

## **The War on Terrorism**

Terrorism is a growing international phenomenon. The purpose of terrorist organizations is to systematically and deliberately attack innocent civilians in order to terrorize the population and the government for various reasons, but mainly for political gain.

To fight terrorism effectively, national preparedness and international cooperation are required.

National set-up is based on 2 circles: counter terrorism and security.

The first circle- counter terrorism- the foiling of terror attacks before they are executed is based on real-time accurate intelligence information gathering, and on operational ability of Special Forces especially trained to fight terrorism.

The second circle - security array- its purpose is to prevent terrorist attacks or to minimize the damages in case the effort to foil the attack has failed and the terrorists managed to reach their target.

This type of array is based on the protection of sensitive facilities, protection of high profile VIP, protection of aircrafts and ships and even the protection of crowded sites such as shopping malls. The array is based on security guards, security checks for those who enter the sites, and means of protection such as fences, sensors, and Command and Control rooms.

The main element in the ability to fight terrorism is intelligence.

**Intelligence Array**

Is based on the following components:

- A. Human Intelligence- HUMINT
- B. Signal Intelligence – SIGINT
- C. Visual Intelligence – VISINT
- D. Open Source Intelligence – OSINT

The HUMINT array is the central one and is based on agents who managed to penetrate the terror organization and supply the requested intelligence.

**Operational Array**

Based on special counter terror units that are familiar with terrorists' modes of action, and are trained to fight against them.

The array is based on the following components:

- A. Operational intelligence – Intelligence needed for executing specific counter terror operation.
- B. Operational units with the ability to both silent and loud penetration, sniping, close range combat, intelligence gathering during an operation, night time and day time combat, an ability to rescue hostages, dealing with suicide

bombers, neutralizing explosive devices and car bombs, an ability to fight unconventional terrorism. The units are highly mobile, and are based on different vehicles and helicopters.

The units are equipped with special equipment to fight terror.

C. Negotiation team to negotiate with terrorists that captured hostages.

D. Additional units that are responsible to isolate the operation area.

**Summation:** These days every country is exposed to the threat of terrorist attack. Bulgaria who is geo-strategically important and constitute an important ingredient in the international coalition of war against terrorism, must be optimally prepared to foil terror attacks, and protect the country's sensitive assets.