# CHAPTER 40

# REFERENCES (Covert Operations)

Covert operations are military or political activities that are not only clandestine (undertaken in a manner that disguises the identity of the perpetrators) but also covert, i.e. denied by the governments that undertake them.

They are employed in situations where openly operating against a target would jeopardize the operation's success. In the case of enemies, there may be issues regarding military strength, treaties, laws, moral principles, or aversion to negative media attention. Operations may be directed at allies and friends to secure their support or to influence their policy against an enemy. Covert operations differ from espionage by attempting to influence events in another country rather than gathering information about it.

The best-known organizations specializing in covert operations today are the Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense (The Pentagon) of the United States, but covert operations have been employed by many national and sub-national governments and other organizations for centuries, with or without a formal intelligence agency. They are an established and often controversial component of foreign policy throughout the world.

# DELTA FORCE

The 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta (1st SFOD-D), commonly known as Delta within the U.S. Army or as Delta Force by the general public and officially recognized by the Pentagon as the Combat Applications Group, is a Special Operations Force (SOF) and an element of the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC). The force's main task is counter-terrorism, although it is extremely versatile. Delta Force is believed to conduct missions similar to those regularly attributed to the British Special Air Service (SAS), after which it was modeled.

**Background**

The Pentagon tightly controls information about Delta Force and publicly refuses to comment on the secretive unit. The initial unit took part in Operation Eagle Claw, the failed attempt to rescue American hostages from the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1980. The mission failed due to an overly complex plan, inadequate Special Operations Aviation training for the aircrews, a collision between a rescue helicopter and a re-fuelling tanker aircraft, and mechanical problems with the helicopters transporting the rescuers, caused by a severe sandstorm clogging the engine intakes and reducing visibility to nothing. After the debacle, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) was created to transport special forces personnel to and from Areas of Operation.

Since the 1990s, the Army has posted recruitment notices for the 1st SFOD-D, which many believe refers to Delta Force. The Army, however, has never released an official fact sheet for the force. In 1999, writer Mark Bowden published the book Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War which chronicles the events that surrounded the October 3, 1993 Battle of Mogadishu. The book, in a short brief, relates Delta Force's involvement in the operations that occurred before the events leading to the battle. The book was later turned into a film by director Ridley Scott in 2001.

**Operations**

According to the book ‘Inside Delta Force’ by CSM Eric L. Haney (ret.), the smallest unit is a team, consisting of four to five members. Each team specializes in HALO/HAHO, SCUBA, or other skill groups. The next tier is the troop level, consisting of four to five teams. Finally, squadron level (there are four squadrons) consists of two troops (Assault and Sniper). Squadrons are broken down into troops and teams as needed to fit mission requirements.

Each individual member of Delta is known as an operator such as in the Australian SAS. This was to avoid confusion with the CIA's term operative. In ‘Not A Good Day To Die: The Untold Story Of Operation Anaconda,’ Army Times staff writer Sean Naylor describes Delta as having nearly 1,000 soldiers. Naylor wrote that only 250 of those are operators trained to conduct direct-action and reconnaissance missions. Those soldiers are divided into three squadrons: A, B, and C with each squadron subdivided into three troops. Two are assault troops while a third troop specializes in reconnaissance and surveillance and is known as the "recce" troop. The remaining soldiers in Delta are highly trained specialists in mechanics, communications, intelligence and other support activities, and a headquarters staff. Naylor also wrote that Delta maintains an aviation squadron based somewhere else on the East Coast.

**Recruitment and Training**

Most recruits come from the United States Army Special Forces (Green Berets) and 75th Ranger Regiment, but recruits are also drawn from all branches of the Army.

**Delta Force in modern conflicts**

One of several operations in which Delta Force operators are thought to have played important roles was the invasion of Iraq in 2003. They allegedly entered Baghdad in advance, undercover with long hair and moustaches, along with SEALs from DEVGRU, guiding air strikes, building networks of informants while eavesdropping on and sabotaging Iraqi communication lines.

The force was also involved in the offensive against the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2002. Many observers strongly suspect that members of Delta Force made up one of two units involved in a raid on a residence belonging to Mullah Omar. According to the Pentagon, the level of resistance to that operation was minimal.

The Mullah was not present but some papers and computer disks were said to have been seized in the raid. Critics later alleged that the second unit was unnecessary, claiming that it was very large and uncoordinated. As a result, they say, the defenders were alerted early and the number of friendly casualties was in fact higher than reported. According to the book Shadow Wars by David Pugliese, Delta operators wanted a quiet insertion method which was denied as command opted for a combined Ranger assault. Taliban fighters apparently ambushed the team when they were extracting and several Delta operators were severely wounded.

