OPERATIONS AND TACTICS GLOSSARY

A
ABDUCTION: Taking away of someone by force or fraud
AGENT OF INFLUENCE: A person strategically influencing opinions, events, or trends
AK-47: A common sub machine gun (or assault rifle). Also AK56, 74, 74M and 101 –105
AMBUSH: Victims approach an ambush party who surprise-attack, sealing escape routes
ANTI-PERSONNEL: Designed to injure or kill a person
ANTI-TERRORISM: General, passive, defensive or preventative measures against terrorism.
ANTI-HANDLING DEVICE: Device which triggers bomb detonation if handled or moved
ANTI-SURVEILLANCE: Measures taken to confirm that surveillance is being carried out
ARC OF FIRE: Designated area of ground covered by an individual weapon
AREA COORDINATOR: A security official acting for a Designated Official in large areas
AREA OF OPERATIONS: The area within the Mission where Mandate duty is carried out
ARMOURY: Secured storage area for weapons
ARREST: Detaining a person, stopping their freedom of movement. Not a temporary check
ARSON: Deliberate setting of fires, usually to cause loss of life or damage
ARTILLERY: Heavy weapon of war, land based, tubed, launching shells in a trajectory
ASSASSINATION: Murder of political or prominent public figure
ASSAULT RIFLE: Type of SMG. Fires and reloads multiple or single rounds automatically

B
BALLISTICS: Science dealing with projectiles; bullets, rockets, bombs
BLACK BAG OPERATION: to illegally enter premises of targeted individuals and/or organisations, to copy information found in their records
BLACKMAIL: Extortion of payment / services in exchange for not revealing discreditable facts.
BLACK OPS: Missions that are secret, deniable, of questionable ethics and/or legality, where no government will claim responsibility for the action
BLAST: High pressure pulse or air shock-wave, caused by explosion.
BLOOD CIRCULATION STANDSTILL: No pulse, blood ceases to move around the body
BODY BAG: A waterproof bag for transporting cadavers (dead bodies)
BODY DOUBLE: A look-a-like person who substitutes for VIP or Principal
BOMBARDMENT: An attack using artillery.
BOOBY TRAP: A concealed lethal / injurious trap, set to attract victims, often using explosives
BREACH: To forcibly make entry, with a ram, a kick, or with explosives-through a door, window or wall in order to facilitate entry.
BTTN. Battalion: A military formation of several military companies, between 300-500 soldiers
BURGLARY: Illegal entry with intent to steal, and sometimes assault, rape or damage.

CALIBRE: The diameter of a bullet or shell, or of the bore of a barrel or weapon-tube or gun
CAPTIVE: Prisoner or hostage
CASE OFFICER: An official who runs, assists or controls specific agents or terrorists
CASEVAC: Casualty Evacuation
CCTV: Closed Circuit Television. Security cameras and monitors
CELL: A small covert group. Cells often do not know identities of members from other cells
CHARGE: The explosive content of a bomb, IED, shell or round.
CHOKE POINT: High-risk passage which target is compelled to travel through.
CHOPPER: Slang for helicopter.
CLANDESTINE: Concealed or sly activity associated with espionage or terrorism.
CLOSE PROTECTION: Organised protection of a target, by security personnel.
CLOSE PROTECTION: also VIP Protection
COERCE: To compel or restrain, often unethically or illegally.
COLD WAR: Post WWII struggle of US and allies against the Soviet Union and allies.
COMBAT ENGINEERS: Military Engineers with bomb and mine laying / removal expertise.
COMBAT: To contend or struggle. Often describes military engagement of protagonists.
COMMS: Communications
CONTROLLER: See CASE OFFICER
CORDON: A line of personnel or barriers designed to control, monitor, or prevent movement in or out of an area
COUNSELLOR: A person providing advice, especially comforting support after trauma
COUNTERMAND: To cancel an order or instruction made by someone else
COUNTERMEASURE: An action or procedure designed to neutralise a danger or threat
COUNTER-TERRORISM: Active, hostile or offensive measures to suppress terrorism.
COUNTER-SURVEILLANCE: Taking active measures to halt or prevent surveillance
COVER: Legitimate occupation concealing clandestine activity such as terrorism
COVER FIRE: Fire designed to neutralise opponent so another person can move
CPO: Chief Police Officer
CQC: Close Quarter Combat: engagement at extremely short range, happen at extremely high speed.
CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS DEBRIEFING: Post incident anti-shock counselling
CYCLONITE: A powerful explosive, also known as RDX, used in IEDs

