

Theme: The Growing Role of Private Security Companies in Protecting the Homeland

Background on terrorist organizations:

A global threat, every object is a target, infinite number of targets. Terrorist organizations do not succeed to execute terror attacks because of our forces. But they do not lose motivation, they have more volunteers willing to commit suicide, they have money, they have the means. "Al Qaeda" opens more branches and cells. Operates through its cells, but mostly by partnering with existing terrorist organizations acting as sub-contractors of "Al Qaeda", being financed by "Al Qaeda", sometimes they are given the target sometimes they themselves choose the target.

Terror attacks in Israel:

In 2009 there was a significant drop in terrorist attacks in Israel. 566 rockets were launched, compared to 2048 in the previous year. 15 Israelis were killed compared to 36 in the previous year. It should be noted that in 2009 no suicide bombings were carried out.

Terrorist activity in prominent places - Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Middle East, Israel, India, Russia, China, Turkey, USA, France and Colombia .

Iran is the source of all evil developing a military nuclear capability. Nuclear Iran will possess an existential threat to Israel and a threat to vital interests of the civilized world. Such a bomb and other means - chemical, biological, radiological (dirty bomb) could reach terrorists.

Terrorists already carried out non-conventional attacks in the world.

But Iran is also a center of global terrorism. Helps with money, training, inspire, plans the most brutal terrorist organizations – insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan, Pakistani Taliban, Hezbollah, Hamas PIG and more.

Defending the Homeland

The main threat today is the threat of terrorism, since full scale conventional war is not in sight. But the war against terrorism is a global war, or at least we should refer to it as a world war. We should understand that before us is an enemy determined, tough, ideological, ready to go all the way to commit suicide, constantly improves its capabilities and uses advanced means – in order to provide the appropriate solution.

One of the main duties of the government is to protect its citizens and give them a sense of security. One component of the most effective defense is attack.

The war against terrorism –

It requires excellent intelligence and ability to hit the terrorists and their headquarters, and prevent terrorist attacks in the making. In addition, skilled forces, trained professionals which are available 24 hours a day operating on the basis of real time intelligence. These forces are air, sea and land-based – and there should be a vast use of UAV's aircrafts, and of course anti-terrorist commandos, who can operate at the most distant ranges.

There are three circles of threats and operation

Far circle –

Far ranges intelligence, counterterrorism activity, and aggressive activity in order to harm the terrorist, their headquarters, their training camps and leaders this is done either alone or in cooperation with local forces.

Medium circle –

In neighboring countries and at the borders – intelligence, prevention, destruction, protection of the border to prevent infiltration through technology such as smart fence, border crossings arranged with

technological means to detect conventional and non-conventional weapons, night observations, remote control vehicles patrolling and shooting, manned patrols, hot per suit forces and immediate reaction forces.

Near circle –

Home land within the state dealing with terrorist attacks like the terrorist shooting attack near Hebron that killed Israeli civilians and the attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. Like the attack in Mumbai and the attack at the "Beslan" school in Russia.

This is the last protection circle that must stop the terrorists and not allow them to enter into the busy areas and cause large number of deaths. This cycle usually lacks in the intelligence. You notice that there is an attack only when you experience it, and must respond in real time.

This circle is built from the homeland security forces, that patrol and deter , from Swat teams, police forces, medical, fire brigade, security guards who are physically stand at doorways and gates and perform observations in sensitive places, hidden security forces, forces to isolate areas, event handling forces etc .

Technology –

From a simple fence, to a smarter fence or wall, a C4I room, communications, day and night sensors, magnetic gates, X ray machines to check luggage, dogs for detecting explosions and weapons, assault, gathering information, (camera on a dogs back).

Private companies –

The number of targets that are considered legitimate in the eyes of the terrorists is endless, every person, every vehicle, every plane, every building, every coffee shop, etc.

The purpose of the terrorists is to spread panic, so it is important to them that the attack will be carried in a painful sense of fear and insecurity at

home and close to home. It should have lots of victims, and would receive a lot of attention from the media.

Each country has armed forces and security services, and each armed force, police and security services have veterans. The veterans have a large knowledge in a variety of security arrays, and we must make use of this manpower which is a big advantage.

