laden clan. This aggressive version of Islam infiltrated Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation of 1979 to 1989 and produced a mix of narrow-minded fighters like Osma bin Laden, with no tolerance and respect towards others.

This is not the real and true Islam of the Prophet Mohammad but a politically-driven perversion of this religion, which has also been strong in the tribal areas (FATA) and Pakistan since the 1980s. Thus, ignorance and aggressiveness flooded both countries in the 1980s, together with war. The people of Afghanistan got used to killings but not the pretty flowers of peaceful Islam, as in many centuries before.

After 9/11, the U.S., joined by NATO and many nations from all over the world, decided to destroy the dangerous al Qaida terrorist network, drive the al Qaida-protecting Taliban from power and invade the territories of Afghanistan. These political aims were soon reached, within a matter of weeks: al Qaida was smashed and the Taliban was out of the government as part of "Operation Enduring Freedom" in November 2001. Phase One was a quick and total victory

What mistakes were made?

In Phase Two (from December 2001 until 2010), many severe mistakes were made on the political, rather than the military level, which almost led to a 'lost victory'. Only in 2010, after eight lost and long years, a clever joint military and political strategy (COIN) was implemented in Phase Three, which until the end of 2014 led to much more stability and hope for the future. This turn-around has been a great success so far. Now, a fourth phase will start in 2015, after the ISAF mission is concluded and the Afghans have taken over all military and political responsibilities.

What went wrong?

The U.S. and its allies decided to commence a gigantic nation-building project, starting with the Petersberg Conference in Bonn in December 2001. This was a naïve as well as over-dimensioned approach in a war-torn country. It was also not necessary for preventing another 9/11, which could have been done by intensive intelligence, air strikes and special forces on a case-by-case basis.

Instead of a federal system with strong local authorities, which fits to the diverse structure of the country, a centralized government was formed under President Hamid Karzai by the U.S. All eggs were put into this one fragile basket and on the shoulders of one man in Kabul. This wrong concept slowed local progress that had been achieved and undermined stability in the valleys.

From the start, this approach was an impossible mission in such an under-developed country, where foreigners have not been viewed favorably for 1,000 years, especially when they are Christians and Americans.

Foreigners also got involved in the usual power-struggle between different groups and tribes and local rulers.

Drug production was not contained and corruption emerged.

The idea of implementing democracy by pure elections was also naïve.

No reconciliation and peace talks with the Taliban were started in 2001/02 and no strategic plan to integrate the important interests of Pakistan and the tribal areas (FATA) was devised.

The West talked only of integrating Pakistan and supporting development in the tribal areas, but did almost nothing. The U.S. sold billions of dollars of weapons to the Pakistani army on lost credits and invested too little money in development there. Nice talks dominated, but no deeds and actions. Pakistan got lost along with the possibility of politically-integrating this country and the Taliban in the peace process.

Because of the War in Iraq, beginning in March 2003, the U.S. lost focus on Afghanistan and the insurgents came back. Only in 2010 did ISAF Commander Stanley McChrystal implement a credible ISAF COIN strategy and build-up of a strong-enough Afghan Army and Police.

The quite positive status of 2013 could have been reached with the same strategy as early as 2006. This action-gap from 2003 to 2010 was the main mistake of the U.S. and its Western partners, who simply followed the wrong American policy.

The country was flooded with money and large projects as well and too quickly, which led to mismanagement and corruption in Kabul with no clear plan and too little cooperation between the civilian and military sides until 2010.

Severe political mistakes were made; not by the military, which only follows politics.

What do President Karsai and the Afghan leaders want?

Egoism rather than national patriotism prevails. The Afghan leaders mainly fight for themselves and their local clans: for money, influence and prestige. The society is still tribal and personality-oriented. Most top political and military leaders accumulate power and money for themselves – not the country – and their families and clans.

Atta Muhammad Nur, the important and efficient governor of Balkh province in the North in Mazar-i-Sharif, for example, is said to have become a billionaire. An influential political office is always used to make money for the family via business partners who gain profits, mainly with contracts from Western donators. There is no bad feeling about it, as it has been the custom for centuries. Money is transferred out of the country to Turkish, Dubai or Singaporean bank accounts.

Afghanistan is still the old world, sometimes with traditions Europe knew in pre-industrial times in the seventeenth century, when a few aristocrats and bishops dominated the people. Still, the leaders take it all and the poor and simple people suffer.

Who do the Afghans not like?

It is a sad reality, that the United States, together with Pakistan, is at the top of the list of 'not-liked-nations', together with criminals and the Taliban, when you ask the man in the street. This is not fair, but a fact of public opinion and the perception of the people. Germany, on the other side of the spectrum of allies, is well-liked because of historical good relations. The Afghans are extremely sensitive when it comes to sovereignty and foreign interference. They feel too pushed by the U.S. From this perception, a withdrawal of the U.S. and its

allies makes clear that it is not an occupation, and that the Afghans have to clear the situation by themselves.

What about drugs?

Nobody has an achievable plan or the funding to reduce the country's immense poppy production, which has a value of approximately USD 600 million per year. Afghanistan's economy is based on opium production and accounts for more than 70 percent of the global demand, which is the basis for criminal gangs and the funding of the Taliban as well. A simple farmer can make USD 8,000 per hectare in poppy production, but only USD 100 when he grows wheat.

How will the international community support Afghanistan after 2014?

In July 2012, 80 nations pledged USD 16 billion for Afghanistan until the end of 2015 at the Tokyo Conference. USD 35 billion in civilian aid was spent from 2001 to 2010.

It is like two sides of a single coin: it is good to support and necessary to fund the Afghan forces and to improve the lives of the people, bad as it can be in being like honey attracting wild bears in Kabul with regard to corruption. The country is over-aided, and therefore those on top are spoiled and too inactive. Too few funds reach the poor.

The U.S. and its partners have been unable for more than 11 years now to form a solid base with reduced corruption, clear and fair laws and a good government. They were too naïve and soft on Karsai. Still, they now hope to progress with better governance in the future.

Still missing is a plan for the soft landing of the international support with reduced funds and a long-term structure for Afghanistan in 2020.

A new focus should be the young coming generation. We propose a large 'Afghan Leadership and Mentoring Program', with mentors involved who will take care of 50,000 young mentees per year, helping them to build up a well-educated new generation.

Peace Negotiations with the Taliban

Since 2009, the global World Security Network has promoted the commencement of negotiations with the Taliban to initiate a political process of reconciliation. Very late now, on June 18, 2013, the Taliban opened an office in Qatar. The integration of Pakistan, as the most influential neighboring country, is essential and a fundamental factor of success that is still missing. We endorse starting UN negotiations that include Pakistan, the United States, Turkey and Germany for the international community, with delegations from Afghanistan and the Taliban without any pre-conditions. These meetings should be structured into several working groups: respect to Islam and rules of reconciliation; education for women and the role-model of Khadijah bint al-Khuwaylid, the emancipated first wife of the Prophet and businesswoman in Mecca; respect for the UN Charter and human rights and the Afghan Constitution; denial of terrorism according to the Holy Quran; the development of agriculture; and guarantees from Pakistan and the international community.

These reconciliation talks will take several years. The first aim should be a ceasefire for one year. It is a good opportunity to listen to the Taliban, get to know them and create mutual acceptance.

Lessons Learned

Since December 2012, the German government has been collecting Afghan-lessons-learned and best practices in defense, development and international relations so as to use this know-how in future failed states and conflicts.

Afghanistan was the largest ever effort of many countries and NATO. It strengthened international cooperation, but also produced a lot of frustration and clearly showed the West the limits of the influence of military interventions.

The U.S. and NATO should now produce field manuals for the stabilization of other failed states like Mali or Syria. Furthermore, the most effective tools of influence should be drawn upon and used, which would have a maximum effect with a minimum input of cash.

The World Security Network is promoting a fresh and creative foreign policy with its "World 3.0" initiative. One basis is the focus on elites in those countries. To know them. To support them with large-scale mentoring programs. Thus, we can transfer know-how as well as some of the values of the UN Charter, which is the global consensual basis of peace and stability.

There should be no further military interventions without a previously written detailed and realistic 500-page action plan using best practices, fixing a quick exit after Phase One, realistic development in Phase Two and accounting for all costs involved.

What to do as priorities

The first priorities should be as follows:

1. The West has no other option than to continue the plans put forward in Tokyo, as there is no time left for major changes now.
2. Integrate Pakistan into the peace talks and transfer the negotiations into a UN framework.
3. Start the large-scale promotion of peaceful Islam with the human codes of tolerance and respect in Afghanistan and Pakistan (see www.codesoftolerance.com for details)- a jihad for tolerance including Shiites and other minorities.
4. Support fresh and credible new leaders with much more support and training. Register thousands of fresh leaders of the next generation and support them with a one billion dollar "Afghan Mentorship Program" to influence positive development from within (see www.worldsecuritynetwork.com/fritzkraemer for details on the importance of mentoring elites for progress).
5. Manipulations of the presidential elections in April 2014 which are a main mile-stone for the stabilization of the country, should not be tolerated.
6. More concrete actions to discover corruption and contain drug exports.

To my judgement, the Afghan glass of hope is two thirds full.

Dr. Hubertus Hoffmann *is a German entrepreneur and geostrategist based in London. His three main focuses as a philanthropist are: - 'Networking a Safer World', with the largest global elite network in foreign affairs, the independent World Security Network Foundation (www.worldsecuritynetwork.com). - The Human Codes of Tolerance and Respect - promoting understanding and concrete actions for tolerance towards other religions, races and minorities (www.codesoftolerance.com). - The promotion of a responsible elite which takes over special obligations and duties in societies around the world (www.worldsecuritynetwork.com/fritzkraemer). Dr. Hoffmann worked as an advisor in the European Parliament (Office of Prof. Hans-Gert Poettering, former President of the European Parliament), the German Bundestag (State Secretary of Defense Peter Kurt Wuerzbach, MP) and the U.S. Senate (Sam Nunn, Gary Hart) in defense and foreign affairs for many years. He was Research Fellow at the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS), Georgetown University. Dr. Hoffmann holds a Ph.D. in Political Science with "summa cum laude" (Prof. Karl Dietrich Bracher, University of Bonn, Germany) and is a lawyer as well. He is a reserve officer in the German Army (Field Artillery).*

How to increase security in hospitals?

Source:http://i-hls.com/2013/07/how-to-increase-security-in-hospitals/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=how-to-increase-security-in-hospitals&utm_source=ihls&utm_medium=ihls&utm_campaign=RSS

A recent tragedy like what took place in Newtown, Connecticut where 20 elementary school children and six adults were killed by a mentally disturbed young man, can happen

even in hospitals. In fact, it happened at Johns Hopkins Hospital in 2010. A gunman killed himself and his mother, who was a patient there, and wounded her doctor.

But security risks in hospitals are unlimited. At a basic level hospitals need to find a fine balance between sense of security and the sense of fear. If a hospital puts barbed wires fences around the hospital and has security guards everywhere carrying guns, it may appear like a prison. On the other hand, intruders have many ways of sneaking in to do the harm or may have other motivations such as terrorism, kidnapping children from the nursery or stealing. The hospital may require investment in technology at every entry such as CCTV, card access technology, metal detectors, and surveillance equipment to keep out unwanted intruders including terrorists. But that is not enough.

According to hospital portal net among many risks are: intruders pretending to be visitors, volunteers, vendors, or utility personnel; un-authorized key duplication, false alarms (a supposed gunman spotted at a Los Angeles hospital, which led to the evacuation of dozens and a police search, turned out to be the hospital's own security guard); contracting security to an outside company; hospital parking lots; transporting patients; HIPAA information; and media(two radio staff members in Australia pretended to be the family of the British prince and got private information from a nurse who later committed suicide). Security during earthquakes, tornadoes, power outage, fires, explosions are also security risks.

How prepared are we? A more important question is how unprepared are we? Lisa Gallagher (http://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/risk-assessments-leave-hospitals-hamstrung-0), senior director of privacy and security at Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) gives a "C" grade to the security of patient data. She says it's the basic assignment that's the big problem for most providers. According to her the fundamental activity that has to happen for organizations – is to conduct a security risk assessment, and to do ongoing security risk analysis.

Why is the assessment so problematic? Mostly because doing one is so far outside the areas of most health professionals' expertise. "Security and security risk assessment is a discipline that this industry just does not have a handle on," says Gallagher. "They don't understand it, they don't have people on their staff who can do it, they know they need to hire a consultant and they don't always have the time and the budget to do that."

What Lisa Gallagher says is true about many other security risks as well. So, what can we do to earn a higher grade? Joint Commission standard EC 2.10 (Environment of Care Standard) sheds some light on security management plan (includes pre-employment screening, standardized training, screening of volunteers) and EC 4.10 gives an emergency management plan. But security issues are much more complex. They require analysis of

"what has historically happened" to "what can happen in the future."

emergency preparedness for unexpected events such earthquakes, tornadoes, and

Type of Emergency	Probability	Human Impact	Property Impact	Business Impact	Internal Resources	External Resources	Total
	High 5 → Low 1	High Impact 5 → Low Impact 1			Weak Resources 5 → Strong Resources 1		
Snow/Ice Emergency (External)							
Automobile Accident (External)							
Tornado (External)							
Fire/Explosion (External)							
Fire/Explosion (Internal)							
Utility Failure (Internal)							
Electrical Source from Supplier (External)							
Workplace Violence (Internal)							
Child Abduction (Internal)							
Civil Disturbance (External)							
Hazmat Incidents (External)							
Hazmat Incidents (Internal)							
Flood (Internal/External)							
Biohazard Exposure (Internal)							
Biohazard Exposure (External)							
Terrorism – Weapons of Mass Destruction (External)							
• Chemical							
• Biological							
• Nuclear							
VIP Incident (External)							
Airplane Disaster (External)							
Steel Plant/Gas/Chemical Explosion (External)							
Railroad Accidents (External)							
Boiler Explosion (Internal)							

Figure 1 — A Template for a Hazard Vunlerability Analysis.

The Joint Commission's standards (http://www.threatanalysis.com/vulnerability.pdf) require that hospitals identify and manage security risks. A key component of that identification process is a vulnerability assessment. A vulnerability assessment is a systematic approach used to assess a hospital's security preparedness, analyze the effectiveness of the existing security program, and identify Security weaknesses.

There are some analysis tools available to assess vulnerability. Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA) is such a tool applied to terrorist attacks. It can be used for predicting scenarios that are related to security. Another tool called "Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA)" used in aerospace risk assessment, can be used for security risk assessments. It is a brainstorming technique for learning from the past risks and for looking for potential risks in the future. This tool also includes risk mitigation methods. It is covered in the military standard 882. There are additional tools covered in this standard but they are not widely used in hospitals.

Water purifier for soldiers, first responders successfully tested in the field

Source: http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130723-water-purifier-for-soldiers-first-responders-successfully-tested-in-the-field

A new easy-to-carry water purifier that could give Marines and first-responders access to clean water wherever they go successfully completed its first operational test, officials announced the other day.

Funded by the Office of Naval Research (ONR) and tested this spring during the U.S.-Philippines joint Balikatan military exercise, the First-Response Water Purifier is designed for long-term use in remote areas during emergency and disaster relief operations.

