Hardening for the terrorist threat – are there any silver bullets?

Arnold Dix
Barrister-at-Law
Adj. Prof. Engineering

Terrorism Group ITA (UN aff.)
NFPA 130 (USA) Fixed Guideway transit systems
PIARC Fire, Life Safety (UN aff.)

Context

 Railways and other Transport systems have been systematically dealing with risk for a long time

Terrorism "risk" can in substantial part be dealt with using current "risk" frameworks.

Problem

Coping with intentional harm

Managing "suicide" mentality

Managing "perceived" risks

Managing the "unthinkable" (ABC)

Technology

In a "technological" age there is a desire for a "technological" solution.

(Silver bullet?)

The Quest (for the Silver bullet)

- America
- Finland
- Germany
- Frace
- United Kingdom
- Japan
- Korea
- France
- The Netherlands
- Israel
- etc



The Threat



Retained to Investigate and Advise

- Twin Tower Collapse
- Madrid
- Daegu
- Hong Kong
- London
- Etc, etc



Constraints

- We are not well prepared psychologically for "intentional" harm.
 - (Even as Engineers and other experts)
- Normally manage unintentional "risks"
 - Eg Fire c/w Incendiary
 - differences in heat release rate growth...perhaps peak energy— BUT NOT ALWAYS eg LPG

Example: Railways



Railways are not military organisations

- KEY BUSINES IS ALWAYS:
 - MOVING PEOPLE
 - ON TIME
 - SAFELY

Arson in Asia

South Korea 2003

- Hong Kong 2004
 - "It went according to plan no deaths running again in an hour or so"

South Korea Subway Fire (Feb 2003) The fire burned 12 subway cars, killing more than 200

The fire burned 12 subway cars, killing more than 200 persons and injuring hundreds more







Themes

 Better every day operational performance improves our major incident response and recovery

• Attacks might be foreshadowed – but they are designed and will surprise and disrupt

Considered Approach

Eg

- Staff working towards common objectives with Procedures that reflect actual good work practices
- Flexibility in an incident to deliver "outcomes" (emergency services perspective) New York
- Trains & Infrastructure
 - That perform without "surprises" (ie to known and expected performance levels)
- People
 - Recognise and access a place of safety

An "every day" framework

■ 1: Minimise probability of an incident

■2: Minimise consequences of an incident

■ 3: Maximise effectiveness of response/recovery

1: Minimise probability of an incident

(this also achieves operational safety improvements)

- Only two options:
 - Deterrence (Attackers don't like to fail)
 - eg
 - Staff competence
 - Hardware
 - Architecture
 - Surveillance
 - Interagency co-operation
 - Detection

Deterrence

"See something say something"

- No impact on recent attacks
 - New York
 - Madrid
 - London
- These attacks could not readily be seen



BUT

 Intelligence suggests better to seem prepared to deter attacks

(Make target harder)

In New York

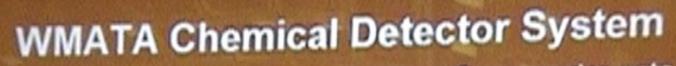
• Measures to protect system from "Willey the wine-O" best and most cost effective.

Technological Detection?

People want to "Believe" in miracle technological solutions.

