Radicalisation and Terrorism
A general introduction
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Slides used in 6 DARRA training sessions all over Estonia
The main question

Is prevention of violent radicalisation or terrorism a task for first line police officers or specialized units?
“All terrorist incidents are **local** or at least **will start that way**”

Effective response and recovery can only be achieved with the recognition that **local responder's** are the first line of defense
Early detection: front line approach

FRONT-LINE PROFESSIONALS:

• Police
• meet a lot of people in different situations
• Best ’eyes and ears’
• Best placed to recognise indicators
• Almost all incidents had ’early warning signs’
• Increasingly important
Two types of indicators

1. Radicalisation process
2. Preparation of terrorist attack
Who is best in place?

- Vulnerable person
- Family, peers, school environment (daily contact)
- Community, including religious leaders, police, youth workers, sports clubs (frequent contact)
- Policy makers, journalists (influence upon social context)
Radicalisation Process

ACTIVISM

- Demonstrations, streetraves, sit-downs
- Non violent
- Fundamental rights!
- In- or outside parliament
- Goal: change

VIOLENT EXTREMISM

- Arsony, damaging goods, hate speech
- Violence against property or individuals.
- Breaking the law

TERRORISM

- Bombing/
- Murder with terrorist intention
- Deadly force.
- disruption of society. Goal: influencing decision making by fear
Proces of Radicalisation

activism

violent extremism

terrorism
Radicalisation Process

- Unhappy people in society
- Looking for justice
- Seeking like-minded individuals/groups
- Further radicalisation
- Terrorism

Early detection by frontline professionals
Radicalisation Process

- Social isolation
- Changing peer group
- Disrespect of authorities (incl. parents)
- Change in physical appearance
- Psycho-social issues
- Visiting internet (chat-rooms) with radical content
- Crime nexus (petty crimes)
- Justification of violence
- Glorification of martyrdom
“Radicalisation is not caused by Islam per se (in reality, they do not focus on studying or knowing Islam), but rather by problem`s in one’s personal life – a wish to start a new and adventurous life; to experience war, to execute a terror attack; or to die as a martyr.”

Discussions in DARRA training

Estonian cases proved very valuable: discussion

Is activism good?
Yes! Democracy!

But should we prevent extremism?
Ehr ... yes, but ...

What about preventing violent extremism?
Activism or extremism?
Activism or extremism?

Security agency: Russia sent own right-wing extremists to Estonia for 'Nazi' labeling

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From radicalisation to terrorism: The Terrorist Attack Cycle

1. Escape and post-incident
2. Broad Target Selection
3. Intelligence and surveillance
4. Specific Target Selection
5. "Dry Run"
6. Pre attack fase
7. Attack
The four waves of modern terrorism

1. Anarchist: 1880 - 1920
2. Anti-colonial: 1920 - 1960
4. Religious inspired: 1979 - ?
The four waves of modern terrorism

1. Anarchist: 1880 - 1920
2. Anti-colonial: 1920 - 1960
4. Religious inspired: 1979 - ?
Religious inspired terrorism

Characteristics:
• Suicide attacks (reward in heaven)
• ‘Bloody’
• Civilian casualties
• Simultaneous attacks
• International
• Lone wolves and home-grown
• Goal: spreading fear & insecurity
Religious inspired terrorism

- Sektes, like Aum Shinrikyo (Japan)
- anti-abortion groups (US)
- Jihadist groups

Attack on Planned Parenthood clinic
Different ideologies

- Ethno-nationalist and separatist terrorism
- Right-wing terrorism
- Left-wing and anarchist terrorism
- Single-issue terrorism
- Jihadist terrorism
- Lone Wolves and Home grown
Ethno-nationalist and separatist

**IDEOLOGY:**
International recognition and political self-determination (country, people, nation)

**CHARACTERISTICS:** battle against the oppressor
Right-wing 2017

**US veteran charged with terrorism for killing black man**

Police say James Jackson 'proewed the streets of New York for three days in search of a black person to assassinate'.

**British soldiers arrested by terror police for allegedly being members of banned neo-Nazi group**

**Charlottesville 2017**

German soldier posing as a Syrian refugee arrested for planning 'false flag' terror attack
Far Right & Jihadist (number of attacks; US chart)
Left-wing, anarchism and single-issue

IDEOLOGY:

a new world order, supporting the ‘class-struggle’ a stateless society. Against capitalism, imperialism, globalism and racism.

or one specific focal point: animal rights, asylum,

CHARACTERISTICS: many different groups (cooperation – grouphopping), violent/non-violent.
Animal rights activism
Lone wolves

- operates individually
- Violent actions to support an ideology
- does not belong to an organised terrorist group or network
- tactics and methods are directed by the individual without any direct outside command or hierarchy
Conclusion

Terrorism is **not new**

- used to affect political, social, economic and religious change for centuries

The causes leading to terrorism are **not new**

- they have developed over decades and in many cases over centuries
What focus do YOU have: crime triangle

Focus on:
• Offender (radical/terrorist)
• Target/victim (protect a person and/or building/target at risk)
• Location/environment (neighbourhood, city centre, shopping street/mall, boulevard)
Contra Terrorism: offender biased

But we might also look at:

- Situation (place)
- Direct victims
- Indirect victims (society)
Aim of Terrorism = spread terror = Fear of Crime/Feelings of insecurity

- Objective (crime/terrorism) + subjective (feelings)
- "If men define situations as real, they are real in their consequences."
- Fear can poison a community
- People stay at home, no social interaction, deserted streets (= crime generator)
- Fear is spread through (social) media + hear/say
Fear of crime/feelings of insecurity: a new issue, but it’s here to stay (so we better learn to deal with it)

Too much police and too much force may harm feelings of security (sometimes ….)
Too much security and fortress mentality harm feelings of security. Fear ....
These measures make one thing clear: Authorities are in **PANIC**!
Security or fueling feelings of insecurity?

Zaltbommel, 2017  
Dokkum, sinterklaas 2017
From SSA (right) to designed SSA (left)

Rembrandtplein, Amsterdam
December 2017

Praha, 2017
Christian Schneider evaluation Berlin Breitscheidplatz terrorist attack (2016): “Improvisierte Barrieren nutzen nur den Tätern” (improvized concrete blocks only facilitate terrorists)

Concrete block Szenario Berlin

- Scania truck R450, 40 ton, 65 km/h
- Energy 6.500 Kj
- Concrete block 160x120x80 = 3.6 ton
- Dispersion of concrete 194 meter!!!

Feeling insecure might be very RATIONAL!
Number suicide attacks worldwide

Source: Chicago Project on Security and Terrorism; CPOST
Most problems NOT in the West (82-15) numbers and numbers by country
Hence why would we be so afraid?

Lets think about strategies to counteract terrorism and (spreading of) fear in society:

• Communication/information/media
• Clever reactions, rituals and rethorics (or no reactions)
• Change framing (terrorists as disturbed persons needing help)
• Stop heroic framing (lone wolves)
• Get used to it
Thank you!

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