An ONR release reports that the new purifier was developed to help reduce enormous logistical burdens already faced by forward-deployed personnel. There are two versions — one that can treat 1,000 gallons per day and one that can handle 5,000 gallons per day.

"Expeditionary water involves much more than just purification," said Cody Reese, logistics manager for ONR's Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare and Combating Terrorism Department. "It has a long logistics tail, it is difficult to supply and yet it is one of the most critical basic needs in any type of operation, anywhere in the world."

The appetite for a trusted source of drinking water has led to a costly habit of buying and transporting bottled water around the battlefield. Likewise, current purification systems are so heavy they have to be transported on Humvees and 7-ton trucks.

The new purifier is light and compact enough to fit in the back of a pickup truck and be carried by just two Marines.

Through ultrafiltration membranes and chlorine addition, the prototypes can make safe water from all freshwater sources, including surface waters with large amounts of algae and cloudiness caused by sediment.

"Providing clean water anywhere in the field environment is a tremendously complex proposition that involves a lot of equipment and energy — you have to locate it, analyze it, collect it, treat it, monitor it, store it, transport it, distribute it, drink it and then do something with the waste," Reese said. "Anything we can do to shrink the footprint, reduce energy consumption and extend system life is a big win, with cascading effects throughout the entire supply chain."

Developed through a collaboration of Pacific Research Group and humanitarian organization Global Water, the new purifier is easy to operate and requires less maintenance and power than current systems, which can require repeated resupply of parts, trained operators and major power sources — all unavailable during typical disaster-relief scenarios.

Aside from chlorine needed to provide disinfection and safe storage, the prototypes required no logistic support during the recent field exercise.

Events like the Balikatan exercise are great learning tools for developers, as equipment is challenged in ways that can't be simulated in the United States. The water source used for this test came from a contaminated shallow river filled with volcanic ash from the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo.

The fine particles in the ash provided a unique challenge to intake structures and filters, but the First-Response Water Purification prototypes — designed to be forgiving with cleanable filters — operated flawlessly throughout the exercise.

The release notes that Pacific Research Group and Global Water continue to design and test water-treatment technologies that complement the purifiers brought to Balikatan this

year. The groups plan to bring to next year's exercise two new prototypes that include an optional reverse osmosis capability for brackish, or salty, water that would accommodate the vast majority of surface water sources anywhere in the world.

Global Arms Markets as Seen Through the Syrian Lens

By Scott Stewart (Stratfor – Security Weekly)
Source:http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/global-arms-markets-seen-through-syrian-lens?utm_source=freelist-f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20130725&utm_term=Sweekly&utm_content=readmore&elq=650b4f2499494f9ead45fa1ec66aff65

The many and diverse efforts to arm the various actors in the Syrian civil war are really quite amazing to watch. These efforts are also quite hard to decipher -- and intentionally so -- since many of the arms transfers occur on the murky gray and black arms markets. Indeed, it is quite doubtful that anyone, whether Syrian intelligence, the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service or the CIA really has a complete picture of all the channels used to funnel arms into the conflict. Certainly, I cannot hope to catalogue all of them here. However, the efforts to arm all of the factions fighting in Syria do provide a great opportunity to discuss the global arms trade and its various facets.

The Nature of Weapons

To understand the global arms markets we must first understand some critical things about the nature of weapons. First of all, it is important to realize that weapons are durable goods. While certain types of weapons and weapon components have a limited shelf life -- such as battery-coolant units for the FIM-92A Stinger missile -- numerous other weapons remain functional for many decades. It is not unusual to find a militant or a soldier carrying an AK-47 assault rifle manufactured before he was born -- and in many cases even before his father was born.

Because of this durability, weapons provided to the anti-Soviet fighters in Afghanistan in the 1980s are still being used against coalition troops in Afghanistan. But 1980s-era weapons are not the only durable weapons in the theater: The Taliban is also attacking coalition forces in Afghanistan with British Lee-Enfield rifles sent to South Asia during the Victorian era. These antique main battle rifles with their larger cartridges and longer barrels have a demonstrated ability to engage targets at longer distances than the more modern AK-47.

But Afghanistan is not the only place where the durability of weapons is seen. Weapons provided by the United States and the Soviet Union to rebels and governments during Central America's civil wars are still making their way into the arsenals of Mexican drug cartels, and M-40 recoilless rifles provided by the United States to the government of Libya before Moammar Gadhafi's 1969 coup proved to be a very effective weapons system in the battle of Misurata, and today are being shipped from Libya to the rebels in Syria.

Sometimes, weapons can even outlast the countries that manufactured them. East German MPiKMS and MPiKM assault rifles are still floating around the world's arms markets more than two decades after the German Democratic Republic ceased to exist.

It is important to recognize that ammunition is also an important facet of the global arms trade. Ammunition tends to be less durable than weapons, and is also consumed at high rates. This means that while weapons are durable, they can only remain functional if sufficient supplies of the appropriate ammunition are available. One of the reasons weapons like the AK-47 have proliferated so widely is the ease and low cost of finding compatible ammunition for the rifles. In the case of Syria, the rebels can both purchase ammunition for weapons like the AK-47 and seize it from the government.

Weapons are also fungible, or interchangeable. An AK-47-style rifle manufactured in Russia is essentially the same as one manufactured in Pakistan or Egypt, and an M16-style rifle manufactured in China can easily replace an M16 manufactured in the United States. Indeed, in a place like Afghanistan or Syria, it is not unusual to find AK-47-style rifles manufactured in various countries and decades being carried within the same rebel group. Journalist C.J. Chivers has done a wonderful job chronicling the proliferation of the AK-47 in his book *The Gun* and in his blog.

Weapons are also goods that tend to retain their value and are easily converted to cash. Combined with their durability and fungibility, this explains why they so readily flow to conflict zones where there is an increased demand for them. Buying weapons from a place where there is an oversupply and then selling them in a place where there is a heavy demand can be highly lucrative. After the fall of the Soviet Union, arms merchants like Viktor Bout became incredibly rich buying excess Soviet weapons for very low prices in places like Ukraine and selling them for much higher prices in places like Liberia. In addition to cash, guns can also be exchanged for commodities such as diamonds, drugs and even sugar.

Arms Markets

There are three general types of markets for arms. The first is the legal arms market, where weapons are bought and sold in accordance with national and international law. The legal arms market also includes military aid sent by one government to another in accordance with international law. The parties in a legal arms deal will file the proper paperwork, including end-user certificates, noting what is being sold, who is selling it and to whom it is being sold. There is a clear understanding of who is getting what and under what conditions.

The second arms market is that involving illicit, or gray arms. Gray arms transactions involve a deceptive legal arms transaction in which legally purchased arms are shifted into the hands of someone other than the purported, legal recipient. One of the classic ways to do this is to either falsify an end-user certificate, deceiving the seller, or to bribe an official in the purported destination country to sign an end-user certificate but then allow the shipment of arms to pass through his country to a third location. This type of transaction is frequently used in cases where there are international arms embargoes against a particular country (like Liberia) or where it is illegal to sell arms to a militant group such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

In one example of a gray arms deal, Ukrainian small arms were sold to Ivory Coast on paper but were then transferred in violation of U.N. arms embargoes to Liberia and Sierra Leone. Another example occurred when the government of Peru purchased thousands of surplus East German assault rifles from Jordan on the legal arms market ostensibly for the Peruvian military. Those rifles then slipped into the gray arms world and were dropped at airstrips in the jungles of Colombia for use by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

The third market is the illegal, or black arms market. In this market, the weapons are clearly transferred in violation of national and international law and there is no attempt to cover the impropriety with devices such as forged end-user certificates. Black arms transfers can involve regimes, such as when the Gadhafi regime in Libya furnished weapons to terrorist groups like the Abu Nidal Organization or the Provisional Irish Republican Army. Nation-states will often use the gray and black arms markets in order to deniably support allies, undermine opponents or otherwise pursue their national interests. This was clearly revealed in the Iran-Contra scandal of the mid-1980s, though Iran-Contra only scratched the surface of the untold tons of arms that were smuggled during the Cold War. But other times, the black arms market can involve non-state actors or even organized crime groups. The transfer of Libyan weapons from militia groups to Tuareg rebels in Mali or of weapons from the conflicts in the Balkans to criminals in Europe exemplify this.

Some weapons are also made in an unregulated manner, such as the homemade rockets and mortars made by Palestinian militant groups or the Syrian resistance. The cottage industry of illicit arms manufacture in Darra Adam Khel Pakistan has long supplied militants and tribesmen on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Weapons Flows to Syria

Currently, Syrian President Bashar al Assad's regime is being supplied through the legal arms market by Russia. At the same time, they are being supplied by Iran, but since Iran is forbidden from exporting weapons under U.N. Resolution 1747, these transactions are illegal or occurring on the black arms market.

Similarly, the Iranian and Syrian weapons provided to the al Assad regime's ally, Hezbollah, are illegal under U.N. Resolution 1701. Advanced Chinese weapons have also found their way into Hezbollah's arsenal, such as the **C-802 anti-ship missile** used in a July 2006 attack on the Israeli corvette Hanit. It appears Hezbollah received these weapons from Iran, which has

purchased some of the missiles from China and manufactured its own copies of the missile. The rebel groups in Syria are quite fractured.

The weapon flows to these groups reflect this diversity, as do the number of different actors arming them. To date, the United States and EU countries have resisted directly arming the rebels, but covert efforts facilitate the flow of arms from other parties to the rebels have been going on for well over a year now.

One of the functions of the U.S. presence in

Benghazi, Libya, was to help facilitate the flow of Libyan arms to Syrian rebels. From the American point of view, sending weapons to Syria not only helps the rebels there, but every **SA-7b shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile** sent to Syria to be fired at a regime helicopter or MiG fighter is one less missile that can find its way into the hands of militants in the region. Promoting the flow of weapons out of Libya to Syria also makes weapons in Libya much more expensive, and can therefore reduce the ability of local militia groups -- or regional militant groups such as al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb or Boko Haram -- to procure weapons from Libya.

Even though the U.S. and Turkish governments are involved in the process of passing arms from Libya to Syria, it is nonetheless a black arms channel. The Austrian Steyr Aug rifles and Swiss-made hand grenades in rebel hands were purchased by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates through legal channels but then diverted to the Syrian rebels several years later via black market channels. I have not seen any of the documentation pertaining to the Croatian weapons sold to Saudi Arabia and then channeled to the Syrian rebels via Jordan, so it is difficult to judge if they were arms sold legally to the Saudis and then diverted via an illicit gray arms transaction or if the entire transfer was clandestine and hidden in black arms channels.

Obviously, the weapons supplied by the Islamic State of Iraq to Jabhat al-Nusra and other jihadist rebel groups is another case of black arms transfers. But some rebel groups have purchased weapons with cash on the black market in Lebanon and

Turkey while other rebel groups have even purchased weapons from corrupt officials in the Syrian regime. Of course, the rebels have also captured some sizable arms depots from the government.

As one steps back and looks at the big picture, it becomes clear that as these diverse channels move instruments of war into Syria, their individual themes are being woven together to orchestrate a terrible symphony of death. It may be years before the symphony is over in Syria, but rest assured that shortly after its final crescendo, economic forces will work to ensure that the durable and fungible weapons from this theater of war begin to make their way to the next global hotspot.

New Paper from Sandia National Labs Examines Improving Building Resiliency

Source: http://www.homelandsecurity.org/node/944

A new paper from a team of three researchers at Sandia National Laboratories examines what it takes to motivates businesses to design more resilient buildings. The paper, "Resilience Certification for Commercial Buildings: A Study of Stakeholder Perspectives," was published in *Environment Systems and Decisions.*

The press release from Sandia announcing the article quoted the lead author, Barbara Jennings, a senior member of the Technical Staff at the National Lab. "Expecting industry to act, for example, merely because 'it's the right thing to do' came out lowest (3 votes on a 1-to-10 scale) in a questionnaire presented to 15 industry representatives."

She continues, "The highest number of respondents was motivated by economics. Their justifications included increased revenue (10 votes), better competitive edge (9), and quicker, cheaper recoveries (9) from more efficiently handling a disruption. Several others cited 'decreased insurance premiums' (8) and 'tax incentives' (7), while fewer respondents pointed to less obvious benefits: 'Increased chance of receiving financing or lower finance rates and 'ability to charge higher lease rates due to increased attractiveness of the building to tenants' (both 5)."

"While the respondents generally liked the resilience concept, they found it daunting to plow through the government forms necessary to apply for sizable tax credits to offset increased building costs."

The press release notes that, "The paper proposes five concepts to help the concept of resilient buildings appeal to the construction, design, and insurance communities, and to building owners."

"Most imaginatively, the authors suggest that program sponsors collect stories and images that demonstrate resilience during alarming times and use these proxy incidents to motivate others who have yet to experience disasters themselves.

"They also suggest government-based incentives, public-private partnerships, training and education programs, and simple, clear explanations of the federal governments' multiple programs 'to minimize confusion by describing the different role each plays."

Man penetrates into government aircraft

26/07/2013

Source: http://www.rundschau-online.de/koeln/flughafen-koeln-bonn-mann-dringt-in-regierungsflugzeug-ein,15185496,23835244.html

On Thursday evening, a man standing under the influence of drugs gain access to the military section of the airport Cologne / Bonn and broke into a plane of the federal government, which is also used by German Chancellor Angela Merkel. According to "*Cologne Rundschau*" the 25-year-old intruder sat in the cockpit of an Airbus A 319, sealed off from the inside and stayed there for about two hours. The man refused to leave the cockpit, as the officials of the federal and state police were on site. The cockpit door was open later by the

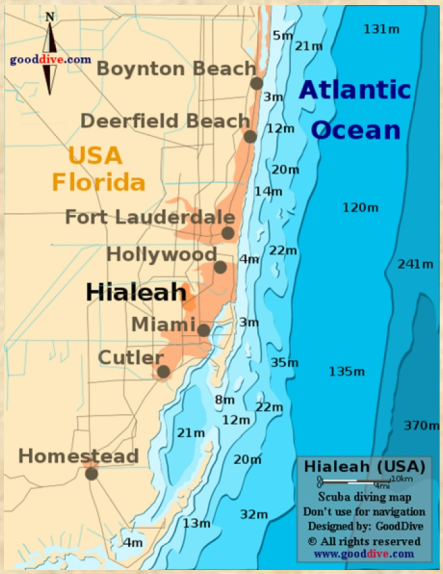
emergency services. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and is currently in police custody. As an Air Force spokesman said the government plane from the Cologne police confiscated for evidence collection.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Psychopath? Drug addict? The usual excuses when the unexpected happens? Who knows? In Greece we say: "*when you hear about a lot of cherries, hold a small basket*!" It seems that security authorities have never heard about "war games" on how to protect sensitive infrastructure! The intrusion was noted when the man started playing with cockpit buttons and emitted a "SOS" signal. If he kept quiet might have travelled along with Chancellor in one of her next trips around the globe!

Florida gunman kills 6, then is shot dead by SWAT team

Source:http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-florida-gunman-20130727,0,4374929.story

A gunman holding hostages inside a South Florida apartment complex killed six people before being shot to death by a SWAT team that stormed the building early Saturday following an hours-long standoff, police said.



Sgt. Eddie Rodriguez told The Associated Press that police got a call around 6:30 p.m. Friday that shots had been fired in a building with dozens of apartments in Hialeah, just a few miles north of Miami.