Washington

 Publicly advertise Chemical, Biological and Atomic detection systems in Metro



Incident Commander gets video, plume maps, and detector status

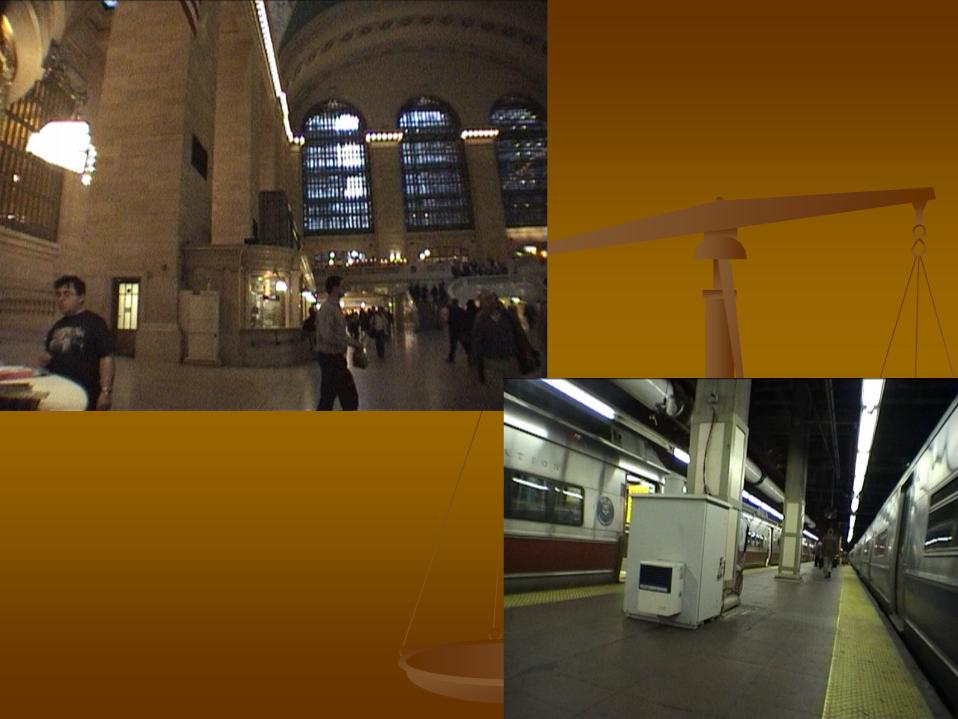
Chemical Agent Detected

CCTV Verification

Firefighter's Jack for Emergency Responders

OCC

Terrorist Releases Chemical Ager on a Subway Passenger Platform



"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

Late Edition

New York: Today, mostly cloudy and breezy, high 64. Tonight, gradual clearing, low 49. Tomorrow, warmer, some sunshine, high 68. Yesterday, high 62, low 46. Weather map, Page 39.

VOL. CLIV . . . No. 53,208

Copyright © 2005 The New York Times

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2005

\$4.50 beyond the greater New York metropolitan area.

\$3.50



Giacomo (Who?) Wins the Derby

In one of the Kentucky Derby's most improbable outcomes, the 50-1 shot Giacomo, fourth from left, with Mike Smith aboard in green silks, finished first, Closing Argument, next to Giacomo, finished second, and Afleet Alex, one of the early favorites, ran third. SportsSunday.

Darron Cummings/Associated Press

U.S. to Spend Billions More To Alter Security Systems

Concerns About the Cost and Reliability of Equipment Bought After 9/11

By ERIC LIPTON

WASHINGTON, May 7 — After spending more than \$4.5 billion on screening devices to monitor the nation's ports, borders, airports, mail and air, the federal government is moving to replace or alter much of the antiterrorism equipment, concluding that it is ineffective, unreliable or too expensive to operate.

Many of the monitoring tools — intended to detect guns, explosives, and nuclear and biological weapons — were bought during the blitz in security spending after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

In its effort to create a virtual shield around America, the Department of Homeland Security now plans to spend billions of dollars more. Although some changes are being made because of technology that has emerged in the last couple of years, many of them are planned because devices currently in use have done little to improve the nation's security, according to a review of agency documents and interviews with federal officials and outside experts.

"Everyone was standing in line with their silver bullets to make us more secure after Sept. 11," said look for anthrax but no other biological agents.

Federal officials say they bought the best available equipment. They acknowledge that it might not have been cutting-edge technology but said that to speed installation they bought only devices that were readily available instead of trying to buy promising technology that was not yet in production.

The department says it has created a layered defense that would not be compromised by the failure of a single device. Even if the monitoring is less than ideal, officials say, it is still a deterrent.

"The nation is more secure in the deployment and use of these technologies versus having no technolo-

Continued on Page 26

Drug Makers Reap Benefits

EU IDUCTED FICHT Long to Complete Cabinet With Compie in Ton John

U.S. to Spend Billions More To Alter Security Systems

Concerns About the Cost and Reliability of Equipment Bought After 9/11

By ERIC LIPTON

WASHINGTON, May 7 — After spending more than \$4.5 billion on screening devices to monitor the nation's ports, borders, airports, mail and air, the federal government is moving to replace or alter much of the antiterrorism equipment, concluding that it is ineffective, unreliable or too expensive to operate.

Many of the monitoring tools — intended to detect guns, explosives, and nuclear and biological weapons — were bought during the blitz in security spending after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

In its effort to create a virtual shield around America, the Department of Homeland Security now plans to spend billions of dollars more. Although some changes are being made because of technology that has emerged in the last couple of years, many of them are planned because devices currently in use have done little to improve the nation's security, according to a review of agency documents and interviews with federal officials and outside experts.

"Everyone was standing in line with their silver bullets to make us more secure after Sept. 11," said look for anthrax but no other biological agents.

Federal officials say they bought the best available equipment. They acknowledge that it might not have been cutting-edge technology but said that to speed installation they bought only devices that were readily available instead of trying to buy promising technology that was not yet in production.

The department says it has created a layered defense that would not be compromised by the failure of a single device. Even if the monitoring is less than ideal, officials say, it is still a deterrent.

