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In Collaboration with the ITACG



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(U) Terrorist Tactics: Mass Transit and Passenger Railroad Systems

(U//FOUO) Terrorist attack tactics used against mass transit and passenger railroad systems abroad provide insights that can assist law enforcement officers in securing these critical infrastructure assets. The chart below highlights common tactics noted in attempted or successful use of explosive or incendiary devices against mass transit or passenger railroad systems in attacks conducted between March 2004 and November 2009. The information about these attacks provides insights into device type, selection, and construction and can help law enforcement identify patterns and develop protective measures. Analysis shows terrorists have timed attacks during periods of peak ridership; used multiple, coordinated, drop-and-leave devices in identical or similar baggage; and placed devices inside rail cars to cause casualties among passengers.

	Madrid, Spain 11 March 2004	London, UK 7 July 2005	Mumbai, India 11 July 2006	German Trains 31 July 2006 (Unsuccessful)	India-Pakistan "Peace Train" 20 February 2007	Russia Nevsky Express 27 November 2009
Timing	Morning rush hour	Morning rush hour	Evening rush hour	Daytime	Midnight, after all passengers were aboard	2130, after all passengers were aboard
Tactic	Coordinated, 13 drop-and-leave devices	Coordinated, 4 suicide devices	Coordinated, 8 drop-and-leave devices	2 drop-and-leave devices	Coordinated, 6 drop-and-leave devices	Single placed explosive
Method of Concealment	Identical duffel bags	Backpacks	Devices hidden in pressure cookers inside satchels	Identical, small, roll-on suitcases	Large, hard-sided suitcases	Buried beneath the tracks under ballast
Placement of Devices	On the floor, on seats, inside passenger cars	Carried inside and placed between legs on the floor of passenger cars and on bus	On overhead luggage racks inside passenger cars	Inside passenger cars	By the doors inside passenger cars	Underneath tracks
Explosive Type	Dynamite (Goma-2) 22 lbs	Peroxide-based homemade explosives 9.9 lbs	RDX (high explosive) 2.5 lbs	No explosives, possibly incendiary device of propane tanks and bottles of petrol	Incendiary device, potassium nitrate with sulfur to spread flammable liquids—kerosene and petrol—with a timing device	Unknown explosive material equivalent to 15 lbs of TNT
Commonly available components?	No, stolen	Yes, but difficult-to-create explosive materials	Yes, in India	Yes	Yes	Unknown

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(U) Prepared by the DHS/I&A Domestic Threat Analysis Division, the FBI/Directorate of Intelligence, and the Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group. This product is intended to assist federal, state, and local first responders in developing deterrence, prevention, preemption, or response strategies.

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