Although a crisis team was able to briefly establish communication, Rodriguez said talks eventually "just fell apart" with the gunman, who was holding two hostages on the fifth floor. Both survived when officers stormed the building, fatally shooting the gunman during an exchange of gunfire.

"They made the decision to go in there and save and rescue the hostages," he said.

The dead bodies of three women and two men were found at two apartment units inside the building, which Rodriguez said was in a "very quiet neighborhood." Another man who was walking his children into an apartment across the street also was killed. Rodriguez said it wasn't immediately clear whether the gunman took aim at him from an upper-level balcony or if he was hit by a stray bullet.

"From up there, he was able to shoot at people across the street, catching this one man who was just walking into his apartment," Rodriguez said.

The entrance to the neighborhood, which is

lined with apartment buildings, remained blocked off early Saturday, including to those who live in the building where the standoff occurred.

Miriam Valdes, 70, said she lives on the fifth

floor of the building — one floor above where the shooting began. She said she heard gunfire and

later saw smoke entering her apartment.
She described running in fear to the unit across the hall, where she stayed holed up as officers negotiated with the gunman.
From the apartment, Valdes said she could hear about eight officers talking with the gunman.
She said she heard the officers tell him to "let these people out."
"We're going to help you," she said they told him.
She said the gunman first asked for his girlfriend and then his mother but refused to cooperate.
Rodriguez said police were still investigating the motive and identifying the gunman and victims.
"Investigators are talking with families of the victims, neighbors, people that were present when all this began," he said. "That way we can start to piece together this huge puzzle that we're working with."

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Six people dead. Compare with Boston Marathon bombing… Biggest incident, less publicity, soon to be forgotten or sunk in databases' lethargy. Perhaps a new form of terrorism is rising in urban environment…

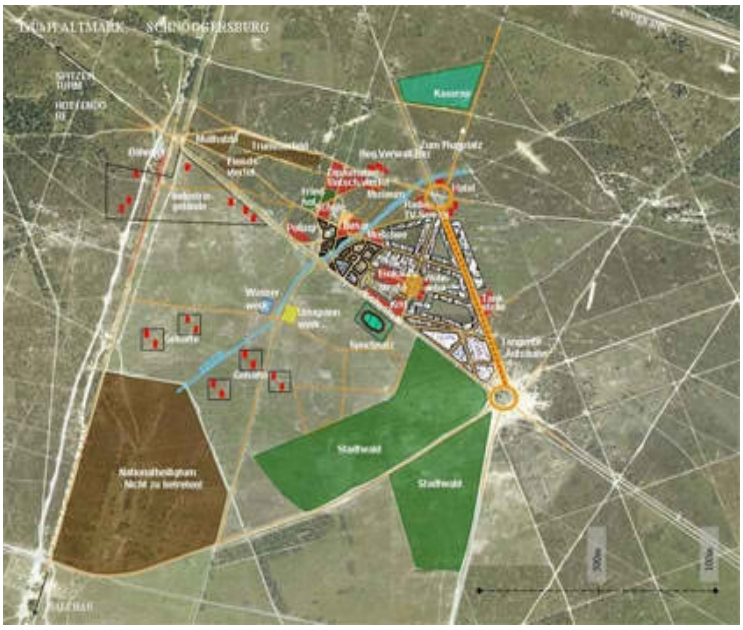
Arson attack on army barracks

Source:http://www.volksstimme.de/nachrichten/lokal/havelberg/1115422_Brandanschlag-auf-Bundeswehr-Kaserne.html

On July 26, 2013 unidentifiable persons set 16 vehicles of the Bundeswehr in Havel Mountain on fire.

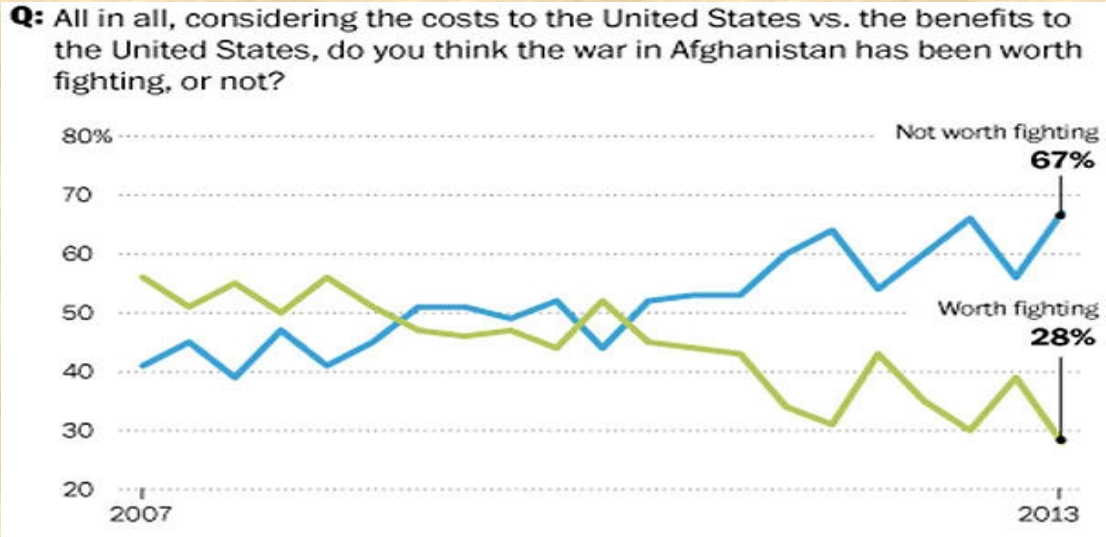
The fire was noticed at 02:00. The damage resulted is estimated at a double-digit million euro.
Perpetrators infiltrated barracks and deposited incendiary devices under the cars. Some did not explode. Incendiary devices are under investigation by experts at the State Criminal Police Office.
This incident might be connected with "War Starts Here – Camp 2013"movement (21-29 July) in Gefechtsübungszentrum (GÜZ) organized by opponents of armed forces.

The GÜZ is one of the biggest and most modern military troop training facilities in Europe. Here, different forms and facets of militarization, war and counter insurgency meld together. At the facility, which is over 230 km², war is practiced and prepared with an arsenal of high-tech and laser-simulated weapons. Here, all German soldiers prepare for their foreign assignments, e.g Afghanistan and Kosovo. Since Autumn 2012 a whole city is being built in the area. This so-called "urban fighting centre Schnöggersburg", open to soldiers from different NATO-states, will be the future training area for urban war and counterinsurgency tactics.



Afghan war now more unpopular with Americans than the Iraq war ever was

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2013/07/26/afghan-war-now-more-unpopular-with-americans-than-the-iraq-war-ever-was/



The proportion of Americans who say the war in Afghanistan has been worth fighting has dropped to 28 percent, according to a new Washington Post/ABC poll. This is the lowest support for the Afghan war ever recorded in the poll – and even lower than the Iraq war ever scored on the same question. **A full two-thirds, 67 percent, say that the Afghan war has not been worth fighting.**

The drop in support crosses political lines, although it's been most pronounced among Republicans, who only three years ago supported the war by

69 percent to 29 percent opposed. Now, 51 percent say they oppose the war, a slight majority although still less than Democrats (74 percent oppose) or independents (71 percent).

What explains the drop in support, below even the nadir of American opinion toward the Iraq war? Partly, it's seasonal: Such support tends to rise in the winter, when fighting slows, and drop again during the "fighting season" in the summer.

Another likely factor, judging by the White House's own view of the war, is that the costs for the United States are rising with little obvious return. U.S. casualty rates have jumped rapidly since President Obama increased troops numbers – a move that initially spiked public support – but gains have been difficult to maintain. Since a few symbolic gains in 2009 and 2010, the biggest stories out of Afghanistan have been political corruption, American casualties and the "green on blue" attacks in which Afghan soldiers killed the NATO troops who were supposed to be their allies.

Support began falling in late 2011 and early 2012, when a string of high-profile incidents gave the appearance of a war spinning badly out of control. In January 2012, a video surfaced showing Marines urinating on dead Afghan insurgents. The next month, NATO troops mistakenly burned several Korans, setting off nationwide riots and more "green on blue" killings. The month after that, a U.S. soldier named Robert Bales wandered off base and into a nearby village, where he killed 16 civilians, nine of them children.

But there's another possible factor that may have less to do with events in Afghanistan than with politics back here in the United States. Since the Obama administration began backing off of its previous push for the war, which it championed during Obama's campaign and first years in office, the Afghan war has not had a major political supporter in Washington. This may help explain how the war could be less popular than even Iraq, which was in many ways far more controversial but which was consistently championed by the Bush administration. For many Americans, especially from the 2004 presidential campaign through the 2006 midterm elections and into 2008, the Iraq War was a partisan issue. The polarization may have actually helped entrench Republican supporters.

Not so Afghanistan, which now largely lacks a political base of support. The Iraq war, after all, hit its lowest point of support (33 percent) not during the bloodiest and most politically controversial months of 2006 and 2007, but in 2011, by which point fighting was largely over and neither U.S. political party was still bothering to support it.

The poll was conducted July 18 to 21 among a random national sample of 1,002 adults. Results from the full poll have an error margin of 3.5 percentage points.

EDITOR'S WONDER: Why so many train crashes around the globe recently?

See also: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_rail_accidents_%282010%E2%80%93present%29

Greece Has a Role in Balkans' Security

Source: http://greece.greekreporter.com/2013/07/29/greece-has-role-in-balkans-security/

With conflicts in the Middle East and Egypt not far from its borders, intelligence agents in the region – including Greece – need to keep close links of co-operation to ferret out trouble and identify flashpoints, a security conference held here was told.

The International Intelligence History Association (IIHA) in collaboration with the Research

Institute for European and American Studies (RIEAS) organized the event Intelligence in the Mediterranean and the Balkans which brought together academics, historians, members of the private sector, political scientists, researchers, active and former intelligence officials and members of the security and armed forces to explore the history of intelligence and the current security challenges facing the Mediterranean and the Balkan regions.

It was the brainchild of John Nomikos, who heads the Athens-based RIEAS, and is a well-known security analyst specializing in in transatlantic intelligence studies, intelligence reform, and national security architecture. Educated and trained in the U.S., he has done research and studied in various research institutions in America, the UK, Norway, Finland, Germany and Israel and is a noted international counter-terrorism analyst.

A former Greek deputy foreign minister of Greece, Konstantinos Tsiaras referred to his country's pivotal strategic position between three continents and its role as an important sea-trade that has historically attracted the interest of powers outside the region.

"This situation resulted in a uniquely high concentration of different actors and overlapping interests. Under these circumstances, the need to maintain awareness anticipate future outcomes and protect against potential threats was served by all countries in the region making the Mediterranean the theater of numerous intelligence operations," he said. He added that, "Our region has witnessed more intelligence gathering activities in the course of history than any other place in the world".

Tsiaras said that, "The security interdependence among all countries in the region is perhaps one of the key lessons learnt from our common historical experience. Furthermore, it is a valuable lesson in the light of more recent geopolitical developments such as the Arab Spring. In a time of geopolitical shift, information awareness can be very helpful in maintaining regional trust and good relations among the regional actors."

Special attention was given to the transition from authoritarian/conflict intelligence agencies to democratic control and oversight, terrorism in North Africa, Olympic intelligence with regards to the CBRN preparations for the Athens Olympic Games (Galatas I), regional security challenges in South East Europe presenting the cases of Greece, Serbia and Romania.

Under the theme of Between the Arab Spring and the European Debt Crisis: Contemporary Intelligence and Security Issues in the Region, the 2013 conference highlighted the new political realities in the Middle East, the security challenges of the Arab Spring that Jordan faces, as well as the age of social media and the implications of the Arab Spring for the intelligence community.

Greece-Israel link

The welcoming remarks were made by Shlomo Shpiro, Chairman of IIHA and Nomikos. Referring to the theme of this year's conference and its focus on the Mediterranean and the Balkans, Spiro said: "These regions in particular not only have rich and diversified history of intelligence but are facing turmoil and difficult challenges even today.

"The revolutions in the Arab world, the bloody civil war in Syria, Iran's nuclear program, the situation in Turkey, in Egypt and Cyprus, the euro-debt crisis and the threats of global terrorism, all mean that governments all over the world and in this region especially, are increasingly turning to their intelligence services for knowledge, for early warning and for policy advice, on how to make better decisions in such times of uncertainty." He concluded that, "Intelligence today is a central tool of state craft of international relations and of regional security".

The Israeli Ambassador to Greece, Arie Mekel said that, "We all know the turmoil, the problems throughout the region and it is not

new to any of us, we are not involved in that, we watch it like everybody else… we are spectators, we are concerned, we hope that there will be no spill over for instance of the situation in Syria into our neighbor Lebanon and so on".

He noted the difficulty of finding peace in the Middle East over the decades with many U.N. envoys, U.S. Presidents and international officials all failing. "For many years, many people in the world including our friends, said to us the most important, the most dangerous problem in the Middle East is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. If you would have solved this, everything in the Middle East would be fine. I think that now, everybody would agree that even if we would have a Palestinian state tomorrow morning, this could do nothing to resolve the situation in Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen, Syria," he said.

He added: "We want to solve the Israeli-Palestinian problem not to do a favor to anybody but to do a favor to ourselves. We believe in the two-state solution so that there will be two states; one Israel for the Jews and one Palestine for the Palestinians. …. Right now we are in the midst of another effort, this time, by Secretary of State John Kerry to get the two parties to the table and we hope it will be successful if we can resume the peace process".

He emphasized regional energy cooperation by saying: "We've told the Greek government on the highest level that we would be happy to make Greece a hub for this gas that will continue to Europe; it can be brought here by pipeline or by liquidifying it and bringing it by tanker; we also want Cyprus to be involved in this because they also found gas and we believe that these three countries, Israel, Greece and Cyprus, if we work together and use our power like in the area of natural gas, we could become together a regional power that will be able to stand up to other regional powers".

In a nod to tighter relations between Greece and Israel, he said that, "In the last three years, we have seen a dramatic upgrade, a dramatic change in the relations between Israel and Greece, and it is expressed in many ways in the area of defense. There is a lot of cooperation especially between the two navies, the two air forces, tourism – 400 thousand Israelis were here last year, we hope to have half a million this year, a very significant number."

Satellite imagery shows scale of strike in Syria

Jeremy Binnie, London - IHS Jane's Defence Weekly
28 July 2013
Source:http://www.janes.com/article/25125/satellite-imagery-shows-scale-of-strike-in-syria?utm_medium=Email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows the damage inflicted in the 5 July strike on a weapon storage facility near Latakia in Syria. (DigitalGlobe/IHS)

The 5 July attack on a munitions storage facility near Latakia in Syria was far more extensive than previously believed, suggesting it was not launched from a submarine as claimed by some sources, according to *IHS Jane's* satellite imagery analysis.

