

Section Wrap-Up

Summary

- Describe how suicide bombers are recruited
- Describe the planning phase
 - Target selection
 - Attack modes
 - Mental preparation
 - Terrorist training
 - Acquisition of bomb materials
 - A discussion of prevention guidelines for the planning stage of suicide terrorist attacks
- Describe the preparation phase
 - The movements and whereabouts of terrorists during this stage
 - Reconnaissance and target-specific tactical training conducted during this stage
 - Behavioral changes of the suicide bomber that occur during this phase
 - Prevention guidelines that apply during the preparation phase
- Discuss how to respond to a suicide bomber attack-in-progress
 - Physical appearance of the suicide bomber
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Typical clothing
 - Physiology
 - Final rituals
 - Instructions for engagement teams, in other words, officers who will confront the suicide bomber
 - Considerations for the use of deadly force
 - Instructions for evacuation teams, in other words, officers who will evacuate citizens from the scene of a suicide bomber attack-in-progress
 - Considerations on how to treat a post-blast scene

You Are the Officer: Conclusion of the Israeli Army Checkpoint Case Study

After the suicide bomber removed his sweater, the explosive device is visible and recognizable as such, and a suicide bomb vest is definitely a deadly weapon. It appears to be real and prior incidents at the same location have shown that there is a genuine, actual threat of suicide bombings at this particular location. Deadly force against the attacker is justified. However, the suspect has clearly indicated his willingness to surrender. Apparently, even if an explosion does occur, there is no danger to innocent life; the officers are protected by concrete barricades, and all civilians have been removed from the scene. Therefore, the surrender of the suicide bomber is a viable option. His surrender and capture would cause a major embarrassment to the terrorist organization that deployed him, and if captured alive, he might provide valuable information on his organization and possibly other planned attacks. The most pressing problem is to separate him from the bomb vest, and either disarm or destroy it.

The soldiers who faced this actual situation remained behind their barricades and requested the assistance of a bomb squad. They were ready at all times to immediately use deadly force against the suicide bomber had he not obeyed their commands. The bomb squad dispatched a small robot to the suicide bomber, carrying a pair of scissors. The suicide bomber was ordered to cut the vest off his body with the scissors, and he complied. Once he had removed vest, he was ordered to strip completely and then approach the troops behind the barricades, where he was taken into custody. The vest was subsequently destroyed in a controlled explosion. The capture of the would-be suicide bomber caused a major embarrassment for the Palestinian terrorist organization that had recruited the boy. It was one of the few incidents where the family of a suicide bomber spoke out against his leaders and his mission. The actions taken by these Israeli soldiers provide an excellent example of how a real-life suicide bombing-in-progress can be resolved successfully.

Glossary

Deadly force Employment of force by officers that likely causes death, such as the use of firearms, or blows to the head or neck.

Imam Religious leader of a mosque.

Jihadist Radical Islamic belief that it is just to wage a war by any means necessary with anyone who does not share their beliefs.

Self Evaluation

1. What is the main reason for some terrorist organizations' use of female suicide bombers?
 - A. They are easily available
 - B. They can be forced into a suicide mission
 - C. They receive less scrutiny from security personnel
 - D. For religious reasons
2. Generally, the training of a potential suicide terrorist is divided into two phases, the spiritual and the tactical phases. Which one is more likely to be conducted in the United States?
3. If terrorists conduct firearms training in the United States, then what could most likely be observed?
 - A. Tactical scenarios
 - B. Fully automatic gunfire
 - C. Explosions
 - D. All of the above
4. What should you always look for in the clothing of a potential suicide bomber?
 - A. Expensive
 - B. Shabby
 - C. Baggy, loose fitting
 - D. Uniform