

## OPERATIONS AND TACTICS GLOSSARY

### A

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**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

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**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.

## C

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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

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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

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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.

## F

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**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

**FIREFIGHT:** 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

## G

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**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

## H

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**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

## I

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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

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JARGON: Terminology or slang of a profession or trade

## K

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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

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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

## M

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**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.

## N

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**NATO:** North Atlantic Treaty Organisation: 1949 - ~. A collective defence alliance.

**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

## O

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**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

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## P

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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-scraps

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD): 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

## R

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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 of 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

## S

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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

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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

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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

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## V

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VICTIM: The prey, casualty, hunted, dead. In terrorist issues, may also be the target.

## W

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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

## X

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XENOPHOBIA: General fear or foreigners or their customs