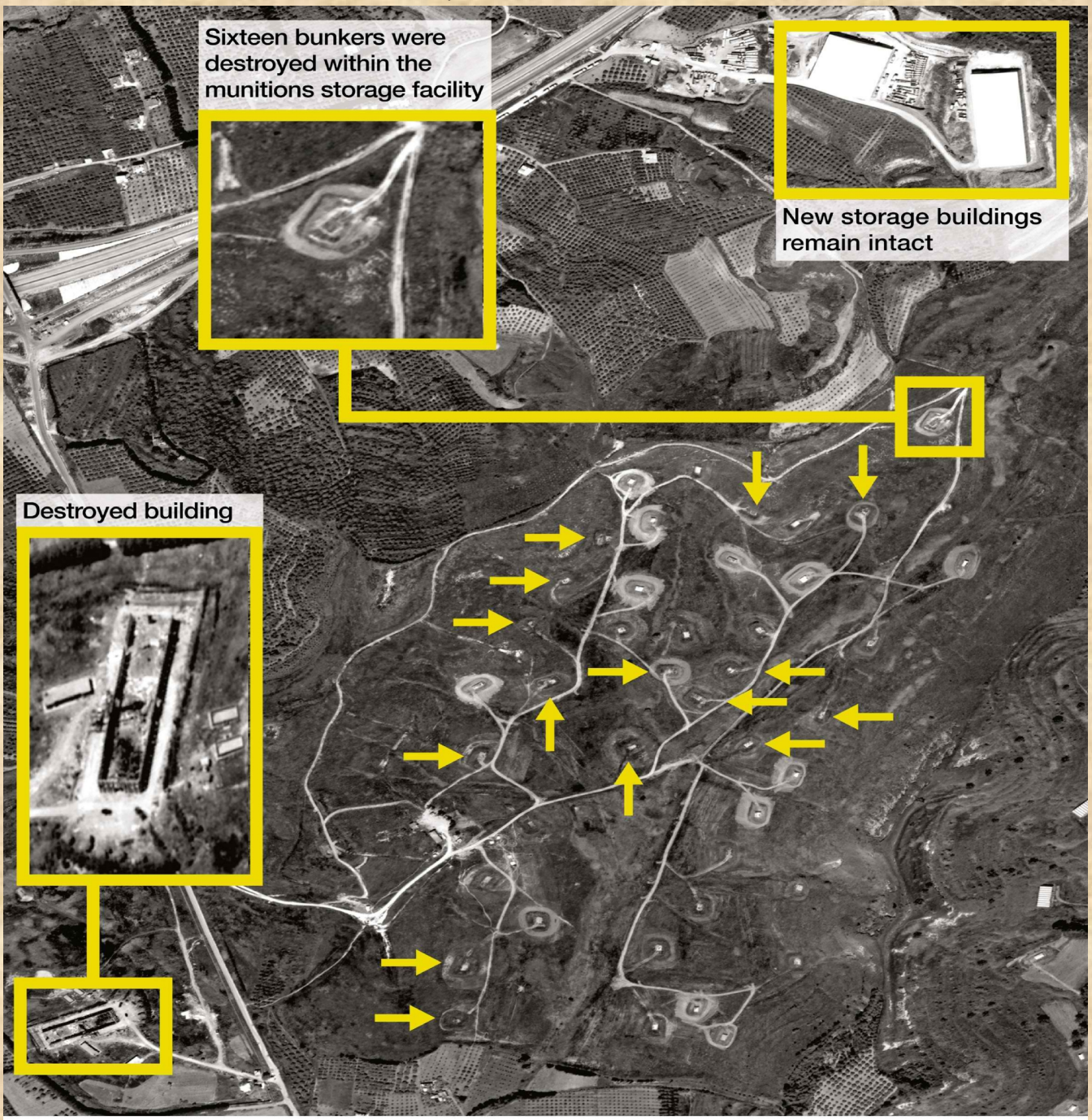
The incident was first revealed by Syrian opposition sources, which said an unidentified aircraft or naval vessel had attacked a facility used to store P-800 Yakhont anti-ship missiles. CNN and *The New York Times* subsequently cited unidentified US officials as saying Israel had launched an air strike to destroy the anti-ship missiles, while *The Sunday Times* claimed that an Israeli Dolphin-class submarine had carried out the attack.

As usual, Israeli officials did not confirm or deny responsibility, but restated the threat to destroy any advanced weapons that Syria tried to transfer to the militant Lebanese group Hizbullah.

On 13 July Israel's Channel 2 revealed the precise location of the strike when it published satellite imagery taken on 7 July showing a destroyed building surrounded by launch pads around 15 km inland from Latakia.

The same imagery obtained by *IHS Jane's* shows the building is 80x20 m with a 6.75 m-wide entrance, making it large enough to handle transporter-erector launchers (TELs) for Syria's Bastion coastal defence version of the Yakhont system.

However, historical imagery shows the building was built between July 2003 and December 2004, and the three 23 m-diameter launch pads are even older, so the site was not built as a dedicated facility for the Yakhonts that Russia delivered to Syria from 2010-11. The access roads to the launch pads are



7 July 2013: DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows the damage inflicted in the 5 July strike on a weapon storage facility near Latakia in Syria.

© 2013 DigitalGlobe / © 2013 IHS: 1486940

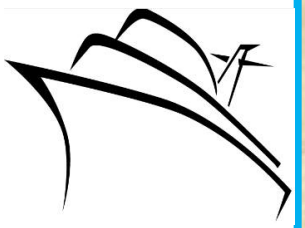
overgrown, indicating they were no longer in use.

In contrast, two new large depots that were built to the northeast sometime around early 2011 remain intact. The imagery shows a lot of activity at these sites in the wake of the strike.

It also shows that 16 bunkers at a munitions storage facility to the east of the destroyed building no longer exist, probably because they were razed by the Syrians after they were hit during the strike. If these bunkers were targeted, it would indicate that large numbers of highly accurate precision-guided munitions (PGMs) were used as they were just 8x6 m

and surrounded by revetments to minimise the risk of sympathetic explosions.
The type of land-attack missiles that are carried by Israel's Dolphin-class submarines have not been revealed, but the most likely option is that they are capable of launching a GPS-guided version of the UGM-84 Harpoon from their six 533 mm torpedo tubes.
The number of PGMs that were apparently used against the Syrian munitions storage facility on 5 July consequently suggests that they were launched from aircraft, rather than a submarine.
One of the more likely possibilities is that GBU-39 Small Diameter Bombs (SDBs) were used to destroy the bunkers. Strike aircraft can carry four SDBs in place of a single larger bomb, giving them the ability to strike many more targets, while the GBU-39's pop-out wings give it a stand-off range of around 110 km.

American Journal of Tourism Research
Vol. 1, No. 2, 2012, XX_XX



Cruise Risks, Threats and Dangers: A Theory

Peter Tarlow[1], Maximiliano E. Korstanje[2*], Ericka Amorin[3] and Jose Manoel Goncalvez Gandara[4]

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The present paper explores the world of cruise tourism considering not only the sociological aspects for what many consumers select these types of mobile hotels for their holidays, but also providing with an all encompassed framework to expand the current understanding of risk and mobilities in our times. The modern world, results in an aplitic tendency not necessarily due to the inevitability of risk, but because it introduces new risks for which the past does not provide us guidance from which to find solutions. From this perspective, modernity' tendency to produce rapid change and with it to introduce ever more challenging risks has greatly changed the role of the tourism security expert. The cruise-related tourism combines the classical order of control with the creation of new risks. Cruises, like all forms of tourism, are a perishable product and the result of a danger that comes to fruition is a new economic danger and risk to a business in particular and a society in general. This paper gives to reader practical suggestions to create and improve the policies aimed at protecting passengers on board.

► Source: http://www.tourismandmore.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Cruise-Risk.pdf

Failed hitman uses James Bond-style machine gun hidden behind license plate

Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/failed-hitman-james-bond-style-gun-attack-article-1.1409600?goback=.gde_2830497_member_261108284

James Bond, eat your heart out. This real-life car had a license plate to kill.
Remote-control guns rigged behind the license plate of a parked car opened fire on the bullet-proof Mercedes-Benz of a reputed mobster in an assassination attempt this week.
Then the gadget-equipped murder-mobile burst into flames.

The astounding attack, carried out Wednesday in treacherous Johannesburg, South Africa was tailor-made for the silver screen.
In the James Bond movie "Goldfinger," 007 drives a slick Aston Martin DB5 with gun barrels behind its front indicator lights.

But the possible attempt to kill Radovan Krejcir, a Czech fugitive linked to underworld figures in South Africa, was very, very real.

It was an accurate attack, had Krejcir been in the car: about 10 bullets hit the driver's window.

The fusillade from the Bond-like car, a stolen Volkswagen Polo, riddled Krejcir's black Mercedes coupe with impact marks.

The European outlaw — who moved to South Africa from the Seychelles in 2007 on a false passport stamped with the name Egbert Jules Savy — had just parked and was walking away when the shots rang out, local reports said.

Krejcir said he heard a loud noise, like firecrackers or a bomb.

"I was talking on the phone and looking what happened, but I thought it was firecrackers," the chunky Czech told local media outlet EyeWitness News on video in heavily-accented English.

When authorities took a look at the Volkswagen, they found a

dozen shotgun barrels, some melted by the shooting, attached to the chassis of the burnt-out chassis.

Police are now investigating the incident, with eyes on Johannesburg turf wars and potential plotters from the Czech Republic.

No arrests have yet been made.

Perhaps Krecjir set up the attack himself, wanting the world to believe it was an attempt on his life, a South Africa-based security consultant said in a radio report.

His lawyer said Krecjir is shaken. "He's in shock. He's had a close shave," Classen told The Independent, a British newspaper.

But the shadowy figure at the heart of the outlandish episode, whom the Czechs convicted of tax fraud and sentenced last year to 11 years in prison, appeared amazingly unfazed afterward.

Krecjir shrugged and chuckled while speaking to a video reporter in the parking lot of his gold and diamond exchange business, where the attack occurred.

He is fighting his extradition to the Czech Republic and requesting asylum in South Africa on grounds of political persecution.

"What I suspect was that somebody had the remote control and when he saw me somewhere ... and I was walking out he just pressed the remote control and the bullets went out," Krecjir said, noting that he always parks his Mercedes in the same spot.

His lawyer said Krecjir has never been a slay target before and marveled that the attack was something "from a spy novel."

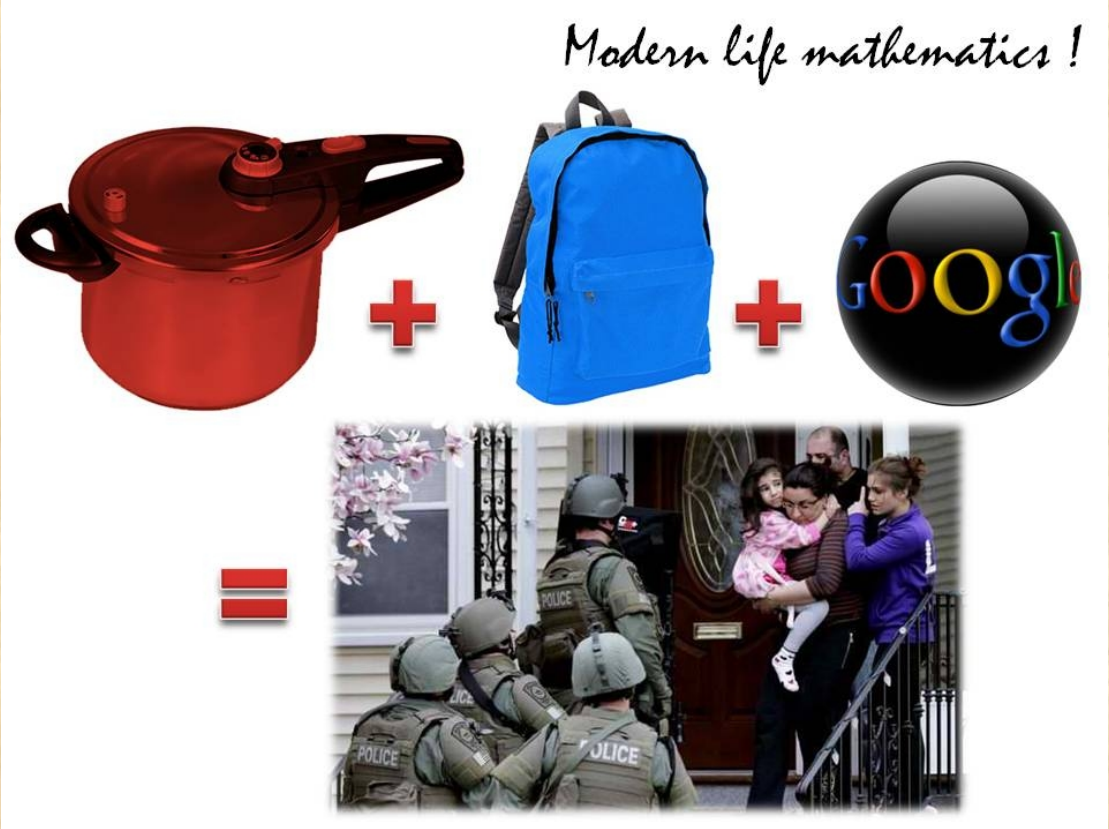
Krecjir, who has been linked to various South African criminal characters, including a strip club owner who was murdered in 2010, seemed less impressed.

He returned to work Thursday, a day after the attack.

"All my life is like James Bond stuff," he told EyeWitness News.

"So it's usual stuff for me ... It's just how I live my life."

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Remember the scene below for the movie "***The Jackal***" with Bruce Willis?



Greek police arrest 72-year-old German suspected of spying for Turks

Source: http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/greek-police-arrest-72-year-old-german-suspected-of-spying-for-turks.aspx?pageID=517&nID=51965&NewsCatID=351

A 72-year-old German was arrested on the Greek island of Chios in the eastern Aegean suspected of spying on behalf of unknown Turkish nationals, police said Aug. 2.

"For at least three years, he photographed camps and other infrastructure of the (Greek) armed forces in Chios and was paid to give the material to Turkish nationals," the police said in a statement.

Last week, four men - two Greek and two Turkis citizens of Kurdish origin - were arrested by the coastguard off Chios, for transferring a large amount of weapons and explosives to Turkey.

Further arrests have been made by Greece's anti-terrorism squad, which has taken over the case. Two were detained on the island itself, while another two were apprehended in Athens, but charged only with using fake identity papers. Greek police also detained 11 Turkish citizens in operations.

Those arrested were suspected of belonging to the left-wing Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C) which claimed responsibility for a suicide bomb attack on

the U.S. Embassy in Ankara in February. It was later established that the assailant, Ecevit Şanlı, had entered Turkey illegally via Greece.

One of the eight was named as Hasan Biber, who is wanted in Turkey for alleged involvement in two attacks against the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) headquarters and the Justice Ministry in Ankara on March 19.

Greek coast guard officers in Chios island, eastern Aegean Sea watch a 7-meter speedboat following the arrest of four men suspected of shipping explosives and weapons. AP photo

The other suspects detained on the boat were named as Mehmet Yayla and lawyer Ahmet Düzgün Yüksel, according to daily Hürriyet. Yüksel reportedly left Turkey five years ago before becoming a member of the DHKP/C. It is also claimed that Yüksel was carrying a Bulgarian passport when he was captured in the boat.

Hired in 2010

At the time of the German's arrest, he was carrying two cameras containing photographs of military camps on the island, police said.

During a search at his house in Chios, where he has been living for four years, police further found laptops, maps, mobile phones and a **pair of glasses with a built-in camera**.

A search in his email account revealed a message describing the coastguard's arrest of the four men last week.