Delta Force operators are granted an enormous amount of flexibility and autonomy, as with their Navy counterpart, DEVGRU. They reportedly do not maintain any general uniformed presence and civilian clothing is the norm on or off duty while at Ft. Bragg. This is done to conceal the identities of these ‘secret soldiers.’ Uniforms are rarely worn, if at all, without any markings, names, or branch names on them. Hair styles and facial hair are allowed to grow to civilian standards in order for the force to be able to blend in and not be immediately recognized as military personnel.

This special status that sets the force apart from the ‘regular army’ is depicted quite accurately in the book Black Hawk Down by Mark Bowden, and the film of the same name. The Army Rangers in the media, elite by their own right, have the standard ‘high and tight’ haircuts, yet the Delta operators are seen to be sporting much longer styles with side burns, un-shaven faces, and non-military issue helmets (actually hockey helmets, more to protect from bumps and scrapes while entering buildings than against gunfire, as noted in the book) and boots.

According to Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War, Delta Force members are typically referred to by other personnel as ‘D-Boys’, ‘Operators’, ‘Rocks’, or simply ‘Delta’. The book also mentions that they hold little regard for rank within their force and refer to one another only by nicknames. Throughout the book Delta soldiers are recorded as expressing contempt for other, more regular US Army units, dismissing their training and combat performance. The Rangers on the other hand are throughout recorded as being in awe of the Delta soldiers, who were almost invariably older and with much greater skill and experience.

Delta's unconventional nature also allows its operators to carry highly customized weapons. Although their standard weapon of choice may be the M4 carbine, they also use the SOPMOD (Special Operations Peculiar Modification) kit on the M4, and it is not unusual to find them carrying foreign weapon systems that are often used by the enemy in the Area of Operation (AO). This is to either help them ‘blend in’ with the locals or to use the ammunition from slain enemy fighters.

Additionally, in his book Killing Pablo, Mark Bowden suggests that a Delta Force sniper may have assassinated Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar. There is no hard evidence of this though and credit is generally attributed to Colombian security forces.

Delta Force has formed the core of the special strike unit which has been hunting individuals like Osama Bin Laden and others since the October 2001 beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom. It has been variously designated Task Force 11, then seemingly Task Force 121, then after that Task Force 145 and Task Force 6-26. Some of the Task Forces and operations were:

**Operations**

* [Operation Eagle Claw](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Eagle_Claw" \o "Operation Eagle Claw): [Iran](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran), [1980](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980)
* [Operation Urgent Fury](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Urgent_Fury): [Grenada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grenada), [1983](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1983)
* [Operation Acid Gambit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Acid_Gambit): [Panama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panama), [1989](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1989)
* [Operation Just Cause](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Just_Cause): [Panama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panama), [1989](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1989)
* [Operation Desert Shield](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Desert_Shield): [Iraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq), [1990](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1990)
* [Operation Desert Storm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Desert_Storm): [Iraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq), [1991](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1991)
* [Operation Restore Hope](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Restore_Hope): [Somalia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somalia), [1993](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1993)
* [Operation Gothic Serpent](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Gothic_Serpent): operation that led to the [Battle of Mogadishu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Mogadishu" \o "Battle of Mogadishu)
* [Operation Enduring Freedom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Enduring_Freedom): [Afghanistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan), [2001](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001)
* [Operation Anaconda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Anaconda): [Afghanistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan), [2002](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002)
* [Operation Iraqi Freedom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003_invasion_of_Iraq): [Iraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq), [2003](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003)

**Famous Delta Force operators**

* Colonel Charles Beckwith
  + Selected by President Jimmy Carter to organize and form a highly specialized counter-terrorism unit, known today as Delta Force.
* Major Richard Meadows
  + Key role in establishing Delta Force.
* General Peter J. Schoomaker
  + 35th Chief of Staff of the United States Army. Commander of 1st SFOD-D from 1989–1992.
* Lieutenant General William G. Boykin
  + Commander of 1st SFOD-D from 1992–1995. Commanding Officer of the 1st SFOD-D unit at the Battle of Mogadishu.
* Master Sergeant Gary Gordon
  + Medal of Honor, [KIA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killed_in_action" \o "Killed in action) in the October 3, 1993, during the Battle of Mogadishu.
* Sergeant First Class Randall Shughart
  + Medal of Honor, KIA in the October 3, 1993, during the Battle of Mogadishu.
* Eric L. Haney, Command Sergeant Major, US Army (ret)
  + Self-proclaimed founding member of Delta Force who has sparked controversy in his post-Army career. Wrote the book Inside Delta Force: The Story of America's Elite Counter-terrorist Unit, upon which the television series The Unit is based (and self-referenced in show credits). Many of Haney's specific mission claims are disputed by current and former SFOD members, though there is no dispute as to his having served in Delta Force during the time periods he describes.
* Sergeant First Class Paul Howe
  + The real life version of Delta Force Sergeant First Class Jeff Sanderson, played by William Fichtner in the film Black Hawk Down. Name changes were made in an attempt to keep the Delta Force operators anonymous.

