
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION



Assessing International Inbound Aviation Risk




Office of Global Strategies
Transportation Security Administration


Risk and Risk Components

Risk is the potential for an adverse outcome assessed as a function of *threats*, *vulnerabilities*, and *consequences* associated with an incident, event, or occurrence.


$$\text{Risk} = \text{Threat} * \text{Vulnerability} * \text{Consequence}$$



An individual, entity, or action that intends to cause harm



Susceptibility of a system to destruction or exploitation



The effect of an event, incident, or occurrence

Civil Aviation Threat Overview

TSA assessed threat to Civil Aviation: **High**

- Greatest threat emanates from transnational terrorists at LPDs
- Terrorists will continue to seek out vulnerabilities, develop new techniques & weapons to thwart security
- Similar methods may be used against passenger & cargo aircraft



2009 Underwear Bomb

- Terrorists' persistent interest in attacking aviation stems from:
 - Economic consequences, instilling fear, and gaining credibility

Methods

- Landside attacks
- Insider facilitated attacks
- MANPADS / Small Arms
- Improvised Explosive Devices
clothing, shoes, liquids, electronics



In the Last Three Years...

UNITED STATES (February 2014): Authorities warned airlines to be aware of possible explosives hidden inside shoes

EUROPE/RUSSIA (February 2014): U.S. authorities issued an alert about explosives hidden inside toothpaste tubes for flights bound to Sochi Olympics

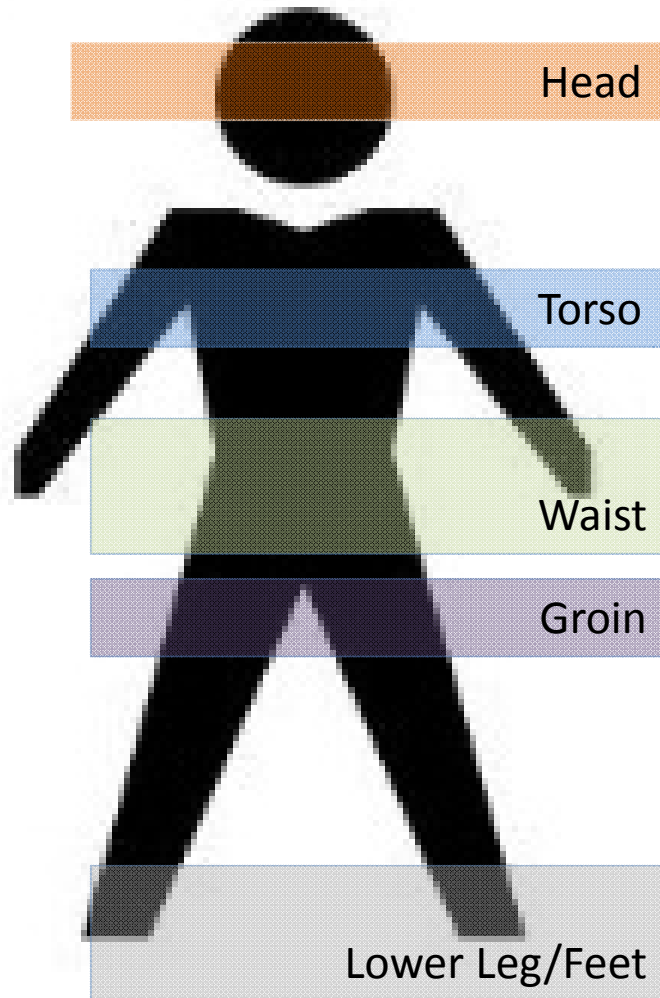
AFGHANISTAN (June 2013): Militants attacked Kabul International Airport using rockets, small-arms, and VBIEDs

UNITED STATES (November 2013): Active shooter attacked a checkpoint at Los Angeles International Airport

EGYPT (January 2014): Militants downed an Egyptian military helicopter using MANPADS

YEMEN (May 2012): Authorities recovered upgraded underwear device to be used by AQAP on a U.S.-bound flight

Improvised Explosive Devices



- Chemically-initiated, non-metallic
- Artfully concealed
- Designed to bypass security



Passenger-Borne Low/Non-Metallic IEDs

2006 Liquids Plot: al-Qa'ida planned to bomb at least 10 airliners, with explosives hidden inside a drink, traveling from the United Kingdom to the United States and Canada

2001 Shoe Bomb: al-Qa'ida attempted to blow up an airliner, with explosives hidden inside shoes, traveling from France to the United States