According to police, the suspect claims he was first hired in the summer of 2010 to provide photographic

material and his payments ranged between 500 and 1,500 euros ($665 to $1990) for each mission.
Both Turkish politicians and media outlets accused Greece of harbouring DHKP/C members. "Such articles are well beyond the bounds of bizarre and inexplicable conspiracy theory," said the ministry's spokesman Konstantinos Koutras who questioned the motivations behind these publications.

From classrooms to suicide bombs: children's lives in Afghanistan

By Andrew O'Hagan
Source: http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/aug/03/afghanistan-child-suicide-bombers

At the juvenile detention centre in Kandahar there are two sets of children. The first are riotous and loud, arrested for theft and other crimes of that sort. When you give them a piece of paper and ask them to write down the reason they are in prison, they simply scratch lines into the paper or scrunch it up. They can't write. The second group are silent. But when they take the sheet of paper, they begin to write the most beautiful script, their sentences full of fire and argument. These are the children who were recruited to be suicide bombers – and their mothers tell them they will succeed next time.

The prison isn't big on vocational training but they had some sewing machines before the man who operated them disappeared. Some of the boys are as young as 10. There is no education and too little water. The Afghan government, for reasons nobody understands, aims to move the children to a new site near Sarposa prison, a Taliban-rich area where adult inmates once sewed up their mouths in protest at what they

believed was their unlawful detention. Evidence suggests that detained children are physically abused in these prisons. A boy who steals a pomegranate may steal another one and end up next to a kid who knows the quick way to another world.

One boy, Beltoon, came from the province of Paktia. The families in his village competed over whose sons would be sent to the madrasa. "You do not love your son, you do not teach him in the ways of Islam," the elders would say to parents who kept their sons at home. A counsellor I spoke to told me many elders believe the world has come to destroy Islam and they must fight back. Beltoon is 15: he was herding goats before his father decided he should go to the regional madrasa, where he spent nine months. The dean then asked for volunteers. Which of them wished to have "advanced" education in Islam in Pakistan? Beltoon's father and his uncles told him this meant a better education.

"Would he understand," I asked, "that going over the border would mean military training?"

"The dean asks the child and his family if he wishes to be sacrificed in the way of Islam," the counsellor replied. "This doesn't mean giving him up to suicide bombing, but some will be. It can escalate from one madrasa to another and eventually the child might find himself in a place where the children are training to be suicide bombers."

At the compound Beltoon met older children who began to persuade him of the "cause". It's a familiar process. There was a great deal of physical exercise, hard work carrying packs in the sun. Beltoon had no direct contact with his family; once or twice the dean of his madrasa would pass on some news. Beltoon wasn't surprised to hear nothing: his family seemed to him to live without questions and without news. They didn't have knowledge such as he was gleaning. He had begun to trust the leaders around him. He wanted to please them, the counsellor said.

Beltoon was told that the index finger of his right hand was the Shahadat, the finger of "witness", the digit of Allah. He was told he must use this finger on the suicide vest to be sure of his place in paradise. He must be sure to flick the switch firmly with this finger. Beltoon was convinced he had found the best way to raise himself to the pinnacle of respect, and into a life much greater than this one.

Beltoon was close to a boy called Sahim, also 15. After six months in the training centre, they were driven to a local house for further "initiation". They got to know the location where they would do their holy work. Sahim appeared to have no end of enthusiasm for the planned attack. Early in 2012 the boys were dropped off on a street near the American base. They were walking side by side when an Afghan soldier near the entrance to the base saw them. They seemed unsure what to do – Sahim pushed Beltoon and they argued for a moment – and the soldier ordered them to stop and summoned other military. The boys' suicide vests were removed on the spot and that night they were taken to the detention centre in Kandahar. Beltoon hasn't seen his mother again, but a message was sent to him encouraging him not to give up hope. "Maybe next time," she said.

In the thick of Kabul the temperature soared into the 40s. It was June, and I had come in the wake of a Unicef report stating that the number of children killed or injured in Afghanistan had gone up by nearly 30% in the first half of this year compared to the first half of last year. From the beginning of the year until the end of April there were 414 child casualties, in the same period in 2012 there were 327 child casualties recorded. These are inflicted by every side in the conflict. On 3 June, a suicide attack beside a school in Paktia killed 10 children and injured 15. Three days later, a US air attack in Kunar province killed three children and injured seven. Suicide bombers are casualties, too.

There's only one organisation in Afghanistan that is trying to rehabilitate children like Beltoon and Sahim. It's a local Afghanistan NGO and I've been asked not to name it because of the extreme sensitivity of its work. "Some of the children have deep depression after they end up in the correction centre," Dr Karimi, the executive director, told me. "Many of them also need counselling because they have been sexually abused by the older boys. And of course they cannot speak about it in front of the other children because of the stigma."

"And what about their families?"

"Part of the problem," he says. "The family sometimes blames the child for failing. And we have found we have to try putting the family into therapy together. Sometimes the children won't speak to us.

We have to use Islamic sources close to them in the prisons to begin the dialogue necessary to help them."

It is never easy to get the political children out of their mindset. "The brainwashing has been so effective," Mr Wahidi, a colleague of Dr Karimi, said. "In one case, a child smuggled in information about how to escape from the prison. They killed a police officer in the attempt. The boy saw it as a second opportunity for glory after his suicide bombing failed."

"So how do you do it?" I asked.

"Cognitive therapy," Dr Karimi replied. "We find ways to protect them and speak to them away from their parents. We use the Islamic tools they understand. It is a big challenge to change the behaviour of these children because, of course, we are not able to change their whole culture."

It becomes obvious that these children were a kind of elite, enjoying better food and shelter in the training camps than in their villages.

"Most of them are in search of a life," Wahidi added. "An eternal life, if possible." These kids might disappear at 12 and come back at 15 fully militarised and conscious of their own bodies as weapons.

I went with Dr Karimi to their counselling centre. It was a low building with two classrooms on either side of a hot porch. A dozen boys were sitting cross-legged on a large red Afghan rug. The youngest was 10. "I feel better since coming here," said Samoon, a 13-year-old who had had pressure put on him by his father and his uncle. He had very green eyes and couldn't stop laughing. "I would like my own life now and I would like to be a civil engineer." The boy who sat next to him was called Ibrahim and he wanted to be a pilot. "I would like to help my country," he added. People who work with children like Samoon tell me war has undermined any sense of where they fit into the world.

Peter Crowley, the Unicef representative in Afghanistan, feels this is a crucial moment for Afghanistan, and is sure that the current situation, with rising violence and troop withdrawal imminent, constitutes a potential "perfect storm" that could obliterate the hopes of the children they have spent years trying to help. "Ninety-five per cent of funding in Afghanistan comes from abroad," Crowley said. "Some of that is military and some is humanitarian. The withdrawal of these funds will lead to an immediate crisis."

Last year, 1,304 children were killed in Afghanistan. IEDs (or improvised explosive devices) were the main cause of death. Suicide attacks killed 42 children and injured 68. Hundreds of children were caught in mortar attacks or by shotgun fire. And 46 were targeted by armed opposition groups for being pro-government.

It is difficult to know how many children are held in detention centres because there is often no case documentation. In July 2012 it emerged that 90 children were being held in Parwan without any representation. According to a UN document that came my way, they "continued to receive reports of ill-treatment and torture of children in national detention facilities". Armed groups have been known to use schools as military bases, and there is often a concerted effort by "community elements" opposed to girls' education. "On 12 August 2012," one source reports, "the Taliban abducted and beheaded a 16-year-old boy whom they accused of spying for the pro-government forces in Kandahar province, and on 29 August 2012 they abducted and beheaded a 12-year-old boy because his brother was a policeman". That it's a bad time to be a child in Afghanistan is obvious. And now the spotlight

threatens to move elsewhere. "It mustn't move," Crowley warned. "Afghanistan needs the world's attention like never before."

The next morning I went to a camp where refugees uprooted by the conflict were living. IDPs (internally displaced persons) have been flooding into Kabul from the south for years, and the children in those groups are among the most vulnerable in the country. The camp I visited was in Gul-e-Surkh. In a house made of mud and smelling of raw sewage, six girls sat in a close circle on the floor. They couldn't speak – it was just too difficult for them – and I was soon left with their social workers, a busy woman called Miss Fawzia, and Mr Jobair, a man with one leg. Mr Jobair told me the girls were being given a lesson that day on "the purpose of life".

"These girls are neglected," Miss Fawzia said. "There is much discrimination between the boys and the girls. We are trying to protect their human rights". The girls are forced into marriage and no one will stop these men from beating them. "There is little water here," continued Miss Fawzia. "There is only one water pump and one toilet. So, when a girl starts her period she immediately gives up on school, because of the worry, because of the embarrassment."

You can scarcely count the losses suffered in Afghanistan or guess at the new losses being planned by some. Yet since the interim government was created in 2002, children have gained access to thousands of schools and today there are 8.3 million pupils, 40% of them girls. (That's a 650% increase in 10 years.) At the top of the stairs at Sherino high school there is a large portrait of an old girl who became a poet. The school has 121 teachers, all female. We looked in many of the classrooms; in one of them the girls were learning about magnets. A girl told me there was no "poisoning" at the school. Later I stopped to ask her what she meant.

"Some people in the community do not want girls to be educated," she said, "and in some schools they poisoned the drinking water and girls died."

It seems such incidents have been prevalent for some time, especially in the north, where hundreds of schoolgirls had been subject to attacks involving contaminated water and poison gas. At Sherino high school the students believe everything can change. Shabnam, who is 17, was described by one of her teachers as the brightest girl in the whole school. She told me she gets up at dawn and comes in as early as possible every day. One of the reasons is the wonderful facilities they have – the classrooms, the computers, and most of all the sanitation. Shabnam's father is a car dealer and she recently won a competition to write the best business plan. It was about how to buy oil in her home town of Mazar and sell it at a profit.

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Muslim American groups launch campaign to block Kelly's nomination to DHS post

Source: http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130804-muslim-american-groups-launch-campaign-to-block-kellys-nomination-to-dhs-post

Muslim-American groups have launched a campaign to block New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly from becoming DHS Secretary.

The *Huffington Post* reports that American Muslims are uneasy with Kelly for what they regard as lack of sensitivity to Muslim concerns, and lack of judgment when it comes to dealing with Muslims. They point, for example, to a broad surveillance programs the NYPD conducted against Muslim communities in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, a program which tracked law-abiding Muslim Americans just because of their religion. The NYPD admitted that years of such surveillance have failed to yield even a single lead.

The anti-Kelly coalition also points to a Kelly-approved report on terrorism which instructed that certain behavior by Muslim Americans – for example, quitting smoking – is

a sign of dangerous radicalization.

American Muslims are also angry that Kelly not only agreed to be interviewed for "The Third Jihad," a 2009 film harshly critical of Islam, but also approved the movie for use in counterterrorism courses for NYPD officers.

Members of the City Council, civil rights advocates, and Muslim leaders objected to the NYPD use of the film, and Deputy Commissioner Paul Browne said that it "never should have shown to officers," stating "it was reviewed and found to be inappropriate."

The *New York Times* reported in January 2012 that Kelly stated he considered the decision to use the movie in instructional courses a mistake, and called the film "objectionable."

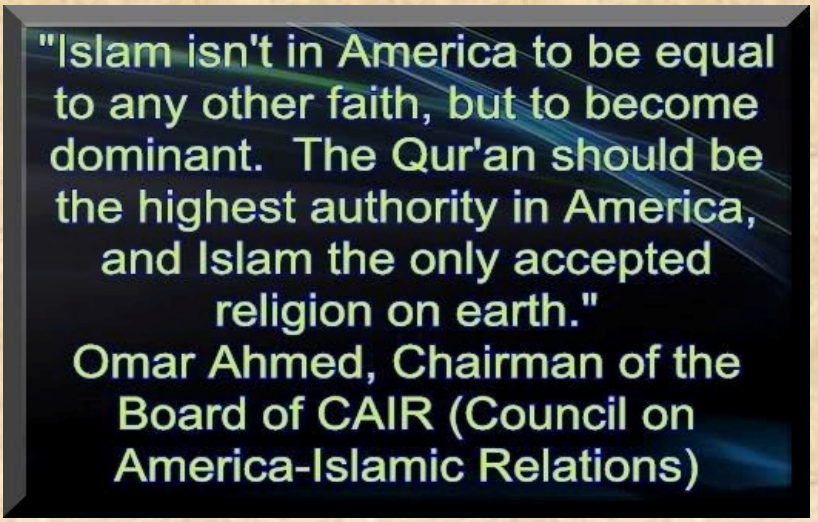
"Ray Kelly has a proven record of violating Americans' basic civil rights," Glenn Katon, legal director of Muslim Advocates, a civil rights group based in San Francisco, told the *Post*. "His willingness to use discriminatory policing methods against innocent citizens should concern Americans of every faith, ethnic and racial background."

The Muslim Americans Civil Liberties Coalition also sent a 4-page letter to President Obama last month, explaining why the organization will oppose Kelly.

"Commissioner Kelly's legacy in New York is synonymous with divisive, harmful, and ineffective policing that promotes stereotypes and profiling," the letter states. The coalition includes the Association of Muslim American Lawyers, the Muslim Bar Association of New York, and the Muslim Consultative Network.

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee sent out an "action alert" to members, urging them to e-mail a form letter telling Obama to not nominate Kelly.

Kelly himself has not commented on the potential of being DHS secretary, but did defend his record in a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal*, dismissing the allegation that the NYPD tracked the activities of Muslim New Yorkers, saying it is a "sensational charge belied by the facts."



"Anyone who implies that it is unlawful for the police department to search online, visit public places or map neighborhoods has either not read, misunderstood or intentionally obfuscated the meaning of the (police guidelines)," Kelly wrote.

Other groups critical of Kelly's record and possible nomination include the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the National Latino Officers Association, and 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement.

Venice boardwalk rampage: A reader's call for car control

Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/opinion-la/la-ol-venice-rampage-cars-guns-mailbag-20130805,0,1327638.story

A makeshift memorial along the Venice boardwalk is seen Sunday near where a hit-and-run on Saturday struck several people, killing one woman. (Tami Abdollah / Associated Press)

Substitute "gas" and "engine" for "guns" and "bullets," and you have a impassioned plea for action against the weapons of mass destruction that lead to incidents such as Saturday's hit-and-run assault at the Venice boardwalk: cars.

That's basically was reader Skip Fraser of Costa Mesa did in a letter to the editor, presumably to mock those who call for increased gun control in the wake of mass shootings:

"Once again a disturbed individual has taken out his frustrations on a large group of innocents, resulting in death for one and a rash of injuries for others. Yes, it could've been much worse.

"But the real issue here is the fact that any idiot can purchase a fully automatic weapon and drive it off the lot on the same day with a full tank of fuel and without a background check. Was he insured? Is his license valid?

"Enough with this senseless violence! This latest tragedy and the mass killings and casualties over the past year must prompt lawmakers to tighten regulations on automatic weapons.

"These large-capacity fuel tanks and high-performance engines can cause massive carnage. One can only imagine the death toll caused by an assaulter utilizing all 25 gallons of gas on an unbridled foray through the streets.

"No one is safe until our elected representatives act to rein in this senselessless. Two- and four-barrel carburetors, high-performance automatic V-8 engines and bottomless fuel tanks are too dangerous. The framers of the Constitution did not have these weapons in mind when they penned the Commerce Clause."