"The nation is more secure in the deployment and use of these technologies versus having no technolo-

Continued on Page 26

Drug Makers Reap Benefits



B: Minimise consequences of an incident

Soft Options

- Competence
- Exercises
- Effectiveness





LONDON UNDERGROUND LIMITED

UNATTENDED ITEMS

LOST PROPERTY IS

H - NOT HIDDEN

NOT OBVIOUSLY SUSPICIOUS

T - TYPICAL OF WHAT IS REGULARLY ENCOUNTERED

SUSPICIOUS ITEMS TEND TO BE

H - HIDDEN

OBVIOUSLY SUSPICIOUS

 NOT TYPICAL OF WHAT IS REGULARLY ENCOUNTERED

WHEN SOMETHING IS FOUND CONSIDER THE HOT CHARACTERISTICS

- IF YOU ARE NOT SUSPICIOUS EXAMINE IT FURTHER
- IF YOU ARE UNSURE
 MOVE PEOPLE AWAY.
 INITIATE THE EVACUATION PROCEDURE.



LONDON UNDERGROUND LIMITED

REMEMBER

Move away from the item before using a radio

PERSONAL SAFETY

If you think you are dealing with an obvious bomb or a confirmed suspicious item MOVE YOURSELF AND ANYONE NEARBY initially to an area which is not in direct line of sight of the item.

INFORMATION

The following information will be required by Police

WHAT it is (size, description etc)

WHERE it is (precise location, hazards,

access routes

WHEN it was found

WHY you think it is suspicious

WHO discovered it (or witnessed anything

suspicious)

ONCE YOU ARE IN A SAFE LOCATION, PREPARE PLANS OF THE AREA AND SKETCHES OF THE ITEM.

Exercises

Critical to actual response

Don't limit them to Rail, bring in Emergency Services, recognise their command role by training them now on rail risks.

 Share international knowledge on the risks of a "stop all trains" – its NOT obvious

- Minimize consequential effects
 - Timely response
 - Effective response
 - Hardware performance (eg. fire resistance)
 - Tenability of environment
 - Evacuation to a "place of comparative safety"

Governance

- Ensure documentation anticipates:
 - Innovation in a incident
 - Damage to property
 - Injury/death of people

 But explains how the probability of these adverse outcomes is being managed

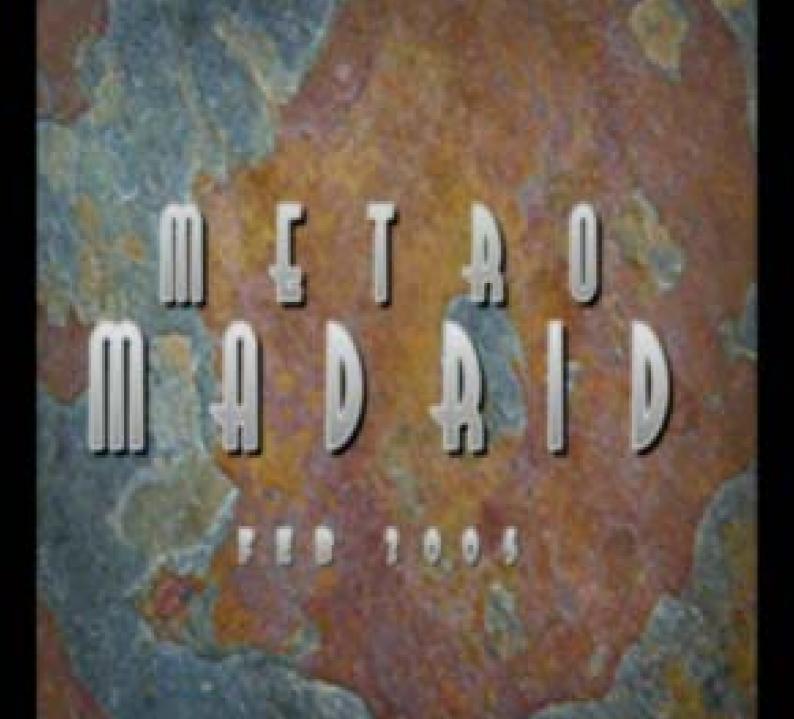




Madrid

Inspection of Madrid Metro

- fairly new
- prone to antisocial attacks (Basq separatists, terrorists and other antisocial elements)















