Pakistan’s Nuclear Smuggler

Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, the so-called father of Pakistan’s nuclear program, and confessed masterminded a hugely profitable network that provided uranium enrichment equipment to several countries whose nuclear ambitions are now causing global anxiety. Pakistan’s role, in the A Q Khan nuclear trafficking network if any, is still uncertain, and a hotly debated topic among experts. Many experts doubt that, in a country run by the military, these transactions were truly unknown to Islamabad, with multiple reports indicating that warnings about the father of its atomic bomb illicit trafficking were ignored by a succession of Pakistani political leaders and military strongmen.

Points to consider:

The Pakistan-based Khan network traded everything including blueprints for centrifuges that enrich uranium, creating fuel for nuclear weapons to weapons designs and parts. It also included a sophisticated transportation system to move the goods from the supplier to the buyer. International investigators have said they might never learn exactly who knew what in Pakistan, because neither the U.S. nor the U.N.’s International Atomic Energy Agency has been allowed to interrogate Khan. After more than a year of investigation, one of the crucial unsolved mysteries is whether Khan could have run his network without the knowledge, and possibly the support, of Pakistani military and political leaders. That answer is vital to discovering not only the full scope of Khan’s trafficking, and whether Pakistan has adequate safeguards to protect its arsenal of atomic weapons, nuclear material, and technology from the many radical militants within their borders. Additionally, consider that al-Qaeda’s leaders for years have nurtured ties to Pakistani militant groups, and have historically set their sights on targets loftier than those selected by these local groups. Consider that al-Qaeda may see a new opportunity in the recent violence, available nuclear material, and the presence of AQ Khan in Pakistan to enable spectacular attacks against the west. Finally be aware of a recent poll taken by the International Republican Institute, showing that an overwhelming majority of Pakistanis did not consider terrorism to be the most important issue facing the country, potentially making this terrorist threat possible.

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Terrorists and the Internet

The Internet is a powerful tool for terrorists, who use online message boards and chat rooms to share information, coordinate attacks, spread propaganda, raise funds, and recruit, experts say. Recently, police in Bari, Italy arrested two alleged supporters of al-Qaeda, confiscating their pen drives, CD’s and DVD’s, accusing them of preparing attacks in Britain and France.

Points to consider:
Perhaps the most effective way in which terrorists use the Internet is the spread of propaganda. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi’s al-Qaeda cell in Iraq has proven particularly adept in its use of the web, garnering attention by posting footage of roadside bombings, the decapitation hostages, and kidnapped Egyptian and Algerian diplomats prior to their execution. Nor are videos the only form of propaganda. Terrorist websites can serve as virtual training grounds, some radical jihadi websites have even offered video games in which users as young as seven can pretend to be holy warriors killing U.S. soldiers. Additionally, consider that, many terrorist groups market their terrorist messages using Internet sites supported by Western (mainly American) companies. Consider that preference for the United States is not a matter of chance but rather convenience; companies provide advanced technological support, easily disappear among so many American and Western companies, and freedom of expression laws allow the various terrorist organizations to operate minus effective controls of the sites.

Secondary Device Targets Responders

A double suicide bomb attack killed seven people and wounded 20 in southern Afghanistan recently. The first suicide bomber on a motorbike detonated his explosives near a taxi stand in the town of Gereshk, in the Helmand province. When police and army units responded to the scene, a second suicide bomber on foot detonated his explosives, causing the majority of the casualties.

Points to consider:
In recent months militants have carried out an increasing number of multi-pronged attacks that involved several attackers and multiple suicide bombers. These secondary explosive devices or sequential attacks in the same location generally occur less than one hour after the initial attack. Improvised explosive devices (IED’s) can be concealed in anything, including garbage containers, cigarette cartons, soda cans, potholes, mailboxes, brief-cases, dead animals, and even suicide bombers. Be aware of the potential for a secondary device, designed to draw in and concentrate people into a small area so as to maximize casualties when the second, larger IED is detonated.

Bomb-making Materials Found in Madrasa

Acting on tip, a team of The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-8) raided Jameya Arabia Khaja Moeenuddin Madrasa or religious school recently, and found bomb-making materials and propaganda leaflets of Islamist organization Hizb ut-Tahrir, from a Madrasa in Barisal, Bangladesh.

Points to consider:
The RAB recovered half a kilogram of chemicals, six capacitors, one six-volt battery, electric circuit boards, a watch, components of a watch, a remote control unit, and large marbles from the religious school. Consider that Islamic religious schools known as madrasas (or madrassahs) in the Middle East, Central, and Southeast Asia have been of increasing interest to counter terrorism officials. Some allege ties between madrasas and terrorist organizations, such as al-Qaeda, and suggest that these religious schools promote Islamic extremism and militancy, while others maintain that most madrasas have been blamed unfairly for fostering anti-Americanism and for producing terrorists.