Fraser has a point -- about how dangerous cars can be.

Before getting on a soapbox about the inherent risk of driving, I'd like to point out that I do

believe there are fundamental differences between guns and cars. Firearms, when used properly, kill people; it's one of their primary purposes, and the laws that regulate them ought to reflect that. In contrast, automobiles serve the crucial role of transporting people to their jobs, homes and more. That people are killed by them is a side effect, albeit a very costly and tragic one.

How costly? In 2009, there were nearly 34,000 traffic fatalities in the U.S. And while some of those deaths were surely intentional, most of us call car collisions "accidents" for a reason: It is really, really easy to cause serious harm and death to others when at the controls of an agile, engine-powered machine that doesn't take much physical effort to manipulate.

It takes only a few pounds of pressure to pull a trigger and unleash enough energy to kill someone quickly. Likewise, accelerating your own 2-ton pile of steel and glass to outrageously high speeds requires only a gentle push of a driver's toe. Pedestrians are put at mortal risk by motorists who would rather not wait for them to cross a street, and cyclists who momentarily interrupt their driver's right to exceed the speed limit also face danger. Neither situation poses much risk at all to the driver.

Before dismissing those who compare cars and guns, drivers would do well to understand that it takes only a momentary lapse in attention or judgment -- or, as in Venice this weekend, an apparent inability to control one's agitation -- to cause a tragedy.

And we have gun zealots to thank for reminding us of that.

EDITOR'C COMMENT: I was looking again the definitions on terrorism…

Al-Qaeda Threatens Britain's Tottenham Soccer Club

Source: http://www.algemeiner.com/2013/08/06/al-qaeda-threatens-britains-tottenham-soccer-club-calls-management-greedy-jews/

English Premier League soccer club Tottenham Hostspur had more than angry fans to contend with this past weekend as rumors that star player Gareth Bale would be transferred elicited an angry response from terror group al-Qaeda.

According to Italian media, Ahmed Al Dossari, the leader of al-Qaeda in Yemen, threatened the club on an unnamed website over the transfer because of its support among the Jewish community in London. Israel's Channel 2 tied the soccer threat to the US State Department decision to close its Middle East embassies, and encourage all US citizens to evacuate Yemen, because of al-Qaeda threats.

The Italian reports quote Al Dossari as describing Tottenham as "unscrupulous merchants. Jews who will be punished for their greed by the wrath of God and by the sound of arms."

According to British media reports, Tottenham is asking for a world record transfer fee in excess of $123,000,000 from Spanish club Real Madrid for Bale.

Survey: Travel Managers Respond to Terrorism Threats

Source:http://www.internationalmeetingsreview.com/security/survey-travel-managers-respond-terrorism-threats-96493

Increased traveler communications and crisis-contingency plan reviews are the top priority, according to a survey of agents and travel managers conducted by the Business Travel Coalition (BTC).

The BTC survey asked members what travel policy changes and other support travelers are receiving in light of news of a major terror threat.

"Given the new intelligence suggesting that al Qaeda may launch attacks in the Middle East, North Africa and elsewhere during August, and attendant embassy closings and travel warnings, BTC wanted to seek to understand steps organizations were taking or considering taking with regard to adjusting employee travel, " Kevin Mitchell, BTC's Chairman said.

BTC conducted the survey over two days from Sunday, August 4 through Monday, August 5. **Some 63 government, university and corporate travel managers from 8 countries participated.** The results are preliminary and reflect the thinking and decisions of organizations in this first week of heightened security, BTC said.

BTC said additional surveys will be taken as developments warrant.

In its summary analysis, BTC reported that no organizations are currently planning travel policy changes regarding home-country travel. But 28.6 percent of organizations do plan to alter near-term policy regarding international travel; and just 10 percent of organizations plan to adjust meetings-related travel.

Among **the changes travel managers say they will be making to policy are (1) a temporary ban on travel to countries where embassies have been closed; (2) a mandated review of all travel plans to review alternatives; and (3) an elevated travel approval process,** BTC said.

Travel departments are also increasing the frequency of travel advisories, reviewing crisis-contingency plans and communicating the link between policy compliance and traveler safety. Travel managers need to know where travelers are in a time of crisis and to be able to efficiently communicate with them, BTC said.

A majority of travel managers (57.9 percent) are concerned about the future tracking of travelers' whereabouts during a crisis because under the International Air Transport Association's Resolution 787 proposal, when a traveler needs to change an international itinerary after a trip begins, there could be multiple airlines sitting on disparate pieces of the Passenger Name Record in their respective systems, BTC said.

BTC reported that 68.8 percent of respondents said they would increase frequency of travel advisories and increase communications linking policy compliance to traveler safety and security.

BTC reports that 26.3 percent strongly agreed and 31.6 percent agreed that the International Air Transport Association''s (IATA) Resolution 787 to create a new global business model for the pricing and sale of airline tickets could be a problem. (36.8% were undecided and 5.3% disagreed.)

New camouflage makeup shields soldiers, firefighters from heat of bomb blasts, fire

Source: http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130815-new-camouflage-makeup-shields-soldiers-firefighters-from-heat-of-bomb-blasts-fire

Camouflage face makeup for warfare is undergoing one of the most fundamental changes in thousands of years, as scientists today described a

new face paint that both hides soldiers from the enemy and shields their faces from the searing heat of bomb blasts. Firefighters also could benefit from the new heat-resistant makeup, according to the report.

An ACS release reports that It was part of a broader symposium on innovations in ingredients for personal care products held

during the American Chemical Society's 244th National Meeting & Exposition, held last year in Philadelphia. The meeting included almost 8,600 reports on new discoveries in science and other topics.

Robert Lochhead, Ph.D., who presented the report, explained that soldiers have used face paint for centuries for one kind of protection — to help their skin blend in with the natural environment and shield them from enemies. The new material continues that tradition, but also provides protection from the searing heat of roadside bomb blasts and other explosions that have claimed a terrible toll in Iraq, Afghanistan and other conflicts.

"The detonation of a roadside bomb or any other powerful explosive produces two dangerous blasts," Lochhead said. "First comes a blast wave of high pressure that spreads out at supersonic speeds and can cause devastating internal injuries. A thermal blast follows almost instantaneously. It is a wave of heat that exceeds 1,112 degrees Fahrenheit. That's as hot as a burning cigarette. The thermal blast lasts only two seconds, but it can literally cook the face, hands and other exposed skin."

In an effort to protect soldiers from this threat, the U.S. Department of Defense has been seeking a solution that Lochhead initially regarded as an impossibility: A material that soldiers could smear on their faces like suntan lotion, leaving a coating that although thinner than a sheet of paper, could protect against that intense heat. Dr. Paige Buchanan, Kelli Booth, Michelle McClusky, Laura Anderson, and Lochhead were the team that tackled the challenge. Not only did they succeed, but they discovered a formulation that protects in laboratory experiments way beyond the 2-second heat-wave threat from improvised explosive devices and other bombs.

The new camouflage makeup protects the face and hands for up to 15 seconds before its own temperature rises to the point where a first-degree burn, which is a mild burn, might occur.

In some tests, the new face paint can protect for up to 60 seconds, which could be important in giving soldiers time to move away from blast-related fires and also for use by civilian firefighters.

The makeup had to meet several key criteria: It had to reflect intense heat; have camouflage colors suitable for day and night use; be easy to apply and remove; be waterproof; and be non-irritating to the eyes, nose and mouth.

The release notes that the trickiest part was that the University of Southern Mississippi team had to avoid the use of mineral oil, mineral spirits, fatty substances and other traditional hydrocarbon makeup ingredients. Hydrocarbons can burn in contact with intense heat in the flame spectrum. The team turned to silicones, which are not as flammable because they absorb radiation at wavelengths outside of the intense heat spectrum. Silicones have been replacing hydrocarbons in many commercial cosmetic makeup products as cosmetics companies improve products to confer better feel properties and transfer-resistance.

Another challenge was adding DEET, an insect repellent. The military mandates that all camouflage makeups contain 35 percent DEET. "DEET also is flammable, so when the Department of Defense asked us to incorporate it, we didn't think we could do it," Lochhead noted. But the team successfully included DEET by encapsulating

it in a hydrogel substance, a water-rich material that prevented DEET from catching fire.
It already has passed the preliminary laboratory tests needed to determine whether development should continue. Lochhead's team also plans tests of the material on other surfaces to try to protect clothing, tents and other items from burning, and a colorless version is being developed for firefighters.

Planning for a Safe Trip

By Scott Stewart (Stratfor)
Source:http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/planning-safe-trip?utm_source=freelist-f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20130815&utm_term=FreeReport&utm_content=readmore&elq=77b65a38930a4362ae930d59d5d0e99e

In light of the current U.S. State Department global travel warning, it seems an opportune time for a discussion on how to prepare to travel safely. Perhaps the most important key to remaining out of harm's way while traveling or working abroad is to know and understand -- in advance -- some of the idiosyncrasies of each country's bureaucracy and the security risks that have been identified for your destination. This knowledge and guidance will then allow you to decide whether to even travel to a particular destination. If you do decide to travel, it will help you plan and implement proper precautions for the environment you will be visiting. Fortunately, finding safety and security information for your destination country is easier than ever in the Internet age.

Travel Advisories and Consular Information Sheets

One of the most important first steps U.S. travelers should take before beginning a trip is seeing what the U.S. government says about your destination country. A great deal of information can be obtained from the U.S. government. Travelers accordingly should read the consular information sheet and check for travel warnings and public announcements pertaining to their destination countries before embarking. Such information can be obtained in person at passport agencies inside the United States or at U.S. embassies and consulates abroad. This information can also be obtained by calling the U.S. State Department, but the quickest and easiest way to obtain it is online: The State Department publishes them all on its website here.
A "travel warning" is a document recommending that travel to a specific country be deferred or avoided. A "public announcement" is intended to disseminate information about short-term conditions that could pose a risk to American travelers. Public announcements can be issued even when the U.S. government is not sure Americans will be specifically targeted but is concerned that a potential threat exists. The State Department often will issue public announcements regarding terrorist threats, coups and large public demonstrations, and sometimes will publish them to note upcoming anniversaries of significant past terrorist events.
The State Department issues travel warnings for only a handful of countries. Many countries do not have any active public announcements pertaining to them, but the department maintains a "consular information sheet" for every country, even countries the United States does not have formal diplomatic relations with, such as Iran. The consular information sheet is a useful document that provides information not only about what documents you need to enter the destination country but also on crime, safety, security, political stability, in-country medical care, currency regulations and road safety. It also contains contact information for the U.S. embassy and U.S. consulates (if any) in the country. The consular information sheet also usually contains a link to the local U.S. embassy's website.
It is a good idea for travelers to print out a copy of the consular information sheet and take it with them on their trip. At the very least, travelers should be sure to print out or write down the phone number of the U.S. embassy -- including the after-hours phone number (which generally rings into the Marine security guard on duty at the embassy's security command center, normally referred to as "Post One," or to the embassy's duty officer). The paper with the embassy contact numbers should be kept separate from the traveler's wallet so that if the wallet gets lost or stolen, the

contact information will not be lost with it.

Significantly, consular information sheets generally do not provide advice or security recommendations to travelers. They are intended to provide just the facts, and travelers are then supposed to use the information provided in the consular information sheets to make their own judgments and determine their own courses of action. Because of this, if the consular information sheet for your destination country actually breaks this protocol and does make a recommendation, you should take that recommendation seriously.

It is also prudent for American travelers to register with the U.S. State Department before leaving the country. This will be helpful not only in case something happens to you while abroad or if there is a crisis in the country you are visiting, but also if there is a family emergency in the United States and someone needs to locate you. Registration is free, is accomplished via a secure website and only takes a few minutes. Foreign citizens should also register with their respective embassies if their countries offer similar programs, like Australia's "Smart Traveler."

Other Government Travel Reports

In order to ensure that I am getting a balanced look at a specific country and to obtain more detailed information, I generally like to look at travel advice from several additional countries -- namely, the British, Canadian and Australian governments. The British travel advice website can be found here, the Canadian website here and the Australian website here.

The U.S. State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs coordinates daily with the British, Canadian and Australian governments, so the four countries will have largely the same big picture of the security environment in a specific country. It is very unlikely that you would find a U.S. travel advisory warning against travel to country X and then visit the British travel advice site and read that visiting country X is fine because everything is "just ducky" there.

However, the real value to be gained by reading these different reports is at the granular level. The anecdotal cases the foreign governments discuss in their travel sheets may differ from those contained in the U.S. consular information sheet. For example, while compiling a travel briefing for a client once, I noted in a British advisory that British citizens in a particular city had been victimized by local criminal gangs who had begun to engage in "express kidnappings" -- something that the U.S. consular information sheet did not note. Express kidnappings, which are short-term kidnappings meant to drain the contents of the victim's bank account via his or her ATM card, were new for that country. Even though we had seen the tactic used elsewhere in the region, it was helpful to be able to warn our customer of the new threat. So in that case, reading the British advisory in addition to the U.S. consular information sheet was well worth my time.

Another great source of granular crime and safety information is the annual crime and safety report issued by the American Regional Security Officer for a particular country or city. Sometimes, these reports can be found on the embassy's website, but they can also be read on the Overseas Security Advisory Council's website. While some OSAC material is for constituent use only, crime and safety reports can be read by anyone and no login is required.

It is also important to remember that conditions in your destination country can change. Because of this, if government travel sites were checked far in advance of the trip, they should be checked again shortly before departure to ensure that no critical changes have occurred.

Other Information

When travelers leave the United States, they are no longer subject to U.S. laws and regulations but to the laws of the country they are visiting. Therefore, travelers need to learn as much as they can about those local laws before they travel.

Travelers should also keep up with the political situation in their destination country and that of the region it is in. Many websites, including Stratfor, are excellent sources of information pertaining to political, terrorism and security information. General information on the country, its government, culture, customs, etc., can be found at the library or online through any number of websites such as the National Geographic Society and the CIA's World Factbook.

Travelers should also familiarize themselves with maps of the areas they will be visiting. This will not only help them avoid being victimized by unscrupulous cab drivers and identify key locations such as

their hotel or embassy, but can also help keep them from wandering into dangerous areas.

The destination country may also have informative government websites, such as a site run by the government department of tourism or the country's embassy in the United States. For obvious reasons, these sites should be read carefully. In most cases, the host country government will want to be as positive as possible to encourage tourism. Therefore, such sites rarely provide any information on crime and security because they fear it could scare tourists (and their money) away. If such sites do acknowledge security problems, this is a strong indicator that the problem is too large to ignore and you should pay close attention to any warnings the sites provide.

Health Information

Prior to travel, you should also go the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's travel health information site. This site provides a wealth of information about vaccinations required for specific countries and regions and provides important tips about avoiding insect-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever as well as food- and water-borne ailments such as cholera and amoebic dysentery. The CDC also issues travel health precautions and warnings as well as information on sporadic outbreaks of dangerous diseases.

