

2015

Terror Threats Outlook



Homeland Security Research Corp.

Terror Threats Outlook

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**Washington D.C. 20004, 601 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Suite 900,
Tel: 202-455-0966, info@hsrc.biz, www.homelandsecurityresearch.com**

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1 Market Background

1.1 Terror Threats Outlook

1.1.1 Terror Threats Outlook: Background

- ❑ Twelve years after 9/11, the status of the free world's war on terror is inconclusive. Al-Qaeda has lost its safe base in Afghanistan, but it is rebuilding another base in the Middle East, Africa and Pakistan. Although many Al Qaeda leaders have been captured or killed, new leaders have replaced them. Al-Qaeda faces some backlash, but other radical Muslims still volunteer to join the radical Islam movement and are ready to sacrifice their lives for their "holy cause."
- ❑ It is likely that terrorism would increase and expand to many regions over the next ten years and the threat of terror-induced instability appears greatest with countries having large Muslim populations.
- ❑ Pakistan and the Middle East regimes are threatened by jihadists favoring Sharia law, a recipe for revolution and changes in regime. In Southeast Asia Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim population, is home for deadly jihadist groups led by Jemaah Islamiyah. Malaysia is experiencing ethnic conflicts (low grade, so far) while the Philippines has an Al Qaeda-like terrorist movement.
- ❑ While the Middle East is undergoing a buildup of radical and violent Islamic terror, Southeast Asia can be the next battleground with 90% of East Asia's oil supply coming through the Straits of Malacca and fleets of ships filled with goods bound for the Middle East and Europe. Security experts are concerned that this vital economic artery will eventually come under terrorist pressure.
- ❑ North African countries have the potential to become breeding grounds for terrorists as political and economic trends worsen.

Figure 1 - The Global Map of Islamic Population & Poorly Controlled Regions

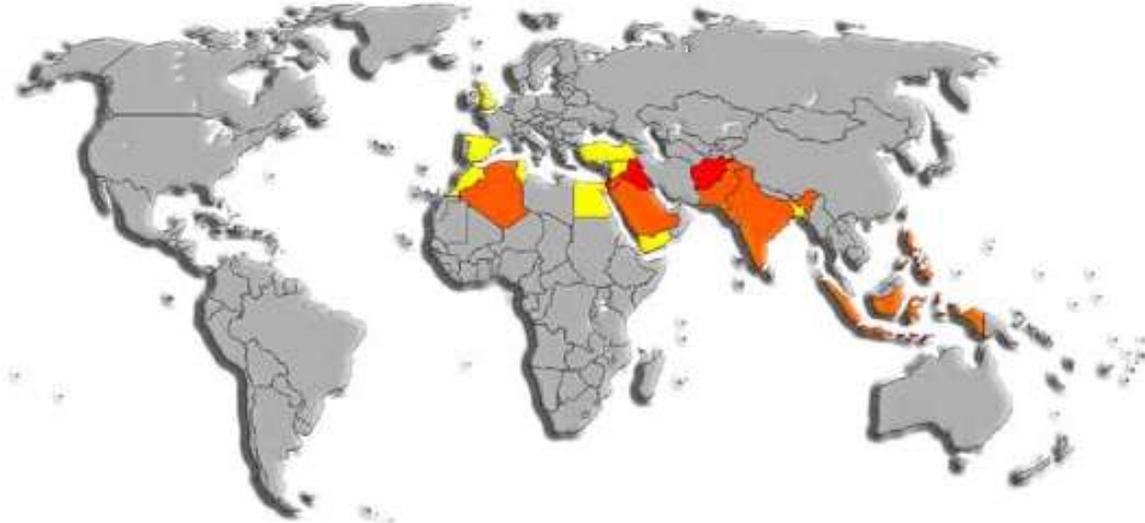


(Sources: US Department of State, The Economist)

- ❑ As written in the 2010 edition of this report: “Egyptian President Mubarak has held his country together for over 25 years despite strong pressures from the Muslim Brotherhood movement and other fundamentalist groups. What comes after Mubarak is unclear; this unstable situation is similar in many North African and the Middle East countries”.
- ❑ It is clear to-date that all Arab Middle Eastern countries are under the serious threat of radical Islam.
- ❑ Finally, we cannot ignore Europe and the rest of the free world where the threat of an increase in homegrown terrorism is real and serious.
- ❑ In summary, the following six findings describe the present status of Al-Qaeda and other radical Islam terror groups:
 - ❑ There has been a substantial increase in Islamic terrorism.
 - ❑ Terror attacks by Islamist extremist groups have increased significantly during this time, even excluding attacks in Iraq, Afghanistan, and those related to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.
 - ❑ The Jihadist movement remains vibrant and dynamic. Early claims about disruption of the Al Qaeda network were dramatically overstated. Only five of the twenty-two most wanted terrorists in 2001 have been captured or killed. Though some high-ranking Al Qaeda members have been eliminated, the organization has been able to promote or recruit members to replace losses.

