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THREAT/RISK ASSESSMENT





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Objectives

The objectives of this session are to:

- Give you a basis from which to be able to do a threat assessment
- Give you a basis from which to be able to do a risk assessment
- Assist you in understanding all the influencing elements
- Be able to identify potential indicators



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Assessing the Threat

Intention x Capability



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Assessing the Vulnerability

Security x Predictability



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Assessing the Risk

Probability x Consequences



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Intention

- Is there a stated intention?
- What is their target?
- How will they do it?
- Is there any intelligence?
- Is there any corroboration?



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Capability

- What do they intend to do?
- Do they have the materials?
- Do they have the expertise?
- How many sources of intelligence do you have?
- Is the intelligence corroborated?



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Security

- People
- Premises
- Information
- Material Control
- Policies
- Procedures



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Predictability

- Is there any intelligence relating to target?
- Has the target been struck before?
- Does it fit the target profile?
- Have similar attacks been seen elsewhere?



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Probability

- Do they have the expertise?
- Can they access material?
- Is their plan plausible?
- Has it been done before?



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Consequences

- Can you deal with the potential outcome?
- Do you have the right infrastructure?
- Can you cope with multiple attacks?
- What is the likely cost (human)?
- What is the likely cost (financial)?

For some scenario's (especially the biological ones), the potential consequences will far outweigh the threat.



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Possible Indicators of a Future Attack

- Terrorists will need to obtain material
- Terrorists will need financing
- Terrorists will need expertise
- Terrorists will normally test weapons
- Terrorists will research their target



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Availability of Biological Material

- Environment – difficult to culture the right material.
- Kitchen chemistry-simple development such as Ricin and Abrin
- A Laboratory-gain access by stealth rather than breaking in.
- A Culture Collection – would need provable address and reliability?
- Purchase of strands of DNA – requires advanced technology at the moment but what about the future?
- Genetic modification of other substances



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Terrorist Financing

- Common methods of fraud
- Forged documents
- Forged credit cards/cheques etc
- Legitimate business?
- Funding from central organisation
- Funding from individual



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Terrorist Expertise

- Internet
- Simple procedures – Ricin/Abrin etc
- Theft of prepared material
- Train a specific person through education system
- Radicalised scientist
- Pressurised scientist



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Testing Weapons

- Previous operations have shown that this is common with explosives
- Small outbreak – does this indicate a bigger one on the way?
- Monitoring of hospitals and local health centres.



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Hostile Reconnaissance

- This is almost always done prior to an attack
- Raise public awareness
- Raise scientific awareness
- Provide a point of contact for reporting
- Encourage reporting



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