D
DAMAGE: Level of demolition, below destruction
DEEP COVER OPERATIVE: An undercover agent deep inside an organisation
DEFENSIVE DRIVING: Advanced control system for driving, vehicle and conditions
DEMOLITION: Destruction, especially blowing up
DESTRUCTION: Complete ruin, beyond repair
DETENTION: Being legally held, denied freedom of movement, by governments
DETERRENT: A measure or an act to discourage
DETONATOR: A substance or mechanism activated by a trigger, causing charge to explode
DIPLOMATIC COVER: Use of diplomatic appointment to conceal illegal activity
DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY: Immunity from legal process by International agreement
DIPLOMATIC POUCH: A sealed inviolable bag, for transporting official documents
DISINFORMATION: Deliberate passing of information known to be false
DISSEMINATION: Distribution, especially information or propaganda
DOA: Dead on Arrival
DRIVE-BY SHOOTING: Shooting of random victims from a moving vehicle
DUTY STATION: The country(-ies), or part of a country, where an operation outpost is located
DYNAMIC ENTRY: Fast, explosive breaches and the use of diversionary devices.
DYNAMITE: Explosive charge for IEDs. Sometimes used by less sophisticated terrorists

E
EAR: Slang word for a clandestine informant. (US English)
EXECUTION: 1. to put into effect; carry out; 2. to put to death
ELECTRONIC INTERCEPT: Intelligence collected electronically, especially radio traffic
ENTRAPMENT: 1. to lure into a compromising situation; 2. blackmail of indiscretion for intelligence purposes
ETHNIC CLEANSING: Modern name for de-population. A war-crime (genocide) act
EXTORTION: Illegal securing of money, goods or services by threat or force.
EXTRACTION: Removal; in this context, of self or others from a situation or zone.
FALSE FLAG OPERATION: 1. an act carried out by a person who believes he is working for a certain friendly power, but who in fact is being unknowingly manipulated by an opposition power. 2. an act of manipulation calculated to falsely incriminate an opponent.

FC: Force Commander: Military Head of Mission

FIELD DRESSING: A type of wound dressing designed for serious combat wounds

FIREARM: Rifle, assault-rifle, pistol, revolver and sub, light or heavy machine gun

FIREIGHT: Exchange of fire between opposing forces

FIRST AID DANGER ZONES: Areas around the casualty that may generate further injury

FLASH-BANG GRENADE: Noise flash device (NFD), also known as flash-bang, used to draw a suspect's attention away from an entry port or to disorient a suspect

FORENSIC SCIENCE: Scientific collection of evidence for legal purposes (Latin: Forum)

FRONT: Slang for a business or cover concealing terrorist, criminal or espionage activity

FSO: FIELD SECURITY OFFICER

FUNCTIONAL IMMUNITY: Internationally agreed legal Immunity for official duties

FUSE. Device which detonates an explosive charge, when activated by a trigger

GENEVA CONVENTION: International Conventions governing certain aspects of war

GENOCIDE: Deliberate mass-murder of a religious, national, ethnic or racial group

GRASS: Slang word for a clandestine informant (British English)

GRENADE: Hand held/ launched bomb which explodes into fragments. Always lethal to 2m

GUERRILLAS: Irregular armed forces usually with political, religious or ethnic motives

HANDGUN: Pistol or revolver. Also known as "sidearm"

HANDLER: An official who runs (controls, organises and supports) agents or terrorists

H.E.: High Explosive

HEAT-TRIGGER: A trigger in a bomb which is activated by a change in temperature

HEAVY WEAPONS: Weapons of large capability / calibre, e.g. artillery, heavy mortar

HIJACK: To stop and take over a vehicle by force, usually for political coercion.