Abortion Clinic Targeted

A Kansas abortion provider has asked the FBI to investigate vandalism at their Wichita clinic. The Women’s Health Care Services clinic was damaged recently when vandals cut the wires to outdoor lights and surveillance cameras at the clinic. With heavy rain in the forecast, they also cut holes in the roof, and plugged up the downspouts, causing thousands of dollars of damage.

Points to consider:
Domestic terrorists, generally do not have a formal membership, they are small and loosely affiliated, which is a hallmark of leaderless resistance. Consider that radical environmental and animal rights groups have claimed responsibility for hundreds of crimes and acts of terrorism, including arson, bombings, vandalism and harassment. It is estimated that these attacks have caused more $100 million in damage. Although these groups have been overshadowed by foreign terrorist threats, eco-terrorism remain active in the U.S.
**Firefighters Injured in Explosion**

Eight firefighters and a gas company worker were injured recently in a natural gas explosion at a Penn Mar shopping center strip mall in Forestville, Maryland. First arriving firefighters initially reported a strong odor of natural gas inside some of the stores of the strip mall, and evacuated approximately 45 people.

**Points to consider:**

According to firefighters in the rear of the strip mall discovered gas bubbling up from the ground in the rear of the stores, prior to the explosion. Several “Mayday” transmissions were given as a result of the explosion, which resulted in glass and other building parts being scattered more than 70-feet into the front parking lot. Consider that the primary risk associated with combustible gases and vapors is the possibility of explosions. Explosion, like fire, requires three elements: fuel, Oxygen, and an ignition source. Each combustible gas or vapor will ignite only within a specific range of fuel/oxygen mixtures. The explosive range (flammable range) is the range of a concentration of a gas or vapor that will burn or explode if an ignition source is introduced. The explosive or flammable range the mixture is too lean to burn and above the upper explosive or flammable limit the mixture is too rich to burn. Additionally, be aware natural gas is both odorless and colorless an ingredient called mercaptan, which contains sulfur is added to it so you can detect its presence, but may be filtered out by the ground. It blends well with natural gas in a gaseous state, has much the same properties as natural gas, so it will also rise and dissipate with natural gas.

**Train Collision**

A trolley rear-ended another trolley that was stopped between two underground stations in Boston, MA resulting in multiple injuries, officials said. About 100 people were evacuated from the two trains, and 49 were taken to area hospitals, but officials said their injuries did not appear to be life threatening.

**Points to consider:**

Be aware of the mass casualty potential of these incidents. Concerns about tunnel safety existed long before terrorism exposed the vulnerability of our railroad and subway tunnels. Consider that case studies, expert interviews and physical modeling of fires, and emergencies in these tunnels, revealed that emergency response possibilities for rescue operations in tunnels are extremely limited.

**Hazardous Material Train Derails**

A freight train carrying hydrochloric acid, derailed at Hargrove Grade, an industrial area just west of U.S. 1 and Palm Coast Parkway near the City of Palm Coast recently. Responding firefighters found that 2 engines and 37 cars of the train had derailed but fortunately none leaked.

**Points to consider:**

Recognize that this incident highlights the kinds of hazards carried on our national rail system. Consider that railroads carry 105,000 carloads of toxic chemicals and 1.6 million carloads of other hazardous materials each year. Although the recent derailment appears to have no link to terrorism, it illustrates the vulnerability of our transportation system. Additionally be aware that hydrochloric acid UN 1789 (aka: Hydrogen chloride solution or Muriatic acid) is a colorless to light yellow liquid with a sharp pungent irritating odor. Depending upon concentration may fume upon release. Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas. Hydrochloric acid reacts with common metals to produce flammable hydrogen gas. For general operating procedures refer to Emergency Response Guidebook guide # 157.

**Chlorine Gas Release**

Eleven employees were treated at the facility for inhalation-related symptoms after an accidental chlorine gas release at the Oxy Chem. plant in Hahnville, LA, authorities said.

