

Corps Relay is a regular bulletin designed to relay matters of high importance relating to Security, Crime, Terrorism and other related topics.

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CORPS
CONSULT

Terror attacks in Brussels!

Dear Reader,

Hello and welcome to this special issue of Corps Relay, aimed at providing you with the important information you need to know to protect you and your business.

BREAKING NEWS!

Sadly, at least 31 people have been killed and many seriously injured in attacks at Brussels international airport and a city metro station.

Twin blasts hit Zaventem airport at 07:00 GMT, and according to reports 11 people were killed and 81 injured.

Another explosion struck Maalbeek metro station an hour later, where twenty people were killed.

The terrorism threat level in Belgium has now been raised to its highest level.

The attacks come four days after Salah Abdeslam, the main fugitive in the Paris attacks, was arrested by Special Forces in Brussels.

Readers are reminded that here in the UK, police recently issued a warning that Daesh is planning an “enormous and spectacular” attack in the UK, not dissimilar to the Paris attack last year.

After concentrating on the police and military in the past, Daesh now wish to wage war on Western lifestyle.

As reported in our last issue of Corps Relay, Scotland Yard Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley was on record as stating that Daesh has big ambitions for enormous and spectacular attacks, and not just the types of attacks that we have seen to date.



Brussels Airport today

COUNTER-TERRORISM SPECIAL GUIDANCE NOTES

Are your Premises a Target for Terrorists?

Although terrorists are often keen to attack Government, State and Establishment targets, it is not uncommon for extremist terror groups to also target 'secondary' or 'soft' targets in order to make their point, or to grab media headlines. The atrocities perpetrated against the Bataclan Theatre and restaurants in Paris, are a classic example of the vulnerability of soft targets. In this regard, establishments such as theatres, restaurants, pubs, cinemas, museums, schools, colleges, shopping centres, transport hubs and places of worship may be perceived as soft targets by terrorist groups.

Sources and Nature of the Threats

The threat of international terrorism emanates from a diverse range of sources, including the so-called 'Islamic State' (IS), Al Qaeda and associated networks, and those who share this ideology but do not have direct contact with them. A threat could also manifest itself from a lone individual or group, rather than a larger network.

The nature of terrorist threats can take a number of forms, as terrorists may use a variety of methods of attack to achieve their objectives. These may include explosive devices (IEDs and VBIEDs), firearms, missiles, kidnapping, infiltration and cyber-attacks.

IS and/or Al Qaeda linked terrorists now have a proven track recording in carrying out Mumbai style shooting attacks (now commonly referred to as "Marauding" or "Swarm" attacks).

In Northern Ireland, while the targets of dissident IRA groups generally focus on members of the Police and Prison Services of Northern Ireland, there is a risk that such groups could once again target key British institutions on the mainland. We should not forget this source of threat to the UK.

Hostile Reconnaissance

Given the current security situation security teams should be increasing their high visibility presence through increased external patrols. It is also essential that security teams are trained and regularly briefed to identify the behavioural patterns and body language of potential terrorists, and those accomplices who gather pre-operational information, through hostile reconnaissance.

Security Patrols

Security patrol members who engage in external patrols should pay particular attention to the following potential indicators of hostile intent:

- Suspicious vehicles parked in restricted areas; or being driven erratically; or with occupants taking photographs or video footage from those vehicles
- Persons acting suspiciously who may be taking photographs or video footage; or who are asking intrusive questions about premises ownership, usage or security

Security teams can also be equipped with two-way radios, as well as mobile phones, body worn video (BWV), notebooks, high-visibility clothing and, where necessary, torches.

Security personnel should also be reminded never to place themselves in personal danger, where they perceive a serious physical threat. They must be reminded to report any suspicious activity without hesitation to their Security Controller or other relevant Manager (the Anti-Terror Hotline telephone number can be found at the end of this document).

Reviewing Security Measures and Procedures

It is essential for public and private organisations to regularly review their security policies, procedures, and physical security measures in relation to access to their premises.