HIT: Slang word for attack or an individual murder or assassination.

HIT-MAN: Slang word for an assassin or organised criminal murderer.

HMG: Heavy Machine Gun: often of calibres such as 50mm

HOAX: Unreal or not authentic. Bogus, in context of bomb-threats which are false

HOMICIDE: Killing of a human being
HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT: Operating agreement terms between countries
HOSTAGE: A captive held as security or used for coercion
HOSTAGE-TAKING: Abduction of person for extortion, use as human shield or coercion
HQ: Headquarters: Centre of an organisation
HUMAN RIGHTS: Civil rights defined by binding International and regional conventions
HUMINT: Human Intelligence: Information collected by persons rather than machines

IED: Improvised Explosive Device: Bomb which is not professionally manufactured
ILLEGAL: Not within the law or a terrorist or agent who is illegally present in a country
IMINT: Imagery Intelligence: Information and photographs collected by special satellites
INFILTRATION/EXFILTRATION: Clandestine entry/exit to or from country or war zone
INFRA-RED: Radiation between the red end of the visible spectrum and microwaves
INSERTION: Describes entry of personnel, usually to a specific area or organisation
INTELLIGENCE SECURITY: Security of Intelligence possessed and how it was come by
INTELLIGENCE: Strategic information collected/communicated or an organisation so engaged
IPO: International Police Officer: attached to an international or regional mission, not local

J
JARGON: Terminology or slang of a profession or trade

K
KIDNAPPING: Abduction of a human being, usually for ransom
KILL GROUP: main group providing firepower in an ambush scenario
KILL ZONE: Area where victims of terrorism or ambush are trapped and attacked

L
LAW: Light Anti-Tank Weapon: Often wire-guided onto target
LAYERED SECURITY: protective layers of security between the Principal and external threat
L.E.: Low Explosive
LINE OF FIRE: Path of a projectile from the weapon to the target
LINE OF SIGHT: Line from a gun’s position to the target
LMG: Light Machine Gun, magazine of belt-fed. Often of a calibre around 7.62mm
LMG: Light machine gun
LOG: Logistics: Movement or supply of troops or equipment in large scale operation
LOW INTENSITY CONFLICT: Short of war. Sporadic fighting, often with irregular forces
MAGAZINE: 1. integral container of ammunition in a weapon; 2. an ammunition store.
MASSACRE: Slaughter, especially with cruelty and carnage
MEDIA: Mass communications industry and those engaged in it i.e. newspapers, TV, radio
MEDIC: Medical Assistant
MEDIUM ARMS: Between small arms and Heavy weapons, e.g. Rocket Propelled Grenade
MEDEVAC: Medical Evacuation
MILOBS: Military Observer
MINE: A military purpose explosive, within a casing, with a charge, trigger and detonator
MINEFIELD: A regular or irregular patterned deployment of concealed mines
MIO: 1. Military Information Officer; 2. Military Intelligence Officer
MISINFORMATION: Innocent or negligent passing of information which is false
MISSION AREA: A specific area within the entire Area of Operations
MISSION MANDATE: Authorisation and objectives
MODUS OPERANDI: (M.O.) Latin: modus operandi or method of operation.
MORTAR: A tubed artillery weapon, launching bombshells in a trajectory onto target.
MOTION DETECTOR: Detects Infra Red Waves (heat) radiating from moving objects.
MOVECON: Movement Control: Logistics unit handling transport of personnel and supplies.
MURDER: Unlawful killing with intent and premeditation.