It is no coincidence that the number of private security companies is increasing and their duties are growing and becoming more complex and more sensitive.

To fight effectively against terrorism there should be a cooperation between the countries, but there is a need to increase capabilities in each state. Because defense budgets are limited, there is a huge advantage in using the security companies in a growing number of tasks.

The use of security companies is professionally and economically right. Professionally because of their experience obtained while serving in military units, police and security services, and economically because the companies are hired to perform specific tasks within a specified time.

Military and police forces are an economic burden because of their size, because of the need to provide them with camps, housing, food, etc., and because some of the soldiers and policemen are not occupied during all the year.

A modern and advanced strategic vision is required to impose more and more tasks to private security companies and assign military and police forces to which they were trained.

I recognize the interest of the state to ensure that the private security companies will be trained, equipped, and have the diverse mission ability

on the homeland security.

Responsibilities and Activity circles

Far circle –

Will be the responsibility of the states and their military and intelligence apparatuses, it requires intelligence and long-range activity deep in enemy's territory.

Medium circle –

In neighboring countries - state bodies, along the border - states and private companies.

Today is not the case but I see no reason why not to do so.

Private companies do it as good or even better than the army that sometimes send young and inexperienced soldiers on missions.

Near circle –

Should be almost entirely the responsibility of the private sector. VIP protection, (Israel – protection of ministers)

Security of sensitive and vital installations like - nuclear facilities, power plants, water reservoirs, computer networks, air and sea ports as well as securing each site which needs security. As the number of guards will grow the capability to prevent terrorist attacks will grow. The intelligence will always be the responsibility of the state.

Task of private companies

Private security companies are not alike; each should specialize in certain areas. It is also possible that a company will be a "one stop shop" and will be able to provide services to a wide range of areas.

Main areas which I identify as suitable for private security companies

* Planning and training state security bodies, including large exercises at the national level.

- Writing material for combat training.
- Design and construction of courses for different roles.
- Facilities security planning - execution by the government.
- Plan and implement security in sensitive sites (airport, sea port, government offices, water reservoirs, power plants, nuclear, train stations, major bus stations, TV and radio stations).
- Supervision and control of government bodies and private bodies.
- Logistics services.
- Rental aircrafts based on flight hours for training.
- Rental UAV's for the armed forces and the police on the basis of flying hours.
- Implementation of technological measures maintenance.
- Operating and maintaining simulators.
- * Operating "C4I Rooms" in "safe cities".
- securing residential neighborhoods against terror and crime.

War on terrorist financing trail

War on funds is the responsibility of the state but private parties will be used as sub-contractors to analyze intelligence and help finding the operatives. This is an important battle that only now beginning to bear fruit.

In England, recently funds retired from the "coalition of charity".

In the U.S.A heavy prison sentences were imposed on Palestinians convicted of terrorist financing.

Two leaders of the "Holy Land Foundation" were sentenced to 65 years in prison and penalties of 20 and 15 years imprisonment imposed on other activists.

Collaboration

Close collaboration is required between security companies and state security organs to obtain real-time intelligence and cooperate in the event of terrorist activities and prevent terrorist's attacks. Cooperation is required between the security companies, security forces and the public. It needs to educate the public awareness and report any suspicious object and any suspicious activity.

The public should know what to do in case of a need to evacuate a large area like shopping centers; the public should know how to act in case of suspected terrorism. How to act when there is a terror attack at a place which needs to be shut down, either by gunfire or a bomb. And how to act after the attack to help, and not disturb the security forces.

Private companies must have a very good quality, they should have permanent control system; companies should ensure an adequate level of appropriate professional skills and behavior.

Private firms must provide personnel and high quality means, once in a while train their employees and inspect their skills in shooting, physical fitness, knowledge of practice, knowledge of the roles of engagement and other measures.

Legislation

Legislation is required to regularize the legal status of security companies and their employees, to regulate the issue of carrying a weapon and rules of engagement.

Summary

Terrorism will not fall apart by itself; terrorism will continue to try to hurt us anywhere, anytime. To enhance the war on terrorism and to bring broad trained professionals we should expand significantly, in the coming years, the range of tasks assigned to private security companies.

Private security companies will bear growing responsibilities in defending the home front and the state.

Sincerely,

General (Ret) Danny Yatom