- ❑ Al Qaeda has expanded its reach globally by forging closer relationships with previously autonomous groups.
- ❑ Active state sponsorship of terrorism has diminished worldwide.
- ❑ U.S. foreign policy is perceived throughout the Muslim world as an aggressive, hostile, and destabilizing force.

Figure 2 - 2003-2010 Terror Attacks by Geographical Region



(Sources: MIPT, Rand, HSRC)

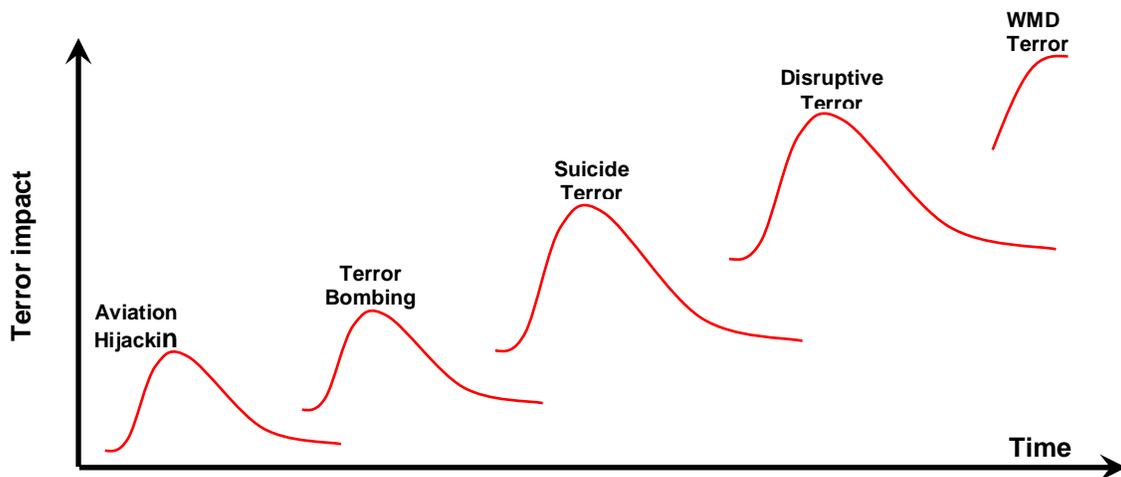
- ❑ The terror threats to the free world are forecast to continue to be diverse and difficult to predict. The world's free nations face a range of state and non-state threat capabilities to its security, some known and some unknown – that fall into three broad categories:
 - Hostile states using conventional or strategic capabilities
 - Hostile states employing asymmetric means of attack
 - Non-state actors using asymmetric means of attack
- ❑ Al-Qaeda has built its tactics on 40 years of Middle Eastern terrorism. Hezbollah used suicide-bombers against the Americans in Lebanon back in 1983; Palestinian suicide-bombers sought to inflict maximum casualties in Israel in the 1994-2008 period; and others like the Algerians hijacked a French airliner, tried to fly it into the Eiffel Tower, but failed.

1.1.2 Terror Strategies

Terror risks can be divided into four categories based on terror tactics, probability of attack and impact (see figure below):

- Traditional Terror
- Irregular Terror
- Disruptive Terror
- Catastrophic Terror

Figure 3 - The Five Generations of Terror



The technical engineering advances of hostile states and non-state players will continue and diffuse key technologies to terror movements. It will endure and bring expanded capabilities to potential adversaries and increased risks to the free world. Furthermore, the proliferation of technology and the continued advancement of weapons and delivery systems will provide destructive mechanisms and the ability to deliver them to an increasing number of adversaries who will continue to threaten the free world nations' territory, population, and critical infrastructure.