NBC: NUCLEAR BIOLOGICAL CHEMICAL: Unconventional weapons of mass lethality.
NEGATIVE STRESS: Disturbance to mental and emotional equilibrium. Often harmful
NEGOTIATE: Bargain, discuss, mediate, arbitrate, intercede, intervene
NON-NEGOTIABLE: Terrorists who will not negotiate; also called sub-conflict terrorists
NVG: Night-vision goggles

OBSERVATION: Viewing, monitoring, and noting of that which is observed
OP: Observation Post: A type of small field station with observation facilities
OPEN SOURCE: Intelligence from open sources, e.g. academic, internet, media
ORDNANCE: Disposition or Equipment, especially ammunition or arms
PC: Police Constable

PEACE BUILDING: Institution building; Authorised by Article 33, Chapter VI of the UN Charter

PEACE ENFORCEMENT: An amalgam of Peacekeeping and Peacemaking

PEACEKEEPING: Authorised by Article 33, Chapter VI of the UN Charter

PEACEMAKING: Diplomatic; Authorised by Article 42, Chapter VII of the UN Charter

PENETRATE: Clandestine infiltration of opposition forces

PENTOLITE: A combination of Pentaerythritol-tetranitrate and TNT, used in IEDs

PERIMETER: Outer boundary

PERIPHERY: Edge of an area

PETN.: Pentaerythritol-tetranitrate: An explosive in IEDs. See RDX

PHASE: One of several security alert levels in a Mission Security & Evacuation Plan

PHOTO-ELECTRIC TRIGGER: Light-activated cell in IED, causing fuse to detonate charge

PISTOL: A semi-automatic hand-gun, small arm or side arm with a magazine of ammunition

PLANT: Slang word for an agent infiltrated by opposition forces

POLITICS: 1. the study of people in a group context; 2. used to describe government actions

POPULATION CENTRE: A heavily-populated urban capital, city, town or centre

POSITION: Small defensive military site. May be a bunker, trench or shell-scrape

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTDS): Mental illness caused by severe trauma

PRINCIPAL: Security objective

PRISONER: Captive or hostage.

PROCUREMENT: Supply acquisition process after logistical needs are identified

PROFILE: A characterisation of an individual or a site

PROXY BOMB: Terrorist bombing tactic, where an innocent person is forced to carry an explosive device to the target

RACIST: One who holds (and sometimes exhibits) animosity for other races

RANGE: The maximum distance a weapon can fire

RANGEFINDER: A device that calculates the exact distance to an object

RANSOM: Sum or money or goods, illegally demanded for return of person or property

RDD: Radiological Dispersal Device: Bomb attached to radioactive material

RDX: Research Department Explosive: A powerful high explosive used in IEDs

RECONNAISSANCE: Recon.: Preliminary survey to discover enemy position or strength

REGULAR WARFARE: Conflict of conventional, recognised (government) combatants
RESPIRATORY STANDSTILL: Describes state where breathing has completely stopped

REVOLVER: Handgun, sidearm, small arm, with rotating cylinder, containing ammunition

RIFLE: A long arm with spiral grooves in barrel to spin projectile and enhance accuracy

RIFLE-GRENADE: A grenade fired from a rifle, using a special round of ammunition

ROBBERY: Collective term for theft achieved by assault prior to, or during the theft

ROGUE: Word to describe an intelligence or security official acting outside of his authority

ROTOR BLADES: The rapid rotating blades of a helicopter, providing propulsion

ROUND: A single shell, bullet, rocket or other weapon projectile

RPG: Rocket Propelled Grenade: Shoulder-held weapon which fires a rocket-driven grenade

RUMOUR: General talk or gossip, especially information which is unverified or biased

SABOTAGE: Deliberate and often clandestine damage or destruction, with military motive

SAFE HOUSE: A house (for a fugitive) of which opposition forces are supposedly unaware

SAPPERS: Slang term for Military Engineers

SATELLITE: Technical entity orbiting the earth, for communications or sensor activity

SAT-INT.: Intelligence gained by satellite technology

SEAJACKING: Taking over a vessel by force, usually for political or financial motive

SEARCH-AND-DESTROY: Military mission in hostile territory, to find and kill enemy.

