

**GROWING THREAT of WMD**  
**[weapons of mass destruction]**  
**TERRORISM**

# *Definition of the terrorism*

**By its very nature, terrorism often comes as a surprise and is likely at peacetime as well as during war**

# DEFINITION OF TERRORISM

**There continues to be no universally accepted definition of terrorism.**

- 1. Terrorism is violence, or the threat of violence, calculated to create an atmosphere of fear and alarm, through acts designed to coerce others into actions they otherwise would not undertake or into refraining from actions that they desired to take.**
- 2. All terrorist acts are crimes. Many would also be violations of the rules of war, if a state of war existed.**
- 3. This violence or threat of violence is generally directed against civilian targets.**

# DEFINITION OF TERRORISM (2)

4. The motives of all terrorists are political, and terrorist actions are generally carried out in a way that will achieve maximum publicity.
5. The perpetrators are usually members of an organized group, although increasingly lone actors or individuals who may have separated from a group can have both the motivation and potentially the capability to perpetrate a terrorist attack.
6. Unlike other criminals, terrorists often claim credit for their acts. Finally, terrorist acts are intended to produce effects beyond the immediate physical damage that they cause.

# TERRORIST GROUP

**For the purposes of this presentation, a terrorist group is defined as a collection of individuals belonging to an autonomous nonstate or subnational revolutionary or antigovernment movement who are dedicated to the use of violence to achieve their objectives.**

**Such an entity is seen as having at least some structure and command and control apparatus that, no matter how loose or flexible, nonetheless provides an overall organizational framework and general strategic direction. This definition is meant to include contemporary religion-motivated and apocalyptic groups, and other movements that seek theological justification or divine sanction for their acts of violence.**

# State-Sponsored Terrorism

**State-sponsored terrorism is defined here as the active involvement of a foreign government in training, arming, and providing other logistical and intelligence assistance as well as sanctuary to an otherwise autonomous terrorist group for the purpose of carrying out violent acts on behalf of that government against its enemies.**

**State-sponsored terrorism is, therefore, regarded as a form of surrogate warfare.**

# Definition of the „terrorist activity” acc. of INA - USA

**Section 212(a)(3)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) defines "terrorist activity" to mean: "any activity which is unlawful under the laws of the place where it is committed (or which, if committed in the United States, would be unlawful under the laws of the United States or any State) and which involves any of the following:**

**(I) The hijacking or sabotage of any conveyance (including an aircraft, vessel, or vehicle).**

**(II) The seizing or detaining, and threatening to kill, injure, or continue to detain, another individual in order to compel a third person (including a governmental organization) to do or abstain from doing any act as an explicit or implicit condition for the release of the individual seized or detained.**

**(III) A violent attack upon an internationally protected person (as defined in section 1116(b)(4) of title 18, United States Code) or upon the liberty of such a person.**

# Definition of the „terrorist activity” acc. of INA - USA

**(IV) An assassination.**

**(V) The use of any--**

**(a) biological agent, chemical agent, or nuclear weapon or device, or**

**(b) explosive, firearm, or other weapon or dangerous device (other than for mere personal monetary gain), with intent to endanger, directly or indirectly, the safety of one or more individuals or to cause substantial damage to property.**

**(VI) A threat, attempt, or conspiracy to do any of the foregoing."**



# **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)**

**For reasons of clarity and precision, the report uses the term CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear) terrorism, in preference to the more commonly used, yet potentially misleading term, “weapons of mass destruction” or WMD, to describe the unconventional types of weapons that terrorists may use.**

# **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) cd.**

As recognized in some descriptions, moreover, even small amounts of conventional explosives could potentially have “**mass destructive**” effects.

It is intended that the term CBRN within the construct of such reports includes, as an example, potential terrorist attacks on industrial chemical facilities that do not necessarily involve an actual CBRN weapon, where the purpose is to engineer the hazardous release of a toxic gas or other substance intended to kill and injure surrounding populations.