# INTEL AGENCY

An intelligence agency is a governmental organization devoted to gathering of information (known in the context as ‘intelligence’) by means of espionage, communication interception, cryptanalysis, cooperation with other institutions, and evaluation of public sources. The assembly and propagation of this information is known as intelligence analysis.

Intelligence agencies are also involved in defensive activities such as counter-espionage or counter-terrorism. Some agencies are involved in assassination, arms sales as well as coups d'état and other covert operations, in order to support their own or their governments' interests, and the placement of misinformation (propaganda).

# COUNTER INTELLIGENCE

Counterintelligence is the activity of preventing the enemy from obtaining secret information, such as careful classification and control of sensitive information and spreading disinformation.

Counter-espionage is spying directed against an enemy's spy system, such as by recruiting agents in foreign intelligence organs.

Most governments and militaries have organizations which specifically fulfill this role. Methods include surveillance of suspects and their communications, undercover agents, monitoring the behavior of legally accredited 'diplomatic personnel' (some of whom are sometimes actually spies or spy handlers), and similar means.

When spying is discovered, counterintelligence agencies are usually formally legally empowered to arrest espionage suspects, but it is often more productive to keep a careful eye on them to see what they know, where they go, and whom they talk to. Furthermore, disinformation can be used to deceive inimical organizations' (such as terrorist groups) or hostile countries' spies and their sponsors, or make them cease their activities if they learn their information has become unreliable and/or their secrecy has been compromised. Intelligence and counterintelligence activities occur not only between governments but between industries as well as criminal and, as stated before, terrorist groups.

# TERRORISM

Few words are as politically or emotionally charged as terrorism. One 1988 study by the US Army found that over 100 definitions of the word ‘terrorism’ have been used. Acts of terrorism are not intended to merely victimize or eliminate those who are killed, injured or taken hostage but rather to intimidate and influence the societies to which they belong.

Modern terrorism has come to be defined in part by the influential power of the mass media that terrorists co-opt in their efforts to amplify and broadcast feelings of intense fear and anger. As a type of unconventional warfare, terrorism is designed to weaken or supplant existing political landscapes through capitulation or acquiescence as opposed to subversion or direct military action.

‘Terrorist attacks’ are usually characterized as ‘indiscriminate’, ‘targeting of civilians’ or executed ‘with disregard for human life’. The term ‘terrorism’ is often used to assert that the political violence of an enemy is immoral, wanton and unjustified. According to the most common definition of terrorism typically used by states, academics, counter-terrorism experts and non-governmental organizations, ‘terrorists’ are actors who don't belong to any recognized armed forces or who don't adhere to the laws of war and who are, therefore, regarded as ‘rogue actors’.

Those who are accused of being ‘terrorists’ rarely identify themselves as such and, instead, typically use terms that refer to their ideological or ethnic struggle, such as: separatist, freedom fighter, liberator, revolutionary, vigilante, militant, paramilitary, guerrilla, rebel, jihadi or mujaheddin, or fedayeen or any one of similar-meaning words in a number of languages.

Terrorism has been used by a broad array of organizations to further their objectives. They including both right-wing and left-wing political parties, nationalistic and religious groups, revolutionaries and ruling governments.

**Definition**

Terrorism is a crime in many countries and is defined by statute according to the wikipedia article definition of terrorism for particular definitions. Common principles among legal definitions of terrorism provide an emerging consensus as to meaning and also foster cooperation between law enforcement personnel in different countries. Among these definitions there are several that do not recognize the possibility of legitimate use of violence by civilians against an invader in an occupied country and would, thus, label all resistance movements as terrorist groups. Others make a distinction between lawful and unlawful use of violence. For example, the actions of the United States in Iraq and other Middle East countries are acts of terrorism. Ultimately, the distinction is a political judgment.

In November 2004, a UN panel described terrorism as any act: ‘intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act.’

**Pejorative use**

In his book ‘Inside Terrorism’ Bruce Hoffman wrote in Chapter One: Defining Terrorism that

On one point, at least, everyone agrees: terrorism is a pejorative term. It is a word with intrinsically negative connotations that is generally applied to one's enemies and opponents, or to those with whom one disagrees and would otherwise prefer to ignore. `What is called terrorism', Brian Jenkins has written, `thus seems to depend on one's point of view. Use of the term implies a moral judgement; and if one party can successfully attach the label terrorist to its opponent, then it has indirectly persuaded others to adopt its moral viewpoint.' Hence the decision to call someone or label some organization `terrorist' becomes almost unavoidably subjective, depending largely on whether one sympathizes with or opposes the person/group/cause concerned. If one identifies with the victim of the violence, for example, then the act is terrorism. If, however, one identifies with the perpetrator, the violent act is regarded in a more sympathetic, if not positive (or, at the worst, an ambivalent) light; and it is not terrorism.

Groups termed ‘terrorist’ often prefer terms that reflect ideological or ethnic struggle. Examples include: separatist, freedom fighter, liberator, revolutionary, vigilante, militant, paramilitary, guerrilla (Spanish for ‘small war’), rebel, jihadi or mujaheddin (one engaged in holy war), or fedayeen (repared for martyrdom).