**Points to consider:**

Chlorine (UN1017) is a greenish-yellow, noncombustible gas at room temperature and atmospheric pressure but changes to liquid when under pressure. Chlorine gas is heavier than air and has a strong irritating odor like bleach. Chlorine gas is one of the most common single, irritant, inhalation exposures, occupationally and environmentally. Consider that a 1983 US government report, estimated that 191,000 US workers were at risk of exposure to chlorine in various forms. For general operating procedures refer to the Emergency Response Guidebook, guide # 124.
Ammonia Leak

Police were called about the possible ammonia leak near an intersection in Medford, WI, recently. A hazmat team was called and discovered an ammonia leak that had resulted in a man suffering chemical burns. Authorities evacuated people living in the immediate area of the release. Additionally, all exposed police, firefighters, civilians, and the sheriff's department K-9 all went through decontamination at the scene, before they were taken to a Medford hospital as a precautionary measure.

Points to consider:
Ammonia (UN2672) is corrosive to the skin, eyes, and lungs. Exposure to 300 ppm is immediately dangerous to life and health. Ammonia is also flammable at concentrations of approximately 15% to 28% by volume in air. When mixed with lubricating oils, its flammable concentration range is increased. It can explode if released in an enclosed space with a source of ignition present, or if a vessel containing anhydrous ammonia is exposed to fire. Fortunately, ammonia has a low odor threshold (20 ppm), so most people will seek relief at much lower concentrations. For general operating procedures depending on the concentration, refer to the Emergency Response Guidebook, guide #125 or #154.

Pipe Bomb

A tip from a Brattleboro Union High School resource officer led police to a Guilford, Vermont teenager who had built a pipe bomb. A school officer told the police about the boy, who had detonated other improvised explosive devices (IED) before. Police obtained a search warrant and called in a bomb squad before going to the boy's home, where the bomb was found and defused.

Points to consider:
Planning for school violence has been near the top of all school administrators concerns for several years. Incidents such as those that occurred in Columbine, Colorado, in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and in other schools across the country underscore the importance of emergency planning to protect students and school employees. Additionally, consider that premature detonation is a hazard of attempting to construct any homemade bomb, and the materials and methods used with pipe bombs make unintentional detonation incidents common.

Pipe Bomb Found in Drug Raid

While executing a search warrant on a home, Rapides Parish, LA police Narcotics Division, first saw a man in the kitchen with a box of drugs, police said. Inside the box police found methamphetamine (meth), Ecstasy and marijuana, and beside the box was a loaded .38-caliber handgun. While searching the rest of the home, officers found a pipe bomb and other bomb making materials used to make the bomb, police said. State Police's Hazardous Material Team was alerted, and its officers were able to diffuse the bomb.

Points to consider:
Clandestine drug labs producing methamphetamine and other drugs are on the increase in the U.S. and worldwide. While it's not uncommon for drug dealers to have guns in the past, they are becoming more violent. According to police and gang experts, a combination of factors seems to be fueling the escalation in gang-related crime: increasing criminal sophistication, demand for drugs, demographics, migration patterns and generational conflicts play roles in the violence.

Chemical Plant Fire

Dozens of residents were evacuated from their homes in a community in Columbus, Wisconsin recently. Firefighters responded to a fire in the Columbus Chemical Industries plant, which specializes in acids. As firefighters arrived, several explosions were heard forcing crews to be withdrawn and a defensive approach used waiting for the chemical plant fire to burn itself out.

Points to consider:
Consider the challenges posed by the volume and variety of hazardous materials that have become part of everyday commerce. According the company’s Web site, the plant specializes in acids, salts and other solid chemicals. Be aware of the witches brew contained in this type of occupancy, what type of chemical or biological hazard the fire could potentially cause. Prior to commencing operations at a facility of this type the incident commander should gather as much information as possible about the chemical present. Remember proper identification of the material involved is critical in making a decision on tactics to be used at any hazardous material incident.
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http://nuclearweaponarchive.org/Pakistan/AQKhan.html

Understanding Terrorist Use of the Internet

Secondary Explosive Devices Are A Threat To First R
http://www.ruraltraining.org/news/228

Inside Pakistan's Madrasas
http://www.jamestown.org/programs/gta/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=638&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=239&no_cache=1

Ecoterrorism
http://www.adl.org/learn/extremism_in_america_updates/movements/ecoterrorism/

Natural Gas.
http://www.need.org/needpdf/infobook_activities/SecInfo/NGasS.pdf

MASS TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS
http://sema.dps.mo.gov/HazardAnalysis/Anne_xL.pdf

Chlorine Gas Exposure

AMMONIA

Pipe Bombs
http://books.google.com/books?id=g0Fx58bGuTQC&pg=PT898&lpg=PT898&dq=pipe+bombs+and+first+responders&source=bl&ots=8FGuhwCvYy-$sig=e2uRLQv-kkhLb7vGEHAlc0tg4s&hl=en&ei=wPEISs-iKMqEtwfmenjdCw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=4

Emergency Response Guidebook
http://www.ehso.com/hmerg.php

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