# CBRN TERRORISM

**The psychological impact of the CBRN terrorism threat, pointing to the panic among the population before and during the Gulf War and during the above-mentioned 1998 Iraq crisis.**

**Some of experts point out that a large-scale attack is not necessary in order to achieve the psychological effects desired by terrorist groups, which already have crude CBW at their disposal (e.g., off-the-shelf chemicals, insecticides).**

**Further, the acquisition of materials (as opposed to their production), whether by purchase or theft, or the blowing up of a production facility would give terrorist groups CBRN capabilities while demanding no special technical expertise.**

**Moreover, without strict global supervision of military CBW, experts believe that these weapons might eventually fall into the hands of terrorist groups.**

# **AGRICULTURAL TERRORISM**

**In many experts reports, it is noted that terrorists could cause economic and social damage by targeting a State or regional agricultural sector. There is said:**

**[A] concerted biological attack against an agricultural target offers terrorists a virtually risk-free form of assault, which has a high probability of success and which also has the prospect of obtaining political objectives, such as undermining confidence in the ability of government or giving the terrorists an improved bargaining position.**

**This may be especially true if the agricultural bioterrorism attack is part of a carefully planned escalation . . . to attain the terrorists' ultimate objectives . . . with minimal risk to the terrorists themselves.**

# The CBRN attack



**The Islamic State, with their sizeable financial resources, their success in recruiting skilled individuals, and the availability of CBRN materials in Iraq and Syria, has increased the probability that they could carry out a successful large CBRN attack. As such, it seems that it is a matter not of “if,” but rather of “when,” a mass CBRN attack could occur.**

# CBRN TERRORISM

New report from the European Parliament compiled in the aftermath of last month's attack warns that the next wave could come in the form of highly destructive weapons designed to kill significantly larger amounts of people.

**ISIS has recruited experts with chemistry, physics and computer science degrees to wage war with weapons of mass destruction against the West, a shocking European Parliament report has claimed.**

The terror organisation, according to the briefing document, 'may be planning to try to use internationally banned weapons of mass destruction in future attacks'.

***The EU report claims that government should 'consider publicly addressing the possibility of terrorist attack using chemical, biological, radiological or even nuclear materials'.***

# BIOLOGICAL TERRORISM

**The biological hazard remains a strategic threat today and in the future.**

**Biological warfare is the deliberate spreading of disease amongst humans, animals and plants.**

**Diseases are caused when small numbers of harmful living microorganisms enter into the target population.**

**BW weapons develop over extended periods of time. The more typical microbes affect the host within two to fourteen days, developing endemic diseases.**

**The biological attack can be launched silently and invisibly, giving the attacker plenty of time to escape undetected and unchallenged. Days may elapse before an attack is discovered.**

# SUMMARY AND THE LIST OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

## **Executive Branch:**

- Continue to develop the Combating Terrorism Strategy approved by the President
- Create a “National Office for Combating Terrorism”
- Director appointed by the President, confirmed by the Senate
- Strategy formulation
- Plans Review
- Multidisciplinary staffing
- Specified control of Federal programs/budgets
- Supported by Advisory Board for Domestic Programs
  
- Assistants for Domestic Preparedness, Intelligence, Health and Medical, RDT&E/National Standards, and Management and Budget



# SUMMARY AND THE LIST OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Develop “model” State plan (NEMA and FEMA)**
- **Conduct inventories of State and local programs for nationwide application (National Office)**
- **Promote/facilitate the adoption of multi-jurisdiction/multi-state mutual aid compacts (National Office)**
- **Promote/facilitate adoption of standard ICS, UCS, and EOC (National Office)**
- **Designate agency other than DoD as “Lead Federal Agency” (President)**
- **Enhance Training, Equipping, and Exercising**
- **Develop input to strategy and plans in close coordination with State and local entities**