The difference between the words ‘terrorist’ or ‘terrorism’ and the terms above can be summed up by the aphorism, ‘One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter.’ This is exemplified when a group that uses irregular military methods is an ally of a State against a mutual enemy, but later falls out with the State and starts to use the same methods against its former ally. During World War II the Malayan People’s Anti-Japanese Army was allied with the British, but during the Malayan Emergency, members of its successor, the Malayan Races Liberation Army, were branded terrorists by the British. More recently, President Reagan and others in the American administration frequently called the Afghan Mujahideen freedom fighters during their war against the Soviet Union, yet twenty years later when a new generation of Afghan men are fighting against what they perceive to be a regime installed by foreign powers, their attacks are labelled terrorism by President Bush.

Some groups, when involved in a ‘liberation’ struggle, have been called terrorist by the Western goverments or media. Later, these same persons, as leaders of the liberated nations, are called statesmen by similar organisations. Two examples are Nobel Peace Prize laureates Menachem Begin and Nelson Mandela.

Sometimes states that are close allies, for reasons of history, culture and politics, can disagree over whether members of a certain organization are terrorists. For example for many years some branches of the United States government refused to label members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) as terrorists, while it was using methods against one of United States closest allies, that, that ally (Britain), branded as terrorist attacks. This was highlighted by the Quinn v. Robinson case. For these and other reasons, media outlets wishing to preserve a reputation for impartiality are extremely careful in their use of the term.

**Contrast with associated terms**

Armed military conflict is sometimes associated with terrorism when its objectives are to produce shock and awe for the purpose of forcing capitulation. For the purpose of weakening or destroying the opponent's military force, however, armed military conflict is a form of conventional warfare.

**Guerrilla warfare** is sometimes associated with terrorism in that a relatively small force attempts to achieve large goals by using organized acts of directed violence. Against military targets, these acts can be a form of conventional warfare designed to negate the opponent's military ability. However, guerrilla tactics are more often associated with forms of unconventional warfare designed to be either coercive or subversive to a political body. In its subversive context, a guerrilla unit provides clandestine support for one side of an existing conflict. In its coercive context, a guerrilla unit seeks to augment pronounced states of fear and overwhelming feelings of imminent danger.

**Hate Crimes** – An attack against an individual because of hatred toward their ethnic, national, or religious background does not qualify as terrorism because it lacks the complex political and psychological intent behind terrorist attacks. For example, the attack by a Muslim man of Israeli airline employees in Los Angeles in 2002 may seem terrorist because it fits into the larger milieu of Israeli/Islamic violence, but in reality, the attack was just a disgruntled supremacist lashing out violently. However, hatred toward a specific group of people may motivate violence intended to either suppress the political will of the group or to cause the group to leave a region, in which case the violence qualifies as terrorism.

**Mentally Ill Criminals** – Studies suggest that, compared with the general public, terrorists do not exhibit unusually high rates of clinical psychopathology, irrationality, or personality disorders. Because terrorist cells require secrecy, terror organizations frequently screen out unstable individuals who might compromise their security.

**Lone Wolves** – Some political groups do not allow for the possibility of a ‘lone wolf’ being a terrorist. For instance, the FBI asserts that for an act to be considered terrorist, it must be perpetrated by a like-minded group, and not a single individual acting alone. Donatella Della Porta writes that a single individual committing a violent act is not a terrorist because his/her attack is not against an enemy that is legitimized and sedimented in a larger social context. Eric Boehlert notes that social construction theory describes ‘lone wolves’ as having different motivations, committing different types of attacks, and being prevented from carrying out attacks by different methods.

**Key criteria**

Official definitions determine counter-terrorism policy and are often developed to serve it. Most official definitions outline the following key criteria: target, objective, motive, perpetrator, and legitimacy or legality of the act. Terrorism is also often recognizable by a following statement from the perpetrators.

**Violence** – According to Walter Laqueur of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, ‘the only general characteristic [of terrorism] generally agreed upon is that terrorism involves violence and the threat of violence’. However, the criterion of violence alone does not produce a useful definition, as it includes many acts not usually considered terrorism: war, riot, organized crime, or even a simple assault. Property destruction, that does not endanger life, is not usually considered a violent crime, but some have described property destruction by the Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front as terrorism.

**Psychological impact and fear** – The attack was carried out in such a way as to maximize the severity and length of the psychological impact. Each act of terrorism is a ‘performance,’ a product of internal logic, devised to have an impact on many large audiences. Terrorists also attack national symbols to show their power and to shake the foundation of the country or society they are opposed to. This may negatively affect a government's legitimacy, while increasing the legitimacy of the given terrorist organization and/or ideology behind a terrorist act. The September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon are examples of this. Attacking the World Trade Center symbolizes that the terrorists can threaten the economic foundation of America and its capitalist ideals, and attacking the Pentagon symbolizes that America's great and prided military strength is yet vulnerable at its very core to the terrorists power.

