



COUNTER-TERRORISM CONSTRAINTS ON TERRORISM POOL LOSSES

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Denial of terrorist plot resources

- Safe havens for training and weapon development
- Secure communications and meeting places
- Finance for operational funding
- Materiel for destructive attack modes

Liberty, law and security

Methods of questionable international legality have been used by the 'lawyer-in-chief' to take terrorist suspects off the battlefield and bring them to summary justice.



A lawsuit was filed in July 2012 by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) on behalf of Nasser al-Awlaki, the father of Anwar.



International target substitution

Instead of the US homeland, Al Qaeda can strike more easily at key US targets abroad, as with the attack on the US embassy in Benghazi, on September 11, 2012.



International target substitution

Coinciding with the London Olympics, where security was very tight, an audacious Al Qaeda aerial bomb plot was targeted at the main shopping centre in Gibraltar.



Red-teaming expert site security

The security of major western targets is professionally stress tested by ex-special services red-teams.



Iranian embassy, London
5 May 1980



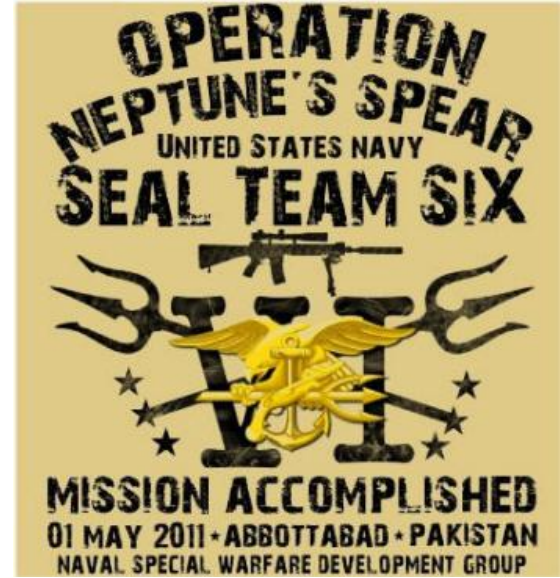
Wall Street, NY

Asymmetric warfare

- Heckler & Koch 416 assault rifle



- EOTech holographic weapon sight
- \$65k night vision goggles



*'Empty AK47 magazine.
He hadn't even prepared a defence.'*

No Easy Day

Social network downfall of Osama bin Laden

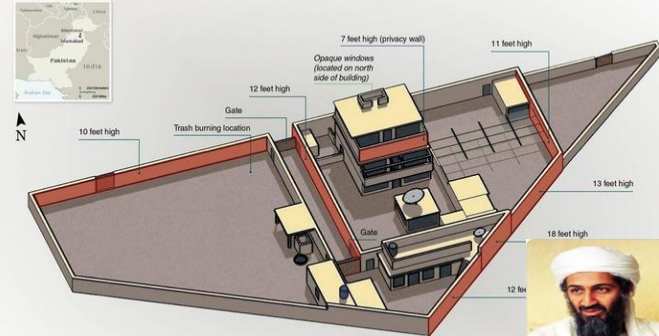


Old Friend

Intercepted
catch-up
phone call

Abu Ahmed al-Kuwaiti
COURIER

Illustration of Abbottabad Compound



Too many terrorists spoil the plot

Through indiscretion, each contact may provide an entry point into a plot network. The probability that a conspiracy is not compromised is the product of the likelihood of non-discovery by any external contact.

Cell Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Plot Interdiction Probability	0.26	0.46	0.60	0.70	0.78	0.84	0.88	0.91	0.93	0.95

'For a large operation against the US, pick a number of brothers not to exceed ten...'

Osama bin Laden

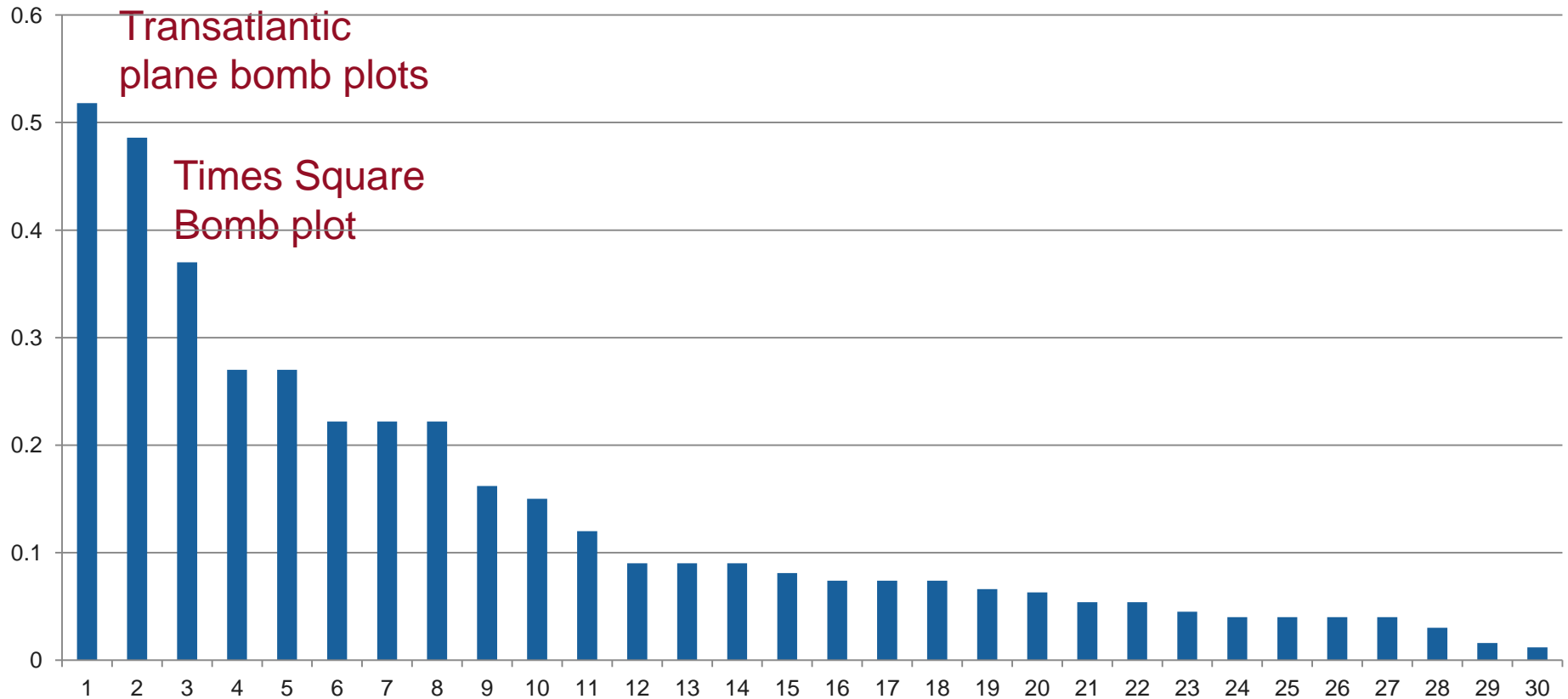
Norwegian lone wolf

Anders Breivik exploited the lack of Norwegian societal awareness of a domestic terrorist threat.

His farming neighbours observed that he lacked even basic agricultural knowledge.



Post-9/11 US plot success probabilities



Terrorism pool loss mitigation

- The type of attacks which would significantly impact a terrorism pool generally involve a team of operatives.
- The likelihood of such a plot not being interdicted by western intelligence services decreases with the scale of plot.
- A counterfactual analysis of past macro-terror plots since 9/11 indicates that the expected property loss has been low.