SECURITY INTELLIGENCE: Information enhancing security or known about security

SECURITY: 1. condition, sense or capability of safety from threats or harm; 2. persons responsible to provide these states

SEMI-AUTOMATIC: Weapon that fires one shot at a time, re-loading itself automatically.

SEMTEX: A very powerful type of Czech-manufactured plastic high explosive.

SHOCK: 1. an impact; 2. a gradual process of physical collapse, following injury or trauma

SHRAPNEL: Pieces of projectile, usually from an artillery shell, mortar round or grenade.

SIDEARM: A pistol or revolver.

SIEGE: Encircling and containing persons inside a structure or vessel and severing supplies

SILENCER: An attachment on the barrel-end of a hand-gun, rifle or SMG, which suppresses sound, prolongs the element of surprise, and facilitates escape and evading detection

SLEEPER: Slang word for an agent infiltrated by opposition forces, activated in long term

SMALL ARMS: Side arms, hand guns, some types of rifle and SMG, usually of small calibre

SMG: Sub-Machine Gun. Fires and reloads multiple or single magazine rounds automatically

SNIPER: Concealed marksman with enhanced rifle sights who shoots over long distances
SOCO: Scene of Crime Officer: (UK) police officer responsible for searching for evidence at the scene of a terrorist incident
SOFT TARGET: Person(s) or vehicle which is vulnerable or unable to defend itself
SOP (STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES): Operating Guidelines
SOURCE: An intelligence informant
STEALTH ENTRY: slow, quiet, methodical search techniques
STOCKHOLM SYNDROME: A phenomena by which hostages begin to experience sympathy for their captors, first formally recognised in Stockholm.
STUN GRENADE: A type of grenade used by counter-terrorist forces, which is non-lethal
SUB-CONFLICT: Describes those terrorists who will not negotiate
SUPPLY: A Unit receiving, distributing and issuing supplies
SURVEILLANCE: Open or covert monitoring, often with electronic or mechanical aids
SUSPECT: A person believed to have committed, or be about to commit a given act

T
TAIL: to follow
TARGET HARDENING: Reinforcement of security measures to protect a potential target e.g. using body doubles, alternate routes, different etc.
TARGET: 1. objective; 2. potential victim; 3. attack site
TEAM: Slang word for a security force, terrorist or criminal group
TERROR: Latin: Terror-terrere: To frighten
THEFT: Dishonest appropriation of another’s property with intent to permanently deprive
THREAT: Warning, intimidation or danger.
TNT: Tri-Nitro-Toluene: An explosive used in IEDs
TRANSPORT: Transport Section of a UN Mission.
TRIGGER: Device when activated that operates the fuse in an IED, or directly detonates it
TURN / TURNING: Changing service, loyalty or views of a target, to that of his opponents

U
ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT: Beyond the violet end of the visible spectrum
UNDERCOVER OPERATIVE: Covert operative or agent
UNDSS: UN Department of Safety and Security
UNMO: UN Military Observer
UNSECOORD: Office of the Security Coordinator, UN HQ, New York
VICTIM: The prey, casualty, hunted, dead. In terrorist issues, may also be the target.

WARSAW PACT: Former treaty amongst the former Soviet Union and its allies (1955-1991)
WEAPON READINESS: Alertness in which weapons are loaded, cocked and ready to fire.
WEAPON: An instrument of defence or offence. May or may not be purpose manufactured.
WIRED: 1. Slang word for a person with a concealed tape-recorder or transmitter; 2. a dwelling or object with a hidden booby trap or IED attached
WIRE-GUIDED MISSILE: Hand-shoulder launched missile, guided to its target with a wire.
WOUNDING: Serious physical injury, generally breaking the skin and causing blood to flow

XENOPHOBIA: General fear of foreigners or their customs