Travelers should also consult with their doctor well in advance of their trip to ensure their vaccinations are up to date and that they have time to receive all the required vaccinations for their destination before they depart. Your doctor can also prescribe anti-malarial medication if required. Even travelers in good health need to ensure they have the appropriate vaccinations and should take measures to avoid contracting dysentery and other food- and water-borne illnesses. (It is very difficult to have fun on a vacation when you are sick and unable to leave your hotel room.) Many times, travel health clinics will not only give vaccinations but will also issue handy medical travel kits that contain adhesive bandages and an assortment of over-the-counter pharmaceuticals such as pain relievers and anti-diarrhea medicines. Sometimes these kits will even contain prescription antibiotics for use in case of severe dysentery.

Insurance

Another consideration is insurance. You should check your homeowner's insurance policy or call your insurance agent to determine if your property insurance policy will cover losses or theft abroad. It is also prudent to find out if your health insurance will cover you overseas. In many instances, insurance companies will pay for all or a portion of medical coverage overseas, but you will often have to pay for the services at the time they are provided and then get reimbursed by the insurance company once you return home. Therefore, you should ensure that you have a way to pay for any necessary medical treatment. The U.S. embassy can provide assistance in the way of emergency loans to pay for your medical treatment, but such assistance requires a lot of paperwork.

You should also determine whether your medical insurance will pay for the cost of medical evacuation (medevac) in the case of a dire medical emergency. For example, a colleague of mine at the State Department had to be medevaced from Khartoum with cerebral malaria because local medical professionals could not stabilize him and did not have adequate facilities to care for him in Sudan.

Travelers going to a country with very poor in-country medical care and whose insurance will not pay for medical evacuation should give serious consideration to purchasing a medical insurance policy for the trip that will cover the cost of medical evacuation, which can run into the tens of thousands of dollars. Chances are, you will not need to be medically evacuated. But if you do, the cost of not having the coverage can be staggering.

Note: *This Security Weekly is a condensed version of a chapter from Stewart's book, "Shrewd as Serpents and Innocent as Doves: A Practical Security Guide for Christian Travelers."*

Top 6 Hottest New Weapons

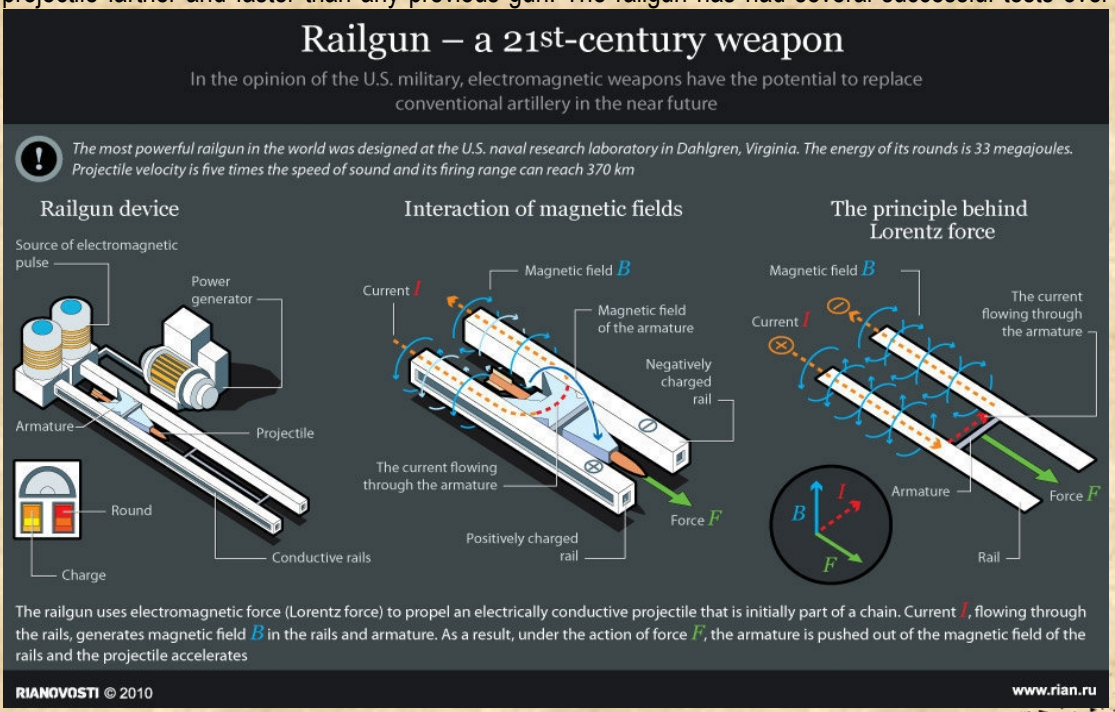
Source: http://www.idga.org/military-equipment-platforms/articles/top-6-hottest-new-weapons/

Competition spurs innovation and there is nothing more competitive than countries battling in the trenches of war. With billions upon billions in defense budget to spend, research into developing the best and most efficient weapons is on the forefront of investment.
Weapons come in all shapes and sizes with different purposes. We have collected a list of some of the most interesting weapons either out there now or in development. The future is now.

6. Laser Weapon System (LaWS)
Previously only thought to be in futuristic sci-fi movies, lasers are becoming a large part of the artillery. The Laser Weapon System is a directed-energy weapon developed by the United States Navy. LaWS can track targets and zap them with a beam strong enough to burn through steel. LaWS will protect ships from unmanned aerial vehicles and is expected to be deployed late 2013 or early 2014.

5. X-51A Waverider
Weapons traveling through the sky at the speed of sound could be just one decade away. The Air Force's hypersonic vehicle, the X-51A Waverider, completed its final test flight in early 2013. This unmanned scramjet can reach speeds of over 3,900 miles per hour and will be used in the High Speed Strike Weapon (HSSW), a Mach 5+ missile planned to enter service in the mid-2020s.

4. Electromagnetic Railgun
The railgun uses electromagnetic energy instead of explosive chemical propellant and could launch a projectile farther and faster than any previous gun. The railgun has had several successful tests over



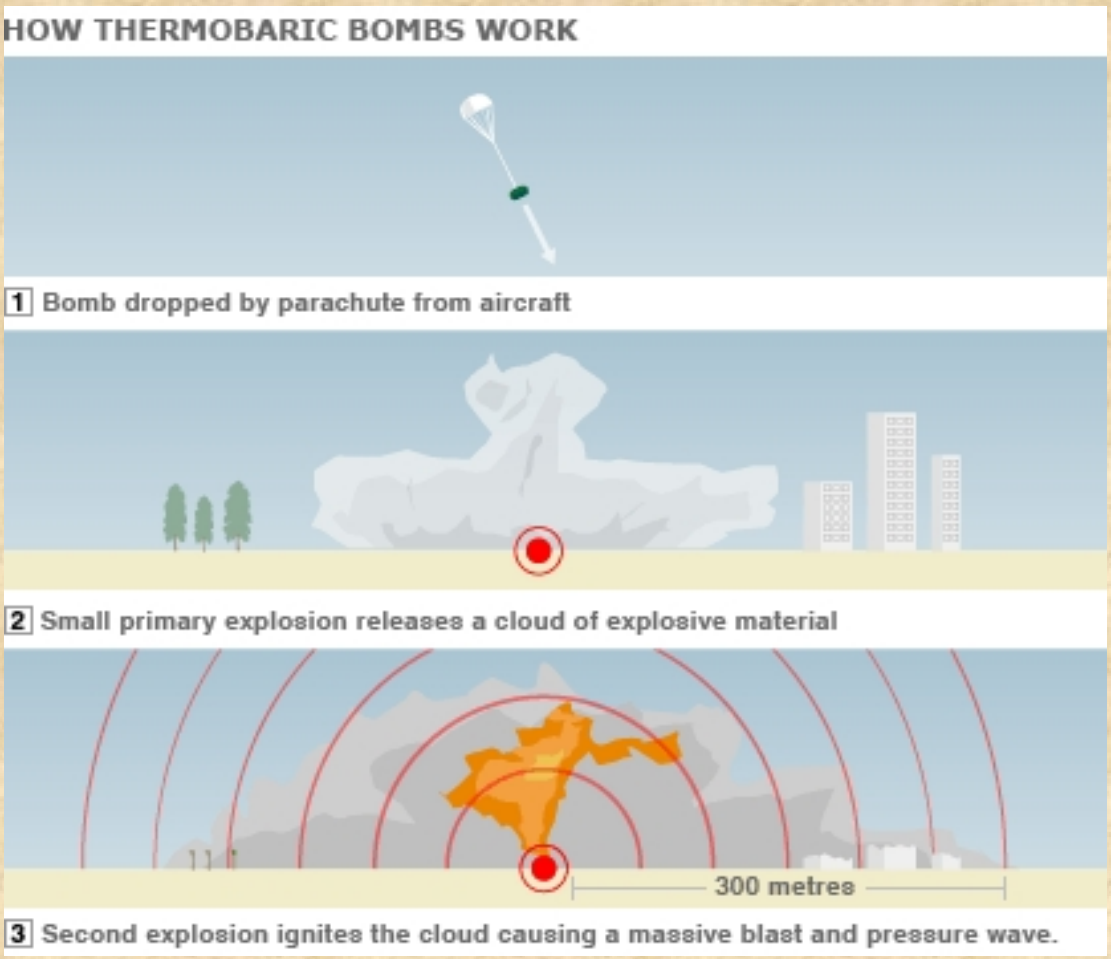
the past couple years and is currently still in development to become operational. If the

railgun technology reaches the stage where it can be deployed as a weapon, it will be able to fire a projectile more than 370km with a muzzle velocity of 7.5 times the speed of sound and an impact velocity of five times the speed of sound. It will destroy a target by its kinetic energy, rather than by using conventional explosives.

3. XM-25 Rifle

Known as "The Punisher", this weapon fires 25 mm grenades that are set to explode in mid-air at or near the target. What makes this weapon even more impressive is its ability to find its target. A laser rangefinder in the weapon is used to determine the distance to the target. The user can manually adjust the detonating distance by up to 10 feet shorter or longer; the XM25 automatically transmits the detonating distance to the grenade in the firing chamber. The grenade tracks the distance it has traveled by the number of spiral rotations after it is fired, then detonates at the proper distance to produce an air burst effect, enabling the user to find targets that are taking cover.

2. Aviation Thermobaric Bomb of Increased Power(ATBIP) A.K.A Father of all Bombs



This weapon makes the list for one reason, sheer power; It is a Russian-made air-delivered/land-activated thermobaric weapon. In describing the bomb's destructive power, Russian deputy chief of the general staff Alexander Rukshin was quoted as saying, "all

that is alive merely evaporates." This would make it the most powerful conventional (non-nuclear) weapon in the world.

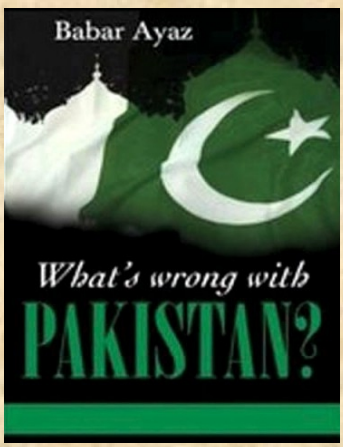
1. TrackingPoint Rifle

It takes years to train military snipers to fire with deadly accuracy at long range, but now you can shoot like one in a matter of minutes. A startup gun company in Texas called TrackingPoint has just released

a smart rifle that has a hefty price tag but enables inexperienced shooters to feel like crack marksmen. The gun, called the TrackingPoint rifle, comes equipped with a ton of technology which means it decides when to shoot and can easily hit targets that are 1,000 yards away. It uses lasers and computers so you can film the shooting and download it for playback on YouTube or Facebook later.

'What's wrong with Pakistan?: New book lauded for its journey into uncharted waters

Source: http://tribune.com.pk/story/593984/whats-wrong-with-pakistan-new-book-lauded-for-its-journey-into-uncharted-waters/



Religion was exploited during the creation of Pakistan by the ruling elite to strengthen their economic and political rights. This was general consensus of speakers at the launching ceremony of the book, "What is wrong with Pakistan?" at the South Asian Free Media Association on Thursday.

Authored by veteran journalist Babar Ayaz, the book investigates key points wherein Muhammad Ali Jinnah's idea of a secular and liberal Pakistan became obscured by a wave of religious fanaticism.

In his book, Ayaz has explored why Muslims came together to demand a separate country and has raised questions no one else has ever dared to ask before.

A panelist and renowned journalist Nusrat Javeed lauded the research that went into writing the book, calling the effort a product of patience, time and devotion. "To me the

most important part was the extra effort in academic pursuits in the way the Indian Muslim middle classes started a separatist movement," he said.

He cited the examples of other Muslim countries, namely Egypt and Turkey and the conflict on the basis of religious factions therein.

"This is a very brave and bold book because as on one hand we say that freedom of expression is increasing while on the other hand, journalists are restricted from speaking their minds, said Jinnah Institute Director Raza Rumi. "The book is very direct and unapologetic where we are afraid to make any statements on matters of religion."

He cited the example of the author Qurratulain Hyder, who was forced to leave the country for writing a controversial novel that the then authorities did not agree with.

Another journalist, Zahid Hussain, said the book could spark a controversial public debate. He spoke about the polarisation of political parties and progressive forces highlighted in the book.

On the other hand, senior journalist Ayaz Amir countered the argument by saying that the creation of Pakistan was not possible religion at its centre, which gave way to the two-nation theory. Religion, he said, was a logical necessity which led to the demand for a separate state and partition. Whether that was a good decision or not, he argued, is a separate matter.

Furthermore, Awami Workers Party Punjab General Secretary Aasim Sajjad Akhtar commented that ideology can be a part of the democratic process but not the determinant.

Does Egypt Chaos Signal Death Of Arab Spring?

Source: http://www.rferl.org/content/chaos-end-arab-spring/25082994.html

A year ago, Egyptians were voting in their country's first free presidential election. Today, that fleeting glimpse of democracy has been obliterated by a toppled president, military killings of civilians, and increasing talk of civil war.

Egyptians are far from the only Arabs who successfully revolted against their rulers during what became known as the Arab Spring and are now **living with insecurity and violence**. Tunisians and Libyans are enduring bitter power struggles, rampaging militias, and deepening poverty. Syrians face the choice of fleeing abroad or staying behind to risk getting killed in a brutal civil war. In Yemen, a fragile government is struggling with a hostile military, widespread malnutrition, and lawlessness.

The lack of democratic progress, and now Egypt's backslide into military rule, has prompted some observers -- including Tawakkul Karman, the Yemeni democracy activist who shared the Nobel Peace prize -- to ask whether the **death knell of the Arab spring** has sounded.

"Certainly it's very hard today, sitting here in Washington, to talk about great hopes for democracy when Egypt is descending further into chaos, when Syria is in the throes of a very bloody civil war, when Libya is still contending with militias running rampant," says Mona Yacoubian, senior adviser on the Middle East at the Stimson Center. "So the concerns about where the Arab transitions are headed are well-founded."

Yacoubian, who was in Tunisia just two months ago, says that while the so-called Arab Spring countries are "clearly in a period of great turmoil, that might get worse before things get better, I would contend that over the long term, we have to bear in mind that these transitions are part of a historic transformation that's sweeping the region and that, I believe, will take a generation, if not more."

Taking The Lid Off Silence

Yacoubian believes that because the first uprising, in Tunisia, and the biggest uprising, in Egypt, both went relatively smoothly, most observers expected the postrevolution period to go equally as well.

