Terrorism

Threats & Trends
Terrorism is a Political Act

- A weapon of psychological warfare for political purposes

- “...premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.”
  - Title 22 of USC, Sec. 2656f(d)
Terrorism is a Political Act

- to create extreme fear & anxiety in a target group larger than the immediate victims
  - with the purpose of coercing the larger target group into meeting some political demand
  - Use "extra-normal" violence in a symbolic act
  - specific victims have no particular significance to terrorist
Terrorism is Not *Irrational*

- Terrorism has its own logic that links
  - Goals
  - Objectives
  - Strategy
Political Goals of Terrorism

Political goals:
- To create a sense of vulnerability in larger target population
- To publicize terrorists’ plight; gain recognition
- To embolden their allies and supporters; gain support
  - provoke adversary into an inappropriate violent reaction
  - demonstrate the vulnerability & weakness of their adversary
- To push adversary into self-constraining acts
  - martial law
- To force policy change by adversary via public pressure
  - turn public wrath against authorities (why are we vulnerable?)
Terrorism in Historical Perspective

- Acts of terrorism recorded over 2000 years ago in Middle East
- Term “terrorism” coined during the French Revolution (1790s)
“Traditional” Terrorism

- Terrorists’ Concern for legitimacy
  - moderate strategy of violence

- Violence calibrated in relation to political objectives
  - Leaves future possibility for negotiation & political settlement
    - PLO & Israel (until 2001)
  - Excessive violence reduces legitimacy & claims for support

- Terrorists Always claimed credit for their acts
“Traditional” Terrorism

- <10% Terrorists Caught or killed
  - <50% caught went to jail
    - low personal risk

- Origins & Actions
  - Nation-based
Terrorism

By the Numbers
Recent Terrorist Acts Against the U.S.

- 1983 U.S. Embassy & Marine Barracks, Lebanon
- 1989 Lockerbie PA103 bombing
- 1993 World Trade Center
- [1996 Oklahoma City]
- 1996 Khobar Towers, Saudi Arabia
- 1998 East Africa Embassy Bombings
- 2000 USS Cole (Yemen)
- 2001 WTC & Pentagon
International Terrorism
Incidents & Casualties

1980-1984: 5000 Incidents, 1000 Casualties
1990-1994: 7000 Incidents, 1500 Casualties
1995-1999: 15000 Incidents, 3000 Casualties
2000-2001: 4000 Incidents, 1000 Casualties

Injured in WTC attack is not included.

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Terrorist Incidents

![Graph showing terrorist incidents from 1989 to 2000. The graph compares Anti-U.S. and Non-U.S. incidents. The y-axis represents the number of incidents, ranging from 0 to 600. The x-axis represents the years from 1989 to 2000.](image-url)
Types of Facilities Attacked in International Terrorist Incidents

![Bar chart showing the types of facilities attacked from 1996 to 2001](chart.png)

- **Business**
- **Diplomat**
- **Government**
- **Military**
- **Other**

The chart indicates the number of attacks on various types of facilities over the years.
Casualties in Anti-U.S. Attacks

Injured in WTC attack is not included.
U.S. Citizen Casualties in International Terrorist Attacks

![Graph showing U.S. Citizen Casualties in International Terrorist Attacks from 1996 to 2001. The graph indicates a significant increase in casualties in 1996, with a peak number of 500. Subsequent years show a decrease in casualties, with 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2001 having very low numbers. The graph is labeled with 'Killed' and 'Wounded' categories, with 'Killed' represented in red and 'Wounded' in brown.](image-url)
## Major Anti-U.S. Terrorist Incidents
### U.S. Casualties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Killed</th>
<th>Wounded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Embassy &amp; Marine Barracks</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pan Am 103</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Trade Center</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khobar</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>500 (U.S. &amp; others)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nairobi &amp; Dar es Salaam</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11; 5000 (non-US)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Cole</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WTC &amp; Pentagon</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>3350</td>
<td>?</td>
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Anti-U.S. Terrorism

Types of Attacks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Incidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>175</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Other
- Fire-Bombing
- Bombing
- Kidnap
- Arson
- Armed Attack
States Sponsoring Terrorism <2001

- Iran
- Iraq
- Syria
- Sudan
- Libya
- North Korea
- Cuba
The “New” Terrorism
“New” Terrorism

- Religion-based
  - Self legitimacy → no need for restraint
  - Sense of superiority → no need for restraint
  - Personal risk unimportant; sacred mission

- Greater Violence → Greater "Good"
  - Death of victims reduces number of non-believers
  - 1995: 25% of terrorist attacks religion-based
    - Accounting for 60% of all fatalities [Simon & Benjamin (2000)]

- Claiming credit for specific acts less important
  - Political message is vulnerability & destruction of adversary
“New” Terrorism

- Transnational
- Better technology & means for terror effects
  - Communications
  - financial
  - weaponry & explosives
    - WMD?

- Greater Vulnerability of Modern Urban Technological Societies
  - fragile complex systems
  - communications
  - Energy (electricity)
  - Transport (food, commodities, people)
  - financial flows