**Perpetrated for a Political Goal** – Something all terrorist attacks have in common is their perpetration for a political purpose. This is often the key difference between an act of terrorism and a hate crime or lone-wolf ‘madman’ attack. Terrorism is a political tactic, not unlike letter writing or protesting, that is used by activists when they believe no other means will effect the kind of change they desire. The change is desired so badly that failure is seen as a worse outcome than the deaths of civilians. This is often where the interrelationship between terrorism and religion occurs. When a political struggle is integrated into the framework of a religious or ‘cosmic’ struggle, such as over the control of an ancestral homeland or holy site such as Palestine/Israel and Jerusalem, failing in the political goal (nationalism) becomes equated with spiritual failure, which, for the highly committed, is worse than their own death or the deaths of innocent civilians.

**Deliberate targeting of non-combatants** – It is commonly held that the distinctive nature of terrorism lies in its intentional and specific selection of civilians as direct targets. Much of the time, the victims of terrorism are targeted not because they are threats, but because they are specific ‘symbols, tools, animals or corrupt beings’ that tie into a specific view of the world that the terrorist possess. Their suffering accomplishes the terrorists' goals of instilling fear, getting a message out to an audience, or otherwise accomplishing their political end.

**Democracy**

The relationship of terrorism and democracy is complex. Research shows that terrorism is most common in nations with intermediate political freedom and that the nations with the least terrorism are the most democratic nations. However, one study suggests that suicide terrorism may be an exception to this general rule. Evidence regarding this particular method of terrorism reveals that every modern suicide campaign has targeted a democracy- a state with a considerable degree of political freedom. The study suggests that concessions awarded to terrorists during the 80s and 90s for suicide attacks increased their frequency.

Some consider examples of ‘terrorism’ in nondemocracies to include ETA under Francisco Franco, the Shining Path under Alberto Fujimori, and the Kurdistan Workers Party when Turkey was ruled by military leaders.

While a nation espousing democratic ideology may claim a sense of legitimacy or higher moral ground than regimes that promote terrorism, any act of terrorism within the former creates a dilemma for the democratic state. On one hand, a state that prides itself in its tolerance of peaceful demonstration may choose to approach the problem of terrorism in ways outlined by its constitution; this may render that state ineffective in dealing with the problem, which could reflect upon its citizens a sense of impotency in a time of crisis. On the other hand, should that same terrorized state go above its constitution to deal with the problem, the very notion of democracy itself pales in meaning. This, some social theorists would conclude, may very well play into the initial plans of the acting terrorist(s); namely, to delegitimize democracy.

**Perpetrators**

Acts of terrorism can be carried out by individuals, groups, or states. According to some definitions, clandestine or semi-clandestine state actors may also carry out terrorist acts outside the framework of a state of war. The most common image of terrorism is that it is carried out by small and secretive cells, highly motivated to serve a particular cause. However, many of the most successful operations in recent time, such as 9/11, the London underground bombing, and the 2002 Bali bombing were planned and carried out by a close clique, comprised of close friends, family members and other strong social networks. These groups benefited from the free flow of information, and were able overcome the obstacles they encountered where others failed due to lack of information and communication. Over the years, many people have attempted to come up with a terrorist profile to attempt to explain these individuals' actions through their psychology and social circumstances. Others, like Roderick Hindery, have sought to discern profiles in the propaganda tactics used by terrorists.

**Tactics**

Terrorists seek to demoralize and paralyze their enemy with fear, and also to pressure governments into conceding to the terrorist's agenda. While they act according to different motivations and goals, all terrorist groups have one tactic in common: to achieve maximum publicity in order to intimidate and generate a message as a means to attain its objectives. Terrorism uses violence on one part of society to instill fear in the larger part of society to make a change. Terrorism employs propaganda as a tactic to ensure the attention of the public through the attention from the media. The term Propaganda of the Deed, coined by Malatesta, Cafiero, and Covelli, states that the message is most strongly conveyed through violence.

Often damage is done with an improvised explosive device, sometimes by chemical or biological weapons. A source of concern is also a possible use of a nuclear weapon. In the September 11, 2001 attacks, planes were used as guided incendiary devices.

Terrorist groups may arrange for secondary devices to detonate at a slightly later time in order to kill emergency-response personnel attempting to attend to the dead and wounded. Repeated or suspected use of secondary devices can also delay emergency response out of concern that such devices may exist. Examples include a (failed) device that was meant to release cyanide-gas during the February 26, 1993 World Trade Center bombing; and a second car bomb that detonated 20 minutes after the December 1, 2001 Ben Yehuda Street Bombing by Hamas in Jerusalem.