We pose some questions below which we hope will assist you to take practical steps to mitigate the threats from terrorism:

- *Are you satisfied with your existing access control physical measures?*
- *Is entry to your premises or estates adequately controlled?*
- *Who has ownership of access policies and procedures?*
- *Who has operational control?*
- *Are appropriate preventative measures in place?*
- *Are your personnel trained to understand and identify hostile reconnaissance?*
- *What contingency plans exist to address situations where someone or something worrying or suspicious is discovered?*
- *Do you have updated evacuation and invacuation contingency plans?*
- *Are reporting procedures adequate in terms of escalation of concerns, and police support?*
- *Is staff 'security awareness' training up to date?*
- *Do people know what they are looking for?*
- *Do you have search processes in place?*
- *If so, is the search training adequate, or in need of a refresh?*

Whilst we at Corps Relay recognise that risk and threat levels will vary amongst our customer base, there are nevertheless some generic steps, or 'Top Tips' that can be taken to help when thinking about our customers' individual and specific counter-terrorism measures and programmes:

'Top Tips':

- *Maintain a good flow of intelligence and information, including close liaison with local Police and Counter-Terrorism advisors*
- *Have the right calibre of trained people in place, including well trained Security teams, and run Security Awareness programmes for all staff and personnel*
- *Select appropriate technical solutions, especially to enable robust access control measures*
- *Implement effective operational procedures*
- *Ensure that control and supervision protocols are in place*
- *Carry out regular tests (including Penetration Tests) and drills of all security and safety systems*
- *Implement both internal and external security audits*
- *Ensure that Contingency and Emergency plans are in place and are easily accessible for all relevant personnel*

Always ensure that Security teams are alert to suspicious behaviour and activity in or around your subject premises or environment! The Paris attack shows that the terrorists had done their homework, and had carried out pre-operational reconnaissance on their target premises...

REMEMBER! It is vital that Access Control and anti-tailgating measures are as robust as possible, and that unauthorised persons are not allowed to gain access to your premises!

Dynamic Lockdown

NaCTSO Guidance Note 1/2015

Developing Dynamic Lockdown Procedures

This note published by the National Counter-Terrorism Security Office, provides guidance to develop procedures to dynamically lockdown their sites in response to a fast moving incident such as a firearms or weapons attack, either directly at the site or in the vicinity. Due to the differences between the vast array of sites in the UK it is not possible to give prescriptive advice, however this guidance details planning considerations applicable to most sites.

What is dynamic lockdown? Dynamic lockdown is the ability to quickly restrict access and egress to a site or building (or part of) through physical measures in response to a threat, either external or internal. The aim of lockdown is to prevent people moving into danger areas and preventing or frustrating the attackers accessing a site (or part of). It is recognised that due to their nature some sites may not be able to physically achieve lockdown.

Why develop dynamic lockdown? Those seeking to conduct attacks often undertake a level of planning including hostile reconnaissance. All opportunities to detect and deter threats at the attack planning phase should be taken. Presenting a strong security posture through visible and effective activity, for example by staff awareness and reporting processes, efficient use of CCTV, deterrent communications and active security zones.

In preventing an attack has not been possible, the ability to frustrate and delay the attacker(s) during the course of the attack and reduce the number of potential casualties can be greatly increased through dynamic lockdown.

Advance planning of what needs to be done to lockdown a site and recognising the need for flexibility in those plans will save lives.

For further information on this important topic, please contact us at Corps Relay, or visit the NaCTSO web site at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recognising-the-terrorist-threat>

UK TERRORIST THREAT LEVEL

The international terror threat level in the UK remains at severe, meaning an attack is "highly likely".

The **current threat level** from international terrorism for the UK was raised on 29 August 2014 and is now assessed as: **SEVERE**

The threat level for Irish related terrorism is set separately for Northern Ireland and Great Britain

In Northern Ireland it is: **SEVERE** and in Great Britain **MODERATE**

NOTE:

- **CRITICAL** means that a terrorist attack is imminent
- **SEVERE** means that a terrorist attack is highly likely
- **SUBSTANTIAL** that an attack is a strong possibility
- **MODERATE** that an attack is possible but unlikely

Everyone should always remain alert to the danger of terrorism and report any suspicious activity to the police on 999 or the anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321.

REPORT IT!

You may end up saving a life or lives... and there is nothing more rewarding than that..

For further information, or for back copies of *Corps Relay*, feel free to contact our team direct on 07773 320234 or via e-mail at mbluestone@corpssecurity.co.uk .