The Explosive Threat
The “e” in CBRNe
KCIS 2014

Briefer: Major Michael Blanchette       14 May 2014
Canadian Armed Forces Joint Counter Explosive Threat Task Force
**STRATEGIC CONTEXT: A PERVERSIVE GLOBAL THREAT**

- Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are not confined to war zones.
- The explosive threat includes the explosive remnants of war (i.e. mines, munitions) and commercial explosives.
- There is no shortage of bomb-making expertise.
- Components are cheap, often dual-use and can be easily purchased.
- Homemade bombs can be constructed with knowledge acquired on the Internet.
- Threat on land, on the sea and in the air.
- Used by over 40 regional and transnational malign networks.
- The threat is domestic as well international:
  - Greatest threat listed by the US to the homeland are home-grown violent extremists
    - 2013 President Obama issued National Policy on Countering Improvised Explosive Devices
    - 2013 White House Joint Program Office to established – Attorney General/FBI Lead
  - Canadian examples 2013 – VIA Rail and Victoria Legislature interdicted bombing plots

> “In 2011 there were 183 bomb related incidents in Canada. Canada now faces ever more decentralized and diverse threats.”
> - National Counter-Terrorism Strategy – 2011
Movement of Expertise and Material

PREPARE
Prepare the Force - Attack the Network – Defeat the Device

PREVENT

PROTECT

LEGEND

Knowledge and People

Material

Conflicts ongoing

Canada: VIA Rail Plot – 2013

Sharing lessons and training online

Ubiquitous chemical precursors

Free flow of dual-use components

Financing to organize, recruit, train, etc...

Generations of bomb makers

Canonical Canada: VIA Rail Plot – 2013

Canada: VIA Rail Plot – 2013
Countering Threat Network (CTN) & Attacking the Network (AtN)

**Countering Threat Network (CTN)**
- Allies/Partners
- International Support
- Regional Support
- Local Support
- Information Campaign
- Technical Supplies
- Financing
- Technical Specialists
- Infrastructure
- Supplies
- Plan & Rehearse
- Training
- Local Leadership
- Recruiting
- Regional Leadership
- International Leadership
- Other Transnational Networks

**Attacking the Network (AtN)**
- Publicize Success
- Move & Emplace
- Move & Emplace
- Conduct Attack(s)

**Simplified Threat Network**
- Jurisdictional Boundary
- Resource
- Execute
- Exploit
Interagency Tools to Disrupt a Network

Community of Action:

Cooperating, collaborating and leveraging the capabilities and authorities of all partners to counter the threat

Capabilities and Authorities Disrupt/ Degrade Threat Networks:

- Criminalization
- INTERPOL Notices/Warrants
- Entity Listing/Designation (Canada/UN)
- UN SC Resolutions
- Diplomatic Engagements
- Economic Sanctions
- Export Controls
- Financial Investigations/Penalties
- Asset Seizures
- Regulatory Compliance
- Development Initiatives
- Bilateral/Multilateral Initiatives
- Capacity Building & Partnerships
- Allied & Regional Military Initiatives/Operations
Countering the Threat: a Comprehensive Approach

• Interagency cooperation is key to protecting domestic populations both through proactive and reactive disruption of threat networks.

• Successful interagency cooperation enables effective multinational collaboration in improving Global Security.

• Synchronised efforts with international, regional partners and key allies will mitigate the threat.
  • UN
  • Interpol
  • NATO

“...we must continue to be diligent in protecting our citizens, as countering threats to our National Security, including the explosive threat, is a challenge that requires continued and ever-improving inter-agency and international cooperation”

- Stephen Rigby – Canadian National Security Advisor
Discussion/Questions