**Training**

There are and have been training camps for terrorists. For the September 11, 2001 attacks, the pilots also took flying courses. The range of training depends greatly on the level of support the terrorist organization receives from various organizations and states. In nearly every case the training incorporates the philosophy and agenda of the groups leadership as justification for the training as well as the potential acts of terrorism which may be committed. State sanctioned training is by far the most extensive and thorough, often employing professional soldiers and covert operatives of the supporting state. The training generally includes physical fitness, combat or martial arts, firearms, explosives, intelligence/counterintelligence, and field craft. More specialized training may include mission specific subjects such as, language, cultural familiarization, communications, and surveillance techniques. In every instance the quality of training is extremely high and well organized.

**Preparation**

Preparation of a major attack such as the September 11, 2001 attacks may take years, wheras a simpler attack, depending on the availability of arms, may be almost spontaneous.

**Cover**

Where terrorism occurs in the context of open warfare or insurgency, its perpetrators may shelter behind a section of the local population. Examples include the Intifada on Israeli-occupied territory, and insurgency in Iraq. This population, which may be ethnically distinct from the counter-terrorist forces, is either sympathetic to their cause, indifferent, or acts under duress.

Terrorists preparing for the September 11, 2001 attacks changed their appearance to avoid looking radical.

**Funding**

Terrorist organizations do not usually have only one means of funding, but many. Funding can be raised in both legal and illegal ways. Some of the most common ways to raise funds are through charities, well funded organizations, or a non violent organization with similar ideologies. In the absence of state funding, terrorists may rely on organized crime to fund their activities. This has included kidnapping, drug trafficking, or robbery. Additionally, terrorists have also found many more sources of revenue. Osama bin Laden, for example, invested millions in terrorism that his family made in the construction industry building luxury mansions for Saudi Arabia's oil-millionaires.

**Communication**

The revolution in communication technology over the past 10-15 years has dramatically changed how terrorist organizations communicate. E-mails, fax transmissions, websites, cell phones, and satellite telephones have made it possible for organizations to contemplate a global strategy. However, too great a reliance on this new technology leaves organizations vulnerable to sophisticated monitoring of communication and triangulation of its source. When the media published the information that the U.S. government was tracking Osama bin Laden by monitoring his phone calls, he ceased using this method to communicate.

**Responses to terrorism**

Responses to terrorism are broad in scope. They can include re-alignments of the political spectrum and reassessments of fundamental values. The term counter-terrorism has a narrower connotation, implying that it is directed at terrorist actors. Specific types of responses include:

* Targeted laws, criminal procedures, deportations, and enhanced police powers
* Target hardening, such as locking doors or adding traffic barriers
* Pre-emptive or reactive military action
* Increased intelligence and surveillance activities
* Pre-emptive humanitarian activities
* More permissive interrogation and detention policies

**History**

Terrorist tactics were used in the 1st century by Zealots in a fierce and unrelenting terror campaign against the Roman Empire in the eastern Mediterranean. In the 11th century, the radical Islamic sect known as the Hashshashin employed systematic murder for a cause they believed to be righteous. The modern English term "terrorism" dates back to 1795 when it was used to describe the actions of the Jacobin Club in their rule of post-Revolutionary France, the so-called ‘Reign of Terror’.

19th century terrorist groups included the anarchists in Europe and the United States (including Narodniks in [Tsarist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsarist" \o "Tsarist) [Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia)), the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and groups seeking independence for Armenia and Macedonia.

Modern technology has increased the destructive power of small, determined groups. Annuals deaths from terrorism had a minor peak in the 1980s, a spike as a result of the September 11, 2001 attacks which took approximately 3,000 lives. Many of the subsequents deaths have resulted from suicide bombings in Chechnya, Iraq, India, Afghanistan, Israel, and Indonesia.

**Examples of major incidents**

‘International Terrorist Incidents, 2001’ by the US Department of State. The U.S. State Department describes the following incidents as domestic and international terrorism: the Munich Massacre of Israeli Olympic athletes in 1972; the October 1984 bombing in Brighton, England, by the PIRA in an unsuccessful but lethal attempt to kill then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher; the June 1985 bombing of Air India Flight 182 originating from Canada; the destruction of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland on December 21, 1988; the 1993 Mumbai bombings; the Oklahoma City bombing by Timothy McVeigh on April 19, 1995; the Centennial Olympic Park bombing in 1996; the US embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania on August 7, 1998; the Omagh bombing in Northern Ireland (August 15, 1998); the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York, and Washington D.C.; the 2001 Indian Parliament attack on December 13, 2001; the Passover Massacre on March 27, 2002 in Netanya, Israel; the Moscow theatre siege and the Beslan school siege in Russia; the Bali bombing in October 2002; the March 11, 2004 attacks in Madrid; the July 7, 2005 [bombings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7_July_2005_London_bombings" \o "7 July 2005 London bombings) in London; the second Bali bombing on October 1, 2005; and the Mumbai train bombings on 11 July 2006.

