Al Qaeda Training

Assessing Their Tactics

Anti Terrorism Accreditation Board

Emergency Response Manual

Chapter 31
The reality of this problem is that all their training basically results in the death of the hostages and the death of the hostage takers. The training manuals indicate that they will use whatever means it takes to obtain their objective with no remorse of who or what is destroyed while accomplishing their mission.
Assessment of Al Qaeda Training

- This assessment has been made by the review and analysis of Al Qaeda training materials and tapes captured during counter terror operations.
- Primary training included Small arms firing, live fire room entry and mixed live fire role player scenarios.
Scenarios Include:

- Assassinations
- Kidnappings
- Bombings
- Small unit raids on various type targets
- Training for "foreign" operatives
Scenarios Include:

1. Detailed planning
2. Diagramming of scenario
3. Walk-through of scenario
4. Live-fire real time exercise
Role Players:

- Numerous role player/scenario types of interaction
- “Victim” role players were aggressive in resistance
- Resistance met with immediate and brutal countermeasures by terrorist
- Extensive efforts to produce detail & realism
Points seen REPEATEDLY and ROUTINELY:

- Military small unit tactics
- Multiple elements

1. Assault
2. Security
3. Support
Coordination

Coordination w/sub-units via hand-held fm radios or cell phones
Pickup Trucks

Use of pick-up trucks by assault element (shooters concealed in bed of pick-up)
Motorcycles

Use of motorcycles:

For drive-by shootings or assassinations
Explosives

Use of explosives:

1. As diversion at initiation of attack
2. Upon withdrawal from objective
Signal for Attack

Vehicle horn to signal:

1. Initiation
2. Withdrawal
Detailed planning and rehearsal of all actions
Exercise of prisoner handling

- Initial contact
- Search
- Control
- Execution of prisoners (role players begged not to be killed)
- Terrorist practiced commands in English
Room Entries

- One or two “2 man teams”
- Assumed a “back to back” position near center of room
- Distraction device used prior to room entry (improvised, burning fuse type)
- Multiple breach points into structure and individual rooms
Live Fire Scenarios

- All scenarios practiced live-fire, including those w/role players
- Paper targets & role players interspersed in same scenario
- Practiced good muzzle awareness & control
- Handguns carried “high ready”
- Long guns carried “ejection port up”
Specific Scenarios

Training was conducted on multilane highways for ambush with multiple vehicles as well as sniper and explosive devices.
Targeting of Law Enforcement in Ambush/Assassinations

- Fake disabled vehicle w/shooters in trunk or pick-up bed
- Assault initiated by blowing vehicle horn as officers approach
- Officers first engaged w/long arms from vehicles
- “Coup de grace” at close range
- Explosive device into LE vehicle upon exit
Rear Security to Engage Police

- Practiced first as diagram and explanation
- Progression to dry fire walk-through
- Final phase was live-fire exercise
- Target location busy multi-lane highway
- Decoy vehicle placed just before exit ramp (exfiltration routes and security overview)
- Security engaged responding LE officers
Residential Assassinations

- Non-threatening approach to door - weapons concealed
- Conversation to get resident to open door
- Empty weapon into victim upon door opening
  - It should be noted that there have been several cases where they have stolen real delivery vehicles that show up 5 minutes prior to your scheduled delivery from a known vendor
Golf Course Assassinations

- Target on green - at pin or flag
- RPG to neutralize any VIP security vehicles
- Target engaged w/rifle fire
Raid on Fixed Location - Kidnapping of Victim

- RPG or grenades to compromise security
- Primary target compromised w/RPG
- Multiple breach points on primary target
- Explosive breach of walls/windows/doors
- Target victim exfiltrated by pick-up w/motorcycle security element
- Drive-up kidnapping of walking target
Additional Scenarios

- Use of cover & concealment for infiltration and exfiltration (tunnels, storm drains)
- Rappelling from roof for upper floor entries
- Multiple exercises on buildings w/large # of occupants (schools & office buildings)
Motorcycle Assassinations & Assaults

- Two people on motorcycle
- Shooter stands on rear pegs & shoots over driver
- Muzzle awareness & control
- Grenades thrown from motorcycles
Raids Followed a Standard Pattern

- Covert entry into building (guns concealed in bags and under clothing)
- Initiation w/extreme violence of action
- Any resistance aggressively overcome (shot any resistors, or suspect of being LE)
- Immediate positive control and search of prisoners
Raids Followed a Standard Pattern (continued)

- Segregation of prisoners into manageable groups
- Explosives & weapons displayed for psychological dominance over prisoners
- Prisoners moved to roof for “media” purposes
- Prisoners executed one by one in front of cameras
Raids Followed a Standard Pattern (continued)

- **ALL** scenarios ended in execution of all prisoners.
- **NO** scenario included a plan for exfiltration of terrorist (suicide mission).
- Intelligence suggests planning for simultaneous, multiple attacks at multiple locations (9/11 scenario).
Law Enforcement Considerations

- No time for SWAT or tactical unit intervention
- Compliance will only buy limited time
- If you are seen as a potential problem, immediate neutralization (shot)
- Terrorist looking to ID LE/armed citizens
Law Enforcement Considerations (continued)

- If you feign compliance, expect physical restraints as well as psychological restraints (threats to kill women and children if anyone causes a problem)
- Ultimate fate if you don’t resist is to be ritually executed in front of media
Analyze Options

- Die now
- Die a short time later
Immediate resistance
(Once terrorists have reached their objective, it will be very difficult to take effective action, also if you are injured on the street there is a better chance of assistance than off in an ally.)
Reaction Considerations

- Shoot - Move - Communicate
- Seek cover
- Attempt to acquire better weapon at first opportunity
Know how to use what you find

- Do you know how to place an AK47 or SKS into operation???

- Don’t overlook terrorist as source of grenades, RPG, etc.
Preemptive Actions

- Detect pre-mission activity
- Pay attention to your environment
- Investigate unusual or suspect activity
- Report unusual or suspect activity
You must always be aware

- The world is changing
- Are you ready?
We know that Al Qaeda is a driven opponent that has been trained to die to complete their mission. When a person is willing and plans to die while attacking you the only deterrent is to put him down first. The one thing that we see from this training is that they attempt to gain access through a “Con” approach and then become violent. We need to have strong security policies in place that we do not wavier from. Do not allow admittance to restricted areas for ANY reason.