

Terrorist Attacks against Bars, Restaurants, and Nightclubs Worldwide Highlight Importance of Public and Private Sector Partnerships in the Homeland

Historically, terrorists have frequently targeted public places and mass gatherings, including bars, restaurants, and nightclubs, which typically have high occupancy and few security measures. Such attributes increase the likelihood that terrorists will continue to plot against and attack these soft targets, including the self-proclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) which has encouraged this strategy to violent extremist audiences on social media and in their English-language publications, as recent as January 2017, a trend that will likely continue. We judge that terrorists perceive this as a viable attack strategy that is likely to be more successful than more complex and sophisticated attacks against harder targets.

- In January 2017, a gunman attacked a nightclub in Istanbul, Turkey, killing at least 39 and wounding 70 during New Year's celebrations. The shooter killed a police officer and security guard before entering the nightclub. After he fired at nightclub patrons and before leaving the establishment, the perpetrator changed his clothing to blend into the crowd.
- In June 2016, a shooter opened fire at a nightclub in Orlando, Florida, an attack that resulted in 49 deaths and 53 injuries. A police officer working security engaged the shooter outside the nightclub in a gun battle. Upon reentering the nightclub, the shooter fired at patrons and proceeded to barricade himself and several hostages in a restroom for more than two hours. During an exchange of gunfire, the assailant was killed by the police.
- In February 2016, four patrons at a restaurant in Columbus, Ohio, were injured when an individual entered with a machete and attacked bystanders. The subject initially entered the establishment and conversed with an employee, left the premises only to return a half hour later to attack the customers. Following a police chase, the assailant was forced out of his car, and attempted to lunge at officers with a machete and knife; the assailant, however, was killed by the police.
- In November 2015, operatives launched coordinated and near-simultaneous attacks targeting several different locations in Paris, France, including a sports stadium, multiple restaurants, and a concert hall, killing at least 130 and wounding hundreds of victims in less than an hour. The attackers were armed with assault rifles and wore explosives-laden suicide vests, which they detonated.

INDICATORS: Because of their direct interaction with the public, employees are in a unique position to identify behavior reasonably indicative of criminal or terrorist activity. The activities listed below may be innocent and any determination of illicit intent should be supported by additional facts. When observed in combination with other suspicious behaviors—particularly advocating violence—the following indicators may constitute a basis for suspicious activity reporting:

- Unusual, repeated, or prolonged interest in or surveillance of facility;
- Interest in security measures and assets, including staffing levels, attention to or avoidance of surveillance cameras, emergency doors or evacuation procedures, and access controls, such as alarms, barriers, doors, gates, or locks;
- Suspicious actions, such as making hoax emergency calls or repeated bomb threats to provoke and observe responses by security or law enforcement officers;



FIRST RESPONDER'S TOOLBOX

- Suspicious interest in entry points, peak days, and hours of operations, security personnel, surveillance assets (including cameras), and access controls such as alarms, barriers, doors, gates, or locks;
- Out-of-place or unusual items in trash or other areas, such as empty or used packaging or materials that could be used to create explosives;
- Attempts to access sensitive or restricted areas of the facility;
- Attempts to elicit information from building maintenance or security personnel;
- Loitering, parking, or standing in same location for an unusual period of time or on multiple occasions with no reasonable explanation;
- Discreet or unusual use of still cameras, video recorders, note taking, or use of sketching materials, consistent with pre-operational surveillance;
- Significant changes in physical appearance or attempts to disguise appearance between repeated visits; and
- Garments not appropriate for weather, seasons, or location.

CONSIDERATIONS: Bars, restaurants, and nightclubs face a number of potential security concerns including active shooters, improvised explosive devices, and vehicle borne improvised explosive devices. To mitigate these threats, homeland security officials, first responders, private security personnel and establishment owners and managers are encouraged to integrate the following considerations into their security measures and incident-response plans.

- Increase law enforcement visibility and promote information sharing with multi-disciplinary partners in advance of an emergency situation by developing relationships between law enforcement and businesses in the area.
- Encourage establishment owners and managers to connect with community security and preparedness organizations such as the FBI's public-private partnership program, "InfraGard," and coordinate with the local DHS Protective Security Advisor.
- Urge establishments to develop plans for security, emergency response, communications, and business continuity, and account for access control, closed circuit television, signage, suspicious activity reporting, and parking security. Furthermore, encourage establishments to exercise and train employees regarding response protocols and plans against various scenarios that may have an impact on the establishment.
- Remain aware of current threats within your area or industry.
- Regularly train employees about the importance of suspicious activity reporting and highlight DHS's "If You See Something, Say Something.™"
- Post details on reporting suspicious activity and encourage employees, tenants, and customers to report suspicious behavior to on-site security or local law enforcement.
- Recommend establishment owners to conduct pre-employment screening of new and existing employees, including independent or outside contractors and vendors or other personnel with access to the venue to minimize insider threat potential.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

DHS Hometown Security: Tools to Help Your Community Prepare - Through the Hometown Security Initiative, DHS provides free tools and resources to communities because the Department recognizes that communities are the first line of defense in keeping the public safe and secure. DHS encourages businesses to **connect, plan, train, and report**. Applying these four steps in advance of an incident or attack can help better prepare businesses and their employees to proactively think about the role they play in the safety and security of their businesses and communities. Find more at <https://www.dhs.gov/hometown-security>.

Responding to Active Shooters and Improvised Explosive Devices - The following resources are available to assist law enforcement in better understanding and responding to violent situations; FBI Active Shooter Study (<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/fbi-releases-study-on-active-shooter-incidents>), DHS Active Shooter Resources (www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness).





PRODUCT FEEDBACK FORM

(U) JCAT MISSION: To improve information sharing and enhance public safety. In coordination with the FBI and DHS, collaborate with other members of the IC to research, produce, and disseminate counterterrorism (CT) intelligence products for federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government agencies and the private sector. Advocate for the CT intelligence requirements and needs of these partners throughout the IC.

NAME AND/OR ORGANIZATION:

ORGANIZATION: LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRE HEALTH ANALYSIS PRIVATE SECTOR

DATE:

FEEDBACK

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EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR POOR

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03 ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, OR QUESTIONS:

04 WHAT TOPICS WOULD YOU RECOMMEND IN THE FUTURE?

SUBMIT