According to definitions of terrorism which focus on the killing of innocents and the intention of affecting morale, there could be examples of state terrorism such as the bombings of London by the Luftwaffe, of Berlin and the bombing of Dresden by the Royal Air Force, or the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings by the United States Air Force (the main difference being that under the Laws of Armed Conflict, a formal declaration of war had been made for each of the WWII incidents).

The deadliest events described as terrorism and not known to have been sponsored by a state were the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia, and Somerset County, Pennsylvania with a death toll of around 3000.

Some terrorist attacks or plots were designed to kill thousands of people, but either failed or fell short. Such plans include the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, Operation Bojinka, and possibly the 2006 transatlantic aircraft plot.

# ANTI TERRORISM

The concept of anti-terrorism emerges from a thorough examining of the concept of [terrorism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism" \o "Terrorism) as well as an attempt to understand and articulate what constitutes terrorism in Western terms. Anti-terrorism was bound to emerge as the stakes for a concise definition of terrorism are raised. Unlike counter-terrorism, the prefix ‘anti-‘ suggests a diplomatic and less confrontational line than counter-terrorism. Like its mirror terminology, it is a broad term, though it is invoked far less often.

Since September 11th, 2001, leaders in Western nations have emphasized the importance of living a full life with no undue fear, burden, no less valor. This is commonly posited as an average citizen's way to help ‘defeat terrorism’. Prescription of such reactive behavior has faded from the public discourse in more recent years. In the United States, the Department of Homeland Security was created and the War on Terrorism has shifted to diplomatic and other fronts like Iraq. There had been numerous cases made for the abuse of the term Anti-terrorism as a general umbrella under which cause is formulated to stifle civil liberties and dissipate dissent.

**Anti-terrorism legislation**

In the wake of the London bombings of 7 July and 21 July 2005, the term has been used to describe legislative measures in both the United Kingdom and Australia which extend unprecedented powers to law enforcement. Such powers facilitate more aggressive methods of detainment and investigation of persons suspected of terrorism.

The legislation in Australia allows police to detain suspects for up to two weeks without charge, and to electronically track suspects for up to a year. In both countries, with entrenched liberal democratic traditions, the measures have been controversial and have been criticised by civil libertarians and Islamic groups.

# COUNTER TERRORISM

Counter-terrorism refers to the practices, tactics, and strategies that governments, militaries, and other groups adopt in order to fight terrorism. Counter-terrorism is not specific to any one field or organization; rather, it involves entities from all levels of society. For instance, businesses have security plans and sometimes share commercial data with the government. Local police, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel (often called ‘first responders’) have plans for dealing with terrorist attack. Armies conduct combat operations against terrorists, often using special forces. Building a counter-terrorism plan involves all segments of a society or many government agencies. Because propaganda and indoctrination lie at the core of terrorism, understanding their profile and functions increases the ability to counter terrorism more effectively.

**Counter-terrorism Tactical Units**

Today, many countries have special units designated to handle terrorist threats. Besides various security agencies, there are elite tactical units whose role is to directly engage terrorists and prevent terrorist attacks. Such units perform both in preventive actions, hostage rescue and responding to on-going attacks.

These units are specially trained and equipped for CQB (Close Quarter Battle) with emphasis on stealth and performing the mission with minimal casualties. The units include take-over force (assault teams), snipers, EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) experts, dog handlers and intelligence officers.

Examples include the British SAS, Israeli YAMAM, American Police SWAT teams, Canadian JTF-2and the German Police GSG 9. However, it is rare that military units such as the Israeli Sayeret Matkal, the U.S. Navy's DEVGRU or the U.S. Army's Delta Force actually engage in counter-terrorism operations, as they are largely prevented by either jurisdiction or laws like the Posse Comitatus Act from operating in their own country.

Thus, the majority of counter-terrorism operations at the tactical level, are conducted by state, federal and national law enforcement agencies or intelligence agencies, such as the FBI, SOCA, the ATF, or the Mossad. Obviously, for countries whose military are legally permitted to conduct police operations, this is a non-issue, and such counter-terrorism operations are conducted by their military.

The majority of counter-terrorism operations actually take place at the intelligence level, through the use of covert surveillance (HUMINT), signals intelligence (SIGINT), satellite intelligence (GEOINT or SATINT), and electronic intelligence (ELINT). According to the U.S. Army's anti-terrorism level 1 training brief, the majority of terrorist cells are exposed during their surveillance attempts as it is the only time they are visible. By the time they carry out the actual operation, it is usually too late.

Some famous counter-terrorism actions of the 20th century include the Entebbe raid by Israel, the response to the Achille Lauro hijacking, the Munich Olympics hostage rescue attempt and subsequent assassinations, the Iranian embassy siege and the Battle of Mogadishu, more famously known as the Black Hawk Down incident.