2009 Underwear Plot: AQAP attempted to blow up a U.S.-bound flight with explosives hidden inside a pair of underwear

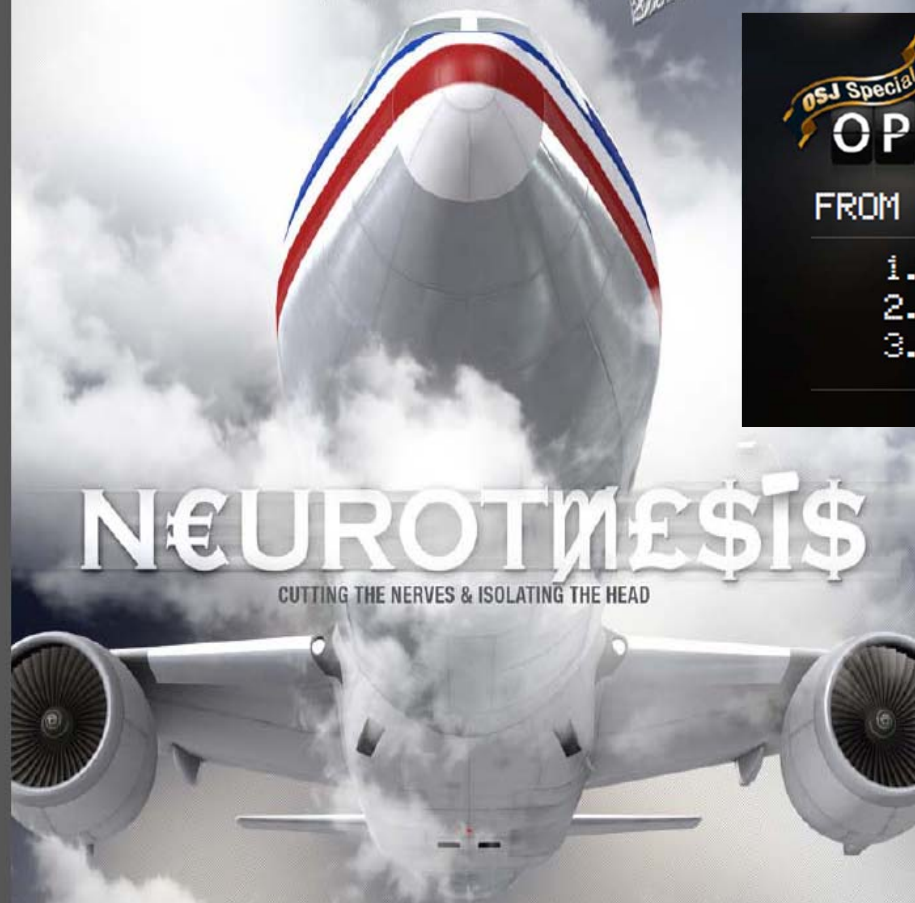
1995 Bojinka Plot: al-Qa'ida planned to bomb 11 airliners, with explosives hidden inside contact lens solution, flying from S.E. Asia to the United States

WINTER 2014 | 1436 | ISSUE 13

INSPIRE



...AND INSPIRE THE BELIEVERS.



NEUROTME\$IS

CUTTING THE NERVES & ISOLATING THE HEAD



THE HIDDEN BOMB

SIMPLE TO MAKE YET ADVANCED BOMB IN THE HANDS OF ASPIRING MUJAHIDEEN GLOBALLY. MADE WITH SIMPLE KITCHEN MATERIALS.

INTERVIEW WITH THE AQ CHEF | GLAD TIDINGS OF VICTORY | LETTER TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | THE BATTLE OF MARATHON



OPEN SOURCE JIHAD

FROM AQ'S KITCHEN: THE HIDDEN BOMB

1. BREACHING AIRPORT SECURITY
2. MAKING THE HIDDEN BOMB
3. FIELD TACTICS



Types of Insider Risk

Espionage

Use of insider access to obtain sensitive information for exploitation that impacts national security

Terrorism

Use of access to commit or facilitate an act of violence as a means of disruption or coercion for political purposes

Physical Property Theft

Use of insider access to steal material items (e.g., theft of passenger possessions or equipment)

Security Compromise

Use of access to override or circumvent security controls (e.g. drug and contraband smuggling)

Information Theft

Use of insider access to steal or exploit information

Sabotage

Intentional destruction of equipment or material

Workplace Violence

Use of violence or threats that causes a risk to the health & safety of the workforce & traveling public

Types of Insider Intent

Ignorance

Lack of awareness of policies and procedures creates risk

- Employees being uninformed of policies and procedures is a challenge, particularly when dealing with emerging threats as well as new employees.

Complacency

Lax approach to policies, procedures, and potential security risks

- Violators often assume that their specific behavior doesn't have a noticeable impact or that no one is monitoring their behavior.

Malice

An act that is malicious and intentional in nature to cause damage

- Insiders typically develop a plan in advance that someone within the organization may detect.

Recent Insider Risk Headlines

Security Guards Jailed for Plot to Smuggle People

Two airline security guards were jailed after plotting with nine others to smuggle illegal immigrants out of Birmingham Airport to Canada using false passports.

Nov 2013

Local Man Planned Suicide Attack at a Wichita, Kansas Airport

An airport employee used his privileged airport access to bypass security at a Wichita, Kansas Airport with the intent to detonate a vehicle full of explosives on the tarmac.

Dec 2013

Ethiopian Air Hijacking Showed Shortfalls in Security

An Ethiopian Airlines jetliner was hijacked by a co-pilot seeking asylum, which illustrated a security wild card still facing global aviation despite years of efforts to combat terrorism: the insider threat.

Feb 2014

Guns Smuggled on Planes in Atlanta

A current and former Delta Air Lines employee utilized employee access points to smuggle guns from Atlanta to New York City.

Dec 2014