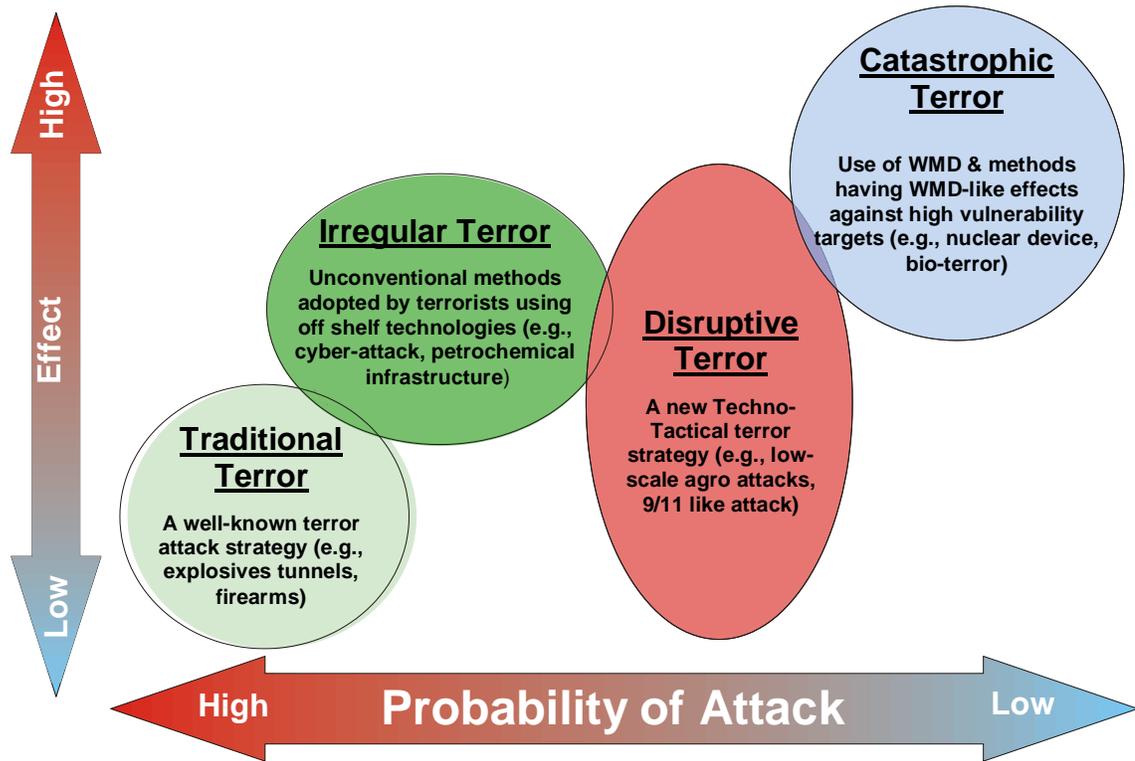
The destructive mechanisms of concern include but are not limited to: nuclear fission and fusion devices, contagious and non-contagious biological agents, chemical agents, radiological dispersion devices, conventional (perhaps enhanced) weapons or improvised explosives, cyber-attacks, and the use of civil equipment and facilities as weapons. Each of these has the potential to cause significant psychological and/or physical damage to the homeland, population, and critical infrastructure, and could be deployed by hostile states or non-state terrorists. These threats to the homeland could be delivered by numerous means.

Potential delivery systems include but are not limited to man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS); and various ground and sea vehicles. In addition, a weapon could be acquired overseas and smuggled into the homeland either fully assembled or in pieces; or it could be built from scratch locally and delivered to its target.

Potential terrorist objectives include: inflicting large numbers of casualties, destroying significant property, disrupting the free world nations' economy, damaging the free world nations' agriculture (food industry), creating psychological shock to reduce public support for specific free world nations' policies, and impeding the free world nations' military deployment, command and control, or other activities. Potential attacks by both hostile states and non-state actors will rely on surprise, deception, and asymmetric warfare and will cover the range of activities from acquisition of material and know-how to delivery of individual weapons, or coordinated attacks with multiple weapons of the same or different types.

America's homeland has not been attacked since 9/11, but European countries and other countries have been bombed. A number of terror plots have been mitigated on both sides of the Atlantic. Al-Qaeda and other radical terror movements still pose the most direct threat to the security of all countries worldwide. Counter-Terror Intelligence services are convinced Al-Qaeda still wants to develop weapons of mass destruction (WMD), including chemical or biological agents or "dirty bombs". For example, in Iraq, IED'S are already mixed with chlorine gas. An improvised nuclear bomb is not beyond the reach of terrorists anymore.

Figure 4 - The Four Terror Threat Categories



Terror risks can be divided into four categories, based on terror tactics, probability of attack and impact (see figure below):

- Traditional Terror
- Irregular Terror
- Disruptive Terror
- Catastrophic Terror

More information can be found at:
[Global Homeland Security & Public Safety Market - 2015-2022](#)