**Counter-terrorism by country**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Country** | **Counter-terrorist units and agencies** |
| Afghanistan | Unknown |
| Albania | Reparti i Neutralizimit te Elementit te Armatosur, Reparti i Operacioneve Speciale |
| Algeria | Groupe d'Intervention Spécial |
| American Samoa | Defense is responsibility of the US |
| Andorra | Defense is responsibility of France |
| Angola | Angolan Armed Forces |
| [Anguilla](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anguilla) | Defense is responsibility of the UK |
| Antarctica | Military action is expressly forbidden by the UN in this area |
| Antigua and Barbuda | Royal Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force |
| Argentina | Brigada Especial Operativa Halcón, Grupo Especial de Operaciones Federales |
| Armenia | Unknown |
| Australia | Australian Special Air Service Regiment, Tactical Assault Group, Australian Security Intelligence Organization |
| Austria | EKO Cobra, Jagdkommando |
| Bahamas | Royal Bahamas Defense Force |
| Bahrain | Bahrain Defense Force |
| Bangladesh | Rapid Action Battalion |
| Barbados | Barbados Defence Force |
| Belarus | Unknown |
| Belgium | Belgian State Security Service |
| Belize | Belize Defence Force |
| Benin | Unknown |
| Bermuda | Defense is responsibility of the UK |
| Bhutan | Royal Bhutan Army |
| Bolivia | Polivalente |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Unknown |
| Botswana | Botswana Defence Force |
| Brazil | Comando de Operações Táticas, Grupo de Ações Táticas Especiais |
| Brunei | Receives support from Australia |
| Bulgaria | Nacionalna razuznavatelna sluzhba |
| Burma | Unknown |
| Cambodia | Royal Cambodian Armed Forces |
| Cameroon | Unknown |
| Canada | Joint Task Force 2, Emergency Response Team, Canadian Security Intelligence Service |
| Central African Republic | Unknown |
| Chad | Currently being trained by the US |
| Chile | Unidad Anti-Terrorista, Grupo de Operaciones Especiales |
| China (PRC) | Immediate Action Unit |
| Colombia | Agrupación de Fuerzas Especiales Antiterroristas Urbanas |
| Croatia | Croatian Armed Forces |
| Denmark | [Danish Frogman Corps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danish_Frogman_Corps), Jægerkorpset |
| Egypt | Unit 777 |
| El Salvador | Comando Especial Anti-Terrorista, Grupo de Reacción Policial, Grupo de Operaciones Especiales |
| Finland | [Karhu Ryhmä](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karhu_Ryhm%C3%A4) |
| France | Groupe d'Intervention de la Gendarmerie Nationale |
| Germany | Grenzschutzgruppe 9, Kommando Spezialkräfte |
| Hong Kong | Special Duties Unit, Airport Security Unit |
| Iceland | Víkingasveitin |
| India | National Security Guards, MARCOS |
| Indonesia | Kopassus, Tontaipur, Detasemen Bravo |
| Israel | Sayeret Matkal, YAMAM, LOTAR Eilat |
| Italy | Gruppo di Intervento Speciale, Nucleo Operativo Centrale di Sicurezza |
| Japan | Special Assault Team, S Unit |
| Latvia | OMEGA, Speciālo uzdevumu vienība |
| [Macau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macau) | Grupo de Operações Especiais |
| Malaysia | Paskal, Paskau |
| Mexico | Fuerzas Especiales, Grupo Aeromóvil de Fuerzas Especiales del Alto Mando, Grupo Aeromóvil de Fuerzas Especiales, Grupo de Operaciones Especiales |
| Netherlands | Korps Commandotroepen, Bijzondere Bijstands Eenheid |
| New Zealand | Special Air Service of New Zealand |
| Norway | Forsvarets Spesialkommando, Hærens Jegerkommando, Beredskapstroppen |
| Philippines | Special Action Force, Light Reaction Battalion, 1st Scout Ranger Regiment, 1st Special Forces Regiment (Airborne), 710th Special Operations Wing, Philippine Marine Corps Force Recon Battalion, Special Warfare Group, Special Reaction Unit |
| Poland | GROM, 1st Special Commando Regiment |
| Portugal | Grupo de Operações Especiais |
| Saudi Arabia | Special Emergency Force |
| Spain | Grupo Especial de Operaciones, Unidad Especial de Intervención |
| Serbia and Montenegro | Specijalna Antiteroristička Jedinica, 63rd Paratroop Brigade |
| Singapore | Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Explosive Defence Group, Singapore Special Operations Force, Special Operations Command |
| South Korea | 707th Special Mission Unit |
| Sweden | Säkerhetspolisen, Nationella insatssyrkan |
| United Kingdom | Special Air Service, Special Boat Service, MI5, Special Branch (Metropolitan Police Service) |
| United States | Local SWAT units, DEVGRU, Delta Force, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Central Intelligence Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, Proactive and Preemptive Operations Group |
| Vietnam | Cảnh sát đặc nhiệm (Special Mission Police), Cảnh sát cơ động (Immediate Reaction Force) |