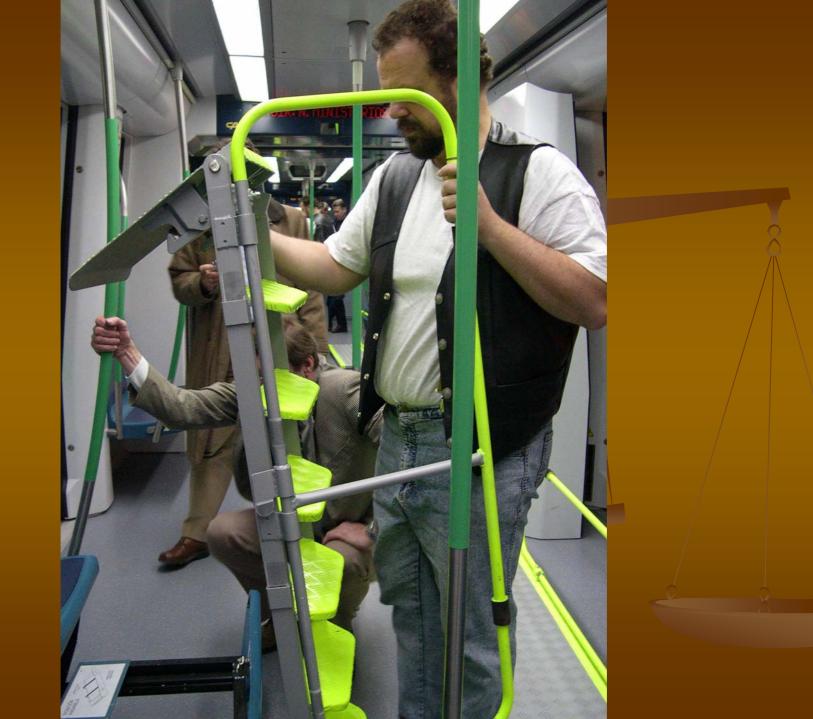


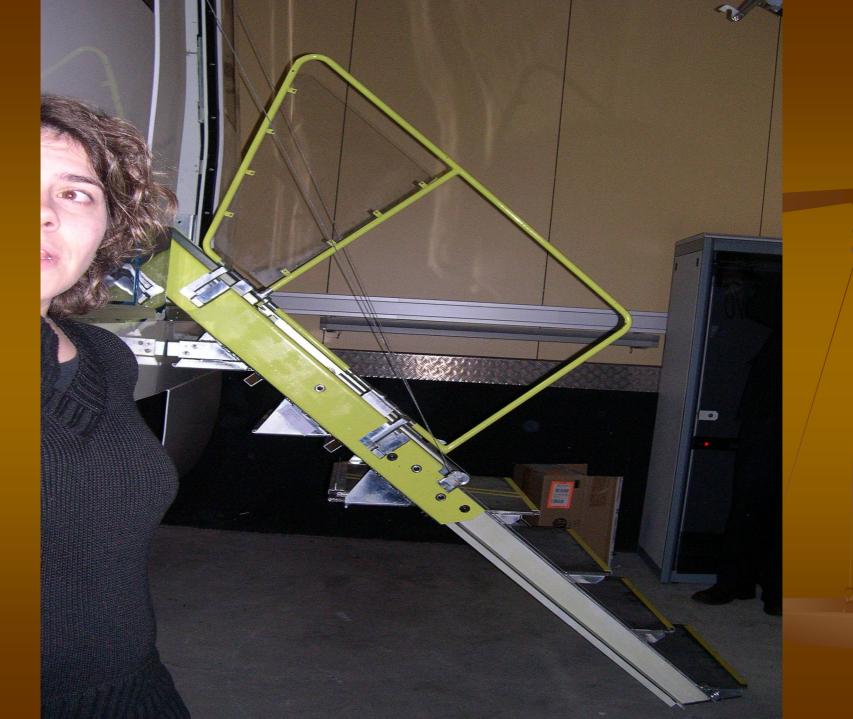
DESPUES DEL SILBATO

APRES LE COUP AFTER THE SOUND DE SIFFLET OF THE WHISTLE

- NO ENTRAR
- NI SALIR
- ME PAS ENTRER M NI SORTIR
- M NOR EXIT AUTHORIZED







Conclusions

 Madrid Metro provides a useful insight into management of passenger safety in a comparatively high risk environment.

Political Pressure

 100's of Millions \$US available to spend but railways resisting

Industry trying to sell products all the time

Trials

Biological detectors on trial

At least can warn of future health problems

No data in real time.

 New technologies will be most easily incorporated in new underground railways were ventilation and other key systems can be optimised for such technologies

- Aging railways are likely to remain problematic.
- Sound procedures and work practices are critical to maintaining security

The public can perform a key role in being vigilant

 Every Staff member can be a set of security eyes with adequate and relevant training

 Unnecessarily reactive procedures can severely undermine the performance of a railway Measures designed to manage the risks associated with petty criminal activities will go a considerable way to hardening a target against terrorist attack

(Terrorists do not like detection, or failure)

Recommendations

Decide what you need to achieve FIRST

Then ascertain what performance you have.

■ Then determine what (if any) action should be taken.

- DO NOT BE DRIVEN BY
 - VENDORS OF PRODUCTS
 - PROPHETS OF DOOM
 - Etc

 Cycles of Systematic assessment, will keep these risks in perspective AND appropriately managed.