

VEHICLE BORNE IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE VBIEDS

July 2007



Security Risk Level

Risk = 4 Elevated

1 = low — 5 = high



Security Risk Level

Risk = 5 CRITICAL

1 = low — 5 = high

Car Evacuation Zone



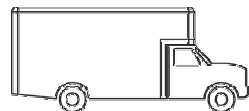
1,750 ft or 381 Meters

SUV Evacuation Zone



2,750 ft or 838 Meters

Truck Evacuation Zone



3,750 ft. or 143 Meters

ATF Recommendations

Spy-Ops

4017 Washington Road
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McMurray, PA 15317
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Advisory

The recent attacks in Britain coupled with the previous attacks in Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Iraq underscore the continued terrorist reliance on improvised weapons that have proven to be very successful in undermining the war on terror. One such technique is referred to as vehicle borne improvised explosive devices or (VBIEDs). Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices, especially suicide VBIED bombings have been a Middle Eastern phenomenon until quite recently. The tactic was first broadly used in the Lebanese Civil War by the Islamic fundamentalist group Hezbollah. The most notable VBIED incident is the 1983 Beirut barracks car bombing which killed 241 U.S. Marines and 58 French soldiers. In the Lebanese civil war, one estimate says that 3,641 car bombs were detonated with untold casualties and damage.

The approach is very simplistic. Take an ordinary vehicle such as a car, van or truck, pack it with explosives and propane cylinders, add other materials such as nails, ball bearings or marbles as shrapnel, put it all together with a remote detonation device like a remote garage door opener or a cell phone, and you have the basic VBIED. A full sized sedan can hold upwards of 1,000 lbs. or 227 kilos, and a full size SUV may carry as much as 4,000 lbs. or 1,818 kilos making proper evacuation distances mandatory. While no one type of vehicle or class of explosives or chemicals are typical of VBIEDs, there are some indications that could assist in the early identification of a potential VBIED.

Upon discovering such a vehicle, Emergency First Responders should immediately isolate the area by referring to the evacuation zone figures to the left. Secondly, they should deny access to the area to all except necessary personnel such as law enforcement and bomb squad members. If the vehicle is on fire, use unmanned hose lines and possibly foam to extinguish the flames. Due to the toxic smoke, self contained positive pressure breathing apparatus is required. All those responding to a VBIED should remember that a secondary device is often planted and detonated shortly after emergency personnel arrive on scene.

The use of VBIEDs provides the terrorists the ability to place large amounts of explosives in close proximity to hard or soft targets. VBIEDs by nature have a high degree of mobility which in turn makes them into precision weapons that have the potential to cause mass casualties and substantial physical destruction. Given the recent events in Britain, the VBIED threat against the U.S. and our interests abroad remains high. This is also true for other nations whose beliefs run contrary to those of the terrorists.

Two most common remote detonation devices are the cell phone and the remote garage door opener.



Potential Indicators of VBIED Activities

- ◆ Theft reports containing explosives, blasting caps, or fuses/flares, or certain chemicals used in the manufacture of explosives.
- ◆ Complaints of strange smells around recently rental self-storage space for the purpose of storing chemicals or mixing apparatus.
- ◆ Reports of chemical deliveries directly from the manufacturer to a self-storage facility or unusual deliveries of chemicals to residential or rural addresses.
- ◆ Recent reports of chemical fires, toxic odors, brightly colored stains, or rusted metal fixtures in apartments, hotel/motel rooms, or self-storage units.
- ◆ Modification of truck or van with heavy duty springs to handle heavier loads.
- ◆ Reports of small explosions in rural wooded areas (May be tests).
- ◆ Emergency room reports of chemical burns or treatment for missing hands/fingers.

Protective Measures

Soft targets are the target of choice for terror attacks -- particularly those with high casualty count possibilities. Examples include but are not limited to: shopping malls, hotels, popular night spots, sporting events business & government buildings and complexes. Terrorism risk management measures should be rigorously reexamined to ensure adequacy. These measures include but are not limited to: physical security perimeters, isolation of mail and delivery areas, set back distances between security fences and key buildings, and barricades. In addition, you should encourage personnel to be alert and to immediately report any situation that appears to constitute a threat or suspicious activity.

- ◆ Rearrange exterior vehicles barriers, traffic cones, and road blocks to alter traffic patterns near facilities to reduce straight "runways" into buildings or complexes.
- ◆ Implement highly visible vehicle, foot and roving security patrols that vary in size, timing and routes. In addition, install visible security cameras and motion sensors. Limit the number of access points, strictly enforce access control procedures and increase perimeter lighting.
- ◆ Approach all illegally parked vehicles in and around facilities, question drivers and direct them to move immediately if parked or idling. If an owner can not be identified, have vehicle towed by law enforcement.
- ◆ Remove view restricting vegetation in and around perimeters and maintain regularly. Institute a robust vehicle inspection program, including but not limited to checking under the undercarriage of vehicles, under the hood, and in the trunk. Provide vehicle inspection training to security personnel.
- ◆ Conduct vulnerability studies focusing on physical security, structural engineering, infrastructure engineering, power, water, and air infiltration, if feasible.

Always Remember

"Look for things that are there that shouldn't be and things that should be there but aren't".

All delivery services and businesses who deliver should take the following precautions.

- ◆ Keep complete records of all official identification cards, badges, decals, uniforms, and license plates that have been distributed, documenting any unusual activities or events, and canceling access to items that are lost or stolen.
- ◆ Continuous monitoring of all vehicles, including tracking vehicles that are in service, in repair status, or sent to salvage.
- ◆ Protect and account for all uniforms, patches, badges, ID cards, and other forms of official identification to protect against unauthorized access to facilities, including stripping all decommissioned vehicles slated for resale and/or salvage of all agency identifying markings and emergency warning devices.
- ◆ Use new and improved tamper proof identification card technology to eliminate reuse or unauthorized duplication.
- ◆ Notify your uniform vendors of the need to establish and verify the identities of individuals seeking to purchase uniform articles.
- ◆ Ensure all personnel are provided a security briefing regarding present and emerging threats.