Instead, the power vacuums that were created when governments fell triggered bitter political struggles between groups who had no experience in a democracy. Islamists and secularists clashed. People long forced into silence were suddenly able to express their religious and political views, exposing deep polarizations that sometimes exploded into violence.

As one member of the National Constituent Assembly in Tunisia **described it** last year, "There are daily demonstrations, passionate arguments, and rumors that tend to spread like wildfire."

Yacoubian calls that blowback partly the result of "the lid being taken off of decades of authoritarian repression." But she adds that although outside observers may feel pessimistic about the Arab Spring's uneven progress, people in the region have told her there is no going back.

That's also what Karima Bennoune is hearing. Bennoune, a law professor at the University of California and author of, "Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here: Untold Stories from the Fight Against Muslim Fundamentalism," returned from the region earlier this month.

"Talking to women activists on the ground you still hear a determined optimism, a sense that there is hope," Bennoune says. "A Tunisian woman activist said to me that the Arab Spring for her is not dead, in fact it's the spirit of extraordinary resistance now in Tunisia to Islamism and to the attempts to impose a new kind of totalitarianism, a theocratic totalitarianism that, for her, represent the ongoing spirit of what was called the Arab Spring -- peaceful protests for a truly democratic alternative in her country."

You Can't Eat Religion

Bennoune also says what other Middle East watchers have been saying for years, which is that economic progress is as vital as political progress if the revolutions are to take hold.

In Egypt unemployment, poverty, and food insecurity **have soared** since the fall of Hosni Mubarak in 2011, reversing decades of progress in those areas. Foreign investment and tourism have collapsed. Oil-rich Libya suffered a 60 percent drop in GDP in 2011 after foreign companies pulled their workers out during the fighting to oust Muammar Qaddafi. An Egyptian woman summed up the frustration of many Arabs when she told Bennoune, "You can't fix a broken pipe by saying 'Allahu akbar' over it."

Throughout history, revolutionary political change has always taken years. That other famous spring, in Prague in 1968, was crushed by Soviet tanks but helped plant the seeds of change in Central and Eastern Europe that led to the fall of the Berlin Wall more than 20 years later.

Even successful revolutions, like the French, Russian, and American ones, were followed by chaotic and dangerous decades, notes John Esposito, a professor of religion, international studies, and Islamic studies at Georgetown University.

"The U.S. is a very good example in the sense that we went from a revolution and then it took a civil war, in which far more people were slaughtered. So if you actually look at our history, it looks like absolute chaos when you're looking at the period from the revolution to the Civil War,"

Esposito says. "When we celebrate our revolution we sort of block out the fact that we had a civil war and it still took a long time to take hold."

Yacoubian believes it will be the younger generations who will continue to carry the torch of the Arab Spring through the chaos of the postrevolution years. Now that they've tasted freedom, she says, they will do everything that they can to make sure they don't lose it.

Rapid response, imaging of injuries aided Boston Marathon bombing victims

Source: http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130821-rapid-response-imaging-of-injuries-aided-boston-marathon-bombing-victims

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), bombing survivors have the highest incidence of injury to soft tissue and musculoskeletal systems with the most extreme injury being traumatic amputation, which is reported in up to 3 percent of cases. The Boston Marathon bombings resulted in three fatalities and 264 casualties, with the most severe injuries involving lower extremities of those located closest to the blasts. Blast injuries within civilian populations are rare in the United States, so when they do occur they challenge the medical community rapidly to respond to concurrent evaluation and treatment of many victims.

The Boston Marathon bombing brought international attention back to the devastating effects of terrorism. There were numerous victims with severe injuries that needed immediate attention. A novel study in *Arthritis Care & Research,* a journal published by Wiley on behalf of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), presents cases from Boston-area hospitals where victims were treated, examining the medical response and imaging technologies used to save lives and limbs.

On 15 April 2013, at approximately 2:49 p.m. two pressure-cooker bombs exploded one after the other at the Boston Marathon finish line. A Wiley release reports that as a result of the bombings, there were three fatalities and 264 casualties, with the most severe injuries involving lower extremities of those located closest to the blasts. Shrapnel disbursed by the bombs included pieces of metal, nails and ball bearings. Injuries resulting from the Marathon bombing are relevant to the fields of rheumatology, rehabilitation, orthopedics and musculoskeletal imaging.

"In an era of terrorism, even clinicians serving non-military patients need to understand the spectrum of injuries caused by bomb explosions," explains lead author Dr. Ali Guermazi, Professor of Radiology at Boston University School of Medicine and one of the many specialists treating bombing victims at Boston Medical Center. "Critically ill bomb-blast patients needed quick assessments of their injuries, which had the most devastating effects to the lower limbs."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), **bombing survivors have the highest incidence of injury to soft tissue and musculoskeletal systems with the most extreme injury being traumatic amputation, which is reported in up to 3 percent of cases.** The CDC defines primary blast injuries as those caused by the blast wave — extremely compressed air moving away from the explosion — that can damage the lungs, bowel and ears. As the wave moves from the site of the explosion it creates a vacuum, which pulls materials and debris back toward the source of the bomb blast — the refilling of this void is known as the blast wind.

Victims from the Boston Marathon bombing were subject to blast waves and blast wind resulting in soft tissue damage, limb fractures, and amputations. The release notes that the study demonstrates the systematic need to exam each extremity for musculoskeletal, neurological, and vascular damage.

In accordance with previous evidence, radiography (X-ray) and computed tomography (CT-scan) should be used liberally to detect foreign objects, to define basic penetration patterns, and assess bony and soft tissue injuries.

Dr. Guermazi concludes, "While blast injuries within civilian populations are rare in the U.S., when they do occur it challenges the medical community to rapidly

respond to concurrent evaluation and treatment of many victims. We suggest that in urgent situations, like the Boston Marathon bombing, radiology resources be used liberally to save the lives and limbs of patients."

— Read more in Ali Guermazi et al., "Imaging of Blast Injuries to the Lower Extremities Sustained in The Boston Marathon Bombing," Arthritis Care & Research *(19 August 2013)*

Artists join scientists to plot disaster scenarios

Source: http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130821-artists-join-scientists-to-plot-disaster-scenarios

Researchers investigate how human and software agents can effectively work together to collect the best possible information from a disaster environment. The researchers have been exploring the use of unmanned autonomous systems (UAS) fitted with audio-visual equipment that can improve the response of emergency services and populations to disaster management. The team will be joined by two artists who will challenge the researchers to imagine new disaster scenarios that UAS technology may have to respond to.

Global Internet outage, a virus outbreak, and global warming are just some of the hypothetical disaster scenarios set to be created by an unusual collaboration between researchers at the University of Southampton and newly appointed Leverhulme artists-in-residence.

A University of Southampton release reports that the ORCHID program, based in Electronics and Computer Science (ECS) at the University, investigates how human and software agents can effectively work together to collect the best possible information from a disaster environment. The team has been exploring the use of unmanned autonomous systems (UAS) fitted with audio-visual equipment that can improve the response of emergency services and populations to disaster management.

Now the research group has been awarded funding to appoint two new artists-in-residence — Steve Beard and Victoria Halford — who will challenge the researchers to imagine new disaster scenarios that UAS technology may have to respond to.

The money to fund the artists' work has been awarded by the Leverhulme Trust, which was established in 1925 under the Will of the First Viscount Leverhulme to provide resources to support scholarships for the purposes of research and education. The Trust provides funding for research projects, fellowships, studentships, bursaries, and prizes across all academic disciplines. It aims to support talented individuals as they realise their personal vision in research and professional training.

Head of ORCHID at Southampton, Professor Nick Jennings, said: "We are delighted to have Steve and Victoria on board to help us expand our outlook with regards to our research into the use of computer-driven UAS in managing disaster environments. By offering a creative perspective and striving to make the previously unknown visible, Steve and Victoria will challenge us to think the unthinkable and explore the effects on our research of many different kinds of alternative futures.

"Some of the scenarios that emerge may go beyond the expected to take in what at the present time appears science-fictional."

The release notes that the team has already considered a range of scenarios — some hypothetical, such as the London 2012 Olympic Games being disrupted by fire or floods, and some real-life situations, such as the Haiti earthquake and the Fukishima nuclear disaster — but is keen to expand on these to help shape awareness of the conditions in which UAS may have to operate.

"Steve and Victoria will provoke us to explore what the future may look like and the likely changes of operating computer-driven UAS within it. By mobilizing the imagination of artists, we intend to gain access to novel scenarios that will help future-proof the development of our research," said Professor Jennings.

Steve and Victoria have previously worked collaboratively to make art films about accidents.

They challenge explanations that emerge from scientific accident

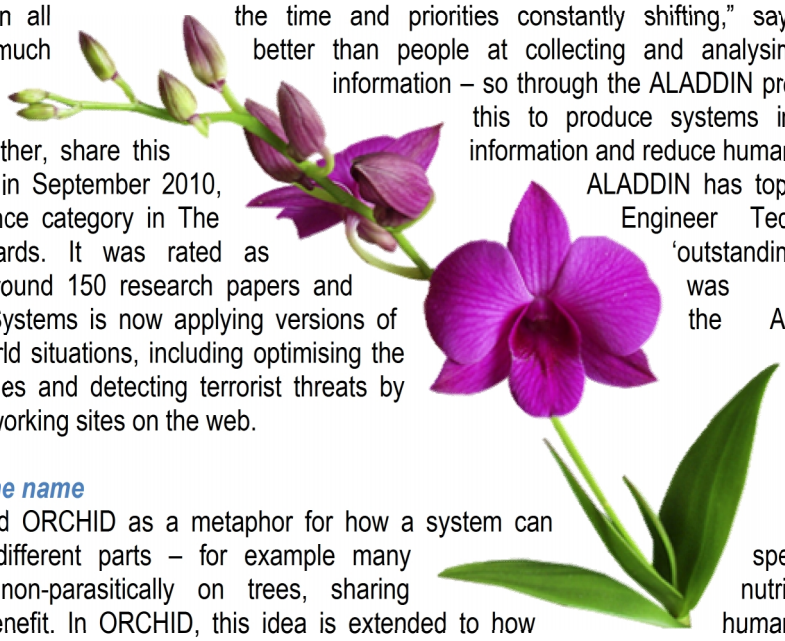
investigation with alternative narratives. By merging fact and fiction, with alternative histories and projections into the future they create visually compelling, intellectually rich works of art that have been described as documentary fiction and cine-essay.
At the end of the project the pair will create a film sequence modeling hypothetical disaster management narratives generated by the disaster scenarios. Using an off-the-shelf UAS, the film sequences will be the first example of ORCHID's research being disseminated in an unconventional and engaging way.
This visual work will be part of a public event staged by the John Hansard Gallery, based at the University of Southampton, at the end of the artists' residency. In 2009, Steve and Victoria featured in the John Hansard Gallery's "Dark Places" exhibition, where their film "Voodoo Science Park" explored the secret geography of the Health and Safety Laboratory, Derbyshire.
The project will also involve collaboration with colleagues at the University's Winchester School of Art which will mentor the artists.

Cool heads. A new era in crisis management

Source: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/promotion/crisis_02.shtml#.Uhj7p38-b-s

ORCHID and ALADDIN

The University of Southampton is leading a new research project – ORCHID – to investigate how people and agents can work together as 'human agent collectives' (HACs) to manage the response to a disaster. Funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, and partnering with BAE Systems and Secure Meters UK, ORCHID builds on the success of the ALADDIN Project (Autonomous Learning Agents for Decentralised Data and Information Networks): a five-year strategic research programme also led by Nick.
The ALADDIN researchers designed a system of multiple agents working together to give an overall picture of an emergency situation as it developed. The agents, in sensors, cameras and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), were programmed to collect and process data about the situation. Using techniques such as game theory, the agents negotiated with each other to arrive at a coordinated plan of action – for example sending the correct number of fire engines to where they were needed most.
"Emergency situations, such as earthquakes, floods and fires, are extremely chaotic, with new information coming in all the time and priorities constantly shifting," says Nick. "Computers are much better than people at collecting and analysing large amounts of information – so through the ALADDIN project we have harnessed this to produce systems in which computers work together, share this information and reduce human error."
Since its completion in September 2010, ALADDIN has topped the aerospace and defence category in The Engineer Technology and Innovation Awards. It was rated as 'outstanding' by its funders, produced around 150 research papers and was granted eight patents. BAE Systems is now applying versions of the ALADDIN algorithms to real-world situations, including optimising the logistics of supply lines and detecting terrorist threats by monitoring social networking sites on the web.



ORCHID: it's all in the name

The project is entitled ORCHID as a metaphor for how a system can flourish by benefiting from different parts – for example many species of orchid plants live non-parasitically on trees, sharing nutrients so that both systems benefit. In ORCHID, this idea is extended to how humans and computers could interact to optimise communication, information and service technologies.

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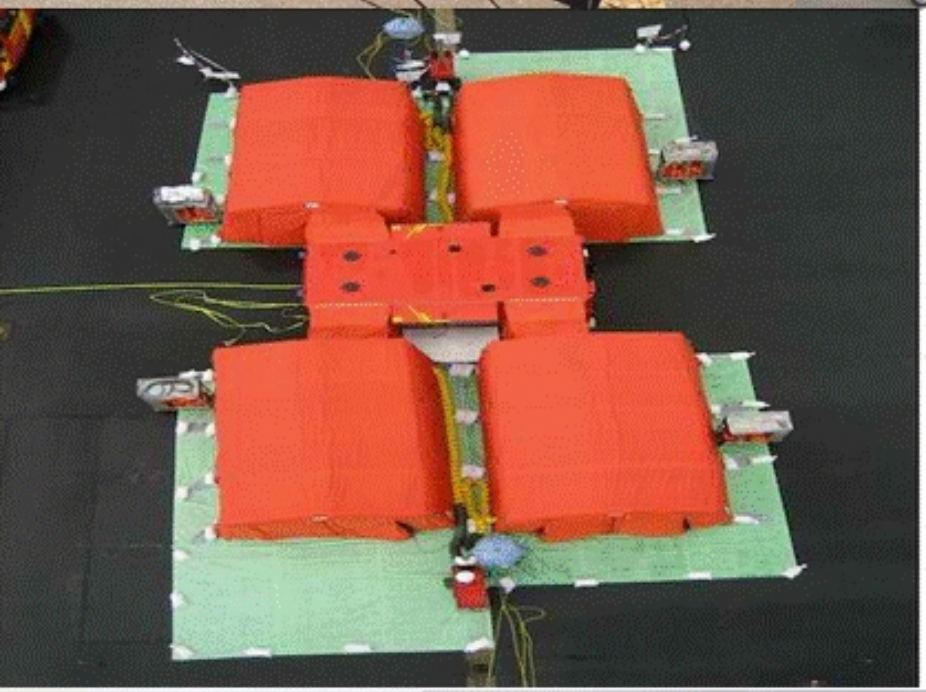

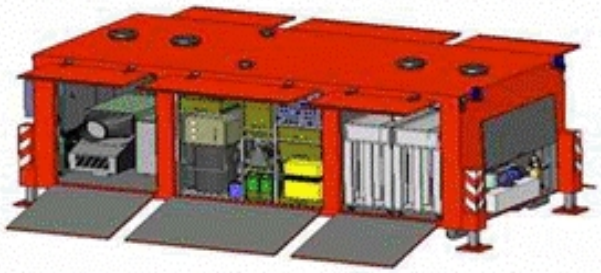

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